



Global



UNIÃO GERAL DOS TRABALHADORES

Sindicalismo Cidadão, Ético e Inovador

Trade Union News Bulletin

Year 5 n.º 86-87 march 31, 2012

UGT against slave work

Carrying flags and boards of protest against slave work, nearly 200 unionists of the Commerce Workers of Sao Paulo and other unions that are affiliated with UGT, gathered on March 15 in front of the Pátio do Colégio, walking through the Sao Bento street, until they reached the Direita street, stopping in front of the Casas Pernambucanas.

This protest was caused by the fact that this company refused to sign the Term of Commitment to Adjust its Conduct (TAC) to eradicate slave-like labor that was found in its suppliers. The **Public Ministry of Labor in Sao Paulo (MPT-SP)** proposed a Civil Public Lawsuit against this Brazilian company for exploration of workers, mostly Bolivians.



Since the company denied to comply with the lawsuit, the Public Labour Ministry judged the lawsuit asking Pernambucanas to be sentenced to obey labour laws and pay an indemnity of R\$ 5 million. The organ also asks the company to be submitted, in future supervisions, to a fine of R\$ 50 thousand per obligation disobeyed and R\$ 5 per workers that have their rights violated so that the retail network suspends the financial benefit due to the use of slave-like labor.

This process is investigated since August 2010, on the occasion that labour tax auditors and attorneys found Bolivians working in sewing shops of the Complex Oficinista of Casa Verde, in Vila Celeste, Casa Verde Alta and Vila Guilherme.

Workers did not have a work visa or immigration visa, lived in the same place that they worked with their families, including children, submitting them to a confinement regime, in precarious hygiene conditions, inadequate illumination with electric installations that could cause fire. Working shifts were exhausting, with shifts that varied from 14 to 16 hours per day, and they made an average of R\$ 0,20 to R\$ 0,50 per clothing sewed.

Casas Pernambucanas attends union

On a meeting, that took place on March 16, at the Commerce Workers Union, the company argued that it wasn't responsible for the claims on slave work in its productive chain, especially concerning Bolivian workers. During the meeting, Ricardo Patah, president of the union, demanded that Casas Pernambucanas is to improve the benefits of the commerce workers, discussing the possibility of agreements that are already effective in other companies, such as anti-discrimination practices; 180 days maternity leave and the adjustment of the meal ticket, that currently is R\$ 7,00.

In defense of production and employment

Ricardo Patah, president of UGT and Canindé Pegado, secretary-general, were received, on March 14, along with leaders from CTB, CUT, Nova Central, Força Sindical and CGTB, in Brasília, by the president Dilma Rousseff.

During the meeting, that lasted around two hours, the president was categorical by affirming that she will not allow a labour reform during her government.

Dilma listened to the requests of the institutions, emphasized by the deindustrialization and the historical fight ideals of the working class, such as: the end of the social security factor, increase of the retirement checks, IRS and the reduction of working hours for shift work.



Despite the fact that there wasn't a concrete position of the Federal Government regarding the working class agenda, the president Patah considered the meeting productive and representative of a higher approach between the Executive Power and the working class. "This was the first meeting of the year that the president attended with the trade union centrals and, although we came out of it without a commitment of the government to our fight agenda, Dilma appreciated the idea of granting IRS exemptions from the participation of profits and results, though she claimed the need of listening to her economic staff first".

"We are solidary to the administration of the president Dilma, since we are representatives of the working class and our goal is achieving a more just society, we will fight along with the Federal Government for the eradication of poverty in Brazil, in order to reach a better income distribution and the growth of Brazil", explains the leader.

Deindustrialization

Dealing with the deindustrialization process was the most debated topic of the meeting. The president guaranteed that her staff will reduce the negative effects that the Brazilian economy is going through, mainly caused by the recent investments of speculative capital in Brazil. .

Dilma also said that she will have a meeting with businessmen to ask them to increase their investments as a way to heat up the economy, creating jobs and income. *(Fábio Ramalho –UGTPress)*



GRITO DE ALERTA

EM DEFESA DA PRODUÇÃO E DO EMPREGO

UGT, along with CUT, CGTB, CTB, Nova Central and Força Sindical, will promote a Warning Call, a joint action with Fiesp, Abimaq, Sindpeças, Abinee, Sinafer, Simefre and Sinditextil/Adib, in pro of fighting against the deindustrialization of Brazil.

Trade union institutions that represented employees and the employers class are getting together in defense of the creation of jobs in Brazil. Due to this fact, numerous actions in several States will occur as a way to step pressure on the government to increase its actions to fight against the input of speculative capital in our country and thus, reduce the negative effects that the Brazilian economy is going through.

[Read more](#)

Mr. Juan Somavia informed the Table of the ILO Administration Council that he would advance to September 30, 2012, the date that will end his tenure as director-general. The nominating process of the new director-general of ILO will occur through two meetings of the Administration Council, on March 30 (hearing of people that are candidates) and on May 28, 2012 (vote).

UGT supports the candidacy of Guy Ryder who presented his view on the role of an ILO director general

ILO must lead the defeat over the crisis

By Guy Ryder, candidate for the post of Director-General-



The tenth director general of the International Labour Organization (ILO) will lead the organization towards its hundredth anniversary in conditions of important changes in the labour world. The challenge will be providing ILO to accomplish their tenure established to promote social justice in this context of deep and quick changes.

There must be no doubt about the relevance of this tenure. The stability of our societies, the sustainability of the global system that brings us closer and closer, and, finally, peace itself, depends on its accomplishment. The outbreak of the 2008 global crisis was a clear reminder of that. It left millions of people in the labour world under situations of acute difficulty, increasing the rows of those that already suffer from the indignity of poverty, unemployment and and increase of insecurity at work. ILO must lead the defeat over the world employment crisis, prioritizing the youth, whose social exclusion constitutes a time bomb with a destructive potential.

However, the global economy is also giving opportunities to uncountable people, particularly in emerging economies, opportunities that were unknown in previous generations. It is distributing its benefits and costs through a unequal way within and among countries. There is a generalized acknowledgment of the need of rebalance in several levels. To ILO, the task is shaping the change to answer to imperatives of justice, including the urgent need of the developing world.

But the express importance of a tenure is not a guarantee of the relevance of ILO as an institution; this should be guaranteed by quality, relevance and utility of one's work. In order to be well succeeded in the future, ILO should:

- Be guided by its essential values, the practice and promotion of the tripartition. Although it's a subject that is questioned and counteracted, it requires a stronger defense by this organizations. This is an area where compromising is a mistake;
- Make an effort for a technical excellency within its tenure that, by itself, will make ILO a recognized authority in all subjects that are related to work;
- Be extremely aware of its obligation to work with the highest efficiency and provide the best service and feedback on the resources it disposes of;
- Guarantee a permanent contact with its tripartite members, not only to quickly answer to their needs and points of view, but because, as key actors of the real economy, they are a source of knowledge and discernment that are exclusively available to ILO.

The next director-General will have the responsibility to join members of ILO through a program that is designed on these elements and with an international support to establish the decent work agenda. International labour rules will be essential for this mission. That, and the commitment of a highly qualified and motivated staff, is indispensable for the leadership that might take this organization forward with a real conviction and decisive influence. The idea that ILO should act as a "social awareness" of the international system is wrong. ILO should be a determined actor and not a moral commentator.

[Read the declaration in full](#)

Davi Zaia is the new secretary of Public Management

The inauguration of the new secretary of Public Management, Davi Zaia, took place on March 12, at 2:00 P.M.

"Directing the secretary of Public Management is a great responsibility and represent new challenges. We will continue to make efforts to answer to State servants with dignity and we will conduct our work with a lot of dialogue. I'd like to thank the confidence that was given to me by the governor of the State of Sao Paulo, Geraldo Alckmin, who trusted this important task to me, which is managing the Public Management Department", explained Davi Zaia.



Zaia is the national vice-president of UGT.

CONTEC gathers trade union directors of the Bank of Brazil



CONTEC (National Confederation of Credit Companies Employees) held a meeting on March 06 and 07 with trade union directors from Bank of Brazil branches all over Brazil.

Edson Roberto dos Santos, National Secretary of UGT's Bank Workers Department, participated in the meeting and considered it highly productive. Participants debated over several issues, such as the action of the base, negotiation agendas, lawsuits and the media, besides exchanging information and experiences.

"The meeting was extremely useful, since we recorded over sixty statements during this two-day meeting. The exchange of information was intense and surely more meetings like this will occur, not only between trade union directors from Bank of Brazil, as well as the ones from Caixa Federal and private banks", affirmed, at the end of the meeting, the president of CONTEC, Lourenço Ferreira do Prado.

Study from Sindeepres shows turnover of outsourced workers

On March 05, Sindeepres and the professor Marcio Pochmann presented another unreleased study: Sindeepres, the dynamics of hiring outsourced workers.

The study shows that advances of outsourced positions is becoming more and more a structuring axis of the Brazilian job market. Its quantitative performance has proven to be uncontested over the last two decades, expanding to the so called activities-means of jobs that were created within public and private companies.

The research Sindeepres "**A Dinâmica das Contratações no Trabalho Terceirizado**" (The dynamics of hiring outsourced workers) presents, in its first part, a general



"The General Workers Union 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. " Ricard Patah – UGT's President]

UGT Global – the International Newsletter of the UGT

Press secretary of UGT: Marcos Afonso de Oliveira – MTb 62.224/SP

Publisher: Mauro Ramos