

Brazilian Unions Seek Congressional Support from Lawmakers



Brasilia, April 28 (teleSUR-RHC)-- Brazil's controversial labor reforms are up for discussion on Tuesday as union representatives and political officials begin high-level discussions.

Talks come as the senate prepares to vote on a controversial labor reform bill, which the Brazilian labor movement fears could lead to deteriorating working conditions and wages.

Vagner Freitas, president of Brazil's largest labor union the CUT, will meet with several Brazilian lawmakers in efforts to garner congressional support in opposition to the proposed legislation. "The struggle against this bill is continuous and it involves several aspects including national outages days, protests in front of the National Congress as well as audiences with parliamentarians who are yet to appreciate the project," Freitas stated.

Under current Brazilian labor law, companies are allowed to outsource certain employees such as cafeteria workers, janitors and security guards to third-party labor contractors. The proposed legislation would allow employers to outsource any job, including core activities such as assembly line workers at manufacturing plants.

The ruling Workers Party (PT) has expressed strong opposition to the legislative measure. If it pass in the Senate, President Dilma Rousseff will face severe pressure to veto the bill.

In response to the proposed bill, President Dilma Rousseff stated on Monday that the measure cannot undermine workers rights. "The government believes that there has to be a balance. We recognize the importance of having outsourcing legislation, but we believe it has to be balanced, which means that above all, you cannot eliminate the difference between core and non-core activities, for all existent activities in the economy," President Rousseff stated.

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