

# Combating Forced Labour in Brazil

Jul Aug  
02

Periodical with the main activities of the Project “Combating Forced Labour in Brazil” (BRA/01/50M/USA) during July and August 2002

<p><b><u>Workshop on Legal Improvements and its developments</u></b></p> <p>The document with the legal proposals for preventing and combating forced labour in Brazil that were discussed and presented during the Legal Improvement to Combat Forced Labour Workshop is already available at ILO homepage.</p> <p>On August 13, a commission comprised by workshop representatives delivered the document to the Minister of Justice. With great interest, the Minister made a commitment to send it to the Legislative Power.</p>	<p><b><u>I Seminar for Discussing Slave Labour</u></b></p> <p>During September 24 and 25, it will take place the I Seminar for Discussing Slave Labour – an Integrated Action of: Federal Justice, Labour Justice, Prosecutions Offices and Federal Polices, in Brasília.</p> <p>The main purpose of this national workshop is to promote a wide discussion among Judges, Prosecutors and Police Officers on the issue.</p> <p>Many partners in the Project will sponsor it. Governmental authorities have already confirmed their presence: the President of the High Court of Justice, the National Secretary on Human Rights, the Special Advisor to the President of the Republic on Forced Labour Issues and the Declaration’s Head of Special Action Programme to Combat Forced Labour. The sessions will focus the national and international aspects of forced labour as well as the role of the national actors in combating forced labour and the competence to judge forced labour crimes.</p>
<p><b><u>Superior Labour Court</u></b></p> <p>Forced Labour issue was presented to the President of the Superior Labour Court. Timely, the Court proposed some relevant actions to combat this Human Rights violation. The Superior Labour Court proposed the creation of an Itinerant Labour Court to stop this exploitative practice and to judge the cases in a quick way. In addition, it was proposed the creation of more Labour Courts in the Northern Region of the Country.</p>	<p><b><u>Supreme Court</u></b></p> <p><b>The Supreme Court President had a meeting with the commission created during the Workshop on Legal Improvements and showed a great receptivity to the theme, supporting the actions that aim to prevent and combat the slave labour in Brazil.</b></p>

### **TV Justiça**

*As a result of the visit to the Supreme Court, the President offered a period in the TV Justiça timetable for discussing forced labour. A meeting with the Special Advisor to the President of the Republic on Forced Labour Issues, a Federal Prosecutor and a Federal Judge was organized. It was taped in August 27 and will be showed during the second week of September.*

### **High Court of Justice**

During a meeting with the Project Coordination, the President of the High Court of Justice fully supported the actions to combat forced labour and confirmed his presence at the I Seminar for Discussing Slave Labour.

### **GERTRAF meeting**

*On July 10, actions and activities foreseen in the Project were presented in a GERTRAF meeting in the Ministry of Labour and Employment, with special attention to the building of the database to be used as a tool for combating forced labour in Brazil. Other issues were also discussed: public-funding sources versus using workers in forced labour conditions and GERTRAF re-structuring.*

### **Brazilian Bar Association**

The Project was presented to the National Commission on Social Rights of the Brazilian Bar Association Federal Council (OAB). Now, the Project has two nominated interlocutors in the OAB, in the national and local commissions, to follow up the activities in the Project.