



Score a goal! UGT against child labour

The **World Day Against Child Labour**, which is celebrated on June 12, will be dedicated, this year, to get attention over the need of urgent measures at a national and international levels to accelerate the action against child labour.

Once the date coincides with the World Soccer Cup, the theme of the World Day Against Child Labour is **Score a Goal: Eradicate Child Labour**. The objective of cutting off the worst kinds of child labour in 2016 was the main motto of the recent **Hague Global Child Labour Conference**, in Holland.

In Brazil, the soccer player **Robson de Souza**, aka **Robinho**, one of the main players of the Brazilian team that will play at the Soccer World Cup 2010 in South Africa - agreed to support the efforts of ILO (International Labour Organization) on the fight for the eradication of the worst types of child labour.

Robinho submitted his image rights to a campaign developed by the International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour of ILO's office in Brazil. The soccer player made a picture with a "Red Card to Child Labour".

On June 11, the International Labour Conference, that is gathered in Geneva, will discuss the recent Global Report on Child Labour.



UGT, which is part of the National Forum of Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour and of CONAETI, along with other Brazilian trade union centrals, approved the National Campaign "Let us score a Goal, Eradicate Child Labour". A reference to the red card in soccer games, that is: "Let's kick out of our society the practice of child labour".



UGT against child labour

Meeting discussed campaign on child labour.

The issue was widely discussed at the regional meeting of the **Trade Union Confederation of the Americas (TUCA)** as part of the project "Strengthening of the Continental Union Action towards the Prevention and Elimination of Domestic Child Labour".

The meeting gathered 20 union directors from institutions that are affiliated with **TUCA** and act with the issue of fighting child labour in Paraguay, Brazil, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Haiti.

UGT was represented by the directors **Josineide de Camargo Souza** – Secretary of Social Policies and **Rumiko Tanaka** – Adjunct Secretary of the Finances Department.



The event had the objective of discussing and elaborating a document with the contributions of centrals to debate over the adoption of a convention and/or a recommendation on decent work to domestic workers, which is the topic of the next ILO's conference, in 2010. Besides, there were developed activities to stimulate affiliated organizations to elaborate combined fight plans against domestic child labour, using literatures, and establishing strategies to June 12 - World Day Against Child Labour.

UGT in defense of the environment

June 5 - World Environment Day

The world chose 2008 as the year of the planet. UGT, back then, was celebrating its one year anniversary. Today, after two years, we are growing and under a new planet consciousness. And more than reflections, this new decade demands actions.



UGT is enlarging its mission. Social-environment actions are in its agenda, understanding that the human being is part of the environment in which they are inserted.

Defending a sustainable way of life, in defense of the worker, the planet, and after all, in defense of what we consider very important: "all living beings, all mankind", always in search of a more just and equalitarian society.

Our way of producing and consuming, especially over the last three decades, has been causing what we name global warming, besides climate changes that are already affecting us. We need to review our way of thinking and acting, we must change values and paradigms.

The international union movement has been moved around these issues.

We are claiming for a "Fair transition", "decent work" and "green jobs", in the global economy. We are fighting so that we may have a green economy. We are going to build it and consolidate it this decade, this century.

UGT is here, to propose new policies, to help building a new society, a truly sustainable society to us, workers, and future generations. (Cris Palmieri)

UGT along with unions from Latin America and the European Union

Unions from Latin America/Caribbean and the European Union showed, on May 18, their Combined Declaration to Miguel Ángel Moratinos, minister of Foreign Affairs of Spain. On the same day, a meeting of chiefs of state from Latin America/Caribbean and European Union began in Madrid. The declaration "Towards an Incentive to Employment, Social Cohesion and Workers Rights within Relationships between Europe and Latin America" was approved in the combined meeting that unions from both continents made in early May.



The meeting, organized by **ETUC (European Trade Union Confederation)** and by **TUCA (Trade Union Confederation of the Americas)**, had the participation of over a hundred union delegates. The colleagues from UGT's board of directors, Valdir Vicente de Barros (picture), secretary of Public Policies and Mônica da Costa Mata Roma, adjunct secretary of Integration to the Americas, actively participated in the meeting.

Through an interview to the webpage of **Southern Cone Trade Union Centrals Coordinator**, the colleague **Valdir Vicente**, criticized the so called return directive adopted in 2008 by the European Union

"To the unionist, the "directive, clearly criminalizes the immigration of undocumented immigrants" and this way "unions from the south are totally against the return directive". Valdir believes that "there will be a higher participation in the social debate" in negotiations at the meeting in Madrid. According to him, unions are "totally against any kind of agreement of free commerce that might come up in these discussions".

The union declaration requests that the legal ratification of Free Trade Treats between EU - Central America and specially the treat between EU - Colombia and Peru should be ended. Both treats left out main union claims and the last, despite the extreme violence of that region, does not offer any guarantee on human rights.

The union declaration also mentions the need of a stimulus for the world economy and a new regulation of financial markets, as well as the promotion of the Decent Work Program and a confrontation of climate changes. Unions demand that leaders adopt coherent policies towards migration either in origin countries as in destination countries, with the goal of guaranteeing workers rights, social protection and security to migrant workers. The appeal also gives attention over the situation in Honduras and the necessary solidarity towards the people from Haiti and Chile, countries that went through catastrophic earthquakes.

International Labour Conference

Juan Somavia, General Director of the International Labour Organization, started today a request in favor of a "balanced" political strategy to guarantee a high employment rate towards new threatens to the global economy due to the sovereign debt of countries and to the reduction of public expenses.

While talking at the opening of the 99th International Labour Conference, Juan Somavia warned that the recent debt crisis and measures to reduce deficit, especially in social expenses, could "affect directly jobs and salaries" in a moment of weak economic recover and conservation of high unemployment rates.



Juan Somavia, Director-General of the International Labour Organization

Somavia requested a "balanced" politics convergence strategy, based on three elements: guaranteeing a recover in job positions, following a path of a strong, sustainable and balanced growth, and facing structural unbalances of a global economy that existed prior to the crisis.

"We have to act in all the three objectives altogether under a harmonious way within a short, medium and long terms perspective", Somavia said. "They are inter-connected. Therefore, we don't have any options between "one or the other".

"The immediate danger of a fiscal reduction, simultaneous in a significant number of countries is decelerating even more the weak recover in Europe", Somavia said. "This would damage, in several ways, growth perspectives all over the world. We cannot put away the infection effect".

"There is no doubt that the public debt and problems of a public deficit of many countries are real and it is necessary to face them, as well as they are a matter of national and international stability", he said. "We just need to figure out how and when".

The conference is doing a series of discussions on how to open up a path to recover job positions and promoting a more sustainable and balanced growth. The agenda of the conference includes two high quality panels, on June 14, that will discuss the role of productive jobs and social protection to make real the Millennium development goals.

The panels will also analyze the progress around making the Global Jobs Pact approved last year in response to the global economic crisis and conceived to orientate national and international policies aimed to stimulate the economic recover, creating jobs and providing protection to workers and their families.

The brother Arnaldo Benedetti, secretary of the International Relationships Department of UGT represents Brazilian and Latin-American workers at ILO Council of Administration and is actively participating in the 99th International Labour Conference.



16th Call for Land in Brasilia

The 16th edition of the Call for Land in Brasilia, on May 12, had the participation of Union of Rural Workers affiliated with UGT, mainly from the states of Parana and Sao Paulo.

The manifestation, organized by the Confederation of Agriculture Workers (Contag), gathered nearly seven thousand people and was concentrated in front of the Ministry of Agriculture Development. Rural workers were claiming for a response towards an agenda of 223 items that deal with emergency problems in the rural environment.



Under the negotiation agenda, the priorities were: the release of funds to invest in the Safra Plan 2010/2011, the approval of a project based on rural social security, policies to fight violence in the field, besides the settlement of 115 thousand families through an Agrarian Reform.

According to **Alberto Broch, president of Contag**, the agenda is sort of a social development project to the field, that needs to be fulfilled by the government: "Government was made to govern and the union movement was made to fight. And this is exactly what we are going to do", Broch said.

While rioters were demanding, leaderships were gathering with president Lula and ministers to receive an answer from the government about the movement demands. Besides a guarantee to defray the Safra Plan 2010/2011, around R\$ 16 billion, R\$ 2 billion in resources of the Social Development Ministry were made available. Along with other investments, that summed up to nearly R\$ 20 billion to plant, invest and commercialize family agriculture.

Slave Work PEC (Project of Constitutional Amendment) might remain "forgotten" at the Chamber

The amendment that foresees the confiscation of slave owned lands, which is waiting to be voted under a plenary session for almost six years (after the approval in its first term in 2004) is in serious risk of perishing for another legislature.

The PEC (Project of Constitutional Amendment) 438/2001, that foresees the expropriation of land proved to contain exploration of slave work and which has a petition with over 200 thousand signatures, has become a synonym of the fight against contemporary slavery.

UGT and other institutions and organs that are part of the **National Group against Slave Work** are in the home stretch while collecting signatures in favor of the PEC 438/01. The goal is delivering by the end of this month, all signatures to Michel Temer (PMDB party/SP), president of the Chamber of Deputies, because the subject needs to be voted under a second term by a chamber plenary session and it been put away for six years.

The actions will be part of the program of the **1st National Meeting for the Eradication of Slave Work**, that will take place from May 25 to 27.

Senate pays homage to commerce workers

Patah requests regulation of commerce workers at the Senate



Ricardo Patah defended the regulation of the profession during a solemn session at the Senate

The Senate paid a homage on May 24, a special session of the "Commerce worker's day". The session was called by the senator Paulo Paim (PT party), who is also author of the project 115, that is currently following legal channels under the Congress and regulates the commerce workers profession, one of the oldest in the country and still not regulated.

It was up to the unionist Ricardo Patah, National President of UGT and the Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo, to speak on behalf of Brazilian commerce workers. For 15 minutes, Patah reminded that the class of commerce workers is the only class that is present in all Brazilian cities and towns, being the oldest profession in the country, however, it is not properly regulated, and it even has one of the largest shifts among workers, according to data from Dieese that point out that most commerce workers perform 52 weekly hour shifts.

The unionist reminded that October 30 is Commerce Worker's Day, since on this very day, the Law Decree 4.042/32 (under Vargas' government) was published and it regulated the working shifts for this class, reducing daily shifts from 12 down to 8 hours, a benefit that was later extended to other workers.

The president of the Commerce Workers Union and UGT reminded that the activity of commerce and service sectors represent a sensitive and reliable thermometer of the growth level and income elevation of the general population, besides the fact that it is within sectors of higher labour demand in economy, with a large diversity of qualifications.

While speaking up, senator Paulo Paim (PT party-RS) stated that the strengthening of the Brazilian internal market was the factor that saved this country from the American real estate crisis. He emphasized that the smart businessman is the one that pays their employees well, because they will have consumers for their own products.

Social Security

Paim made sure to emphasize that yes, the government does have money to pay retired people and deal with the end of the social security factor, as well as there was enough money to increase the minimum wage from R\$ 50 to R\$ 100, reaching the nearly R\$ 300 nowadays, that helped saving this country from an international crisis. "Everything that I'm proposing, people say that will break our country. I believe in this government and we might say, to our grandchildren and great-grandchildren, that May 2010 represented a historical date, with a readjustment to retired people and the end of a factor that punishes men and mostly women, regarding the calculus of their retirements. It will also take place, in May or June 2010, that we approved the PLS (Senate Law Project) 115 regulating the profession of commerce worker", he promised.

UGT participates in program of house building

UGT will participate in the program "Partnership with Institutions that represent Workers", which foresees the building of houses exclusively to people that are affiliated with institutions under union figures.



Lair Krähenbühl, State Housing secretary and president of CDHU (Company of Housing and Urban Development) and Milton Flávio, State Deputy, got together on May 19, in Sao Paulo, with Ricardo Patah, National President of UGT, and Chiquinho Pereira, secretary of Union Organization.

The program, that was released by the government of the State, will serve families with incomes between one and ten minimum wages, elected by institutions previously registered at CDHU. Half of the houses should benefit families that earn between one and three minimum wages.

"The project comes to the needs of poorest social classes. Most unions affiliated with UGT come from commerce and services sectors, which are exactly the people that face the highest adversities and have the least possibilities to buy their own houses", Ricardo Patah said.

Youth Global Conference 2010

The Youth department of UGT actively participated, from May 24 to the 26, in the pre-conference of the Americas. The event, organized by the United Nations (UN), in Salvador, Bahia, features the preparatory stage to the World Youth Conference 2010, that will start by the end of July in Mexico. In this first stage, the conference had the participation of 30 countries, including Brazil.

There were only two available vacancies to each country, and the Youth Department of UGT represented the Brazilian working youth, occupying one of the vacancies destined to Brazil at the World Youth Pre-Conference.

"It is a great honor to our trade union central, because **UGT** represents the Brazilian youth at the World Youth Conference", **João Vidal, Adjunct Secretary of UGT's Youth Department** said.



Sindiapi-UGT on the web

Trying to improve more and more its capacity of communication and publishing, the board of directors of SINDIAPI (Union of Pensioners, Retired and Elderly People of UGT) announces its launching through its webpage.

The website contains several options of use to whoever access it, mainly towards the interests of retired people and pensioners. To Edmundo Benedetti Filho, president of the union, the website offers a "light and full of content" visual.



"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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