



## 2nd National Congress of UGT

The Second National Congress of UGT is coming up. The third largest Brazilian trade union central will gather its delegates on July 14, 15 and 16, in Sao Paulo, to consolidate its action in defense of Brazilian workers.



To Ricardo Patah, national president of the institution, "after the 2nd Congress, UGT will come out renewed and extremely stronger. Plural, independent and prepared for the democratic processes that will allow the Brazilian working class to defend their legitimated social demands in favor of Brazil".

Patah expects a renewed Brazil with "more social justice, more income distribution and, mainly, more opportunities to each one of its citizens, no matter which race they are part of, region they live or social class they belong to."

To **Moacyr Pereira**, national secretary of UGT's Department of Finances, "the Congress, not only is a reference of the consolidation that UGT achieved, but it will allow us to standardize our mobilization all over Brazil. The ideal of 40 weekly hours working shifts, without a reduction in salaries, is national, and we will need to use all resources we have to step pressure on federal deputies and senators of their hometown states. We will adopt this strategy to make progress on our true battle against the Social Security Factor as well."

"The 2nd Congress of UGT is the moment in which we will consolidate the process of unity that originated our trade union central", argues **Larte Teixeira da Costa**. "Currently, UGT has an ideal that is a reference among Brazilian trade union centrals, especially when the criteria of independence and the practice of internal democracy, he completes".

To **Valdir Vicente**, "UGT will make progress to directly interfere in the main national, state and municipal problems. Prioritizing actions regarding direct investments in education. Facing, with determination, the precarious aspect of the Public Health.

**Valdir Vicente**, who was recently elected for the General Department of Mercosur Coordinator of Trade Union Centrals, emphasizes the international scenario, "in which we should enlarge the presence of UGT even more, along with European and Asian trade union centrals, creating an exchange of leaders and an intense exchange of knowledge". To him, Mercosur, "a group in which we made a lot of progress, should be used as a reference in other parts of the planet".

"UGT is mobilizing itself towards its 2nd Congress to make progress when it comes to its internal organization and social mobilization to help the democratic organizations of the nation to join forces to promote constitutional amendments that will only be well succeed if they are supported by a wide supportive movement of society" Patah ends.

## Valdir Vicente assumes position of General Secretary of CCSCS

At the National head office of the National Trade Union Central of Workers (CNT) from Paraguay, Adolfo Aguirre from CTA, Argentina, left the position of general secretary of the Southern Cone Trade Union Centrals Coordinator (CCSCS), and Valdir Vicente de Barros, from UGT, has assumed this position.

Aguirre reminded that during his tenure (July 2009 - July 2011), two new trade union centrals have affiliated with CCSCS, "CAT, from Chile and CTB, from Brazil, and that currently we represent 13 trade union centrals", and emphasized that the "unity goes beyond discussions and individual points of view, and that is why I'm so glad we achieved this unity."

The leader emphasized that "the political cycle in the region is going through a good moment and we need to deepen the changes and intervene in social, political and labor issues, and put more political frameworks into the integration."

Finally, he said that the arrival of Valdir is "extremely interesting", because "not only is he a colleague, not only does he have knowledge over the subject, but he has the will and the strength to manage a coordination that certainly is not easy", and said that "you will always find a colleague that will help you in whatever you need."

Valdir said, afterwards, that a "coordinator should work for all trade union centrals, they are the same, they all have the same rights and they all have the same power, and I count on the collaboration of all centrals."

He called out for an action to "expand the financing options that CCSCS has in order to grow", adding: "this is a political coordination and politics are not made without money."

He ended saying that "we want to work together, that is why we want to have the Women Committee working with us, this is part of the speech of social inclusion, that occasionally is not practiced."

"Our speech is based on hope and on the certainty that we can count on our colleagues," Valdir ended with applause from the audience. *(CCSCS Press)*



### Tribute to two fighters

As his first act as general secretary of CCSCS, Valdir delivered two tribute plaques that recognize the work of two women that fought for human rights. The first one is **Sara Mendes**, a survival of massacres that took place in Uruguay during the times of dictatorship that devastated that country, a massacre known as "Talleres Orletí".



After that, another tribute plaque from the Coordination was delivered to Estela Carlota, president of the "Abuelas de Mayo" association, in reference to the parades that mothers of political prisoners in Argentina would perform at the famous Plaza de Mayo.

Carlota told a little about the fight of these mothers and grandmothers to get to see their children again, who were taken away from them and sent to adoption in several parts of America and the world, and reminded some stories (so far, 104 children were retrieved) of reunions of these children, currently adults, with their biological families.

### **Raise in salaries does not cause inflation**

UGT repudiates the proposals of the Central Bank of Brazil that intend to discourage the fights of workers for better salaries on behalf of the fight against inflation.

Alexandre Tombini, president of the Central Bank, said, on July 05, at the Senate, that the "participants of salary negotiations in the second semester should look up in the future and not into the past. To him, the rearview mirror would be a terrible counsellor to workers and businessmen concerning an inflation that is "clearly" decreasing.

This thought tries to discourage workers from fighting for adjustments in negotiations that will accumulate until the end of the year.

As shown in its latest trimonthly report, the Central Bank believes that salaries would be an element responsible for inflation in Brazil. "A very important risk to the prices", in the words of the document.



This latest trimonthly report was publicized in the end of June, and in it, the Central Bank shows its position very clear and classifies the salaries of workers as "a very important risk to the dynamic of the prices in the following months".

In the document, the board of directors from the Central Bank says that the salaries are worrying them because there will be many adjustment negotiations in the second semester, a moment in which inflation, if measured in accumulated values in twelve months, will be higher than the maximum limit self-imposed by the government. And through a preoccupying statement, says that the adjustment of the minimum wage expected for the next years might have an impact on prices.

UGT is also worried about the attempt to blame the salaries from the services sector as the villains of inflation. UGT, a trade union central with a high representation in this sector, understands that the Brazilian salaries are negligible compared to the profits of employers and will keep on fighting to improve them in the next salary campaigns.

### **UGT and trade union centrals organize parade in Brasilia**

A parade organized by UGT with the other trade union centrals (Força, CGTB, CTB and Nova Central) requesting a reduction in working shifts, from 44 weekly hours down to 40 hours, and the end of the social security factor, gathered thousands of people at the Esplanada dos Ministérios on July 06.

Protesters left the Cathedral of Brasilia and moved on through the Eixo Monumental until the outbuilding next to the Chamber of Deputies. They occupied two out of six lanes of one of main roads in Brasilia. In order to guarantee the workers rights, a new protest will take place in Sao Paulo, on August 03, at the Pacaembu Stadium.

The protest has the goal of stepping up pressure on parliamentarians so that they hurry up on getting the law project that deals with a reduction in working shifts to follow legal channels, since it has been "dragged" for nearly 20 years at the National Congress.

### Seminar on Medicine and Security at Work

Directors and employees from unions that are affiliated with Fethesp had meetings from June 29 to July 01, to participate in the second edition of the Seminar on Medicine and Security at Work. The event took place at the Beach Club of the Institution, in Praia Grande, state of Sao Paulo, with an expressive presence of students. On the occasion, participants accompanied explanations and dynamic activities coordinated by Hugo Rodrigues de Oliveira and Rosinaldo Leão, both from SGI, a company specialized in Security at work.

On the first day of the event, **Francisco Canindé Pegado**, **general secretary of UGT**, participated in the solemn opening of the seminar. In his speech, the secretary congratulated the initiative of Rogério Gomes, president of the federation, in guiding all the unions concerning security in the workplace.

"The fight for better conditions in working shifts belongs to all of us. We need to work together to achieve a reduction in the number of accidents that daily take away lives of thousands of workers", emphasized Canindé Pegado.



### Support to the fight of workers of Deutsche Telekom



The linking council of **UNI Global Union in Brazil**, which UGT is part of, made a protest on June 28, in front of the General Consulate of Germany, in Sao Paulo.

The protest had the goal of supporting the campaign We Expect Better from UNI Americas, that fights against violations of workers rights and anti-unionist pressures focusing on the German companies Deutsche Telekom and T-Mobile.

The public act also had the participation and support of Sintel, that sent a repudiation letter to the consul Mathias Von Kummer, and participation of the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo, Union of Bank Worker and STIG (Graphic Workers Union).

### Annual Report of Brazilian Women

On July 04, Cássia Buffeli, coordinator of UGT's Department of Gender Collective, participated in the release of the first "Annual Report of Brazilian Women", compiled by the Department of Women Policies (SPM) and by the Inter-union Department of Statistics and Social-Economic Studies (DIEESE) .



The annual report shows the reality of women, gathering information on different spaces and activities of society, whether in the formal of informal market, in the core of the families, in household chores, in the educational field, in health areas and in power spheres. The study brings up the main statistics and information with the goal of subsidizing and guiding the application of policies to eradicate gender inequalities.



**"The General Union of Workers (UGT) reaffirms its historic commitments to the working class, while seeking to expand its methods of action, with ethics, courage and the certainty that Brazil can be better and more just. " Ricardo Patah – UGT's President**

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