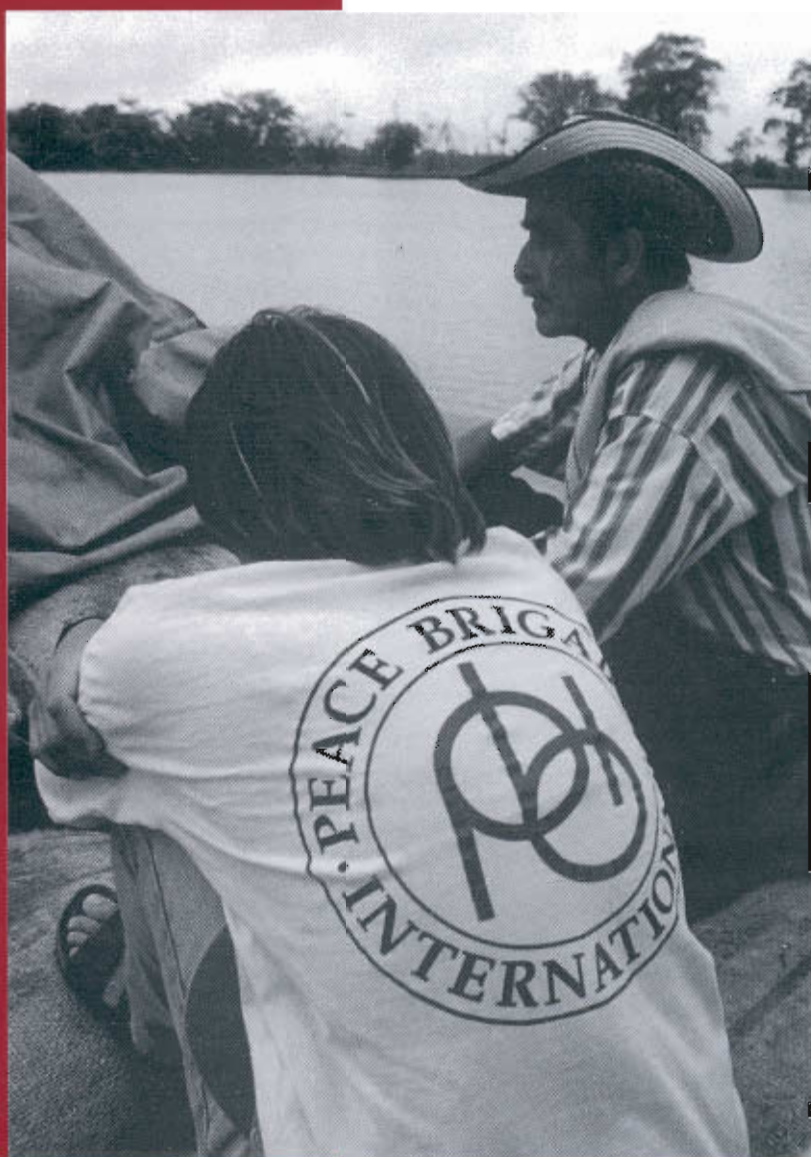


'...To speak of the importance of Peace Brigades International's presence in the region over the last five years is to speak of the possibility of life (...) attacks and threats have come up against the solid wall which Peace Brigades International has become.

The death sentences against each and every one of us have not been carried out only because we are not alone, because we have had Peace Brigades International's accompaniment.'

**Francisco Campo,
Regional Committee for the Defence
of Human Rights (CREDHOS),
Colombia**



Peace Brigades International Annual Review 1999

pbi
making space for peace

Mission Statement

PBI works to open a space for peace in which conflicts can be addressed in a nonviolent way. PBI applies a strategy of international presence and concern that supports local initiatives and contributes to developing a culture of peace and justice. We act on request of local organisations and groups working for human rights, social change and development of civil society, which use nonviolent means in regions where there is oppression and conflict.

The aim of PBI's international presence is to accompany both political and social processes through a joint strategy of deterring violence and promoting active nonviolence. PBI's international teams of volunteers use methods such as protective accompaniment, peace education, independent observation and analysis of the conflict situation. In addition, PBI learns about, develops and models forms of nonviolent intervention. PBI, where possible, initiates contacts with all the parties to a conflict in order to establish and inform of our presence. PBI supports this work through a broad international network of organisations and individuals. PBI's identity is built upon non-hierarchical structures and consensual processes.

Members of the PBI International Council in 1999

Joke Edenburg (North America Project)
Shane Guthrie (PBI Australia)
Kara Hooper (International Finance Committee)
Carl Kline (PBI USA)
Suzy Potvin (PBI Canada)
Matthias Richter (PBI Germany/Netherlands)
Jürgen Störk (Haiti Project)
Marianna Tzabiras (Central America/Mexico Project)

Dear Friends of PBI,

In 1999 PBI underwent significant transitions and the year was marked by a number of momentous occasions. In March, former PBI volunteers and the Guatemalans they had accompanied gathered in Guatemala City to celebrate sixteen years of human rights work in the country where PBI's work first began. In September, the 'exemplary work of the volunteers of the Colombia Project' was recognised by the award of the Aachen international peace prize in Germany. The celebration of the Colombia Project's fifth anniversary in Bogotá in October demonstrated the high level of respect the Project has gained in Colombia and internationally.

After the closure of the Guatemala Project, the organisation's focus shifted to the ever-growing needs in other parts of the world. Drawing on PBI's 18 years of experience in Guatemala, Sri Lanka, Colombia, North America and Haiti, exploratory work was undertaken in response to requests from Mexico and Indonesia/East Timor with a view to establishing permanent teams.

Faced with a deteriorating human rights situation and growing demands for PBI's presence, the Colombia Project increased the number of volunteers from 22 to 30 working in four subteams making it the largest project PBI has ever had. The Project, working together with PBI country groups, also significantly strengthened public relations work in Colombia and internationally in order to enhance the dissuasive capacity of the teams in Colombia.

The PBI Haiti Project continued placing ever-greater emphasis on working with Haitian trainers to strengthen the capacity of local people to carry out nonviolent conflict transformation work. The Project also began a thorough evaluation of the impact of their work.

Our support for the projects was strengthened by the very welcome addition of a new country group in Australia bringing the total number of PBI country groups to 14.

Our thanks to all of you who have demonstrated your commitment to PBI at a time of great change in the organisation.

In Peace,



*Marianna Tzabiras
PBI International Council*

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Cover photo: Colombia Project volunteer accompanies members of the San Francisco de Asís community in Urabá, Colombia. Photo: PBI

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NEW PBI PROJECTS

Mexico Project

While international attention has focused on human rights abuses in Chiapas, increased militarisation in other parts of Mexico has received far less attention. Human rights organisations in other states report increases in forced displacement, death threats, assassinations, disappearances, political imprisonment and torture. Communities affected by these atrocities feel terrified but there is currently little or no international presence providing protective accompaniment.

During 1999, the Mexico Project received requests from eleven Mexican human rights organisations for international accompaniment to open political space for nonviolent social change and to protect human rights defenders.

PBI continued to participate in the International Peace Service (SIPAZ) coalition while at the same time doing exploratory work to

'Since 9 September 1999 our organisation has been the victim of anonymous death threats. In order to confront the intimidating dynamic this creates, we believe that the accompaniment of Peace Brigades International can serve to dissuade an eventual direct aggression as well as to strengthen the capacity of those working for the Centre for Human Rights to deal with similar incidents.'

Centre for Human Rights Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez.

establish a separate PBI Project to respond to requests from other states.

In the first six months the Project Committee put together the information and

resources needed to initiate a new project.

The second half of the year was devoted to strategising, conducting further public relations in Mexico and abroad, initiating the necessary formalities to obtain the required legal status, establishing the coordinating office in the US and preparing the initial volunteer team. Letters of support for PBI's presence in Mexico were gathered from both Mexican and international contacts.

In meetings with government officials, the PBI Team received encouraging signs that adequate political space exists for PBI to carry out its work.

The Mexico Project is working to comply with the stringent legal requirements of the Mexican government and aims to have a permanent team fully operational as soon as possible.

Indonesia and East Timor Project

The Project began the year as an Exploratory Committee, working to respond to requests from two human rights organisations in East Timor: Yayasan HAK, an NGO that promotes respect for human rights, and Fokupers, an East Timorese Women's Communication Forum. Both organisations had become more active because of the violence leading up to the referendum on independence or autonomy within Indonesia in September 1999.

The arrival of an Exploratory Team in Jakarta and East Timor coincided with outbreaks of militia violence, but the Team met with the inviting organisations, and a wide range of other groups who responded positively to the proposal to open a PBI project. The PBI International Council approved the opening of the Project in July. However, the setting up of an office in Aotearoa/New Zealand, and preparations of a team to work in East Timor coincided with an upsurge of violence perpetrated by the Indonesian military and the militia. The Project kept in touch with developments through the participation of two committee members in the International



PBI volunteer meets East Timorese human rights defenders
Photo: PBI

Federation for East Timor, (IFET), an NGO project to observe the referendum.

In spite of the presence of the United Nations, IFET, and the media, the militia backed by the Indonesian military forced a mass exodus through killings, intimidation and widespread destruction. This meant a change in the Project's plans to deploy a team to East Timor. The team undertook a training in Australia where they met with NGOs and UN authorities. After consultation with East Timor support groups, the team

went to West Timor, where they provided a protective presence for Indonesian NGOs under threat from the Indonesian military and the militia because of their work in facilitating the return of East Timorese from the refugee camps. PBI maintained a presence in the office of an Indonesian human rights organisation called LAP Timoris, and established contacts with UN agencies, embassies, Indonesian government officials and the military and local NGOs. The team also played an important role in disseminating information they collected from their grass roots contacts to counteract the disinformation from other sources.

In light of the changed political status of East Timor, and the close parallels between the situation in East Timor and parts of Indonesia, the project's mandate was extended and its name changed to Indonesia and East Timor Project. The team has received requests for accompaniment and conflict resolution training from organisations in East Timor and Indonesia which the Project Committee began assessing in early 2000.

Colombia Project

During 1999 the human rights situation in Colombia continued to deteriorate with further assassinations and threats against human rights defenders, trade union leaders and the civilian population. Conflicts are deep and protracted, paramilitary forces carry out human rights abuses with impunity, and there are numerous illegal armed actors. All these factors have meant a steady deterioration in the social fabric and over a million internally displaced people over the last ten years. In April 1999, the President of the Commission for Human Rights of the United Nations expressed grave concern about the threats against human rights defenders in Colombia. These developments led to a greatly increased demand for PBI's presence. In response, the Project increased the number of team members in the three regions where it was already functioning: Bogotá, Magdalena Medio and Urabá. In addition, after receiving requests from the Popular Training Institute (IPC) and other NGOs in Medellín the Project Committee opened a new subteam there. This meant that by the end of the year the number of team members had increased from 22 to 30.

Protective Accompaniment

The Project continued to provide international accompaniment in a number of different ways: maintaining a presence in the offices of human rights organisations and in communities of displaced people, accompanying human rights defenders when they travelled to high risk areas, visiting threatened communities and observing public events. PBI Colombia provided a constant or periodic presence in the offices or headquarters of 13 NGOs with 90 human rights workers, in three refuges for displaced people with 1,200 people, and in four resettlement areas with 3,000 displaced people. The Project carried out at least two accompaniments per day, many of which required two team members for security reasons.

Public Relations

An essential part of an effective protective accompaniment strategy is maintaining a high level of visibility locally, nationally and internationally. During the year the team had over 500 meetings with Colombian government officials, middle and high-ranking officers of the armed forces, and state institutions. The purpose of these meetings was to



Young women in a displaced community, Urabá

Photo: PBI

'PBI's presence has made protective mechanisms more effective, and has also contributed to a recognition of State responsibility for security and protection... In the midst of barbarity their presence has enabled us ... to continue accompanying the displaced communities, those in the process of return, and the peace communities, has prevented the numbers of assassinated, disappeared, tortured and displaced persons from multiplying ... It has meant protection for us, but more importantly the chance for the communities to rebuild all that has been destroyed.'

Danilo Rueda, Intercongregational Justice and Peace Commission, Colombia

raise awareness of PBI's presence and concerns as a way of putting pressure on the relevant authorities to take action to eliminate the political space of perpetrators of human rights abuses. As part of the same accompaniment strategy the team had two meetings per week with members of the diplomatic corps, offices of the United Nations and international NGOs to share information and raise awareness of the nature of human rights abuses. Another layer of protection is provided through an international network of

high level contacts with parliamentarians, key church figures, public personalities, and other NGOs. These contacts serve to strengthen the dissuasive influence of PBI and form part of a Support Network which can be alerted to put pressure on the relevant Colombian authorities when Colombian human rights defenders face life threatening situations. See page 9.

Psychosocial support and training

In 1999 the Project also carried out 57 workshops on psychosocial rehabilitation attended by 834 people. The workshops covered mutual support where groups share common experiences of handling a crisis situation such as dealing with fear, pain and stress; psychosocial support and training with workshops on mental health, fear, repression, and security; and analysis of group processes.

Publications

The Project published a fortnightly bulletin on the human rights situation and PBI's work, a quarterly magazine called *Enfoque Colombiano* and dossiers on the work of the Regional Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, the Human Rights Committee of Sabana de Torres, and the situation in Urabá. The quality of these publications was improved and the distribution widened within Colombia and internationally.

Aachen Peace Prize

In September 'the exemplary work of the volunteers of the PBI Colombia Project' was recognised when the Project received an international peace prize awarded by the Foundation for Peace in Aachen, Germany. The award ceremony was marked with a press conference widely covered in national and local press including German television. This was followed by an evening celebration attended by 600 people.

'... (In Colombia) the presence of international personnel, such as ... Peace Brigades International, has served to provide protection to civilians at risk in remote areas.'

Francis Deng, special representative on displacement of the General Secretary of the United Nations, Christian Science Monitor, 6 October 1999

PBI is clear that this work only amounts to a small step in the context of the serious situation that Colombia faces. But hope is vital and the Project tries to transform this hope into action by providing an international presence alongside Colombian NGOs who, despite the enormous pressures they face including death threats, work tirelessly to ensure that human rights are respected.

Colombia Project fifth anniversary celebration

In October, two celebratory events were held in Bogotá to mark the Colombia Project's fifth anniversary. The first was a gathering of all the human rights organisations the Project has accompanied. This was followed by a public event attended by 150 people including the three main human rights organisations who first petitioned for a PBI presence – CREDHOS, ASFADDES and the Intercongregational Justice and Peace Commission – who presented moving testimonies of the importance of PBI's work. Among other speakers at the event were the Vice President of Colombia, the Inspector of the Colombian Armed Forces, the head of the UNHCR in Colombia, a representative of Amnesty International and the Dutch and Canadian Ambassadors. The extracts below from speeches at the event are an indication of the high level of recognition and respect the Project has gained within Colombia and internationally.

'... On behalf of the Colombian government... I would like to thank Peace Brigades International.... Their unselfish work of accompaniment and rebuilding of the social structure is demonstrated in the support offered to threatened human rights defenders, the displaced population in Urabá and in the conflict zone of Magdalena Medio. This work is invaluable in the protection of those dedicated to fighting for the recognition of human rights and giving dignity to those who have been the victims of the armed conflict. Their ethic of responsibility and commitment is an invaluable contribution and complements state initiatives in the same area. ...'

Dr Gustavo Bell Lemus, Vice-President of Colombia.



Celebration of the fifth anniversary of the Colombia Project, Bogotá
Photo: PBI

'... it is a great honour for me to be invited to this important event, celebrating an organisation which I have known very well for several years, not only here in Colombia but also in other countries, and for which I have great respect and admiration... Many thanks, and once again many congratulations on behalf of my office and of the United Nations Organisation.'

Anders Kompass, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

'...PBI represents a unique model for demonstrating international solidarity in Colombia... This is no ordinary message of thanks, it is a serious and genuine expression of gratitude and respect for the moral strength each one of you has displayed in your work...'

Gisbert Boss, Embassy of the Netherlands in Colombia

'Between 1988 and 1989 eight human rights defenders were assassinated and one was disappeared. Human rights organisations demanded that they receive protection from the State but their demands were not met. I remember at the time human rights defenders would say to me: your visits and your solidarity are all very well but what we need is ... the presence of Peace Brigades International...'

'As long as there continues to be no serious (state) policy to face up to the causes (of violations of human rights) and to search out and confront those responsible, ... it will be necessary for PBI to continue to expand their project in Colombia...'

Susan Lee, Amnesty International

Haiti Project

Since 1995, the PBI Haiti Project has worked in the context of a country faced with the deep rooted consequences of military dictatorship: social inequalities, poverty, corruption, and impunity. Civil society, after centuries of resistance to oppression, has started to develop a new role participating in the building of a democratic society. In this context the need identified by civil society organisations is not for protective accompaniment but for support in developing active nonviolence and dealing with conflict by nonviolent means. The requests received from peace and human rights organisations are an indication of the profoundly difficult changes that Haitian civil society is living through.

PBI is unique among international NGOs working in Haiti in that volunteers live together, make decisions by consensus, act only in response to requests and work at creating a partnership where listening to the needs of the other is fundamental. This provides Haitians with an example of volunteer work by foreigners, creates a more equal relationship between foreigners and Haitians, and provides moral support to Haitian organisations carrying out human rights work.

Public relations and networking

Public relations work was undertaken by the team in order to inform civil society organisations of the role of PBI and to raise awareness of nonviolence and conflict resolution. This work is also vital to developing PBI's understanding of the political and cultural reality of Haiti.

Introductory conflict transformation trainings

Since 1995 the Project has carried out introductory conflict transformation workshops in response to requests from local organisations. The aim of these workshops is to contribute to community development and a culture of peace through drawing on resources in Haitian culture and the individual and collective experiences of participants. The workshops are co-led by a Haitian trainer and a PBI volunteer which enables the development of pedagogical materials adapted to the

'I very much enjoyed the workshops that I co-lead with PBI in Cahos because I found that the different exercises reflected local reality and really involved the participants.'

Gracita Osias, member of the Haitian Peace Trainers Group (GFP).



Conflict transformation training in Haiti

Photo: PBI

'I saw the positive impact of PBI's work in the formation of a group of local mediators called Chalom Rezolisyon Konfli. The group was set up by participants in a series of introductory workshops we held in the village of Chenot.... The members have established a network in more than 20 isolated rural communities in the Cahos mountains where there are no state structures, police or judiciary. The group now plays a key role in conflict prevention in the region.' **Haiti Project volunteer**

Haitian context. The focus of all the workshops is on participatory methods and techniques which the participants can then take back to their own communities.

In 1999, 240 people from a diverse range of organisations took part in thirteen

workshops. At the request of women who participated in women only workshops in 1998 there was a further series of such workshops in 1999 co-led by Haitians and PBI volunteers. These workshops provided a space where they were able to work on conflict resolution from a gender perspective.

Training for trainers

All the work of the Haiti Project is aimed at strengthening the capacity of local people to carry out conflict transformation work, to pass on these skills to others and to ensure that PBI eventually becomes redundant. Training for trainers workshops are an essential part of this strategy. During 1999, two further nine day workshops were held involving 22 participants.

Since 1995 more than 70 Haitian trainers have taken part in these workshops. The majority of them are now involved in the Haitian Peace Trainers Group (GFP) officially established in March 1999. In turn they have organised workshops in their own organisations with or without input from PBI. Different participative methods used during the training for trainers workshops such as the Augusto Boal theatre forum, and co-operative games, have been adapted to other contexts. Training materials in Creole adapted to the Haitian

context have been either produced jointly by the PBI team and Haitian trainers or by the Haitian trainers without any input from PBI.

Accompaniment

In 1999, PBI team members acted as observers at weekly sit-ins in front of the Presidential Palace calling for respect for human rights, an end to impunity and rehabilitation of survivors of violence. On two occasions volunteers accompanied other demonstrations where PBI's presence represented a recognition and international testimony to their nonviolent nature.

Evaluating PBI's achievements in Haiti

In the second half of 1999 the team interviewed workshop participants and key organisations who have requested trainings in order to evaluate the impact of PBI's work.

The most important findings of this evaluation were as follows:

- Participants emphasised the importance of having been able to live through moments that were truly participative and to be able to share their preoccupations about violence, conflicts and injustice with others who had the same concerns.
- Haitian organisations such as the Institute for the Education and Support for Integrated Development (INEADI) have incorporated the concept of nonviolence into their own work.
- Local groups such as a peasant group in Chenot called Chalom Rezolisyon Konfli and the Haitian Peace Trainers Group (GFP) have been set up to intervene in conflict situations and to co-ordinate

training in conflict transformation. This has had positive results in that the level of violence in the areas where they work has gone down.

The Project evaluation concluded that there are a substantial number of competent Haitian trainers who are able to respond to requests from Haitian organisations. For this reason since October 1999 the PBI team has been referring requests for introductory trainings to the GFP and the PBI International Council has decided to close the Haiti Project in late 2000. During 2000 the team will remain in Haiti to work with Haitian trainers to strengthen the local peace education structures, to compile an inventory of Haitian resources in nonviolent conflict transformation and to evaluate more thoroughly the unique experience and achievements of the PBI Haiti Project.

Balkan Peace Team

PBI is one of 12 member organisations in the Balkan Peace Team. Throughout 1999 the BPT adapted its work to the dramatic events that overtook the region. Following the outbreak of war in April, the team in Belgrade was evacuated. Team members toured the Netherlands, Germany and the UK speaking about the situation in the Balkans and the efforts of local NGOs to promote peace initiatives. Returning to the region, they visited

displaced communities and interviewed local NGOs to ascertain what sort of support they wanted from the international community in the post-conflict period.

In the latter part of the year, as Kosovo/a began to rebuild after the war, the team based in Prishtina began preparing two projects to provide peace-building resources for local communities. The first is in Dragash, an ethnically mixed town in southern

Kosovo/a, where tensions between Albanians and Goranci (Muslim Slav) are increasing and the BPT is helping to establish a Youth Centre for both communities. The second, the 'survival stories' project, involves interviewing Kosovo/a Albanians about their experiences during the war and documenting the complexities of those experiences, including instances where Serb and Albanian friends and neighbours helped each other.

International Peace Service (SIPAZ)

PBI participates in a coalition called SIPAZ which is made up of 44 North American, European and Latin American organisations. SIPAZ works with local organisations in Chiapas, Mexico to reduce the level of violence and human rights violations and to support peace building. Based on a

commitment to active nonviolence SIPAZ maintains communication with all actors in the conflict in order to strengthen openings for dialogue; disseminates information and analysis; provides observation and accompaniment as a means of deterring violence against human rights defenders; and

organises workshops in peace education to strengthen the capacity of local organisations in peace building and reconciliation. PBI contributed to SIPAZ by providing funding, volunteers and participating in the Co-ordinating Committee.

PBI Country Groups and European Office

Supporting PBI projects, there are PBI country groups responsible for recruitment and initial training of project volunteers; generating moral, political and financial support for the projects; raising awareness of human rights violations in the regions where PBI works; and developing and activating project support networks. A new country group was established in 1999 in Australia bringing the total number to 14 in countries as far apart as Aotearoa/New Zealand, Canada and Norway.

Volunteer Recruitment and Training

Most PBI country groups hold introductory training sessions to recruit volunteers for their own work and for PBI projects.

PBI Britain, for example, held four such weekend trainings in 1999, each attended by approximately 15 participants. This resulted in more than 10 new country group activists and a further 7 who have become project volunteers. The weekends are led by experienced project and country group volunteers who take participants through a variety of presentations, individual and group work, games, role plays and workshops. One participant, Liz Lawrence, commented *'I found it stimulating, fascinating and really enjoyable ... I was very impressed by the range of skills and qualities volunteers have and the highly skilled work they do in difficult circumstances.'*

PBI Norway held its second weekend seminar of the year in June 1999. The event brought together speakers representing NGO and state bodies with an interest in peace and human rights issues, such as the Norwegian Refugee Council, the Peace Research Institute, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The seminar received widespread coverage in the media and NGO networks.

Public Relations/Outreach Work

The strength of PBI projects is dependent on country groups and projects working together to raise awareness of peace and human rights issues, and to solicit support for PBI's work amongst the general public, NGOs, parliamentarians, church organisations and intergovernmental agencies. This work



PBI Germany's work with the Colombia Project led to the Project being awarded the prestigious Aachen Peace Prize. Pascale Boosten receives the award on behalf of PBI.

Photo: PBI

underpins the effectiveness of PBI fieldwork, and also constitutes a way in which PBI can share its unique practical experience of peace building and the defence of human rights.

The European Office, responsible for public relations and fundraising with European institutions, participated in the Human Rights European Union Contact Group of the European Parliament, an informal forum for discussion and information exchange that includes Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. The links made there were further explored through PBI's presence at the gathering of 9,000 peace and human rights activists, government representatives and community leaders from around the world at the Hague Appeal for Peace Conference. PBI's delegation presented PBI's work through two workshops and an exhibition stand, and networking with many different NGO representatives.

PBI Germany and **PBI Sweden** held meetings with their respective governments and representatives of key NGOs, providing information on the human rights situation and

PBI's work with human rights defenders in Colombia, Indonesia/East Timor, Haiti and Mexico.

PBI Sweden met with Anders Compass, Director of the UN High Commission's Office for Human Rights in Colombia, the Swedish Foreign Ministry, the Swedish NGO Foundation for Human Rights, and Diakonia in Sweden. Following the establishment of a PBI project in Indonesia and East Timor, PBI Germany was invited by the German Government to a dialogue on the human rights situation in the region.

Fundraising

Country groups raise a substantial part of PBI's income. Funds secured from institutional and individual donors, fundraising events and the sale of merchandise are used to finance their own infrastructures, projects and PBI international structures.

PBI Switzerland receives a significant proportion of its income from 1,200 members, many of whom donate part of their salary to PBI. Through consistent outreach

work PBI Switzerland has developed a close relationship with churches that donate funds from their collections. Substantial grant funding has also been built up from non-governmental and state bodies. Developing this diverse funding base has enabled PBI Switzerland to avoid over-reliance on individual funders, and to maintain independence in its work. It has brought financial stability, which in turn has meant consistency in both its staffing and organisational structure.

PBI USA obtains half its income from foundations and the other half from individual donors. This is boosted by special events and speaking tours by returned volunteers. Staff member, Pete Stanga, describes the kind of approaches PBI USA makes to its important donor base: *'Each winter, members of our National Co-ordinating Committee personally solicit donations from traditional major donors. We also make an appeal through our quarterly newsletter sent to our 6,000 members. Many of these donors pledge to give a set amount each quarter. Finally, members who have not given during the previous year are called as part of our annual telefundraising campaign.'*

Emergency Response Network

The effectiveness of PBI teams depends on an international support network. In situations where there is a human rights crisis PBI draws on this network to apply different forms of pressure on the perpetrators of violations or on governments and the military to take action to close the political space of the perpetrators. The goal is to multiply the protective power of PBI's teams, enabling thousands of people around the world to take action against human rights violations. In life-threatening situations such as death threats or abductions PBI activates its Emergency Support Networks.

The grass roots support of hundreds of concerned individuals across the world is accessed through PBI's Emergency Response Network (ERN). The ERN is activated when the kind of pressure PBI wishes to bring to bear is as broad as possible. Participants are asked to send messages to government and military authorities which has a significant impact on the recipients. This international concern can help dissuade the perpetrators of violations from carrying out further actions and provide reassurance to those PBI accompanies.

Colombia Project Support Network Activation Case Study

The Colombia Project and country groups have developed a high-level Support Network (Red de Apoyo) of international political and diplomatic authorities who have the capacity to influence the Colombian government and military because of the importance of aid, trade and political relations.

During an interview with PBI researchers, one former Guatemalan Defence Minister explained how such high-level protests are perceived: *'You have to watch for when it reaches the level of an inter-governmental problem... because we're signatories to all these covenants and treaties. So, when we get a letter from Congressman X, Senator Y, or Mr. Z of the European Parliament, something's happening because these folks represent a lot of people.'*



Human rights defender Pablo Arenales was accompanied by PBI volunteers 24 hours a day after receiving death threats
Photo: PBI

This influence was exemplified in 1999 on a number of occasions when the Colombia Project activated its Support Network. In March there was an unsuccessful assassination attempt on Pablo Arenales, a human rights defender with the Regional Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (CREDHOS) in Barrancabermeja. Pablo was threatened by two men, one of whom brandished a gun at him. Pablo hid inside a restaurant from where he called the PBI office. PBI volunteers accompanied him home, and at his request continued providing round the clock accompaniment. The Support Network was activated to reinforce the protection provided by accompaniment. Hundreds of messages from influential state, inter-governmental and church representatives were sent to highly placed officials in the security forces in Barrancabermeja. This activation generated an immediate response from the Colombian authorities, among them General Bravo Silva, commander of the 5th Brigade, with whom PBI had previously held meetings. In addition, General Fernando Tapias, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, rang the PBI office in Bogotá to express concern about the situation and to offer to take measures in terms of security and protection. The PBI team held a series of meetings with these officials a month after the activation in order to evaluate the response. The security force commanders commented on the many messages they had received. Despite receiving a further death threat by phone in October, Pablo Arenales, with PBI's support, was able to continue his work with CREDHOS during the remainder of 1999.

Peace Brigades International Financial Report 1999

Where the money came from

Grants and donations through PBI Country Groups

	\$US
PBI Aotearoa/New Zealand	663
PBI Australia	6,100
PBI Belgium	92,988
PBI Britain	1,062
PBI Canada	19,658
PBI France	7,995
PBI Germany	91,571
PBI Italy	19,106
PBI Netherlands	24,500
PBI Spanish State	57,030
PBI Sweden	6,259
PBI Switzerland	71,633
PBI USA	97,392

Total raised by Country Groups **495,957**

Grants direct to PBI

Amnesty International	66,391
British Embassy in Colombia	6,313
Canadian Embassy in Colombia	5,605
Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD)	15,000
Christian Aid	81,855
Diakonia Acción Ecuemenica Sueca	57,112
Diakonisches Werk	59,451
Fondasyon Konesans Ak Libete (FOKAL)	3,000
Fons Mallorqui	14,467
France Liberté	7,692
Fundacio Intermon	4,808
Helvetas	1,765
Misereor	54,593
Mugarik Gabe Nafarroa/Gobierno de Navarra	41,863
Oxfam GB	20,000
Oxfam/DFID	27,001
PCS/HEKS (Colombia)	66,351
Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF)	16,245
Solidaridad	9,427
Trocaire (Irish Catholic Agency for World Development)	6,000
Un Monde par Tous	11,538
Programa por la Paz	1,316
Other grants and donations	19,880

Total grants direct to PBI Projects **597,673**

Peace Cereals Trust **1,787**

Other Income **21,383**

TOTAL **1,116,800**

BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 1999

	\$US 1999	\$US 1998
Fixed assets	37,824	30,734
Current assets	499,245	539,251
Current liabilities	(111,589)	(98,511)
Net assets	425,480	471,474
Represented by:		
Fund balance 1 Jan	471,474	384,758
Surplus/(deficit) in year	(45,994)	86,716
Fund balance 31 Dec*	425,480	471,474
*Balance includes		
Capital Grant Reserve	8,938	12,586

Where the money went

	\$US 1999	\$US 1998
Colombia	716,057	477,797
Central America /Mexico	116,270	134,879
Haiti	159,455	106,834
Philippines	432	2,715
Sri Lanka	0	52,721
North America	8,937	9,952
Indonesia/East Timor	41,993	0
Balkan Peace Team	1,500	2,025
International Secretariat	96,344	122,693
Loss on exchange	21,806	14,142
Transfer to/(from) Reserves	(45,994)	86,716
TOTAL	1,116,800	1,010,474

PBI's Accounts

for the year ended 31 December 1999

The information above is a summary of PBI's consolidated annual accounts for the International Secretariat and projects. This summary may not contain sufficient information to allow a complete understanding of PBI's financial affairs. The full PBI global and project accounts are available from the PBI International Office, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX, UK.

Information on the cost of work carried out by PBI country groups and the funding for that work is available from country group offices – see page 12 for contact details.

Thanks! Peace Brigades International would like to thank all those who supported our work in 1999 with time, energy and financial resources.

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