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Union says McDonald's underpays Brazil employees

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SAO PAULO - Brazilian lawmakers have called for a public hearing into charges that McDonald's employees in Brazil are being underpaid. Congressmen Sabino Castelo Branco and Eudes Xavier have summoned the president of the McDonald's franchisee in Brazil to discuss the company's wage policies with union representatives.

The Sao Paulo restaurant workers union says it has a video showing a McDonald's recruiter offering monthly wages of 400 reais (\$225), while the national minimum salary is 545 reais (\$306). It also says that after deductions, workers receive as little as 230 reais (\$129) a month.

In a statement, franchisee Arcos Dorados denies the charges and says its wage policies comply with Brazilian legislation.

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