

Second General Strike Against Temer Sweeps Brazil



Brasilia, June 30 (RHC)-- A general strike is sweeping Brazil this Friday for the second time this year, protesting President Michel Temer's legislative proposals that would weaken labor laws and slash the country's social security safety net.

The general strike is organized by the Central Worker's Union, Popular Brasil, Fearless People, and a host of other social movements and worker's unions, with protests demanding the president's removal from office.

Various sectors are participating in the job action, especially workers in refineries, operating platforms and distribution centers of state oil company Petrobras.

According to trade union sources, the strike is taking place in Sao Paulo and the Federal District of Brasilia by bus and taxi drivers, bankers, public and private school teachers, and federal public servants, among other workers.

There are also actions coordinated in Rio de Janeiro, Pernambuco, Paraná, Rio Grande do Norte, Maranhao, Ceará, Matto Grosso and Rio Grande del Sur.

While the impetus of the general strike is based on opposing Temer's reforms, the overwhelming majority

of Brazilians, 93 percent according to the latest Ipsos poll, reject Temer's presidency.

Labor reforms proposed by Temer include the elimination of payment for worker's commute from their contracts, a reduction in employer compensation for abuse, and allowing employers to reduce workers' salaries while increasing their work hours.

While Temer's vision of new labor laws would increase work hours, his radical proposal for pension reform would scrap the average retirement age of 54, making it mandatory that women retire at 62 and men at 65. He's also proposing a 20-year freeze on public spending.

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