

Peace Brigades International

Annual Review 2001



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 the development of civil society, which use nonviolent means in regions where there is oppression and conflict.

PBI Projects

Colombia: 1994 →
 El Salvador: 1987–1992
 Guatemala: 1989–1998
 Haiti: 1994–2000
 Indonesia: 1999 →
 Mexico: 2000 →
 North America: 1992–1999

Joint Projects

Balkan Peace Team 1994–2001
 Servicio Internacional para la Paz (SIPAZ)
 1996 →

Members of the PBI International Council in 2001

Michael Beer (*Indonesia Project*)
 Giandomenico de Vita
 (*International Finance Committee*)
 Joke Edenburg
 (*PBI Germany/Netherlands/Switzerland*)
 Rachel Heckscher (*PBI USA*)
 Lin Padgham (*PBI Australia*)
 Hans Sinn (*PBI Canada*)
 Jürgen Störk (*Haiti Project*)

1981-2001: 20 years of promoting nonviolence and protecting human rights

Dear Friends,

In September 1981, ten peace activists inspired by Quaker beliefs and the teachings of Gandhi, gathered on a Canadian island to revive the idea of an international organisation committed to unarmed third party intervention in conflict situations. After the difficulties of previous such initiatives, the minutes of the founding meeting are very cautious in tone: 'this enterprise is so tentative and tenous we wondered if it will happen.' The minutes go on to stress that 'we must moderate our zeal with prudent, achievable objectives in order to avoid a second failure' [a reference to the World Peace Brigade 1962-1964 that foundered mainly because of communications difficulties in a pre-fax, pre-email world].

In November 2001, this 'tentative,tenous' organisation celebrated its 20th anniversary in Konstanz on the Swiss/German border by organising an international conference on third party intervention in conflicts attended by over 300 people. This was followed by a week-long General Assembly bringing together representatives of our 17 country groups, three projects and members of international committees.

One major achievement of 2001 was the level of recognition our work received from varied sources. Human rights defenders, members of other civil society organisations, and key UN figures testified to the effectiveness of our work in deterring perpetrators of violence and creating space for nonviolent transformation of conflicts. In addition, we received the prestigious Martin Ennals Award for human rights defenders for the work of our volunteers in Colombia and the American Friends Service Committee nominated us for the Nobel Peace Prize. (see page 3). This recognition is extremely important in raising our profile and therefore strengthening our capacity to provide greater protection for those we accompany.

We would like to thank everyone who has shown their commitment to PBI over the past 20 years by contributing their time, energy, enthusiasm and resources. Above all, we would like to pay tribute to the hundreds of courageous people we have worked with in Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Indonesia, Mexico, North America and Sri Lanka who have placed their lives at risk because of their commitment to nonviolence and social justice.

Escalating tension globally has brought with it a rising incidence of human rights abuses and a growing demand for the services we provide, both in countries where we already have projects and elsewhere. Our twenty years of experience in this field mean that we are well placed to face the challenges ahead.

In Peace,



Joke Edenburg, PBI International Council

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Cover (Top): PBI volunteers from Spain and Brazil accompany the peace community of La Unión, Urabá, Colombia. Photo: Jon Spaul.

(Bottom): Brainstorming responses to the word 'conflict' at a PBI and Flower Aceh conflict transformation workshop organised by PBI and Flower Aceh. Photo: Dorina Sedoeboen

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Highlights of 2001

General Assembly

THE General Assembly (GA), the highest decision-making body within PBI, meets every three years. The 2001 GA, held in Mannenbach, Switzerland was attended by more than 50 representatives and observers from PBI's three projects, 17 country groups and members of international committees. The function of the GA is to provide a forum for an exchange of information and ideas and to take major decisions on the direction of PBI.

For a year before the 2001 GA, a Review Committee set up by the International Council, undertook a major review of the mandate, structure and decision-making processes by collecting information to identify strengths and weaknesses and drawing up proposals based on feedback from PBI constituencies. Working through a consensus process GA participants spent an intensive, very productive week considering the proposals.

'PBI's work is extremely precious because it is work at local level. The Martin Ennals Award is not only an award: it gives the work of human rights defenders a visibility, which is extremely important.'

Hina Jilani, UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights Defenders

The most significant decision taken related to PBI's mandate. The mandate agreed by the 1992 General Assembly included protective presence, peace education and conflict resolution, observing, witnessing and disseminating information, mediation and negotiation.

The new mandate agreed by the 2001 GA focuses on international presence defined as one or more of the following: physical presence, physical accompaniment, public relations, networking, observing, reporting, and building international support networks.

The mandate goes on to state that 'other methods that play a role in peace building such as, but not limited to, peace education and mental health recovery can be undertaken by a project provided that protective presence is considered.'



Manon Schick receives the Martin Ennals Award on behalf of PBI Photo: PBI

PBI Wins Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders

More than 100 people including representatives from national and international NGOs and the UN attended a ceremony in Geneva on 29 March when PBI was presented with the 2001 Martin Ennals Award. The Award is presented annually to individuals and organisations who 'have displayed exceptional courage and innovation in combating human rights violations.' The Foundation responsible for the Award is made up of nine of the world's leading human rights organisations including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT).

The Award recognised PBI's work in promoting nonviolence and protecting human rights for the past twenty years, and in particular the work of PBI volunteers in Colombia. Hans Thoolen, President of the Martin Ennals Foundation, stated: 'PBI is the

'PBI is the most direct expression of the international community's solidarity. We want to recognise those who risk their lives in full knowledge of the facts.'

Hans Thoolen, President of the Martin Ennals Foundation

most direct expression of the international community's solidarity. We want to recognise those who risk their lives in full knowledge of the facts.' Hina Jilani, the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights Defenders, said that 'PBI's work is extremely precious because it is work at local level. This Martin Ennals Award is not only an award: it gives the work of human rights defenders a visibility, which is very important.'

Jürgen Störk, speaking on behalf of PBI along with Shaun Kirven, emphasised the importance of the Award in strengthening PBI's capacity to provide greater protection to human rights defenders. 'In 20 years of conflict work, PBI has learned that one of the most effective roles that internationals can play is not to make peace, but to make space for peace so that local actors are strengthened in their own efforts to overcome violence.'

'In 20 years of conflict work, PBI has learned that one of the most effective roles that internationals can play is not to make peace, but to make space for peace so that local actors are strengthened in their own efforts to overcome violence.'

Jürgen Störk

PBI Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize

In 2001, PBI was also nominated for the Nobel Peace prize by the American Friends Service Committee, a previous recipient. The nomination letter states that PBI... 'worked to open a space for peace in which conflicts can be addressed in a nonviolent way.'

PBI's 20th anniversary conference

Promoting nonviolence and protecting human rights: third party initiatives in conflict areas

TWO hundred and fifty participants, 30 speakers, facilitators and interpreters and 60 more volunteers from over 30 countries gathered in Konstanz on the border of Switzerland and Germany on 26/27 October. Presentations on the first day addressed the achievements and challenges of displaced communities; human rights defenders and grass roots organisations; the PBI approach to nonviolence and protecting human rights; and the reconstruction of civil society in conflict areas and promotion of peace and nonviolence. Workshops the following day enabled the participants to explore these themes in more depth.

Excerpts from presentations by speakers

Claudette Werleigh, Life and Peace Institute, Sweden, former Prime Minister of Haiti



'I think that as civilian third parties we should always remember that we are not the main actors. The actors are the people in conflict. Unless they themselves build peace, there will be no peace. We should be humble enough to always understand that...we can only act as facilitators, and be open to listening, understanding and facilitating a process.'

Johan Galtung, Norway, Professor of Peace Studies

'I would like to start by wishing the birthday child Peace Brigades International my warmest regards and compliments for the future and for the past. I think the future will be even greater because of the excellent preparatory work that has been done and I would like to try to put that into a context of what I call Globalising Human Rights.'



Ernest Pierre, Haiti, Group of Trainers for Peace (GFP)



'During their five years in Haiti, [1994- 1999] PBI helped to create a space in society ...to develop capacities for positive conflict management to discuss nonviolence, mediation, consensus, conflict analysis, negotiation, and conflict resolution. The beneficiaries included human and women's rights practitioners, people from the countryside, and the staff of national

and international NGOs... The GFP [a network of Haiti nonviolence trainers who emerged from PBI training for trainers workshops] is becoming a reference point for questions about conflict resolution workshops and is providing resource people to other organisations.'

Francis Deng, Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Internally Displaced People

'..Let me end by reiterating my great admiration for the work of PBI, which I consider exemplary of the inclusiveness of promoting protection and assistance for the needy civilian populations. I applaud your excellent work.'

Alirio Uribe Muñoz, Colombia, Professor of Human Rights, Member of the Group of Lawyers 'Jose Alvear Restrepo', Vice President of the International Federation of Human Rights Organisations (FIDH)

'In my opinion, they [PBI] have succeeded in accompanying organisations and peace communities in Urabá, six highly representative organisations in Bogotá, two large organisations in Magdalena Medio which have many affiliations, and organisations in Medellín. This has resulted in PBI having an impact and a presence in national and local space which are involved in human rights work. [The result of the presence has been] to deter direct and severe attacks on organisations and people, giving them security to carry out their work, to enable initiatives of peace communities to be preserved, thereby protecting their social networks, and to raise awareness among the authorities, diplomatic corps and United Nations and abroad.'



Photos: Kersten Enning

Further information including speeches of the panellists, workshop reports, participant list in English, French and Spanish:

www.peacebrigades.org/conference

For a copy of the 28 minute video of excerpts from the conference

contact: PBI Switzerland on pbich@bluewin.ch

A Day in the Life of PBI

Barrancabermeja, Colombia: Two team members get ready for a two hour journey by river to an area where local human rights promoters have been receiving death threats and the situation is tense. Yesterday they sent faxes to embassies in Bogotá and the local civilian and military authorities informing them of their visit.

London, UK: An International Office (IO) staff person prepares the agenda for a conference call with International Council members based in the US, Canada, Netherlands, Italy and Australia, to make decisions on the 2001 budget.

Washington DC: The Colombia Project North America Representative has a meeting with a US Senator to raise concerns about grave threats by Colombia paramilitaries against human rights defenders in the Barrancabermeja region, and to ask if she is prepared to become involved in the Colombia Project Support Network.

Zurich, Switzerland: Staff and volunteers of PBI Switzerland meet to discuss the logistics of the upcoming two day PBI International Conference involving 250 people and the week long PBI General Assembly for 60 people.

Toronto, Canada: Twenty-five people are role-playing how they would respond if the human rights defender they are accompanying receives a phone threat. They are at a training on nonviolent conflict resolution and the work of PBI.

Buenos Aires, Argentina: A volunteer translator works on a Spanish translation of the PBI internal newsletter which will be circulated to the Spanish-speaking PBI groups by the International Office.

London, UK: IO staff person responds to a message from human rights activists in Ghana interested in establishing a PBI Group.

Hamburg, Germany: Two people from a potential new PBI country group in Romania visit the PBI Germany office to learn more about the philosophy and principles of PBI and the role of country groups.

Flores, Indonesia: A PBI trainer and an Indonesian co-facilitator, start a four day conflict resolution training for 25 local activists to explore local methods of mediating



PBI volunteer with a member of ASFADDES (Association of the Families of the Detained and Disappeared), Bogotá, Colombia
Photo: Jon Spaul

conflicts. The participants will use the tools from the workshop to design and implement their own conflict resolution models to use in their own communities.

Freiburg, Germany: Two activists from the PBI Germany country group present PBI to a group of university students. After a talk and slides numerous students sign up for the Emergency Response Network, some express interest in getting involved in PBI Germany, others want more information about how to join a team.

Wellington, New Zealand: An Indonesia Project Committee member receives information by email about the situation in Aceh, Indonesia to include in a meeting the following day with the New Zealand Foreign Minister.

Mexico City: A team volunteer spends the morning writing a fortnightly information bulletin on the human rights situation and the work of the teams in Mexico City and Guerrero. The Bulletin will be distributed to PBI country groups, embassies and other international NGOs working in Mexico and the Project's international support network.

Turbo, Colombia: Two team members remain overnight in the home of a human rights defender who has received constant threats from paramilitary groups.

Luxembourg: Fifteen people start a 10 day training in preparation for joining the Indonesia Project

Brussels, Belgium: Two staff members of the European office head for the European Commission to discuss a funding application for the Colombia Project.

Mexico City: The Swiss Embassy organises a meeting for representatives from other embassies so that the PBI Mexico Project can explain the work they are doing in Mexico City and Guerrero.

Bogotá: A team member checks to make sure there are no suspicious vehicles outside the office of Association for the Promotion of a Social Alternative (MINGA) as she arrives to start the daily observer presence. Later in the day she will go to the headquarters of Association of Families of the Disappeared (ASFADDES) and then on to the UN High Commissioner's Office for Human Rights for a meeting.

Colombia Project



PBI volunteer accompanies threatened human rights defender Francisco Campo in Barrancabermeja. The banner reads: 'For life and dignity, respect human rights'. Photo: Julien Menghini

'The Special Representative visited Barrancabermeja, a city [where]... a large number of human rights defenders, including trade unionists, have been killed. The Special Representative considers the presence of Peace Brigades International (PBI) in this city to be of extreme importance. The paramilitaries in the town have made it clear that international support for human rights defenders is the only reason they have not killed more defenders.'

Hina Jilani, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders in report to the Secretary General of the UN (April 2002)

2001 saw an escalation in the armed conflict and a significant increase in violations of human rights in Colombia. Political uncertainty increased markedly because of the collapse of the peace process between the government and FARC and the coming general elections. The conflict spread to urban areas, with confrontations and assassinations in the cities. In the border zones, forced displacement increased. According to a report by Human Rights Watch, at least 300,000 Colombians were registered as displaced in 2001.

In April 2001, the 57 member countries at the UN Human Rights Commission unanimously expressed concern about 'the serious, massive and systematic violations' of human rights in Colombia and urged the Colombian authorities 'to take the most effective measures to combat human rights abuses by paramilitary forces'.

Protective Accompaniment

Despite the worsening situation in Colombia in 2001, the protection provided by PBI has enabled the vast majority of those accompanied to continue working to defend human rights in numerous parts of the country. A major achievement was the extension of our work to areas such as Cali, Pereira, Manizales, Popayan and Ibagué, where the Project does not have permanent teams but where human rights defenders are most at risk. In 2001 the teams tripled their journeys to these areas compared with 2000, enabling human rights defenders to carry out their work in areas where they formerly could not go.

The Project reached its target of 38 volunteers and also succeeded in recruiting a greater diversity of volunteers who came from 16 countries in Latin America, North America and Europe. This enabled the Project to accompany more human rights defenders and extend its international political support.

The volunteers worked in four subteams in Bogotá, Medellín, Barrancabermeja and Urabá, providing a permanent or periodic presence in the offices of 13 NGOs (who have 90 workers) and in four communities of more than 5,000 formerly displaced people who have returned to their homes.

Raising Awareness and Deterring Violence

Networking with Colombian civil society organisations: The subteams held regular meetings with Colombian popular organisations, church and human rights organisations to exchange information and co-ordinate work.

Colombian civil and military authorities: Over

PBI Colombia provided protective accompaniment to the following Colombian NGOs:

Association of Families of the Detained and Disappeared (ASFADDES): Promotion and protection of human rights, focusing on families of the disappeared.

Lawyers Collective 'José Alvear Restrepo': Promotion and protection of human rights including legal advice.

Association for the Promotion of a Social Alternative (MINGA): Promotion and protection of human rights, including legal advice and education, particularly with displaced communities.

Inter-congregational Commission for Justice and Peace: Promotion and protection of human rights, including education and work with displaced communities.

Solidarity Committee with Political Prisoners (CSPP): Advice and legal defence of prisoners from social organisations and political prisoners.

'Nunca Más' Project: Recovery of historical memory relating to human rights violations.

Research and Popular Education Centre (CINEP): Workshops in popular education and human rights, research on social conflict, violence and internal displacement.

Regional Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (CREDHOS): Protection and promotion of human rights in the Magdalena Medio region.

Popular Women's Organisation (OFP): Promotion of human rights for women and young people, focusing on the internally displaced.

Legal Network Libertad (CJL): Defence of people persecuted for their political activities and participation in popular organisations in Antioquia.

Popular Training Institute (IPC): Research, training and documentation on human rights, development, peace and conflict in Antioquia.

Peace Community of San José de Apartadó: Declaration of neutrality and nonviolence in a conflict zone.

Organisations of internally displaced people in Riosucio, Urabá: Defence of human rights and negotiation and organisation of the return of displaced people to their homes.



PBI accompanies members of the displaced community of Cacarica as they return home
Photo: Julien Menghini

200 meetings were held with government officials and the security forces at local and national levels. We conveyed to the authorities the concerns of the international community about human rights abuses and ensured that they put pressure on potential violators.

Embassies in Colombia: To increase the international community's awareness of the human rights situation in Colombia and communicate PBI's concerns, the Colombia Project had over 100 meetings with diplomats in Colombia. Meetings were also held by Project representatives in Europe and North America to reinforce this work. Diplomats are fundamental to PBI Colombia's early warning/reaction system to prevent or react to crisis situations.

Collaboration with international NGOs: Coordination with other international entities and institutions is vital to the Project's success. In 2001, the Project developed close collaboration with the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights (OACNUDH), the UN High Commission for Refugees (ACNUR), the European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and other international NGOs who work in Colombia. In November, the Project signed a Letter of Intent with ACNUR. This agreement officially recognises the importance of protective accompaniment as a fundamental tool in the defence of human rights, and the longstanding collaboration between the two organisations.

International Support Network

The dissuasive impact of PBI's presence in the field is only as effective as the strength of our

networking in Colombia and our international lobbying and support networks. It was a priority in 2001 to strengthen and diversify the Support Network in Europe and North America. We held over 200 meetings with Network members among the institutions of the European Union, the United Nations, the US government and the Organisation of American States. The Support Network was activated eight times during the year, reflecting the magnitude of the threats facing Colombian human rights defenders.

Psychosocial Support and Training

This Project workshop team worked alongside Colombian organisations to carry out 54 workshops with 558 participants. The workshops assisted local organisations to reconstruct the social fabric of their communities, destroyed by conflict. Workshop themes included: dealing with stress and fear, sharing experiences and ideas for dealing with threats of violence, working with internal conflicts and supporting survivors of violence. The Workshop team also helped PBI volunteers and the staff of other international NGOs. The long-term aim of the Project is to ensure that Colombians can sustain this work without the involvement of PBI.

Dissemination of Information

PBI Colombia continued to provide up-to-date information on the human rights situation in the areas where the teams work. A fortnightly information bulletin and periodic reports was distributed more widely, because of the enlarged Project Support Network.

Case Studies

■ On 8 February two armed men in civilian clothing entered the Women's Centre in Barrancabermeja, where a PBI volunteer was present. They demanded his ID and mobile phone and also took away documents belonging to the OFP coordinator.

As they left they threatened the PBI volunteer saying 'from now on, you are considered a military target of the self defence [paramilitary] groups.'

The Project alerted the Support Network to increase protection to the organisations we accompany and ensure the safety of our volunteers.

As a result, the ID and documentation of the PBI volunteer were returned within a few days and supposed spokespeople from the United Self Defence Forces (AUC) denied in the local newspaper that 'any order was given to carry out this kind of action'.

■ At the end of May there were a series of threats against the OFP coordinator in Puerto Wilches. On 3 June, a man purporting to be the paramilitary commander accosted one of her acquaintances and made new threats against the coordinator, claiming to have seen a declaration she had made to the police.

He said: ... 'We warned her not to denounce us but she did it anyway... all we are waiting for is an order from above to take her away. It makes no difference who she is with.'

In response PBI provided 24-hour accompaniment for the coordinator and undertook an extensive lobbying campaign including meetings with Colombian authorities and an activation of the Support Network in Europe and North America.

As a result, the OFP continues to be able to support displaced families and women in Puerto Wilches and although the coordinator was forced to leave Puerto Wilches, she is still able to work for the OFP in Barrancabermeja.

Indonesia Project

Political Context

2001 was a turbulent year for Indonesia, marked by an escalation of regional conflicts and by a power struggle in Jakarta which resulted in President Abdurrahman Wahid being replaced by Megawati Sukarnoputri. Numerous demonstrations threatened to turn violent, and military activity increased. In the second half of the year, the new government's emphasis on national unity brought intensified efforts to suppress separatist movements in the provinces of Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam and Papua. Troops were deployed in large numbers throughout the country, particularly in Aceh, Papua (Irian Jaya) and Maluku. The number of displaced people remained at over one million, half of them from Maluku. According to Human Rights Watch, major human rights concerns include abuses by the security forces against civilians, impunity, and forced displacement.

PBI Teams

The Project maintained teams in Jakarta and Aceh. During the year, the number of volunteers serving on the teams at any one time increased from 6 to 10. Volunteers came from eight countries in Latin America, North America, Europe and Australia. A further expansion to 18 volunteers is planned in 2002 because of the increasing demand for PBI's work.

Aceh Team

After a long period of intimidation of human rights defenders by the military, the last six months of 2001 saw a tentative opening of political space. However, this opening is far from stable, as evidenced by over 200 reported killings in the first two months of 2002. Human rights defenders trying to assert a truly non-partisan position were pressurised and threatened by both GAM (Free Aceh Movement) and government authorities. While activists experienced more space to pursue their work, they still found it difficult to bring perpetrators of abuses to account.

The PBI team provided 1,158 hours of protective presence with six organisations including:

'Frankly, we feel more comfortable if there is accompaniment from PBI. We really need PBI on these trips.'

Khairani Arifin,
Koordinator Umum from RPUK

- presence in NGO offices during the day and overnight,
- accompaniment of NGO leaders to seminars and meetings within and outside the capital, Banda Aceh,
- accompaniment of NGO leaders to meetings with the security forces,
- check-in phone calls to organisations in regions where PBI does not have a permanent field team.

This included at least weekly contact with Indonesian NGOs to discuss regional political developments, perceived threats to their safety and strategic protective accompaniment. Because of human resource limitations, the team wasn't able to respond to all requests, particularly those for accompaniment outside Banda Aceh. However, as the Project strengthened its presence and gained credibility in Banda Aceh, the team began to establish information and protection networks in five other districts: Aceh Pidie, North, East, West and South Aceh. The team also conducted an assessment trip to Central Aceh, and is currently evaluating whether PBI could provide protective accompaniment in this area. The accompaniment of the RATA field coordinator to North Aceh was particularly noteworthy. This was the first time RATA had returned to the area since the killing of three RATA workers in December 2000. The field co-ordinator stated that she would not have been able to return without PBI accompaniment.

An assessment carried out by the Project with Indonesian NGOs reached the following conclusions on the impact of accompaniment:

- actual and perceived threats from armed actors had decreased,
- the amount and type of work that they had been able to carry out, particularly outside the capital had increased,
- they had a greater sense of safety which meant that they could work more openly.

Indonesian organisations that PBI accompanies

Aceh

RATA (Rehabilitation Action for Torture Victims in Aceh): humanitarian aid, rehabilitation for torture survivors.

Flower Aceh: economic support, prenatal care and legal aid for village women.

SPKP (Association of Victims of Human Rights Abuse): support network for torture survivors offering medical and legal support, and help with medical costs.

Koalisi NGO HAM (Coalition of Human Rights Organisations): network of human rights NGOs, advocacy through data collection, campaigning and legal assistance.

RpuK (Women's Volunteer Team for Humanity): direct and logistical assistance to women and children in camps for the internally displaced, including alternative education and rehabilitation.

LBH (Legal Aid Foundation): civil rights and legal advocacy.

From Jakarta (West Timor Long-Distance Monitoring)

LAK MAS (Advocacy Institute of Civil and Societal Violence): human rights and democracy advocacy, investigations into human rights violations and abuses.

LAP Timoris (Organisation for Advocacy and Research in West Timor): human rights research and advocacy in West Timor.

TRuK – F (Volunteers for Humanity – Flores) in Kupang, Kefamenanu, Atambua, Ende and Maumere: health services and distribution of medicine to refugees from East Timor, assistance with reconciliation process for refugees repatriating to East Timor.

'Each time we speak with the authorities in the field, they associate RATA with PBI. This makes us feel very safe in doing our work.'

Nurdin, Director of RATA



Brainstorming responses to the word 'conflict' at a conflict transformation workshop organised by PBI and Flower Aceh. Photo: Dorina Sedoeboen

Jakarta Team

The Jakarta team's work is very different from that of the Aceh team, focusing more on the co-ordination of PBI's contacts with embassies and international NGOs, and keeping up to date with the political situation. This work is critical to the security of the organisations the Project accompanies and our own volunteers. The Jakarta team was also responsible for monitoring the security situation in West Timor through daily phone contact with West Timorese NGOs, and providing moral support. Information from West Timor and Flores is shared with PBI's international contacts via the team's bi-weekly report and at meetings with other international NGOs and the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The Jakarta team also maintained contact with government authorities and security forces, informing them of PBI's mission and field work.

'One of the highlights of working in Indonesia has been the sharing of experiences with Indonesian human rights defenders. From Kupang to Banda Aceh, their courage and determination is difficult to convey...Some of the people we work with have seen their friends and colleagues killed, others have themselves been subjected to human rights violations. Working alongside such people is an awesome and inspiring experience.'

PBI volunteer

Networking and Public Relations

As an essential part of opening political space, the Aceh team met regularly with, and received co-operation from, both high-level security force authorities and security force

'I know I have a friend at the international level when PBI is here.'
A lawyer with the field office of PB-HAM in Langsa, Aceh

commanders in six districts of Aceh experiencing conflict. In addition, the teams in Jakarta and Aceh met regularly with members of the national and regional parliament, the Governor's Office, and the National Human Rights Commission. Meetings were also held with embassies to keep them informed of PBI's perspective on the human rights situation, and to raise concerns about abuses. The Project sent two Letters of Concern to international support networks in situations where PBI clients were under threat as an early warning of a possible activation of the Support Network.

Peace Education Programme

The Jakarta team also provided logistical support to the team in Aceh, and helped to organise the Peace Education programme. PBI organised nine conflict transformation trainings in 2001, all of which were jointly facilitated by PBI and local trainers. The trainings, attended by 195 participants, were held in Dare, East Timor; Bajawa, Ende, and Larantuka on the island of Flores; in Lewoleba on the island of Lembata; and in Sabang, Pulau Weh, Aceh.

Networking among participants has led to stronger links between NGOs and a formal structure being developed called the 'chain of peace'. Follow-up interviews indicated that the participants greatly appreciated the methodology that focuses on local knowledge and culturally appropriate ways of resolving conflicts, that many have used the skills they gained in their own work and that many had become local mediators.

Publications

The Project produced a bi-weekly news update, which is circulated to 80 diplomatic and international NGO contacts in Indonesia, and to PBI country groups. This informed support networks about the Project's perception of the political situation and the work of the teams. A longer publication, *Pa Khabar* (What's the News) was produced monthly, to provide analysis of the political situation and first-hand accounts of volunteer experiences.

Mexico Project

Political context

THE July 2000 presidential and federal government elections ignited hope among civil society organisations for greater democratic openness and an end to the impunity enjoyed by most human rights violators. However, eighteen months on, these organisations have expressed serious concerns about the government's lack of commitment to the peace process in Chiapas and inaction in combating impunity and corruption.

At a Latin America human rights defenders conference in Mexico in June 2001, Hina Jilani, the UN special representative on human rights defenders, expressed concern about increasing human rights violations resulting from the militarisation of Latin American governments supported by the United States. Of particular concern in Mexico is the use of the army to carry out police functions and the appointment of military personnel to the Federal Police Force. In July 2001, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of the Judiciary declared that in 90% of cases of human rights abuse, the perpetrators were never brought to justice. The situation of human rights defenders worsened significantly after the 19 October assassination of internationally known human rights defender Digna Ochoa and death threats against other human rights defenders. One of the cases that Digna Ochoa had been working on implicated the army in human rights abuses against environmental activists campaigning against logging in Guerrero.

Goals

To provide support for Mexican initiatives that promote respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, to support initiatives for nonviolent conflict resolution and to promote the search for peace and social justice.

PBI teams

The Project began the year with a team of five volunteers based in Mexico City but by the end of the year this presence had increased to nine volunteers and a new office was opened in Chilpancingo, Guerrero. At the end of



PBI volunteers accompany Mexican human rights defender Abel Barrera as he collects testimonies of human rights abuses
Photo: Andrew Miller

2000 the Project, after nine months legal proceedings, secured non-immigrant visas for volunteers. This meant that it was possible to consolidate and expand the work and that volunteers could undertake protective accompaniment. Requests for accompaniment increased significantly after the assassination of Digna Ochoa in October.

'The presence of PBI] gives us the strength to say what we need to say.'

Wulfrano Ayala Ramirez, a threatened community leader in Guerrero (Mexico)

Protective Accompaniment

The following are examples of protective accompaniment undertaken by the teams.

■ **Guerrero: Human Rights Commission 'La Voz de los sin Voz'.** The team accompanied residents of Colonia Leonardo Rodríguez Alcaine-LRA in Acapulco who were being

Mexican NGOs that the Project Accompanies

The presence of PBI helps to open political space to enable Mexican NGOs to carry out their work. This means that the beneficiaries are not only the members of the organisations listed below but also the individuals and communities with whom they work who have suffered human rights violations.

In Mexico City D.F.

Human Rights Centre "Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez" (ProDH): advocacy, denunciation of human rights violations, education and national and international lobbying.

National Network of Civilian Human Rights Organizations (RedTDT): fifty-three human rights organisations nationwide, domestic and international emergency response networks, advocacy, denunciation of human rights violations, education and national and international lobbying.

In Guerrero

Human Rights Centre de La Montaña "Tlachinollan": documentation of human rights violations, advocacy, outreach and education, denunciation of human rights violations.

Human Rights Commission "La Voz de los Sin Voz": advocacy and denunciation of human rights abuses.

Association of Families of detainees and the disappeared and victims of human rights violations. (AFADEM): research and denunciation of disappearances.

Environmental Organisations of Sierrade de Petatlán and Coyuca de Catalán: campesino/a organisation promoting preservation of the forests.

In Oaxaca

Electoral Civil Monitoring Mission in Loxichas, made up of Oaxaca Human Rights Network, ACAT and the Civil Movement for Democracy

threatened because of their opposition to the local cacique. Accompaniment consisted of a presence several times during the week, informal visits to a protest camp, and regular meetings with local human rights organisations involved in the case.

■ Accompaniment of a ProDH worker on a fact finding delegation to Xochistlahuaca, Guerrero.

■ Permanent accompaniment for ProDH personnel in Guerrero and the director and members of the legal department based in Mexico City. This consisted of remaining in their offices during the day and accompanying them on trips.

■ Accompaniment of the technical secretary of the National Network of Civil Human Rights Organisations (Red TDT) during his daily work.

■ Accompaniment of Abel Barrera, director of the Human Rights Centre de La Montaña 'Tlachinollan' in Guerrero who has been threatened repeatedly over the past few years.

■ Accompaniment of Ranferi Hernández on his trips to Guerrero. Ranferi Hernández is a former leader of the Campesino Organisation of the Sierra Sur (OCSS) who returned from a four-year exile in France in July.

■ Accompaniment of an Electoral Civil Monitoring Mission in Loxichas, Oaxaca.



Mexico project volunteers with Hina Jilani, UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights Defenders who praised the work of PBI in a report to the UN Secretary-General (April 2002).
Photo: PBI

Public relations

An essential part of our protective presence is to complement protective accompaniment with other means of securing political space for human rights defenders. To this end, the teams participated in almost 200 meetings with national NGOs, and seven with international NGOs and UN bodies. In addition, meetings were held with the police and security forces, government authorities, state and federal

human rights commissions, the state legislature and embassies. Of particular note, was a meeting organised by the Swiss Embassy to give the team an opportunity to present PBI's work to representatives of other embassies based in Mexico City.

Publications

The Project publishes a bi-weekly bulletin on human rights related news and the work of the PBI team; an interest focused bulletin highlighting a particular cases and quarterly magazine.

Project infrastructure

The Project office moved from Washington DC to Brussels in April. The office undertook public relations, fundraising and lobbying with the European parliament and institutions in co-ordination with the PBI European office.

In addition, the Project worked with PBI European country groups to ensure effective public relations work with foreign affairs ministries in EU member states and Amnesty International at international and national level.

One of the key achievements of 2001 was to strengthen the Project's public relations capacity in North America, particularly in Washington DC.

Guatemala Project Exploration

The PBI Guatemala Project closed in 1999 after carrying out an evaluation that concluded that political space had opened sufficiently for Guatemalan NGOs to carry out their work without the need for an international presence.

However, a group of former PBI volunteers maintained contact with the organisations the Project had accompanied and monitored the political situation. With a return to power of some of those implicated in human rights atrocities of the 1980s, the mood of optimism of the first few years following the signing of the peace accords gave way to grave concern at the deteriorating human rights situation.

In particular, human rights abuses occurred against communities involved in legal actions against the alleged perpetrators of 1980s atrocities. In response to petitions for support from Guatemalan NGOs, PBI sent a delegation to Guatemala in July/August 2001 to report on the political situation and to ascertain whether there was any role that PBI could play in the new situation.

Based on the delegation's report, the International Council agreed that the PBI Guatemala Project Exploration Committee should collaborate with other international NGOs to respond to requests from Guatemalan NGOs.

International Peace Service (SIPAZ)

During 2001 PBI continued to participate in the SIPAZ, a coalition of 48 organisations that maintains an international presence in Chiapas in Mexico. SIPAZ works alongside local organisations to help reduce the level of violence and human rights violations and to support local peacebuilding initiatives.

SIPAZ maintains communication with all sides of the conflict in order to open space for dialogue, disseminates information, co-ordinates delegations from North America, and organises peace education workshops.

PBI has a representative on the SIPAZ steering committee and PBI country groups recruit volunteers and disseminate information about the work of SIPAZ.

PBI Country Groups, European Office and International Office

PBI teams working in the field embody international concern for the protection of human rights and nonviolent transformation of conflicts. Their effectiveness in protecting threatened local activists and communities depends on the capacity of Project representatives in Europe and North America, the European and International Offices, and 17 country groups to provide support internationally. This is carried out through raising public awareness of the importance of respect for human rights and the work of PBI, networking with other peace and human rights organisations, recruiting and training volunteers, raising funds and developing and activating project support networks.

Project support networks are alerted to put pressure on governments and military authorities to send a message to potential perpetrators of human rights abuses warning them of the consequences of their actions.

New PBI country groups

Until 2000 all PBI's country groups were in Europe, North America and Australia/New Zealand. A significant new development in 2001 was the setting up of PBI's first country groups outside these regions. For example, a country group has been established in India and an associate group in Tunisia. The PBI international conference and the global deterioration of the human rights situation has resulted in a heightened interest in initiatives to promote nonviolent transformation of conflicts and the protection of human rights. This has been reflected in the large number of enquiries that the International Office (IO) receives from people interested in becoming involved in PBI. The IO is currently working with emerging PBI country groups in Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia.

Volunteer Recruitment and Training

Most country groups organise introductory trainings to recruit volunteers for their own work and to provide potential volunteers with

some initial training before they apply to join a project.

PBI UK, for example, organised two very successful training weekends for 30 people to provide a general introduction to human rights and nonviolent conflict transformation and the work of PBI. PBI Canada organised a practical nonviolence orientation weekend, one day of which dealt more generally with nonviolence and the second more specifically with the work of PBI. The European Office held a series of workshops for European country groups on training for volunteers and advocacy and public relations. In addition, they organised three external training sessions on international observation. Other country groups such as Luxembourg and Canada worked with the Projects to host 12-day project specific trainings.

Outreach and public relations

All country groups undertake extensive outreach, public relations and networking in order to promote PBI's practical experience of peacebuilding and defending human rights. This includes organising speakers tours of returned volunteers, collaborating with other organisations to co-ordinate speaker tours of human rights defenders that PBI accompanies, attending conferences and forums at national and international level, organising stalls, networking with other NGOs in particular Amnesty International, and contributing a PBI perspective to discussions on the formation of civilian peace services. Of particular note was the production of a short PBI promotion film by PBI Germany to be used in cinemas. PBI Switzerland took advantage of a national referendum on the introduction of a civilian peace service. Although the referendum came out against the proposal it raised the profile of PBI because PBI was frequently quoted as an exemplary model of nonviolent civilian intervention in conflict areas.

Fundraising

Country groups and the European Office fundraise for projects as well as to support their own infrastructure and activities. Funds

come from a variety of sources including local and national governments, the European Union, other NGOs, church organisations, individual donors and fundraising events. One innovative fundraising initiative was undertaken by PBI UK who raised \$3,000 from a sponsored sky dive. 'I got to satisfy my thirst for adventure, other people got to do something they had always thought about doing but never dared, and PBI got over \$3,000 in much needed funds!' PBI UK volunteer.

PBI teams working in the field embody international concern for the protection of human rights and nonviolent transformation of conflicts.

Project Support Networks

PBI Country groups and the European office work together with European and North America Project representatives to build and maintain a network of governmental and inter-governmental bodies, national and international NGOs, and influential public figures who carry influence over the governments in countries where PBI has projects. Project Support Networks are alerted to put pressure on the relevant government or military authorities to send a message to potential perpetrators of human rights abuses warning them of the consequences of their actions. These alerts also serve to convey moral support to organisations that PBI accompanies. See page 6/7 for examples of Project Support Network activations by the Colombia Project.

Most country groups also maintain broader Emergency Response Networks of activists willing to send messages to the relevant authorities in countries where PBI has projects to apply pressure to support those under threat. PBI is currently reviewing the effectiveness of this mechanism though some country groups have used it to complement Support Networks by asking people to send messages to their own legislative representatives.



Twelve people from PBI UK parachute out of a plane, raising \$3,000 in sponsorship to support the work of PBI.
Photo: Joanna Grundy

Country group 20th anniversary celebrations

Amnesty International (AI) celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2001 and in some places PBI country groups and AI country sections organised joint celebrations. One very successful example was in Freiburg in Germany where the two groups hired a tram for the day that travelled around Freiburg inviting people to celebrate human rights. A sax duo saw the tram off and inside the tram people were offered drinks, cakes, live music and a well-known women's basketball team signed autographs. At the same time people were given publicity materials about PBI and AI. There was also a raffle with a first prize of a balloon trip to raise funds for both organisations.

PBI Canada organised a 20th anniversary event in Toronto bringing together past, present and hopefully future PBI activists. In addition, a 20th anniversary PBI reception was held on 3 October, Gandhi's birthday, at the Parliament in Winnipeg by the Minister of Transportation and Government Services for Manitoba.

PBI country groups in Spanish State, UK and Germany published special 20th anniversary bulletins and produced photo exhibitions illustrating PBI's principles and the work undertaken by projects and country groups.

PBI Resources

Books

■ *Unarmed Bodyguards: International Accompaniment for the Protection of Human Rights* by Liam Mahony and Luis Enrique Eguren. The book combines a theoretical analysis of how protective accompaniment serves to deter violations of human rights with a description of the practical application of this model by PBI in Sri Lanka and Guatemala. Published in English by Kumarian Press, USA, 1997. Further information: PBI USA. Email: info@pbiusa@org
German translation to be published 2002 by Rotpunkt Press, Switzerland.
Further information: PBI Germany
pbiger@shalom.life.de

■ *Expériences non violentes en Haïti*, edited by Marc Allenbach, Gilles Danroc and Jurgen Stork. Published by Karthala – PBI.
This book is an account of the work of the PBI Haiti Project [1993-2000] in working with Haitian organisations to support the development of nonviolent ways of addressing conflict in a Haitian context.
Further information:
PBI Switzerland Email: pbich@bluewin.ch

Project publications

Colombia Project

■ *Paquete de Información Quincenal (PIQ)* provides a fortnightly summary of human rights related news from Colombia media and the work of the PBI team. Available in Spanish.

■ *Focos de Interés* is published monthly and focuses on specific areas or subjects of particular concern. Available in Spanish.

■ *Informes narrativos* are published every six months providing a detailed report of the work of the Project. Available in Spanish and English.

Further information:
pbicolombia@pbicolombia.org or:
www.peacebrigades.org/colombia.html

Indonesia Project

■ *Pa Khabar (What's the News)* published bi-monthly with information on the political context and the articles on the work of the PBI teams. Available in English.

■ Bi-weekly update on the Project's perspective on the political situation and the work of the teams. Available in English.

Further information: pbilio@mb.sympatico.ca or
www.peacebrigades.org/Indonesia.html

Mexico Project

■ *Mexico Project Bulletin* published quarterly with articles on the political situation and the work of the Project. Available in English and Spanish.

■ *Paquete de Informaciones Quincenales* published fortnightly with summary of human rights related news and the work of the teams.

Further information: pbimep@skynet.be or
www.peacebrigades.org/mexico.html

Country group publications

■ The following country groups publish regular bulletins with news of the situation in PBI project countries and the work of the teams, and information about PBI activities nationally: Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, UK, Spanish State, Sweden, Switzerland. Please see back page for contact details.

PBI Website

The quality and scope of the PBI website improved substantially during 2001 and includes a general overview of PBI principles and mandate as well as country group and project specific information. www.peacebrigades.org

Peace Brigades International Financial Report 2001

Where the money came from

	Total US\$
Grant and donations through PBI Country Groups	
PBI Aotearoa/New Zealand	594
PBI Belgium	2,847
PBI Britain	13,623
PBI Canada	57,719
PBI Germany	273,723
PBI Italy	29,207
PBI Netherlands	9,201
PBI Spanish State	110,473
PBI Sweden	25,186
PBI Switzerland	114,658
PBI USA	81,718
Other income (direct to projects)	
Canadian Embassy	31,435
Netherlands Embassy	80,000
New Zealand Embassy	50,001
Hilton Foundation (total grant US\$50,000)	24,500
Diakonisches Werk	60,259
Amnesty International	8,334
Christian Aid	74,761
Belgian Foreign Ministry (DGC)	108,416
Trocaire	23,772
11-11-11 (NCOS)	18,500
MIVA	8,938
Diakonia Accion Ecumenica Sueca	54,764
Oxfam	10,006
PCS/HEKS/DIA	43,624
Scottish Catholic Int. Aid Fund	16,210
Appletree Fund	2,714
CMC	60,000
Misereor	65,125
Canadian Catholic Org for Development & Peace	15,389
Loewen Family Foundation	3,144
UNC Global Ministries	7,928
Walla Walla Friends Meeting	1,000
DFAIT	5,658
FINNIDA	64,392
Martin Ennals Award	11,261
Interpares	5,660
German Government/BMZ	22,889
Catholic Fund for Overseas Dev't	15,000
CMC/Solidaridad	17,132
Canadian International Dev't Agency	46,899
Local Government of Pamplona	20,706
France Liberte	7,000
Donald Browne and Lesia Peet	31
PBI 2001 conference income	61,538
Other income	7,530

1773,465

Where the money was spent

	US\$ 2001	US\$ 2000
Colombia	1063,812	865,704
Indonesia	266,973	139,012
Mexico	170,265	149,659
Haiti	19,118	82,153
International Secretariat	138,773	103,462
PBI 2001 conference (net)	61,538	0
Other	0	1,515
Loss on exchange	31,615	28,225
Transfer to (from) reserves	21,369	67,276
	1773,465	1437,006

Balance Sheet at 31 December 2001

	US\$ 2001	US\$ 2000
Fixed assets (net)	27,550	33,873
Current assets	596,127	601,029
Current liabilities	(109,548)	(142,142)
Net assets	514,129	492,760
Represented by:		
Fund balance 1 Jan	492,760	425,484
Surplus/(deficit) in year	21,369	67,276
Fund balance 31 Dec*	514,129	492,760
*Balance includes Capital Grant Reserve		

The full global and project accounts are available from the International Office, Unit 5, 89-93 Fonthill Road, London N4 3HT or on the PBI website: www.peacebrigades.org

The financial information of the PBI country groups is not included in the above figures.

See page 16 if you require information from individual country groups.

PBI would like to thank everyone who supported our work in 2001 with their time, energy and financial resources.

Institutional Donors

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Individuals

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