



Peace Brigades International
making space for peace
Indonesia Project

Quarterly Bulletin
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making space for peace

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We are now in the first months of 2010, a new year that presents new opportunities for the Indonesia Project (IP) to work, not only with our established clients and partners, but also with government officials from Indonesian departments to embassy staff.

This quarterly bulletin is a means of reflecting upon the people and the projects that PBI works with in Indonesia as well as looking back at what PBI has achieved during 2009.

Before looking to the past we would like to congratulate a former client, Deacon John Djonga who received the prestigious Yap Thiam Hien Indonesian human rights award recently.

Looking back 2009 was a year with many highs and lows for PBI in Indonesia. The last four months of 2009 saw internal as well as external factors combine to result in the temporary closure of both of our Papuan sub teams. Although these problems proved difficult to overcome, the hard work and dedication from volunteers and staff enabled us to re-establish our operations.

Following the return of the Wamena sub-team PBI undertook PPE (Participatory Peace Education) workshops in coordination with BUK (*Bersatu Untuk Kebenaran*, United for Truth), a client organisation of the IP. The workshop focused upon the issue of domestic violence. The first workshop was arranged for the local community in the region of Jayawijaya. There is also the plan to undertake a workshop on domestic violence for the local police in Wamena.

Through such programs that work in close cooperation with civil society organisations, civil society and government institutions PBI in Indonesia endeavors to improve dialogue within Papua. An article on the last workshop that the Wamena Sub-team undertook can be found on page 12.

Meanwhile, the team in Jayapura resumed its normal activities by accompanying their client, BUK, on two separate occasions. Through PBI's presence BUK was able to focus upon their work. One of the volunteers from the Jayapura team even had the opportunity to interview Pak Septer from FOKER (*Forum Kerjasama Lembaga Sosial Masyarakat Papua*, NGO working Forum Papua) for this publication, a PBI client since October 2007.

In order to further the work we do and secure PBI's presence in both Indonesia generally and Papua specifically, a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed with Komnas HAM Papua (*Komisi Nasional Hak Asasi Manusia Papua*, National Commission for Human Rights in Papua). An example of PBI working in cooperation with government agencies to further the human rights agenda in Papua.

During the second half of 2009 and into 2010, the Jakarta sub-team has been busy supporting the volunteers in Papua. In addition to fulfilling this role they are in the process of implementing an advocacy and communications strategy. A component of which specifically relates to producing this very bulletin you are reading. The end of 2009 saw the production of a report on the progress of the Munir case by the Jakarta team. A short review of this case can be found on page 10.

This bulletin is also an opportunity to welcome new staff to the project. Our new Project Coordinator Emmet O'Malley has been in place since July 2009 and has been adapting wonderfully to the position. He makes his introductions on page 17. We also have a new International Volunteer Coordinator (IVC), Diane Hendrick.



PBI N DECADE O IN E S I A

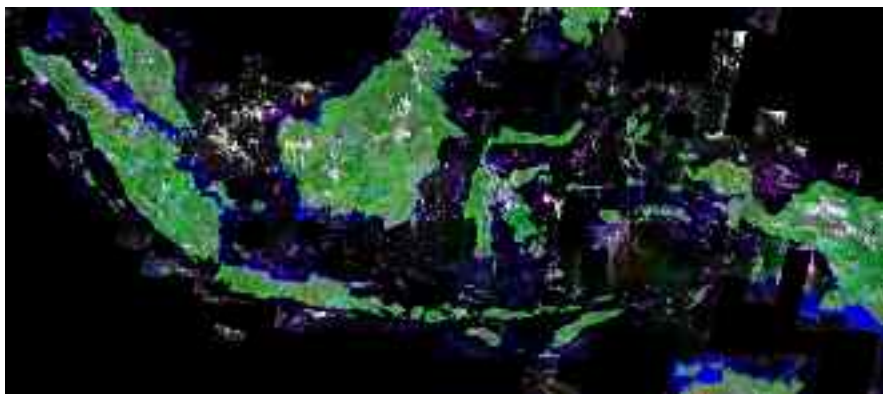
This past August, the Indonesia Project commemorated its tenth year of service to the people of Indonesia.

In celebration the IP hosted events in Wamena, Jayapura and Jakarta.

Since 1999, nearly 200 volunteers from 29 countries have served with the IP, providing Protective Accompaniment (PA) and peace education services to 27 Indonesian clients. PBI has also run countless workshops with various civil society groups and Indonesian Government departments. The IP has worked in 7 provinces, from the westernmost province of Aceh, to Papua on the far eastern fringe of the archipelago.

PBI first received requests from Indonesian NGO's for PA in 1998. Following a two month exploratory visit to Indonesia PBI established the PBI East Timor Project in Dili in August of 1999. However later that year, due to widespread violence following the East Timor referendum for independence, the team evacuated to Jakarta, Bali, Flores and West Timor. The IP continued to provide support for client organisations in both East and West Timor until the West Timor sub-team was formally closed in May 2002.

The first year of the new millennium saw the expansion of the IP with the establishment of permanent teams in both Jakarta and



Banda Aceh. From Jakarta, PBI could more thoroughly integrate with the international community and the national government of Indonesia. Better integration would lead to better support for PBI clients like Suciwati, who for years has relentlessly sought justice in the case of the 2004 assassination of her late husband, human rights defender Munir Sahid Thalib. The Munir case as it is known is perhaps the highest profile human rights case in Indonesia.

PBI opened a second Aceh team in Lhokseumawe in 2002, and in the same year ran workshops in Flores and West Timor on conflict resolution and management. By the summer of 2003, when the declaration of Martial law forced the evacuation of both sub-teams to Medan, PBI was serving 7 local NGO's in Aceh. From Medan and Jakarta, PBI worked hard to provide continued support to clients in Aceh, primarily via frequent check in calls to each organisation to monitor the safety and situation of clients and the civilian population.

The unspeakable tragedy of the Boxing Day Tsunami in 2004, which left 153,000 Acehnese dead and perhaps a million without home or livelihood, added new dimensions and pressing demands to the challenges

facing PBI and our clients. We were terribly saddened by the loss of some Indonesian colleagues in this disaster, and so hardened our resolve to provide a protective presence for their organisations while they began rebuilding and undertaking the humanitarian and human rights work they were and are uniquely qualified to do.

PBI was finally able to return to Aceh in January 2005. Eight months later, the Aceh Peace Agreement was signed in Helsinki. This agreement effectively ended the fighting between the armed liberation movement GAM (*Gerakan Aceh Merdeka*, The Free Aceh Movement) and the Republic of Indonesia. The agreement also created the AMM (Aceh Monitoring Mission), which was tasked to monitor human rights and the implementation of the terms of the peace accords. The PBI sub-team based in Banda Aceh worked closely with the AMM; monitoring clients' security while at the same time building up networks in the province to increase cooperation between local and international bodies working on the peace process, in particular between the AMM and our client organisations.

As the situation in Aceh stabilised PBI received fewer and fewer requests for PA from our clients, and so we were



able to focus and expand our PPE (Participatory Peace Education) program. From 2006 onwards, the Aceh sub-team ran numerous youth camps, capacity building, peace building, transparency, and gender equality work shops in cooperation with both local and international partners. PBI formally closed the Aceh sub-team in 2008 with the consent of our clients. Nevertheless, we continue to stay in close contact and to monitor the situation in Aceh with yearly fieldtrips to the province.

Over the past five years PBI has also had field teams in Papua, one of the most politically unstable regions in Indonesia. In 2004 ElsHam (*Lembaga Study dan Advokasi Hak Asasi Manusia*, Institute for the Study and Advocacy of Human Rights), a Papuan NGO based in Jayapura, asked to become a PBI client. The following year, after an initial exploratory field trip to Papua, PBI established the Jayapura sub team. The sub team began building a security network, socialising with local NGO's and government authorities.

PBI decided after much consideration that another Papuan team based in Wamena was necessary to serve the isolated and vulnerable people of the surrounding Baliem Valley. In

2006 PBI opened an office there and the Wamena sub team was created.

PBI has worked with a number of clients in Papua on issues ranging from impunity, access to justice, security sector reform, land rights, natural resources and cultural/traditional rights. Historically, the Jayapura team has tended to focus on PA as well as regular field trips to many different cities and villages around Papua in support of our clients. The Wamena team has focused predominantly on PPE activities in partnership with clients and local NGO's.

In Wamena Peace Day holds particular cultural and social significance. Over the past few years PBI has helped develop and fund events around this celebration, culminating in 2009's celebration with a month of peace related activities, discussions, and debates all planned and carried out by local organisers and PBI client organisations. 2009 also saw the formal reopening of the Wamena peace library, which is now run by local staff. The staff has succeeded in attracting a wide range of people to the library through an expanded collection of children books, comics, and novels, and a program of activities including handicrafts, beading, short story writing and film screenings.

The Jayapura team throughout its history has provided support for PBI clients with offices all around Papua. In 2007 the Jayapura team visited clients in Timika for one week to socialise with local authorities and to assess the local security situation. The following year PBI spent ten days with clients in and around Manokwari, as well as making various other trips with clients to Merauke and regularly visited the Waris district. The Jayapura team made several field trips Merauke and to Nabire in 2009 to provide a proactive presence for clients like Emanuel Goo.

No one knows what the future will bring in 2010, but we hope to continue supporting our clients and provide the sort of proactive presence and peace education expertise we are uniquely qualified to give.



Wamena a ten year celebration

On the 27th of October 2009 the Wamena sub team celebrated the tenth anniversary of PBI in Indonesia with a *bakar batu*. This is a Papuan style barbeque made by cooking meat and vegetables in an earth oven which has been dug into the ground.

Preparation of the event started the night before when our client from BUK and the library staff assisted in the preparation of a traditional Papuan dish, *buah merah* (a dish made from the red fruit of a local palm).

The next morning started early, digging the earth oven, roasting the rocks over a fire, and filling the oven with hay, vegetables and meat.

Clients, partners, friends and library children were all invited.

As guests trickled in, they assisted in carrying the smoldering rocks which were placed over the food before the oven was closed.

Bapak Didi from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) made the opening speech. After him PBI gave a speech thanking everyone for attending and supporting PBI during our time in Wamena. Father Ishmael then followed this with a prayer.

Finally the feast started and everyone sat in a circle in the yard as *buah merah*, sweet potatoes, corn, *keladi* (same family as the potato), assorted greens and chicken were served. We ended the meal with fresh baked cakes which our resident gourmet chef and volunteer Carole had prepared.

During the event PBI

volunteers conducted 22 interviews with a number of attendees from the event. We started by discussing their background. How they came to know PBI? Through which activities they collaborated with PBI? Lastly we talked at length regarding their most memorable experiences with PBI over the past four years that PBI has been in Wamena (PBI arrived in Wamena in 2005).

One of the most moving quotes was given by Tinus

“Before PBI (arrived) there was a lot of conflict between the community and the Government. Now it is safer.”





Jayapura a ten year celebration

from BUK in Wamena:

"Before PBI (arrived) there was a lot of conflict between the community and the Government. Now it is safer."

This moving testimony was a reminder to us all about why we do the work that we do, and to know that this work is appreciated.

After everyone had eaten the Wamena team prepared a journal where all attendees wrote or drew their thoughts on peace, their relationship with PBI or life in the Baliem Valley.

Overall the celebration was a success and everyone expressed their gratitude. We were happy to watch people go with smiles on their faces, content after having eaten so much.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of PBI in Indonesia, the Jayapura sub team invited clients and partners to their house for dinner. The team spent most of the day preparing the meal which included local delicacies such as *buah merah* and ubi (yam). Among those that attended were members of PBI client organisations. The vice chair of Komnas HAM Papua also attended.

Fortunately several people from the Jakarta NGO community were attending workshops and conferences in Jayapura at the time so the Jayapura team also invited them. These included among others, representatives of Komnas Perempuan (*Komisi Hak Asasi Manusia Perempuan*, National Commission on Violence against Women), the ICTJ (International Center for Transitional Justice) in Jakarta, and IKOHI (*Ikatan Keluarga*

Orang Hilang Indonesia, Indonesian Association of Families of the Disappeared).

PBI clients appreciated the chance to get-together in a relaxed social setting, and used the opportunity to socialise with their Jakarta based counterparts and representatives of the government of Indonesia.

The atmosphere was relaxed, conversations ranged from work to politics and families combining work with pleasure. The house was filled with the sounds of laughter and chatting. After many hours, and after the last guests had said their goodbyes we went to sleep happy in the knowledge that the night had been a great triumph.



A voice from the past

An interview with Sarah Gyorog by Michael Mori (PBI)

When were you a volunteer with the PBI IP? Where did you live and work?

Banda Aceh and Wamena 2005-2006.

Coming into your volunteer role, what were your expectations, and how did the reality you experienced measure up?

From the US, I thought the situation in Indonesia and in PBI was going to be more dangerous or risky than it turned out to be, assuming I would survive language school and get to the field. When I arrived in Indonesia any thoughts about danger faded away as I realised how much work I had to do to learn the language – facing Henky (a teacher at the language school in Yogyakarta) without having memorised my vocabulary was enough to wipe out any other expectations I had of Indonesia. The peace process was moving really fast when I arrived in Aceh and our team was very busy so I just got to work.

Can you recall any particular high points, where you really felt that the work you were doing was making a difference and having the desired effect?

Some of my richest experiences with PBI were working with local



human rights activists as they planned their human rights and peace building work. One especially significant experience was when our field team coordinated with local human rights activists in West Papua to celebrate The International Day of Peace for the first time ever in West Papua as a step in 'their community's movement for peace'. Our team offered enthusiasm and space, however all the planning and implementation was done by local folks determined to raise their voice for peace in this highly volatile area. The day was a huge success! One incredible moment that day where I saw our team truly making space for peace was when a local activist held a discussion about peace and non-violence that included police, military, students, mothers and local activists. They shared their ideas for peace openly with each other for the first time. As PBI volunteers, we viewed this moment as one of our most successful – this was when we saw positive peace building truly occur.

I remember you telling me about your experiences in the implementation of the Aceh Peace Agreement. You spoke with great enthusiasm about overseeing the decommissioning of GAM weapons. Could you tell me more about that experience?

Here is an excerpt of something I wrote at the time:

Yesterday we went to the last weapons decommissioning event which was completely subdued and successful. GAM has turned in the required 840 weapons in a very timely manner and the non organic TNI troops are all leaving accordingly. Watching the AMM use their magical machine (a giant circular saw) to chop guns into three pieces was the best thing I have ever seen happen with a weapon.

What are some of the important lessons you took away from working with PBI in Indonesia?

I learned so many things as a member of PBI, both professionally and personally. I remember sitting in the living room of the Aceh house surrounded by my teammates and thinking 'I have never before spoken so much to so many people about my feelings, opinions and thoughts!' actually, I probably said it out loud and we processed my feelings.

Professionally, I learned about the power of a network and that relationship building is the only way to really get anything done - I use that lesson on a daily basis now. I also feel more comfortable with interpersonal conflict, and I have a clear understanding of how consensus decision making works and can teach others to use it.

Where did your life take you after the IP?

I went to Thailand and Malaysia for a few weeks of holiday and then moved to St. Louis, Missouri in the US to spend time with my family who I had not lived near for many years. I came back to Indonesia twice for a 'face to face' and as a trainer and loved every minute of my return visits. I had a difficult time adjusting to life in the US after PBI and still am not totally adjusted, thank goodness.

What are you doing these days? Do you feel your experiences with PBI still influencing your life and your work?

I am currently working as a 'Restorative Justice Coordinator' with an organisation that serves women recently released from prison who are adjusting to the re-entry process. I think of my days

'Some of my Richest experiences with PBI were working with local human rights activists as they planned their human rights activities and peace building work'

with PBI often, and would find it challenging to truly parse out which pieces of my worldview come from working with PBI and which do not. When working with prisoners or folks recently released from prison I will often call upon a PBI story to illustrate a point or illicit laughter. As a volunteer, I facilitate an AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project) every month at a medium security prison here in Missouri, and will never forget the first full AVP I ever facilitated in a remote office in Aceh with local human rights activists, Kathryn, Nadine, my meager Indonesian language skills, and rice everyday for breakfast.





During 2009, funding enabled PBI France to programme a mission of observation for one of the PBI projects.

We chose the IP because it was one of the projects which we knew the least about and for which we had been unable to find previous funding, and for which certain activities such as the peace education program are more difficult to understand.

The objective of the observation mission was to better understand the project by focusing on the three teams (Jakarta, Jayapura and Wamena). Our aim was; to meet with the organisations who were being accompanied and the PBI partners in their work situations; to consolidate the relationship of PBI with the French Embassy; to look into new ways and means of supporting and financing this programme.

An Intense Period

My mission took place between July 1 – 22, three weeks in a context which was particularly appropriate for understanding the political and

human rights situation in Indonesia.

On July 8, the Presidential elections took place. Teams of volunteers and partner NGO groups were very attentive, especially because five people had been killed in western Papua during the legislative elections in April, but also because two of the three Presidential candidates were accused of human rights violations in East Timor and/or in Jakarta.

‘Two Presidential candidates were accused of human rights violations’

On July 17, a double bomb attack hit the capital, marking the return of terrorism after five years of calm.

Finally, my mission ended just two weeks before the International Day of Native Indigenous Populations (August 9). Ethnic Papuans were preparing to celebrate this day, however they were also rather worried as on this same date in 2008, a Papua demonstrator, Opinus Tabuni, was killed by an alleged army bullet which hit him in the

chest. The investigation into this event has not yet made much progress.



Suciwati widow of deceased human right activist Munir

Meeting with the Defenders

I met people from most of the organisations which were being accompanied or were partners of PBI in Indonesia. All of the conversations were extremely informative. Some of these reunions were particularly significant or moving.

In Jayapura, I met up with Peneas Lokbere, of BUK, whom I had previously met in

Paris with the PBI France team in February 2007 for an awareness-raising tour. I was very pleased to offer him a book in French about human rights defenders in which his own testimony was presented.

In Wamena I was fortunate in being welcomed by villagers in their *honai* (Papuan style hut). This meeting was even more interesting since PBI was the first to meet with these men in this place. I left them with the promise to share their testimony in France, and further beyond if possible, in

‘As far as I’m concerned this was a very successful mission’

order to help bring them out of the isolation to which they feel they have been relegated.

In Jakarta, on the last day of my mission, I met Suciwati, the wife of Munir, a human rights activist who had been poisoned in 2004; I had heard about Munir during the entire time of my mission since his case was emblematic and pivotal for the evolution of human rights in Indonesia. Suci and I spoke about the possibility of a visit to France in the beginning of 2010, when she comes to Europe to receive the ‘Right Livelihood Award’ for her untiring combat for justice during the past six years.

In rhythm with the volunteers

One of the main highlights of this mission was that I could participate as much as possible in the lives of the volunteers, especially since I had never

had the occasion to be a volunteer myself.

Despite their very busy schedules, all the volunteers welcomed me with a great deal of kindness and made themselves available to answer my questions, introduce me to organisations and human rights activists, and translate my conversations. I had the impression that I was sharing the same life as them (‘check-in calls,’ errands, and the never-ending wait at the ticket gate at the Wamena airport included!), all of which helped me in presenting this project to future French volunteers. From the urban rhythm of Jakarta, to the ‘extreme conditions’ of Jayapura (stultifying heat, haphazard supply of electricity), to the open house of Wamena, I had the impression that I better understood the assigned roles for each team and the different contexts of intervention. This experience has also enabled me to find a French volunteer with whom PBI France was able to be in contact for several months before his departure.

Conclusion

As far as I’m concerned, this was a very successful mission. I was able to collect a large amount of information which I hope to be able to share with the PBI France team so we can improve our actions in support of the IP.

The preparation of my visit in coordination with the coordination team in Yogyakarta and the welcome I received from the volunteers in Indonesia allows me to believe that this type of observation mission is also a help to them, since they can better understand the needs of the PBI country groups, as diversified as we

are, and can think about ways of reinforcing our common work.

(Article Anne Boucher, PBI France coordinator / Translation - French to English by Virginia Hekinian, PBI)



Anne Boucher with Antoine (PBI), Paulus Asipalek and Theo Hesegeg (JAPH&HAM)

Positive outcomes

The fieldtrip to Indonesia in July was not only an opportunity for Anne and the French Country Group to gain a better understanding on the IP and how PBI works in Indonesia, but was also and equally importantly a chance for Anne to meet the clients and partners that we work with.

As a result of Anne’s trip to Indonesia, Suciwati showed an interest in going to France as part of the advocacy work she does on behalf of her late husband Munir. The IP and the French country group have worked closely together to make this happen. Suciwati will be going to France in February. A positive outcome from a positive trip!



Munir Said Thalib, Indonesian human rights activist and a founder of KontraS (*Komisi untuk Orang Hilang dan Korban Tindak Kekerasan*, Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence) and Imparsial (The Indonesian Human Rights Monitor), was murdered in September 2004. He died on a Garuda Airlines flight to Schiphol from Arsenic poisoning.

Since the murder of Munir in 2004 there have been a number of court trials leading to three convictions: The first two concern Garuda staff Indra Setiawan and former Garuda Chief Secretary Pilot Rohainil Aini who have both been sentenced to one year in prison for assisting in his murder. Additionally - after a long judicial marathon including conviction, acquittal and renewed conviction - Pollycarpus the person accused of the assassination of Munir was finally sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Despite receiving anonymous threats, Suciwati, along with KASUM (*Komite Aksi Solidaritas Untuk Munir*, Action Committee in Solidarity for Munir) and supported by civil society actors, continue the struggle to find justice for

Munir. The culmination of six years of Police investigation and advocacy work resulted in a watershed for the Indonesian legal system. A decade earlier, it would have been unimaginable that someone from BIN (*Badan Intelijen Negara*, National Intelligence Agency) yet alone a member of Indonesia's political and military elite would ever see the inside of a courtroom as a defendant. However, in 2008, one decade on from the fall of the Suharto regime, prosecutors had decided that this former senior BIN official was complicit in the assassination of Munir.

'A decade earlier it would have been unimanagable that someone from BIN... would ever see the inside of a courtroom as a defendant'

The state prosecution filed a case against Muchdi Purwo-pranjono, former head of BIN in 2008. The prosecution charged Muchdi with masterminding the murder of Munir but they were very careful to isolate Muchdi - stating that he had acted on his own individual volition. On December 31, 2008, the

judges convened in the courtroom and passed sentence. The verdict was that of not guilty.



Pollycarpus trial (2008)

At the time civil society activists expressed concern that although there had been some convictions in the Munir case, the failure to convict the top level orchestrators of the murder was indicative of Indonesia's culture of political impunity.

The initial appeal against the acquittal of Muchdi Purwo-pranjono started almost immediately. The appeal was brought to the Supreme Court in January 2009 and sought to overturn the decision of the South Jakarta District Court but the appeal was rejected. The prosecution was never officially informed that the appeal was rejected and is

even now awaiting the official written report which explains the reasoning behind this judgement. Although there is a certain degree of despondency about the Supreme Court judgement, Suciwati and the team of people working on the case are more determined than ever to fight on. This is not the first time that Suciwati has faced what appear to be insurmountable odds. Suciwati and the legal team from KASUM have seen it all before. It took four years to successfully get Polycarpus convicted. They are willing to continue working tirelessly to ensure the conviction of Muchdi.



Suciwati at the Muchdi trial (2008)

murder.

Muchdi previously pressed similiar charges under article 314 of the Indonesian criminal code in 2005 against *Tim Pencari Fakta* (Fact-Finding Team) officials who were investigating the Munir case. Should the upcoming appeals case against Muchdi fail then Usman Hamid will almost by default be found guilty of defamation.

The second charge that Usman faces under article 310 of the Indonesian criminal code, is that of slander. Should Usman be found to be guilty of slander he faces a maximum prison sentence of nine months or a maximum fine of 300,000 USD.

The current situation

It is now January 2010 and Suciwati and KASUM are still undertaking a multi-pronged advocacy strategy which aims to see a retrial of the Muchdi case. To this end, and before any review of the Supreme Court's decision is launched, Suciwati and KASUM want to change the state prosecutor assigned to the Muchdi case.

Throughout the trial they expressed dissatisfaction with the way the case against Muchdi was prosecuted.

The results of this tactic may not be realised for another six months or more. If there is another trial, it will be the last opportunity to prosecute Muchdi at the national level so they are unwilling to make any rash mistakes.

In the meantime Suciwati will continue advocating for her late husband, raising the profile of the Munir case in an effort to exert political pressure on the judicial system of Indonesia. In February of 2010 Suciwati will be attending a human rights conference in Ireland.



Demonstrators and police at the Muchdi trial (2008)

Defamation charges

On January 9th 2009 Muchdi filed charges using articles 310 and 314 of the Indonesian criminal code against Usman Hamid current head of KontraS for defamation. The charges relate to a statement that Usman allegedly made following the acquittal of Muchdi at his trial for involvement in the Munir



PBI volunteer monitoring the Muchdi trial (2008)

PPE Domestic Violence Workshops

In December the Wamena sub-team started to plan for a series of workshops on domestic violence in the villages surrounding Wamena. These were planned together with PBI client BUK, the PBI Peace Resource Center staff and PBI friends. Domestic violence in the region is widespread and in early December, the idea to do film screenings and discussions in the villages was developed.

The first activity, in mid-December, took place in the village of Musatfak, located about 40 minutes outside of Wamena. Initially, the activity was planned for 20-30 people, but eventually more than 150 gathered. A short film about violence against women in Papua was followed by a short theater play the volunteers and the facilitators had prepared. This role play, gave an example of domestic violence between a man and his wife. The story was the basis for the whole peace discussion which followed. The two hour discussion, facilitated by PBI client BUK and the library staff, focused upon alcohol consumption and its impact on domestic violence. Alcohol was continuously mentioned as one of the main reasons for violence in the household.

The second activity in the village of Pelebaga took place in mid-January in Pelebaga, a village situated about one hour from Wamena. At this event the Wamena sub-team decided to use a different approach. An extract of a film about Indonesian women living in conflict zones was

shown. It was decided that the role play would be extended and new topics included. The aim was to focus the discussion on a different aspect of domestic violence. Approximately 80 people joined the activity,. Unfortunately there were not as many female participants as in the first workshop. BUK believes Pelebaga has a major problem with domestic abuse and throughout the discussion the facilitators faced difficulties in making the women participate. Nonetheless, the activity was perceived as a success by the facilitators.

Since many women, old and young, attended both events, the facilitators are convinced that the activities had an impact and that participants will continue talking about the issue of domestic violence in the future. Considering the success of the first two domestic violence activities, the facilitators are keen to continue with the film screenings in other villages. In order to empower the facilitators and help build their capacity, a workshop was organised by the Wamena sub-team and facilitated by PBI partner YSBA (*Yayasan Silimo Bina Adat*, Silimo (a Papuan language) to Build Custom) to improve their facilitation skills. The facilitation workshop focused on the difference between teaching and facilitating, the role of a facilitator and the difficulties that facilitators can face. Participants of the workshop found it really useful and are looking forward to using their improved skills for further domestic violence workshops in other areas.



FOKER

An interview with PBI client Pak Septer by Patrick Stuby (PBI)

Pak Septer, you were recently re-elected head of Foker, which represents 118 local organisations. What is your vision for the future of Foker?

Foker is now one of the biggest NGO's in Papua. It started from a union of church leaders, scholars, local NGO's and female activists. It acts as an amplifier for the voices of Papuans. It highlights the work of Papuan NGO's [at the local, national and international scale] and raises issues concerning problems that Papuans experience.

Foker works on six main issues: Access to justice and human rights violations; Exploitation of natural resources; Good governance; Health care and HIV/AIDS; Violence towards women and children; Indigenous people's rights.

In 2009, Foker focused its advocacy work on two themes; human rights cases and the exploitation of natural resources. We link the exploitation of natural resources to international issues such as climate change and globalisation. For instance, we started a campaign called "Save the forest and the People of Papua." We have advocated for this on the local, national and international level. Foker thinks that the Papuan environment, the forests and the environmental resources are too important to be slashed down and must be protected.

We also continually review the special autonomy law. When this law was implemented it was seen as a win-win solution between Jakarta and Papua. However we realised that it didn't stop the corruption or the murder of Papuans. Now we are aware that the implementation of Special Autonomy has failed. In its current form it cannot be a solution to the problems of Papua. The central authorities need to create a new commitment which benefits all Papuans.

In 2010 Foker will be focusing on researching a new mechanism for Papuan governance. We believe that a solution can only be found through dialogue with Jakarta. This will be one of the core themes that we shall work on in 2010. We will support the leaders of churches, women's group and traditional groups in creating a dialogue between the Papuan community and Jakarta. In parallel [to this], we will continue to advocate at different levels on issues related to Human Rights, natural resources and the rights of the traditional communities. Continuing the work we were doing in 2009.



PBI volunteer Patrick Stuby interviewing Pak Septer

Can you describe some of the main aspects of Foker's work?

The main issues that Foker works on are related to Human Rights and natural resources. For example in relation to human rights; on the one hand, the Papuan community is a victim of a discriminative legal system. On the other hand, the authorities stigmatise human rights defenders, student activists and pro-democracy groups as separatists.

In relation to natural resources FOKER is advocating against their exploitation. On one side there is the indigenous population who claims to own the ground, but the authorities pretend that the state has to dominate the land and exploit these resources for the prosperity of 'the people'. When Papuans refuse to leave the land they own [according to customary laws] they are stigmatised as separatists, or as opposing development. This is when security forces are often sent in to handle this issue of conflicting land rights.

FOKER

In March, you mentioned that Foker would be working together with ElSHAM (Institute for Human Rights Studies and Advocacy) and the ICTJ (International Center for Transitional Justice) to carry out a survey among the Papuan population .

You mentioned that the aim of this survey would be to gather views about having a KKR (Truth and Reconciliation Commission) established in Papua. Has this survey been started?

This survey consists of gathering local communities together to get their perspective on justice and peace. This survey hasn't started because of logistical problems, especially because of the size of the island (Papua). However, this project gave us the opportunity to collaborate and benefit from these institutions in the form of training on investigation and how to manage documentation on human rights. This knowledge will be used when we do the survey.

In December 2009, ICTJ and Elsham organised a public consultation on the constitutional law in relation to KKR. This happened in Jayapura and local leaders were invited. Their inputs have been collected and will be sent to Jakarta. These organisations plan to have the KKR law reviewed before undertaking work on the planned survey.

The first aim of Foker is to push for dialogue. Through this we hope to decrease the level of vertical violence [shooting, murders] that occurs in Papua. The second aim is to improve the situation through good governance initiatives. The authorities need to be on the side of their people so that Papuans receive the benefits of development and don't become its victims.

In 2009 a Human Rights coalition was formed with you as its head. Can you tell us about this coalition?

This coalition was created at the initiative of a number of Churches operating in Papua. Together they realised that a team was needed to deal with special human rights cases. This commission deals with issues such as the arbitrary arrest of Papuans in Puncak Jaya, Manokwari, Fak-Fak, Yapen, Abepura, Paniai and Jayapura. This coalition is composed of churches, NGO's, women's groups and traditional leaders. Through coming together human rights groups are stronger and in a better position to advocate on cases. Organisations benefit as well from being in this coalition through the legitimacy that the Church enjoys. The Coalition advocates especially on cases where people are arrested and judged for *Makar* (treason).

In July, 6 prisoners in Timika and 11 other in Nabire were finally released because the Coalition showed that there was a lack of evidence. The civilian authorities have to react to this fact. The Governor and the DPRD (Dewan Perwakilan Rakyat Provinsi, Papuan Regional Parliament) were urged to take action and use their power to stop the misuse of the MAKAR law. However we believe that the MAKAR law is still being misused.

FOKER

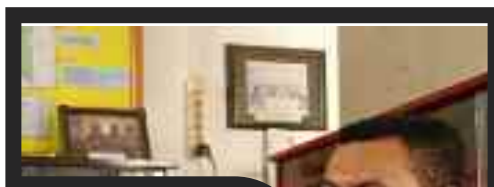
In November 2009, Foker organised a congress on forestry with local NGO's in Jayapura. What are the results of this congress?

The Declaration that this congress made was:

1. A refusal to sell land
2. A refusal to convert the forest into extensive agricultural land
3. An acknowledgement of the global importance of the Papuan forest as the third largest on earth (it is for this reason that the international community has to commit to protect the Papuan forest).

According to their culture, Papuans don't own land privately but communally. This land therefore cannot be sold. Philosophically, Papuans consider the land as their mother. They benefit from its protection. They need it for their prosperity and for their very existence. The land is a symbol of Papuans cultural values. It is for this reason they won't sell land to people they don't share blood with. If the land is needed by the government, they would accept a short term lease (for 20 or 30 years), however there have to be clear rules.

One of the mottos of the congress in November was; "No Rights, No REDD". REDD stands for Reduced Emission from Deforestation and Degradation. The Papuan people need to benefit from this protection, not only the government.



After this congress finished representatives from Foker went to Jakarta to present the results to several Embassies.

Which embassies did you meet and how did the embassies react to the Foker presentation?

Six people including me prepared the briefings in Jakarta. We met several Embassies: The US, British, Swiss, Dutch, South African, Norwegian, Australian, German Embassies and the New Zealand. The meeting with the Finish Embassy didn't take place. This is the first time they responded to a visit by Papuan civil society. We socialised the six main issues which Foker was focusing upon in Papua in 2009. They gave a very positive response with the recommendation that they want to lower violence in Papua through dialogue between the government of Indonesia and Papuan society.



Pak Septer

The embassies will support this dialogue. But no concrete promises were given. The issue of dialogue is quite a sensitive one and Embassies are very careful when discussing it.

"We need to sit and resolve these problems without violence"

FOKER

In November 2009 the government of Indonesia and INGO (International Non Governmental Organisations) gathered in Jayapura for a congress about Biodiversity. Do the results and aims of this congress match with those of the forestry congress?

Foker didn't take part in the congress on biodiversity. The congress only talked about the interests of the Indonesian government and of INGO's. I consider it as a self-promotion congress. They forgot to include the rights of the local population.

SBY (Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono) has been re-elected President of Indonesia. What are your thoughts concerning his re-election?

I believe what was missing was a better candidate. However in the circumstances it was wise to re-elect him as President of Indonesia. The population of Papua has big expectations of him. They hope he will help change their situation. We need him to look at the problems of Papua in a clever way. We need to sit and resolve these problems without violence. So far, what he has promised [for Papua during the campaign] hasn't happened yet. We hope that the dialogue [between Papua and Jakarta] will be taken up again and we need a third party who acts as a mediator in this process. SBY needs to look for consensus within the Papuan community and also to follow a concept of dialogue. It is important that the government opens a space for such dialogue. LIPI (Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia, Indonesian Institute of Science) has already been chosen to assume this function and has started the basic analysis. Several Papuan pastors wrote books and have contributed to this analysis.

Last month, you told PBI that Foker was planning to help initiate a Papua-Jakarta dialogue.

In this process of dialogue, the role of Foker is more internal to Papua. We work on giving knowledge to Papuan society about this process of dialog and we try to make them aware of the consequences of this process. Basically, this is a work of consolidation.

What is your view about the general human rights situation in Papua right now?

There are still many intelligence operations. This results in violence against the local population. These activities always create human rights violations.

An interview with Emmet O'Malley

What first attracted you to work in Indonesia?

Primarily, it was the author, Joseph Conrad. I loved reading *Lord Jim*, which was largely influenced by the novelist's seafaring years in this region. I can remember vividly the moment I was offered a position in Indonesia, it was while cycling through an area of Amsterdam called De Pijp. I received a phone call offering me a two-year contract with Australian Volunteers Abroad to work as a photographer in the rainforests of Borneo for an indigenous peoples' NGO. Although, the decision to leave friends and family was difficult, being given the opportunity to explore the land depicted in Conrad's novels, resistance to the proposition was going to be useless! Another important reason which brought me to Indonesia, stemmed from a growing awareness of environmental issues, and abuses at the hands of multi-nationals. Looking back now, having the chance to get involved in some way and support forest communities was one of the greatest gifts I have received.

You are now almost six months in your position as Project Coordinator for the Indonesia Project. What first interested you about working for PBI in Indonesia?

During the ten years I have now spent in Indonesia, I became friends with many ex-volunteers and more and more acquainted with the work of PBI. At first, I was a little skeptical; to be honest, I had an aversion to use the word 'peace' in any title as it often creates expectations that appear out of reach to those that are experiencing conflict and for whom it has become a daily reality. However, the more I had contact with PBI and the more I learnt about the IP project and how volunteers work with all sides of a divide in a respectful manner, the more I became impressed. Another striking quality for me is the high-level of training that the volunteers receive, and that the volunteers that do come through PBI often have a strong connection and cultural understanding with Indonesia and the political context they are working in.



Have your experiences working as Project Coordinator in Indonesia met the expectations you had before starting your contract?

So far the work involved has far exceeded my expectations! The work really appeals to one's sense of enquiry. Every day there is something new to learn whether it concerns of the Human Rights situation in Indonesia, networking or the team dynamics within our own organisation. Although it is very challenging, I believe the beauty of such work (and maybe for slightly selfish reasons too!) is that the more one begins understanding about others around you (whether clients, partners or colleagues) - the more one learns about oneself.

What has been the highlight of your time working for PBI in Indonesia?

Internally, within our organisation, it was really touching to see fellow PBI colleagues pull-together through difficult periods with a common sense of purpose for supporting our clients.

Externally, it was witnessing our clients offering support for us in Wamena, in Papua's central highlands. At a time when there was a lot of confusion about how to sustain our work in the current political environment (something I believe, that is a universal theme in all protection work), one morning in came these beautiful characters who hand-wrote some endearing words about how much PBI meant to them and their community – breathtaking!



How do you think the project has developed during your time as Project Coordinator for the Indonesia Project?

I think we are evolving and now on the road to developing as a project, as Indonesia too, develops further. I see the previous six months as an important time in laying down the foundations for a stronger organisation as well as building ties with authorities and promoting the good work of PBI. There is still a long way to go – as always - but I believe that through hard-work a lot can be achieved.

What are your aims for developing the project over the next year and a half?

What is striking about Indonesia in the 21st century is its new confidence; people are now becoming more open about talking about the positives of their country as well as discussing issues that are faced by marginalised communities. This new spirit of openness will hopefully transcend throughout society and also make an impact on the Human Rights situation, creating new opportunities to

expand peacebuilding activities in Indonesia over the coming years. As with much peacebuilding work much of what PBI does is about creating awareness and opening doors and creating room for dialogue. Therefore, an important aspect of our work will be to utilise this period of openness by providing opportunities for Human Rights Defenders to tell their stories and be listened to, whether it takes place in Jakarta or abroad.



Peace Brigades International, founded in 1981 in Canada, is an international NGO inspired by Gandhi and non-violent traditions. PBI uses protective accompaniment through international presence and non-violent action to deter politically motivated violence and expand space for Human Rights and peace activism in areas of civil conflict and repression. On invitation of local organisations, PBI sends teams of trained volunteers into areas of conflict to provide international presence and protective accompaniment. Currently, PBI works in five countries: Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mexico and Nepal.

IP Mandate

To contribute to positive peace-building and the improvement of the Human Rights situation in Indonesia through a proactive international presence, committed to the principles of non-violence and non-partisanship.

Strategic Objectives of the IP

1. Increased peaceful space in which civil society can operate and grow
2. Improved space for dialogue among different levels of society to promote greater mutual understanding as a means for building peace and respecting Human Rights
3. Increased awareness among the Indonesian authorities and the international community about the development of the Human Rights situation in Indonesia
4. Enhanced participation and empowerment of civil society actors working for social justice and Human Rights
5. End the need for the PBI Indonesia Project

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