



The Brazil we want!

UGT showed, on June 14, the document "The Brazil we want", at a plenary session held at Novotel Jaraguá Hotel, Sao Paulo, with the objective of presenting proposals to a better country to the three guests that are running for president Dilma Rousseff (PT party), José Serra (PSDB party) and Marina Silva (PV party).

The meeting gathered around 450 people from all over the country and had the presence of the presidential candidates **José Serra**, **Marina Silva** and Aldo Rebelo, Federal Deputy (PC do B party) representing the candidate **Dilma Rousseff**. All of them made compliments to the initiative of the union central.



Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, said that the highest preoccupation in the document is focused on education, since data from the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), showed lack of plans to the area in 44% of Brazilian cities and towns, that is almost half the cities.

While speaking on behalf of the candidate from PT party, **Aldo Rebelo** said that Dilma will schedule a meeting with colleagues from UGT. He emphasized the affection that the candidate has regarding the workers fight and stressed the commitment of the party to the union path. "The document is made out of convictions and legitimate rights of workers", the deputy emphasized.

Marina Silva, green candidate, talked about her path in the rural and urban union fight and considered herself "happy due to the fact that the document is not only focused on unionism, but on wide ranging issues, so that the State might align itself in its own time". She emphasized the need to humanize the way projects are conducted, without getting attached to fulfilling promises. Therefore the position of the party to not search for partisan alliances, but alliances with living cores of society, which will help qualifying the Brazilian politics", she explained.

The candidate **José Serra** also emphasized the fact that the document is not only focused on workers, but on society as a whole. He began his speech by showing his concern towards the "denationalization of the Brazilian economy" with the deindustrialization due to a lack of an industrial policy. "The country is going back to an economy based on exporting primary products". To him, all the discussion involving the future of economy should consider topics such as high interest rates and exchange, emphasizing the fact that UGT goes through these issues freely.

UGT marks the Brazilian democracy

Through an event with presidential candidates, we showed that we know how to respect ourselves, in favor of ethics, citizenship and innovation.

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We showed our proposals to a new Brazil with more social inclusion, more income distribution, more respect to differences in political opinion and we stimulated a democratic debate to the three main presidential candidates Dilma Rouseff (PT party), represented by Aldo Rabelo, Marina Silva (PV party) and José Serra (PSDB party), that attended our event at Hotel Jaraguá in Sao Paulo, an event that was honored by chairpersons from the union central from all over Brazil.



Blog do Patah

We showed that we know how to respect ourselves in favor of ethics, citizenship and innovation. We live in a country in which its democracy is still under construction, in which ethical and citizenship values need to be fed everyday, in all debates and, mainly, in every election. Either presidential ones or union ones.

That is why, although **UGT** believes in unity of action with other union centrals, regarding points of interest of the Brazilian working class, refuses to align itself to only one candidacy to allow the Brazilian democracy to breath within unions, factories, offices, stores and mainly, in the consciousness of everyone that believes that the Brazilian democracy is the path to keep our cultural and religious diversity, our respect to people's options and choices.

In order to enlarge and canalize the contributions of each Brazilian person willing to end misery, starvation, racial and gender discrimination and the high income concentration.

UGT is also innovating by showing, in practice, as it did before, that we know how to listen to ideas and ideals, that we were inspired by each one of the positions the candidates - who respectfully accepted our invitation - have, and that is exactly why we were able to be interlocutors in the near future in favor of the Brazilian working class, no matter who wins the next elections. **(Ricardo Patah, National President of UGT)**

134 million electors, 20 thousand candidates

TSE (Superior Electoral Court) publicized the numbers of the elections that will take place on October 3. Brazil will have nothing less than 134 million electors voting for more than 20 thousand candidates.

There are 9 presidential candidates, 182 state governor candidates, 288 senate candidates, 5.869 Federal Deputy candidates and 14.491 State Deputy candidates. Twenty seven political parties participate in the elections. With these numbers, Brazil might be considered one of the largest democracies of the world. *(UGT Press - Nº 188 - 14.07.2010)*

What kind of equality?

Cepal document emphasizes gender inequality in the working area

"The key factor to end inequalities between men and women is based on social, political, cultural and economic foundations, these last ones sustain the sexual labour division". That is the conclusion of the document "What kind of State? What kind of equality?", showed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (Cepal) during the XI Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The document points out that the region will not be able to achieve labour equality between men and women as long as "the issue of non-remunerated work load is not solved". That happens due to the fact that women are still responsible for activities such as organizing their homes and taking care of children and elderly people.

"Despite the advances in politics that favor gender equality, economic, social and political institutions still operate on the presumption of a rigid sexual division at work that maintain the stereotype of women as care-providers and men as income-providers", the fact sheet of the document emphasizes.

The result of this inequality might be perceived through numbers. According to the report, in Latin America and the Caribbean, not only do women work (remunerated and non-remunerated jobs) for a longer time, as well as they are the ones that devote most of their time to non-remunerated jobs.

The document also points out that, in Brazil, for instances, while women work (in remunerated activities as well as in non-remunerated ones) an average of 56,6 weekly hours, men work 52 hours. In many countries, this difference might represent almost 20 weekly hours. Such as Colombia, where women reserve 103,2 weekly hours to work (out of which, 60,8 hours to the non-remunerated domestic work) and men, only 83,4 (out of which, 33 are destined to non-remunerated activities). *(Karol Assunção) (Adital, 14.07.2010)*

Violence against Women

Over 41.500 murdered in a decade

From 1997 to 2007, 41.532 women were murdered in Brazil, which results into a horrifying average of 10 Brazilian women killed everyday. The index of 4,2 murdered per 100.000 inhabitants puts Brazil above international patterns. These data are part of the study "Map of Violence in Brazil 2010", made by Sangari Institute, an educational organization, based on data from the Unique Health System.

Some towns, such as Alto Alegre, in Roraima, and Silva Jardim, in Rio de Janeiro, present murder indexes close to the highest ones in the world (South Africa and Colombia). Among the states, the worst position in the national ranking belongs to Espírito Santo, with 10,3 murders per 100 thousand inhabitants.

While analyzing the subject at the Study Group of Violence of Sao Paulo University (USP), the researcher Wânia Izumino found out that the murderers are usually the husbands or ex-husbands, boyfriends or partners that are unconsolable by the fact they are losing power over a relationship they believe to control. Most of the times, women refuse to have sex or insist on separation. Vain reasons are the cause of approximately 50% of the crimes.



UGT and the **Commerce Workers Union of Sao Paulo**, aware of this situation of extreme violence against women, edited an informative booklet on the Maria da Penha law, that prevents violence against women. The information on our rights is the main weapon against violence.

UGT secretary will take the position of vice-president

During the 99th edition of the **International Labour Conference**, organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO), in Geneva, Switzerland, **Arnaldo de Souza Benedetti, secretary of the International Relationships Department of UGT**, was elected vice-president to the Americas and Caribbean at the bench of workers along with ILO.

Praised by this performance at ILO Administration Council, Arnaldo Benedetti was nominated by the Union Central of Panama and sanctioned by CGT - General Labour Confederation of Argentina. The tenure is valid for a year.



To Benedetti, his elections shows that UGT is also consolidating its image abroad, enlarging a wide range of participations in international organs. "We must use these spaces to spread out our proposal to an ethical and innovative unionism", the secretary of UGT's International Relationships department argued.

UGT united to ILO to end anti union practices

UGT gathered with other union centrals on June 29 at its head office in Sao Paulo, in an event that had the participation of Carlos Rodrigues Diaz, a specialist in workers from ILO. Representatives from **UGT, CUT, Union Force, CGTB, CTB, New Central** and **Dieese** participated in the meeting, that pointed out to Carlos some of the main problems faced by Brazilian workers and by the trade union centrals, regarding anti union practices.

ILO will have the tough mission of guaranteeing protection to unions and organizing an action plan to end once and for all, anti union practices. In Brazil, there is a legislation that defends union freedom, although the movement is still poorly recognized. To Wagner José de Souza, 1st adjunct secretary of UGT's International Relationships Department, it happens because the Supreme Court of the country is extremely influenced by employers.

Another topic that was emphasized at this meeting was the fact that these centrals act outside of companies, which makes it difficult to follow up workers. Besides, problems such as slave work, murders and persecution to unionists involved in the agrarian reform; lack of protection to workers, lack of social protection and lack of following up complaints were also quoted.

To Diaz, Brazil has already proved that it is able to overcome problems, as it happened during the global economic crisis, when the country was able to create jobs. But, in order to solve the problem of anti union practices, centrals need to unify experiences.

ILO's plan is to investigate the causes and effects of anti union practices and make them public, besides creating committees to act under a combined way with centrals and stop the Supreme Court from influencing any union manifestation. ILO received a project from these trade union centrals that goes through some actions, but Diaz still need to link this project into the action plan of ILO. According to him, as soon as it is all settled, the centrals themselves will take the lead to start the work. Carlos Rodrigues also emphasize that the plan of ILO to Brazil is searching for improvement in the union organization".



"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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