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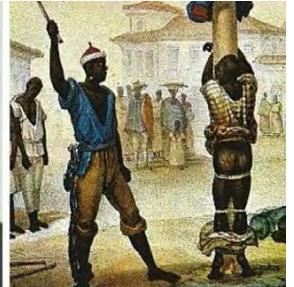
UGT refutes 80-hour workweek

CNI will soon propose the return of pillory and whip, said Patah on the 80-hour workweek

The president of UGT refutes proposal of CNI leader to increase the workweek from the current 44-hour to 80 hour. "Simply mentioning such a barbarian act of this kind, even denied by CNI, troubles the environment and shows how much the mind of the patronage is still behind", unionist Ricardo Patah said.

Robson Braga de Andrade, president of the National Industry Confederation (CNI), addressed this issue during a meeting with more than 100 entrepreneurs of the Business Mobilization group for Innovation (MEI), in CNI's head office in Brasilia, on July 08. In order to justify the increase in working hours, the president of CNI used the labor reform adopted in France as an example.

"The mere mention of such a barbarity is a huge setback, which on the one hand irritates, and on the other radicalizes the workers," said Patah. "After proposals of this kind, entrepreneurs will soon want to impose the return of the pillory and of the whip, treating workers as slaves," he stressed. "It's a very low and vile affront, which deserves to be denounced and rejected with all of our strength."



Mr. Patah's reaction was accompanied by the reaction of all leaders of UGT. Roberto de Lucena (PV party/ State of SP), federal deputy and vice-president of the National UGT, was quite apprehensive after he was aware of the statements of the president of the National Confederation of Industries (CNI).

"The apprehension is not due to the statement itself, because I think the president of the CNI was behaving like he was at the end of a party, relaxing with gifts in his farewell. However, there is a lot of concern because it can, in some way, represent his personal feeling regarding this issue, or the one of the group of businessmen connected to him and represented by him: that the bill for the national fiscal balance should be paid, once again, by those who can least afford it: workers, retired employees and pensioners of the country," said Roberto de Lucena.

"I am aware and understand the urgency of a pension reform, but I do not admit that this reform is carried out in order to undermine the achieved rights of retired workers and pensioners or compromise the expectation of rights of those who are about to retire. I advocate a new pension plan for those who enter the pension system, respecting the game for those who were already playing within the established rules," the congressmen emphasized.

Official Statement: CNI wants the return of slavery in Brazil

Workers are outraged by the position of the CNI (National Confederation of Industry) on the increase of 44-hour workweek to 80 hours per week. We do not accept it! A barbarity of this type hurts our honor, it is a huge setback. It irritates and demeans us deeply.

Although the president has later denied such words, it is something that should never have been said. Soon, entrepreneurs will want to impose around the pillory and the whip, treating workers as slaves. How are supposed to put up with such a shameful, low and vile statement presented by CNI? It causes disgust and revulsion on workers. We do not accept such violence and we will take to the streets against this measure!

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UNIÃO GERAL DOS TRABALHADORES
www.ugt.org.br
RICARDO PATAH, presidente

2nd National Juridical Seminar

UGT defends labor laws at national juridical seminar

More than 400 trade union officers and employment lawyers from all over Brazil attended UGT's 2nd National Juridical Seminar, held in Curitiba, Paraná, on July 7. Well known figures of the juridical and political context, at a State and national level, attended the opening of the seminar. Ives Gandra Martins Filho, president of the Superior Labor Court, Beto Richa (PSDB party), governor of Paraná, Ricardo Patah, UGT's national president, Paulo Rossi, president of UGT's State branch of Paraná and members of several national department of UGT, among others, were there.



Paulo Rossi, while opening the meeting, thanked UGT's president for the engagement and determination of UGT to hold this second national juridical meeting in the capital of Paraná and highlighted the importance of holding this event to the labor world: "this seminar managed to put together most important authorities of the executive and judicial branches, which represent Paraná and Brazil".

Ricardo Patah highlighted the work that UGT has been doing throughout Brazil and also the participation of the trade union center in international discussions. The president emphasized the strong work that UGT's State branch of Paraná and its leaders hold, which resulted in the center being the largest in Paraná in number of affiliated institutions. Patah thanked the Minister of Labour and the President of the Superior Labor Court for always listening to the demands of UGT, and stressed that the center will always fight for the defense of CLT (Consolidation of Labor Laws) and against any form of flexibilization of labor relations. "We cannot accept that in the name of the economic crisis, workers pay the price of poor political management of our country," Patah concluded.

Minister wants changes in labor legislation

At the opening of the 2nd National Juridical Seminar, Ronaldo Nogueira, Minister of Labour, said that the government will present a reform project in labor legislation by the end of the year. According to him, once the analysis is presented, the ministry will call trade union centers and business entities to talk and define the changes.

Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, said that the government is talking to the unions on issues related to employment, but there are still differences on how to deal with these issues. Both the government and UGT say that CLT is not a problem, although both advocate changing the law. The tax issue – not lack of clearness - is what most influences unemployment in the evaluation of UGT.

We are looking for alternatives that will enable Brazil to achieve an expanded budget without disrespecting workers rights. I think we need to have another thought - said the president of UGT, who said he believed it would be possible to reach a consensus between trade union centers and the government in order for the project of change in labor laws to be presented this year.

Nogueira also assured that the government will not put the outsourcing project, which was submitted to the Congress, back to the agenda, as it was deliberated by the chief of staff, Eliseu Padilha. According to the minister, the government will present a specialized service contract project, which aims to define the list of categories that may be subject of discussion.

Financing Trade Union Activity under law project

The Consolidated Law Project, related to the financing of trade union activity, was voted on July 06, 2016, at the Special Commission with the goal of Studying and presenting proposals regarding the financing of trade union activity. This report will be numbered following the patterns of law project and will be sent to the board of directors determine the order to proceede legal channels.



Union Activity under law project

Celebrating CCSCS 30-year anniversary

Event in São Paulo celebrated 30-year anniversary of this institution and paid a tribute to Valdir Vicente de Barros, UGT's director and former secretary general of CCSCS

On Friday, July 8, the Coordinator of the Southern Cone Trade Unions, CCSCS, held a commemorative event of its 30 years of struggle for workers' rights and democracy in the Southern Cone.

CCSCS was founded in Buenos Aires, in 1986, and consists of 19 trade union confederations from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Bolivia, Venezuela, Uruguay and Paraguay, with 25 million affiliated workers. UGT is affiliated with CCSCS since its foundation.



Rafael Freire, Secretary for Economic Policy and Sustainable Development of TUCA (Trade Union Confederation of the Americas), who was also CCSCS's secretary general, emphasized the importance of this organ in the building process of unit between trade union centers in the countries of the region and in the resistance to neoliberal early attacks of the 90s". Freire said that TUCA continues to support its struggle and resistance. "I am honored to be part of these 30 years of history."

Edson Dias Bicalho, secretary general of FEQUIMFAR and Secretary of Trade Union Relations for Latin America and Mercosur of Força Sindical, spoke on behalf of the Brazilian trade union center and highlighted the unity in the fight against the withdrawal of rights.

A special highlight of the event was a tribute to Valdir Vicente de Barros, former secretary general of the organization and UGT's Secretary of Public Policies.

Since he was sick, Valdir could not attend the event and Cícero Pereira received the commemorative plaque on his name. "Our deep recognition and respect towards Valdir Vicente, unionist and a person who fights for unit and strength of the working class in Latin America" was written in the plaque.

End of work unemploys 30 thousand people

Wednesday morning. Early June. Downtown Rio de Janeiro. The lobby of the Union of Workers in the Heavy Construction Industries begins to be filled with people. It will be this way all day long, during which nearly 100 workers recently fired will sign the termination of their contracts. With different ages and backgrounds, all these people have one thing in common: they are being fired from projects directly or indirectly connected to the organization of the Olympics.

"A grassroots of approximately 30,000 workers was involved in the organization process of the World Cup and of the Olympics since 2012. The number of layoffs began to grow in 2014: there were nearly 3,000. And only last year there were 8,500 laid-off workers. This year, with consolidated data up to May, we had about 5,000 dismissals. Therefore, there is a remnant of about 14,000 workers involved in this renovation work, but the prospect is that the vast majority will also lose their jobs by the end of the projects," says Nilson Duarte Costa, president of this union.

To Nilson Duarte, "there are no prospects for the future of these workers" if new projects are not confirmed. "The schedule until 2020 predicted new renovation work that would happen not only in Rio but all over Brazil, but our country went bankrupt. This was an argument made in 2013 with the Ministry of Planning, which was with all these idealized forecasts and ready to replace these renovation works, I wouldn't go so far as to say all of them, but at least 80% of workers are now being fired."

In the analysis of the unionist, the situation of the main contractors involved with the Lava Jato Operation suspends future projects of new renovation works in terms of readmitting workers: "this is a chaotic situation, we are very concerned because we do not see light at the end tunnel." The new government, he says, did not point out to restoring discussions on possible new projects. "Everything was discontinued with the suspension of president Dilma, whose government was discussing these issues. Now people are no longer there and we have not the slightest idea of what will happen in the future. Previously we were able to talk to the government, now we have nothing." (Rede Brasil Atual)





From Paraná the highest adjustment of Brazil

Outsourced workers represented by Sineepres – Trade Union of Employees in Service Provision Companies to Third Parties of Placement and Labor Management, Temporary Work, Reading Meters and Notice Delivery of Paraná (an institution affiliated with UGT), achieved a feat in midst of an economic crisis: the highest salary adjustment index in Brazil.

The meter readers of the electric energy sector providing services in COPEL - Electricity Company of Paraná had a 15% increase (fifteen percent) on wages, with the base date of June 16. It was an increase of more than 50% in real terms.



According to Paulo Rossi, president of Sineepres and UGT's State branch of Paraná, this achievement was only possible with a lot of union organization and mobilization of the category. "Since early 2016, we are in permanent contact with the category through newsletters. The recognition of this hard work of measurement and bulletin delivery made by employers, in which many workers are exposed to accidents, including being attacked by dogs, shows the sector's maturity.

Workers newsletter highlights defense of Social Security



Newsletter of the Commerce Workers Union of Belo Horizonte

In its July issue, the Newsletter of the Commerce Workers Union of Belo Horizonte, an institution affiliated with UGT, highlights the struggle in defense of Social Security.

"When it comes to reform, as in terms of renovating a house, for example, you think of improvement, expansion, beautification. But in recent years, when governments announced "reforms" what fell directly on workers was the withdrawal of historic rights, worsening conditions of life and work, loss of purchasing power, tightening, increasing the deadline for retirement, etc.," says the newsletter, which also has important news for the commerce class.

SPMI at the VII World Social Forum on Migrations

UGT's Department of Advertising and Institutional Marketing (SPMI), in a combined action with UGT's Department of Public Policies, actively participated in the organization of the World Social Forum on Migrations. This event was held from July 7 to 10, in São Paulo, and it was up to SPMI to create several pieces that were used throughout the event, such as banners, tags, bags, T-shirts, among others.



[Check pictures of the pieces that were produced by our department for this event.](#)

ILO in Brazil



ILO in Brazil

The publication "ILO in Brazil" describes the main achievements of ILO and details the current activities of ILO to promote decent work in this country. It offers a brief history of the relationship between ILO and Brazil, a general view of the current situation of our country and the main remaining challenges in issues related to the labor world.

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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