

Peace Brigades International

Annual Review 2000



1981-2001: 20 YEARS OF PROMOTING NONVIOLENCE AND DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS

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 2000

Michael Beer (*Indonesia/East Timor Project*)
 AnaLena Cebrian Lindstrom (*PBI Spanish State/Italy*)
 Joke Edenburg (*PBI Germany/Netherlands*)
 Shane Guthrie (*PBI Australia*)
 Kara Hooper (*International Finance Committee*)
 Carl Kline (*PBI USA*)
 Eigil Kvernmo (*PBI Britain/Norway/Sweden*) until October
 Lars Leer (*PBI Britain/Norway/Sweden*) from November
 Suzy Potvin (*PBI Canada*)
 Jürgen Störk (*Haiti Project*)
 Marianna Tzabiras (*Central America/Mexico Project*)

Dear Friends of PBI,

As we begin our twentieth anniversary year in 2001, we would like to highlight a number of significant developments in 2000 that have strengthened our capacity to respond more adequately to those who have requested our assistance.

Much of our strength has traditionally resided in our country groups. In 2000, we welcomed our 15th country group, PBI Luxembourg. In addition, the PBI European Office secured substantial funding from the European Union and began devoting time and resources to strengthening country groups in Europe.

Our primary work has always centred on our projects. The Colombia Project, in the midst of a rapidly deteriorating human rights situation, was able to increase its level of activity substantially. The total number of volunteers in the field was increased to 35 and the international support structure so vital to the effectiveness of accompaniment was considerably strengthened. The high quality of the Project's work continued to be recognised both within Colombia and internationally. PBI was a finalist for the prestigious Conrad Hilton Humanitarian Award, primarily as a result of the work of the Colombia Project.

In two other countries, PBI was able to consolidate initial efforts at establishing projects. The Indonesia/East Timor Project expanded its work to Aceh. In Mexico, the Project succeeded in securing an appropriate legal status so that the team could start accompaniment work. In very difficult circumstances the committees responsible for each of these projects have diligently and thoughtfully laid the groundwork, and prepared the teams to respond to the ever increasing need for PBI services.

Another milestone was the successful closure of the Haiti Project. PBI went to Haiti in 1995, as requested, to support local organisations committed to nonviolent conflict transformation. We were able to facilitate a process of nonviolence training and education that has now been taken over by Haitian groups. In PBI, we celebrate our closures as well as our beginnings.

Finally, we enter 2001, our 20th anniversary year, looking forward to celebrations taking place in country groups. The highlight will be an International Conference in Switzerland followed by our Triennial General Assembly.

We will celebrate the enormous courage of the hundreds of human rights defenders and nonviolence activists that PBI has worked alongside in Guatemala, Sri Lanka, El Salvador, North America, Haiti, Indonesia/East Timor, Mexico and Colombia. We will also celebrate all of you who have helped PBI for the past two decades.

In peace,

Carl Kline
 PBI International Council

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Cover photos (top to bottom):

PBI volunteer accompanying human rights lawyer, Colombia. Photo: Jon Spaul;
 A peace demonstration organised by the Popular Women's Organisation (OPF), Colombia. Photo: Jon Spaul;
 International Human Rights Street, Mexico. Photo: PBI Mexico Project

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Haiti Project

In 1995 the Project established a team of volunteers in Haiti in response to requests from local NGOs for support in the complex process of democratisation and reconstruction of civil society. For four years, the Haiti Project, together with local partners, explored and developed a programme of training, international presence and networking activities, aimed at strengthening the capacity of local organisations in nonviolent conflict transformation.

In 1999 an internal evaluation concluded that the Haiti Project had largely achieved its goals given what is possible within PBI's mandate and resources.

While nonviolent conflict transformation was largely unknown in Haitian civil society in the aftermath of the military coup in 1991–1994, today there are many creative nonviolent initiatives including weekly vigils against impunity, a growing number of organisations undertaking nonviolence training within their more general training, and movements providing training in nonviolent conflict transformation and participatory facilitation techniques. While these developments are due to many factors and actors, the concrete success of PBI's work lies in the fact that its volunteers managed to introduce and foster nonviolent perspectives among a variety of actors in Haitian civil society and to assist, in collaboration with local partners, the birth of autonomous Haitian initiatives ready to pursue the active promotion of nonviolent conflict transformation.

Project closure

In 2000 the Haiti Project focused on responding to final requests from Haitian partner organisations, helping in their consolidation process, and carrying out an in-depth external evaluation in order to gain a deeper understanding of PBI's achievements and difficulties.

As part of the closure process, the team contacted all partner organisations, listened to their training needs in nonviolent conflict transformation and participative methods, and researched what was available locally. In addition, the team published an inventory of Haitian and international resources available



PBI volunteer observes a vigil against impunity
Photo: PBI Haiti Project

'Distinguished members of PBI, I offer you a basket full of thanks for having worked during five years in Haiti and for having introduced me to nonviolent conflict transformation. The seeds that you have sown have started to sprout and are now growing. The GFP will take over and ensure continuity. In the name of all members of GFP, let me say to you: 'Go in Peace, because the GFP will be working for a culture of peace in Haiti.'

Pierre Ernst, member of GFP and SKDE (Sant Kreyen Integrated Development Project)

locally and distributed the information within Haiti and made it available on the PBI website.

The team also provided support for the consolidation of the Haitian Peace Trainers

'In the name of Haitian people, I would like to thank you for your great work in the promotion of peace and social justice without violence in this country.'

Jean Baptiste Luckner, PIDA (Integrated Project for Alternative Development and GFP)

Network (GFP) by organising workshops on evaluation methods, production of bulletins, writing grant proposals and financial and narrative reporting to donors. In July the GFP obtained the necessary legal status to function as a Haitian non profit organisation.

One hundred and seventy people attended an official farewell party including members of the GFP, and Haitian and international human rights organisations. PBI's presence ended officially on 31 July and the co-ordination office in Paris closed. PBI would like to thank project co-ordinator Luis F. Urrego Clavijo for his five year's work and commitment.

External Evaluation

In 2000 the Project also commissioned an in-depth external evaluation. A Haitian evaluator, Sabine Manigat, researched the team archives, elaborated a questionnaire and prepared a team of Haitian students to do interviews with eighty people who had been in close contact or worked with PBI. Her report concluded the Haiti Project has been exemplary in the way it had worked alongside Haitian partners.

A team of Swiss academics have been contracted to complete the external evaluation of Project strategy, structure, organisation and functioning together with an analysis of the Project within the context of contemporary development aid and conflict transformation strategies. PBI plans to publish a booklet in English and French based on the findings of the external evaluation.

'The GFP's perception of PBI reflected a fundamentally healthy relationship between the two collectives.'

Sabine Manigat, Haitian evaluator

Colombia Project

Political Situation

During 2000 the human rights situation in Colombia continued to deteriorate and the number of political assassinations and levels of displacement through fear and intimidation increased. Francis Deng, representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations for the Internally Displaced, described the situation as one of the 'most serious in the world. The cause of displacement in Colombia is not simply armed conflict but is a deliberate strategy of the war.' According to the International Commission of Jurists, in 2000 there was an average of eight deaths per day from summary executions or political murders, one person was killed as a result of 'social cleansing', one person was tortured, and four more died in combat. The killing of human rights defenders and the forced exile of others was described by Amnesty International as a human rights crisis of 'alarming proportions.' Forced displacement of the civilian population also worsened. According to the Human Rights Consultancy (CODES) more than 308,000 people fled their homes for fear of being killed.

Protective Accompaniment

The objectives of the work of the Colombia Project are to support initiatives that promote respect for human rights and international humanitarian law; to support initiatives that promote nonviolent conflict resolution; and to promote the defence of human rights and the search for peace and social justice.

The worsening situation resulted in a corresponding increase in the demand for all kinds of PBI international presence. This, together with greater resources, meant more extensive activity both within Colombia and internationally. Where possible, PBI used the increase in resources to strengthen accompaniment by maintaining a consistently high level of communication with the Colombian security forces, increasing the number of meetings with the civil authorities (by 85%) and the diplomatic corps/United Nations Offices (by 55%). In order to achieve this the number of volunteers was increased from 30 to 35, working in four teams in Bogotá, Magdalena Medio, Urabá and Medellín. However, it continues to be a major



Angel Quintero, ASFADDES Medellín, with a PBI volunteer. Photo: PBI

'PBI's important and persistent work of accompaniment and observation has undoubtedly contributed to the defence of human rights and the protection of the population displaced by violence. Many years of experience in different parts of the work have informed and transformed the work of accompaniment now practised in exemplary fashion by the PBI team in Colombia.'

Guill Rischynski, Canadian Ambassador to Colombia

challenge to find sufficient volunteers with the appropriate skills and experience who are prepared to work as international observers in Colombia.

The Project maintained a permanent presence in the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó and resettlements in the Cacarcica river basin in Urabá. In addition, the teams carried out at least three accompaniment activities every day throughout the year in the offices and branches of 13 NGOs where more than 90 human rights defenders work or stay. This usually required the presence of two team members for security reasons. Compared with 1999, there was an increase of at least 45% in accompaniment in 2000.

Public Relations

Lobbying and meetings with civilian and military authorities in Colombia is fundamental to PBI's overall strategy. Meetings were held with the government at vice-presidential level; with the police and high-ranking human rights officials in the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of the Interior; and with representatives of other public bodies, including mayoral offices, public prosecutor's offices, ombudspersons and attorney general's offices.

During 2000, the PBI Colombia team held an average of three meetings per week with Colombian government and state officials and with middle and high-ranking Colombian police officials, both in Bogotá and in other regions. Likewise, PBI has maintained an average of three weekly meetings with members of the diplomatic corps and the United Nations Offices.

The Bogotá sub-team, given its location, held the majority of the meetings with government, diplomatic and UN officials. This provides the basis for the work of other sub-teams, who focus on establishing and maintaining local contact with the security forces.

International Infrastructure

As well as the everyday tasks of co-ordination, fundraising, administration, management and the 24-hour emergency response, the PBI Project Office and Committee have undertaken 166

meetings with government representatives, MPs, and non governmental organisations and participated in nine public events, conferences and seminars. At 14 per month, these activities have doubled compared with 1999. This 100% increase has been possible due to support from those working outside Colombia, especially the Project regional representatives in North America and Europe.

Three training courses were held in Europe for 37 volunteers all of whom are now working in Colombia.

Psychosocial Support and Training

The Project also carried out 57 psychosocial rehabilitation workshops attended by 668 people. The workshops covered mutual support where groups shared common experiences of handling crisis situations such as dealing with pain, stress and fear; psychosocial support and training in mental health, fear, repression and security; and analysis of group processes. The Workshop Team changed its approach in 2000 and placed greater emphasis on deepening the knowledge of those who have attended previous workshops and improving their training skills so that they become multipliers within their own organisations. Because Colombian NGOs are very diverse, workshops have been more geared towards the work of particular NGOs. This has meant that the number of workshop participants decreased in comparison with 1999.

Publications

The Project published a fortnightly news bulletin on the human rights situation in Colombia and PBI's work, a dossier on threats against ASFADDES and PBI's work since the approval of the law against forced disappearance in Colombia, and a special issue of *Enfoque Colombiano* on the fifth anniversary of PBI in Colombia. These publications were distributed widely within Colombia and internationally and on the PBI website.

Support Network Activations

The Support Network is activated to prevent incidents from happening; to stop an abuse of human rights from continuing or to generate sufficient international pressure to deter violators of human rights from repeating violations. See case study of a Colombia Project activation on page 9.

During 2000 PBI activated its Support

Peace Brigades International is present as the moral and ethical standard bearer which directly facilitates, at least in the region of Magdalena Medio, the activity and protection of three organisations in the promotion and defence of human rights and international humanitarian law, and indirectly affects the work of many other organisations. Without PBI in the region, it would be almost impossible to persevere in the challenging task of human rights work.'

Susan Lee, Colombia researcher, International Secretariat of Amnesty International

Network five times in response to direct threats against human rights defenders, such as those received by members of Regional Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (CREDHOS), the Popular Women's Organisation (OFF) and Association of Family Members of the Detained and Disappeared (ASFADDES) in Barrancabermeja, and Medellín. Some activations have served to extend protection to risk areas such as the returned displaced communities in Caquerica, the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó and the OFF Women's Centres in Barrancabermeja. All activations involve close co-ordination between the teams in the field and in Bogotá, the Project office in London, the Project Committee and regional representatives, and PBI country groups.

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

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

Examples of Activations

■ On 9 April a human rights defender working with CREDHOS in Magdalena Medio received death threats warning him to leave the area. The PBI team immediately started 24-hour accompaniment, raised their concern about the case in meetings with the regional security forces and government authorities in Bogotá, and activated the international Support Network.

■ In December, after months of rising tension and threats, a squad of 150 paramilitaries belonging to the Colombia Self Defence Group (AUC) entered Barrancabermeja. Human rights defenders recorded two deaths and a number of death threats. The PBI team stepped up accompaniment to provide a daily presence in the offices of ASFADDES, CREDHOS and OFF, in the homes of CREDHOS members and when they travelled from home to work.

■ Throughout the year there were threats against human rights and other civil society organisations in Bogotá. The PBI team stepped up their presence in the offices of threatened organisations and increased accompaniment with human rights defenders when they travelled to other areas.

■ The internally displaced population in Urabá lived under constant threats. The PBI subteam responded by maintaining a permanent presence in the San José de Apartadó peace community and the displaced community of Caquerica. In addition, the team participated in the Joint Monitoring Commission for the return to Caquerica that brings together local and international organisations working in the region. See page 9 for details of a international Support Network activation.

■ In August two human rights defenders - Angel Quintero and Claudia Monsalve - working with ASFADDES disappeared in Medellín. The Project immediately organised a meeting of representatives of embassies of ten countries and UN representatives, and activated the Support Network. In addition the Project published a dossier on the disappearances and ASFADDES and continues to lobby the Colombian government and internationally.

However, in the midst of this grave deterioration in the human rights situation, Colombian human rights defenders struggle to uphold respect for human rights and displaced communities continued to demand a safe return to their homelands and to assert their right not to take sides in the armed conflict.

Mexico Project

Political Situation

The July elections resulted in a change in the presidency and federal government, which ignited hope for justice, a greater openness towards democratic processes, and an end to the impunity enjoyed by the vast majority of human rights violators. However, the appointment of a military officer, General Macedo, as Federal Attorney General, has been criticised by many human rights organisations as a major setback to holding the army to account for human rights violations. Since he took office, General Macedo has continued the militarisation of the Attorney General's office by appointing ten high-ranking military officers to key positions. The UN Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial executions expressed her concern: *'The ineffectiveness of the justice system has given rise to human rights violations. Their lack of jurisdiction to try members of the armed forces for violations of human rights committed against civilians erodes the independence of the courts.'*

However, there is also a large number of human rights and other civil society organisations committed to social justice. The UN Special Rapporteur on extra-judicial executions commented: *'There is strong popular support for justice and for an end to the culture of impunity. Mexico's resilient civil society is its greatest asset. The determination of its various elements to uphold human rights norms is apparent and inspiring. (...) The Government should be encouraged to take advantage of the support it has received from the international community for its initiatives towards a human rights-oriented governance and political process.'*

Protective Accompaniment

Throughout 2000, the Mexico Project worked towards offering long-term protective accompaniment to the organisations requesting this service in Mexico City, Oaxaca and Guerrero. The first priority was to set up an office in Mexico City and to secure the appropriate legal status necessary to undertake this work. After more than nine months of legal proceedings, PBI obtained 'non-immigrant' visas for five volunteers which meant that the Project could begin to develop its work while at the same time continuing to work on establishing a permanent legal status for the Project.

The role of the office in Mexico City is to maintain communication with institutions such as the federal government, parliament, the senate,



A PBI volunteer accompanying human rights defender Abel Barrera in Guerrero.
Photo: PBI Mexico Project

embassies and the mass media and to respond to requests from organisations such as the Jesuit Human Rights Centre Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez that has received numerous threats. The Project will also be working in Oaxaca and Guerrero where there is little or no international presence despite the fact that these states are experiencing increased militarisation and human rights abuses. Local human rights organisations have reported an increased number of abuses against the civilian population including forced displacement, rapes, illegal arrests, death threats, extra-judicial assassinations, disappearances and torture. The Oaxaca Human Rights Network presented a report in January 2001 where it states that abuses of authority and a variety of crimes committed by civil servants and members of the different police corporations often remain unpunished.

PBI volunteers have spoken to organisations and human rights defenders who feel they are vulnerable and lack protection against such attacks. According to a December 2000 report by the Guerrero Human Rights Network, *'torture continues to be used by police agents as the principle method of investigation.'* One of the human rights defenders who requested PBI accompaniment is Abel Jesús Barrera Hernández, director of the Human Rights Centre of the Montaña 'Tlachinollan', who has repeatedly been threatened in recent years. As part of preparation for accompaniment, the team worked on opening political space by introducing PBI to government officials, local police, human rights activists and strengthening the relationship between PBI and the NGOs through regular visits. The team

intends to accompany the Centre for Human Rights of the Montaña "Tlachinollan" in Tlapa, Guerrero, an organisation that investigates, documents and denounces human rights abuses against the indigenous population by the state and military authorities and 'La Voz de los sin Voz', another human rights organisation.

Production and Distribution of Information

The team began publishing a bi-weekly information packet (PIQ) in Spanish and a bi-monthly bulletin in Spanish and English for distribution to local and national government institutions, embassies, and NGOs within Mexico and internationally to PBI country groups and members of the Project Support Network.

International Infrastructure

During 2000 the infrastructure of the Project was consolidated through the work of a seven person Project Committee and the establishment of a co-ordination office in Belgium. Volunteer trainings were carried out in North America and Europe from which eleven volunteers were selected to join the team in 2001 and 2002.

With the help of PBI country groups, the Project gathered 49 letters of support from individuals accompanied by PBI in other countries, as well as government and NGO representatives, church institutions, and academics. These letters were presented to the Mexican government in order to demonstrate international support. Country groups are in the process of establishing a broad support base for the Project.

Indonesia/East Timor Project

Political Situation

Since the fall of the Suharto dictatorship in 1998, Indonesians continue to struggle economically, socially and politically to build a new society. In 2000, Indonesia suffered from violent ethnic, social and religious conflict. However, in spite of this great uncertainty and rapid political change, civil society began to expand and the demand for PBI's innovative services has grown.

Protective Accompaniment and Peace Education

PBI's permanent team in Kupang, West Timor provided a protective presence for Indonesian human rights and humanitarian workers until three UNHCR workers were killed in September and all foreigners were evacuated. However, the PBI team in Jakarta maintained daily phone contact with West Timorese NGOs they had been accompanying. In November, PBI was among the first international NGOs to return with a security assessment team. The Project continues to monitor the tense situation closely and plans to reopen a team in West Timor in 2001.

Prior to the September incident, PBI provided four conflict resolution trainings for 80 members of local NGOs in West Timor and Flores. Through role-plays and participatory activities, PBI and Indonesian co-trainers worked on conflict resolution models and practical solutions based on the participants' own experiences. The Project has maintained contact with participants to get feedback on how they have applied the learnings of the workshops. PBI continues to provide follow up and additional workshops when requested.

The main organisations that the Project works with in West and East Timor are LAK MAS, (Organisation for Advocacy against Local Community Violence); LAP TIMORIS (Organisation for Timorese Advocacy and

'Because of their accompaniment and peace education work, PBI is well respected by the church and NGO groups who work for peace and social justice in Timor.'

Pdt. Thobias A. Messakh, Moderator, Gereja Masehi Injili Di Timor

Research); and TRUK-F (Volunteers for Humanity – Flores which provides humanitarian assistance to East Timorese refugees in camps around Kupang, West Timor.)

The Jakarta team was established in September to monitor current events, help co-ordinate and support field teams, and to do public relations work with the Indonesian government, foreign embassies, and international and local NGOs.

PBI travelled frequently to East Timor to assess the security situation, maintain contacts, and prepare requested conflict resolution trainings for 2001.

Late in the year, Indonesia's parliamentary-appointed National Commission on Human Rights (KOMNAS HAM), formally invited PBI volunteers to work in Indonesia by sponsoring our visas. This important step opened the door to PBI's work in Aceh, a war-torn region at the north western edge of the country. The Aceh team was established in December following a positive assessment from visits in April. RATA (Rehabilitation Action for Torture Victims in Aceh) has requested PBI provides protective accompaniment following the murders of three RATA staff in December. RATA provides rehabilitation for torture victims through treatment, training, documentation, prevention and networking.

International Infrastructure

Four IETP volunteer trainings in 2000 (Germany, Bali, US, and Jakarta) brought 18 applicants into the Project. Sixteen volunteers, many of them short term, from Australia, Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and the USA have served on IETP teams since our inception. Accepted and returned volunteers are active in our project committee and PBI country groups. In February, Celia Guilford, began work as the new project coordinator from the Project Office in Manitoba, Canada. The supporting Project Committee from seven countries logged more than 2,500 hours of volunteer time.

International Peace Service (SIPAZ) and the Balkan Peace Team

During 2000 PBI continued to participate in two joint projects: the International Peace Service (SIPAZ) in Chiapas and the Balkan Peace Team in Kosovo/a.

The SIPAZ coalition works with local organisations to reduce the level of violence and human rights violations and to support peace building. SIPAZ maintains communication with all sides in the conflict in order to open space for dialogue, disseminates information and analysis, co-ordinates international delegations, and organises peace education workshops. A member of the PBI Mexico Project Committee sits on the SIPAZ Steering Committee and is a member of the SIPAZ volunteer selection and personnel committees.

The Balkan Peace Team worked on a youth centre in the municipality of Dragesh/š where Albanian and Gorani populations live. The purpose of the youth centre is to bring together the two communities in a neutral space to increase co-operation and decrease tension. The Centre offers a range of activities including English lessons, sports activities, computer classes and a variety of social activities. PBI country groups contributed to the BPT by raising funds, recruiting volunteers and publicity.

PBI Country Groups and European Office

PBI field volunteers embody the international community's concern for peace and human rights. Their effectiveness in protecting threatened local activists and communities depends on the political, financial, moral and practical support of the international community. Generating this support is one of the key areas of work carried out by PBI's country groups, European Office and regional project representatives. Country groups worked closely with projects to raise public awareness, recruit and train volunteers, attract funds, and develop and activate project support networks.

Volunteer Recruitment and Training

Country groups organise introductory training sessions to recruit volunteers for their own work and to provide potential field volunteers with an opportunity to gain an understanding of PBI's work before applying to join a project.

PBI Norway, for example, held an information weekend in October with speakers from national and international NGOs, state and inter-governmental bodies including the Norwegian Refugee Council, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the United Nations. The seminar received widespread coverage in the media and through NGO networks.

On their return from projects, volunteers make a valuable contribution to their country group's project support work through undertaking speaker tours, briefings with parliamentarians, and training of other potential volunteers. In this way PBI's experience in the field is recycled through the organisation. Recognition of the significant contribution made by field volunteers comes both from within and outside the organisation. On 10 December, **PBI Germany** volunteer Heike Kammer was awarded a Human Rights Prize by the town of Weimar, Germany for her work with PBI on projects in Guatemala, El Salvador, Colombia and Mexico.

Public Relations and Networking

Networking and public relations are important mechanisms by which PBI shares its innovative practical experience of peace building and the defence of human rights. With growing interest in civilian third party initiatives for human rights



Rappers from a displaced community in Colombia perform at an event in London organised by PBI, Christian Aid and Amnesty International. Photo: PBI Britain

and peace, PBI country groups and European Office are increasingly asked to attend forums to share our practical experience.

PBI Germany contributed to discussions between the government, church and NGOs on the creation of a civilian peace force – Ziviler Friedensdienst (ZFD). Two German volunteers on the Colombia Project have secured funding through this initiative. **PBI Britain** attended meetings of NGOs and academics to examine the possibilities for encouraging the UK government to expand its work in non-military security. **PBI's European Office** participated in conferences and round-table discussions in Brussels and Paris on innovative approaches to defending human rights used by organisations such as PBI.

Outreach work is also central to PBI's strategy of raising awareness of human rights and conflict issues that in turn helps build the international support needed to make PBI's volunteer presence in the field effective.

2000 saw significant collaboration with other peace and human rights NGOs, in particular with Amnesty International (AI). **PBI Switzerland** and AI Switzerland produced a joint poster promoting the human rights work

of both organisations. **PBI Sweden** co-ordinated a speaking tour of AI local groups by a returned Colombia Project volunteer. **PBI Britain**, in conjunction with AI UK and Christian Aid, organised a concert and information evening with a group of rappers from the displaced communities of Urabá (pictured), and a parliamentary briefing on human rights in Colombia.

Fundraising

Country groups and the European Office fundraise for projects as well as to support their own infrastructures and activities. Funding comes from a variety of sources including local and national governments, the European Union, trusts, other NGOs, church organisations, and individual donors. See page 11 for a donor list.

PBI's European Office, for instance, secured a grant from the European Union Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights for a two-year programme to develop skills among European country groups. In addition, the European Office is to explore the possibility of new country groups in Finland and Portugal.

Project Support Networks

The effectiveness of country group support work for projects is put to the test most rigorously when there is a human rights crisis in the field that requires PBI to alert its support networks to apply international pressure in support of those under threat. Traditionally PBI has used its broad-based grassroots Emergency Response Network (ERN) of members of the public and a variety of institutional supporters. The goal is to multiply the protective power of PBI's volunteer teams, enabling thousands of people around the world to take action against human rights violations. In voicing their concern, PBI's supporters put international pressure directly on the perpetrators of violations, or on the governments and military forces responsible for the protection of their citizens. This serves to close the political space in which the violators operate. Their messages also convey moral support and reassurance to those PBI accompanies.

These networks grow and evolve to respond to the changing political context and conflict environment in which PBI projects are operating. For the last 2 – 3 years PBI projects and country groups have worked on developing more targeted high-level Support Networks of representatives of governmental and inter-governmental bodies, and NGOs such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, who carry influence with those PBI seeks to target. Pressure through Support Networks relies on the fact that the countries in which PBI is working have political, diplomatic, economic and cultural ties with the majority of countries where PBI has support and/or recruits volunteers. The political and military authorities to whom our supporters are trying to apply pressure are sensitive and responsive to appeals made through those formal channels.

In 2000, PBI country groups and projects employed a more integrated approach to support network activations, combining grassroots public concern with high-level pressure.

Colombia Project Support Network Case Study

Massacre in San José de Apartadó, Urabá

In 1997 the displaced population in San José de Apartadó declared itself a 'peace community' hoping that armed actors would respect the community and that the community would not have to abandon their land. But they have continued to suffer threats and killings. Since July 1998 the PBI Colombia Project has been regularly visiting and maintaining a presence in the urban centre and several outlying villages of San José de Apartadó.

On 8 July 2000 some 20 masked men entered one of the peace community villages, La Unión, accused inhabitants of 'supporting the guerrilla', and then shot at a group of men, killing six of them. They departed after warning the population to leave the region within twenty days.

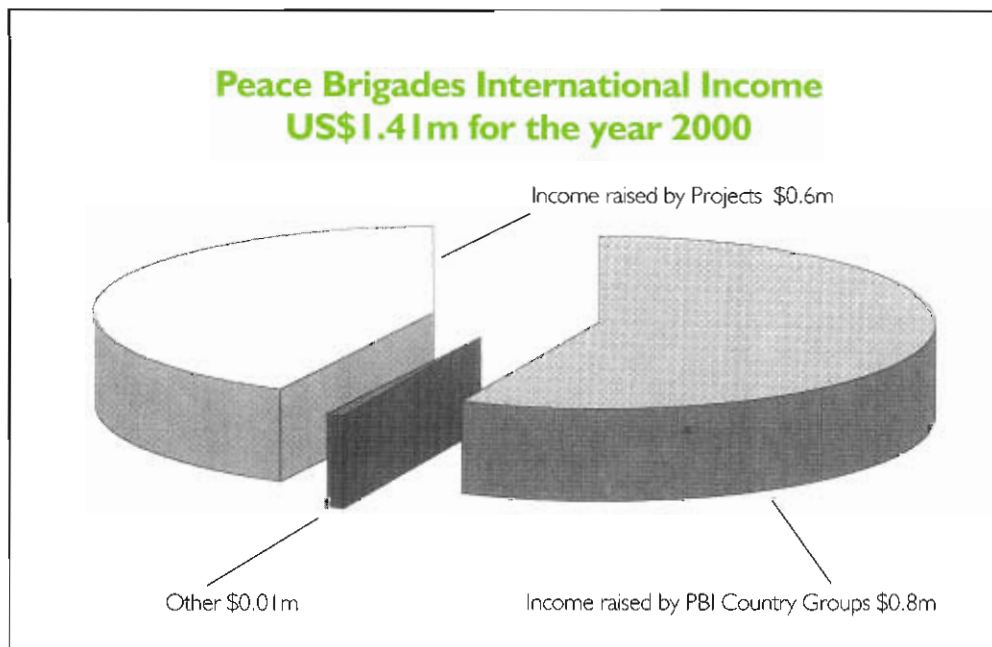
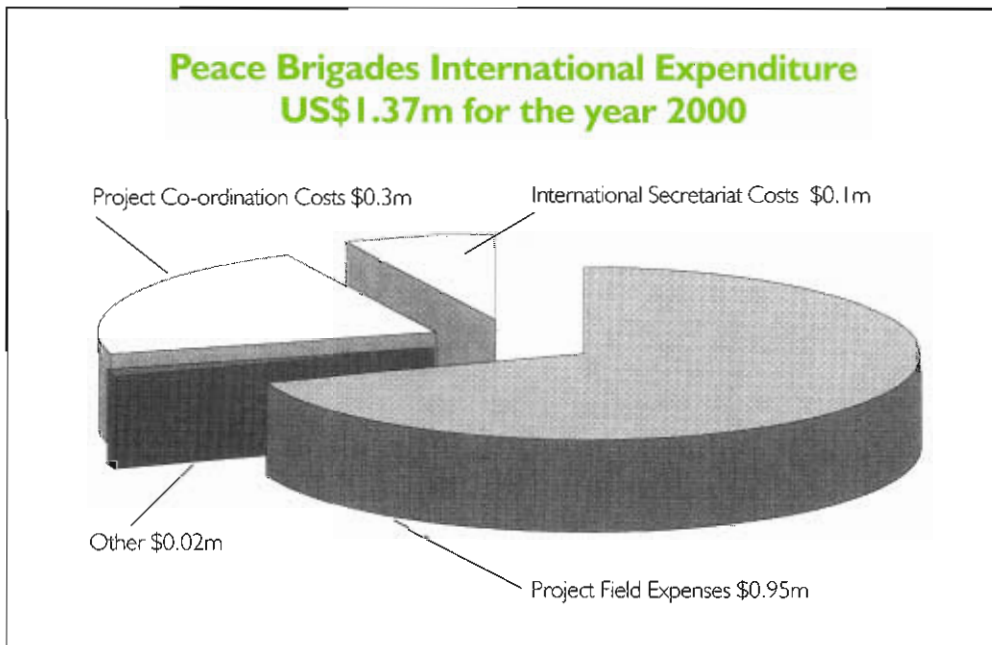


The sign at the entrance to the Peace Community San José de Apartadó reads: 'This community freely participates in community work, says no to injustice and impunity, doesn't participate directly or indirectly in the war nor carry arms, doesn't manipulate or pass on information to any side.' Photo: PBI Colombia Project

At the time of the massacre, two PBI observers were in the urban centre of San José de Apartadó, an hour's walk from La Unión, where they heard the sound of a helicopter and noticed that the troops of the counter-guerrilla 'Battalion 35' had surrounded the area. They immediately informed the Colombian military and civilian authorities, the diplomatic corps and the UN of the massacre and then accompanied members of the San José de Apartadó community to La Unión to confirm what had happened. At the same time the Colombia Project Office in London alerted regional representatives who in turn contacted country groups to activate their international Support Networks.

The PBI USA office immediately contacted Support Network members, many of whom are congresspeople or senators, asking them to express their concern to the Colombian authorities and to call on them to take immediate action to protect the internally displaced communities. The group also activated its Emergency Response Network (ERN), whose members were asked to lobby their congresspeople, senators and the US State Department to take action. This integrated approach maximised the effectiveness of the alert. This pressure from the international community resulted in an investigative commission being sent to San José de Apartadó, in representations to the Colombian government from the UN, European Parliament, the Foreign Ministries and diplomatic missions of numerous states. PBI subsequently met with General Fernando Tapias, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, the Vice-Minister of the Interior and the Vice-President of Colombia. PBI continues to accompany the displaced population in San José de Apartadó.

Peace Brigades International Finances 2000



The full global and projects accounts are available from the PBI International Office, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9DX or on the PBI website: www.peacebrigades.org

Financial information on the income and expenditure for the work of PBI country groups is not included in the information above. See page 12 for contact details if you require this information from individual country groups.

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