



UGT receives the visit of Social Security minister and defends the end of the social security factor

La dirección nacional dela **UGT (Unión General de los Trabajadores)** promovió el 8 de febrero una charla con el ministro **José Pimentel**, de la carpeta de Previsión Social. Participaron los presidentes estaduales de la UGT, además de dirigentes de sindicatos afiliados.

Through graphs, the minister made an explanation on the topic "Social Security lives new times: Advances, Challenges and Perspectives".

The holder of the Social Security department said that the population of Brazil tends to decrease until 2050. The current average number of children per woman is 2,35, but within the next 15 years it should go down to 1,5 children per woman. This fact has made the Social Security recalculate its numbers.



"That happened because, initially, we were working under the perspective that in 2050 the population of Brazil would reach 259 million people, due to the decrease in the birth rate, our estimated population would be 215 million people. That means that the population will stop growing." he completed. As for the life expectancy in Brazil, which is 80 years for men and 83 for women, from 2050 and on, it should reach 82 and 87, respectively.

Social Security Factor

On the Social Security Factor, that UGT is against and requests it to end, minister Pimentel justified that, in 2008 and 2009, out of 100 benefits, only 7 are reached by the Social Security Factor. According to him, most of them are workers from state or multinational companies, not to mention that many of them retire and keep on working, receiving double salaries and stopping companies from hiring new employees.

The minister still argued that the controversial topic of the Social Security Factor is related to the "short average" which is based on an agreement with the 36 last contributions. "The rich man contributes 32 years over a minimum wage and in the last three years he contributes over a cap, and workers are the ones that are going to pay the price".



Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, once again emphasized that UGT is against the way other union centrals are dealing with the Social Security Factor issue. "It is a matter of principles. We do not accept that any worker, who gave their lives, their blood, their sweat, once the time to receive comes, is stolen instead of being rewarded for all that they have worked", Patah stated.

He emphasized the importance of the minister being present at the headquarter of UGT, that will keep on defending a proposal that benefits the entire working class.

UGT opens office in Brasilia with the presence of minister Carlos Lupi



UGT opened its office in Brasilia on February 3. Carlos Lupi, minister of Labour and Employment, Roberto Santiago, vice-president of UGT and Federal Deputy PV party/SP, Paulo Paim, senator and Ricardo Patah, National President of UGT were present, among other guests.

The office is located at SRTV nº 110 - Quadra 701 - Bloco O - Salas 694/695 - Edifício Centro Multiempresarial - ASA SUL - Brasília - DF - Phone numbers: 61.3225.0227/0526.

President of UGT warns population of the advances in corruption

Corruption, which includes the public sector and several social segments keep on being one of the major national injuries and has to be fought urgently. The statement is from **Ricardo Patah, National President of UGT**, while getting to know the result of a research which points out that corruption, along with violence, are the major problems currently faced by the Brazilian people.

To 69,4% of the interviewees, corruption is increasing in Brazil, on the other hand, 21,8% think it is in the same level. The survey also questioned the reliability in institutions. Most of them (69,8%) said that they trust the Army; 49,8% always trust in the press; 40,1% trust in the government; 37,8% in the Supreme Court; 37,5% in the police; 36% in public services and 9,3% in the National Congress.

The research was made by the Sensus Institute and CNT (National Confederation of Transports) and its results were publicized on February 1, by Agência Brasil. In 1998, a research with the same goal noted that 56% of interviewees thought that corruption was increasing and 32% said it was stable. "These numbers are preoccupying and measures should be taken. UGT defends, under its Letter of Principles, the creation of social control mechanisms that allow a higher supervision and transparency of public resources", Patah reminds, regretting that only 9,3% trust in the National Congress.

One of the solutions, according to **Patah**, would be the civil society getting together and demanding quicker and more efficient verifications and punishment for people involved. "But we also need a more active judicial branch, so that lawsuits are not accumulated on forum's shelves for years and years", the president of UGT emphasizes, defending the creation of harder laws as well. Another issue raised by the research concerns violence and criminality, problems that have been disturbing Brazilians (22,9%), followed by drug trafficking (21,2%), unemployment (19%), lack of job opportunities (8%). To UGT, these numbers reflect the effects of a much more serious social cause in Brazil.

Ricardo Patah quotes that **UGT** intransigently defends a increase in the level of salaries and achievements of the labour world at the same time it installs an economic policy that allows this country to grow, creating thousands of new job positions and with a much better income distribution. "That, combined with an educational policy based on a generalization of public schools and reorientation of teaching content at all levels to change it into an analytical teaching, capacitive and innovative", Ricardo Patah concludes.

World Social Forum Bahia: Crisis and Work

The main activity of **Bahia Thematic World Social Forum**, on January, 30, would be held at Faculdade Integradas Olga Mettig. Due to the large number of people enrolled, it was necessary to transfer the debate to a second place, and after that, to a third one.

And still, the small auditorium of the **Federation of Commerce Employees of Bahia and Sergipe** was completely full.

Álvaro Rios and **Magno Lavigne**, State chairpersons from the institution, were at the table orientating the discussion. **Francisco Canindé Pegado, general secretary of UGT**, represented the institution on the debates.

After the presentation, Pegado was very clear: "We are not responsible for what has been happening, but we will certainly know how to give it back" he said. "You find just about everything in the Labor Movement. There are employer's union centrals that look more like garbage trucks. They will take just about everything, they don't mind about content or if that really matters to the working class. We will only be able to get over that with unity, with fight and with courage. There are twelve union centrals in Brazil, six of them properly registered. Our work and our fight will be tough and they will demand sweat, faith, courage and competence out of each one of us", Canindé Pegado stated.

Right after that, he added: "Our top priority is the fight for the reduction of working hours, without a reduction in salaries". The audience clapped, fully agreeing with the proposal.

Canindé Pegado warned the participants of the capitalism crisis. "They want to make the working class a scapegoat of the crisis. In order to cut expenses, they want to cut jobs. The world has to think different. Workers are not the ones that must pay the price. It wasn't our mistake. ILO - International Labour Organization - released a world pact in defense of jobs. What makes things worse is the fact that Brazil is the world recordist in interest rate, what only damages the working class. We must fight for the Global Jobs Pact. Employment should be the main ideal of union centrals. Our fight will always be towards unity, for courage and action", **Canindé Pegado** ended.

Seminar in Porto Alegre discusses anti-unionist practices

Union centrals organized, on January 28, the **Anti-Unionists Practices panel**, under the seminar **Labour World**. The panel was attended by representatives from six union centrals and also by **Jacira de Oliveira**, representative from the Ministry of Labour and Employment and **Ricardo de Britto Pereira**, attorney and coordinator from Coordenadoria Nacional de Promoção da Liberdade Sindical at the Labour Public Ministry.

In his speech, **Canindé Pegado, General Secretary of UGT**, paid a homage to **Marcos Plata**, union leader from UGT who began a work on anti-union practices in 1996, whose collection of information has provided the segment of study. Plata passed away in 2009.

Pegado reminded that anti-union practices have precedents, the 1988 Constitution vetoes the State when it comes to interfering in union organization. "This is the foundation of our fight against anti-union practices", he said. Pegado reminded that the State is not the only one responsible for supervising anti-unionist practices.

"The State is composed of the following powers: Legislative, Executive and Judiciary, and whenever the state is mentioned, it is understood that only the Executive admits or do not interfere in anti-union practices", **Pegado** reminded. "Despite the Constitution has contributed to some advances, anti-union practices still remain".

Francisco Canindé Pegado, general secretary of UGT, speaks at Porto Alegre's Seminar



Social Forum Bahia: Politics x Union

Chairpersons from UGT criticize the attitude of the **World Social Forum Bahia**, according to **Magno Lavigne** and **Álvaro Rios** (president of UGT State Branch of Bahia), since it decided to leave aside discussions and specific fights of workers, to make campaign for Jacques Wagner.

"The **World Social Thematic Forum of Bahia** should be restricted to problems and interests of workers, in its several segments and should not become a supplement of political parties and pre-candidacies", Álvaro Dias, chairperson, states.



Magno Lavigne criticizes the position of CUT and other union centrals that try and change the event into a pre-campaign of the governor. "To our surprise, the government of Bahia, instead of being a partner of the event, decided to turn it into a party of partisan interest", he accuses. (*Dalton Godinho*)

UGT pays homage to bank workers of Araçatuba

Bank workers from Araçatuba and region, represented by its president José Geraldo Fogolin, with a memorial plaque for its fifty years of foundation and work to bank workers.



Ricardo Patah, president of UGT, represented by Edson Roberto dos Santos, Secretary of the Finance, Credit and Insurance Department of UGT, congratulated Fongolin, president of that union and all the board of directors.

Santos emphasized the tough job of representing **Ricardo Patah**, and thanked the trust put in him. He highlighted the relevance of that union along with UGT, and the importance that the class of bank workers has and will have ahead in the fights that are still to come.

UGT of Piauí demands maternity leave to be extended

Since January 25, the Program "Empresa Cidadã (company towards citizens)" is in effect, this program aims to extend the maternity leave from four to six months. However, the new program has a few flaws since it doesn't extend the benefit to all female workers. Those that are freelancers, rural workers, those that work for companies that do not file taxes and also those that are outsourced workers at public organs, were all left aside.

These outsourced workers will not be able to use this new benefit. This fact has motivated UGT to send a memo to the city hall of Teresina and also to the government of the state, requesting that outsourced workers from these two spheres would also be eligible for the six-months maternity leave benefit.

To Celso Henrique Barbosa, president of UGT State Branch of Piauí, it is unfair that female workers do not receive this benefit. "They perform the same activities and deserve to be treated the same way", Carlos Henrique emphasizes. (*Carolina Durães – Jornal Meio Norte*)



"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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