

UGT on the way to its 2nd National Congress

UGT is getting ready for its **second National Congress**, that will take place at Anhembi Convention Center in São Paulo, on July 14-16. UGT's State branches are already getting organized, by preparing plenary sessions, discussing ideas and proposals, and debating a pre-project report.

All the Brazilian states will organize their own state meeting - 27 altogether. The state branches from the northeast region are already having their meetings. Ceará, Rio Grande do Norte, Paraíba, Pernambuco, Sergipe and Bahia already hosted theirs.



"Starting off in the northeast states was not a random decision, since that region suffers from high indexes of social injustice, and it's an extremely needy area. In the state of Paraíba, only 35% of the population has access to potable water", stated Ricardo Patah, president of UGT.

To Agenor Lopes da Silva, president of UGT's State branch of Ceará, the accomplishment of these state plenary sessions, that began in Ceará, shows a democratic figure of the trade union central, which is willing to listen to its affiliated unions, in a way that everyone is able to participate and contribute through a more effective way, not only to the growth of UGT but in the search of significant achievements for the whole working class.

To Álvaro Rios, president of UGT-Bahia, the plenary sessions that UGT has been promoting in all states are extremely important for the growth of the institution. "Brazil is still far from achieving the goals we intended and it is necessary to go further in several areas, in order to reach a high level of dignity, citizenship and social justice. That is the reason UGT fights for and that's what our plenary sessions are for, so that our trade union central grows looking like the figure of a Brazil we want", stated Rios.

Some topics have already caused intense debates. "We, from UGT's State branch of Ceará, have elected, among other issues, the issue of Public Health, that is going through a precarious situation, pretty much all over the country, as one of the main ideals to be defended by UGT after the congress is held", stated Agenor Lopes, president of UGT's State branch of Ceará, during the plenary session.

UGT will defend a national campaign for disarmament, that begins on May 06. The adhesion of UGT to the campaign was announced by Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, during the plenary session of UGT-Pernambuco.

Chiquinho Pereira, secretary of UGT's Department of Organization and Union Policies, vehemently defended the conservation of the union contribution, and called out all unionists that were present at the meeting to start a crusade in a fight that he called "a messing of the union movement".

Words of the president

Searching for more social justice

Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT

The **2nd National Congress of UGT**, that will take place on July 14-16, in Sao Paulo, will consolidate the action of the third largest Brazilian trade union central onto the Brazilian working class. During the Congress, we are going to show to our affiliated unions and representative institutions what made **UGT** stand out in the history of unionism, in these almost 4 years of its existence.



We are a pluralist trade union central, with a democratic figure, that stands for the challenges demanded by institutions all over the country and that acts through a workgroup in the participation of national issues, in wage negotiations, in the increase of labor rights, in the participation of the union elections that form its base.

UGT confirms, through an interaction with every single one of its affiliated unions and institutions, that the victories in the fights of the Brazilian working class depend on a huge political and practical effort, one that defines the action scenario and defends, through direct manifestations, the social, cultural and economic expectations of the Brazilian working class.

UGT mobilizes itself concerning its 2nd Congress to make progress regarding its internal organization and its social mobilization to help the democratic organization of the nation to build up the strength to promote constitutional reviews that will only succeed if they are backed up by a large support movement of society.

After the 2nd Congress, UGT will come out renewed and a lot stronger.

Plural, independent and prepared for the democratic processes that allow the Brazilian working class to defend its legitimate social demands in favor of a Brazil that we build, little by little, and that has as its absolute reference our aspirations for more social justice, more income distribution and, mainly, of opportunity to each one of our citizens, regardless of race, religion and social class.

Opportunities that will be used by people that have more access to education, health, to social welfare and, mainly to a view of a world in which it will integrate its academic qualifications with an extremely wide popular culture, that make us essentially Brazilian since the day we are born.

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CONGRESSO NACIONAL DA UGT

14,15 E 16
JULHO DE 2011
SÃO PAULO



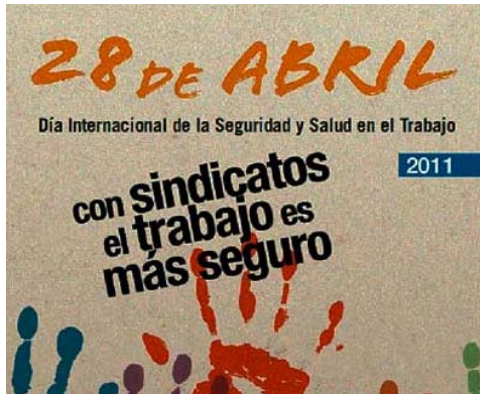
**CRESCIMENTO
E LUTA**

INSCRIÇÕES

April 28,

World Day for Safety and Health at Work

A tribute to victims of accidents at work and professional diseases



According to ILO estimates, each year, over 2 million people die due to accidents at work or work-related diseases.

However, after the events of the crisis of the economic pattern and on flexible working, specialists agree that, in fact, the number of accidents at work and professional diseases should be even higher, according to a high variation among the countries regarding the problem of sub-notification and management in information security and health systems at work.

When it comes to Latin America and the Caribbean, it is estimated that every year, 5 million accidents at work take place, that is, 36 accidents per minute. All in all, there are 90.000 deaths every year, or 250 deaths per day. It is also estimated that the average lethality rate per 100 thousand workers in the region is one of the highest in the world (a lot higher than in industrialized countries).

In this context, the poorest workers continue to be the weakest bond and the most exposed ones to occupational hazards. Those that are informal workers, that work in precarious conditions in outsourcing chains or sub-contracts, that work under situations of marginal inclusion, those that are illegal immigrants and child workers, situations that make them more vulnerable to accidents at work and occupational diseases, especially in dangerous activities: mining, agriculture, construction, forest exploration, fishing and others.

Slaves to Fashion

Tax Auditors from the Regional Labor and Employment Department of Sao Paulo (SRTE/SP), on March 14, busted one of the Pernambucanas stores, a centennial Brazilian clothing commerce chain, under suspicion of slave work. According to the auditors, there were 16 Bolivians in a house in the North side of Sao Paulo, where they resided in a degrading way and worked as slaves, sewing clothes for one of the companies collection.

Lousy environment conditions were verified (lack of windows or any other sort of ventilation, tight and warm space, with serious health and security hazards, poisoned food, insalubrity to work and rest, etc.), intense working hours for shift work, debt bondage, what features a work analog to slave work - a crime established in the Article 149 of the Criminal Code.

On the occasion, it was observed that the labor responsibility belongs to the Pernambucanas chain, what motivated the Ministry of Labor and Employment (MTE) to charge them a R\$ 2,3 million fine.



National Meeting of Fishermen Settlements

Chiquinho Pereira, secretary of UGT's Department of Organization and Union Policies, proposed the organization of the 1st National Meeting of Fishermen Settlements of Brazil, that might be held this first semester.



"**UGT** began its work by making state meetings of fishermen settlements. Because we are sure that the problems of fishermen from every state should be solved at a national level. By the end of these state meetings, we will organize a national meeting of fishermen to draw a line of our action along with all these workers".

Regarding this issue, the creation of the National Department of Fishermen is essential for us to nationally discuss the problems of the fishermen settlements and solve the existing problems.

A booklet with the main problems and that also points out solutions for the issues that afflict the fishermen settlements was one of the commitments assumed by UGT, during the state plenary session of UGT's State branch of Ceará, that took place on April 07-08, in the facilities of the ecological resort of SEC in the Iparaná beach, Caucaia, Ceará.

Agreement Brazil / USA for Decent Work

General-director of ILO salutes agreement between Brazil and the United States that promotes Decent Work through the trilateral and south-south cooperation

Juan Somavia, general-director of the International Labor Organization, emphasized the importance of an understanding memorandum signed by the governments of Brazil and the United States to promote the south-south and trilateral cooperation concerning the ILO Decent Work Agenda.

"I'm extremely satisfied to observe that the cooperation between these great nations is dealing with serious social challenges, and when it comes to employment it included the recovery of the job crisis, the volatility in the food and oil prices and the increase in social tensions", said Juan Somavia, general-director of ILO.

The understanding memorandum - signed by the American ambassador, Thomas Shannon, and by Antonio Patriota, minister of Foreign Affairs of Brazil, in the beginning of the visit of the president Barack Obama to Brazil - stipulates a series of guidelines from which both governments will promote activities in areas related to the ILO tenure in selected countries through a mutual agreement. (OIT News)

April 16: International Day against Child Slavery

On April 16, 1995, the carpet mafia of Pakistan murdered **Iqbal Masih**, a 12 year old boy, an ex-slave of a carpet factory. A figurehead for his international fight against the existence of 400 million child slaves, he paid with his own life.

As a member of the **Bonded Labour Liberation Front**, Iqbal managed to close several companies in which all workers were child slaves.



"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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