

PBI volunteer accompanies Sister Cecilia, legal representative for the Inter-ecclesiastical Justice and Peace Commission



Human Rights Defenders At Risk Fund

No Justice without Law



Charity Reg. No. 1101016

Human Rights Defenders At Risk Fund

Most of us take for granted the rule of law and the right to uphold it.

Yet in many countries around the world lawyers and other human rights defenders face intimidation, threats, and even the risk of being 'disappeared' and murdered.

Having the courage to uphold the rule of law and challenge violence, discrimination and injustice can bring life-threatening attention. The Human Rights Defenders At Risk Fund aims to redress the balance. By contributing to the Fund you help to protect those who risk their own safety to protect the rights of others.



Alirio Uribe, former President of CCAJAR
("José Alvear Restrepo" Lawyers' Collective)

Alirio Uribe, former President of CCAJAR ("José Alvear Restrepo" Lawyers' Collective), faces a level of threat that requires daily accompaniment by PBI.

Wherever Alirio travels, be it from home, to work, to court, or to meetings around the city, he moves in a bullet-proof car, wears a bullet-proof jacket and has a constant PBI presence at his side.

Accompanying lawyer Alirio Uribe throughout this year has been a privilege and yet a sobering experience for me.

One day we parked in the underground car park of the 30-storey building in which his office is located.

'Do you mind if we walk up rather than take the lift?' he asked. 'It's just that I never get any exercise these days – it's simply too risky for me to go to the gym or the park.'

James Savage,
returned PBI volunteer

About PBI

For over 25 years PBI has partnered and helped to protect lawyers and human rights workers in Latin America and Asia who strive to make access to justice a reality for those suffering human rights abuses.

PBI works in a unique way. Protective accompaniment by our volunteers provides a physical presence by the side of threatened human rights defenders, deterring attacks on them. At the same time we seek to build a dialogue with local civil and military authorities. On the international level we distribute information and develop networks of support.

The PBI volunteer observer is a constant and visible reminder of international attention and the “political cost” of attacking human rights defenders. Backed by networks of diplomatic, parliamentary, legal and civilian support, each volunteer enables human rights defenders to continue in their vital role.

Through PBI, human rights defenders are able to benefit from a space in which they can work with confidence, without fear for their lives or those of their families. PBI can make the difference between life or death.

Where the law is disregarded by the authorities and violence is the main characteristic, the presence and accompaniment of PBI is essential in order to carry out our work as a human rights organisation.

Abel Barrera Hernandez, Director of Tlachinollan Mountain Human Rights Centre, Guerrero, Mexico.

The Fund

The Human Rights Defenders At Risk Fund will contribute much needed funds for the ongoing protection of human rights defenders across the world.

The Fund will support field protection for human rights defenders, and will develop Emergency Support Networks and inspire and educate people about the obstacles and dangers human rights defenders face in upholding the rights of those around them.

In choosing to support the Fund you will help to protect courageous defenders of the rule of law struggling to establish respect for human rights in the most difficult and challenging circumstances.

There are thousands of cases of human rights violations from the districts. We work to give justice to the victims.

Kopila Adhikari, Nepalese Human Rights lawyer, Advocacy Forum



How your contribution helps

Field protection of Human Rights Defenders At Risk

The Fund will enable PBI to provide international presence, protection and support on the ground for those working in dangerous and often violent circumstances to support indigenous rights, environmental justice and to remove impunity. PBI supports at risk human rights defenders working for access to justice in Guatemala, Colombia, México, Indonesia and Nepal.

Early Warning Protection Systems

The Fund will help to provide international protection of human rights defenders through the development of PBI's Emergency Support Network. The Network is activated in life threatening situations. The Network engages parliamentarians, members of the legal profession, governments and other key stakeholders to raise visibility and support PBI in protection actions

PBI Volunteer accompanying 'Panchita', Colombian member of the Association of the Families of the Detained and the Disappeared



International Advocacy and Awareness Raising

Through the Fund PBI will be able to:

- Bring pressure on the UK government to be vigilant about the threats to human rights defenders across the world;
- Intercede directly in the UK with representatives of countries where human rights defenders are at risk requesting guarantees that they may go about their legitimate work;
- Encourage links between UK legal associations, chambers and solicitors firms and human rights lawyers in the field;
- Give lawyers and other human rights defenders an international platform to speak out against the politics of impunity and crimes against humanity around the world;
- Encourage UK lawyers to physically accompany and support human rights defenders in specific lawsuits against violations of human rights;
- Encourage twinning and delegations of UK lawyers to travel to countries where human rights defenders are at risk to act in support of their work as interlocutors with local authorities.

If we are still alive, it is mainly because of PBI's work.

Reinaldo Vargas, Member of CCAJAR ("José Alvear Restrepo" Lawyers' Collective)



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Contributors to The Fund will enable preventative work with rights defenders, raise their public profile, increase their visibility and provide recognition for their work. Most importantly it will help to protect their lives and the lives of those close to them.

With your support, the Fund will enable human rights defenders in the field to continue to uphold the highest values of humanity.

I have been intimidated, terrorised and detained. Since PBI has protected me, I feel a lot safer. I can work more confidently and openly. I don't have to hide anymore.

Matus Murib, Indonesian Human Rights Defender

How you can help

- Make a one-off donation. Donations made with Gift Aid, CAF and charity vouchers are appreciated;
- Make a grant through a charitable trust or foundation;
- Leave a legacy to the Fund in your will;
- Make a gift through your chamber/solicitors firm.
- Donations can be made online at www.justgiving.com/peacebrigades.

If you are an individual UK tax payer we can reclaim the tax on your donation via Gift Aid at no extra cost to you.

Cheques payable to 'PBI UK'

Please help PBI to protect lives, and shine a light of hope and dignity in some of the darkest corners of the world.
Julie Christie, PBI UK patron

If you would like any further information about the **Human Rights Defenders At Risk Fund** or **PBI UK**, please contact us on **020 7 281 53 70** or coordinator@peacebrigades.org.uk

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PBI UK Patrons:

Sir Henry Brooke, Sir Robert Carnwath, Julie Christie, Baroness Frances D'Souza, Sir Nigel Rodley KBE, Peter Roth QC

PBI UK Advisory Lawyer's Committee:

Courtenay Barklem, Michael Brindle QC, Saimo Chahal, Sara Chandler, Ole Hansen, Henrietta Hill, Peter Kyte QC, Maya Lester, Chris Marshall, Michael Smyth, Dr Ralph Wilde

As human rights lawyers we face a permanent environment of intimidation... We know that we are followed... This is about confronting enormous injustice and it's about finding ways... by which people can stand up for their rights. This is the best way to exercise my profession. It's my vocation.
Liliana Uribe,
Human Rights Defender,
Legal Freedom Law Firm (CJL),
Colombia



Liliana Uribe, Human Rights Defender,
Legal Freedom Law Firm (CJL)