



# Global



UNIÃO GERAL DOS TRABALHADORES

Sindicalismo Cidadão, Ético e Inovador

Trade Union Information Bulletin

year 6 n.º 112 April 08, 2013

## Mercosur in the agenda

Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, participated in the debate on "Transformations at risk? Prospects and tensions of progressivity in Latin America", held by the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Foundation (FES) at the Mercosur Parliament, in Uruguay, along with former Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, with the president of Uruguay, José Mujica, and Victor Báez, TUCA secretary general. This meeting took place on April 5 and was attended by more than 500 people.

**Former Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was incisive while condemning the monopoly of means of communication, stating that Brazil cannot keep on having the control of communication in the hands of few families.**

**Mujica, Uruguayan president, in his turn (in the picture with Lula), compared the control of communication with the military**



**Victor Báez, TUCA's secretary general**, was the first to answer to questions of the mediator, Geraldo Caetano. He started a discussion on the democratization of means of communication, emphasizing that "every time that the press reports a social issue, the subject is filled with prejudice and criticisms to the inclusion process", recalling that "this is the challenge to Latin America to consolidate and advance democracy and the fight against inequality".

Lula answered that the first practical measure will be electing popular democratic governments, "since it is impossible to change, in 10 years, a heir of disobedience, but it is possible for a conservative government to retreat overnight". "In several Latin American countries we were able to reaffirm State as a development hub of development. We were able to end that the State was not helpful, was useless, and that market, which acts wherever there is profit, is the one with the solutions. But what we have seen in Europe is a God market who went bankrupt and the poor Devil State was the one who came to the rescue", he warned.

At the end of the debate, Lula said he is optimistic concerning Latin America and that collective decisions should be implemented, recalling that there will hardly be a regression in the continent: "There is nothing that will make Latin America back away. Whoever wishes to be part of the government should be careful, since the people learned how to achieve things". *(Mauro Ramos, from Montevideo)*

Trade union leaders participated in the **Conferencia sobre a Democratização da Comunicação** (Conference on Democratization of Communicaton) organized by TUCA with the support of FES Trade Union.

This conference ended with the **Declaração de Montevideú** which asks for the strengthening of trade union means of communication and legislative initiatives that regulate and democratize communication.

## Justice for Fábio dos Santos Silva

"This crime cannot remain unpunished. We cannot allow that our rural workers continue to be killed." Ricardo Patah, president of UGT

UGT Bahia demands report and punishment of those that ordered the killing and the killers of the landless leader



**UGT Bahia demands investigation and prison of the killers of Fábio dos Santos Silva, MST leader, in the southwest of Bahia state. He was shot with 15 gunshots on April 2, in Iguai. This crime was committed by gunmen who were following a motorcycle and intercepted the car in which the landless leader was in, along with his wife and a kid.**

Fábio was being threat since 2010. The MST leader was brutally killed, in front of his wife and a child, according to the description of Valmir Assunção, federal deputy.

To **Magno Lavigne, president of UGT Bahia**, "crimes like these demand an exemplary investigation and punishment of killers and those that contracted killers, since when a fighter is killed, in fact, they are trying to shut the mouth of the people. When will we stop accepting this in Bahia???" (UGT Bahia)

### Ibrahim talks about his imprisonment and exile during dictatorship

**José Ibrahim, secretary of UGT's Political Capacitation Department**, gave a statement on his imprisonment and his 10 year exile during the military dictatorship. This debate took place at the Teotônio Vilela Auditorium of the Legislative Body of Sao Paulo.

The **State Truth Commission Rubens Paiva** heard, on April 5, testimony of several workmen leaders on the repression to the trade union movement during dictatorship.

On the round that was coordinated by **Sebastião Neto**, from the **Project Memory of the Metallurgist Trade Union Opposition of Sao Paulo (OSM-SP)**, José Ibrahim and several trade union directors alternated speeches.



They were all unanimous while pointing out the need to bring up again the repression to the trade union movement. José Ibrahim said that 30% of the victims of dictatorships were workmen, and that should be recognized, since Brazilian people still suffer from the remnant of dictatorship. He recalled his performance as trade union leader in Osasco and his participation in the 1968 strike, which was violently repressed in the Cobrasma metallurgist.

The historical strike of Osasco was also recalled by Octaviano dos Santos, aka Tigrão, from the Trade Union of Retired Workers and Pensioners of Osasco, who commanded a solidary movement in the company Brown Boveri.

The role of the Catholic Church and clerical members, such as dom Paulo Evaristo Arns, was recalled by militants, like Amaro, who acted in the Catholic Workmen Youth (JOC), and who defended the advocacy of the history of the trade union movement to the current youth. The repression to religious people and people that are connected to churches was also recalled, for they have supported the workers fight.

## UGT brings support to American workers

On March 20, a protest in front of the Nissan factory, in Canton, Mississippi, USA, gathered Brazilian unionists. They were there to sympathize with Nissan workers, who are facing treats of the assembly plant. This protest was organized by UAW (United Auto Worker), the trade union that represents workers and the automotive industry in the USA.

**Ricardo Patah**, national president of UGT, attended this act along with the deputy **Roberto de Lucena (PV-SP)**, UGT's vice-president, **Moacyr Malvino Pereira**, secretary of UGT's Finance department, **Marcos Afonso**, secretary of UGT's Communication department, **Arnaldo de Souza Benedetti**, secretary of UGT's Trade Union Capacitation Department, **Marcos Gimenez**, Marketing secretary and **Sidney Corral**. They were accompanied by Brazilian trade unionists, who are also in the USA participating in support protests.



To **Ricardo Patah**, president of UGT, in a globalized world, workers must be united and report anti-unionist practices in companies. In Nissan, according to Patah, workers live under a dismissal treat in shifts that range from 60- to 70 weekly hours, do not have salary adjustment and formal employees earn US\$ 22 per hour while outsourced workers earn only US\$ 10. Patah said that he heard alarming statements, especially concerning the prohibition of unions to represent workers. "Whoever is affiliated with a trade union is fired by the company", he said.

Nissan is a big company. Its is an important brand and its product is excellent. This brand is associated to extremely positive factors. Nissan, a powerful Japanese company, will do justice to its size and importance, respecting the rights of the Mississippi workers.

UGT is engaged in this fight. We are engaged in a National Campaign led by UAW and Nissan workers.

## UGT defends increase of the World Social Forum

The World Social Forum took place in Tunisia, from March 26-30, 2013, and it celebrates 13 years since the first edition. On March 25, trade union centrals from several parts of the world were gathered in a Trade Union Assembly, representing millions of workers. During this assembly, main problems from the labour world were discussed, and a Trade Union Declaration was elaborated and will be handed over at the end of the WSF.



UGT was represented by **Mônica Mata Roma**, secretary of UGT's International Affairs Department, and by **Cícero Pereira**, secretary of UGT's Integration to the Americas Department, not to mention the adviser Gustavo Garcia.

UGT defended, in the assembly, the need to not only maintain the World Social Forum but also to increase and strengthen it, from contributions of distinct workers representatives from all over the world.

**Mônica Mata Roma** states that the "WSF is an important place where we can discuss and think of another world. We are part of society, and, therefore, we should directly interfere on social policies".

**Cícero Pereira**, in his turn, considers "the defense of decent world and of a sustainable world to be essential for this other possible world, and they are necessary to keep away from a simple debate, making it real". (Gustavo Garcia)



## Trade union centrals launch Unified May Day 2013

Four important trade union centrals combined launched the Unified May Day 2013, reaffirming the fight ideals of the Brazilian working class. This event, which was held by **UGT**, Central de Trabalhadoras e Trabalhadores do Brasil (CTB), Força Sindical (FS) and by Nova Central Sindical de Trabalhadores (NSTC), took place on March 26, in front of the Municipal Theater, at Ramos Square, downtown Sao Paulo.

Besides the main fight ideals, which are "reduction of working hours for shift work", "the end of the social security factor", "equality of opportunity for men and women", policies to value retired workers', 'regulation of International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 151' and 'ratification of Convention 158', the trade union movement celebrates, this year, 70 years since the job card and the social security were established in Brazil (CLT - Consolidation of Labour Laws).

The **president of UGT** recalls that trade union centrals have been organized and united for a few years, in order to hold a huge party to the Brazilian workers. Always keeping in mind the defense and guarantee of workers rights, who are the main cause to create wealth in Brazil. "We are also celebrating 70 years of the CLT, which, in our understanding, is a tool in the protection of workers and must be defended by employers sectors", Patah stated.



## II March for Formal Jobs

**União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT)**, in a partnership with the Commerce Workers of Sao Paulo and several affiliated institutions, literally took the streets of the Bom Retiro neighborhood, center of popular trade in Sao Paulo, on March 25, to make the II March for Formal Jobs.

The following trade unions participated in the march: Commerce Workers Union of Franco da Rocha, Sindmotosp (Motorcycle Couriers Union), Sintrajóias (Jewelry Workers Union), Sindicapro (Cargo Transportation Union), Siemaco SP and ABC (Urban Cleaning and Conservation Workers), Trade Union of Bakers, Sentracos (National Secretariat of Commerce and Service Workers), Sincab (Workers in Cable TV and Telecommunications), Fenascon (National Federation of Urban Cleaning and Conservation Workers), Sindicar (Autonomous Carriers in the Supply Chain of Sao Paulo), Sated-SP (Union of Artists and Show Technicians), Sindinstal (Cable TV Installer Technicians) and servants from the Judicial Power of Sao Paulo.

Militants from several unions affiliated with UGT attended the act and strengthened the action, which was described by the president of UGT, Ricardo Patah, as "a civic act". "Those who are not formalized loose their rights and, consequently, their civic rights. This goes on the opposite way of what Brazil has experienced over the last 10 years, which includes taking millions of people out of misery", said the unionist.

"Those that are not formal workers, loose the benefits that were guaranteed by the CLT, that is why we cannot allow this type of exploration. A formal job card is essential", explains **Canindé Pegado, UGT's Secretary General**.

## Advances and fight of domestic workers

The proposed amendment to the Constitution that increases the rights of domestic workers, known as Domestic Workers PEC, was approved on March 26, through a runoff at the Senate.



**UGT's Women and Gender Collective Department** actively participated in the entire process to get the PEC approved, fighting for the inclusion of this issue in the agendas of the Senate and the House of Representatives, celebrated the extension of most rights to domestic workers.

Even though we recognize advances, we continue to fight for the rights of the class, in a campaign for the legal ratification of ILO Convention 189, which has the goal of guaranteeing that domestic workers, as well as other workers, might enjoy fair working conditions. In order for that to happen, we reiterate the ongoing ILO rules on forced labour, discrimination and child labour, freedom of association and right to collective bargaining.

Since the "I National Conference on Gender and Race", organized in 2011 by its Women Department, UGT has been participating in campaigns for the approval of laws related to domestic work. (*Giselle Corrêa, UGT's Newsroom*)

## Promoting Racial Equality

UGT - Rio is elected to articulate Racial Equality Conference in November

**Nilson Duarte Costa, president of UGT-RJ**, along with Ana Cristina Santos Duarte, UGT's National Human Diversity secretary, and Álvaro Sanches, UGT's Rio Secretary General, participated in the celebration of 10 years since the Department of Politics that Promote Racial Equality (Seppir) was founded.

This ceremony took place at the National Theater of Brasilia, on the International Day of Fight for Eliminating Racial Discrimination (March 21), opportunity in which the seal "Fight Against Racial Discrimination" was launched and several homages to militant personalities in the fight for human rights were paid.

According to UGT's Human Diversity Department, this event was marked by protests. "One of the personalities who was honored, the actor Lázaro Ramos criticized the presence of the deputy Marco Feliciano (PSC) in the presidency of the Human Rights Commission at the House of Representatives, receiving a standing ovation, she described, there was also a protest of young people of the Federal District who were making a protest against Feliciano, who is accused of racism and homophobia.

The agenda of UGT's representatives on March 21 included a meeting at the National Council on Racial Equality Promotion (CNPPIR), on this occasion, UGT's Human Diversity Department was elected to join the sub-commission of Mobilization and Articulation of the 3rd Conference on Racial Equality, which will take place in November. (UGT-RJ)

## UGT receives the visit of Manoel Dias, Labour Minister

During his visit to UGT, the minister joined the campaign against domestic violence

On March 25, UGT received the visit of the minister Manoel Dias, and defended the strengthening of the Labour Ministry, so that the trade union central is able to act as protagonist of economic decisions of Brazil, which affect the entire working class.

To Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, the Labour Ministry should have a leading role in government decision making once again, in decisions that directly or indirectly involve workers. And this strengthening goes through development of combined actions with trade union centrals".

"We, from UGT, have proposals and we want to share them, discuss them, make them viable and, if possible, implement them", Patah stated.



The minister felt quite comfortable during the visit, and thanked the support given by UGT for his nomination to this position. "This is the first trade union central that I visit officially, as a minister, and I thank all the support given. In order for the ministry to be a protagonist, it is necessary that trade unions and trade union centrals act as partners, so that the Labour Ministry might restore its prestige."

## Commerce Worker Hotline

The commerce workers union of Sao Paulo provided an exclusive hotline so that workers might, anonymously, report bad employers, for not formalizing their jobs and other things.

To Patah, this is the most efficient way that the union found to listen to reports and immediately act, against employers who insist on disrespecting labour laws. "We cannot accept, anymore, that thousands of people are in the basements of sewing shops working 13 to 15 hours per day, to earn 60 reais per week. A lot lower than the national minimum wage. We cannot allow them to perform their jobs informally as well".



**GARANTIR DIREITOS E AVANÇAR NAS CONQUISTAS**



"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

Publisher: Mauro Ramos