



UGT renews itself and strengthens internal democracy

Ricardo Patah

UGT comes out more united and democratized of its second Congress, that gathered more than 3.500 leaders from all over Brazil, in Sao Paulo. We confirmed our insertion in the working class, in society and along with the Public Power.

We gave details on the strategies that concern the Brazilian working class when it comes to the defense of 40 weekly-hour shifts, without a reduction in salaries; defense of the end of the Social Security Factor; defense of the regulation of outsource, but not precarious, work, salaries and working conditions; approval of ILO Convention 158, to manage the non stop bleeding from arbitrary dismissals. And for a permanent mobilization regarding salary campaigns to achieve real raises through salaries, and to be able to enlarge the income distribution for the Brazilian working class.



Patah is reelected national president of UGT

We had the honor to share our debates and points of view towards the political and economic scenario with interlocutors of high national projection, such as the minister Gilberto Carvalho, secretary of the president, who was at the event, representing the president Dilma Rousseff. We were also honored by the attendance of the ex-president Lula and the ex-governor of Sao Paulo, José Serra. Geraldo Alckmin, current governor of Sao Paulo and the vice-governor, Afif Domingos, were also at the event. We also counted on the presence of the mayor of Sao Paulo, Gilberto Kassab, the president of Fiesp, Paulo Skaff, and the president of OAB-SP, Luiz Flávio Borges D'Urso.

We turned the 2nd Congress into a civic event, in which we confirmed, in reality, the settlement of the last four years, over which we've been working hard to establish a role model of an ethical and innovative unionism, respecting different opinions, making efforts under a continuous way to search for harmony, that can only be achieved by an arduous exercise that democracy allows.

In our departments, we are proud to have the active participation of union leaders that are connected to the following parties: PC do B, DEM, PV, PPS, PMDB, PMN and PT. We are a sample of a real Brazil that pulses in factories and offices, in farms, in fishing boats and stores.

Now we are ready to double our size, after coming out of our foundation with 361 affiliated unions and reaching over a thousand at the 2nd Congress.

The democracy of UGT is built and renewed everyday. So that we can keep on focusing on greater national problems that we insist on interfering, such as investments in health, education and infra-structure of Brazil.

Lula on the 2nd Congress of UGT

The participation of the ex-president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva was one of the high points of the second day of UGT's National Congress, at the Palácio das Convenções do Anhembi, in São Paulo. Accompanied by the ex-minister of the General Department of the Republic, Luiz Dulci, Lula was received by the national president of UGT, Ricardo Patah, and a little before he talked to the audience, he had a meeting with the main union leaders from UGT.



While talking about the 2nd Congress of the trade union central, Lula emphasized that "this event is very important to the working class of this country."

According to the ex-president, every congress, somehow, "means an advance in the workers' achievements and fights. It's an opportunity for the unionists to improve the agenda of requests and needs of each class".

To Lula, it is also extremely important to widely publicize all the acts that were sanctioned during the congress. "The historical records of the congress should be informed to all workers, so that they are aware of the commitments that were assumed. And I add: every unionist should know and should put the documents that were written after the congress under their pillows, so that, everyday, after they wake up, they are able to read them. By doing so, the chances of making mistakes are lower and the chances to get it right are higher", warned Lula based on his wide experiences in events of this nature.

Lula reminded his union background and talked to an audience of over 3.500 unionists from several parts of the country. He said, among other things, that he is getting back to "annoying some people" and traveling all over Brazil as the "number one lobbyist of social causes". Lula also emphasized the achievements of his government and made compliments to the performance of president Dilma Rousseff.

He also emphasized the role of organizations of workers. "The more unions and assemblies we organize, the more quality in employment we will have", Lula evaluated, and after his speech, he got out of the stage and walked among unionists at the auditorium of the event. *(Joacir Gonçalves, Prensa UGT)*

Serra participates in the end of the Congress

The ex-governor of the State of Sao Paulo, José Serra, was also at the 2nd National Congress of UGT. To Serra, "UGT is a trade union central that is growing with no political attachments and that has given an important contribution for the social fight in Brazil. It's an institution that represents authentic union militants and leaders.

Serra also emphasized the need that the union movement has to make progress in discussions that are not strictly on the labor agenda, as UGT has been doing.

"The Brazilian union movement has to make progress at the same it is concerned with other issues related to the government that directly involve workers, whether in the health or education areas as well as many other areas.



Serra congratulated the delegates at the congress for the conduction of Ricardo Patah as the president of UGT. "Patah is a well-prepared men who knows Brazil. And from now on, I'm at your disposal to discuss solutions for our country". *(Fábio Ramalho, Prensa UGT)*

International Seminar of UGT

Trade union central launches Fair Play campaign: green jobs and decent work

São Paulo received, on July 13, delegations from several countries that participated in the International Seminar at the Congress of UGT. During the event, the trade union formalized its participation in the Fair Play campaign, that seeks for a commitment of the IOC (International Olympic Committee) and BOC (Brazilian Olympic Committee), regarding the strengthening of the concepts of decent work, environmental sustainability and transparency with public expenses.



Ricardo Patah, national president of UGT, Carlos Lupi, minister of labor and employment, Victor Báez Mosquera, general secretary of TUCA (Trade Union Confederation of the Americas), Arnaldo de Souza Benedetti and Otton da Costa Mata Roma, respectively secretary of UGT's Department of International Relationships and secretary of UGT's Department of Integration to the Americas, were at the opening of the event, among other people.

In his opening speech, Ricardo Patah emphasized the growth that UGT is going through, since its foundation, in 2007, reaching, in 2011, the mark of 1000 affiliated unions, and how this representability is important for the success of the Fair Play campaign.

"UGT currently represents more than 7 million workers and this is essential so that we might, through the Fair Play campaign, make a commitment with the ideal that UGT fights for, which includes the achievement of decent work and the end of child labor, especially in times of huge sports events in our country. In this seminar, issues that go beyond the Soccer World Cup and the Olympic Games are being discussed, we are questioning the labor conditions of employees that are working in host cities, we are talking about supervising the public money spent, about environmental sustainability and social inclusion", the president explains.

The Minister Carlos Lupi emphasized the initiative of UGT to use many delegations of the world to discuss a topic that is on the current Brazilian agenda, which is the employment generation during major sports events, the way these jobs are formed and how they are maintained after the event is over. "It takes courage to discuss these issues, it takes courage to say that Brazil is creating jobs, but we must keep on creating jobs with income distribution. In order to do so, the worker must be united to fight every day for a real growth. "

The Fair Play campaign is a world movement that has the participation of ITUC (International Trade Union Confederation), ITGLWF (International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers Federation), and IFBWW (International Federation of Building and Wood Workers) and the campaign Clean Clothes is an initiative of NGOs and international unions that fight for improvement on labor conditions for this sector. *(Fábio Ramalho e Mariana Veltri –Prensa UGT)*

A graphic advertisement for an event. On the left, the number '03' is written in large white font. To the right, the text reads: 'Centrais Sindicais realizam ato unitário em São Paulo. UGT convoca suas bases para fortalecer as bandeiras de luta do Calendário Unitário de Reivindicação das Centrais'. At the bottom, it says 'DIA 03 DE AGOSTO ESTÁDIO do PACAEMBÚ' and 'PARTICIPE!' in a bold, black font.

Meeting with workers of the finance system

Lourenço Prado, vice-president of National UGT and president of CONTEC, participated in the opening of the Meeting of Chains of Multinational Companies - the banks Santander and Itaú Unibanco, at UNI - Finances, that took place on July 26, in Sao Paulo, where the main problems that afflict workers from these two banks in Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay) are being discussed.



During the opening session, the colleague Lourenço gave special importance to the relevance of the meeting, in which workers of the financial system were trying and organizing themselves to defend their rights, interests and better working and life conditions.

On July 27 and 28, the issues that concern bank workers were still analyzed, with the participation of Gilberto Antonio Vieira and Rumiko Tanaka, respectively general-secretary and finance director, besides the director of the Union of Bank workers of Franca, Sílvio Carlos de Sene.

The event was organized by UNI - Finances (UNI – Union Network International) and was also attended by the president of National CUT, Artur Henrique, at the opening session.

Magno Lavigne is inaugurated as secretary in Ilhéus



Newton Lima, mayor of Ilhéus, inaugurated, on June 20, 2011, Magno Lavigne as the new secretary of the Municipal Department of strategic actions. Magno will work in the position that was previously occupied by the city counsellor Alcides Kruschewsky, who went back to his city counsellor tenure. Magno Lavigne, general-coordinator of the political campaign that culminated in the victory of Newton Lima, current mayor of Ilhéus, was a special advisor from the end of 2007 to early 2009.

Magno Lavigne is 37 years old and is part of the union movement since 1987. Currently, Lavigne is a member of the board of executives of UGT; secretary of UGT's national department of Human Diversity Issues; president of the Union of Drivers in Road Transportation; member of the Tripartite Committee and Joint Committee of Racial Equality of the Labor Ministry and director of the Interamerican Union Institution for Racial Equality.

Adir de Souza assumes Fundacentro in Paraná

The brother **Adir de Souza** (he's in the left in the picture), president of the Union of Security at Work Technicians, SINTESPAR, currently assumed the head of the State Center of Fundacentro in Paraná. Fundacentro is one of the most important federal organs of supervisions and implantation of actions of security at work.

By assuming such important position, the colleague Adir is recognized for many years that he was engaged to the labor causes ahead of SINTESPAR, fighting for the security of so many professional classes in the workplace.



"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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