



UGT fights against Social Security Factor

UGT's National Seminar on Health and Social Security proposes action to put an end to the Social Security Factor

UGT might lead a movement to collect nearly 1,5 million signatures for a law project based on a popular initiative to end, once and for all, the social security factor. This information is from the attorney Dr. Rodrigo Caran Garcia, juridical consultant from UGT in Social Security issues. He made this statement during the National Seminar on Health and Social Security, held on October 19 in Sao Paulo.



The seminar, held by UGT, organized by its national department of Health and Safety at Work and the department of Social Security and Social Welfare, had the participation of representatives from 15 states, besides union chairpersons from the country of the state.

Dr. Rodrigo Caran said that UGT should do the same that was done with the "Clean Record" project (a project that was effective in Brazil since the last elections, and prohibited politicians who didn't have a clean record from being elected), by starting a campaign to collect signatures along with its nearly 800 affiliated institutions that represent almost 5 million workers. "I believe that each union might collect easily a thousand signatures with their respective workers", the lecturer cleared out.

The seminar had the participation of representatives from two ministries. **Dr. Carlos Augusto Vaz de Souza** represented the minister **Dr. José Temporão**, minister of Health. **Dr. Fernando Rodrigues**, was the official representative of **Dr. Carlos Eduardo Gabas**, minister of Social Security. The following lecturers were especially invited: Dr. Domingos Lino, from the Department of Health and Occupational Policies; Dr. Jófilo Moreira Lima Júnior, National Technical Director from Fundacentro and Dr. Eduardo de Azeredo Costa, president of Fundacentro.

In the end, the elaboration of a document that will be sent to authorities was approved, and it will be at the disposal of the affiliated unions on UGT website (www.ugt.org.br). (Arlindo Ribeiro/Redação UGT)

[See here the presentations to the seminar](#)

Union action for a Biological Diversity

The **International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)**, through its intervention in debates over biodiversity, held in Nagoya, Japan, have stated that, maintaining biodiversity is a central issue for working people and their communities around the planet, including through the creation of decent jobs, protection of livelihoods and ensuring resilience to climate change.

"Biodiversity loss is a major social and economic challenge with large implications for workers and their communities", said Sharan Burrow, ITUC's general secretary. "The economic model in which we all live is not only responsible for the worst forms of inequality and poverty, but is also accountable for irreversible environmental destruction, such as climate change and the destruction of ecosystems on which we depend for our very survival", she said.



In order to address the biodiversity challenge in a socially fair manner, it is fundamentally important to ensure that workers and their trade unions are actively involved in decisions on the protection of ecosystems. The union movement demands an integration of a "fair transition" mark in policies on Biodiversity as a means to stimulate investments, decent jobs and social protection that helps restoring ecosystems and life conditions of all workers.

"Biodiversity protection is possible if we build together a different economic model, where workers can enjoy Decent Work opportunities and communities can benefit from the sustainable use of natural resources," Burrow added.

The trade unions contribution to the 10th Conference of the Convention on Biological Diversity, currently taking place in Nagoya, Japan, from the 18-29 October 2010, is set out in detail in ITUC's declaration.

Chilean miners prepare accusation against the State and private industries

UGT, representing 5 million workers, has followed, with a lot of concern and expectation, the unfold of facts involving the 33 workers that, sadly were trapped, for 70 days, in the San Jose Mine, in the Atacama Desert, in another accident at work that is part of statistics.

UGT sympathizes with the fight of the Chilean workers for better working conditions.

The miners that were rescued from the bottom of the San Jose mine, in the Atacama desert, have filed a lawsuit against the state and the mining company, related to the causes of the landslide that took place on August 05.

As informed by the lawyer Edgardo Reynoso, that represents 31 out of 33 miners that were trapped during 70 days, the lawsuit tries to clear the public and private responsibilities in acts related to the collapse of the referred mine.

Properties of the gallery and supervisors from the government were accused of negligence, said Reynoso.

He added that the miners decided to do such action after declarations from Camila Merino, Minister of Labour, that suggested that the government already had information on the security problems at the San Jose mine.

World Food Day:

FAO warns on the number of hungry people

October 16: World Food Day. This date, which was established by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), has the goal of warning people over a problem that affects, yearly, nearly one billion people all over the world.

With the motto "United against hunger", the proposal of this year's edition is recognizing efforts on the fight against hunger at a regional, national and international level, and unite several sectors of society in "Search of social justice and better systems of social security for the poor".

This way, according to information from FAO, the World Food Day has the goal of informing the population on the problem and stimulate a national and international solidarity towards the fight against starvation, malnutrition and poverty, as well as searching for a higher participation of the rural population in decisions and activities that interfere on their life conditions.

A billion hungry people

With the motto "A billion people live in chronic hunger and I'm mad as hell", the campaign "1billionhungry" provides [an online petition](#) that steps up pressure on governments all over the world to prioritize the fight against starvation in their actions.

Over a billion people from several countries have already signed the document. Whoever is interested in participating in the campaign should sign the online petition and write their names, e-mail address, city and country. And also, whoever wants to share the campaign to friends and check how many of them have signed the petition. *(Karol Assunção, ADITAL)*

2010 Global Hunger Index



A study made by the **International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)** shows that at least 1 billion people suffer from malnutrition in the world. The situation is considered serious in Latin America, especially in Bolivia, Guatemala and Haiti. The research, entitled **2010 Global Hunger Index**, shows that almost half the people that are affected by hunger are children. The highest levels are found in the Sub-Saharan Africa and in South Asia. The information is from BBC-Brazil and published in the site of Agência Brasil.

Brazil is considered a successful case by researchers concerning the fight against hunger. According to the study, in 1974 and 1975, 37% of the Brazilian children were malnourished. The index decreased down to 7% in 2006 and 2007, an improvement attributed to a raise in investments in nutrition, health and education programs that took place since the end of the 70s.

CSC Congress discussed sustainable development

UGT participated, from October 21 to October 23, 2010, in a Congress of CSC / ACV in Oostende, Belgium, that had the presence of the most important union centrals of the world.



The congress celebrated 125 years of **CSC (Confédération des Syndicats Chrétiens de Belgique)** and **ACV (Algemeen Christelijk Vakverbond)**, with debates over the development of Belgium, as well as on the main topic of the conference: the future of the planet. Solutions to the development of the world under a sustainable form after the crisis; climate changes and globalization among other topic were discussed.

UGT discusses raise in the minimum wage in 2011

The national president of UGT, Ricardo Patah, had a meeting with the ministry of Labour, Carlos Lupi, to discuss the bases of the negotiations to define the minimum wage that will be effective after January 1st.

The meeting took place on October 19, at the Ministry of Labour and Employment, in Brasilia, and gathered, besides UGT, the following trade union centrals: CUT, Força Sindical, Nova Central, CTB and CGTB, not to mention representatives from pensioners and retired people. In this meeting, the union centrals did not discuss values related to the raise, but showed concern to strengthen the process of negotiations and define the new minimum wage, as established since the beginning of the the policies to recover the minimum wage, in 2003.

Statute of Racial Equality is effective

The Statute began to be effective on October 20, with the objective of promoting public policies of equality of opportunities and fighting against discrimination. On the occasion the project was approved under the Senate, the establishment of racial quotas for African-Americans in universities, companies and political candidacies was withdrawn. To **UGT**, the Statute is a sign of advances, the beginning of a political process, though it still needs to be deepened..



"The African-American population must have even better conditions, once conservative sectors resist to adjust social-economic indexes inherited after almost 400 years of slavery. Now we should work on the fact that the African-American population should consider building up a bench in the Congress and fighting for measures of inclusion that were left out of the Statute", **Magno Lavigne, secretary of UGT's Human Diversity Department**, emphasizes.



"The General Union of Workers (UGT) 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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