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Workers in National Assembly

In order to face the crisis and defend labor and social rights, UGT and other trade union centers held a National Workers Assembly.

By sealing unit of trade union centers in the fight against any sort of flexible labor rights, which would cause an unprecedented crisis in all of the national labor market and would solely benefit the patronage, UGT, CUT, CTB, Força Sindical, CGTB, Nova Central, CSP Conlutas and CSB held, on July 26, in Sao Paulo, a National Workers Assembly for employment and guarantee of rights

The meeting brought together activists from all these trade union centers to an event that strengthened the link between the entities, in this delicate moment of constant attacks on labor rights and social advances achieved by the Brazilian population, it also made it clear that it is necessary to abandon the ideological differences to fight for a common ideal.

"The importance of unity of trade union centers has been proven at the time we build the policy of adjusting the minimum wage. In this scenario, we must fight again for one goal, because our disunity will represent loss of rights," explains Ricardo Patah, UGT's national president.



[Watch the video](#)

Patah emphasized the fact that this union is a very important statement for this moment, especially because the National Confederation of Industry (CNI) issued a statement requesting the termination of Regulatory Standard No. 12, which deals with the Safety at Work in Machinery and Equipment and, it could not be otherwise, it is the time to address the statements made by the Federation of Industries of the State of São Paulo (FIESP), which proposes an increase in working hours to a period of 80-hour workweek.

"They think we're machines, this is the kind of respect that entrepreneurs have for the working class?", the leader from UGT asked.

As for social security, no one ever tinkers with the elite, but there are plenty of fingers to point the blame for the alleged shortfall that exists in the INSS (National Institute of Social Security) vaults, according to the fallacies disseminated for advising the federal government, fall upon rural categories and fishermen, that is, people who historically are unable to make regular contributions to the pension system, but according to the Constitution of 88 they have the right to retirement.

"Today we are almost 13 million unemployed workers and if we are not united and take it to the streets we will most likely have serious problems," says Patah.

"We have to fight with all our strength in order for the poor and miserable be able to retire in the future. Women, who still suffer all kinds of prejudice and discrimination, are killed, raped, earn lower wages than men for performing the same functions and work double or even triple shifts, also can not lose rights, this is unacceptable," Ricardo Patah concluded. (Fábio Ramalho - UGT press)

[Read the resolution of the National Assembly of Workers and Workers for Employment and Guarantee of Rights. \(pdf, portuguese\)](#)



Minister of Labor receives union centers representatives

Ronaldo Nogueira, minister of labor, had a meeting on July 27, in Brasilia, with representatives from trade union centers from all over Brazil to discuss issues related to outsourcing, the program of employment protection and discussions concerning the principle of the negotiated over the legislated

UGT was represented in the meeting by Ricardo Patah, national president of the institution, and Francisco Pereira, aka Chiquinho, UGT's secretary of political organization.

Concerning the open dialogue with the trade union centers, Mr. Patah said that he has accompanied the minister's visits to trade unions and classifies them as an "improvement of labor relations without loss of rights." Regarding the project that regulates the outsourced work in the country, which was submitted to the Senate, Patah was emphatic that UGT is against it, as it is currently written, and UGT does not accept that the core business is outsourced.



He added that if the current project is approved every Brazilian worker can be outsourced. The issue of negotiated over the legislated also needs to be better evaluated, since it can cause great harm to workers of smaller categories, since these unions can receive strong pressure in order to sign an agreement that could affect workers rights that were established by the CLT (Brazilian Consolidation of Labor Law).

During the meeting the labor minister also proposed a partnership towards institutions that would enable them to expand the professional qualifications of formal, young, independent, rural workers and even of former convicts. "The center will be involved in these actions that will qualify the professional category in which they represent," Ronaldo Nogueira said.

Another point raised by the trade unions, on July 27, is reviewing the scope of sectors under the Employment Protection Program (PPE), implemented by the Federal Government in 2015 to discourage layoffs in companies that are in temporary financial difficulties. The center proposed that the PPE is updated and becomes permanent.

"In order to make it permanent one needs to consider the legal instrument that determines which company may establish the PPE so that it brings security to workers and that the program is not indiscriminately used," Ricardo Patah said and added that at the moment the PPE only benefited the workers of metallurgical and automotive sector, while trade workers and service were out. "

Change in the Union Dues

Through a meeting that took place on July 19 with Dr. Lourival Ferreira dos Santos, President of the Regional Labor Court (TRT) of the 15th region, UGT argued with the judge the legitimacy of the welfare contribution. The event was organized through an initiative of the Federation of Health Workers Paulista, an institution affiliated with UGT.

The Federation of Health Workers and the trade union centers discussed the idea of adopting in the state of São Paulo the same line of union dues of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, where there is more freedom for unions to collect this contribution in collective bargaining.

Edison Laércio de Oliveira, president of the Federation, said that the issue is crucial for the maintenance of trade unions. "The issue under discussion with the President of the Regional Labor Court was the survival of the union movement in Brazil. The Federation advocates changes in welfare contribution rules to strengthen the unions and thus make the entities that represent workers increasingly strong," Edison said.

Besides the aforementioned president of the federation and representatives of affiliated health trade unions, the meeting was also attended by representatives of UGT, CSB, NCST, CUT, CGTB and UST. Mr. Raimundo Simão de Melo, retired regional labor attorney and juridical advisor of this federation was at the meeting as well.



UGT Note on Outsourcing



Valdir Vicente thanks tribute

On July 8, CCSCS, Coordinator of the Southern Cone Trade Unions, celebrated its 30 years of fight for workers rights and for democracy in the southern cone.

The tribute paid to Valdir Vicente de Barros, UGT's Secretary of Public Policies, was a highlight of this event. He was secretary general of CCSCS for two periods: 1998-2001 and 2011-2015.

Unable to attend due to medical orders, Valdir Vicente recorded a video and thanked the tribute and highlighted the importance of the Coordinator.



Protest against Nissan

More than 200 workers protested against Nissan during the Olympic torch relay in Sao Paulo, on July 24th, due to the abuses committed by the sponsor of the Olympic Games Rio 2016.

The protests were held in Paulista Avenue and in front of the Nissan dealership on Avenida Brazil, Jardim America neighborhood.

The torch arrived at the scene carried by the country singer Daniel and stood inside the dealership for 30 minutes.

Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, who was at the protest at Avenida Brazil, said that the engagement of UGT and other trade union institutions in this campaign has a goal of solidarity for Nissan workers in the United States.



"We've been in Mississippi, therefore, we are watching this anti-union practice of the company for quite some time. Nissan has a Brazilian president and constrains us deeply for not opening the same dialogue with public hearings as it occurs in Brazil. Every time we realize that they do not give any value to their employees. So we could not help but be ahead, here in Brazil and in opportunities like this one today, to show our dissatisfaction with this company and to show civil society that the international trade union movement has to be supportive. Today it takes place in the US. Tomorrow it may be here ", Patah said.

The initiative in Brazil is made by UGT in partnership with CUT, Força Sindical and the United Auto Workers (UAW), an American trade union federation representing auto workers in the US. On July 24, Karen Camp, worker of Nissan in Canton, and Sanchioni Butler, coordinator of the UAW and responsible for the campaign against Nissan in Mississippi, took part in protests.

Nissan American workers visit UGT

On July 25, the board of executives of UGT received the visit of Nissan workers from Mississippi, in the United States, at the organization's head office in São Paulo,



See the protest at Avenida Brazil



See photos of the event

Siemaco discusses politics with youth working class

"What it is politics and how is the political participation made" was the theme discussed during the second Talk of Young Multipliers held on July 27, at the Siemaco auditorium. One hundred and five workers accepted the invitation of Daniela Souza, youth secretary, and listened to the lessons expressed by the research team at the Nove de Julho University and questioned the current national political reality.

"Our goal is to raise awareness of young workers for their political participation in society," said Moacyr Pereira, president of Siemaco. He said that he is still young on the eve of turning 61 years, and added that he started his union life with only 21.

"I have more union time than you in life," he teased

Moacyr summarized his union career since he discovered "that companies stole the workers," he recalled how it was to be a unionist at the time of the military dictatorship and confided that he, his mother and sister belong to the category of Tidiness and Conservation. "Each of you has to charge politicians of corruption acts they committed," he advised. *(Siemaco Press)*



UGT Rio Grande do Sul opens new office

On July 22, UGT's State branch of Rio Grande do Sul opened its new office with the participation of Ronaldo Nogueira, Minister of Labour, of Ricardo Patah, president of the National UGT, of Mauricio Dietrich, state representative, of Cássio Trogildo, President of the City Council of Porto Alegre, and also of councilors Claudio Janta and Márcio Bins Ely, of João de Deus Antunes, Municipal Labor Secretary of Porto Alegre and of the press.



During the opening ceremony, the president of the **União Geral dos Trabalhadores - UGT/RS, Paulo Roberto Barck**, quite touched by the presence of so many colleagues, emphasized the importance of unity of trade unions for the rights of workers. "We need to be together because we defend the same ideals. Regardless of the flag that we stand for, the purpose is the same: to defend workers' rights, being able to offer them better working conditions and better pay," he said.

To **Ricardo Patah, president of the National UGT**, today's greatest need is the creation of jobs, followed by no division of trade union grassroots. "We need to take nearly 13 million unemployed people out of the streets. We must defend employment, social inclusion. We are aware of the difficulties, but we must fight for better conditions," he emphasized.

The words of officers were reinforced by minister Nogueira, who emphasized the importance of trade union centers being united, with no grassroots division. He also highlighted the relevance of creating job positions with the goal of ending this moral and economic crisis that devastate our country. "Brazilians do not want favor, they want opportunities. And that is what we must offer", he pointed up.

DIEESE launches Employment on the Agenda nº 0

During the first quarter of 2016, unemployment reached 10.9% of the Brazilian workforce and the number of unemployed workers reached 11.1 million. Numbers are a lot higher than the ones from January and March 2015, when the percentage of unemployed was estimated at 7.9%.

[Read the Technical note number 159 – Recession and Labor market \(pdf, portuguese\).](#)



Emprego em Pauta nº 0

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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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