



Global



UNIÃO GERAL DOS TRABALHADORES

Sindicalismo Cidadão, Ético e Inovador

Trade Union Information Bulletin

Year 5 n.º 99 september 25, 2012

UGT reports rage of the financial system against workers

First Brazilian trade union leader to speak up at the International **Forum on Economic Globalization and Trade Unions**, which was held in Beijing, China, from August 28-30, **Ricardo Patah**, national president of **União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT**, reported the financing system as the main party responsible for the economic-financial crisis that punishes industry, agriculture and commerce workers, as well as workers from the private and public sectors and creates unfavorable situations for developing countries in the areas of science, technology, culture, health and education, and also increases the number of miserable people in the world and prevents minimum decent conditions for human beings. The forum was attended by over 100 trade union leaders from developing countries.



The president of UGT, through a 8 minute speech, attended by main leaders of the Chinese government, reminded that the economic crisis that affects the world until these days, was not a thunderbolt in a clear blue sky.

It is the historical continuity of recurring crisis of the financing model itself, that imposed, to the world, the only rule that is accepted by it: a world with no rules, no borders, no regulation, no State - except that State to save it from its irresponsibility, feeding its rage against workers.

Ricardo Patah reminded that, to save their own skin, bankers count on the good will of governments, that end up creating salary squeeze, cuts on social benefits, attacks on retirement checks and on workers achievements, inputting trillions of dollars in the financial orgy and sending the bill to the population, through increases on taxes promoted by the State." Many governments, allied to the broke financial system, cut through the workers skin, never through the bankers", said Patah.

The unionist reminded that **UGT represents over 7 million workers in Brazil** and the country is still a huge barn of inequalities, "we are a rich country with a poor population, where 50% of our wealth is in the hands of 1% of the population while the other 50% is divided between 99% of the population". The president of UGT said that the crisis that was created in the United States and that soon spread throughout Europe, affects growing economies, such as China and that this might end up in a serious unfolding, hitting harder the population through unemployment or through its threat - real or speculative - increasing the social and political instability, especially in developing countries.

Patah said that, in the view of UGT, a new regulatory mark will only be successful if it takes into account the valorization of labour and production, and that an international financing reform will only be successful if directed to maintain the nature of financing that has prevented the development of entire nations. *(Mauro Ramos, from Beijing - China)*

Tax on Huge Fortunes

In order to guarantee labour rights, UGT defends Tax on Huge Fortunes during a debate on social security and creation of jobs.

União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT) participated, on September 04, in a debate of the Human Rights Committee of the Senate, in which the issue discussed was guaranteeing the preservation of resources of social security and the increase of the capacity of creating jobs as challenges imposed to the government and to trade union centrals.



Francisco Canindé Pegado, General Secretary of UGT, represented the trade union central in the fight for advances of the rights of the working class, defended the regulation of the Tax on Huge Fortunes, as a way to cover eventual deficits in the Social Security coffins, and also reinforce that this institution will not allow any initiative that signs a loss of labour rights.

Eduardo Pereira, from the Ministry of Social Security, defended the exemption in the workers paycheck as a way to create formal jobs to balance the collection of taxes to the social security, however, **José Aparecido Carlos Ribeiro**, from IPEA (Institute of Applied Economic Research), said that the transference of the exemption savings to the social security will risk the balance of the system.

"The exemption creates a significant loss to the INSS (National Institute of Social Security) and the creation of jobs would have to take place at a long term", emphasized the IPEA technician. Only the current exemptions promoted in specific sectors of economy represent a R\$ 22 billion fiscal exemption, according to him.

To **Canindé Pegado** this is a discussion that directly has an influence on the working class, their financial capital and consequently, the purchasing power of the population, factors that impact on the economy of the country which is on the path of development, for that reason UGT will not accept, under any circumstance, any kind of loss in labour rights.

TUCA convenes World Day for Decent Work

We are reaching October 07, which is, as you might know, the World Day for Decent Work. Since 2008, millions of workers all over the world participated in this event to demand their rights. Trade unions of Americas, in particular, have shown their strength. We brought crowds to the streets for decent work and, in 2011, it was the region that was mobilized the most all over the world.

This year, the **Trade Union Confederation of the Americas** did not only want to repeat the success achieved last year, but it also wanted to increase the number of mobilized people. As shown on our II Continental Congress, Latin America might be the continent of the XXI Century, offering a real alternative to a model of sustainable development. This October 07 is a valuable opportunity to communicate, through a unified way in all of our countries, our point of view to the entire society.

The issue of the World Day for Decent Work of this year will be the crisis and unemployment, which affects 75 million young people all over the world. In our region, the unemployment rate among the youth is twice higher than the one in adults. There are 10 million young people that represent 46% out of the total amount of



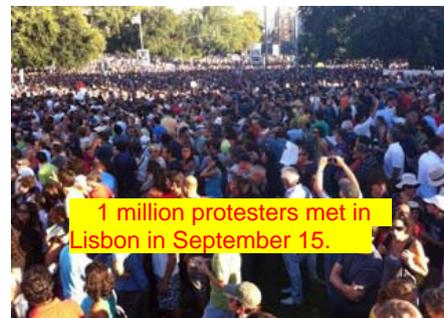
For that reason we call out trade union centrals and their youth departments to participate in joint activities mobilizing on the streets or through social networks, radio stations and means of communication, using our newspapers and banners, through the workplace until regional and national levels. The October 07 is on a Sunday this year, in a way that events might last more than a day. *Victor Báez, TUCA general secretary*

Austerity pushes Portugal down to an abyss

Trade unions and the business community in Portugal have insisted that it is necessary to ease the goals of reduction of the debt, once there is clearer evidence showing that cuts in public expenses are causing serious and long damages in economy, and are also endangering chances of recovery.

Inspectors of IMF, EU and from the European Central Bank - a "**troika**" - do not seem to have any intention of deviating from "austerity at any price", in the evaluation of 10 days in Portugal.

"The obsession with cuts in expenses not only is illogical, but is causing a huge difficulty and is deepening the spiral of recession. Troika has to accept the facts, instead of imposing a flawed policy that puts ideology ahead of reality", said **Sharan Burrow**, **secretary general of ITUC**.



With the unemployment rate reaching 16%, banks cutting credit, and the prediction of an even higher decrease in the GDP this year, that should hit 3%, Portugal is about to become "another story of economic orthodoxy that goes through any human kind", **Burrow** says.

The last measures that were taken - decrease in the single social tax paid by companies (an already old IMF demand) and the increase in the contribution of workers - were classified, by **João Proença**, **from UGT Portugal**, as "measures that are profoundly unfair, that certainly shocked all workers and retired workers, by demanding an extraordinary and unjustified effort out of them, especially because such measures are going to increase unemployment". "What the government did was nothing but taking out resources of workers and giving profit to some companies", he emphasized.

Workers and pensioners are going to lose over four thousand million euros of income in 2013. At the same time, the government gives a €2,1 thousand million bonus to business institutions and the capital is still not taxed", he emphasized.

The trade union leader reinforced that the new austerity measures "will not create more jobs, but still, benefit some important economic groups of distribution, such as Sonae and Jerónimo Martins.

Spain breaks world unemployment record

Devastating. This is the headline given to the readers of "Financial Times Deutschland" on the Spanish unemployment, which is based on exclusive data developed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to state that the "unemployment rate in Spain breaks the world record."



According to data of ILO, Spain is going through a 24,5% unemployment rate, "more than all countries with data that are comparable at an international level", followed by Greece, where the rate is 22,3%.

More than **100 thousand** protesters have taken the streets in Madrid on September 15 to demand that the government of Mariano Rajoy call out a popular consultation on measures that were taken in the first year of his administration.

Cándido Méndez, **secretary general of UGT Spain**, said, in his speech: "this act is a mark that will allow the Spanish society to revert this useless and suicidal policy that does not solve the deficit problem. We had enough of this servile submission to the European Union and of we had enough of the fact that our population is not heard".

Congress pays homage to UGT due to its five years of existence

UGT celebrates five years and will be paid a homage during a solemn session on September 17, at 10:00 A.M., in the House of Representatives, in Brasilia. The event was required by the **Federal Deputy Roberto de Lucena (PV-SP)**, who is the national vice-president of the trade union central.

The solemn session will be attended by the **president of UGT, Ricardo Patah**, directors of the central and leaders from classes that are represented by it.

UGT was founded with the presence of thousands of workers, through a huge Congress that took place in Sao Paulo, on July 19, 2007. Ricardo Patah, president of the Commerce Workers of Sao Paulo, was elected its first president.

UGT and ISP seek for a partnership in Africa

On September 06, **Valdir Vicente, secretary of UGT's Public Policies Department**, received, at the head office of UGT, the visit of **Jocélio Drummond, Regional Secretary of ISP** (International Public Services) and **Tichaona Fambisa**, project coordinator of South Africa for Portuguese speaking countries.

During the meeting, the intensification of a partnership between UGT and ISP to promote the trade union development in Portuguese-speaking African countries was proposed.

To Jocélio, BNDES already develops investments on African countries destined to the industrialization of these areas, that have little social investment due to lack of concrete projects.

Therefore, the collaboration of UGT and ISP in the elaboration and development of proposals to the trade union development in these countries is essential to foster the fight for salary and labour improvements of the local working class.



According to Tichaona, this is an essential partnership to advance in the fights of the African working class, once the Brazilian trade union structure is consolidated and is a reference to several countries. *(Fábio Ramalho – UGT Newsroom)*

Trade union centrals consolidate Workers Newspaper



Starting in August, **UGT, CTB, Força Sindical and Nova Central** are taking to the streets the Workers Newspaper **Jornal do Trabalhador**, a bimonthly issue that will be distributed for free in all Brazilian states, with the goal of bringing closer the trade union centrals to the working class.

Last May the trade union centrals had already published a special version of the periodic, dedicated to the Workers Day Agenda.

To **Marcos Afonso Oliveira, UGT's secretary of Communication and Publicizing**, "the newspaper is an important tool to bring information to workers and also to bring even closer the trade union centrals". Our centrals "have a defined agenda of a unified fight that will be even more stimulated with the **Jornal do Trabalhador**".



"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]

UGT Global – the International Newsletter of the UGT

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

Publisher: Mauro Ramos