



## 300 thousand people participate in the International Workers Day event



An audience of nearly 300 thousand people participated in the celebration of the Unified International Workers Day (May Day), event organized by **GUW (General Union of Workers)**, **CTB (Central of Brazilian Workers)** and **NCST (New Union Central of Workers)**, that, besides setting up the fight of the workers against dismissals and for the reduction of working shifts, also counted on a tribute to the pilot Ayrton Senna and also to the metallurgist Santo Dias.

Around 1:00 P.M., the minister of Labour, Carlos Lupi, accompanied by the secretary, Luis Antonio de Medeiros, made an appearance at the party stage. The minister delivered to the president of GUW, Ricardo Patah, a certificate of representation, that proves that the institution is properly recognized as a legitimate representative of the working class.

The minister Carlos Lupi, from the Labour and Work Ministry made compliments to the initiative of the three union centrals (GUW, CTB and New Central) of, for the first time, get together on the International Workers Day, providing a great party to the workers.

"Honestly, I find it very important because it shows maturity out of these three centrals in offering moments of joy to the Brazilian workers, at the same time it mobilizes the class to claim their rights", said Lupi.



During the civic act of the "Unified May the First", the three union centrals nurturers of the party, GUW, CTB and New Central paid a homage to the president of the Ayrton Senna Institute, Viviani Senna.

The sister of the established Formula 1 pilot, that died just on May, 1, 1994, received a silver memorial plaque as a form of recognition of the working class for its participation in this party and for all that the Institute has been doing in benefit of needy children in the education area.

### Minister delivered certificate to G UW



The minister of Labour, **Carlos Lupi**, accompanied by the Secretary, **Luis Antonio de Medeiros**, appeared at the stage of the Unified May Day party, being received by the presidents of the three union centrals.

The minister delivered to the **president of G UW, Ricardo Patah**, a certificate of representation, that proves that the institution is properly recognized as a legitimate representative of the working class.

### Daniel opens the Unified International May Day party

Having gathered the presence of a large audience, around 12:30 P.M., the singer Daniel was the first attraction to present up on the stage of the great party of the Unified International Workers Day, nurtured by G UW (General Union of Workers), CTB (Central of Brazilian Workers) and NCST (New Union Central of Workers), party that, until the end of the afternoon had several attractions including the live concert of Victor & Leo.



### G UW from Bahia unites 20 thousand people in Salvador

**G UW (General Workers Union)** nurtured a great party as a way of paying a homage to the worker from Bahia. It was a festive event with all of the ingredients that are already traditional to the celebrations of the International Workers Day held in Brazil and that gathered an audience of 20 thousand people, informs **Magno Lavigne, Secretary of Institutional Matters of the G UW from Bahia**.



The party began in the afternoon with the Citizens Fair, with social activities for the community, such as haircuts, medical consultations, juridical assistance and presentation of plays and games with children and young people from the neighborhood.

In the afternoon there were raffles, among them a prize of a brand new motorcycle, artistic presentations of highly recognized musical names from Bahia, such as Beto Jamaica, Pagodart, No Syлло, Grov Guetto, Tonho Matéria and other attractions.

During the political act held in the afternoon G UW members from Bahia done their claims, warning to the international crisis and the problems related to the unemployment that reaches the workers from Bahia, in the words of the regional president Álvaro Rios "unemployment is our main concern and we need to retake the economic development" said the president of **G UW-Bahia**.

The event was esteemed by the Ministry of National Integration - **Gedel Vieira Lima** who was acclaimed by vehement speeches of the members from the national executive board of the institution. The unionists **Marcio Fatel** and **Magno Lavigne** emphasized that "Bahia is in a hurry, and it is necessary a new cycle of economic development to decrease poverty and the social differences in the state, which has poor indexes in education, health and public security and job generation". The minister is in favor of the workers claims.

### Workers problems from yesterday and today

*Marcos Afonso de Oliveira*

On May, 4, it's been exactly 223 years that happened a second protest of workers in the streets of Chicago (USA), to claim for a reduction of work shifts to eight hours a day. There were confrontations with the police that responded with gunshots, killing 12 people and hurting other dozens. On the day before, (May,3) a similar fact had occurred: a confrontation with the police and workmen that wound up dead or hurt. Summing up: these facts were the foundation for the yearly celebration of the International Workers Day, as decided at a meeting of the International Socialist Organization, that took place in Paris, on June, 20.

I'm using this quotation because, almost half a century later, in Brazil, workers are fighting once again for the reduction of work shifts, without reducing salaries. Fortunately, the manifestations nurtured by G UW (General Workers Union) and the other Brazilian centrals, have been happening in a pacific way so far. The explanation of the union movement has logic because it can contribute to decrease the unemployment level, besides providing the workers that go through eight hour daily shifts, better life conditions. 223 years ago, workmen had to work up to 12 hours a day, reason which that bloody fateful movement came out.

We also have to celebrate the fact that, for the first time in History, Brazil is governed by a legitimate worker. Lula government has been developing efforts so that the Brazilian people have a more respectable life. But it has to be reminded that not everything can be considered a party. All throughout Brazil there are millions of workers living under a shortage situation. The international financial crisis has resulted in mass dismissals in the large companies. In our country there are still claims of slave work. This is something that has to come to an end. And we are only going to do so when the class is united and show its strength, fighting for the preservation of its constitutional rights.

Leaving the past aside for awhile and going back to the present, we have to remind the homage that **G UW**, **CTB** and **New Central** paid to the workers of São Paulo. For the first time three union centrals were together to nurture a huge party that united, at São João avenue, downtown São Paulo, an audience estimated by the organizers of the party in 300 thousand people. Undoubtedly a true Unified International Workers Day.

*(Marcos Afonso de Oliveira is the National Secretary of Publicizing and Communication of G UW)*

### Exhibition Ayrton Senna opens program of the Unified May Day

It is already opened to the audience in the Prestes Maia Gallery (at the Vale do Anhangabaú) in São Paulo, the Victory exhibition, a tribute to the workers under the figure of the pilot Ayrton Senna. The event indicates the opening of the official program of the Unified International Workers Day, result of the partnership between the centrals **G UW (General Workers Union)**, **CTB (Central of Brazilian Workers)** and **NCST (New Union Central of Workers)**.



One of the highlights is the yellow Lotus that was piloted by Ayrton Senna in the 1987 season. Visitors can also check more than 100 pictures of his life, besides trophies (among them the ones of the victories in the Brazilian Grands Prix from 1991 and 1993), overalls and helmets of the pilot, such as the ones used in the Brazilian Grand Prix, in 1993; in the Grand Prix of Europe, in Donington Park, in 1993; the one used in his first victory in Formula 1 in the Grand Prix of Portugal, in 1985, and the helmet used in the Grand Prix of Monaco, in 1994.

In order to achieve this exhibition the centrals signed an accord with the Ayrton Senna Institute, that celebrates, this years, 15 years of foundation and until May, 15, will be exhibiting, at the gallery, objects that marked the pilot's career.

### Mangabeira defends regulation of the participation in profits and results

The exemption from the payroll and a new legislation to regulate the informal workers, are some of the ideas that the **minister Roberto Mangabeira Unger**, from the Secretaryship of Strategic Issues of the Presidency of Republic, defends that ought to be applied so that the country might face the crisis. These and other proposals were presented in his speech in this afternoon, April, 29, at the headquarter of **the Union of Electricians of São Paulo**, nurtured by **GUW (General Union of Workers)**.



The speech had as its theme "**Crisis and Work**". Mangabeira said that the crisis is a good moment to implement a revolution in economy. He defends that the government should stimulate the small and medium industry besides creating mechanisms to the improvement of the agro-industry to strengthen the field man. Mangabeira also proposes that the government direct to the National Congress the article, that regulates the participation, by the workers side, in profits and results, but "as long as unions have access to the companies accounting", he explained.

To the president of **GUW, Ricardo Patah**, the presence of the minister is part of the process that GUW is conducting in search of alternatives and solutions to face the crisis, focusing on actions that do not damage even more the working class, that already pay high taxes with all this situation. The event counted on the presence of significant union leaderships and also with the participation of the city secretary of Labour of São Paulo, **Marcos Cintra**.

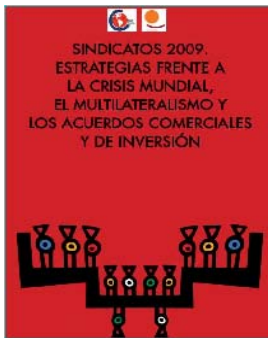
### Public Hearing debates regulation of the commerce worker profession

The regulation of the commerce worker profession was discussed at a public hearing of the Social Matters Committee (CAS), on May, 5. The proposal of debate came from the senator **Paulo Paim** (PT party - Rio Grande do Sul), who's author of one out of the two Senate law projects (PLS 115/07) that deal with this issue. The other project (PLS 152/07) was presented by the senator **Pedro Simon** (PMDB party - Rio Grande do Sul). Both are following legal procedures separately under the committee and should be voted in a terminative decision.

The law projects that aim to the regulation of the commerce worker profession propose that in the worker's record book it is written the position effectively exercised by the worker, without the use of a generic denomination; establishes a work shift of six or seven daily hours in the period of seven A.M to seven P.M., in two daily shifts, being prohibited the use of the same employee in more than one shift, with the purpose of generating more job opportunities; it is prohibited to work on Sundays and holidays; it establishes a national wage floor to the commerce workers, that cannot be inferior to three minimum wages; in order to make easier and standardize the treatment, especially to wage readjustment, November is instituted as the national data-base to all the professional class of commerce workers; October, 30, is celebrated as the **Commerce Workers Day**.

"Union centrals are united so that the commerce worker profession gets consolidated and that means, in São Paulo, 450 thousand workers in the union foundation. It's a class that moves the city and the development of the country. Everyday we run into commerce workers, whether in butcher shops, supermarkets, neighborhood stores, malls, car stores, etc. They are workers that we can consider as part of our family due to the daily closeness we have, that is why it is a category that deserves to be professionalized with is rights as any other profession, such as teachers, dentists, lawyers, doctors, etc", affirms **Ricardo Patah**, president of **GUW and the Commerce Workers Union of São Paulo**.

### Union strategy towards the crisis



The electronic version of the book "**Sindicatos 2009: Estrategias frente a la crisis mundial, el multilateralismo y los acuerdos comerciales y de inversión**" presented by the Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA) on April, 15, in Port-of-Spain, at the Worker's Forum of the America - held previously to the Summit of the Americas - was released.

**Ricardo Patah, president of the General Union of Workers (GUW)**, contributed with the text "Brazil in the international financial crisis", that shows the proposals of the institution to fight against the effects that the crisis have over the Brazilian workers.

The book, while incorporating a large number of texts written by union chairpersons and advisors of organizations affiliated to TUCA, constitutes an important contribution to reflection and proposition towards the crisis.

### Agreement between G UW and Incasur

The **General Union of Workers (GUW)** and the **International Institute of Studies and Social Capacitation of the South (INCASUR)**, hosted in Buenos Aires, made a successful meeting to discuss the matter of union assistance and common tasks of union education.



The **GUW** representatives present at the meeting - **Otton da Costa Mata Roma** and **Cicero Pereira da Silva** (**secretary and adjunct secretary of the integration to the Americas department**, respectively) - informed that the institution would like to make a seminar of chart formation that allow a largest approach with the unions from North America. An event to deal with the influence of the international crisis on jobs and migrations. It was decided at the meeting to materialize this initiative in the second semester of the year.

The representatives from **Incasur** - **Ramón Ermácora** e **Enrique Sosa** – showed high interest in the execution of this seminar that, in the continental union unit, reaffirms the bonds with the organizations from the United States, Mexico and Canada. They were at the G UW disposal to show their experience and ability of INCASUR to advise projects.



"The **General Union of Workers (GUW)** reaffirms its historic commitments to the working class, while seeking to expand its methods of action, with ethics, courage and the certainty that Brazil can be better and more just. " **Ricardo Patah** - UGT's President

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