



# Annual Review 2014

**peacebrigadesinternational**

Promoting nonviolence and protecting  
human rights since 1981

**pbi**  
making space for peace

# Dear friends

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2014 was another dynamic year for PBI, in which we expanded our toolbox of methods for supporting human rights defenders while celebrating significant milestones in our history.

PBI Guatemala marked 30 years since first arriving in the country, whilst PBI Colombia commemorated 20 years of continued presence. Both anniversaries were full of happy memories and success stories, but they also remind us that PBI remains necessary for human rights defenders around the world.

At our triennial General Assembly, sixty

representatives from across PBI came together to advance our global strategy and debate central issues including how to expand our reach and respond more efficiently to emergency situations. We also welcomed a new country group, PBI Ireland, to the global organisation.

**We worked with more than 290 inspirational women and men risking their lives to defend the rights of others in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico and Nepal. These brave individuals are always at the core of what we do.**

Sadly, we know that the right to defend human rights will continue to face threats in 2015, and our work will remain vital. This would not be possible without the solidarity of volunteers, activists and supporters across the world. So, on behalf of all the courageous women and men we work with, thank you.

In peace,



**Dana Brown**  
PBI President

Peace Brigades International (PBI) envisions a world in which people address conflicts nonviolently, where human rights are universally upheld and social justice and intercultural respect have become a reality. We believe that enduring peace and lasting solutions to conflicts cannot be achieved by violent means.

PBI works in countries where communities experience violent conflict, intimidation and repression. We work at the request of human rights defenders and in response to their needs. We believe that lasting transformation of conflicts cannot come from outside, but must be based on the capacities and desires of local people. We avoid imposing, interfering or getting directly involved with the work of the organisations we accompany. We don't provide financial support or development aid to the organisations we work with. Our work is effective because we take an integrated approach, combining presence on the ground alongside human rights defenders with an extensive network of international support.



**Celebrating 20 years of PBI's presence in Colombia at the Centre for Historical Memory in Bogotá**

## Cover photo



PBI volunteer observes the 'Flowers of Resistance' march of the twelve Kaqchikeles Communities of San Juan Sacatepéquez, Guatemala

## The following people served on PBI's International Council in 2014:

Dana Brown (President), John Carlarne (Vice-President), Ellen Kaas (Treasurer), Michael Bluett, Denise Cauchi, George Chandler, Kelleen Corrigan, Stephen Darvill, Isabella Flisi, Jonathan Glennie, Shane Guthrie, Diane Hendrick, Sonia di Mezza, Guro Nilsen, Sophie Parron, and Erika Zarate.

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# What we do

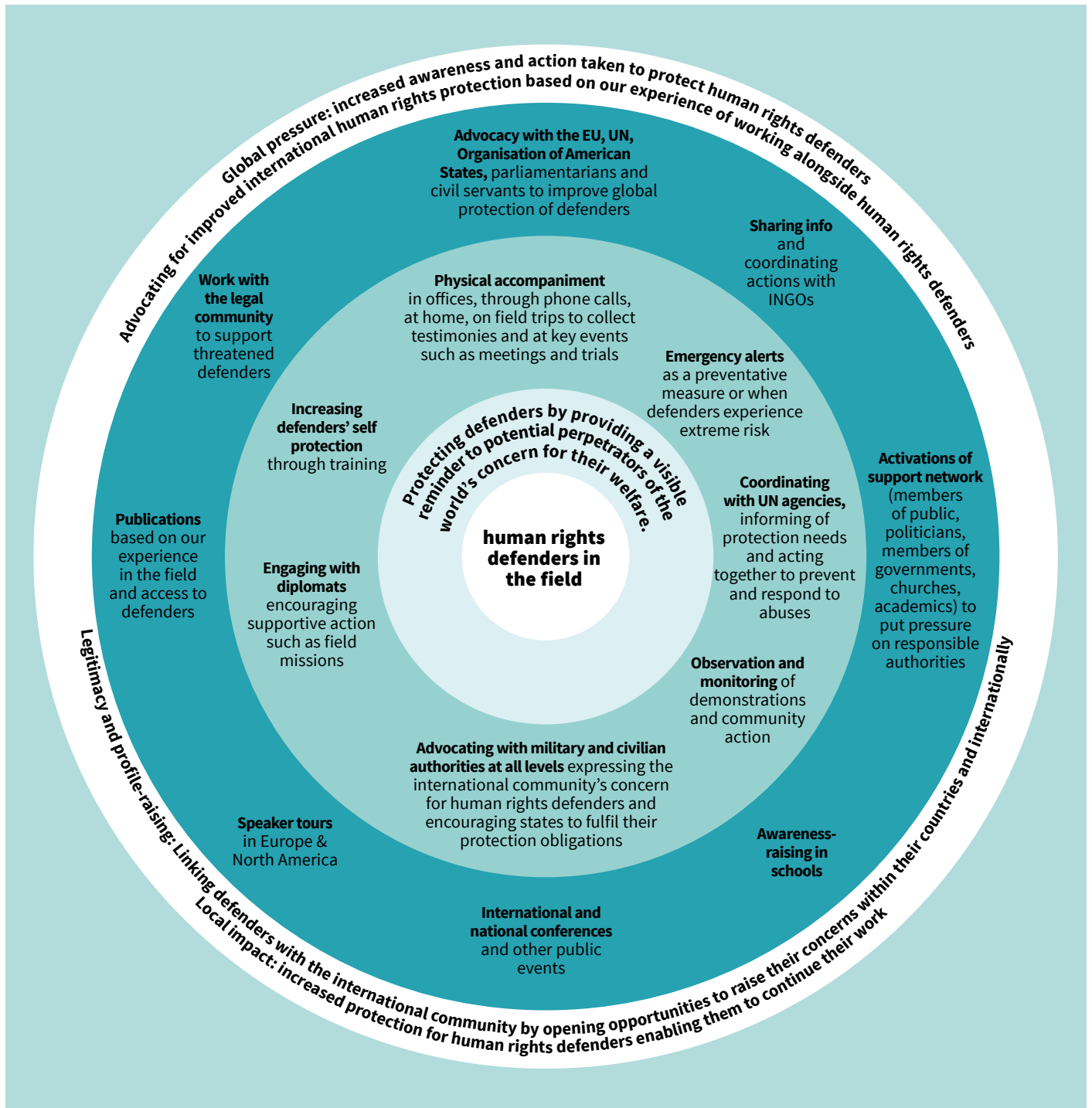
**H**uman rights defenders – courageous people who stand up for the rights and dignity of others because they believe in peace and justice for all – are at the heart of what we do.

We provide protection, support and

recognition to human rights defenders who work in areas of conflict and repression, at their request. We help them make links with others and raise awareness of the issues they face.

We advocate at all levels – from the

soldier at a local check point to national governments and international bodies such as the UN – for human rights accountability. Our volunteers send a powerful message that the world is watching and prepared to act.



# 2014 in numbers

**I**n 2014, PBI provided direct protection and support to **124 women** and **167 men human rights defenders** from **57 organisations**.

Between them, these organisations helped thousands of women, men and children who have been denied their basic rights – from being forcibly evicted from their land, to seeing family members ‘disappeared’, to suffering torture and rape at the hands of armed forces.

We provided **1,738 days of physical accompaniment** to human rights defenders. We **visited and met with accompanied organisations and individuals 407 times**.

“[T]he decision to seek dialogue with the Attorney General... was based on what we did with PBI in an advocacy workshop. It went very well, since the young people [who had been arrested and tortured by police] were freed. We designed our strategy around what we did in the workshop, and when we think about advocacy we always go back to the tools transferred by PBI.”

**Diana Morales, Paso del Norte Human Rights Centre, Mexico**

## WORKSHOPS Multiplying our impact

PBI Mexico conducted 10 security and advocacy workshops reaching 135 participants from 42 human rights organisations in 2014. At least five organisations we worked with reported improvements in their internal security management during the year. As part of our efforts to create a ‘multiplier effect’ through our work, we collaborated with five other organisations who share security and protection tools with human rights defenders to deliver a ‘training for trainers’ workshop in May. Representatives from 12 organisations shared experiences and best practice, as well as training several new facilitators. In December PBI Mexico also published a facilitators’ guidebook for delivering security and protection workshops to human rights defenders, which includes insights from the ‘training for trainers’ workshop.

## PHYSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT Puente Nayero Humanitarian Space, Colombia

PBI Colombia carried out 1,326 individual accompaniments in 2014. We spent 428 days alongside the Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP), who assist communities peacefully affirming their rights and seeking truth, justice and reparations for abuses committed against them.

With support from CIJP and PBI, residents of Puente Nayero Street in La Playita neighbourhood in Buenaventura have maintained, since April 2014, Colombia’s first urban ‘humanitarian space’. Free of all illegal armed actors, ‘Puente Nayero’ is a civilian-only space in which people can live and work in peace and relative security in one of the country’s poorest and most dangerous cities.

Through our focus on “Supporting the

providing moral support and practical advice ranging from checking on defenders’ wellbeing to helping with responses to specific security incidents. We made **hundreds of phone calls** to check on defenders’ whereabouts and safety.

We ran or hosted **45 workshops attended by 370 women and 379 men human rights defenders**, providing security and advocacy

**PBI Volunteer Gabriela Vargas with children from La Playita**



reconstruction of the social fabric” we have accompanied various members of the community, whom we assist in dealing with the stress and trauma of sustaining a ‘tense calm’ in extreme conditions. As PBI volunteer Gabriela Vargas states: “[p]hysical and psychosocial accompaniment should be inseparable; it’s holistic work... so we need to accompany people in all possible ways.”

training and helping defenders to cope with constant stress and psychological pressure.

We expressed our concern for human rights defenders in **343 meetings with government, local and regional authorities**, urging officials to uphold their human rights obligations in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya and Mexico. Country groups also championed defenders

**Northern team volunteer during security workshop with members of Saltillo Migrant House**



## EMERGENCY ACTIVATION PBI Guatemala visa cancellations

Following PBI's observation of the violent eviction of La Puya, a community made up of residents of 12 villages in the municipalities of San José del Golfo and San Pedro Ayampuc, engaged in peaceful resistance to gold mining operations, the Guatemalan government revoked the temporary residence visas of two volunteers.

We activated our emergency network and carried out an intense advocacy campaign which achieved visits by ambassadors from the EU, US and Switzerland to affected communities,

whilst the EU Filter Group on Human Rights met representatives of the 12 Kaqchiqueles communities from San Juan Sacatepéquez, another area affected by the State of Emergency declared in September. We mobilised the diplomatic corps, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the EU Working Party on Human Rights and many others to demonstrate international concern over the closing of space for human rights defence. All this led to a reversal of the cancellation of our volunteers' visas and to the organisations which we accompany being able to continue their work.

### in **120 meetings with government representatives**

in France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland and the UK.

We produced **75 publications, videos and radio appeals** amplifying defenders' voices and exposing the realities and challenges they face to public and official audiences. We also sent detailed information on the human rights situation on the ground in areas where we work to members of our support network each month. Our unique access to information, rigorous analysis and objectivity are key to the effectiveness of our integrated protection and advocacy.

We **activated our emergency support networks 12 times** in response to the most pressing and serious issues faced by defenders we accompany.

We attended **1,266 meetings with diplomatic corps, intergovernmental organisations including the UN and a range of local, national and international NGOs and coalitions** to raise concerns about the safety of human rights defenders, provide information on the effectiveness of protective and preventative measures, propose ways in which policy and practice can be improved and work strategically with others to strengthen global civil societal action around human rights defenders.

We organised **speaker tours for 13 women and 14 men human rights defenders**, enabling them to travel across Europe and North America to raise international awareness of, and support for, their work. These tours empowered defenders to develop relationships with key allies, from parliamentarians to grassroots activists, and gain invaluable political, moral and financial support.

“[The speaker tour] was an experience of great personal growth.... [W]e proposed conducting an advocacy strategy two years ago, but didn't know how: this tour clarified the 'how' aspect. It strengthened me, as it helped me develop my capacities for dialogue and advocacy at the international level.”

**Silvia Mendez, Paso del Norte Human Rights Centre, Mexico**



**Eviction of La Puya Peaceful Resistance Community, Guatemala**

## SPEAKER TOUR Silvia Méndez, Paso del Norte Human Rights Centre, Mexico

In November, Mexican human rights defender Silvia Méndez of the Paso del Norte Human Rights Centre participated in 10 public events or press meetings and 27 meetings with Foreign Affairs Ministries, MPs, lawyers' groups and EU, UN and civil society representatives in Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands, drawing attention to cases

of torture and enforced disappearances in northern Mexico. Silvia led a roundtable discussion at the German parliament which had a direct influence on the government's decision to put on hold a security agreement which would have provided for extensive collaboration between German and Mexican police forces and had been heavily criticised by human rights groups. Paso del Norte in turn strengthened their international support network, making new contacts to provide them with emergency assistance.



**Silvia Mendez, roundtable with parliamentarians and representatives of the German Foreign Affairs Ministry, Berlin**

# Where we work

## Key to map

-  **Field Programmes**
-  **Country Groups**
-  **International Office**

## Field Programmes

### Colombia

21 international volunteers accompanied 91 defenders working on a range of issues such as human rights violations due to economic interests and enforced disappearances. Volunteers are based in Bogotá, Barrancabermeja and Apartadó.

### Guatemala

Nine international volunteers accompanied 83 defenders working on the environment and land rights, impunity and globalisation. Volunteers are based in Guatemala City and travel to other areas of the country.

### Honduras

PBI began protective accompaniment for the first time in Honduras in 2014. A small team of five international volunteers accompanied 18 defenders working on business and human rights, land rights, indigenous rights, freedom of expression, support for victims and women's rights.

### Indonesia

PBI made extensive preparations for an innovative training programme to strengthen the capacities of Indonesian defenders working in isolated regions. The first two rounds of training will be conducted in 2015.

### Kenya

Four international volunteers carried out the project's first accompaniments with defenders working in the informal settlements of Nairobi. The project continued building relationships with grassroots Kenyan defenders and civil society, as well as undertaking important lobbying and legal work.



### Mexico

Nine international volunteers accompanied 99 defenders working on forceful disappearances, impunity, indigenous rights and environmental protection. Volunteers are based in two field teams in Oaxaca and in the north; covering the states of Chihuahua and Coahuila, and one coordination office in Mexico City.

### Nepal

PBI worked in collaboration with a coalition of 43 Nepali human rights organisations to maintain and develop NepalMonitor, an online and SMS platform sharing information about human rights and security incidents across the country. NepalMonitor mapped 1,772 incidents in 2014, enabling national and international organisations to better respond to human rights violations and improving the safety of human rights defenders.

Volunteer numbers included here are the average number of volunteers serving in each field programme at any one time.



## Country Groups

Belgium	Italy	Switzerland
Canada	Netherlands	UK
France	Norway	USA
Germany	Spain	
Ireland	Sweden	

## PBI Country Groups

Without country groups, PBI would be unable to offer international protective accompaniment to human rights defenders and would have limited global support or impact. Country groups find, train and support our international volunteers. They raise funds for our field projects. They develop links with elected officials, embassy staff, lawyers, judges, academics, NGOs, churches, community groups and others to support human rights defenders. Country groups raise awareness of human rights abuses and advocate for action in the international community.

# Advocacy highlights

**I**n 2014, PBI worked in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico and Nepal – countries where human rights defenders face intimidation, harassment, persecution, arrest, enforced disappearance, torture and death for their beliefs and actions. Just as crucially, we used detailed and accurate information from defenders on the ground to raise awareness and mobilise action amongst the international community, contributing towards making the world a safer place for human rights defenders. These pages illustrate just some of the highlights of our advocacy work this year.

## Lobbying, networking and awareness-raising

PBI coordinated speaker tours for 27 human rights defenders in 2014. In December, human rights and environmental lawyer Donald Hernández of the Honduran Centre for Community Promotion and Development (CEHPRODEC) met with national authorities, legal professionals and civil society representatives and spoke before public audiences in France, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Switzerland and the UK, raising awareness of the situation of Honduran communities affected by mining, agribusiness and hydroelectric projects. Donald in turn developed CEHPRODEC's international support network, making valuable new connections. Among other things, he now has a direct line to Amnesty International for emergency activation and strategic assistance.

Donald participated in a side-event at the 3rd UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, co-organised by PBI, which helped

keep land and environmental defenders on the Forum's agenda. PBI submitted a briefing to states and multilateral bodies with clear recommendations to mainstream protection of human rights defenders in their business and human rights national action plans (NAPs), emphasising the need for more effective protection mechanisms and for consultation and inclusion of defenders in policy implementation. This reinforced feedback we had previously submitted to the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights informing their Guidance on National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights, which was launched at the Forum. We will continue to bring these messages to meetings with governments and UN representatives leading up to the 28th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council in 2015.

PBI Switzerland was awarded special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council in July 2014. This enables PBI to organise our own side-events at the UN in Geneva and New York,

and make written statements to relevant UN conferences. In 2015, we will use our statements to amplify defenders' voices in the Human Rights Council, and aim to obtain special consultative status for the global organisation.

Country groups organised and co-organised many events to raise awareness about human rights defenders and the issues they face. PBI Germany co-organised a conference of 60 NGOs and solidarity groups on the criminalisation of protest in Central America, leading to the founding of the Central America Roundtable, a platform for collaborative action to support defenders across the region. PBI France organised five conferences on issues including business and human rights, land restitution, torture and enforced disappearance, and held two screenings of *Pais Errante*, a documentary about forced displacement in Colombia. PBI Netherlands held two Human Rights Cafés, enabling human rights defenders from Colombia and Honduras to reach an international audience.

## Donald Hernández at the 3rd UN Forum for Business and Human Rights



## PBI Ireland Launch

In 2014, a new PBI country group was established in Ireland on the initiative of a former volunteer with the Colombian and Guatemalan field projects. Assembled in May, 17 volunteers began raising awareness of PBI and obtaining support and advice from existing country groups, PBI's International Secretariat, other NGOs and academics, gaining valuable expertise and laying the groundwork for future

collaboration. The group held 18 meetings with NGOs and three meetings with Irish authorities throughout the year.

PBI Ireland was unanimously voted to full country group status at our General Assembly in November. PBI Ireland held a public launch at Trinity College Dublin, attended by over 100 guests. Speakers included human rights defenders from Colombia, Honduras and Kenya, Dr Iain Atack of the Irish School of Ecumenics, who talked about his time as a PBI volunteer in Sri Lanka in the 1990s; and Mary Lawlor, Director of Frontline Defenders, who spoke

on the successes and challenges of, and prospects for, the EU Guidelines for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

This highly successful launch, as well as subsequent events and meetings involving defenders, NGOs and academics, served a range of purposes: strengthening defenders' access to international support; promoting awareness of, and links with, PBI Ireland; and developing the nascent country group's advocacy, logistical and other capacities, which are already being put to use in planning an array of events and activities for 2015.



## EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders: ten years on

2014 marked 10 years since the adoption of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders. PBI was instrumental in both drafting and revising the Guidelines, and has utilised them extensively in our work over the past decade.

In February, we participated in a seminar in which we submitted our conclusions and recommendations on achievements and challenges in the Guidelines' implementation to over 100 EU delegations, five EU member states' permanent representations to Brussels, the EU Special Representative on Human Rights and representatives from the European External Action Service (EEAS) and European Commission.

On 17 June, we co-hosted an event with Amnesty International, Frontline Defenders, Human Rights Watch, the International Federation for Human Rights and Protection International to evaluate the Guidelines' implementation. Participants included representatives

from the EEAS, several EU member states' permanent representations to Brussels and various NGOs, as well as the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders.

We also launched our report, 'Ten Years of The European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders: An Assessment From the Field', synthesising analysis from ten years' work with 30 interviews with human rights defenders and members of the diplomatic corps from Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya and Mexico.

The next day, the EU Council met to discuss the Guidelines' implementation, publishing their conclusions on 23 June. These incorporated several of PBI's recommendations and committed to "intensify... political and material support to human rights defenders and step up... efforts against all forms of reprisals."

We published a joint statement with Amnesty International, Frontline Defenders, Human Rights Watch, the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Protection International, welcoming the EU's renewed commitment to the Guidelines,

recommending concrete actions for EU member states and encouraging the Council to include these recommendations in its post-2014 EU Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy (Human Rights Action Plan).

We also worked to strengthen the Guidelines' implementation on the ground. In Mexico, we organised a meeting between civil society and diplomatic corps to debate challenges, successes and prospects around the Guidelines' implementation, followed by a public meeting where representatives from the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs acknowledged the important role of human rights defenders in Mexican society. In Guatemala, we worked with other international organisations to educate 200 isolated rural human rights defenders about the Guidelines and their use, and facilitated meetings with representatives from the EU, the governments of Switzerland and Norway and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

We will continue to work and advocate strongly at all levels for improved implementation of the Guidelines in 2015.

## Protecting women human rights defenders

Mainstreaming protection of women human rights defenders is a major theme of our work. In 2014, PBI Netherlands facilitated two roundtables on women human rights defenders' protection in the framework of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which reaffirms the importance of women's role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and of their full and equal participation in the maintenance of peace and security. Both roundtables were attended by Guatemalan defenders Lorena Cabnal and Lolita Chávez, representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NGO staff and academics. The first focused on increasing the visibility of women human rights defenders, whilst the second focused on the role of police and other state authorities in their protection.

Recommendations emerging from these discussions will inform action by PBI and others to protect and support women human rights defenders at local, national and international levels. Examples include: prioritising protection of rural women human rights defenders;



**'Safe in Action' Roundtable on protecting and supporting women human rights defenders, Netherlands**

promoting awareness of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders in rural areas; campaigning to improve the image of women human rights defenders by countering stigmatisation, criminalisation

and defamation; lobbying for gender-sensitive protection mechanisms in the Guidelines' implementation; and including these and other recommendations in the post-2014 Human Rights Action Plan.

# Focus on **Field Projects**

**I**n 2014, PBI worked with human rights defenders in Latin America (Colombia, Guatemala,

Honduras and Mexico), Africa (Kenya) and Asia (Nepal and Indonesia). These pages provide a snapshot of the complex

challenges and risks defenders faced, and how PBI was able to support them in their work.

## Honduras

PBI began working in Honduras in 2013, following a petition from the Honduras Platform on Human Rights and extensive field research. We immediately focused on building relationships with local organisations and promoting international concern for the risks faced by Honduran human rights defenders. This work has continued in 2014, alongside our first formal protective accompaniments of the Honduran Centre for Community Promotion and Development (CEHPRODEC) and world-renowned journalist and human rights activist, Dina Meza.

PBI has become an effective and sought-after source of expertise on the situation and protection of human rights defenders in Honduras, and is regularly called on for analysis by the international community. PBI Honduras acquired official Honduran NGO status in November. We strengthened our international support network, meeting with government and civil society representatives in Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK. We also held 19 meetings with diplomats based in Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico, including the British, French, Spanish and Swiss ambassadors, as well as the head of the European Delegation. We held 21 meetings with Honduran authorities, including the national police, military, public prosecutor's office and National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH), expressing concern for the security of those we accompany and emphasising the state's international legal obligations to protect human rights defenders. We received constructive responses and concrete action in regard to our specific requests from the national police and CONADEH on four occasions.

Dina Meza was awarded the 2014 Oxfam Novib/PEN International Free Expression Award in January. In December she became the founding President of PEN Honduras, which will campaign to protect journalists threatened by violent repression and combat persistent impunity for attacks against them. In addition to providing accompaniment, we coordinated a speaker tour during which



**PBI volunteer accompanies CEHPRODEC to support an assembly of the Lenca indigenous movement in La Paz**

**“I have committed myself to handing them [my children] a better country... The threats I face are not as powerful as the pain of doing nothing for my country.”**

**Accompanied Honduran journalist Dina Meza**



**PBI volunteer accompanies Dina Meza**

Dina participated in an EU-organised NGO conference in Brussels, reached public audiences in Amsterdam and met with the Dutch minister for foreign affairs as well as various international agencies.

PBI accompanies CEHPRODEC lawyers and legal advisors as they travel to remote areas to advise and support peasant communities, and we plan to accompany their visits to new areas in 2015. At CEHPRODEC's request, PBI co-organised, with Protection International, a personal security workshop for 30 community leaders defending land rights in Siguatepeque. We also co-organised an IT security workshop with the Access Foundation for 18 representatives from various human rights organisations.

PBI Honduras carried out international observation at 57 events where activists were at risk of violence during 2014. We also coordinated closely with other organisations carrying out international observation and accompaniment, including the Honduras Accompaniment Project (PROAH), reinforcing their work and strengthening cooperation amongst global civil society in Honduras. During 2014, PBI Honduras was accepted as a member of both the International Cooperation Agencies network and the Copenhagen Initiative for Central America and Mexico's platform for advocacy before the European Union.

## Colombia

In 2014, PBI celebrated 20 years of working in Colombia with accompanied individuals and organisations in Bogotá, Barrancabermeja and Apartadó, and with international supporters in Spain and the US. Over 450 volunteers from 31 countries have been part of PBI Colombia, and the project receives around 100 applications each year, demonstrating immense international solidarity with our work and the work of those we accompany.

However, the situation of human rights defenders in Colombia remains deeply alarming despite the formal negotiations between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) which are taking place in Habana, Cuba, since October 2012. The organisation 'We Are Defenders' (Somos Defensores) recorded 626 attacks against defenders in 2014, including 55 murders.

We spent 136 days alongside the San José de Apartadó Peace Community, who are emblematic of grassroots rural peacebuilding. The community received



**PBI Colombia celebrate 20 years of presence in the country with accompanied defenders in Barrancabermeja**

an honourable mention from the Franco-German Human Rights Award committee for their constant work defending peace, justice and human rights. Additionally, as part of our accompaniment of the Inter-Church Commission for Justice and Peace (CIJP), we travelled to Humanitarian Zones in the Curbaradó river basin, Urabá region, where communities have returned to their land after being forcefully displaced in 1996-1997. They continue to resist and to stake their claim to the land which was violently stolen from them.

We continued to accompany one of Colombia's most at-risk human rights lawyers,

Jorge Molano. In 2013 the government defined Jorge's risk level as 'extraordinary', and in March 2014 it agreed before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to adopt measures to ensure his safety. In May, however, Jorge was forced to temporarily suspend his work, following a series of serious security incidents. Despite constant threats and aggression against him, we contributed towards Jorge being able to resume his work representing communities who have suffered extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances and massacres, demanding justice, truth and reparations on their behalf as well as guarantees of non-repetition.

## Guatemala

In 2014, Guatemalan human rights defenders faced the most significant risk of violence since the project reopened in 2002. Particularly for those defending communities' land rights against corporate interests, direct attacks have grown in relation to threats whilst defamations and criminalisation have escalated.

These developments have had severe impacts on the work of human rights organisations, and led to increased requests for accompaniment. By using flexible tools (observations, short-term accompaniments and sharing information through meetings and publications), we managed to respond to almost half of the 100 requests we received in this period, including supporting defenders and communities in isolated rural areas.

PBI's accompaniment of the Union of Peasant Organisations of Verapaz (UVOC) extends to the indigenous community of La Primavera, who are constantly intimidated and threatened with eviction as well as defamed and criminalised for peacefully demanding legal rights to their ancestral



**PBI volunteer accompanies UVOC lawyer Jorge Luis Morales**

lands. We focused international attention on this issue, including arranging meetings between UVOC, the Norwegian ambassador to Guatemala and UN personnel. This attention, and our continued presence, has helped sustain the possibility of a just resolution to the community's ongoing negotiations with the state.

In the same region, we responded to requests from indigenous peoples of the Dolores river basin who have suffered killings, violent evictions, raids and arrests

of community leaders since they began peacefully resisting a hydroelectric project in 2012. We issued an alert to highlight the deteriorating human rights situation in the area and provided international observation at key moments throughout the year. We also accompanied journalists from the Independent Media Centre (CMI) who received threats whilst covering the situation. In 2015, we will continue to pay close attention to these and other marginalised regions of Guatemala.

# Focus on **Field Projects**

## Mexico

In September, three students in Ayotzinapa, Guerrero were killed, several others injured and 43 forcefully disappeared. These events, and the repression subsequently faced by demonstrators protesting the impunity surrounding them, are emblematic of the deteriorating human rights situation in Mexico. We have supported the work of the Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre (accompanied since 2003) and other organisations working with survivors and victims' relatives.

In November, PBI marked one year of presence in Chihuahua and Coahuila with an event where human rights defenders from both states met representatives from five European embassies, highlighting the grave insecurities they face, the dangerous and ongoing struggle to locate thousands of disappeared in Coahuila and their difficulties defending migrants' rights whilst facing defamations and threats.

Oaxaca remains one of Mexico's most dangerous states for human rights defenders, particularly those working on land and environmental issues. In response to threats against members of the Committee for the Defence of Human Rights Gobixha (Código-DH, accompanied since 2009), PBI activated its support network to focus concern on the area. Código-DH's Juridical Coordinator Alba Cruz said that PBI's "accompaniment has been very useful, most of all regarding visibility, which has been essential at difficult times to reduce risk."

PBI Mexico's advocacy covered three themes: business and human rights; security, justice and impunity; and implementation of protection measures.

## Nepal

PBI closed its Nepal field team in January 2014 and focused on developing NepalMonitor, an online and SMS platform sharing information about human rights and security incidents around the country. NepalMonitor enables local, national and international organisations to better respond to human rights violations and provides defenders with timely access to reports of security incidents in their vicinity, helping them stay safe.

In 2013, 100% of survey responses



Relatives of disappeared persons during the annual Mother's Day Protest in Mexico City

On business and human rights, we organised three meetings between government, diplomatic corps, private sector and civil society representatives to discuss implementation of the 'UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights', and successfully lobbied for the inclusion of business and human rights in the EU-Mexico High-Level Dialogue on Human Rights.

On security, justice and impunity, we undertook a detailed investigation of the human rights impacts of public security policies, producing a report, *'Peace in Mexico? Security Strategies and Human Rights'*, described by Juan Gerardi Human Rights Centre's Antonio Esparza as "very important [for] taking a firm stand on the

reality of those who go out to work every day and who constantly experience human rights violations."

On implementation of protection measures, we lobbied the government on the recommendations received in its 2nd Universal Periodic Review, urging it to consult and include human rights defenders in their implementation. The government accepted all recommendations concerning defenders, and most other recommendations. We also successfully campaigned alongside other international organisations for stronger implementation of the government's Mechanism to Protect Human Rights Defenders and Journalists, which had experienced major setbacks in 2014.

from defenders on the ground stated that NepalMonitor had helped them with either security or capacity, whilst 100% of International NGO respondents felt they were more informed about the situation of defenders than they otherwise would have been. Following such positive feedback, in 2014 PBI advanced NepalMonitor as a joint initiative with the Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP), a network of 43 human rights organisations from across Nepal. NepalMonitor mapped 1,772 incidents throughout the year, 26 of which originated from victims or reporters contacting NepalMonitor directly.

The NepalMonitor project team also participated in meetings with the UN Development Project's Armed Violence Reduction Workgroup, an Early Warning System Contact Group coordinated by Saferworld and the EU Working Group on Human Rights Defenders.

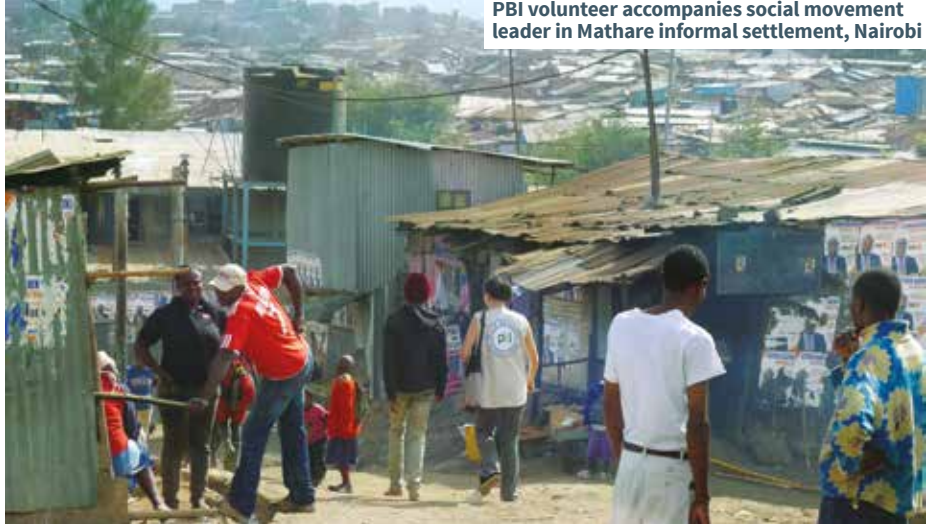
In 2015, PBI and COCAP will continue to develop NepalMonitor as an effective platform for monitoring and reporting human rights and security incidents, whilst the project team build on their cooperation with other international organisations to support and protect human rights defenders across the country.

## Kenya

Recent years have seen growing international concern for the situation of Kenyan human rights defenders. Legislation restricting NGOs' registration and funding, increased bail conditions for defenders and widespread impunity for human rights abuses committed by police and security forces are all elements of increasing criminalisation of protest, restricting the ability of grassroots defenders to carry out their work.

In December 2014, the government passed the Security Laws (Amendments) Act, which the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and Kenyan Human Rights Commission (KHRC) assert "contains several provisions which violate... international human rights" norms, including rights to freedom of assembly, association and expression. FIDH and KHRC reported the assault and arrest of eight human rights defenders during peaceful protests against the Act.

Throughout 2014, we regularly accompanied grassroots defenders to police stations in Mathare informal settlement in Nairobi and attended court hearings, gradually building a visible



**PBI volunteer accompanies social movement leader in Mathare informal settlement, Nairobi**

presence in the area.

In December, an Alliance for Lawyers at Risk (ALR) delegation visited Kenya, organised by PBI UK. Its objectives were to offer support to local lawyers at risk and to advocate for PBI, building support amongst government officials for our official registration in the country.

The delegation met with key Kenyan authorities, including the Attorney General, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the

Chief Justice, High Court judges and representatives from both the Independent Police Oversight Authority and the National Commission on Human Rights, as well as several important civil society organisations.

The ALR delegation's visit is our most significant advocacy achievement in Kenya to date, fostering recognition of PBI amongst both national authorities and local human rights defenders. PBI will work hard to build on this momentum in 2015.

## Indonesia

From 2000-11, PBI accompanied human rights defenders in East and West Timor, Aceh, Jakarta and Papua. This was halted due to political changes and defenders' evolving needs. We conducted research and consultations to determine how we could continue supporting defenders, recognising the strengths of our support networks, our experience building defenders' capacities and trust built through long-term relationships with local organisations. This led to the development of a joint project with the Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy (ELSAM), a Jakarta-based NGO, to train at-risk defenders from isolated regions. The project will bring defenders to Jakarta for four-month intensive trainings followed by three months of supported field research.

The political situation in Indonesia was dynamic in 2014, with a hotly contested election calendar dominated by three rounds of national voting. Given that one of the main presidential candidates was



**PBI Indonesia and ELSAM face-to-face meeting**

former general Prabowo Subianto, accused of numerous human rights abuses under the Suharto dictatorship, the Indonesian human rights community was very active during the elections. This interrupted our preparations, a key component of which is to develop a support network in Jakarta for defenders receiving training, as many of the individuals who would form this network were overwhelmed with election-related activities.

We nevertheless undertook a range of preparatory activities, including recruiting Indonesians with government and civil

society experience to establish an Advisory Council to offer expertise in the challenges of working in isolated regions whilst providing political protection to the project; establishing an informal working group of representatives from Jakarta-based human rights organisations to support the trainings; drafting a comprehensive four-month curriculum; identifying mentors to guide the research

element of the training; and developing an international protection network for project participants through meetings with the diplomatic community in Jakarta, as well as European civil society organisations.

The defenders set to arrive in Jakarta in January 2015 have varied backgrounds in journalism, domestic violence support work and Church-based community organising. A second round of training with new defenders will begin in mid-2015, and as the project develops we will work towards building a mutual support and protection alumni network.

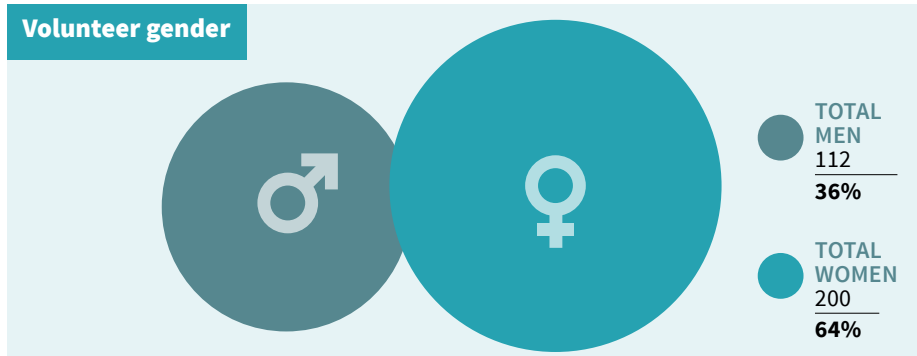
# Our volunteers and supporters

**I**n 2014, PBI was supported by a total of 312 volunteers who worked in our field projects, our country groups and our international office:

**220** volunteers provided support to 13 PBI Country Groups and our International Office in 2014

**92** international volunteers provided protection to 291 human rights defenders in the field in 2014

## Volunteer gender



## Field volunteers came from



## Our supporters in 2014

We would like to thank the many organisations and individuals who made generous contributions to our work in 2014, including:

Agencia Catalana de Cooperación al Desarrollo (ACCD)  
Ayuntamiento de Donostia  
Ayuntamiento de Pamplona  
Ayuntamiento de Reynosa  
Ayuntamiento de Santander  
Ayuntamiento de San Sebastián - Donostia  
Ayuntamiento de Valladolid  
Basilian Human Development Fund (Canada)  
Berti Wicke-Stiftung  
Bistum St. Gallen  
British Embassy  
Brot für die Welt  
Canadian Auto Workers Union (CAW)  
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (Canadian Embassy in Mexico)  
Caritas Francia  
Chiesa Valdesi  
Christian Aid  
Christian Aid (with Irish Aid) UK & Ireland  
Cooperación Cántabra  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale

Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)  
Diakonisches Werk der Evangelischen Kirche  
Diputación Córdoba  
Diputación Valladolid  
District of Pamplona  
Dutch Embassy  
European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)  
European Union IEDDH  
Fairshare Foundation  
Fedevaco Canton Vaud  
Ferster Foundation  
Finnish Embassy in Mexico  
Frederick Mulder Foundation  
Fribourg Solidarity  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO)  
Fundación brasileña de padres por el desarrollo humano  
Gesamtkirchgemeinde (GKG) Bern  
German Federal Foreign Office  
Gobierno de Navarra / Mugarik Gabe  
Hartstra Stichting (Foundation)  
Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO)  
Intermon-Oxfam  
Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen e.V. (ifa) Programm zivik (Internationale Friedensprojekte in Krisenregionen)  
Jenö Stähelin-Stiftung  
Kanton Basel Stadt

Kriens hilft Menschen in Not  
Lawyers Bar of Paris  
MacArthur Foundation  
Maya Behn Eschenburg-Stiftung  
Mensen Met Een Missie  
Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores y de Cooperación (MAEC) de España  
Misereor  
Non-Violence XXI  
Norway Peace Fund  
Norwegian Embassy  
Norwegian Foreign Ministry  
Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU)  
Open Society Foundation  
Overbrook Foundation  
Oxfam Solidarité  
Protestant Church St. Gallen-Tablat  
Sigrid Rausing Trust  
Swedish Amnesty Fund  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)  
Swiss Embassy  
Swiss Foreign Ministry (FDFA)  
Trocaire  
UNIFOR Humanity Fund (Canada)  
Valdesian Church, Italy  
Ville de Bernex  
Ziviler Friedensdienst  
Zurich Community Trust

Without hundreds of dedicated individuals and organisations who support us with their time, energy and financial contributions our human rights work would not be possible.

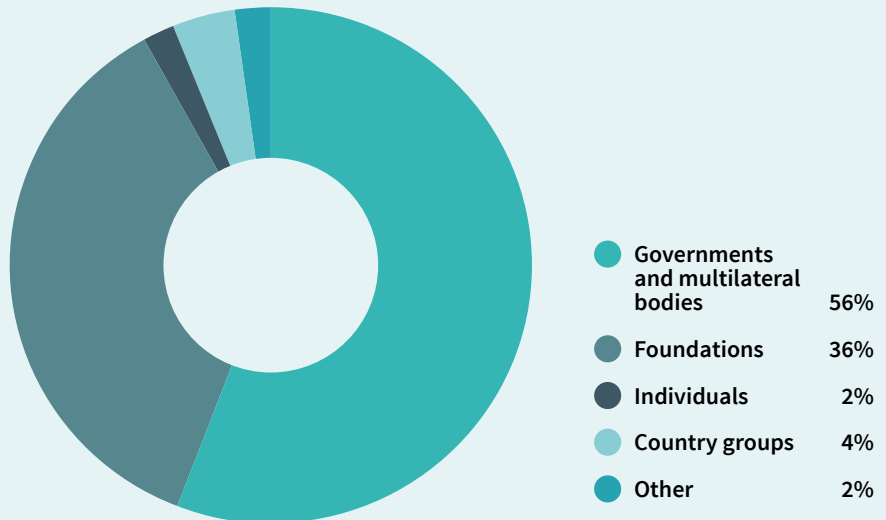
**Thank you for your ongoing commitment to PBI.**

### Who funds PBI?

In our work protecting human rights defenders, we rely on the support of individuals, trusts, foundations and religious groups as well as governments and other multilateral funders.

**Most of our income from governments and foundations is raised by country groups with project support. Country groups also work closely with our committed individual donors in Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, the UK and the USA.**

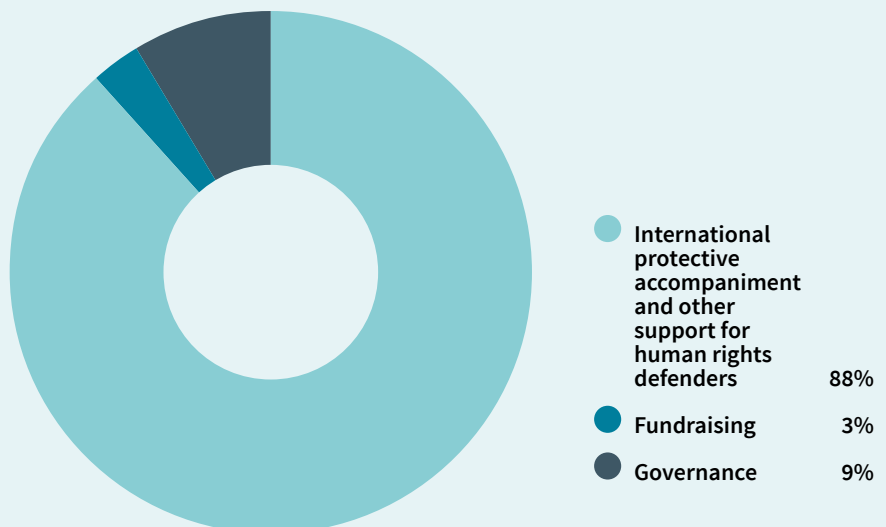
**Total income in 2014:  
USD \$2,864,157**



### How we spend your money

From every \$1 you give us, we spend 88 cents on our human rights work and 9 cents on ensuring best practice in organisational governance is followed in line with PBI's principles of non-hierarchy and consensus decision-making. The remaining 3 cents is used to raise the next \$1.

**Total expenditure in 2014\*:  
USD \$ 2,474,271**



\*All figures are in US dollars and subject to final audit. This financial analysis does not include the accounts of PBI country groups which are separate legal entities.



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Promoting nonviolence and  
protecting human rights since 1981

[www.peacebrigades.org](http://www.peacebrigades.org)

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