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Marianne, the symbol of our Republic is in mourning. By Mariana. By Paris.

## Brazilian Republic

**Ricardo Patah, national president of União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT**

**União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT**, its board of directors and its militants strongly believe in Brazil, since we believe that the current serious situation will be solved and Brazil will continue to go on its path to a brilliant future.

This November 15, the Brazilian republic celebrates its 126 anniversary. These were turbulent years with many coups and political instability. For many, the majority, this situation of instability had seemed to come to an end in the 21st century. But now it is hard to think this way.

Republican ideals already existed in the dawn of Brazil in the colonial period. The whole period of monarchy was marked by the defense of these ideals and of democratic ideas. But the republic ended up being proclaimed far from the people, in the hands of the military and of ruling elites. The rights continued to be denied to workers and to the majority of the Brazilian people.



Even overcoming the Old Republic with the Revolution of 1930, and despite the nationalist and democratic ideals of its creators, democracy continued to stumble and the popular participation in the republic remained a distant dream.

In 1964, a military coup started a blackout in democracy that lasted 21 years. The return of democracy was an achievement of all Brazilian people. We only had the first direct election of a president in 1989. This century witnessed, for the first time, the sequence of a democratic period of the government to the other. The administration of Fernando Henrique Cardoso delivered the presidential sash to his successor Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Afterwards, in 2011, this fact occurred again with the election of Dilma Rousseff. It was not a coincidence that they all had leading roles in the fight against dictatorship and in the fight for the democratization of Brazil.

UGT believes in Brazil and in Brazilians. It is necessary that the living forces of the country - either the ruling ones as the opposition ones, either workers and their unions or businessmen and their institutions, are all united without losing their identities, in a great chain to restore our country and its credibility.

This is what we, from UGT, expect for our country this November 15: a moment of reflection in search of a common solution for the good of all. Long live to the republic!

## Humanity x barbarity

**União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT** expresses total solidarity to the victims of terrorist actions that took hundreds of lives on the evening of November 13, in Paris. These acts of terror never hit only a certain number of people or only one nation. Its evil effects struck human kind as a whole, which is hurt, though not defeated in this conflict against barbarity.

We believe that the forces of peace are stronger than the forces of war and, therefore, people, governments and all peace lover, in particular the international trade union movement, do not have a more important and unavoidable task than to preserve life, follow the path of a negotiated solution of located conflicts and build the solid foundations for universal peace among peoples, essential condition for the development of the entire human kind.

## Union Plenary Session in defense of Employment

DIEESE proposes combined actions among workers and employers to save jobs

On November 09, the Inter-Union Department of Statistics and Social Economic Studies (DIEESE) hosted in its head office, in São Paulo, a meeting with **União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT** and other trade union centers, trying to organize a movement in defense of the strengthening of the oil, gas, construction and naval sectors, in order to take Brazil off recession.

This meeting had the goal of mobilizing and restoring the acceleration of growth in the situation of the crisis that Brazil is facing. In order for that to happen, DIEESE suggests a collaboration of all sectors of economy, since the initial idea of the movement is based on a series of actions that will be unfolded over time.

The proposals will be delivered to the government and try to avoid a possible bankruptcy of companies that are extremely important to our country, but are under investigation of the Lava Jato operation of the Federal Police.



“UGT agrees with the proposal of joining the productive sector with workers, in order to think of the possibilities and, then, come out of this situation. Due to the current situation, it may even discuss a social pact. Undoubtedly the oil, gas, construction and naval sectors are strategic for the economy of any country and, automatically, if we manage to approve measures that strengthen these sectors, other segments of the productive chain will be benefitted”, Canindé Pegado, secretary general of UGT (in the left in the picture), said.

To him, it is necessary to realize the Brazilian crisis through all angles. There are issues related to corruption, but there are also cases of tax waiver promoted by the government to help several sectors of our economy. “This week, the press published the information that the government provided a waiver equal to R\$ 342 billion and we practically had no guarantee with workers. The automotive industry, which was one of the major beneficiaries, in 2015 alone had more than 180 thousand unemployed workers, therefore, trade union centers must be aware to this point in order to stop this bleeding, which, in some cases, will last until 2019”, the officer from UGT concluded.

## The wave of intolerance in the world and in Brazil

### Marco Aurélio de Oliveira, president of Sintratel

Human kind is experiencing a strange moment. Actions of intolerance, lack of fondness and respect for human being and xenophobia (aversion to foreigners) are taking place in Europe. All of that occurred in a crisis that was a result of the flow of Arab and African immigrants and caused shipwrecks, drowned children, construction of walls, cursing and arrestments.

Europe turns its back to people that need shelter and reception. Especially a continent that was benefitted from the international solidarity that allowed it to rebuild itself after the World Wars and that became rich at the expenses of the exploration of wealth of the Americas and Africa and slavery of the black people. (...)

Brazil is experiencing reflections of this intolerance crisis. They can be observed in the streets. It is a result of the demonization of the government orchestrated by sectors that were discontent with the defeat in elections and by the press. They are increasing the extension of the economic crisis and turning it into a political and social crisis.

They also instill feelings of hatred and intolerance in society when they blame poor people and Brazilians from the Northeast region for having elected the president, or saying that she must bleed until die, or when the media calls out the medium class for protests and noisy movements against the president, which even resulted in an unbelievable request of some sectors for the return of the military coup.

This wave of intolerance is a lot similar to what happened in Germany, when Nazism rose, and is nothing but a political position. Political parties and representatives of capital, as well as of the major capitalist media, recruit average sectors for the defense of policies that are favorable to the increase of the capitalist exploration on workers and in defense of conservative agenda, which are opposite to humanizing values. In short: fascism.



Recuperar e Fortalecer os Empregos no Brasil



Read the full article of Marco Aurélio de Oliveira

## UGT Making it Happen with UNI in Switzerland

The meeting of the International Executive Committee UNI Global is taking place in Nyon, Switzerland, and Ricardo Patah, national president of **União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT)** and Moacyr Pereira, finance secretary, are attending it.



**Ann Selin, president of UNI Global Trade Union** opened the two-day meeting that gathers 150 trade union leaders of commerce, finance and services that are defining the agenda of this period that precedes the next International Congress in Liverpool, in 2018.

After she condemned the attacks to trade unions in her own country, Finland, where workers took to the streets to bar the anti-unionist legislation, Selin referred to the generalized anti-unionist offensive, which goes from “the United Kingdom, Spain and Indonesia to northern Africa and is moving within the United States, making the democratic clock go backwards”.

The president of UNI also condemned the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which, after last week’s disclosure, showed to be “worse than we thought”. She ended her speech with the commitment of “continuing the fight for equality and for the end of domestic violence”.

The Executive Council recognized the urgent need of mobilization and action against climate change. “A safe climate is a human right, not an option”, Philip Jennings, UNI’s secretary-general, said. “But climate changes are also an unprecedented opportunity to re-equip our economies, our cities, buildings and transportation systems. A 1% increase in public investments would create 40 million jobs. In terms of job creation, this could be the greatest opportunity ever.

To Jennings, UNI, which celebrates its 15th anniversary this year, is following the right path to the Congress in Liverpool “Making it Happen”.

The motto chosen for this congress sums the Family spirit of UNI and of the trade union movement. “We are showing that there is an alternative to the discredited neoliberal model. There are alternatives for unionists that face prison due to their beliefs, to refugees, to climate changes. Alternatives to commerce and to people that work”.

### 1st Meeting on Young Unionism of the Southern Cone

The 1st Meeting on Young Unionism of the Southern Cone took place at the head office of Fetiesc, in Itapema, Santa Catarina. It lasted three days and was full of debate and exchanges of experiences among young officers from different trade unions.

Brazilian, Argentinean and Uruguayan representatives from the trade union world talked about situations that were experienced in the head offices of trade unions and in grassroots classes. This event was enlightened by the presence and lecture of Mário José de Souza Leal, secretary of Publicizing and Communication of UGT’s State branch of Santa Catarina, who talked about his trade union experience since the 1970s and about the work made by UGT in Santa Catarina nowadays.



Different languages did not prevent the richness of content. Lecturers from Argentina and Uruguay also emphasized their fight in defense of workers and the difficulties they find concerning the employer’s resistance. The conclusion is that workers need a raise in their wages and an improvement of benefits, besides respect from their superiors. Trade unions are the refuge and the front commission in the war of workers. (SINTTEL-SC)





## In 2015 UGT grows throughout Brazil

During the first meeting of the board of executives of UGT, its vice-presidents and presidents of all State branches, an evaluation of the trade union center was made..

This evaluation pointed out that in 2015 **União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT** presented surprising results, growing in all States and increasing the number of affiliated trade unions and workers it represents, consolidating itself as the trade union that represents more workers of the commerce and service areas. The States of Rondônia, Pará, Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais and Bahia had a growth of more than 30% in the number of affiliated trade unions in 2015.



The trade union actions developed by the trade union center in all States are a massive expression of how workers are requesting better working conditions, respect to their activities, increase in salaries and also the indignation against the economic policy that is harmful to the growth and development of Brazil, which has led to recession and to the loss of more than 1 million job positions this year.

## UGT's Women in favor of the ratification of Convention 156

UGT's Women Department attends legal hearing that gathered representatives of the National Forum of Working Women of Trade Union Centers to discuss 20 years after the World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995) and the launching of the campaign for the ratification of Convention 156.

The Convention 156 deals with equality of opportunity and treatment for workers with Family responsibility. It was developed by the International Labor Organization (ILO) and establishes, among other benefits, protection to workers, from both genders, who are responsible for their children or members of the family who need care or support.

UGT's National Department of Women considered this legal hearing an opportunity to discuss the proposal of the Internal Commission for the Promotion of Equality.



## National March of Black Women

On November 18, Brasilia will receive thousands of protesters that will attend the March of Black Women against racism and violence.

The march will have a warm up at 9:00 A.M. in the surrounding area of the Nilson Nelson Sports Hall, next to the National Stadium Mané Garrincha. The route of the march, from the Sports Hall until the National Congress, is 5 km long. After we reached the Congress we will continue until the Cultural Complex of the National Museum of the Republic, where the act will take place.



Guia da Marcha

## International Seminar DIEESE 60 years

DIEESE celebrates 60 years of fight in defense of workers by holding an international seminar

This activity is aimed to trade union officers from institutions that are affiliated with DIEESE and will take place on December 03 and 04.

This seminar, which is sponsored by BNDES, will discuss "The Role of Work in Public Policies and in the development of Brazil".



The UGT Global is the Newsletter of International Information of the União Geral dos Trabalhadores

The UGT union is an organization formed to defend the Brazilian workers across a broad trade union movement, national, ethical, supportive, independent, democratic and innovative.

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