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Exportar para empregar: uma proposta da UGT para a crise

More evil deeds against workers?

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

According to data of the National Household Sample Survey (Pnad), recently publicized by IBGE, the unemployment rate reached 9% in the trimester that ended in October 2015 – the highest of the time series that began in 2012.



This situation threatens all the national achievements in terms of poverty reduction and the own survival of the middle class.

When this newsletter is published, the **Central Bank** will have already decided the new interest rate, since its first meeting of 2016 will be on January 19 and 20. Probably the decision will be maintaining the current and high interest rate (14.25%), since **COPOM (Monetary Policy Committee)** is divided

However, due to the size of recession, the interest rate should be lowered. If not, let's consider. The Brazilian economy is experiencing a tremendous recession once the Brazilian demand should decline more than 10%, as pointed out by the economic journalist Luiz Nassif. The industrial production has already declined these 10% and the rest of the economy should follow the same path. It is not possible, therefore, to increase the interest rate to reach an economic slowdown – the economy is already in a deep slowdown.

This slowdown is a result of an exaggeration in the fiscal adjustment. But the government wants more. When asked about the adjustment of the IRS table, Nelson Barbosa, finance minister, said that it is not a priority in 2016. To the minister there is no fiscal room for the review of the table, because the current moment means restoring recipes.

In the current situation we are experiencing, filled with recession and a 10% inflation, not adjusting the table means a radical increase on the IRS for wage earners. As Carlos Alberto Schmitt de Azevedo, president of the National Confederation of Liberal Professions, pointed out "it seems that the rope always bursts on the weakest side".

Another evil deed that is being planned seems to come from social security, since president Dilma Rouseff, in a press conference, said "all countries increased the minimum retirement age". It is important to emphasize that the months in which the formula 85/95 was in force reduced the average retirement age down to 60 years. We recall that the formula was extremely criticized and suffered the opposition of the government when the trade union movement presented it.

At the same time, a third evil seems to be planned by the finance minister, who prescribed, in a talk with investors at the beginning of the year, a reform on the labor legislation. According to confidences of government advisors and well-informed analysts, what is intended is the sacrifice of labor rights in negotiations between employers and employees that will prevail on legislation. The Program of Employment Protection already followed this path, but businessmen want more.

Thus, there are, at least three evil deeds planned for the beginning of this year. With a growing unemployment rate, higher than 9%, and with an official inflation rate of 10.27%, are more evil deeds against workers and their families really necessary?

UGT will fight with as many weapons it has to weaken these evil deeds and return Brazil to its legitimate owners: the Brazilian working families.

Victory of Commerce Workers in São Paulo

Five hundred thousand commerce workers of the city of São Paulo achieved an adjustment of up until 10.33%

On January 13, despite the difficulty of negotiating with businessmen, the Trade Union of Commerce Workers managed to sign the main collective agreements, which were signed at the head office of the Employers Federation of Commerce of the State of São Paulo (Fecomercio).

Luiz Carlos Motta, president of the **Federation of Commerce Workers**, led the process with commerce workers of the city

On the occasion, the following labor collective conventions for the period 2015/2016 were signed: Trade Union of Electric Parts (Sincoeletrico), Trade Union of Car Parts and Accessories Wholesale Stores (SICAP), Trade Union of Car Parts and Accessories Retail Stores (Sincopeças), Trade Union of Tire Retail Sale of São Paulo (SICOP), Trade Union Of Construction Material (Sincomavi), Trade Union of Store Owners (Sindilojas) and trade unions represented by the own Fecomercio.



Workers will have a wage rise already in January and it will be a back payment extended until September 1, October or November, according to the base date of each Convention. The agreements that were signed will benefit 500 thousand grassroots workers.

Patah believes that workers and businessmen should walk together in search of solutions for the adversities that currently reach the job market. "Changes will only occur with the effective participation of the working class and more stimulus from employers, because the commerce area is the major manager of economy of this country. Together, we can search for alternatives to informal work and precariousness of employment."

Commerce workers will have until 30 days to present an oppositional letter against the discount of union support dues, established through an agreement signed by the Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo and by the Labor Prosecutor's Office. The letter should be sent to the head office of the trade union, at the address Rua Formosa 99 – downtown São Paulo, or to one of its branches, from Monday to Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

The adjustments were 9.88% and 10.33%, varying according to the activity and the month of the base date, which could be September, October and November. Altogether, 11 collective bargains were already signed. They are related to: Store Owners, 9.88%; Sincovaga, 9.88%; Used vehicles, 9.88%; Fresh meat, 9.88%; Federation, 9.88%; Sincomesp, 9.9%; Sicap/Sicop/Sincopeças, 10.33%; Sincoelétrico, 9.88%, Sindioptica, 9.88%; Sindiflores, 9.88%; Sincomavi/Sincomaco, 9.90%.

Walmart Brazil closes 60 stores

On January 15, Walmart Brazil, third largest supermarket chain of the country, announced that it will close 60 stores throughout Brazil and will change its president.

The number of stores that will be closed is the double of what was publicized at the end of December. At the time, Walmart Brazil had informed that it intended to close 5% of the total of 544 supermarkets, that is, nearly 30 stores.

The Brazilian branch had made a commitment in December with UGT that it would not fire employees and transfer them to other stores. Only the employees who did not want to be transfer would be dismissed.

According to **Ricardo Patah**, **president of UGT**, the agreement was achieved. "There are 4 thousand employees of these stores, out of which 3 thousand were transferred and another thousand left by their choice", he said.

Patah also said that 17 stores were closed in the States of Paraná; 14 in Rio Grande do Sul; 6 in São Paulo; 5 in Santa Catarina; 4 in Maranhão; 3 in Mato Grosso do Sul; 3 in Bahia; 2 in Minas Gerais; 2 in Alagoas; 2 in Paraíba; 1 in Goiás and 1 in Ceará.



Watch the video> SBT
Brazil (01/04/16)
Walmart closes stores

World Social Forum – 15 years

União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT, since its foundation in 2007, attended all the World Social Forums and will be in Porto Alegre, from January 19 to 23, to make an overview of its participation.



At the beginning of the first decade of 2000, Porto Alegre became the first host of the World Social Forum, a meeting of activists and militants from several international social organizations who were against neoliberalism, globalization, FTAA and the global misery.

Fifteen years later, Porto Alegre will receive a theme issue to celebrate the date, preceding the next global conference, which will take place in Canada, in August. But what is left from the spirit of the first editions in Rio Grande do Sul?

In January 2000, Oded Grajew, businessmen, president of the Ethos Institute at the time, which stimulates the social responsibility of the business sector, was in Paris and accompanied with discomfort the news that reached the World Economic Forum of Davos, Switzerland. He heard that neoliberalism was the end of history and that the market free from any regulation would rule the world. Then, he had a glimpse: why not organize a forum in which social would be the most important feature?

A year later, the World Social Forum was created in Porto Alegre, proposing a counterpart to Davos. With the representation of 117 countries, 4.702 participants and 69 international panelists, they summed voices for another possible world, as described by the slogan of the event.

With different colors and accents, militants from different organizations raised ideals against neoliberalism and global misery. Local businessmen first saw it with disapproval and soon it was appropriated as a symbol, which projected this city to the world. People from different nationalities moved commerce and the hotel network – and the plurality of discussions was affirmed in the following years as a space in which all utopias that seemed lost were able to fit in.

Fifteen years later, the world is not the same – the forum is not the same either. Porto Alegre will host, from January 19 to 23, a theme event to recall the date, expecting to reach 10 thousand participants in 800 workshops. It will be a previous idea for the next global edition, which will take place in Montreal (Canada), in August, and it is expected to gather 50 thousand people. Since 2004, the WSF stopped being hosted solely in Porto Alegre and became international, each year it was held in a different place – the last one was in Tunisia, then in places like Dakar (Senegal, 2011), Nairobi (Kenya, 2007) and Mumbai (India, 2004).

União Geral dos Trabalhadores is present!

UGT, as representative of workers from varied professional classes, will attend several activities of the Labor World, which will have the participation of international unionists to exchange experiences and discuss the construction of fight agendas with the goal of achieving solutions for a better planet. It will attend the 19th March for Peace, which will open the event. On January 20, it will conduct the activity Public Policies for Migrant Workers and on January 22 the Role of Workers and a Democratic Society.

During the event, UGT will also attend discussions on Globalization "Latin America: Resistance and Alternative" and "Democracy and Development in times of Coups and Crisis". Among the major conferences: "Land, Territory and Sovereignty of People": "Law, Diversity and Humanism"; "Media, Ideology and Power"; "Labor World and Gender" and "WSF – fight for another world is possible", UGT will also provide its contribution.



click to enlarge



World Social Forum
– 15 years



All United
against
Dengue,
Chikungunya y
Zika

Siemaco and UGT in the fight against dengue fever

More than two thousand workers, among professionals of urban cleaning, health and educational agents had a meeting during the official release of the campaign "All of us against the dengue fever, Zika and Chikungunya viruses", officially launched on January 14, at the Pacaembu Gymnasium.

Eighteen thousand urban cleaners, among them assistants of diverse services, collectors, manhole/duct cleaners, sweepers and drivers made a task force not only in the promotion of health but in the broadcast of information among the population. The idea is using their direct contact, and the fact that professionals are in all streets and communities, to raise awareness among the citizens.



"This is one of the most important actions of Siemaco, it covers the class and, in addition, it aims at the health of the community. Not only our workers will act in the cleaning of the city, but they will also be the main actors that will raise awareness among the population, informing how to fight against the mosquito and, consequently, prevent diseases", Moacyr Pereira discussed.

"Our tough union, which fights for the rights of workers, is also a civic union", Simão Pedro, service secretary, specifically emphasized thanking and guaranteeing all the support. "We will make a major campaign in the city of São Paulo against this terrible disease called dengue fever".

VII World Forum on Migrations will be in Brazil

On January 14, UGT received, in its head office, the Center of Human and Civic Rights of Immigrants (CDHIC) for a prep meeting of the "VII World Social Forum on Migrations (WSFM – Alternative Policies concerning the Global Disorder", which will take place on July 07 to 10, in São Paulo and, for the first time, will be held in Brazil..



The WSFM has the goal of consolidating a "solidarity globalization" regarding the world migratory issue through collective analyses, theme discussions and popular actions. It is led by social movements, trade unions, non-governmental organizations, among other networks, worried by the economic, political, social, cultural and gender dimensions of migration and mobility.

"UGT has articulated with organizations and consolidated migrant communities. One of the signals is this committee of social mobilization. This first meeting has the goal of turning this first forum in Brazil into a benchmark to us, from UGT, and, especially, to immigrants. It shall bring benefits and changes to them", Gustavo Garcia, representative of Valdir Vicente, secretary of UGT's department of Public Policies and Migrations, emphasized.

An Economy For the 1%

In a report pre Davos, Oxfam shows that the growing inequality created a world in which 62 people had as much wealth as half of the population of the world.

According to Kátia Maia, representative of Oxfam in Brazil, the global tax structure is one of the factors that most increased inequality. She affirms that this lower layer has access to lower tax aliquots, besides being able to benefit from tax havens, while the poor are submitted to high taxes. Oxfam will defend, in Davos, the end of tax havens, arguing that they host US\$ 7.6 trillion out of the world US\$ 250.1 trillion, according to Credit Suisse.



An Economy For
the 1%□



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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