



Global



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Paraguay: Democracy Now!

UGT participates in act to defend democracy and to fight against the destitution of the President Lugo.

Nearly 200 representatives from UGT and Brazilian trade union centrals, including TUCA, made a protest in front of the Paraguayan consulate in Sao Paulo, on June 25, to repudiate the political trial of the president Lugo and his destitution.



"Lugo, amigo, o Povo está contigo!" (Lugo, our friend, people are with you!) and "Democracia, si! Dictadura, no!" (Democracy, yes! Dictatorship, no!) were the lines screamed by the group of protestors that gathered in front of the consulate to pay solidarity to the Paraguayan people.

The facts that took place last week in Paraguay, that culminated in the political judgement by the National Congress against the president Fernando Lugo, were part of a series of maneuvers of traditional oligarchical sectors that rule, for decades, the life of the country and that intend, through a coup, to end the democracy that was achieved with so much sacrifice by the Paraguayan people.

"We cannot allow that a president who has popular and legitimate support is overthrown by a coup", emphasized Iván González, political coordinator of the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas.

To Canindé Pegado, General Secretary of UGT and currently the president in charge of the central, "the scammer Paraguayan Congress knows perfectly well that in a country that never had a labour legislation, in a country where farmers needed an agrarian reform, in a country where social security is necessary, the reforms that president Lugo was doing would lead to the end of privileges of the oligarchy".

Canindé Pegado ended his speech by requesting that the president de facto, Frederico Franco, "resign and bring back the Paraguayan people who elected the president Lugo".

UGT statement on the institutional crisis in Paraguay

Since we understand political democracy as a universal value and we defend an increase in democracy as a permanent strategy to advance in the economic, social, cultural and information democracy, we vehemently repudiate the recent events that took place in Paraguay.

This coup, that was orchestrated by the most reactionary sectors of the Paraguayan oligarchy, is an insult to workers and people in general.

We cannot remain silent, once we witness actions like this one, that offends the most basic democratic principle, in a situation in which the will of few should not overcome the will of the vast majority.

CCSCS in state of alert

The Southern Cone Trade Union Centrals Coordinator, which is composed of trade union centrals of Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, and whose secretary general is the colleague Valdir Vicente de Barros, secretary of UGT's Department of Public Policies, released a note in defense of democracy. We emphasize the main excerpts:



Defense of Democracy in Paraguay.

"Due to the delicate situation which Paraguay is living after the installation of a process of political judgement against the president Fernando Lugo, the Southern Cone Trade Union Centrals Coordinator, representing trade union centrals of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, expresses:

Its rejection to any attempt to violate the popular will expressed in vote polls during the last elections, to the institutional stability and democratic life, which many of our colleagues gave their lives for. (...)

The events that recently took place in our region showed that the defense of democracy is no longer a national issue. We strongly support the action of UNASUL with the presence of Ministries of Foreign Affairs in Asunción.

Our conviction is that only by settling peace that it is possible to build agreements towards the improvement of the lives of citizens. (...)

The coordinator is in state of alert, following up close the development of the event and giving a sympathetic supporting to the Paraguayan colleagues in such a difficult situation.

We are against any sort of coup attempt that might take place in the region.

We are for DEMOCRACY!

UGT discusses education at the People's Summit

Education as an awareness that might change future generations. That was the topic of the lecture given by the environmental manager of CEASP, Claudia Saleme, at the People's Summit, part of Rio + 20.

Invited by UGT, the environmentalist began the activity through a group dynamics, promoting, therefore, an important integration between members of UGT and visitors who were circulating among several tents and spaces of the summit and were admiring the involving lecture that was simultaneously translated for sign language by the biologist and teacher of sign language Douglas Ascânio.

Saleme talked about her experience in the Amazon with Native American communities in Santarem, state of Para, based on the development of activities of professional capacitation, education and training, among others.

Protest at Rio + 20

The trade union centrals UGT State Branch of Rio de Janeiro, Força Sindical, Nova Central Sindical and CTB caused enthusiasm at the Copacabana beach on June 17, gathering hundreds of people in the protest that had as its main goal to get the attention of the population and authorities to the urgent need of change in the current model of development.



101st ILO International Conference

UGT actively participates in ILO Conference



UGT had an effective participation at the 101st ILO International Labour Conference held at ILO head office, in Geneva, Switzerland.

The event, that took place from May 30 to June 14, gathered nearly 5 thousand delegates from 185 countries. UGT, through its International Department, sent a delegation composed of: Monica da Costa Mata Roma, Wagner José de Souza, Lourenço Ferreira Prado, Antonio Taumaturgo Cortizo, Isaú Joaquim Chacon, Arimarcel Padilha de Castro, Nilson Duarte da Costa, Egydio Andreza, Benedito Antônio Benedito Antonio Marcello, Thiago Shettino Godin Coutinho, Paulo Rossi, Moacir Pereira, and Gustavo Francisco Curihuinca Garcia.

The Conference began with the election of the British Guy Rider, as Director General of ILO, as well as with the election of the tripartite groups, that defined the tables of employees, employers and government workers. (Fábio Ramalho – UGT editorial office with information from the International Affairs Department)

UGT had an intense and important action, especially in the commission that debated the youth employment - Social Protection Floor and Implementation and Rules. Another topic that had a special attention from the delegation of UGT was the Commission on Fundamental Principles and Rights of the Workers. (Fábio Ramalho – UGT Press with information from Secretaria de Relações Internacionais)

Social Protection Floor for all

Landmark Recommendation aims at extending essential health care and basic income security to millions of people around the globe.

With more than five billion people lacking adequate social security, the new international labour standard adopted by the International Labour Conference calls for providing people with essential health care and benefits, as well as basic income security (*) constituting national social protection floors.

Such basic social protection, i.e. essential health care and basic income security throughout the lifecycle reduces poverty, inequality, ill health and the number of premature deaths.

The Recommendation requests countries to implement their Social Protection Floors as early as possible in national development processes . There are many positive examples in Latin America, Asia and Africa where countries successfully implemented the entire floor or at least major elements of it. These examples show that some social protection for all is affordable nearly everywhere.

The new Recommendation explicitly says people employed in the informal, as well as the formal economy, should also benefit from social security. As such, it should support the growth of formal employment and the reduction of informality. (ILO News)

UGT promotes meeting with representatives from financial institutions

On June 15, UGT organized a meeting in its head office in Sao Paulo, with representatives from the Brazilian Federation of Banks, with the goal of improving the relationship between unionists from UGT and representatives from banks, besides increasing the bonds between these institutions to advance in the construction of public policies towards the Brazilian education.



Canindé Pegado, interim president of UGT, started the meeting by thanking the presence of everyone who attended the meeting and by emphasizing that it is essential, for the fight of the working class of bank institutions, that the institutions that represent them have a satisfactory relationship with employers institutions: it might even contribute in times of negotiation of the class.

According to Davi Zaia, vice-president of UGT, secretary of Public Management of the State of Sao Paulo and president of the Federation of Employees in Bank Institutions of the States of Sao Paulo and Mato Grosso do Sul (FEEB- SP/MS), this is an important moment to advance in the fight for labour improvements of the class, because UGT is the second largest trade union central in representativeness of bank workers, this way, a closer relationship with Febraban is favorable to all workers of the sector, as well as to the population that uses bank services.

Cycle of Lectures: Landless Workers' Movement (MST)

João Pedro Stédile and João Paulo Rodrigues, coordinators of the Landless Workers' Movement (MST), participated, on June 18, at the head office of UGT, in the cycle of lectures "Aspects of the Brazilian Conjuncture".

The current political moment was debated at the meeting, especially concerning the creation of projects towards the rural and urban population, as well as the need to organize an agrarian reform in Brazil, effectively strengthening the family farm, and also exhibiting the campaign to fight against the abusive use of pesticides, headed by the own MST.



João Pedro went through the campaign on the indiscriminate use of pesticides that are common activities in the fields of the Brazilian agribusiness.

"Since top multinational agribusiness companies do not want to invest on labour, they use poison in the crops, with no control. This situation causes the population to consume 5,1 liters of these substances per year, which, at a long term, increases the incidence of cancer", he explains.

At the end of the meeting, Canindé Pegado, interim president of UGT, signed the intention of formalizing a partnership with MST, aiming towards the strengthening of the fight against the pesticide culture in the production of food and to be a link on the negotiation between co-ops of family producers and supermarket chains and to increase the trade of pesticide free products. (Fábio Ramalho – UGT Press)



"The **União Geral dos Trabalhadores** 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]

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