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Nothing to celebrate on Retirees' Day

On February 13, during a special session at the Brazilian Senate to celebrate the Retirees' Day, there was protest regarding those who were honored. It couldn't be any different, since retirees have little to celebrate in times of austerity.

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

This protest was addressed to the demands of the Social Security Reform under the Proposed Constitutional Amendment (PEC) 287/2016. The amendment, still under discussion in the Chamber of Deputies, has the intention of setting the minimum age for retirement in 65 years for both men and women. It increases the minimum contribution time from the current 15 years to 25 years.

All ranges of salaries will be considered for the calculation of the average salary, instead of only using the 80% bigger, as it is now. This average will constitute 51% of the value of retirement. To reach 100% of the average salary, the worker must contribute for 49 years - 1% increase for each year of contribution



The intended reform attacks the elderly at a difficult time, drastically (50%) cutting the value of the pension due to death. And it practically ends this pension by preventing its accumulation with the pension plan.

These drastic measures are presented as a remedy to the "budget deficits of the Social Security", deficits that are quite questioned by everyone, including UGT. The reform is also defended as a lever for Brazilian growth. A study made by the Planning Ministry, recently revealed by the newspaper O Globo, says that this reform will inject R\$ 45.5 billion in the economy in 2018 and 2019, a 3.1% growth, because "a universe of 2.179 million people, between 45 years and 57 years, will remain in the job market due to these changes."

This study sounds like a joke. It sounds like something that should not be taken seriously. People are subject to early retirement (often derisory) because they were expelled from the market due to their age or unemployment, or had their income lowered.

Most likely - and many people think so, reformed pensions become unfeasible, because those who are able to retire will be unable to achieve retirement. It is worth it to remember that today, four out of ten Brazilians with income are outside the Social Security coverage. The goal should be to attract these Brazilians, not increase their numbers.

The goal of increasing the social security collection is valid. As Senator Paulo Paim said, in tribute to the retirees, "more than R\$ 456 billion has already been diverted from Social Security, through disengagement, tax waivers, fraud and evasion."

Let's go after these contributions. Couldn't the Brazilian export agriculture, which is a successful international case and collects billions of dollars from its exports, afford the small contribution reserved for the domestic sector, which consists of a 2% contribution?

The way the intended rules are proposed is also unacceptable. Congressmen who are studying the issue in the House seem to have already sensitized themselves to this need. It is now necessary for them to realize the general impracticability of this reform. The drastic changes that are intended to end the social security system are unacceptable. We have to change them.



UGT invites governor Alckmin

UGT invites governor for events of women's and May Day

On February 13, **Ricardo Patah**, president of **União Geral dos Trabalhadores (UGT)**, led a team of the trade union center to a meeting with the governor Geraldo Alckmin in the Bandeirantes Palace. Among those who were at the meeting, there were **Edilson Simões (Alemão)**, **Chiquinho Pereira**, **Roberto Santiago** and **Luiz Carlos Motta**.



The governor received the delegation in his office. Patah invited the governor to attend UGT's Women's Day party, which will be held on March 12 at Parque do Carmo.

Patah also invited the governor to the Labor Day event, which will focus on the 10-year anniversary of UGT this year. He also asked for the hasty approval of São Paulo's wage floor in the Assembly. The launch party must take place at UGT. He also made a few requests for the department of agriculture, and discussed a number of related matters, welcomed by the governor with care and attention, occasion in which Alckmin spoke about entrepreneurship to widely and generally reactivate the economy connected to the field and to workers.

Alemão,, the vice president of the entity requested help for the implementation of a project of a pre-SAT exam. The Governor scheduled a meeting with the Secretary of Education for this and saw the initiative with good eyes.

President of UGT at the FHC Foundation

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, participated in the debate "Labor Reform: zero sum game or positive sum?" The event took place on February 10 at the Fernando Henrique Cardoso Foundation, downtown São Paulo, and was attended by Dr. Ives Gandra Martins Filho, Minister of the Superior Labor Court (TST), and by professor Hélio Zylberstajn, researcher at the Institute for Economic Research Foundation (FIPE).



In his speech, Patah defended that Brazil needs changes in several areas, but at this moment, in which we are facing the crisis, it is necessary to focus on actions that promote the generation of employment and income for the population. To him, the labor reform under discussion will not contribute to solving or minimizing this situation.

"UGT is a reformist entity, but the primary projects, in our view, need to be state and fiscal reforms, because the labor reform will not bring jobs and economic growth," said the leader of UGT.

Patah recalled that one of the proposals in the draft reform is the existence of a representative of workers in the workplace. This is an important and old claim of the whole trade union movement, but, as it was presented, it is not well defined and opens the precept to be a form of improvement for professionals, to be an inconvenience. "As stated in the proposal, this representative does not need to have ties with unions, that is, he or she may be indicated by the company and have negotiating powers. What will come out of this negotiation?" the member of UGT asked. (*Fábio Ramalho - UGT Press / Photo - FH Mendes*)



Jornada Março Mulher 2017



Patah at the Conference Management and Trends in the Labor Area

In defense of Indigenous People

Seminar of UGT discusses actions in defense of indigenous people

After two days of intense debates, the seminar "Strengthening Autonomy - Alliance between UGT and indigenous peoples", held at UGT's national head office in São Paulo, ended on February 10.

This meeting brought together unionists, representatives of indigenous peoples and from institutions such as the International Labor Organization (ILO), UNDP (United Nations Development Program), FUNAI (National Indigenous Foundation), TUCA (Trade Union Confederation of the Americas), Solidarity Center and NGOs connected to indigenous causes and to Human Rights.



According to Idjawala Rosa Karajá, UGT's Secretary for Indigenous Peoples Affairs, "we won a lot with this seminar, and with this space that we are conquering within the union movement. We have taken an important step to get out of the position to watch and become actors, that is, people who have the right to voice as agents of the process."

Camila Asano, coordinator of Conectas (International NGO specialized in Human Rights), spoke about the indigenous peoples and the inter-American human rights system of the OAS; Jana Silverman from Solidarity Center, and Carolina Dantas, from TUCA, who discussed the experiences of working together: the trade union movement and indigenous peoples in Latin America.

On February 09, Idjawala Karajá, presented a brief report on the situation of indigenous people in Brazil today. "First I want to highlight the unprecedented figure of this event, in which a trade union center opens its doors to indigenous peoples," said the secretary, recalling that the center is the first in the country to have a specific department to deal with this issue.

Idjawala spoke about the drastic reduction of the indigenous population, which once reached five million and currently only represents 0.43% of the national population. The secretary talked about the Bill 215, which transfers to the National Congress the power to homologate indigenous lands. "This means the end of the demarcation of the lands, due to the strength of the ruralist group in the Legislative. But it is not the only one and there are still other series of measures detrimental to the indigenous cause."

The International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention 169, which deals with the rights of indigenous peoples, marked the beginning of the activities of the Seminar "Strengthening the Autonomy Alliance between the UGT and Indigenous Peoples." The seminar started on February 09, at UGT's national head office, and lasted until Friday, the 10th.

To Telma Marques da Silva, indigenous woman and member of the Brazilian delegation of the UN and representative of the Union of Indigenous Women of the Amazon, UGT's participation in this process is an important step for the indigenous peoples. She hopes "that this alliance will be made concrete and can make a difference, bringing positive points so that we can leave here with a reflection of what the indigenous movement is."

"There is a lot to do and one of the certainties we have is that we cannot stand still," said Sidnei de Paula Corral, UGT's Secretary of Integration of the Americas. The demands made during the meeting should be synthesized and give rise to a document to be presented in other forums, such as the next ILO meeting, to be held in Uruguay.



Convention 169 -
On Indigenous and
Tribal Peoples

Fighting against unemployment

Trade unions present solution to fight against the unemployment in São Paulo

On February 14, union leaders, who represented almost 60 unions, unanimously approved a document that will be presented to the mayor of São Paulo, João Dória, on March 1, with proposals to minimize unemployment in the city of São Paulo. Forming the "Front to Fight against Unemployment in the Municipality of São Paulo", the study is the result of a wide debate among trade unionists who shared experiences.

The seminar started with Moacyr Pereira, president of Siemaco and Conascon, as well as UGT's treasurer director, who stressed the importance of union action at a time when the country is facing a serious economic crisis, which has repercussions on the employability and dignity of Brazilians families. Claudio Prado, from the metallurgist's union and from Força Sindical, continued the work.



"In 35 years, São Paulo has never seen all the unions as united as we are today," he said, guaranteeing that the Anti-Unemployment Front intends to achieve "a quality leap for the city." He explained that 15% of municipal resources (R\$ 54 billion) could be relocated to generate employment. Moreover, it is necessary to "get what already exists to function right".

Written with the support of Dieese (Inter-Union Department of Statistics and Socioeconomic Studies), ten suggestions that could be put into practice by the mayor were compiled. The intention is to foster municipal economic development by enabling the use of the public agenda to promote decent work, generating income and employment in the city.

Court says that UGT's State branch of Paraná innovates

"UGT's State branch of Paraná is legally proposing a public civil action requesting that all workers belonging to the basis of representation of entities affiliated to UGT in the State of Paraná have free access to the vaccine against influenza H1N1 (influenza)."

This is the understanding of Federal Judge Maria Isabel Pezzi Klein, from the Federal Regional Court (TRF) of the 4th Region, by partially filling the grievance filed by UGT, so that all workers receive the vaccine, regardless of whether they belong or not to risk groups.

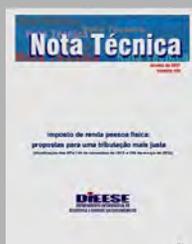
In the court ruling, the judge determines that the parties (UGT-Paraná, Ministry of Health and other agencies in the State of Paraná) hold a conciliation hearing aimed at serving the employees represented by the institution

Paulo Rossi (in the picture), president of UGT's State branch of Paraná, celebrated this unprecedented decision. "By recognizing the allegations of UGT and vaccinating workers who work in situations of risk, we will save public resources in a preventive way in the medium and long term. Therefore, not only will these workers preserve their health, this action will increase their productivity. It is already a victory that I compare to David against Goliath".



IRS: proposals for a more just taxation

The Note from DIEESE addresses the lag of the income tax table since 1996. It calculates how the corrections referring to the periods 1996-2016 and 2003-2016 would be. It exposes the need to increase progressivity with increases in the ranges of taxable income.



IRS: proposals for a more just taxation