



# Peace Brigades International

Promoting nonviolence and protecting  
human rights since 1981

# Annual Review



Photo: FBI Colombia

# 2006-7

# What does PBI do?

**“The physical presence of PBI at the human rights trial gave us the feeling of security and moral support. For us, and especially for the victims of torture, PBI’s presence reminded us that the international community had not forgotten us.”**

*Maya, Legal Aid and Human Rights Association (PBHI), Indonesia*

PBI has been working to protect human rights and promote nonviolence for the past 26 years. On request, we send teams of international volunteers to areas of repression and conflict to provide a protective accompaniment to local human rights defenders whose lives and work are threatened by political violence. Our work is based on the principles of non-partisanship and non-interference in the internal affairs of the organisations we accompany. We believe that lasting transformation of conflicts cannot be imposed from outside but must be based on the capacity of local people to build a genuine peace. The PBI model has proven that this external presence can deter violence and thus create greater space for local activists to carry out their work. In addition to accompaniment, PBI also carries out workshops, training and other types of peace education, with the goal of strengthening local capacity for conflict transformation.

PBI has projects in Colombia, Indonesia, Guatemala, Mexico and Nepal. PBI’s work in the field is complemented by 16 PBI country groups in North America, Europe and Australasia. They are responsible for building and activating political support for the projects, recruiting and training volunteers, outreach, publicity and fundraising.

PBI projects	Period
Guatemala	1983 – 1999, 2003 – present
El Salvador	1987 – 1992
Sri Lanka	1989 – 1998
North America	1992 – 1999
Haiti	1995 – 2000
Colombia	1994 – present
Indonesia	1999 – present
Mexico	1998 – present
Nepal	2005 – present

Cover photo: A PBI volunteer observes a demonstration by members of the Movement of Victims of State Crimes, Colombia during the public testimony of Ramon Isaza, one of the leaders of the paramilitary organisation AUC accused of human rights abuses.

## PBI International Council 2006

**Sergi Bach** (Mexico Project)

**Paola Carmagnani** (Nepal Project)

**William Fairbairn** (PBI Canada)

**Montserrat Garcia** (Guatemala Project)

**Celia Guilford** (Indonesia Project)

**Andrew Kendle** (PBI UK, Sweden, Norway)

**Liam Mahony** at-large member

**Steve Molnar** (PBI USA)

**Claudia Müller-Hoff** (Colombia Project)

**Roger Nash** at-large member

### Officers

**Steve Molnar** (President)

**Andrew Kendle** (Vice-President)

**Liam Mahony** (Secretary and Treasurer)

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*PBI is registered as a non profit corporation in the State of Washington, USA*

# Letter from PBI International Council

**“PBI’s contribution has been remarkable. It has shown how protective accompaniment by unarmed international volunteers can bring security and support for those courageous human rights defenders in places where it is most needed.”**

*Peter Roth, Queen’s Counsel (QC), UK*

## Dear Friends,

The founders of PBI, influenced by Gandhian and Quaker thought, shared a profound belief in the power of nonviolence and the conviction that “a commitment of mind, heart, and dedicated will can make a significant difference in human affairs”. In 2006, events were held in Indonesia, Guatemala, Europe and North America to mark the 25th anniversary of PBI’s realisation of this vision. The lives of thousands of human rights defenders and community activists – and through their work thousands of others – have been profoundly transformed by “peace brigades, fashioned to respond to specific needs and appeals” envisioned in 1981. Our celebrations gave us an opportunity to reflect on our achievements, and above all to celebrate the extraordinary courage of the people we have accompanied in nine countries since 1981.

Our work is motivated by one objective – to enable local people to carry out their work undeterred by violence or the threat of violence.

In Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Nepal and Mexico we accompany 32 organisations, two communities and two individual human rights defenders. In all five countries, we protect organisations demanding that the perpetrators of human rights abuses be brought to justice. In Guatemala, Colombia, Mexico and Indonesia we work with communities defending their land and livelihoods against powerful economic interests producing palm oil for biofuel, exploiting mineral and timber resources or building hydro-electric dams. We also promote grassroots peace and human rights initiatives, accompanying threatened peace communities in Colombia and facilitating peace-building workshops, films and discussion groups in Aceh and Papua, Indonesia. By creating political space to enable these organisations to carry out their work, our accompaniment has benefited thousands of people.

PBI volunteers spent many thousands of hours doing protective accompaniment and raising awareness of our work with national and international authorities. At the same time, we extended our accompaniment to strengthen our political influence, essential for protecting those we accompany. For example, PBI Colombia arranged an International Commission to visit the peace communities in Urabá. The Commission was made up of representatives of embassies, the Offices of the UN High



*Kopila Adhikari from the Advocacy Forum, Nepal, accompanied by PBI volunteer Debra Stanislawski (USA)*

Commissioners for Human Rights and Refugees and other international agencies. Because of our in-depth knowledge of the area, Commission participants gained first-hand knowledge of the threats faced by the peace communities. This has strengthened their commitment to use their influence to ensure the protection of community members.

A substantial increase in speaker tours organised by PBI country groups significantly contributed to raising the profile of our work and strengthened the impact of our accompaniment internationally.

A total of 126 volunteers from 29 countries served on the PBI field teams with many thousands more contributing worldwide through PBI groups in 16 countries.

We continue to draw inspiration from the same belief in nonviolence as the PBI founders expressed in 1981. This belief is shared by the courageous human rights defenders and communities that we accompany, whose spirit and commitment against enormous odds enables them to achieve the seemingly impossible.

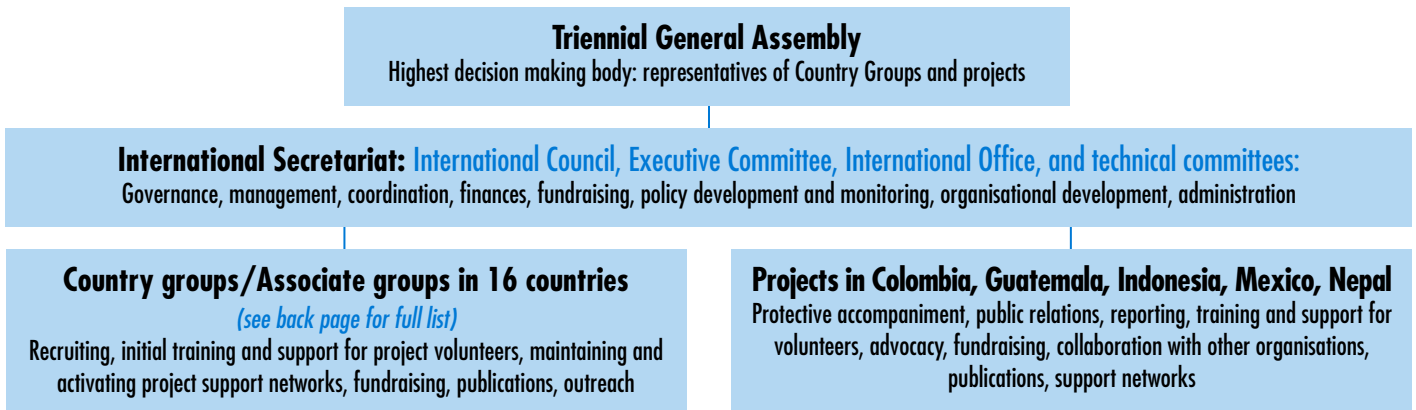
*Steve Molnar*

**Steve Molnar**

*PBI president*

November 2007

# PBI organisational structure



Note: The International Secretariat and projects form the global structure of PBI registered as a non-profit corporation in the State of Washington, USA. Country groups and Associate groups are independent bodies that determine their own structures and are legally responsible for their own actions.

## Country groups and the International Secretariat

Systematic human rights abuses require the collaboration and collusion of players at different levels in lines of authority from local to national to international. PBI's approach is unique, in that it is multi-layered and seeks to influence every point in this chain. The presence of international accompaniment volunteers would have a very limited protective effect if it were not backed up by an international infrastructure that adds weight to the deterrent effect of the volunteers in the field. PBI Country Groups play an essential role in building this infrastructure and ensuring the Support Networks are not only a deterrent but can act swiftly and effectively if human rights abuses occur.

### Raising the profile of human rights defenders and PBI

Organising public events and speaker tours of human rights defenders and returned volunteers strengthens the protection we provide. The increased number of speaker tours in 2006/7 reflected a PBI strategy to focus on broader accompaniment that includes advocacy internationally to raise the profile of PBI and also opens doors for the organisations we accompany.

- Returned Mexico Project volunteer Jamie Wick spoke to over 600 people in 10 cities in the **USA**. This achieved greater public visibility for PBI resulting in a substantial increase in financial and political support.

- **PBI Australia** organised a speaking tour by returned volunteers Jodie Martire (Colombia Project) and Michael Beattie (Guatemala Project). The tour took over 7 weeks in 15 cities, including 43 speaking events and 17 political meetings. Jodie has also conducted over 30 media interviews. The tour was a major success with Jodie directly speaking to over 680 people as well as meetings with politicians, and human rights and community groups. This resulted in a strengthening of the Support Network.

- **In the UK**, PBI volunteer Helen Woodcock and Mayan mayor of Solola, Guatemala, Dominga Vasquez, won a high profile International Service Human Rights award, that resulted in considerable press coverage and an interview on the popular BBC radio programme Women's Hour.

- Human rights defenders from Colombia, Mexico, Nepal and Guatemala undertook PBI organised speaker tours in Europe and North America. This resulted in broader and better informed Support Networks and a higher profile for PBI and the organisations we accompany.

- **PBI Germany** carried out a national publicity campaign, placing advertisements and sending out postcards drawing attention to the human rights situation in the countries where PBI operates.

### Participation in wider forums

PBI country groups and projects work together on advocacy and co-ordination groups as another way of using our experience to influence policies relating to human rights protection.

- **PBI Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, UK, Netherlands, and Cataluña** participate in advocacy and coordination groups relating to Colombia, the Brussels-based International Office on Human Rights Action Colombia (OIDHACO), and the European lobbying group Copenhagen Initiative for Central America (CIFCA).

- **PBI France** participated in a conference on Nepal as part of the second International Salon for Peace Initiatives, creating new opportunities for co-operation.

- **PBI Germany** participates in networks involved in conflict resolution and human rights (Platform Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung, Forum Menschenrechte, Deutsche Menschenrechtskoordination Mexiko, Deutsche Menschenrechtskoordination Kolumbien, West-Papua Netzwerk, Runder Tisch Nepal). This has led to new contacts and exchanges with other NGOs.

- **PBI UK** has worked intensively to build a support network of lawyers through the Law Society and Bar Human Rights Committees and other prominent legal organisations in order to strengthen accompaniment of lawyers' organisations such as the Lawyers' Collective José Alvear Restrepo in Colombia.

### Volunteer development and support

A major part of country group work is finding and training potential volunteers for both their own work and for PBI's field projects. They organise introductory trainings to provide potential volunteers with initial orientation to PBI's work before they go on to project-specific training.

- The comprehensive volunteer support programme developed by **PBI Germany** was expanded including a new staff position for the recruitment and support of volunteers before, during and after their field work.
- **PBI Switzerland** developed a French-language training programme, to recruit more Swiss-French volunteers, three of whom have already joined PBI teams.
- **PBI Norway** and **PBI Sweden** increased co-ordination on volunteer training to maximise the impact of their resources.

### Fundraising

Country groups and projects fundraise for the International Secretariat, projects and their own infrastructure and activities. Funds come from local and national governments, the European Union, NGOs, trusts, church organisations, individual donors and fundraising events.

- In **Spain**, returned PBI Colombia volunteer and musician David Troup, dedicated three months to walking 750km across Northern Spain along an ancient pilgrimage route. With support from local Amnesty International groups he met politicians, journalists and other musicians and spoke about Colombia and PBI at public meetings. Through the publicity he generated and the CDs he sold en route, David raised substantial funds for PBI.
- In the **USA**, PBI has been chosen to receive donations from The Combined Federal Campaign, the world's largest workplace fundraising drive. Each year more than 1.3 million federal employees donate \$250 billion. A new category was set up called Peace and Reconciliation and PBI is among the first organisations to be listed.

### Influencing policy development and contributing to international debate

**PBI UK** has been able to offer short-term advocacy positions to returned volunteers, who have gone on to strengthen PBI's links with parliamentarians and the Foreign Office. PBI UK has developed a particularly good relationship with the Foreign Office's new Human Rights, Governance and Democracy unit, with whom they consulted on the effective implementation of EU Guidelines for the protection of human rights defenders.

**PBI Netherlands** and two other NGOs gave a presentation in the Dutch Parliament on Civilian Peace Work. This was part of a wider effort to lobby for the creation of a National Plan for Peace Building, similar to the one in Germany.



Two of the 1,700 participants in a sponsored 'Run for Peace' organised by PBI Germany and the German Civilian Peace Service for children between the ages of 4 to 11. The Dalai Lama launched the event, which raised over 30,000 euros.

Photo: PBI Germany

**PBI Switzerland** is part of an NGO advocacy network on Colombia that has been lobbying for the ratification of ILO Convention 169, concerning the rights of indigenous peoples, in the Swiss parliament.

**PBI France** has increased its contact with the Human Rights Ambassador at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Michel Doucin.

### Building and activating international support networks

Country groups work together with projects to develop and activate support networks that provide a vital lifeline if the human rights defenders PBI accompanies are threatened. One network consists of high-level contacts such as diplomats, church leaders, members of government, parliamentarians and officials, and well-known personalities. Some country groups also have an Emergency Response Network (ERN), which is open to everyone.

**PBI Switzerland** has a support network of 150 members including parliamentarians, academics, lawyers, church leaders and other prominent people.

### Peace and Human Rights education

**PBI Germany's** successful peace education project in six Hamburg schools was further expanded and developed, and a new staff member was employed to coordinate human rights education activities.

### Strengthening international structures

- In line with PBI's six-year strategic plan 2006 – 2011 the International Secretariat recruited new International Council members to ensure greater representation of all constituencies; appointed an international coordinator to oversee strategic plan implementation and to facilitate a more collaborative cross organisational approach to fundraising; and strengthened financial and personnel management.

# PBI Colombia

**“PBI’s accompaniment is today one of the few guarantees that we can count on to continue working for life, truth and justice”.**

*Soraya Gutiérrez Argüello, José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers’ Collective (CCAJAR)*

**“I have witnessed the love and respect that all the accompanied human rights defenders have for PBI volunteers”.**

*Rainer Huhle, member of the Nuremburg Human Rights Centre, formerly an advisor in the Office of the High Commission for Colombia of the United Nations (OACNUDH)*

## Context

Alvaro Uribe was re-elected president in 2006, having ensured a constitutional change to allow him the possibility of running for a second term. Although the formal paramilitary demobilisation was completed, Amnesty International claims that paramilitarism has not so much been dismantled as “re-engineered”, with units being recycled, for example, into private security companies. Human rights defenders point out that the demobilisation has made it more difficult to identify who is directing violence.

## PBI priorities

PBI Colombia protects organisations working on three themes: the struggle against impunity, the role of economic interests in the violation of human rights, and grassroots peace initiatives.

PBI Colombia accompanies organisations demanding justice, such as the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes. PBI volunteers meet regularly with Colombian officials, and provide information to PBI’s international network who in turn lobby international decision-makers, to increase the pressure on the Colombian government to ensure that perpetrators of human rights abuses are brought to justice.

The Project highlights the role of economic interests in the violation of human rights, accompanying organisations such as the Ecclesiastical Commission for Justice and Peace to enable them to support families displaced by large-scale agribusiness projects, and by providing information and reports which can be used to raise awareness internationally.

Support for grassroots peace initiatives is carried out by, for example, providing protective accompaniment to the San José de Apartadó peace community.

The effectiveness of PBI’s protective accompaniment is dependent on parties to the conflict and those who have influence over them recognising our legitimacy,

**“According to the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights, Colombia still has the highest number of reported instances of violence and intimidation against human rights defenders anywhere in the world.”**



Photo: PBI Colombia

African palm oil plantation. Raising the international profile of human rights violations caused by biofuel production is a priority area of work for PBI Colombia.

and understanding that negative consequences will result from acts of aggression. An ongoing priority for PBI Colombia therefore is to extend and deepen dialogue with local and national officials, and to disseminate information which attracts international support for our work.

## Infrastructure

32 field volunteers based in Urabá, Barrancabermeja, Medellín and Bogotá, 10 international support volunteers and staff in Bogotá, Brussels, and Washington DC

## Key achievements

- Raising the international profile of the effect of biofuel production on human rights: PBI has helped the Inter-Ecclesiastical Justice and Peace Commission (CIJL) establish itself as a respected source of information and analysis about the impact of palm oil plantations. As a result of our work CIJL has been invited to speak at international conferences in Belgium, Germany, the UK and elsewhere.

- Creating financial stability for the project following a funding shortfall: this was achieved by restructuring, imposing a strict cost-control programme and a long-term planning process. The project now has structures in place to ensure stability.
- Expanding the scope of our protective accompaniment despite reduced volunteer numbers following a 23% decrease in income. We undertook 158 accompaniments and responded to all urgent requests from the 15 organisations we accompany. In addition, we signed a new accompaniment agreement with the Luis Carlos Perez Lawyers' Collective.
- Enabling the expansion and co-ordination of local human rights organisations, such as the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes, who, with PBI accompaniment, travelled to the Sucre region to set up a new branch of the movement.
- Working with PBI country groups to strengthen our political advocacy work both inside and outside Colombia. Particular emphasis was placed on further developing Support Networks in Europe and North America including thematic networks on respect for the judicial process and environmental sustainability.
- We held 81 meeting with members and officials of the Colombian government, 42 with the armed forces and 128 with the members of the diplomatic corps and the EU. These meetings served to strengthen our deterrent strategy by raising our profile and that of the organisations we accompany.

### Examples of the kind of work PBI's presence has enabled

- Displaced families have returned to their original lands in the Curbaradó river basin to set up and expand 'humanitarian zones' despite the presence of the army and the aggressive tactics of companies cultivating African palm as biofuel. Through our work with the

### How PBI supports human rights defenders: case study

The Corporation for Judicial Freedom (CJL) wanted to investigate extra-judicial executions in north-east Antioquia. In order to gather and document evidence they had to make over thirty trips to often quite remote rural areas, something that would have been too dangerous to undertake had it not been for PBI's protective accompaniment. PBI volunteers went with them on their journeys and used satellite phones to co-ordinate with the sub-team office in Medellin, who were monitoring the situation. This increased security enabled the CJL to document over 70 cases, which were then published in a report circulated internationally. This resulted in the UN Human Rights Commissioner's report on Colombia acknowledging extra-judicial executions as a concern, and in an international delegation to investigate extra-judicial killings being sent to North-East Antioquia and four other regions in 2007.

Inter-Ecclesiastical Justice and Peace Commission we have contributed to improving the security situation for communities.

- PBI has enabled the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes to raise its profile. This puts political pressure on the criminal justice system to be more transparent and accountable. For example, protective accompaniment by PBI enabled the Movement to be physically present at the testimony of Ramon Isaza, one of the former AUC paramilitary leaders in Medellin. This sent a powerful signal.

### Who we protect

**Association of Families of the Detained and Disappeared (ASFADDES):** moral support and legal aid, investigation of cases of forced disappearance

**Association for Alternative Social Advancement (MINGA):** legal aid, civil society capacity building for victims of forced displacement and massacres

**Inter-Ecclesiastical Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP):** human rights promotion & protection with displaced communities

**José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR):** legal advice and representation on human rights cases

**The Manuel Zepeda Foundation:** part of the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes

**Solidarity Committee for Political Prisoners (CSPP):** defence of the rights of political prisoners

**Grassroots Women's Organisation (OFP):** works with the displaced running workshops, raising awareness, offering medical and psychological treatment, and providing legal aid

**Luis Carlos Perez Lawyers' Collective (CALCP):** legal advice & education on human rights

**Regional Corporation for the Defence of Human Rights (CREDHOS):** raises awareness of human rights in Barrancabermeja and Magdalena Medio

**Corporation for Judicial Freedom (CJL):** legal aid for victims of political persecution

**Popular Training Institute (IPC):** research, training & documentation on human rights & conflict in Antioquia

**Peace Community of San José de Apartadó:** community of displaced campesinos who have returned to their lands and declared them a neutral zone

**Cacarica Community of Life, Dignity and Self-determination (CAVIDA):** community of displaced Afro-Colombians who have returned to their lands in the Cacarica River basin and set up a 'humanitarian zone'

# PBI Guatemala

**“the accompaniment and solidarity of PBI and the pressure you exert on national authorities strengthens us individually and collectively... We are convinced that the combined strength of national and international organisations will bring about a transition to a more humane society based on solidarity, and that collaboration and respect will put an end to violence”**

*Edda Gaviola Artigas, Centre for Legal Action for Human Rights (CALDH)*

## Context

2006 saw the 10th anniversary of the Peace Accord that ended Guatemala’s 36-year civil war. However, according to civil society organisations such as the Myrna Mack Foundation, “the country is immersed in a spiral of violence that continues to cause the loss of human life at an accelerating rate, equivalent to the bloodiest period recorded during the (war) hostilities.” Violence, particularly against women, continues to rise. Human rights defenders have also been targets of this violence. The National Human Rights Movement reported a total of 278 attacks against rights defenders including 14 assassinations. This represents almost a 25% increase over the previous year. The causes of this upsurge are complex. Experts cite the legacy of the civil war in ‘normalising’ violence, and the culture of impunity, which, despite promises, the Berger government has still not tackled.

## How PBI’s work supports human rights defenders: case study

In May 2006, PBI Guatemala organised a European delegation to Guatemala, consisting of a Belgian senator, Spanish politicians, an Irish MEP and German journalists. The objective was to strengthen ties between European and Guatemalan officials and activists, to raise the profile of the Guatemalan human rights situation in Europe, to raise awareness amongst human rights defenders of the EU framework as a tool that they can use, and to put pressure on the Guatemalan authorities to tackle judicial impunity.

The delegation met with human rights defenders, and all spoke afterwards of how impressed they were. This meant that when we activated the Support Network in response to threats against Roly Escobar of CONAPAMG, the delegates were already aware of the situation and responded very rapidly. The delegation also met officials from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Human Rights ombudsman’s office, which gave them the opportunity to raise concerns. The journalists on the trip covered it extensively, giving the profile of human rights in Guatemala a substantial boost in the international press.

## PBI priorities

Our work is driven by the Guatemalan human rights defenders, so that our integrated accompaniment tools have the maximum impact. Our three areas of emphasis are: the struggle against impunity, access to land, and globalisation and human rights. Led by local concerns, we have intensified our accompaniment of organisations involved in the struggle for economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights.

We have sought to combat Guatemala’s culture of impunity by attracting international attention and training local people to use accountability tools, as well as by providing protective accompaniment to those trying to hold the government and state to account.

PBI’s protective accompaniment model, which depends on potential perpetrators of human rights abuses perceiving the consequences of their actions, faces a particular challenge in a country where impunity is rife. Therefore we intensified our communication with different branches of government, increased PBI’s visibility with the diplomatic corps, and initiated an ongoing dialogue with Guatemalan civil and military authorities.

## Infrastructure

An average of 9 field volunteers, staff based in Spain and Portugal, 5 volunteer committee members.

## Key achievements

- Our protective accompaniment has reduced attacks and threats against those we have accompanied.
- Through networking and advocacy (including 30 meetings with the National Civil Police) we succeeded in engaging government and security forces in a new dialogue about how to improve protection for those who are vulnerable.
- We used our unique position as the only international organisation working in some areas of Guatemala to meet a rising demand from governments and other civil society organisations for publications describing the situation on the ground. One example is the publication *“Metal mining and human rights in Guatemala: the Marlin Mine in San Marcos”*.



- We raised the profile of Guatemala among international decision-makers and opinion formers by organising a delegation of EU parliamentarians, and deepening relationships with foreign embassies and other international authorities in Guatemala with whom we had 39 meetings.
- We established new contacts with the more specialised institutions of the executive branch, such as FONTIERRA (the Land Fund), and UDEVIPO (the Housing Development Unit).
- We developed a particularly strong relationship with the office of the Human Rights Ombudsman, meeting with representatives an average of twice a month. This has been very helpful in providing timely and accurate information about incidents such as those in the La Mocha plantation in July.
- We raised awareness among local people and organisations on how they can use EU guidelines on human rights defenders.
- We expanded our protective accompaniment to new types of organisation such as the Organisation to Support Integrated Sexuality to Confront Aids (OASIS) and the Women's Sector.

### Examples of the kind of work PBI's presence has enabled

- An average of two women are murdered every day in Guatemala. The Women's Sector is an umbrella group of associations that has been trying to combat violence



Photo: PBI UK

**Dominga Vasquez, first indigenous woman mayor of Solola, accompanied by Helen Woodcock from the UK. Together, they won the International Service Human Rights award for the Defence of the Human Rights of Women.**

## Who we protect

**Carlos Guarquez, General Co-ordinator of the Guatemalan Association of Indigenous Mayors and Authorities (AGAAI)**

**National Co-ordinating Body for Inhabitants of Marginalised Areas, (CONAPAMG): access to housing, social infrastructure, and the legalisation of occupied land**

**Women's Sector: umbrella organisation of women's groups**

**The Organisation to Support an Integrated Sexuality to Confront AIDS (OASIS): HIV/AIDS education and prevention, defending the rights of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people**

**Movement of Campesino Workers (MTC): associations of campesino communities working to defend employment rights**

**Association of Friends of Lake Izabal (ASALI): umbrella group of communities concerned about mining activities**

**Centre for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH): counselling, accompaniment and training**

**Project Counselling Service (PCS): capacity building with refugees and those who are affected by displacement and other forms of exclusion**

against women for 13 years by providing support and legal advice as well as advocacy and awareness raising. People have attempted to intimidate them into ceasing their work. Their offices were broken into twice in less than 10 days in the middle of 2006. Perpetrators took telephones and money, left bloodstains on the wall, destroyed the furniture, searched through files and left a piece of bloodied glass on one of the desks. PBI started providing accompaniment for the organisation, making regular visits to their offices and accompanying their members during some of their activities.

- The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Jean Ziegler, highlighted the ongoing importance of land as a source of social conflict, pointing out the lack of an efficient land register, agrarian code or legal recognition of the indigenous forms of land ownership. Amnesty International has stated that the land conflict today has the same characteristics as it did 100 years ago, resulting from the same injustices that led to the civil war. For this reason, PBI accompanies a number of groups representing peasants and indigenous peoples. We continued to accompany CONAPAMG, an association of settlements in the capital and other areas of Guatemala. We also accompanied UVOC, to which 200 peasant communities of Alta Verapaz and Baja Verapaz and Izabal belong, as well as the Movement of Rural Workers (MTC) and its founder, Julio Archila. Thirty-three municipalities of the department of San Marcos are affiliated with the MTC.

# PBI Indonesia

**“I am very happy with the accompaniment from PBI and so is my family. I feel supported and safer, and the people in Manokwari (Papua) know that LP3BH is not alone.”**

*Human rights lawyer Yan Christian Warinussy, winner of the 2004 John Humphrey prize*

## Context

In 2006, human rights abuses in Aceh reduced significantly following the 2005 peace agreement. The Indonesian government has established laws and institutions to protect human rights defenders in accordance with international law. However, Amnesty International and Indonesian human rights defenders report continued impunity of violators due to the weakness of these institutions.

## PBI priorities

PBI Indonesia works on three themes: local peace and human rights initiatives, impunity and access to justice, and land rights and the environment in the following ways:

- We work with local communities in areas of deep-rooted conflict, to support them in developing their own security mechanisms for resolving conflicts nonviolently.
- On impunity and access to justice, we aim to: enable local peace and human rights organisations to work and lobby internationally without intimidation by officials, make sure that human rights violators are prosecuted and victims have access to justice and reconciliation, ensure that human rights are protected and respected by authorities, and raise awareness of human rights laws among the general public.
- We accompany local organisations working to ensure that indigenous rights to land ownership are respected and natural resources are used responsibly and sustainably.

## Infrastructure

21 field volunteers based in Banda Aceh, Jakarta, Jayapura and Wamena (Papua), six staff in Indonesia and Canada and 20 volunteer committee members.

## Key achievements

- Through protective accompaniment and peace-building programmes, PBI Indonesia has increased the political space of human rights NGOs in Papua. They report that they ‘feel a lot safer’ in their work because of PBI’s presence and are able to ‘work more confidently and openly.’ PBI Wamena has repeatedly heard from local people that they feel safer and more secure, which they attribute to PBI’s presence. We have achieved this by building relationships of trust with NGOs, faith groups, local authorities and the security forces.
- Working with local organisation Yayasan Bina Silmio Adat (YSBA) in Wamena, Papua, PBI Indonesia organised

the first peace education workshop in the remote Highlands of Papua, an impoverished area where people suffer discrimination, marginalisation and human rights violations. The workshop entitled ‘Building Peace through Local Values and Traditions’ was a very successful first step in creating a network of local peace builders.

- In response to requests from local organisations in Aceh and Papua, PBI substantially expanded peace-building activities such as:
  - the coordination of a Youth Peace Camp in Aceh followed by two peace training days in high schools
  - a peace education workshop for women in Papua
  - a four-day peace-building workshop with the Children’s Media Centre in Aceh
  - workshops with the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia who provide a programme of psycho-social support for children in Aceh
  - the facilitation of discussion groups on such topics as domestic violence and the role of Islam in peace-building
  - a training for trainers workshop
  - 11 film evenings on peace-related themes
  - the establishment of libraries of peace-related resources.

Our work on peace-building supports local organisations to develop their own peace-building tools and capacities.

- PBI Indonesia has strengthened its ability to create a safer space for threatened human rights organisations by providing protective accompaniment, regular check-ins with human rights defenders facing potential threats, and holding over 300 meetings with embassies, other international NGOs, the security forces and government officials.

## The work PBI’s presence has enabled

- International Human Rights Day was celebrated for the first time in Wamena, Papua, organised by the Highlands Human Rights Network (JAPHAM). Activities included a parade, discussion and films on human rights with the theme ‘Respect Human Rights to create peace’. According to local rights organisations, the event was a significant step in peace-building in the area.
- WALHI (Friends of the Earth Indonesia) is the largest forum of non-governmental, community-based, and

environmental organisations in Indonesia. WALHI is represented in 26 provinces and has over 436 member organisations that focus on social transformation, respect for peoples' sovereignty, and environmentally-sustainable development. WALHI members are particularly at risk when working with communities struggling against environmental exploitation. In response to increasing demand for biofuel, the Indonesian government is expanding African palm oil production. Local people are losing land to investors as contradictory regulations make determining ownership difficult. Business interests often push through by force developments like African palm oil plantations without community consensus or consultation. Civil society organisations are often too intimidated to protest. In February 2007, the PBI Jakarta team went to Central Kalimantan province at the request of WALHI to visit member organisations in what WALHI describes as one of the most dangerous places in the world for human rights and environmental activists.



Photo: PBI Indonesia

PBI Indonesia training of trainers with Flower Aceh on the theme of 'women and peace building'

### Case study: Protective Accompaniment

In March 2006, five members of the security forces were killed during a student-led demonstration demanding the closure of the US-owned Freeport gold and copper mine. There were accusations that the company had contaminated the local river. In the politically-charged atmosphere of the trial of those accused of the killings, lawyers of the human rights organisation PBHI were very concerned that the accused would not get a fair trial. They were also concerned for their own safety. PBI accompanied the lawyers, who reported that PBI's presence led to court procedures being conducted more fairly. Both lawyers reported feeling unsafe and one received threatening sms messages. PBI provided protection with check-in phone calls and protective accompaniment. There was particular tension at the Abepura prison following an alleged assault of a witness by police. PBI accompanied the PBHI lawyer so that he could interview the accused that he was representing. In this way, PBI enabled PBHI to carry out their work at a time when they felt particularly threatened.

The PBI team met academics, environmental activists, the head of police, local government authorities and the military. PBI subsequently supported WALHI with regular phone calls to check on their safety when they traveled to the area to support local people protesting police violence against them during land seizures.

### Case study: Peace Education

The PBI Aceh team received a request from the Forum for the Empowerment of Women (FORPWAT) to carry out conflict transformation workshops in Central Aceh. The workshops were aimed at women leaders, particularly Muslims and teachers, to strengthen their role in promoting peace in their communities. Preparation included explaining the workshops, meeting participants and assessing their needs and interests, analysing the conflicts between six ethnic groups and meeting with local authorities to ensure their support. FORPWAT organised a radio programme about the workshops to coincide with PBI's preparatory visit.

PBI and FORPWAT jointly facilitated two workshops each lasting two days with around 20 participants. Initial sessions built a common understanding of conflict and conflict transformation. Participants discussed conflict stories of domestic violence, ethnic conflicts, conflicts between the security forces and religious leaders and disputes over humanitarian aid. The role of women in peace-building in an Islamic context was also a key focus. The workshops provided a safe space for participants to discuss sensitive issues and they plan to continue their learning through discussion forums to be facilitated by FORPWAT and PBI.

### Who we protect

**KontraS (Commission for Disappearances and Victims of Violence):** campaigns for victims of violence, organises fact-finding missions, monitors demonstrations

**Suciwati:** pursuit of justice by Suciwati, widow of Munir Said Thalib, formerly a leading human rights campaigner, murdered in 2004

**SKP (Office for Justice and Peace of the Catholic Diocese in Jayapura):** human rights advocacy & prevention of abuses

**LP3BH:** empowerment of local groups through human rights education & advocacy

**Theo Hesezem:** independent human rights defender in the mountainous area of Wamena, Papua, raising awareness, enforcing human rights law, reporting violations

**PBHI (Legal Aid and Human Rights Association):** human rights promotion & protection, advocacy for rights violations victims

**WALHI (Friends of the Earth Indonesia):** environment sustainability & social transformation

# PBI Mexico

**“We have no doubt that without the efforts of PBI, exercising human rights in Mexico would be an even more difficult task than it already is”**

*José Luis Gutierrez, AMARC, Mexico*

## Context

Social unrest has increased in Mexico over the past year. The position of the new government of President Calderon in relation to human rights has been ambiguous. Although full implementation had not been carried out, former President Fox’s National Human Rights Plan on Human Rights had made some notable commitments to human rights protection. In contrast, President Calderon has discarded the previous administration’s plan and signalled that civil society organisations will not be consulted in the development of a new one.

PBI focuses on the economically and politically marginalised states of Guerrero and Oaxaca, which have a large indigenous population and a high concentration of natural resources, which the state is keen to exploit. Social protest is frequently met by state criminalisation, i.e. the use of formal penal mechanisms to stifle dissent. Many organisations also face smear campaigns designed to discredit their work.

In June and October municipal, state and federal police used force against striking teachers occupying Oaxaca city centre. Seventeen civilians were reportedly killed and scores of others injured. Federal and state authorities failed to effectively investigate allegations of serious human rights violations by the end of the year.

## PBI priorities

In this changing environment, PBI has sought to avoid human rights being compromised. The Project works on four themes: impunity and access to justice, militarisation, indigenous and campesino rights and the relationship between economic policies and human rights. PBI has tried, with limited resources, to find new ways of responding to the increased vulnerability of indigenous and environmental justice movements, and to support them in raising their profile nationally and internationally.

## Infrastructure

An average of seven field volunteers, two staff in the US, one in Mexico City, one in Portugal, five committee members, and three trainers of volunteers.

## Key achievements

- Establishing a field coordination office in Mexico City to enhance the project’s monitoring capacity and strengthen its links with government decision-makers
- Enhancing the flexibility and responsiveness of protective accompaniment by establishing new, short-term protective accompaniment to allow human rights defenders to attend specific events and meetings
- Training PBI staff to train others in running security protection workshops, thus increasing the provision of security education, particularly in Oaxaca
- Enabling the acceptance of human rights cases by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission
- Helping get precautionary measures granted for the protection of Cerezo Committee members by the Inter-

American Human Rights Commission

● Facilitating the acceptance by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of the case of Rosendo Radilla, father of Tita Radilla of AFADEM

- Undertaking 86 accompaniments (some last 2-3 days), 133 meetings with Mexican authorities and 32 meetings with diplomatic missions

## Examples of the kind of work PBI’s presence has enabled

● PBI Mexico has expanded its protective accompaniment relationship with the Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre, which represents communities displaced by the proposed La Parota hydroelectric dam in Guerrero. The plan consists of flooding more than 17,000 hectares of land, displacing approximately 25,000 people, and indirectly impacting more than 70,000 additional residents. PBI’s protection has enabled an effective campaign to take root, despite the violence and intimidation against those involved.

● Francisco, Alejandro and Emiliana Cerezo Contreras have been fighting for the release of their brothers, Hector and Antonio, imprisoned since 2001. PBI has been accompanying them in their activities and in their trips in Mexico City and elsewhere, as well as on visits to

**“Here in Ayutla, we are in a very vulnerable situation given the power the state has to threaten, intimidate or harm a human rights defender. PBI’s presence makes us stronger because we know that we are not alone.”**

*Alejandro Ramos Gallegos, Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre*



Photo: PBI Mexico

PBI volunteers Alexander Blessing and Kristine Gilbertso accompany Obtilia Eugenio Manuel of the Organisation for the Indigenous People Me'Phaa (OPIM)

their brothers in the maximum security prison, "El Altiplano" in Almoloya de Juarez. Emiliana Cerezo states that harassment has decreased since they have been receiving international accompaniment: "This is one of the reasons that we went to PBI: since it is an international organisation that has a support network in other countries, we find that it is difficult for the Mexican government to make an attempt against us without having to pay

a high price in the eyes of the international community that is watching the human rights situation in Mexico. I think that this is the importance of PBI." In 2006, PBI helped the Committee prepare a protection manual for human rights activists.

## How PBI supports human rights defenders: case study

The Organisation of the Indigenous People Me'Phaa (OPIM) was founded in 1998 to represent and defend the rights of indigenous people in the state of Guerrero. Indigenous people are historically marginalised and lack adequate political representation. They suffer human rights abuses by the military, who have a substantial presence in their communities. These abuses are often ignored. OPIM's co-founder, Obtilia Eugenio Manuel, has received death threats because of her campaigning work. PBI accompaniment has enabled the organisation to visit the more remote, inaccessible communities to gather evidence about atrocities and educate the communities about their rights.

As well as providing security for OPIM, PBI has given it a legitimacy and a profile which has increased its access to government officials and decision-makers.

"It's much better now than before" says Obtilia. "The people of Ayutla (a town in Guerrero) treat us as if we were worth nothing and look down on us because we are indigenous. This has improved since you have been with us."

Following a military clampdown in late 2006, OPIM provided support to communities affected, ensured coverage of the human rights abuses in the media, and helped human rights lawyers representing the victims of abuses in collecting and translating testimonies. Other cases OPIM has worked on are now before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. PBI's support has helped OPIM grow into an organisation capable of giving a voice to those who have suffered abuses.

## Who we protect

**Francisco, Alejandro and Emiliana Cerezo Contreras, members of the Cerezo Committee:** working for the release of prisoners of conscience and political prisoners

**Organisation of Women Ecologists of the Sierra de Petatlan (OMESP):** environmental protection

**Organisation of the Indigenous People Me'Phaa (OPIM):** indigenous rights of the Me'Phaa community

**Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre:** legal defence of cases affecting the Nava, Na'Saavi, Me'Phaa and mestizo communities of the "La Montaña" region in Guerrero

**Tita Radilla Martinez, Vice-President of AFADEM (Association of Relatives of the Detained, Disappeared and Victims of Human Rights Abuses):** investigation of forced disappearances during Mexico's "dirty war" of the 70's and 80's

**Oaxaca Human Rights Network (RODH):** six organisations in the state of Oaxaca, working to strengthen the defence of rights of indigenous people

**Members of Radio Calenda, Oaxaca:** independent community radio that broadcasts informative programmes of general and cultural interest for the local population

# PBI Nepal

**“When we are threatened, we tell PBI who activate their own internal mechanisms such as the support network, meetings with ministers, ambassadors – and give us protection on our trips to speak to victims and the authorities to raise the issue of human rights violations. PBI volunteers don’t intervene in our work, rather they give us international moral support.”**

*Nepalese human rights lawyer*

## Context

After five months of intense negotiations, the interim Seven Party Alliance government and the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-M) signed a Comprehensive Peace Agreement in November 2006. This agreement declares an end to the decade-long conflict that resulted in the deaths of 13-15,000 people. According to Amnesty International, while the Agreement has provided an opportunity for dialogue ‘many serious human rights concerns remain.’ This includes ‘thousands of arrests without charge or trial, extrajudicial killings, abductions, disappearances, and widespread torture.’

## PBI priorities

PBI Nepal’s priority is to accompany organisations who work against impunity and for justice. The current political process with its focus on leaving the past behind and looking to the future, excludes victims seeking justice. In their fight for justice, they are vulnerable to threats from parties involved in the conflict as well as to emerging armed and vigilante groups.

## Infrastructure

5 field volunteers, 5 volunteer committee members, 2 paid staff.

## Key achievements

- PBI provided protective accompaniment to the staff of Advocacy Forum throughout Nepal.
- PBI raised the international profile of Advocacy Forum and protective accompaniment work by organising a speaking tour in the UK, Germany and Finland by Advocacy Forum member, Kopila Adhikari.
- PBI submitted a request to the Nepalese government to enable us to establish a long-term field presence.
- PBI undertook extensive networking with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), Nepalese government authorities, Embassies, the United Nations (UN) and the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) to raise awareness of our role in Nepal and to ensure that we put in place an internal Nepal Support Network, an essential layer of protection to back up our physical accompaniment.

## Who We Protect

### Protective accompaniment of Advocacy Forum (AF)

Since October 2006, PBI Nepal has provided protective accompaniment to Advocacy Forum in their filing of key cases of conflict-related human rights abuses on behalf of victims’ families. Their work throughout the country is related to torture, disappearances and extra-judicial killings, including the investigation, filing and prosecution of cases.

PBI has developed a strong working relationship with AF and has accompanied their staff from their head office, four regional offices and seven district offices. By providing protective presence, PBI has contributed to the empowerment of those who play a strategic role in protecting vulnerable groups.

### Protective accompaniment of the Conflict Victims’ Committee (CVC)

Since February 2007, PBI Nepal has accompanied the Bardiya Conflict Victims’ Committee (CVC) which has over 200 members from the Tharu indigenous community who are fighting for justice and against impunity. Bardiya district, one of the areas most affected by the conflict, has the highest number of cases of disappearances in Nepal. PBI Nepal has provided protective accompaniment on a regular basis, in Bardiya and Banke Districts, where CVC members face risks while organising committees and working on documentation.

### How we ensure our accompaniment is effective

PBI provides accompaniment for Nepalese human rights organisations in Kavrepalanchowk, Palpa, Kaski, Kanchanpur, Baglung, Myagdi, Dhading, Dhanusha, Bardiya, Banke and Kapilavastu Districts.

PBI’s protection is effective because of our ability to alert authorities to the situation of the human rights defenders we accompany. Through PBI’s role as international observers in conflict areas such as Bardiya District, we ensure that the international community is alerted to violations targeting human rights defenders. This serves to dissuade potential perpetrators from committing violations.

# Case study of the impact of PBI's work

**"It is because of the work of organisations like PBI that we can still release information at the international level."**

*Liliana Uribe, Corporation for Judicial Freedom (CJL)*

**Liliana Uribe is a lawyer and founding member of the Corporación Jurídica Libertad (CJL) – Corporation for Judicial Freedom who PBI has accompanied in Medellín, Colombia since 2001. This lawyers' collective defends people who are persecuted because of their political opposition to the government, or for their participation in civil society organisations. It also advocates on behalf of persecuted communities at a national and international level. Liliana describes the impact PBI has had on their work**

## **Since 2001 CJL have been accompanied by PBI. What has this meant in practical terms?**

PBI's accompaniment reassures us and makes us feel safe. In the East of Antioquia, one of the areas where PBI has most often accompanied us, the authorities know exactly what this accompaniment means. The paramilitaries and the Public Security Forces respect the presence of PBI, and they are dissuaded from giving us problems. Before, we were often questioned, which made it difficult to travel and carry out our work. This no longer happens, because of PBI's presence. In the same way, in Chocó, and especially in Murindó, the impact of the accompaniment on the Army and Police has been significant in that they now act with respect towards us, which we feel would not be the case if we were to travel alone.

## **Other than through accompaniment, how else has PBI impacted CJL's work?**

I would highlight the political work, at least as I've come to understand it most clearly in Europe and the United States. On my trips to Europe I have been able to see first-hand the positive results of PBI's work, as well as the relationships PBI has with social organisations, lawyers' groups, other networks and initiatives, and all the advocacy work PBI people do with MPs and governments. In the international context, we are at an extremely difficult moment, where governments are supporting the 'democratic security' policy in Colombia. It is because of the work of organisations like PBI that we can still release



PBI volunteer accompanying Colombian human rights lawyer Liliana Uribe

Photo: PBI Colombia

information at the international level. Without this systematic advocacy strategy in other countries, the human rights situation in Colombia would be much worse.

## **In what way have PBI's international representatives supported your lobbying work in Europe and the United States?**

In Europe, the support of the representative in Brussels has been really important during the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, now the Council. I would also highlight her help in presenting 107 cases of extrajudicial execution to the UN Special Rapporteur, and her work with Hina Jilani, UN special representative for human rights defenders. In 2002, when I left the country for security reasons, PBI offered me vital support, and together with the United States representative, we did advocacy work during my period in exile, visiting Congress and the State Department.

## **What would you highlight as the most important aspect of PBI's accompaniment?**

The fact that we can still move around freely in the midst of such a difficult political climate, maintaining the dynamic of documentation and denunciations and our work in the field. We see this as CJL's achievement, hand in hand with PBI.

# Celebrating PBI's 25th Anniversary

PBI was founded in 1981 at an international meeting on nonviolence held in Canada. Participants, from Quakers to Indian activists in the Gandhian tradition, came from all over the world. What they shared was a profound belief in nonviolence and a conviction that “commitment of mind, heart, and dedicated will can make a significant difference in human affairs”. The last 25 years have shown that belief correct. Today, 16 PBI country groups worldwide provide political support, finance and training to field programmes in five countries. The lives of thousands of human rights defenders – and through their work, thousands of others – have been profoundly transformed by the “peace brigades, fashioned to respond to specific needs and appeals” envisioned in 1981. In 2006, we marked our 25th anniversary with events in Indonesia, Guatemala, Europe and North America to reflect on our achievement, and to celebrate the extraordinary courage of the people we have worked with in nine countries since 1981.

**PBI UK** held an event in London on the pivotal role of women human rights defenders in struggles for justice and the impact of PBI's accompaniment. PBI UK patron Baroness Frances D'Souza chaired the event, and speakers included Mayan ex-mayor of Solalá in Guatemala, Dominga Vasquez; Kopila Adhikari, Nepal Advocacy Forum; and Susan Lee, Director of Amnesty International's Programme for the Americas. A photo exhibition highlighting 25 years of our work was displayed. A range of people attended, from Foreign Office officials, to students, and long-standing supporters. It was a special evening.

**In Spain**, celebrations were held in Santander, Cantabria, Madrid and Cataluña. Activities included the launch of the Spanish version of Liam Mahony and Enrique Eguren's book on PBI, *Unarmed Bodyguards: International accompaniment for the protection of human rights defenders*. There were also talks by human rights defenders that PBI has accompanied, a photo exhibition, radio interviews and celebratory fiestas.

**PBI Switzerland** held a panel discussion in the Swiss General Assembly on 'Peace Communities in Colombia' and the impact of international peace and human rights organisations such as PBI. The documentary on San José de Apartadó in Colombia, 'Hasta la Última Piedra' (Until the Last Stone), was shown over 20 times to a variety of audiences.

**“The accompaniment work of PBI has been key because it combines physical accompaniment with informing the Colombian authorities about the accompaniment. The fact that the authorities are informed guarantees the lives of people who are threatened and enables them to carry out their work within the conflict where they live. For the CSPP, this has guaranteed a recognition of our work by the authorities.”**

*Martha Ascuntar, coordinator of the Foundation for Solidarity with Political Prisoners (CSPP), a Colombian organisation that PBI accompanies.*



Celebrating PBI's 25th anniversary in Cantabria. Rosa María García (PBI), José Félix García Calleja (Director General of European Affairs and Development Cooperation, government of Cantabria), Otilia Manuel (Organisation of Indigenous People Me'Phaa, Mexico), Roly Escobar (Organisation of Inhabitants of Marginalised Areas Guatemala)

**In Guatemala**, where PBI has been working for longest, the Guatemala Project used the visit of delegations from Canada and Cataluña to launch anniversary celebrations. A discussion panel included the writer and ex-politician, Alfonso Bauer, and PBI volunteer Maria Serra. Reunions of ex-volunteers and human rights defenders took place in the party that followed.

**In Indonesia**, the Jakarta team hosted an event with live Indonesian music and a guest speaker: PBHI lawyer and well-known champion of human rights, Johnson Panjiatan. For the event, PBI volunteers organised a photo exhibition highlighting PBI's work in conflict zones worldwide over the last 25 years. Guests from organisations PBI Indonesia accompanies, embassies, and non-governmental organisations, both local and international, joined PBI in celebrating the work of human rights defenders.

**In Virginia, PBI USA** organised a two-day conference attended by 60 people from PBI, human rights defenders, and other human rights and peace team organisations such as Christian Peacemaker Teams, Nonviolent Peaceforce, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Amnesty International and Witness for Peace.



# The perspective of field volunteers

PBI accompaniment extends the boundaries of what is referred to as the 'international community' beyond governments, the UN, and humanitarian agencies. PBI volunteers are a bridge between threatened local activists and the outside world, and also between their home communities and the global struggle for peace and human rights. Volunteers represent the global network for human rights both when they are in the field, and also in the contribution they make after they return home.

## Volunteers and security

When undertaking any accompaniment, particularly those where risks are high, PBI teams undertake a thorough analysis of the local political situation and inform the army, police, and local authorities that PBI volunteers will be in the area. This high level of visibility signals to the authorities that they will be held accountable for anything that should happen to the volunteers or those they are accompanying. The embassies of the volunteers' home countries are also informed as a preventive measure. When undertaking an accompaniment, the volunteers have mobile phones (or satellite phones in remote areas) so they can communicate instantly with the teams and support offices. The teams in the field are backed up by an international support network that provides political weight to deter violence against the organisations we accompany or PBI volunteers.

## Volunteer viewpoints

### Rae Anne LaFrenz, US (Colombia Project)

"After years of working on development projects that provide direct services to marginalised communities non intervention was a strange concept... I've learnt that 'not' doing has a more significant meaning for those PBI accompanies because of the trust implied in the relationship. Travelling at their side through cities or along rivers merely assuring that their work continues, has been an important lesson for me in the art of listening and observing.

I witnessed the establishment and growth of a new humanitarian zone in the Curbaradó river region... few people in the world have the opportunity to observe the return of displaced people to their lands and even fewer to see the formation of a new process of resistance to threats... Now, from outside PBI, I pledge to do my part by spreading the victims' stories and pushing for truth and justice."



Rae Anne LaFrenz

Photo: PBI Colombia

### Silke Gaterman, UK (Guatemala Project)

"An average week can include accompaniment in Guatemala City and to other regions, meetings with national and international organisations and authorities, article and report writing, attending conferences, receiving visitors at the PBI house and of course cooking and cleaning. It isn't unusual to drop all plans after an emergency phone call requiring immediate action. The Project coordinator and committee members in five countries around the world, are on call 24 hours a day to provide constant advice and support on everyday matters and emergencies."

### Bettina Priotti, Argentina (Colombia Project)

"My sister was kidnapped and disappeared as part of the state terror in Argentina towards the end of the 70s... after that I became a human rights activist in a movement of relatives of the disappeared. I must confess that it has been hard just to 'accompany' but I have achieved it because I believe that the effectiveness of PBI's work is based on non interference in the decisions of the organisations we accompany. For me this has been an unforgettable, extraordinary two and a half years. I'm returning to Argentina in the conviction that one of the most important initiatives that makes a difference in Colombia is the presence of PBI."



Bettina Priotti

Photo: PBI Colombia

### Mike Bluett, UK (Indonesia Project)

"Since I've been working in Papua I have sat outside the office of a threatened human rights defender, accompanied a human rights organisation to a village in the Highlands where they carried out training for survivors of human rights violations, and travelled with an investigator in a six seater plane to a remote mountain area where armed conflict between rebels and government troops had forced 3,000 people to flee from their homes."

- Total volunteers who served on PBI projects in 2006: 126
- Average number of volunteers in the field at any time: 64
- Volunteers came from the following 29 countries: Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA.
- Minimum time volunteers spent in the field: 1 year

# Financial Report 2006\*

## Summary statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2006

	2006 USD	2005 USD
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Donations from PBI Country Groups and Grants	3,266,015	2,534,291
Individual donations	63,429	24,368
Other incoming resources	70,503	140,964
Interest receivable	14,303	4,099
	<b>3,414,250</b>	<b>2,703,722</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Field projects:		
Colombia	1,135,358	1,533,349
Guatemala	243,156	175,439
Indonesia	630,764	611,490
Mexico	220,413	140,971
Nepal	298,359	107,587
International Secretariat	150,322	181,225
Other expenses	-	1,831
	<b>2,678,372</b>	<b>2,751,892</b>
<b>Net incoming resources for the year</b>	735,878	- 48,170
Funds brought forward	459,969	508,139
Funds carried forward	<b>1,195,847</b>	<b>459,969</b>

## Summary Balance Sheet at 31 December 2006

	2006 USD	2005 USD
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Tangible fixed assets	100,343	47,400
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Debtors	196,800	282,898
Cash at bank and in hand	1,346,858	539,795
	1,543,658	822,693
<b>CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>	448,154	410,124
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	1,095,504	412,569
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,195,847</b>	<b>459,969</b>
<b>FUNDS</b>		
Project funds	947,387	314,589
International Secretariat	248,460	145,380
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>1,195,847</b>	<b>459,969</b>

### International Council Statement

These summary accounts are not the statutory accounts but a summary of the information that appears in the full financial statements of Peace Brigades International, which have been subjected to an independent audit and an unqualified report. The International Council approved the full financial statements on 11th January 2008.

The Financial Summary may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the organisation. For further information the full Financial Statements including the auditor's report may be obtained from the PBI website: [www.peacebrigades.org](http://www.peacebrigades.org) or from the PBI International Office in London.

### Auditor's Statement on the Summary Accounts

We have examined the summary accounts set alongside.

### Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Auditors

The Financial Summary is the responsibility of the PBI International Council. It is our responsibility to report to you on their consistency with the full accounts. Our report on the full accounts of Peace Brigades International includes information on the responsibilities of the International Council and the Auditor relating to the preparation and audit of the accounts and on the basis of our opinion of the accounts.

### Basis of opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 'The auditors' statement on the summary financial statements' issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom.

### Opinion

In our opinion the summary accounts are consistent with the full accounts of Peace Brigades International for the year ended 31 December 2006.

*Critchleys, Chartered Accountants, Registered Auditors January 2008.*

\* These financial statements do not include the accounts of PBI country groups. While recognition by PBI and use of the PBI name depends on each Country Groups adherence to PBI principles, PBI Country Groups are independent bodies that determine their own structure and are legally responsible for their own actions. For information on the accounts of Country groups see back cover for contact details.

# Thanks to...

**PBI would like to thank all those organisations who have made our work possible with their time, energy and financial contributions:**

## Institutional donors

0,7 Telefónica Cataluña; ACAT Switzerland (Action Contre la Torture); AECI (Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional); Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden (AGDF); Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust; Amnesty International; Appleton Foundation; Appletree Fund; Arbeitsgruppe Schweiz-Kolumbien (ASK); Arbeitskreis Lernen und Helfen in Übersee (AKLHÜ); Ausschuß für entwicklungsbezogene Bildung und Publizistik (ABP/EED); Auswärtiges Amt der Bundesrepublik Deutschland; AW60 Charitable Trust; Ayuntamientos de Camargo, Santander, y Valladolid; Basilian Fathers; Berner Kantonalbank (BEKB); Bread for All; British Embassy, Indonesia; British Embassy, Nepal; Broederlijk Delen; Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ); CAFOD; Canadian Auto Workers (CAW); Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA); Chace Fund; Christian Aid; Cities of Lausanne, Lucerne, Uster, Wädenswil, Winterthur, Plan les Ouates; CMC/AMA (Netherlands); Counties of Bâle-City, Vaud, Lucerne, Zurich; DANIDA; Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland; Diakonisches Werk Team Menschenrechte; Eine-Welt-Laden Rissen; Evangelische Kirches Hessen und Nassau, Rheinland, Westfalen, Kurhessen-Waldeck; Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (EED); Fachkommission Brot für Alle / HEKS Bern; Fons Catalan (Catalan Cooperation Agency); Foundation for Nonviolence (USA); Foundation Non-violence (France); French Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Fribourg-Solidaire; Fund for Nonviolence; Graber Adolf-Fonds; Hamasil Foundation; Hans-Böckler-Stiftung; Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa); Intermon Oxfam; InWEnt; Ireland Aid; Kath. Pfarrämter Pieterlen und St. Anton Basel; Katholischer Fonds Kooperation Eine-Welt; Kirchgemeinden, Bern-Jura-Solothurn, Burgdorf, Dinhard, Gsteig-Interlaken, Grossmünster, Herrliberg, Horgen, Muri-Gümligen, Nidau, Oberrieden, Oetwil, Kanton Schaffhausen, Schöfflisdorf, Tablat, Wallisellen; Law Society Charity (UK); Loterie Romande; Lotteriefonds Luzern; Misereor; Munizipalgemeinde Ferden; Norddeutsche Stiftung für Umwelt und Entwicklung (NUE); Nordelbisches Missionszentrum (NMZ); Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ökumenischer Initiativkreis Eine Welt e.V.; Oxfam Solidarity; Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation; Primate's World Relief Development Fund; Prisoner of Conscience Appeal Fund; Project Counseling Service (PCS); Stiftung Mitarbeit; Rights and Democracy (Canada); SGG—Schweizerische; Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft; Sigrid Rausing Trust; SP Schweiz; Stiftung Umverteilen; Temperatio Foundation; Tinsley Foundation (UK); Trocaire (Ireland); Valdesian Church; Vereinigte Evangelische Mission (VEM); Zürcher Kantonalbank (ZKB)

## Publications

*An essential element of our accompaniment strategy is rigorous and nonpartisan analysis of the political situation as it affects the organisations and communities that we accompany. Our publications also contain information on the specific threats to human rights and the pressure authorities can exert to prevent human rights abuses. Our permanent presence in the countries where we have projects gives PBI unique access to this information.*

### Books

*Unarmed Bodyguards: International accompaniment for the protection of human rights defenders* by Liam Mahony and Enrique Eguren, Kumarian Press 1997. (Also available in Spanish and German) Drawing on the experience of PBI in Sri Lanka and Guatemala, this book presents the theory and practice of PBI's pioneering method of human rights protection – international accompaniment of those whose lives and work are threatened by violence.

For copies of the English version, contact PBI UK or PBI USA. For the Spanish version, PBI Spanish State and for the German version, PBI Germany.

*Human Rights defenders under attack* by Liam Mahony, PBI UK 2006. Provides an overview of the theoretical framework behind protective accompaniment and how PBI has put this into practice since 1981 in Guatemala, El Salvador, Sri Lanka, North America, Haiti, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico and Nepal. Available from PBI UK.

### Project publications

**PBI Colombia:** *ColomPBIa*, quarterly newsletter with news of the current situation in Colombia, issues affecting the organisations we accompany and the work of the project in Colombia and internationally (English).

**PBI Guatemala:** *Monthly Information Package* with news of the current situation and team activities (Spanish).

*Quarterly Bulletin* with more in-depth analysis of the issues affecting the organisations we accompany (Spanish and English).

Special Reports: *Metal mining and human rights in Guatemala: the Marlin Mine in San Marcos*, September 2006; *El Peten*, April 2007

**PBI Indonesia:** *Pa Khabar* (What's the News): carries news of the political situation and describes the work of the teams (English).

**PBI Mexico:** *Monthly Paquete de Información* with news of the current situation and team activities (Spanish).

*Quarterly Bulletin* with articles on national political context, and the work of Mexican human rights organisations and the PBI team (Spanish and English).

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**Protectionline International** (formerly PBI Brussels – European Office): *Protection Manual for Human Rights Defenders* published by Protectionline and Frontline to support security and protection training for human rights defenders.

Protectionline also has a one-stop website on tactics and tools for the protection of human rights defenders at [www.protectionline.org](http://www.protectionline.org)

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