

# PBI Colombia

Annual report 2011 . March 2012

A photograph of a group of people walking on a paved street in a rural, hilly area. In the foreground, a woman on the right is wearing a white polo shirt with a circular logo that says 'PBI' and 'PROFESOR BRIGADES INTERNACIONALES'. She is carrying a large, woven, patterned bag. To her left, a young boy is wearing a dark t-shirt with a 'DOLCE & GABBANA' logo. Other people in the group are wearing various casual clothing, including hats and scarves. The background shows a hillside with terraced fields and some buildings.

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2011**

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Photo: Charlotte Kesl

**On the cover** Ana Vicente (PBI) during an accompaniment in Cauca  
Photo by Julián Montoni

**On the back page** Alberto Guerrero and Moira Birss (PBI) greet a member of the Camelias Humanitarian Zone, in the Curbaradó river basin.  
Photo by Charlotte Kesl

The opinions and positions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of Peace Brigades International or its funding agencies.

Contact: [publicaciones@pbicolombia.net](mailto:publicaciones@pbicolombia.net)

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# OBJECTIVES OF PBI COLOMBIA

Photo: Charlotte Kesl



A volunteer walks from the La Europa farm. Montes de María, Sucre.

## GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Contribute to peace through human rights in Colombia.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To protect human rights defenders in Colombia so they may freely carry out their work and actions.

## IN ORDER TO REACH THESE OBJECTIVES, PBI COLOMBIA CARRIES OUT WORK IN FOUR AREAS

### Area 1:

International observation and accompaniment in the field.

### Area 2:

Political advocacy work in Colombia and internationally.

### Area 3:

Education and awareness raising through periodic publications.

### Area 4:

Self-protection, security and support for the reconstruction of the social fabric

## PBI COLOMBIA FUNDING AGENCIES

- Broederlijk Delen
- Canton Vaud /PBI Switzerland
- Catalan Agency for Development
  - Christian Aid (with Irish Aid)
- Civil Peace Service/PBI Germany
  - Diakonia Sweden
  - Diakonisches Werk
- Government of Cantabria
- Government of Navarra
  - ICCO/Kerk in Actie
- Individual donations
- Intermón-Oxfam (EU)
  - Intermón (AECID)
- Mensen met een Missie
  - Misereor
- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs/PBI Norway
  - OPSEU/PBI Canada
- Overbrook Foundation/PBI USA
  - Palencia City Hall
  - Pamplona City Hall
    - PBI Italy
    - PBI UK
  - Sigrid Rausing Trust/PBI UK
  - Solidarité Internationale/PBI Switzerland
- Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
  - Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs/PBI Switzerland
  - The Law Society/PBI UK
    - Vitoria City Hall
    - Zivik/IFA

# Strategic coordination and monitoring

Photo: PBI



In December 2011, diverse communities and social organizations came together to reject declarations made by government officials against victims and the Human Rights organizations which represent them.

## PROTECTION IN 2011

In 2011, PBI continued with its objective of visibilising and protecting those who fight against impunity and human rights violations caused by economic interests, in addition to supporting peace initiatives developed by Colombian grassroots social organisations. PBI accompanied human rights defenders within a context marked by certain legislative progress, including the Law of Victims and Land Restitution. However, there was only slight progress in the concrete situation for human rights defenders, whose protection and legiti-

macy have weakened due to the fact that political motives behind human rights violations have not received the necessary attention.

Through the first year and a half in office, the Juan Manuel Santos Administration has achieved political and legislative progress, especially regarding the official discourse on human rights, the re-initiation of the Guarantees Roundtables and legislation such as the Law of Victims and Land Restitution. Legal progress has also been made in the prosecutions being carried out against several officials from the Administrative Department of Security (DAS), which

is under the direct responsibility of the President of Colombia, resulting in the sentencing of the former DAS director, Jorge Noguera, to 25 years in prison<sup>1</sup>. PBI views these situations as progress in establishing a more favourable environment for dialogue between civil society and the government.

Nonetheless, PBI is concerned that these changes are not reflected in the concrete situation for human rights defenders<sup>2</sup>. To the contrary, according to the Somos Defensores Programme, 145 physical assaults were perpetrated against human rights defenders—including 29 mur-

## DEATH THREATS

Type of harassment	Affected accompanied organisations, individuals, and communities
Assaults in the street (Potentially political in nature)	CCALCP
Death threats	NOMADESC, ACVC, FCSP, CIJP, CCAJAR, MINGA Claudia Julieta Duque, MOVICE Sucre chapter, Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, inhabitants from the Humanitarian Zones of Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó.
<b>Current baseless criminal prosecutions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Criminal prosecutions with formal indictments</li> <li>• Alleged investigations or arrest warrants</li> </ul>	<b>Baseless criminal prosecutions:</b> David Ravelo Crespo (CREDHOS), Carmelo Agámez (MOVICE), Carolina Rubio (FCSP Bucaramanga), Andrés Gil (ACVC). <b>Alleged investigations or arrest warrants:</b> ACVC, CIJP, inhabitants from the Humanitarian Zones of Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó.
Stigmatization in the mass media	ACVC, CCAJAR, CIJP, Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, Javier Giraldo.
Information theft	CIJP
Surveillance and harassment	CCALCP, OFP, Jorge Molano, CIJP, inhabitants from the Humanitarian Zones of Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó.

ders— during the first six months of 2011. This figure represents a 126% increase compared to the same time period in 2010<sup>3</sup>. Community leaders involved in land restitution or return processes have often been the targets of repression within the context of implementing the Law of Victims and Land Restitution, which has achieved important progress but lacks the necessary protection system<sup>4</sup>. Due to presence in the Curbaradó River Basin and accompaniment of the Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission, PBI has been able to measure the situation of risk for the communities within the Humanitarian Zones, resulting in the need to draw international attention to these communities on several occasions<sup>5</sup>.

Human rights organisations have also highlighted deficiencies in the effectiveness of the Ministry of Interior's protection programme<sup>6</sup>, especially relating to its slowness and the fact that the proposed measures do not correspond to the real needs of the human rights defenders. Likewise, it is hoped that the changes announced and put into effect through Decree 4065<sup>7</sup> will be more effective. These organisations also highlight the lack of political measures to tackle the concrete roots of human rights violations,

including the effective dismantlement of paramilitary structures and a lack of public pronouncements in favour of the work of human rights defenders and the fight against impunity<sup>8</sup>.

At the end of 2011, there was intense concern about new stigmatisation and threats against victims and human rights organisations due

to media coverage and statements made by senior Colombian government officials regarding the Mapiripán and Las Pavas massacre cases). The public pronouncements made by the President and other senior government officials marked a break from the discourse for openness and legitimisation heard since Juan Manuel



PBI has been undertaking an exploratory mission, led by the volunteers of the Medellín team, in the departments of Cauca and Valle del Cauca since June 2010. In the photo: Alice Tabard (PBI) accompanies Berenice Celeyta (Nomadesc) in Cali. Photo: Julián Montoni.



In September 2011, PBI received the Order of San Pedro Clave prize, from the diocese of Barrancabermeja, awarded to organizations working to defend and promote Human Rights.

Santos first took office<sup>9</sup>. This new stigmatisation affecting organisations accompanied by PBI, such as the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collectiven, exposes them to tremendous risk. Likewise, it also represents a subtle attack against their physical safety and legitimacy similar to baseless criminal prosecutions, which continue to have a devastating effect on the work of human rights defenders. For example, in the case of David Ravelo, who has been imprisoned since September 2010, his family and organisation—the Regional Corporation for the Defence of Human Rights (CREDHOS)—have recently been the targets of death threats<sup>10</sup>.

Internationally, PBI continued to share its broad firsthand knowledge on the situation in Colombia at bilateral meetings with European, U.S. and Canadian Parliamentarians and Congress members, as well as with State institutions and multilateral agencies, including the United Nations and the European Union. The Free Trade Agreements signed by Colombia with the United States and the European Union have framed PBI's advocacy work on these two continents. Within this context, PBI carried out advocacy in order to ensure the inclusion of human rights organisations and African-descendant communities within the framework of these treaties. Likewise, due to the grave consequences of these economic projects on human rights, PBI

further cooperated with organisations in the United States and Canada on the issues of environmental protection and the exploitation of natural resources. Lastly, PBI successfully strengthened its advocacy capacity before the Organisation of American States.

PBI also played an active role in organising international forums and events, such as the Network of Lawyers at Risk in the United Kingdom. Additionally, PBI became an official member of the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (2010), and has focused on consolidating its support networks with legal professionals, resulting in high-level support from the legal community in several countries. These networks have supported PBI in developing innovative protection mechanisms for the accompaniment of lawyers as well as with fundraising for protection work.

PBI is greatly satisfied that its protection has guaranteed the safety of the accompanied individuals in spite of persisting pressure and threats against emotional, social and physical safety (see Chart A. Summary of death threats). Through political support and physical accompaniment, these organisations have been able to maintain and increase their workspace, as well as strengthen their organising processes.

PBI believes it is of the utmost importance that the international com-

munity continues to closely monitor the human rights situation in Colombia and insist that the Colombian state take concrete actions to improve the situation for human rights defenders.

## **ESTABLISHING THE TEAM IN CALI**

Since June 2010, PBI has carried out an exploratory mission in the departments of Cauca and Valle del Cauca, led by the PBI team in Medellín. This process has deepened PBI's understanding of the critical situation faced by human rights defenders and social organisations in this part of the country. Furthermore, the exploration has demonstrated the high demand, feasibility and usefulness of international accompaniment for the protection of human rights organisations and communities in a region considered to be an epicentre of the armed conflict in Colombia.

In November 2011, the PBI Colombia Project Assembly decided to establish a permanent team in the city of Cali. As of March 2012, PBI will maintain a stable and permanent team of volunteers in the capital of Valle del Cauca, which will focus on providing accompaniment in the departments of South-Western Colombia.

## **GRADUAL DEPARTURE FROM THE CITY OF MEDELLÍN**

While the team relocates to Cali, PBI decided to organise a gradual departure from the city of Medellín. After evaluating the work and accompaniment requests received over the last three years, PBI reached the decision that its presence during the last 11 years has contributed to an increased capacity of these organisations for self-protection, reducing the need for ongoing international accompaniment. Nonetheless, the accompanied organisations in Medellín and Eastern Antioquia continue to face a complex situation with respect to their physical safety. In this respect, the PBI teams in Cali and Bogotá will continue to follow up on the requests received from organisations in Medellín, including meetings and specific or emergency accompaniments.

## INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, STRENGTHENING AND CHANGES

At end of 2011, PBI's internal structure underwent significant changes due to recommendations made by an external evaluation and the need to carry out preventive budget cuts in response to the global financial crisis. As a result, the support office and the field teams were re-structured.

PBI's work environment is extremely dynamic, resulting in the constant need to improve and update organizational capacities. PBI hired external consultants to guide this process in 2011. The corresponding evaluation identified the need to develop and strengthen the project planning and monitoring, in addition to human resource management and the areas of volunteer training, administration and finances, as well as several other recommendations.

In particular, the administration and finance areas were reorganised

to guarantee greater follow-up over project funds and improve human resource management. The role of the team coordinator was also modified to focus on volunteer selection and training, as well as overall team follow up. A new planning, monitoring and evaluation position was created in order to increase the capacity to measure the impact of PBI Colombia's work, ensure comprehensive strategic and operational planning, and improve the flow of communication and internal processes.

At the same time as this restructuring process, the repercussions of the international financial crisis affected the Colombia Project in 2011, resulting in a decrease in available funds. Despite the inevitable need to modify the scope of its work, PBI Colombia has attempted to limit the impact felt by accompanied organisations and the protection provided. However, PBI was forced to scale back advocacy capacities in Washington D.C. and Brussels.

## INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION

PBI wishes to highlight some of the recognition received in 2011 that endorses its effort on behalf of human rights defenders. In July 2011, the British Embassy in Bogotá designated PBI as the human rights defender of the month, demonstrating the international community's support for PBI's work. In September 2011, PBI received an award from the San Pedro Claver Order of the Diocese in Barrancabermeja, which is given to organisations working in the defence and promotion of human rights. Lastly, in December 2011, PBI was awarded the International Jaime Brunet Prize for the Promotion of Human Rights for its "commendable work" providing international accompaniment and protection to human rights defenders "where they are subjected to attacks or serious threats and their situation is most critical and vulnerable"<sup>11</sup>.

Photo: Charlotte Kesl



### Celebrating 30 years of Peace Brigades International

In celebration of PBI International's 30th anniversary, a successful series of conferences were organised in strategic cities around the world, including Barcelona, Geneva, Berlin, and London. Each conference provided opportunities for PBI accompanied individuals—as well as others involved in defending human rights—to examine the effectiveness of the ex-

isting protection mechanisms and formulate more effective mechanisms. PBI Colombia representatives in Europe participated in the events in Geneva and several Colombian human rights defenders were able to present firsthand the country's situation to the international community.

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3. "Más allá de las cifras, Informe enero-junio 2011", Sistema de Información de Agresiones contra defensores y defensoras de derechos humanos en Colombia (SIADHH), Somos Defensores Programme, page 3
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8. "Santos, ¿mejor que con Uribe?", National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE), August 2011
9. "Declarations regarding the Mapiripán case delegitimize victims and human rights defenders", *Action Alert*, PBI, November 2011
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# Analysis of current human rights situation

Photo: Fundación Dos Mundos/UNHCHR



Colombia is the country with the second highest number of internally displaced persons in the world, after Sudan, according to statistics from the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC).

In 2011, there was extensive legislative activity in Colombia, often initiated by the government. The issue of peace has been covered in the most important newspapers of the country. Civil society has also re-engaged in encouraging a negotiated resolution for the armed conflict. Additionally, State security forces achieved military victories against guerrilla groups, including the death of the commander of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), alias 'Alfonso Cano'. The illegal armed groups, which emerged from paramilitary blocks and drug-trafficking cartels, have expanded their activities throughout the country<sup>1</sup>, despite mass arrests in some regions of the country, such as the Urabá region of Antioquia<sup>2</sup>. Ac-

ording to indicators on human rights violations, the panorama of political violence has worsened as compared to previous years. For example, the number of candidates murdered within the framework of local and regional elections demonstrates that the country is far from overcoming the devastating humanitarian consequences of the armed conflict existing since the birth of the insurgent movements of the FARC and the National Liberation Army (ELN)<sup>3</sup>.

## ARMED CONFLICT

The conflict "surpasses the sum of all of the previous conflicts [in Colombia] in terms of cost, forced disappearances, displacements, land seizures, and other specific manifestations of violence including hostage-

taking, kidnapping, imprisonment, torture, threats, exile, and systematic human rights violations"<sup>4</sup>.

For instance, as a percentage of GDP, Colombia ranked third in military expense in 2007 for countries with internal armed conflicts, only surpassed by Israel and Yemen<sup>5</sup>. Presently, the 2012 national budget "allocates more money for activities relating to the armed conflict than resources for health, education, or housing"<sup>6</sup>. Furthermore, the FARC "has income similar to that designated in the national budget for encouraging and regulating economic development"<sup>7</sup>. In 2010, Colombia had the largest State security forces in Latin America with 287,724 members of the military and 153,231 members of the national police<sup>8</sup>.





Around 2,400 large landowners control 53% of the usable land in Colombia with an average of 18,000 hectares each. Meanwhile, nearly 1.4 million of small scale farmers share 1.7 million hectares. In the photo: A small scale farmer.

According to research carried out by the Ideas for Peace Foundation (FIP), government forces have been able to force guerrilla groups — especially the FARC— to retreat to areas along the country's borders<sup>9</sup>. However, the Nuevo Arco iris Corporation has recorded an increase in guerrilla activity and concludes that these groups are far from being defeated<sup>10</sup>. After the death of alias 'Alfonso Cano', the FARC's new top commander, alias 'Timochenko', issued public statements indicating the same perspective<sup>11</sup>, provided that the propaganda element contained in these types of communications are taken into account.

Moreover, since the demobilization of the United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC) in 2005, dozens of illegal armed groups have appeared. Over the past years, these groups have consolidated into structures, operating under names such as the Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (AGC), Urabeños, Paisas,

Rastrojos, Águilas Negras, and Nueva Generación.

According to the ex director of the office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Colombia, Christian Salazar, these groups constitute the greatest threat to the state of law and to the protection of Human Rights in Colombia<sup>12</sup>. The We Are Defenders Program's annual supports this, stating, for example, that in 2011 that 50% of the attacks against Human Rights Defenders were perpetrated by members of these groups<sup>13</sup>.

### **FORCED DISPLACEMENT**

In 2011, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) published a report on the situation of rural areas in Colombia. According to the introduction of this study, Colombia "suffers the worst humanitarian crisis in its history, the most severe in the Western Hemisphere, and one of the three most critical in the world as a result of the internal conflict"<sup>14</sup>.

Colombia has the second largest internally displaced population in the world following Sudan according to figures from the Norwegian Refugee Council. Depending on the source, between 8% to 11.6% of the overall population has been the victim of internal displacement<sup>15</sup>. Of the 3,486,305 displaced people registered with the Department for Social Prosperity<sup>16</sup>, as of July 2010, 66.5% were expelled from their land during the administration of Álvaro Uribe Vélez (2002-2010), predecessor to current president Juan Manuel Santos<sup>17</sup>.

This phenomenon continues to create new victims every year. In its annual report, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) observed that total displacements have increased for the first time in three years "due to more armed actions in certain regions of the country"<sup>18</sup>. According to the Consultancy for Human Rights and Displacement (CODHES), a total of 89,000 people were displaced from January to



The Victim's Law aims to respond to the situation of serious human rights violations in which millions of Colombians live as a result of the internal armed conflict.

September 2011<sup>19</sup>.

Forced displacement and the subsequent abandonment of land and territory in the country's rural areas have created a situation of extreme inequality in these areas. Approximately 2,400 large landowners control 53% of the usable land in Colombia with an average of more than 18,000 hectares per owner. Meanwhile, nearly 1.4 million small-scale traditional farmers only own 1.7 million hectares. The government even recognizes that 50% of the population in these areas lives in poverty even though other sources raise this percentage to 65% and even up to 85%<sup>20</sup>.

A particularly concerning problem is the amount of homicides perpetrated against forcibly displaced persons who attempt to recover their land. According to CODHES, "44 displaced persons who participated in land restitution processes were murdered from 1 March 2002 to 31 January 2011. The Prosecutor General's Office also indicated that 7,000 displaced people were murdered from between 2002 and 2010"<sup>21</sup>. Since President Santos took office, 21 leaders who fought for the restitution of seized land have been murdered, according to a study by the U.S. Office on Colombia<sup>22</sup>.

## GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE

The Government has been pushing forward a broad agenda to reform State institutions and the constitutional legal framework. Over the last two legislative sessions, Congress passed the Citizen Security Law, the Law of Victims and Land Restitution, and the Intelligence Law. These laws —some of which were originally proposed by former President Uribe— respond to the need for regulations after abuses and deficiencies were revealed in the national law enforcement system, including the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) and the humanitarian crisis represented by internal displacement.

The Intelligence Law attempts to prevent future abuses by State intelligence agencies through compliance with international standards. The Citizen Security Law is a set of reforms for different legal bodies, including the Constitution. It also increases punishment for certain types of crimes and regulates the powers of State security forces. The Victims' Law attempts to respond to the grave situation of violations faced by millions of Colombians due to the internal armed conflict. All of these initiatives have been praised by the national and international media.

Nonetheless, civil society organizations, especially those that represent or defend the victims of human rights violations, have expressed concern for certain important aspects of these laws. For example,

Reiniciar Corporation criticises that the Intelligence Law does not establish an effective mechanism to purge files even though there have been several legal cases where State intelligence mechanisms have been used to illegally persecute and gather information on government opponents. The organisation also criticises that an effective mechanism has not been established for external control and that right to the truth has been disregarded<sup>23</sup>.

Insofar as the Citizen Security Law, the Nuevo Arco Iris Corporation highlights three problematic components: "I) Focusing on the youth population potentially stigmatises them as prone to violence, II) Increasing punishment for certain crimes, and III) Applying judicial procedures that may violate civil liberties, due process, and guarantees in the application of justice"<sup>24</sup>.

The Victims' Law has been very controversial. On the one hand, almost all sectors of Colombian and international society recognise the law as a major advance in the area of reparations. On the other hand, individuals such as Iván Cepeda, a member of congress from the Democratic Alternative Party, have criticised the law due to the limits established for the dates used to determine victims, the Ministry of Defence's right to review restitution processes, and the exclusion of victims returning to their land on their own<sup>25</sup>. This last aspect is especially critical since it excludes restitution within the framework of the Victims' Law for those engaging in



A large proportion the people claiming land restitution are female heads of household. Photo taken during a march to celebrate Afro-Colombian identity in Bogotá in October 2011.

such return initiatives as Humanitarian Zones and Peace Communities, strategies that in some cases have been accompanied by PBI.

Presently, the justice system reform is one of the most important legislative initiatives being pushed forward in Congress. Criticism against the initiative has not only been made by civil society, but also the Supreme Court of Justice, which has stated that the legislative bill establishes mechanisms for impunity (such as re-establishing military jurisdiction) and affects the balance of power in favour of the executive and legislative branches<sup>26</sup>.

## TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

In Colombia, a process for transitional justice is currently being pushed forward under the premise that peace may be achieved through legal course of action. Law 975 of 2005 —also known as the Law of Justice and Peace— is the main focus of transitional justice in Colombia. The law stipulates that commanders of the paramilitary organisations belonging to the United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC) can receive reduced prison sentences —a maximum of eight years— in exchange for revealing the truth on the crimes committed and making reparations to the victims. Six years after coming into force, the Law of Justice and Peace has only resulted in one conviction of a “heavy weight”<sup>27</sup>, the former commander of the Élmér Cárdenas Block. Due to the few outcomes resulting from

this process, the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia of the Organisation of American States (MAPP-OAS) carried out a study, led by the Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzón. This study issues 110 recommendations to the Colombian government in order to make the law an effective mechanism for transitional justice<sup>28</sup>.

This year, the Government urgently presented a new regulatory measure whereby benefits could be granted until to 30 December 2011, including “the conditional suspension of prison sentences and arrest warrants issued against members of demobilised armed groups agreeing to con-

tribute to historical truth”<sup>29</sup>. This law expired at the end of 2011. Meanwhile thousands of paramilitaries continue to be “missing” and another 16,000<sup>30</sup> availed themselves of what Camilo González Posso —from the Institute of Studies for Development and Peace (INDEPAZ)— calls “a conditional pardon”<sup>31</sup>. The National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE) and other organisations consider this to be a mechanism of impunity<sup>32</sup>. The number of “missing” paramilitary members exceeds the official figure of the 4,000 members of what are known as Criminal Gangs (BACRIM)<sup>33</sup>.

## Gender-based violence

Women and youth are some of the sectors of society that have most suffered from violence within the context of the armed conflict. According to a report published by Amnesty International in September 2011, “women and girls have been subjected to widespread and systematic sexual violence by all the parties of the long-running Colombian armed conflict —paramilitaries, members of the security forces, and guerrilla combatants”<sup>34</sup>. Most of the cases —approximately 80%— are not reported because of “the shame and stigma associated with rape, fear of further violence, a general

lack of security, and a lack of confidence that the justice system and police will take reports seriously and ensure their proper investigation”<sup>35</sup>. This situation has been aggravated by the fact that many of the claimants for land restitution are single mothers. These circumstances were illustrated in particular by the murder of Ana Fabricia Córdoba, a cousin of the former Senator Piedad Córdoba, in Medellín in May 2011. After the murder, civil society organisations decided to temporarily suspend dialogue with the Colombian government on the security guarantees for human rights defenders<sup>36</sup>.

## Perspective for peace?

"The commemoration of acts of violence has been gaining greater importance over the last year. This has developed jointly with emerging manifestations for peace in the country, efforts to reconstruct historical memory, and the general mobilisation of victims"<sup>37</sup>. The civil society has carried out more actions for peace this year. Important events like the National Peace Encounter, organised by the Peasant Farmer Association of the Cimitarra River Valley (ACVC)<sup>38</sup>, have also been broadly covered by the national and international media. Different organisations, including the ACVC and Colombians for Peace (CCP), seek a negotiated resolution to the armed conflict and a political agenda that effectively resolves its structural causes. At the beginning of 2012 and after several letters written by the current commander of the FARC,

alias 'Timochenko', CCP issued an open letter to guerrilla groups and the Colombian government requesting a temporary cease fire to facilitate a negotiation process<sup>39</sup>.

While the government and the FARC, two of the principal actors in the armed conflict, have publicly expressed their willingness to engage in dialogue, figures on the war demonstrate a different reality. Additionally, both parties condition their willingness for dialogue in such a way that it will be very difficult to effectively move the process forward. The government continues to insist on submission to the law, denying the demobilised combatants the right to political participation. For example, President Juan Manuel Santos has explicitly authorised a legislative bill by Senator Roy Barreras that establishes a legal framework for peace<sup>40</sup>.

Photo: Julián Montoni



Miguel Huepa, member of the Peasant Farmer Association of the Cimitarra River Valley.

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# International accompaniment: Barrancabermeja Team

Photo: PBI



Carly Dawson and Kristin Donovan (PBI) with CCALCP's Marcela Castellanos and Adriana Martínez, a lawyer and anthropologist respectively, during a verification mission in the Guamocó region in May 2011.

In August 2011, more than 25,000 Colombians from throughout the country came to Barrancabermeja to participate in the National Meeting of Peasant, Indigenous and African-Descendant Communities for Land and Peace in Colombia, organised by the Peasant Farmer Association of the Cimitarra River Valley (ACVC) in cooperation with other organisations accompanied by PBI, including the Regional Corporation for the Defence of Human Rights (CREDHOS), the Grassroots Women's Organisation (OFP), and Lilia Peña, current president of the Magdalena Medio Victim's Association (ASORVIMM).

PBI provides protective accom-

paniment in the region of Magdalena Medio by directly accompanying these three organisations, in addition to Lilia Peña—with whom PBI signed an accompaniment agreement in June 2011. PBI also works with the Luis Carlos Pérez Lawyers' Collective (CCALCP) in Bucaramanga by accompanying them in Norte de Santander and Guamocó. PBI also accompanies Leonardo Jaimes Marín, a lawyer with the Committee in Solidarity with Political Prisoners (FCSP), Bucaramanga Chapter, who handles human rights cases in Santander.

## **LUÍS CARLOS PÉREZ LAWYERS' COLLECTIVE (CCALCP)**

CCALCP's work principally focuses on human rights violations due to economic interests and the fight against impunity. In this respect, CCALCP lawyers have provided legal representation to the victims of baseless accusations and the family members of victims of extrajudicial executions in north-eastern Colombia.

This year the Lawyer's Collective has broadened its work in Norte de Santander, which has included hearings in Cúcuta and workshops with rural farming communities through the Association of Small Farmers

of Catatumbo (ASCAMCAT) and the Motilón Bari indigenous people. Additionally, the organisation's work has also increased in the region of Guamocó where it supported the Association of Agro-Ecological and Mining Workers in Guamocó (AHERAMIGUA) during a verification commission in March<sup>1</sup>, which was accompanied by PBI. The security situation continues to be very unstable in this part of the country.

In August, another significant event was carried by CCALCP in La Guajira: the National Meeting on Memory, Reflection and Collective Action against Large-Scale Mining in Colombia<sup>2</sup>. In cooperation with CCAJAR and the Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission, CCALCP brought together representatives from all of the processes providing support in North-Eastern Colombia. In all, more than 130 people attended, sharing their issues, achievements and challenges in confronting an economic model that puts them at much greater risk of being displaced. PBI accompanied CCALCP to provide protection during the trip and demonstrate international support for the event.

PBI did not activate its support network on behalf of CCALCP this year, but several meetings were carried out with local authorities after thefts and acts of intimidation occurred in Bucaramanga<sup>3</sup>.

## PEASANT FARMER ASSOCIATION OF THE CIMITARRA RIVER VALLEY (ACVC)

Although the ACVC has achieved significant progress this year, it has also been the target of persecution throughout the Magdalena Medio and north-eastern Antioquia, which has been the case during many years. In 2011, they faced stigmatisation<sup>4</sup>, death threats<sup>5</sup> and acts of aggression<sup>6</sup> against their members, which resulted in the organisation needing greater accompaniment from PBI. In fact, the ACVC is the organization that receives the most accompaniments from PBI in Colombia.

In February, the suspension was lifted for the Peasant Farmer Reserve Zone (ZRC) in the Cimitarra River Valley<sup>7</sup>. Since then, the ACVC's most ambitious projects have been the National Peace Meeting in August<sup>8</sup> (with the participation of more than 25.000 small scale farmers, afro-Colombians and indigenous peoples) and update the development plan for the Peasant Farmer Reserve Zone. These activities have been carried out by the ACVC on its path towards a peasant organising process in the Magdalena Medio that goes beyond land restitution and the recognition of the victims of the armed conflict.

Among other factors, PBI's accompaniment has empowered the

ACVC to broaden its work nationally. The National Association of Peasant Farmer Reserve Zones (ANZORC) was created this year in order to encourage different reserve zones throughout the country (Montes de María and Catatumbo, among others)<sup>9</sup>. The ACVC continues to be an organisation with one of the highest political profiles in Colombia. It is also one of the most threatened due to its decisive actions in defending the rights of the rural farming population and sustainable participatory development in the areas of ranching, farming, and mining.

## GRASSROOTS WOMEN'S ORGANISATION (OFP)

The OFP accompanies women from working-class neighbourhoods in Barrancabermeja and different municipalities in Magdalena Medio, speaking out against human rights violations and supporting social organisation processes. PBI increased its accompaniment since the beginning of the year and held several advocacy meetings in the municipality of San Pablo (Bolívar) where there is strong paramilitary control<sup>10</sup>.

In September 2011, PBI accompanied OFP lawyer Claudia Castellanos to a court hearing in Simití (Bolívar). The case concerned the rape of a fourteen-year-old girl whose family had also received intense pressure and threats. Thanks to the OFP's in-

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES WITH ACCOMPANIED INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

	CCALCP	ACVC	OFP	CREHOS	FCSP **	Lilia Peña ***	Otras ONGs ****	Total
Office visits	49	165	103	125	34	74	23	539
Accompaniments*	187	343	76	49	69	54	49	758
Meetings	14	39	21	54	6	33	88	249

\* Recorded in 12-hour units.

\*\* Bucaramanga Chapter

\*\*\* Member of Asorvimm

\*\*\*\* ASODESAMUBA, ETTTDDHH, CCAJAR, CJL, CIJP, Diversidad Humana, AHERAMIGUA, Humanidad Vigente, ASFADDES, CPDH, and Hijos e Hijas.

volvement and interest, the assailant was sentenced to prison for 12 and a half years, an almost singular achievement since most of these types of cases remain unpunished. The judge's ruling in favour of the victim created a very important precedent for the future of the Magdalena Medio.

In November, OFP member María Jackeline Rojas Castañeda suffered a serious attack<sup>11</sup> when two armed individuals forced entry into her and her partner's residence —her partner is a trade unionist— and she was assaulted and threatened. Consequently, the OFP activated its national and international support network to demand that authorities protect her life and right to defend human rights.

### **REGIONAL CORPORATION FOR THE DEFENCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS (CREDHOS)**

In 2011, CREDHOS's work was marred by the criminal prosecution and continued imprisonment of David Ravelo Crespo<sup>12</sup>, their principal leader and the visible head of the social movement in Barrancabermeja. Consequently, PBI provided this organisation with fewer accompaniments.

CREDHOS's work has decreased due to this criminal prosecution. Instead, work has focused on the campaign for David Ravelo's freedom, which PBI has supported by activating its support network and visibilising the hearings for his trial.

CREDHOS has also decreased the number of workshops it provides. However, the organisation continues to act in favour of workers from different sectors and communities.

In October, PBI accompanied sev-

eral CREDHOS members to Puente Sogamoso (Santander) where the Mobile Anti-Riot Police (ESMAD) harshly repressed protests by palm workers<sup>13</sup>.

### **COMMITTEE IN SOLIDARITY WITH POLITICAL PRISONERS (FCSP), BUCARAMANGA CHAPTER**

In 2011, PBI signed an accompaniment agreement with human rights lawyer Leonardo Jaimes Marín from the FCSP Chapter in Bucaramanga since his risk had increased due to his involvement in high profile cases (extrajudicial executions and "parapolitics"). In September, the FCSP Chapter in Bucaramanga suffered a security incident after an explosion went off outside of their legal team's office<sup>14</sup>. This act, which is presently under investigation, has caused considerable concern due to the environment of ongoing threats faced by the organisation's members.

This year, the Bucaramanga Chapter opened a new work area in Southern César where it handles cases relating to human rights violations and provides legal accompaniment for a displaced community. Within this context, PBI carried out advocacy work with the local authorities.

One of the chapter's achievements in 2011 was a ruling in the case of the National Army's Unified Action Groups for Personal Liberty (GAULA). On December 7, ten military members were convicted for extrajudicial executions, also known as "false positives"<sup>15</sup>, which brought an end to a four year long case.

### **LILIA PEÑA, MAGDALENA MEDIO VICTIM'S ASSOCIATION (ASORVIMM)**

In July, PBI signed an agreement with Lilia Peña (ASORVIMM). Since then, PBI has provided her with more accompaniments. The resulting decrease in attacks and threats has brought greater stability to her work.

This year, PBI accompanied Lilia Peña to several places in the Magdalena Medio and north-eastern Antioquia. During these trips she gave workshops to victims of human rights violations, supported workers and social leaders at risk, provided consultation for eviction cases, and commemorated important dates. Lilia Peña and ASORVIMM also actively participated in organising the National Peace Encounter.

On March 8, 2011, PBI accompanied Lilia Peña to remember the female victims of State crimes during a march to commemorate Women's Day in Barrancabermeja, which included the participation hundreds of people.

In order to broaden her work in the Magdalena Medio, Lilia Peña went the area of San Pablo in November —with PBI accompaniment— to give introductory talks and gather testimony from victims of human rights violations. In 2011, this area faced significant military presence<sup>16</sup> and violence perpetrated by illegal armed groups<sup>17</sup>.

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17. "Cuatro personas fueron masacradas en San Pablo", *Vanguardia Liberal*, 16 August 2011, <http://www.vanguardia.com/santander/barrancabermeja/117388-cuatro-personas-fueron-masacradas-en-san-pablo>



The work with CREDHOS in 2011 was marked by the criminal prosecution and continued imprisonment of David Ravelo Crespo, their principle leader and public face of the social movement in Barrancabermeja, which has resulted in a reduction in the number of accompaniments made. In the photo, PBI accompanies María Ravelo, David's cousin and a member of CREDHOS, during a student march in November 2011.



PBI accompanied Lilia Peña (Regional Association of the victims of state crimes in the Magdalena Medio) to a number of locations in the Magdalena Medio and Nordeste Antioqueño in order to deliver workshops on Human Rights to victims, support to at-risk social leaders and workers, provide advice in cases of evictions, and commemorate special dates.



The National Peace Meeting and the updating of the Peasant Reserve Zone development plan have been the most ambitious projects of the Peasant Farmer Association of the Cimitarra River Valley.



# International accompaniment: Bogotá Team

Photo: Julián Montoni



Anna Jover and Stephanie DiBello (PBI) in Casnare. PBI accompanies the Social Corporation for Community Advice and Training Services (COSPACC) in its work with the indigenous U'wa community in Casnare which is defending its territory against the economic interests of oil companies.

In 2011, the Bogotá team principally focused its work in Cundinamarca and the capital city of Bogotá. However, the team also travelled to the departments of Arauca, Casanare, Sucre, and Córdoba.

## **JOSÉ ALVEAR RESTREPO LAWYERS' COLLECTIVE (CCAJAR)**

PBI has accompanied CCAJAR since 1994. Over the last year, CCAJAR lawyers have been especially visible due to their role in many emblematic cases, including the case concerning illegal wiretapping carried out by the Administrative Department of Security (DAS)<sup>1</sup>, the case against former DAS director Jorge Noguera, the case of forced disappearances

during the military take-over of the Palace of Justice<sup>2</sup>, legal actions to prevent the extradition of paramilitaries, and such cases as the coal mine at El Cerrejón (La Guajira) within the framework of the environmental conflict between large mining companies and local communities. CCAJAR's criticism of the paramilitary demobilisation process has received broad media coverage and the Lawyers' Collective has spoken at public events on the persistence of paramilitary structures.

In March of this year, CCAJAR decided to withdraw from the Ministry of Interior's protection programme due to the lack of political guarantees ensuring their safety. Since CCAJAR withdrew from this programme — which included armoured cars, drivers, and other physical protection

measures— the organisation has significantly increased its requests for PBI accompaniment. Because the organisation handles high-profile cases against members of the army, CCAJAR is constantly in the public eye. Lately, CCAJAR has faced direct political attacks relating to the scandal around the retracted testimony of an alleged victim of the Mapiripán massacre (Meta, 1997)<sup>3</sup>. In addition to discrediting their work, CCAJAR members are at higher risk of criminal prosecutions. This year, an emblematic accompaniment also went to Saravena (Arauca) —where the armed conflict is especially intense— to carry out an international psychological evaluation of the family members of the Santo Domingo massacre (1998).

## **SOCIAL CORPORATION FOR COMMUNITY ADVISORY AND TRAINING SERVICES (COSPACC)**

PBI has accompanied COSPACC since 2009. COSPACC is a grassroots organisation that speaks out against human rights violations, coordinates legal work, supports organising processes, and accompanies victims. Due to their work promoting and protecting human rights and international humanitarian law, COSPACC members need to constantly monitor their own safety when travelling to remote regions. Consequently, COSPACC considers PBI to be a principal component for preventing attacks from being carried out against them. For example, PBI accompanies COSPACC when it works with the U'wa indigenous community in Casanare to defend their territory against oil economic interests and State incursions. In September, PBI also accompanied COSPACC to the U'wa territory during a verification mission with the Colombian state to investigate military presence in different sacred places.

## **ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE DETAINED AND DISAPPEARED (ASFADDES)**

In 2011, ASFADDES's work focused on accompaniment for their members to different parts of the country within the framework of the National Search Commission. This accompaniment has been able to raise the awareness of the authorities on the issue of forced disappearances and train them on the use of the mechanism for urgent searches. ASFADDES is the only civil society organisation participating in these workshops.

PBI's accompaniment of ASFADDES contributes to legitimising the organisation's presence and strengthening its voice so its members may have effective dialogue with authorities. PBI highlights accompanying ASFADDES to an exhumation in Cúcuta in, a difficult and dangerous time given the location of this proceeding.

## **COMMITTEE IN SOLIDARITY WITH POLITICAL PRISONERS (FCSP)**

FCSP promotes the respect and guarantee of the rights of persons deprived of liberty for political motives. The organisation provides prison and legal assistance to people detained for political motives, monitors conditions within prisons, processes prisoner complaints, gives workshops on human rights, and cooperates with international organisations and institutions. This year, FCSP has concentrated its effort on the World Campaign to Close the Jail in Valledupar (Cesar)<sup>4</sup>.

In October, PBI accompanied FCSP president Franklin Castañeda to Cali for the National Congress on Land, Territory and Sovereignty. The Congress was made up of many organisations, including peasant, indigenous, African-descendent, and women's organisations. After the Congress, the participants travelled to a mobilisation against a large-scale mining project in Cajamarca (Tolima).

## **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES WITH ACCOMPANIED INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS**

	<b>CCAJAR</b>	<b>COSPACC</b>	<b>ASFADDES</b>	<b>FCSP</b>	<b>MINGA</b>	<b>Claudia Julieta Duque</b>
Office visits	100	-	19	78	-	-
Accompaniments	260	85	25	111	3	46
Meetings	21	29	10	18	6	5
	<b>Fundación Cepeda</b>	<b>MOVICE</b>	<b>Jorge Molano</b>	<b>CIJP*</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>Total</b>
Office visits	-	-	-	17	-	214
Accompaniments	16	5	67	42	19	679
Meetings	9	13	10	37	16	174

\*PBI accompanies CIJP from Bogotá and the teams in Urabá and Medellín-Cali are responsible for planning all of the accompaniments.



Claudia Girón from the Manuel Cepeda Vargas Foundation together with the Mothers of Soacha (a heavily inhabited zone in the south of Bogotá) whose children were victims of extrajudicial executions in 2008.

## ASSOCIATION FOR ALTERNATIVE SOCIAL PROMOTION (MINGA ASSOCIATION)

The Minga Association promotes the defence and exercise of human rights, focusing its institutional project toward the transformation of political, economic and social conditions existing in Colombia in order to overcome the human rights and humanitarian crisis, impunity, and armed conflict. The Association encourages the organised participation of excluded social sectors and the territorial and cultural autonomy of peoples. Minga also organises cultural events promoting historical memory and uniting communities affected by the Colombian armed conflict. In order to do this, Minga facilitates communication between organisations and collectives—made up of indigenous people, traditional farmers, workers, women, young people, academics, and churches—and national and international public institutions.

In 2011, PBI accompanied Minga Association to the event “The Mothers of Soacha and Bogotá Never Forget” organised by a group of mothers, sisters and wives of victims of extrajudicial executions. The people there commemorated the three years since the loss of their loved ones.

## CLAUDIA JULIETA DUQUE

Claudia Julieta Duque is an independent investigative journalist and human rights defender, nationally and internationally recognised for her work. Claudia Julieta Duque’s work is framed within her professional and personal fight against impunity and for access to the truth for the victims of human rights violations.

Since 2010, PBI has accompanied Ms. Duque in order to publicly support and legitimise her work as an investigative journalist. Currently, her work focuses on cases investigating the espionage carried out by the DAS, the case against former DAS deputy director Miguel Narváez, and such paramilitary leaders as Carlos Castaño and ‘Don Berna’.

This year PBI accompanied Claudia Julieta Duque at public events where she presented information on the financial role played by the United States in the illegal interceptions carried out by the Colombian State against human rights defenders, which could also implicate former President Álvaro Uribe. In response to an article she wrote on the issue, en President Uribe accused her of being a terrorist sympathiser and guerrilla accomplice, which puts her at risk for greater stigmatisation or other forms of attack<sup>5</sup>.

## MANUEL CEPEDA VARGAS FOUNDATION

The Manuel Cepeda Foundation focuses on promoting the collective acquisition of the historical past as a fundamental component for constructing democracy in Colombian society, demanding justice and reparations for the genocide committed against the Patriotic Union, and strengthening the organising work of the victims of State-sponsored crimes.

Currently, the Cepeda Foundation—along with Minga and the Caribbean Agenda—coordinates a memory project called “The Gallery of Hope.” It is an exhibit of testimonies addressing such issues as forced disappearance, criminal prosecutions, arbitrary detentions, military recruitment of children, and common graves, among other issues relating to human rights violations. The exhibit is travelling through the United States in order to raise awareness in the U.S. population on how Plan Colombia has resulted in human rights violations for Colombian civil society. The project focuses on three regions: Montes de María, Putumayo, and Catatumbo<sup>6</sup>.

## NATIONAL MOVEMENT OF VICTIMS OF STATE CRIMES (MOVICE)

MOVICE's main objective is to defend victims of State-sponsored crimes perpetrated by members of State security forces or para-state and paramilitary forces. The movement is made up of hundreds of grassroots organisations seeking to contribute to the political resolution of the social and armed conflict existing in Colombia by demanding the dismantlement of all war structures, the demilitarization of civilian life, and the achievement of humanitarian agreements. MOVICE demands the re-establishment of the rights to truth, justice, comprehensive reparations, the guarantee of non-repetition, and memory.

This year, Carmelo Agámez, human rights defender and coordinator for the MOVICE chapter in Sucre, was released after being in prison since November 2008. After almost three years of what some human rights defenders have called "an institutional kidnapping of a human rights defender", Carmelo Agámez regained his liberty for time served, even though the trial had not yet reached conclusion. According to MOVICE, different irregularities affected the investigation since the beginning, violating such fundamental rights as due process and fair defence<sup>7</sup>. Additionally, MOVICE asserts that the legal process was based on questionable accusations made by the wife of former mayor Jorge Blanco and former council member, Luis Carlos Hocón Blanco, who was arrested recently after Carmelo Agámez and MOVICE publicly spoke out about presumed ties to paramilitary groups<sup>8</sup>.

## JORGE MOLANO

Jorge Eliécer Molano Rodríguez is a human rights lawyer with more than 20 years of experience. PBI has accompanied Mr. Molano since August 2009 due to his representation in several emblematic cases attempting to establish jurisprudence and convict both the material and intellectual authors of grave human rights violations.

Mr. Molano provides legal representation in important cases such as the forced disappearances at the Palace of Justice in 1985, the massacre of members of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó in 2005, extrajudicial executions, espionage of human rights defenders and organisations by the DAS, and Operation Dragon (a plot allegedly developed by Colombian army officials, the police and the Attorney General's Office to murder human rights defenders, union leaders and members of the opposition in Colombia)<sup>9</sup>. When he requested State security measures to protect him from the dangers of his work, the Presidential Protection Programme classified his risk as "extraordinary", the highest possible level<sup>10</sup>.

PBI frequently accompanies Jorge Molano in Bogotá as well as on trips to Manizales, Cali, and Apartadó. He has been the target of surveillance and slander and his risk has increased since he decided to give up his State security measures when these services were going to be privatised. Since then, PBI has evaluated the lawyer's protection needs and increased accompaniments to compensate for the loss of the extensive State security measures.

Another concerning factor has been the public support Colonel

Alfonso Plazas Vega received from senior military commanders. Colonel Plazas Vega was sentenced to prison for thirty years for the forced disappearances perpetrated during the military take-over of the Palace of Justice. These military commanders declared Colonel Plazas Vega to be a "hero"<sup>11</sup>, which could discredit Mr. Molano's work as the victims' lawyer and make him the target of further acts of stigmatisation and harassment.

## INTER-CHURCH JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION (CIJP)

In 2011, the CIJP team in Bogotá continued to suffer defamations as well as the delegitimization of their work in the media.

Key accompaniments of the CIJP's team of lawyers in Bogotá over the past year have included travel to the field in order to collect testimonies in relation to the emblematic cases of Operation Genesis and the assassination of Marino López, both being held before the Interamerican Court of human rights. These cases significantly increase the risk of the lawyers and other members of the organization. In practice, this risk has translated over the past year into a threat against one of the female lawyers, a break-in into the house of Danilo Rueda along with information theft, surveillance and harassment of other members of the organization's coordination team.

1. "¿Qué ha pasado con los implicados en el escándalo de las 'chuzadas'?", *Semana*, 30 July 2011, <http://www.semana.com/nacion/ha-pasado-implicados-escandalo-chuzadas/161421-3.aspx>

2. "Informe del Palacio de Justicia: ni comisión ni verdad", Maureen Maya, Cese el Fuego Foundation, 23 November 2006, <http://www.colectivodeabogados.org/INFORME-DEL-PALACIO-DE-JUSTICIA-NI>

3. "Mapiripán: revisarán caso por caso", *El Espectador*, 26 October 2011, <http://www.elespectador.com/impreso/judicial/articulo-307847-mapiripan-revisaran-caso-caso>

4. For more information on the campaign, please consult the following web page: <http://www.comitedesolidaridad.com/valledepar/>

5. "Former President Uribe labels journalists 'terrorism sympathisers'", International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), 25 August 2011, [http://www.ifex.org/colombia/2011/08/25/uribe\\_threats/es/](http://www.ifex.org/colombia/2011/08/25/uribe_threats/es/)

6. Please consult the following web pages: <http://remember.lwr.org/> and <http://asociacionminga.org/bminga/index.htm>

7. "Unjustly Detained Colombian Human Rights Activist to Face Trial", Human Rights First, 10 November 2009

8. "Desconociendo irregularidades en el proceso, Fiscalía llama a Juicio a Carmelo Agámez, Líder del Movimiento de Víctimas de Crímenes de Estado", José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective, 12 November 2009

9. "Baseless Prosecutions of Human Rights Defenders in Colombia: In the

Dock and Under the Gun", Human Rights First, February 2009, page 31

10. "Informe de Misión", José María Prat and Francisco Segovia, Consejo General de la Abogacía Española, Observatorio Internacional de Abogados, January 2011, <http://www.observatoire-avocats.org/wp-content/uploads/Informe-de-misi%C3%B3n-en-Colombia-enero-de-20115.pdf>

11. "Para el comandante de FF.MM., Plazas Vega es un 'héroe nacional'", *Noticias Caracol*, 14 September 2011, <http://www.noticiascaracol.com/nacion/articulo-239362-para-el-comandante-de-ffmm-plazas-vega-un-heroe-nacional>

Photo: Julián Montoni



Alice Tabard and Francisco Sempere (PBI) accompany Franklin Castañeda from the Solidarity Committee for Political Prisoners (FCSPP). The FCSPP provides legal advice and support to political prisoners.

Photo: PBI



Moritz Hartnagel and Miriam Futterlieb (PBI) together with Ingrid Vergara (MOVICE Sucre) during the march of the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE) on the 6th of March 2011. The Movement is composed of hundreds of organizations who are seeking to contribute to a political solution to the social and armed conflict in Colombia.

Photo: Charlotte Kesl



Charlotte Ivern (PBI) during a meeting with Gloria Gómez and Esperanza Merchán Plazas (ASFADDES). During the year 2011, PBI's work with ASFADDES focused on accompanying the organization's members in their work relating to the National Search Commission in different zones of the country.

# International accompaniment: Medellín-Cali Team

Photo: PBI



José Gascón (PBI) accompanies María Eugenia Mosquera and Enrique Chimonja from the Inter-Ecclesiastic Commission for Justice and Peace, to the Santa Rosa de Guayacán reserve in Bajo Calima in May 2011. PBI began accompanying the CIJP Valle del Cauca team in April of the same year.

**F**or the PBI team in Medellín, 2011 has been marked by the exploration process in south-western Colombia, drafting an analysis on the need and feasibility of PBI's presence in the region, and evaluating PBI's presence in Medellín. In addition to this strategic work, the team accompanied the Committee in Solidarity with Political Prisoners (FCSP), the Grassroots Training Institute (IPC), the Corporation for Judicial Freedom (CJL), and the Association of Family Members of the Detained and Disappeared (ASFADDES) in Medellín; the NOMADESC organisation in Cali; and the Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission's team in Valle del Cauca.

At the assembly in November, PBI made the difficult decision of

closing its office in Medellín through a progressive exit, and re-directing its resources to Cali since there were not enough accompaniment requests to justify a permanent team in Medellín. However, through other field teams, PBI will continue to have the capacity and commitment to fulfil its obligations for the organisations accompanied in Medellín.

## **GRASSROOTS TRAINING INSTITUTE (IPC)**

After the strategic change in the agreement signed in November 2010, PBI has held monthly meetings with IPC in order to follow up on its security situation. These encounters have also allowed PBI and IPC to share information on the principal problems

relating to human rights violations in Medellín and Antioquia. The IPC has also continued to share its analysis and important research with PBI.

In 2011, PBI paid very close attention to IPC's security situation. Nonetheless, no emergency accompaniment or activation has been needed in large part due to IPC's strength and self-protection capacities. In September, PBI's Reconstruction of the Social Fabric (ARTS) team gave IPC a security and self-protection workshop to reinforce these capacities. 18 IPC members participated in the workshop, which is almost the entire organisation. It was also very useful to share concerns on security and remember different aspects relating to protection.

## COMMITTEE IN SOLIDARITY WITH POLITICAL PRISONERS (FCSP), ANTIOQUIA CHAPTER

In 2011, PBI continued to accompany FCSP to facilitate its work providing legal assistance and training to people detained for political motives in Antioquia. PBI also continued to visit the organisation's office on a weekly basis and provide accompaniment to prisons where FCSP carried out training workshops. In 2011, FCSP did not suffer stigmatisations or false accusations and had less difficulty entering certain prisons. Furthermore, PBI accompanied FCSP lawyers Leyder Humberto and Fernando Vélez to prisons to conduct interviews with people detained for political motives.

In November 2011, PBI decided to make strategic changes to the agreement with the organisation, which signified bringing the use of PBI's human resources in line with the accompaniment actually provided to FCSP. This meant that PBI will continue to pay close attention to FCSP risk and will accompany the organisation only in cases of emergency. Nonetheless, PBI will continue to accompany the two FCSP lawyers as needed.

## CORPORATION FOR JUDICIAL FREEDOM (CJL)

Over the last year, PBI increased its accompaniments for CJL since the organisation returned to the region of Chocó and was involved in such national events as the National Peace Meeting in Barrancabermeja (August) and the National Congress on Land, Territory and Sovereignty in Cali (September).

CJL's work continues to focus on the defence of human rights and the fight against impunity. In particular, PBI believes that the organisation faces risk due to its work on extrajudicial executions and its legal representation in several cases that resulted in the conviction of members of the military<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, the organisation was accompanied in its work with community organising processes and farming communities, including informational and psychosocial workshops and legal consultation in cases of human rights violations. CJL continues to participate in the Human Rights Working Group in Eastern Antioquia supporting cases for the community of Cañón del Melcocho.

In 2011, CJL also carried out important work relating to the Victims' Law. The organisation was proactive in giving workshops to explain the law's procedures and implications to other organisations and communities as well as in organising events for human rights in Antioquia.

## ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE DETAINED AND DISAPPEARED (ASFADDES), ANTIOQUIA CHAPTER

Despite many difficulties that kept the Antioquia Chapter from having an office as of May 2011, which resulted PBI and ASFADDES only having meetings once a month, PBI was able to maintain a close relationship with the ASFADDES Chapter in Medellín. The PBI team in Medellín carried out two accompaniments in the city in 2011 and the ARTS team held two workshops with ASFADDES. In October 2011, the Prosecutor's Office in Medellín re-opened several cases on the forced disappearance of individuals who belonged to the Communist Party. In November, ASFADDES carried out a session to assist the family members of victims<sup>2</sup>. Throughout the year, the Inter-Institutional Human Rights Working Group in Medellín supported the assistance provided to the family members of victims of forced disappearance<sup>3</sup>.

In the November 2011 Assembly, PBI Colombia decided to make strategic changes to the agreement with the Antioquia Chapter. The organisation will now be considered an historical accompanied organisation. PBI will maintain the relationship through monthly meetings and accompany ASFADDES in case of emergency.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES WITH ACCOMPANIED ORGANISATIONS

	FCSP	ASFADDES	CJL	CIJP*	Berenice Celeyta**	IPC	Others***	Total
Office visits	85	31	83	-	70	1	-	270
Accompaniments	28	3	63	98	126	1	72	391
Meetings	4	9	7	8	18	14	30	90

\*CIJP team formally accompanied since April 2011.

\*\* Nomadesc

\*\*\* Including involvement with the Seeds of Liberty Human Rights Collective (CODHESEL) and the Human Rights and Humanitarian Protection Working Group in Eastern Antioquia, in addition to its presence as accompaniers at public events.



Alex Klueken (PBI) together with Olga Araujo, head of education, and Natalia Castro, head investigation, from the organization NOMADESC, during the National Congress on Land, Territory and Sovereignty in Cali in October 2011.

## EXPLORATION PROCESS: CALI

In 2011, the PBI team in Medellín continued the exploration process in south-western Colombia. In Cali, PBI accompanied NOMADESC and the Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission's team in Valle del Cauca. The PBI team also met with other human rights organisations, in addition to Colombian authorities. In November, this exploration resulted in the decision to open an office in Cali, which will be responsible for the accompaniments provided in south-western Colombia.

## ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL INVESTIGATION AND RESEARCH (NOMADESC)

NOMADESC works with different organisations of peasants, indigenous people, trade unionists and African-descendants through four principal components: education, research, advocacy, and communication. Its principal interests include the activity of multinational companies, the mining-energy sector, public services, human rights violations, and crimes against humanity.

In 2011, PBI accompanied NOMADESC president Berenice Celeyta and two other members of the organisation with whom PBI entered into an engagement process: Olga Araujo, education coordinator, and Natalia Castro, research coordinator. PBI visited the NOMADESC office in Cali twice a week and accompanied

NOMADESC members to rural areas, principally in Cauca and Valle del Cauca. On certain occasions, PBI has also accompanied NOMADESC members to Nariño, where they face their greatest risk. The most important accompaniments have been monthly visits to the Honduras indigenous reservation (Cauca) where the organisation gives human rights courses within the framework of the Inter-Cultural Knowledge School. Moreover, PBI accompanied NOMADESC during the National Congress on Land, Territory and Sovereignty and during the mobilisation to Cajamarca (Tolima).

In 2010, NOMADESC received 12 threats on eight occasions but since the PBI office opened in Cali the organisation has only received two threats. In November 2011, PBI signed a formal accompaniment agreement with NOMADESC.

## INTER-CHURCH JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION (CIJP), VALLE DEL CAUCA TEAM

In April 2011, PBI began to accompany the CIJP team in Valle del Cauca. Its work focused on accompanying communities and organising processes in the region of Lower Calima (municipality of Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca).

In September 2010, CIJP was forced to leave the area due to a death threat<sup>4</sup>. Through PBI's accompaniment, CIJP members have been able to return to work in this area de-

spite the complex security situation. With respect to CIJP's work this year, PBI highlights the accompaniment to the Nonam indigenous community in the Santa Rosa de Guayacán reservation. In August 2010, this community had been forcibly displaced to Buenaventura and was living in inhumane conditions. Thanks to CIJP's, and consequently PBI's, accompaniment, the displaced families were able to return at the end of August 2011 and since then have been able to remain in their territory.

The PBI team carried out a series of seven trips to the reservation since May, including two visits prior to the return process (verification missions), the return itself, and since then monthly visits.

Additionally, PBI accompanied CIJP to the commemoration of the massacre in Lower Naya in April where the organisation works with the Community Council for the communities from Lower Naya. PBI continues to monitor the human rights situation in the region and the other CIJP requests that were postponed until 2012.

1. "Condenan a ocho militares por 'falso positivo' en Antioquia", *El Tiempo*, 15 November 2011, [http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/condenan-a-ocho-militares-por-falso-positivo-en-antioquia\\_10766905-4](http://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/condenan-a-ocho-militares-por-falso-positivo-en-antioquia_10766905-4)

2. "La interminable búsqueda de Ómar", *El Colombiano*, 18 November 2011, [http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/L/la\\_interminable\\_búsqueda\\_de\\_omar/la\\_interminable\\_búsqueda\\_de\\_omar.asp](http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/L/la_interminable_búsqueda_de_omar/la_interminable_búsqueda_de_omar.asp)

3. "Organizaciones sociales y familiares de desaparecidos denuncian impunidad en el 99% de los casos", *CJL*, 25 May 2011, [http://www.cjlibertad.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=454-organizaciones-sociales-y-familiares-de-desaparecidos-denuncian-impunidad-en-el-99-de-los-casos&catid=50: hazlojusto&Itemid=90](http://www.cjlibertad.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=454-organizaciones-sociales-y-familiares-de-desaparecidos-denuncian-impunidad-en-el-99-de-los-casos&catid=50: hazlojusto&Itemid=90)

4. "Comisión de Justicia y Paz declarada objetivo militar, mientras existe un montaje judicial", *CIJP*, 6 September 2010, <http://justiciaypazcolombia.com/Justicia-y-Paz-declarada-objetivo>





In May 2011, PBI accompanied ASFADES and the Corporation for Judicial Freedom (CJL) on a march in memory of the victims of forced disappearances from the Comuna 13 (Medellín)



From left to right: Adriana Arboleda (CJL), Rachel Métraux (PBI), Cruz Ámparo Zapata (ASFADES) and Marta Soto (MOVICE).



Indigenous Nonam women. The CIJP accompanies and advises this community which was displaced in 2010 but returned to their reserve a year later.

# International accompaniment: Urabá Team

Photo: PBI



Hendrine Rotthier (PBI) in Curbaradó where CIJP provides integral accompaniment to communities and leaders in the Humanitarian and Biodiversity zones who are in the process of reclaiming their lands.

The PBI team in Urabá continued to provide accompaniment to the human rights organisation Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP) in the Cacarica, Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó River Basins. The PBI team also continued to accompany the organising process of the displaced population in the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó in the rural district of San José de Apartadó (Apartadó, Antioquia) and the municipality of Tierralta (Córdoba).

In these areas, the context continues to include death threats, murder plots, murders, forced displacements, illegal re-settlement of collective territory (in the Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó River Basins), and smear campaigns directed against the accompanied organisations and the general population.

During the last few months of 2011, the situation has been characterised by an intensification of paramilitary activities in all of the areas where PBI is present. Checkpoints and searches have been carried out in the Lower Atrato. There have been death threats, armed confrontations and social control in the rural communities of San José de Apartadó. Lastly, death threats, displacement, and increased drug-trafficking, among other issues, have affected the Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó River Basins, while the government has yet to make any real progress in its compliance with the Constitutional Court order issued on 18 May 2010, which concerns such fundamental issues as the safety of the civilian population.

Within this context, PBI has attempted to maintain and increase physical accompaniment and informa-

tion gathering to express its concern to Colombian authorities.

Thanks to PBI's accompaniment, the Peace Community, the Luis Eduardo Guerra Human Rights Committee (CDDHHLEG), and the Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission, have been able to continue with their work and proposals for peaceful resistance within this context.

## **INTER-CHURCH JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION (CIJP) IN CURBARADÓ AND JIGUAMIANDÓ**

In 2011, PBI Colombia continued to prioritise its accompaniment of CIJP in the Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó River Basins where the organisation provides comprehensive accompaniment to the communities and leaders in the Humanitarian



Gwen Burnyeat (PBI) with a member of the San José de Apartadó peace community. PBI focuses its work on the community’s Internal Council whose members face the highest risk and are therefore prioritized for accompaniment when a threats or emergency situations occurs.

Zones and Biodiversity Zones within their process to reclaim their land.

Throughout the year, CIJP spoke out against situations of high risk for the communities and the organisation itself. CIJP and several community leaders have reportedly been exposed to ongoing death threats, slander, and acts of aggression by alleged paramilitaries, businesspeople and recent settlers who continue to illegally occupy the collective territory of these communities. CIJP also confirmed the presence of large groups of alleged paramilitaries imposing social control within the river basins<sup>1</sup>.

Within a context of threats and harassment, the land restitution planned for the displaced communities—as ordered by the Constitutional Court<sup>2</sup>— has yet to materialise. More specifically, despite the complaints presented by CIJP and the Community Councils concerning their situation of extreme vulnerability, effective security guarantees have still not been established to carry out the

restitution of the collective territory<sup>3</sup>.

Consequently, PBI’s accompaniment, which maintains a strong presence in these river basins, continues to be an essential tool for the protection of CIJP and the displaced communities. In 2011, PBI provided the CIJP team with accompaniment during their visits in the Humanitarian Zones. PBI also accompanied CIJP members in entering and exiting the river basins. Additionally, PBI provided specific accompaniments to threatened leaders at the request of CIJP, as in the case of Raúl Palacios, community leader from the Caracolí Humanitarian Zone, when he travelled to the airport in Carepa. He had received a death threat a few days after participating in a meeting with the national government in Bogotá where he spoke out against cocaine smuggling in the Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó River Basins. A paramilitary commander sent him a message stating that he had a video of the meeting where the leader reported this activity<sup>4</sup>.

## PEACE COMMUNITY OF SAN JOSÉ DE APARTADÓ

This year PBI’s accompaniment of the Peace Community has been marked by the ongoing violence perpetrated throughout the rural district of San José de Apartadó. PBI has focused its accompaniment on the Peace Community’s Internal Council, whose members are the most threatened. PBI also prioritises accompaniments when there is an emergency or their risk has increased.

The Peace Community has spoken out against different acts of harassment and murder along the road from Apartadó to La Holandita and surrounding areas. The Peace Community was especially affected when Bernardo Ríos, former member of the Peace Community, was murdered by alleged paramilitaries on 23 March 2011<sup>5</sup>.

The Peace Community has also expressed significant concern for the threats made by alleged paramilitary

## SUMMARY OF ACCOMPANIMENTS

	CIJP (Curbaradó, Jiguamiandó and Dabeiba)	Peace Community and CDDHHLEG in San José and Córdoba	CIJP (Cacarica)	Others	Total
Accompaniments *	551	340	220	79	1190
Meetings	22	33	23	6	84

\* Recorded in 12-hour units.



Elena Rosini (PBI) in a river boat on the way to Cacarica. PBI accompanies both CIJP in the Cacarica river basin, and through CIJP, the Community for Self-Determination, Life and Dignity (CAVIDA).

groups present in the rural district<sup>6</sup>. Paramilitary presence and control has been very visible this year. For example, the La Esperanza rural community has faced a very concerning situation since last October<sup>7</sup>. Several combats occurred between alleged paramilitaries and guerrilla groups near the rural community and since then the Peace Community reported a growing presence of alleged paramilitaries<sup>8</sup>. PBI went to La Esperanza from November 23 to 27 in order to visibilise the area internationally during an accompaniment for the Internal Council and a family belonging to the Peace Community. Two days later alleged paramilitaries entered the area forcing the population of La Esperanza to meet with them. These types of events affect the security of the accompanied individuals and organisations. Consequently, PBI immediately went to the area to investigate the situation and provide visibilisation and protection.

Likewise, it is also important to mention that the Peace Community has spoken out against acts of harassment perpetrated by State security forces, including acts of destruction and theft of community property, indiscriminate bombardment, and the fumigation of the community's subsistence crops<sup>9</sup>.

Furthermore, Peace Community members continue to be the victims of ongoing slander and stigmatisation in the mass media<sup>10</sup>. This situation affects their security, making them more vulnerable to future attacks. PBI has expressed its concern about this situation in dialogue with its support network.

## INTER-CHURCH JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION (CIJP) IN THE CACARICA RIVER BASIN

PBI accompanies CIJP in the Cacarica River Basin and —through CIJP— the Community for Self-Determination, Life and Dignity (CAVIDA). The river basin forms part of the “red zone” in the region of the Darién, which is a corridor for all kinds of illegal trafficking and is located in the epicentre of several large-scale development projects. The presence of illegal actors and pressure exerted against the population within the framework of large-scale development projects represent a threat for the security of the Humanitarian Zones.

In March, the communities organised within the High Council of the Cacarica River Basin reiterated their opposition to the Transversal of the Americas<sup>11</sup> and the construction of the Travesías Bridge over the Atrato River between Palo de Letras and Lomas Aisladas. The communities specifically spoke out against the lack of a preliminary consultation with the African-descendent communities in the region.

In September, CAVIDA spoke out against the existence of a plan to bring paramilitary forces to the river basin at the end of the year<sup>12</sup>. Over the last months of 2011, CAVIDA has noted increased pressure against the communities by armed actors in the Cacarica River Basin. For example, paramilitary groups established more checkpoints along the river, which has directly affected CAVIDA members<sup>13</sup>.

At the same time, members of CAVIDA and CIJP have had to travel more frequently through the waterways in the river basin due to the progress made in the case of Marino López and other victims of Operation Genesis, which was presented before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the middle of 2011. As a result, their public profile and level of risk have increased. PBI's accompaniment continues to be very necessary for CIJP and the accompanied populations.

1. “Paramilitares asesinan a afrodescendiente”, CIJP, 19 December 2011, <http://justiciaypazcolombia.com/PARAMILITARES-ASESINAN-A;>

2. “Paramilitares, procesamiento y transporte de cocaína”, CIJP, 1 November 2011, [http://www.justiciaypazcolombia.com/Paramilitares-procesamiento-y;](http://www.justiciaypazcolombia.com/Paramilitares-procesamiento-y-) “Liria Rosa García y María Ligia Chaverra, lideresas de la restitución de tierras en Curvaradó blanco de persecución”, CIJP, 10 January 2012, [http://justiciaypazcolombia.com/LIRIA-ROSA-GARCIA-y-MARIA-LIGIA;](http://justiciaypazcolombia.com/LIRIA-ROSA-GARCIA-y-MARIA-LIGIA-) “Ingresan más de 300 armas para paramilitares”, CIJP, 26 October 2011, [http://justiciaypazcolombia.com/Ingresan-mas-de-300-armas-para,](http://justiciaypazcolombia.com/Ingresan-mas-de-300-armas-para-) among other articles

3. Constitutional Court Order of 18 May 2010.

4. “¿Para qué una ley de víctimas, si desconocen quiénes somos, qué exigimos?”, CIJP, 15 December 2011, <http://justiciaypazcolombia.com/Para-que-una-ley-de-victimas-si>

5. “Video de reunión con gobierno nacional en poder de paramilitares”, CIJP, 15 November 2011, <http://justiciaypazcolombia.com/VIDEO-DE-REUNION-CON-GOB-NACIONAL>

6. “Los catorce años de la Comunidad con un nuevo asesinato”, Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, 23 March 2011, <http://cdpsanJose.org/?q=node/185>

7. “Los paramilitares continúan presentes y actuantes en San José de Apartadó”, Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, 19 December 2011, [http://cdpsanJose.org/?q=node/227;](http://cdpsanJose.org/?q=node/227) “Gobierno de muerte y terror sigue avanzando”, Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, 9 November 2011, <http://cdpsanJose.org/?q=node/218>

8. “Los paramilitares en un control total”, Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, 28 November 2011, <http://cdpsanJose.org/?q=node/221>

9. “El paramilitarismo nos sigue destruyendo con plena aquiescencia del Gobierno”, Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, 26 November 2011, <http://cdpsanJose.org/?q=node/220>

10. “Que siga quedando memoria del horror y del descaro”, Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, 21 June 2011, [http://cdpsanJose.org/?q=node/200;](http://cdpsanJose.org/?q=node/200) “El paramilitarismo nos sigue destruyendo con plena aquiescencia del Gobierno”, Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, 9 November 2011, [http://cdpsanJose.org/?q=node/220;](http://cdpsanJose.org/?q=node/220) “Gobierno de muerte y terror sigue avanzando”, Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, 9 November 2011, <http://cdpsanJose.org/?q=node/218>

11. “Los hijos de la Comunidad de Paz de San José de Apartadó”, 28 September 2011, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bP9akFK3c>

12. “Comunidades de Cacarica, Chocó, reiteraron oposición a Transversal de las Américas”, RCN Radio, 17 March 2011

13. “Fuentes indican que paramilitares atacarían en nuestro territorio”, Humanos del Mundo Cacarica, 13 September 2011, <http://justiciaypazcolombia.com/Fuentes-indican-que-paramilitares>

14. “Retención paramilitar y amenazas contra integrantes de CAVIDA”, 1 November 2011, <http://justiciaypazcolombia.com/Retencion-paramilitar-y-amenazas>

Photo: PBI



Jasper Kok (PBI) with Edwin Mosquera and Jennifer Valencia from the CIJP Missionary team in the Cacarica river basin. The river basin forms part of the Darién's "red zone" - a corridor for many kinds of illegal traffic, situated in between a number of megaprojects.

Photo: PBI



A biodiversity zone in Curbaradó; zones which have been built to protect the environment and natural life.

Photo: PBI



Marjorie Carbol (PBI) talks with a member of the San José de Apartadó community.

# Advocacy in Colombia

Raising the awareness of the international community and Colombian state authorities on the work carried out by human rights defenders

Photo: Julián Montoni



Ana Vicente (PBI) together with Franklin Castañeda (FCSP) and Carmelo Agámez (MOVICE Sucre Chapter). Carmelo Agámez was released from jail in September 2011. He had been imprisoned since November 2008 for allegedly having links with paramilitary groups that he himself had denounced. For the MOVICE this was an unfounded criminal investigation, motivated by Agámez's work in the Montes de María helping the family members of victims of assassinations and disappearances, as well as others who had had their lands stolen.

## NEW GOVERNMENT

Over the last year, human rights took on a more prominent role during debates on a national level. In this respect, different issues have especially affected land restitution in Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó, including criminal prosecutions, security guarantees, and the discrediting of victims, their legal representatives, and national accompaniers, among other aspects, which have been constant during PBI's accompaniment

and meetings with authorities in 2011. These issues demonstrate that the dynamics affecting human rights defenders and internally displaced communities have persisted.

In accordance with its mandate, PBI has the objective of facilitating information to the international community on the situation of human rights and accompanied individuals, organisations, and communities. It also has the objective of being a reference point for consultations and

inquiries from the diplomatic community<sup>1</sup> and providing timely information on the dynamics endangering the workspace and/or safety of PBI-accompanied organisations. At the same time, PBI engaged in dialogue with civilian and military authorities from the Colombian state, reiterating PBI's role and mentioning issues and concerns relating to accompanied individuals.

## SUMMARY OF DIALOGUE WITH AUTHORITIES AND INSTITUTIONS IN COLOMBIA

	Colombian State	State Security Forces	Diplomatic Corp, UN Agencies, MAPP-OAS	Coalitions, Civil Society, etc.
<b>National</b>	5 (Vice-Presidency - Human Rights Programme, Ministry of Interior, and INPEC).	3 (National Polic - Human Rights Officer, National Army Command- Human Rights Officer).	46 (Different Embassies, International Agencies, UN Agencies and OAS).	36 (DIAL, Colombia-Europe-United States Coordination, International Working Group for the Magdalena Medio Region, and Guarantees Working Group).
<b>Barrancabermeja</b> Magdalena Medio and Norte de Santander	21 (City governments, Human Rights Ombudsperson, Local Human Rights Liaison and INPEC).	63 (Army- 26, Police- 36, Armed Forces- 1).	23 (UNDSS, UNHCHR, UNHCR, ICRC, OCHA and MSF).	53 (Coalitions- 43, Civil society- 7 and Church- 3).
<b>Bogotá</b> Several Departments	8 (Human Rights Ombudsperson- 7 and City government - 1).	30 (Army- 14 and Police- 16).	6 (ICRC- 5 and UNHCR- 1).	35 (Working Groups/ Coalitions- 17, and Civil society / meetings with international NGOs- 18).
<b>Medellín</b> Eastern Antioquia, North-Eastern Antioquia, Cauca and Valle del Cauca	3 (Human Rights Ombudsperson- 2 and Local Human Rights Liaison- 1).	20 (Army- 12 and Police- 8).	5 (UNHCHR).	33 (Civil society - 22 and Coalitions - 11).
<b>Urabá</b>	15 (Human Rights Ombudsperson- 14 and Local Human Rights Liaison - 1).	27 (Army- 15 and Police- 12).	10 (Diplomatic Corp- 1, UN- 8 and OAS- 1).	17 (International NGOs, Church and International agencies).
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>174</b>

Photo: Charlotte Kesl



Leticia Madrid and Karen Jeffares (PBI) in dialogue with Colombian authorities.

## Security guarantees for communities and national accompaniers (CIJP) in Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó

2011 was marked by carrying out the preliminary steps to the land restitution process in Curbaradó pursuant to the Constitutional Court order issued in May 2010<sup>2</sup>. The first phase of the census was carried out to identify the legitimate claimants of the territory. According to the communities and the Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP), the situation worsened, including threats against the leaders and members of the Humanitarian Zones<sup>3</sup>, unknown individuals taking over a house in the Camelias Humanitarian Zone belonging to CIJP members<sup>4</sup>, and plans to murder the leaders and members of the Humanitarian Zones in Curbaradó<sup>5</sup>. Since April, a large group of alleged paramilitaries have also reportedly been present in the river basins<sup>6</sup>. At the time, PBI activated its Early Warning and Reaction System in order to counteract the pressure faced by the communities and CIJP, combining physical accompaniment mechanisms with dialogue and visibilisation<sup>7</sup>.

PBI provided ongoing follow-up on the issue of Curbaradó in its dialogue with the diplomatic com-

munity and the offices of the United Nations, emphasising the need for a comprehensive protection plan to make it possible to effectively return the land and prevent new displacements in the area after the restitution. In November 2011, the Ministry of Interior presented an initial proposal for a human rights protection plan in the river basins, but without consultation with the affected communities. In the future, an objective for PBI's accompaniment in the river basins will be to monitor if the proposed protection measures have improved security conditions for these communities.

In November 2011, PBI and CIJP facilitated and accompanied an international delegation to the Curbaradó River Basin, which included representatives from the French Embassy and Christian Aid. In this respect, PBI provided information on the context and knowledge of the area<sup>8</sup>. Additionally, PBI visibilised its accompaniment during a meeting at CIJP's office in June 2011 with representatives from five embassies and several international agencies.

## JOINT ADVOCACY WORK WITH COALITIONS

As an observing member of the DIAL coalition, PBI participated in several spaces and focused on specific issues throughout 2011.

- **Guarantees Working Group:** Through DIAL, PBI observed dialogue between more than 500 Colombian non-governmental organisations and the Colombian government on guarantees and protection for human rights defenders.

- **Follow-up on land restitution in Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó:** After initiating the preliminary steps for land restitution in Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó, DIAL participated in following up on the process within the framework of the Special Accompaniment Commission. PBI participated in the DIAL meetings on the issue, providing information from the field and following up on the requirements issued by the Constitutional Court for restitution and the commitments by the Colombian state.

- **Experiences and proposals on protection within the framework of the land restitution process:** In September, DIAL organised a two-day workshop with partner and related organisations to analyse and gather the experiences and proposals on protection mechanisms and guarantees for groups demanding land restitution. PBI facilitated the workshop, identifying the patterns and factors of risk and the proposals to address them (in accordance with the needs of the different population groups).

- **International Verification Mission on the situation of the defence of human rights in Colombia:** PBI participated as an observer in the International Verification Mission (November 28 to December 2, 2011), organised by the National and International Campaign for the Right to Defend Human Rights in Colombia and travelled to eight different regions of the country. Its objective was to follow up on the report by the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders. During meetings with the diplomatic community, PBI sought support for the verification mission and participated in the events in Bogotá and other parts of Colombia. PBI will follow up on the mission's conclusions on the current situation of those who fight to defend human rights.



During 2011, PBI Colombia held 46 meetings with the diplomatic corps, UN agencies and the OAS. In the photo, Miriam Martínez (PBI), Amanda Potter from the United States Embassy and Gerrit Reinmüller (PBI).



# Emblematic cases, victims and human rights lawyers



Rafael Barrios (left) and Reinaldo Villalba (centre) from the CCAJAR.

The fight against impunity continues to be one of PBI's priorities. In October 2011, a scandal was unleashed in the media regarding the possibility of false victims participating in cases before the Inter-American Human Rights System. A woman claimed to never have been a victim of the Mapiripán massacre perpetrated by the AUC in 1997, even though she received reparations by order of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. As a result, several senior government officials, including President Juan Manuel Santos, issued a statement that questioned the good faith of the lawyers representing the victims, in this case CCAJAR. PBI expressed concern in meetings with the international community and through an Action Alert<sup>13</sup> on a widespread campaign to discredit human rights lawyers—and especially CCAJAR—and on the effect this could have for victims when they fight for their rights and due reparations for human rights violations.

Additionally, PBI called attention to other emblematic cases in Colombia, which have increased the risk for the involved lawyers. In March 2011, PBI collaborated with the Swedish Embassy to organise an informational meeting on the Palace of Justice case (1985). At this meeting, Jorge Molano presented the case to representatives from three different embassies and the United Nations System. Senior government offi-

cial have made statements on this case, for instance, President Santos expressed disagreement with the second conviction against a former military officer, Jesús Armando Arias Cabrales<sup>14</sup> and the General Commander of the Armed Forces, Alejandro Navas, claiming that there were “political interests based on false witnesses and fabricated evidence” in the case against retired Colonel Alfonso Plazas Vega<sup>15</sup>. During meetings with authorities, PBI expressed concern for the risk that these statements could mean for the CCAJAR lawyers and Jorge Molano, who represent the victims in this case and have received protection measures due to increased risk. Within the context of this case, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that “in addition to moving these prosecutions forward, the government should guarantee a climate of independence and impartiality for court officials, pursuant to basic UN principles relating to the independence of the judicial branch, in addition to their security and that of the victims and their legal representatives<sup>16</sup>”. It should be noted that this year Jorge Molano and CCAJAR withdrew from the State protection programme, which represent the implementation of the precautionary measures granted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights<sup>17</sup>.

## CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS

In 2011, PBI followed up on several cases of criminal prosecutions against human rights defenders: David Ravelo Crespo (CREDHOS), Carmelo Agámez (MOVICE Sucre), and Carolina Rubio (FCSP). Over the last several years, PBI has expressed concern about the criminal prosecutions against members of social and human rights organisations.

David Ravelo Crespo (CREDHOS), human rights defender and well-known spokesperson for the social movement in the Magdalena Medio, has been detained under the charge of aggravated homicide since September 2010. PBI continues to request that the human rights defender receive guarantees to due process and for his security within the prison given his situation of extreme risk, which has been recognised by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Furthermore, in accordance with European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders, on several occasions PBI requested the presence of members of the diplomatic community as observers at the public hearings in Bucaramanga<sup>9</sup>. Representatives from the British Embassy, the British Ministry of Foreign Relations, the UNHCHR office in Bucaramanga, and the Swedish aid agency Diakonia, were present at the case's preparatory hearing, which ended up not being postponed due to the absence of the prosecuting attor-

ney and the civil party in the case. PBI will continue to monitor the development of this case, which has yet to reach a definitive decision.

Furthermore, PBI supported efforts by the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE) to visibilise the legal case against Carmelo Agámez, from the chapter in Sucre. On 26 September 2011, Mr. Agámez was released from prison before the hearings began for having served three fifths of the potential conviction<sup>10</sup>. The members of the MOVICE Chapter in Sucre, who suffered 24 acts of aggression between January and November<sup>11</sup>, face a delicate security situation. Likewise, there is concern that the cases against members of the human rights movement could be politically motivated. Consequently, PBI continued to emphasise the issue of prosecutions against human rights defenders in its dialogue with authorities in order to closely monitor the different cases mentioned by social organisations over the year.

Additionally, within the framework of the Inter-Agency Dialogue on Colombia (DIAL), PBI participated in a meeting between the Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission and the Prosecutor General's Office on the ongoing threats of a potential investigation and/or criminal prosecution against CIJP and/or members of the communities in Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó<sup>12</sup>.

## CONSULTATIONS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY (EU AND CANADA)

PBI participated in two consultation spaces with national and international civil society on the human rights situation in Colombia, which was organised by representatives from foreign countries in Colombia.

In June 2011, during a visit by representatives from the Delegation for Relations with the Countries of the Andean Community (DAND) of the European Parliament, PBI was invited to the consultation space with national and international civil society on the impact of the Free Trade Agreement on human rights.

In October 2011, PBI and other members of the DIAL coalition participated in the consultation with the Canadian Embassy for its human rights report during the session on forced displacement.

In these spaces, PBI contributed information gathered from the field with respect to the principal issues of concern in order to provide a comprehensive vision on the human rights situation.



David Ravelo together with his lawyer Alirio Uribe during a hearing in 2011.

1. On average, two consultations were received every month.
2. Constitutional Court Order 448 of 18 May 2010.
3. "Amenaza a lideresa en Curbaradó, invasión en territorios colectivos y nuevos mecanismos de presión empresarial", Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission, 19 January 2011.
4. "Continúa la campaña de desprestigio contra la Comisión de Justicia y Paz", Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission, 28 March 2011.
5. "Plan de asesinatos selectivos para impedir Restitución en Curbaradó", Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission, 8 April 2011.
6. "Paramilitares aseguran que no se irán de Curbaradó", Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission, Constancia Ética, 26 April 2011.
7. For more details on PBI's work on Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó, see "Estudio de caso del acompañamiento de PBI Proyecto Colombia – Caso Curbaradó" July 2011.
8. See also: "Visita de las zonas humanitarias del estanque de Curbaradó", Embassy of France in Colombia, <http://www.ambfrance-co.org/Visita-de-las-zonas-humanitarias>
9. For more details on PBI's work on the case against David Ravelo, see "Estudio de caso del acompañamiento de PBI Proyecto Colombia – David Ravelo, Corporación Regional para la Defensa de los Derechos Humanos (CREDHOS)", August 2011.
10. "Se realiza audiencia de juicio en contra de Carmelo Agámez", MOVICE, 8 November 2011.
11. Ibid.
12. "Information Packet: Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó. The challenge remains: Land restitution", PBI Colombia, May 2011.
13. "Declarations regarding the Mapiripán case delegitimize victims and human rights defenders", PBI Colombia, Action Alert, 8 November 2011.
14. "Santos califica de injusta condena contra Arias Cabrales", *El Espectador*, 30 April 2011, <http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/articulo-266423-santos-califica-de-injusta-condena-contra-arias-cabrales>
15. "Familiares de víctimas del Palacio de Justicia rechazan declaraciones de General Alejandro Navas", José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective, 13 September 2011.
16. "Pronunciamento sobre segundo fallo en caso de la toma del Palacio de Justicia", Press Release, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, 3 May 2011.
17. For more details, see "Biannual Narrative Report January – June 2011", PBI Colombia.

# ADVOCACY IN EUROPE

Photo: Charlotte Kesl



Alongside other organizations, PBI supported the candidature of the San José de Apartadó peace community for the Sájarov prize for freedom of conscience, awarded annually by the European Parliament. In the photo: Andrés Gutiérrez (PBI) with members of the peace community's Internal Council.

**T**he PBI Colombia office in Brussels has focused its work on PBI country groups in Europe, different coalitions, NGOs and the diplomatic community in Brussels, the United Nations, and the European Parliament of the European Union (EU).

The work with EU parliament members in Brussels and the national parliaments in Europe in 2011 was characterised by the economic crisis affecting the European Union. The international panorama was also marked by the social and grassroots movements from the Arab Spring and several European member states. With respect to relations between the European Union and Colombia, the political agenda and all advocacy work continues to be marked by the ratification process for the Association Agreement between Colombia, Peru, and the European Union.

## UNITED NATIONS (UN)

The PBI Colombia office in Brussels travelled to the United Nations in Geneva on two occasions in 2011. While there, PBI met with the Special Rapporteurships on Human Rights Defenders and Internally Displaced Persons. PBI Colombia met with the Rapporteurs to follow up on the visits to Colombia and encourage future visits. Throughout the year, PBI also kept in close contact with the assistants at both Rapporteurships to call attention to cases of special interest.

Within the annual report presented by the Rapporteur to the Human Rights Councils in March, seven of the seventeen communications — which were based on information provided by civil society and sent to the Colombian government in 2010— referred to cases of individuals or organisations accompanied by PBI.

Furthermore, while in Geneva, the PBI Colombia office also met with the

diplomatic missions from Ireland and Spain to establish a relationship with respect to the sessions of the Human Rights Council and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on Colombia.

During the second trip to Geneva, PBI Colombia met with the Special Rapporteurships on Human Rights Defenders, Internally Displaced People, Extrajudicial Executions, and Independence of Judges and Lawyers, in addition to the UNHCHR Colombia desk officer and the individuals in charge of Latin America from the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. This visit to Geneva was carried out within the framework of PBI's 30th Anniversary Conference, and to establish ties between the accompanied human rights defenders on the visit —from Colombia, Danilo Rueda of Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission— and UNHCHR officials and civil society organisations in Geneva.

## DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY

PBI Colombia in Brussels organised several activities with the diplomatic community in order to visibilise the situation of human rights defenders in Colombia. Over the first six months of the year, bilateral meetings were held with representatives from Ireland, United Kingdom, and Sweden, and two roundtable discussions were organised with several members from the Permanent Representatives of the Member States within the European Union. Taking advantage of a visit of Alirio Uribe from the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR), information was provided on the persecution and grave situation of insecurity faced by CCAJAR and Colombian civil society.

The second roundtable discussion was organised during a visit by three representatives from the Techo Común, a Colombian coalition made up of 300 organisations, in order to give a broader vision of the current situation in Colombia. During this meeting, several issues were discussed, including violations perpetrated against human rights defenders, the persistence of the armed conflict, and economic, social, cultural and environmental rights.

## COALITIONS

In 2011, PBI actively participated as an observer in three coalitions based in Brussels: the International Office of Human Rights – Action Colombia (OIDHACO), the Belgian Coordination for Colombia (CBC), and the Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN). PBI participated in seven HRDN meetings to ensure that relevant issues for PBI were included in the network's activities relating to European institutions. In June, PBI encouraged the drafting of a letter to be sent to several senior EEAS officials on national EU human rights strategies in order to communicate the issues prioritised in its creation and implementation. Likewise, PBI ensured support from the Belgian Coordination for Colombia (CBC) by participating in monthly meetings. The PBI office in Brussels also participated as an observing member in OIDHACO's annual assemblies. During the last assembly in Rome, PBI participated in meetings with members of the Human Rights Commission of the Italian Senate and civil society members, coordinating advocacy with the PBI country group in Italy.

## PBI COUNTRY GROUPS AND SPEAKER TOURS BY HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

PBI Colombia in Brussels worked with the country groups on an ongoing basis throughout the year. For example, PBI coordinated follow-up on two activations: one relating to the imprisonment of David Ravelo Crespo, secretary of CREDHOS, and the other relating to the situation in Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó. PBI also worked on such issues as protection and security in land restitution processes and the criminalisation of the defence of human rights.

Thanks to coordination with PBI country groups, PBI Colombia was able to meet with parliament members and representatives from the governments of Germany, Switzerland, France, Spain, United Kingdom, Norway and Italy. Consequently, the governments of these countries—as well as Sweden—sent approximately 30 letters to representatives of the Colombian Government to express their concern for acts that have occurred and to request information on these cases. In this way, the international community demonstrated

## European Union

After the European External Action Service (EEAS) was established in 2011, PBI Colombia began to develop relations with the officials in charge of this institution. Three meetings took place with the deputy head of the Human Rights Policy Instruments Division, and the regional manager for South America, to speak about EU instruments and practices promoting and protecting human rights and human rights defenders (the EU-Colombia Bilateral Human Rights Dialogue, the Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders, and the new Human Rights Country Strategy for Colombia).

In a complementary manner, PBI Colombia also carried out several meetings with the officials responsible for implementing these EU Delegation instruments during trips to Bogotá. The meetings have

been very useful for expressing concern on the implementation of these mechanisms and discussing ways to optimise them. Due to the concerns expressed by PBI and other organisations, meetings were carried out to follow up on the dialogue held in June. In Europe, PBI has also attempted to improve the consultations with civil society in Brussels and Bogotá.

In 2011, PBI Colombia had nine meetings with EU parliament members to visibilise different cases and issues of concern, to have an impact on parliamentary reports, and to introduce human rights defenders accompanied by PBI visiting Brussels. In addition to the Parliament, more than 20 parliamentary questions were made on different issues relating to Colombia by members of the PBI support network, including

the criminalisation of human rights defenders and the situation of indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities.

In conjunction with other organisations, PBI encouraged the nomination of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó for the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, which is granted every year by the European Parliament. The Peace Community's nomination in October as one of the three finalists for this prestigious award was the result of bilateral meetings, direct communication with parliament members, and extensive coordination with other organisations. It also presumes an important recognition for the work and project carried out by the Peace Community.

knowledge and concern about the situation in Colombia.

Since the beginning of the year, the PBI office in Brussels made several trips to visit PBI United Kingdom, Catalonia and Switzerland. The PBI office also received visits from representatives of PBI United Kingdom, France and Netherlands. Lastly, the PBI office participated in activities organised by PBI Belgium.

During the second half of the year, PBI Colombia in Brussels cooperated with country groups to carry out advocacy and awareness-raising in Switzerland, Germany, United Kingdom, Spain (including the Basque Country and Catalonia), and Norway. As part of PBI's 30th Anniversary Celebration, these country groups organised different activities involving individuals and organisations accompanied by PBI Colombia, including the lawyer Jorge Molano, Danilo Rueda from the Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission, Álvaro Manzano from the Peasant Farmers' Association of the Cimitarra River Valley (ACVC), and different members of the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR).

Additionally, during a visit by Ingrid Vergara Chávez from the Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE) and Claudia Mejía from SISMA Women's Corporation, PBI Colombia in Brussels organised an awareness-raising event on the issue of "Land and Women". This event was accompanied by a photographic exhibit developed in collaboration with the International Office of Human Rights – Action Colombia (OIDHACO) in November 2011.



Women from the Chocó and Sucre.  
Photos from the exhibition on Land  
and Women by Charlotte Kesl.

# ADVOCACY IN NORTH AMERICA

Photo: PBI



Following the defamations against CCAJAR and the Inter-American system of Human rights after the appearance of an alleged false victim in the Mapiririán massacre case, PBI representatives in Washington worked with different organizations to write letters of support to the CCAJAR and the Inter-American system. In the photo, a demonstration in front of the CCAJAR following the defamations related to the case in December 2011.

**T**he PBI Office in North America, located in Washington D.C., maintains ongoing communication with members of the U.S. Congress and Canadian Parliament, government officials from both countries, and the Organization of American States. Furthermore, PBI broadened its support network by incorporating new offices from the U.S. Congress, in addition to organisations in the United States and Canada working on the issues of environmental protection and the exploitation of natural resources. The information PBI provides to the members of Congress, government officials and non-governmental organisations is an

important source of knowledge on the situation in the field in Colombia.

PBI continues to coordinate its dialogue with authorities in United States and Canada through regular updates and during emergency activations, carried out in conjunction with the Colombia Steering Committee, the Colombia Policy Group, and the Afro-Colombian Solidarity Network. PBI also maintains a close relationship with the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA), the Latin American Working Group (LAWG), the US Office on Colombia (USOC), Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), Witness for Peace, and the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights.

## DIALOGUE WITH THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The PBI office in Washington continued to be invited by the State Department to participate in consultation meetings relating to human rights certification for Plan Colombia. Deputy Secretary James Steinberg consulted with the PBI office regarding concerns to be addressed at the High-Level Dialogue between the Colombian and U.S. governments, which began at the end of 2010. The State Department accepted PBI's suggestion to closely monitor certain emblematic cases of human rights violations, which included cases affecting individuals accompanied by



Moira Birss from the PBI office in Washington talks with a member of the San José de Apartadó peace community during a field visit.

PBI. Furthermore, PBI continued to have bilateral meetings with the State Department to stress issues of special concern.

In the second half of the year, the PBI office worked with LAWG, USOC and WOLA on drafting a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton with recommendations for comprehensive return processes within the framework of the new Law of Victims and Land Restitution. The letter was signed by 21 human rights organisations.

## DIALOGUE WITH LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The PBI office in Washington broadened its support network in the United States Congress with two new Congressional Offices playing leading roles in the Democratic Party on commerce-related issues. The goal was for the situation of human rights defenders and Afro-Colombian communities to be taken into account during the ratification of the free trade agreement (FTA) between

the United States and Colombia. The PBI office also contacted the offices of Republican members of Congress, prioritising the members of congressional committees, as this party presently holds the majority of the seats in the House of Representatives.

In 2011, the offices of US Congress members also contacted PBI to gather information on the human rights situation in Colombia and included PBI's perspectives in their discussions with the Vice-President and Ambassador from Colombia.

## Initiatives with human rights NGOs

In accordance with PBI's strategic focus on human rights violations due to economic interests, during the second half of the year the PBI office focused on broadening the support network with organisations in the United States and Canada working on the environmental and natural resource issues, including Mining Watch Canada, Earthworks, and Accountability Counsel, among others. These relationships helped PBI develop a thematic newsletter on mining in Colombia (November 2011). Additionally, PBI began to facilitate contact between these organisations and accompanied Colombian organisations, leading to direct cooperation. Within the framework of these issues, Amazon Watch invited the PBI office to give a presentation before several

non-governmental organisations on the relationship between the defence of human rights and the environment.

In order to strengthen relations with grassroots organisations, PBI helped visibilise and disseminate information on the national event "Days of Action and Prayer for Colombia 2011." More than 45,000 people participated in the event, which included presentations and activities in 70 cities throughout the country. PBI is now helping to plan the next event for April 2012.

After the slander against CCAJAR and the Inter-American System relating to an allegedly false victim in the case of the Mapiripán massacre, the PBI office in Washington worked with the National Human Rights Lawyers Committee (NHR-

LC) —established with support from PBI USA, the Center for Constitutional Law, the National Lawyers Guild, and a coalition made up of 25 organisations from North America— to draft letters supporting CCAJAR and the Inter-American System.

Likewise, the PBI office in Washington also gained critical support from CEJIL, WOLA, LAWG and USOC in 2011. Through letters and bilateral meetings, these organisations expressed their concern to Colombian and U.S. ambassadors for the safety of the CCAJAR lawyers, Jorge Molano, and the MOVICE chapter in Sucre, after threats were sent to these individuals and organisations.



PBI Representatives increased the Support Network so that the situation of Human Rights Defenders and afro descendent communities be taken into account in relation to the Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Colombia. In the photo, afro descendent communities march for their rights in Bogotá in September 2011.

Furthermore, one Representative consulted with PBI when planning their visit to Colombia in October.

The PBI office also had regular contact with members of the Senate Budget and Foreign Affairs Committees, who expressed their concern for the human rights situation—including security for the Peace Community and human rights defenders in Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó—to the Colombian Embassy in Washington. In cases of emergencies, PBI requested support from the Congressional Offices, for example in the case of illegal surveillance against Rafael Barrios from CCAJAR. Due to this case and Luis Guillermo Perez's

visit to Washington, PBI held several meetings with Congressional Offices on the surveillance the Administrative Department of Security (DAS) carried out against human rights defenders and the assistance the DAS received from the United States government. The impact of the PBI's advocacy was evident in the appropriations budget for Colombia in 2012, which required a detailed investigation and report on the use of U.S. funds to the DAS from 2002 to 2010<sup>1</sup>.

## PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

The PBI office in Washington strongly supported PBI's Communications Area in the use of new media, including blogs, Facebook, Twitter, and videos. The PBI office managed a Twitter account for PBI Colombia, which after six months has 237 followers and dozens of mentions in other accounts. The PBI office also participated in the Facebook campaign organised by the LAWG and WOLA on the right to land in Colombia, achieving 1,623 followers on the web page.

Due to PBI's actions, LAWG issued an action alert in which 1,321 people participated by sending more than 5,276 letters to the Colombian Government in order to express concern for the situation of human rights defenders and communities in Curbaradó, after a group of alleged paramilitaries entered the collective territory.

The PBI office's efforts to disseminate the thematic newsletter on mining resulted in mentions in well-read blogs such as the PanAmerican Post and during public presentations of organisations such as Mining Watch Canada and the London Mining Network, among others.

## Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

In March, the PBI office in Washington, along with more than 20 human rights organisations, participated in the thematic hearing on the situation of human rights defenders in the Americas at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR). It was the first time that PBI had co-petitioned an IACHR hearing. PBI contributed to drafting recommendations on protection, analysis, and press releases by petitioners. PBI Colombia also compiled information from PBI Mexico and Guatemala, in addition to PBI country groups in Canada, United King-

dom, and United States, representing PBI during the meetings. As a result, the IACHR approved the creation of a new Rapporteurship on human rights defenders. Within the framework of this collaboration, the Centre for Justice and International Law (CEJIL), CCAJAR, and the Mexican Human Rights Commission, invited PBI to join a coalition of civil society organisations participating at the OAS. Due to this participation in the coalition, PBI is strengthening its capacity to carry out advocacy work before the OAS.





PBI scheduled meetings for the Committee in Solidarity with Political Prisoners with some North American organizations who also work on the theme of the prison system. The FCSPP works to ensure respect for the rights of those imprisoned for political motives.

### Visits by accompanied organisations

In April, the PBI office in Washington, along with PBI USA and the accompaniment organisation Fellowship of Reconciliation, organised a US speaker's tour for Jesus Emilio Tuberquia, legal representative of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó. Mr. Tuberquia visited seven states, where he met with more than 200 activists, academics, environmental organisations, law groups, and Congressional Offices. He was able to significantly increase the community's support network and visibilise its situation. Mr. Tuberquia had several interviews with the mass media, resulting in three radio programmes and at least two print articles. Due to his visit, 11 US congress members sent a letter to the Vice-President of Colombia, supporting the Peace Community's proposal for a Commission to Evaluate the Justice System and expressing concern for the existence of alleged paramilitary bases in the area.

In October, PBI organised a visit by Juan David Díaz Chamorro, human rights defender and mem-

ber of the accompanied organisation MOVICE. Mr. Díaz organised his visit to Washington to visibilise his case and the general human rights situation in Colombia. Due to his meetings with Congress members, organised by PBI, his case was mentioned during the Congressional debate on the Free Trade Agreement and the State Department expressed its support for the protection measures requested by Mr. Díaz.

When several accompanied organisations visited Washington to attend the hearings at the Inter-American Commission, the PBI office facilitated meetings with members of the U.S. Congress, especially for the Committee in Solidarity with Political Prisoners (FCSPP). Meetings were also organised for FCSPP with several U.S. organisations working on the issue of the prison system. Within the framework of the visit by Luis Guillermo Pérez from CCAJAR, the PBI office initiated contact with the Congressional Research Service.

### COORDINATION WITH PBI COUNTRY GROUPS

In addition to the previously mentioned cases and the open communication especially during emergencies, several projects were developed in collaboration with PBI country groups.

In October, a member of the PBI office visited PBI Canada, and participated in meetings with Parliamentarians and civil society organisations. The meetings focused on work with the Peasant Farmers' Association of the Cimitarra River Valley and their initiatives to encourage peace and the Peasant Farmer Reserve Zones.

1. "Consolidated Appropriations Bill, FY 2012", U.S. Congress, pg 150, <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112s1601pcs/pdf/BILLS-112s1601pcs.pdf>

# Communications and information distribution

Photo: Jonas Wresch



The newsletter “Mining in Colombia: At what price?” published by PBI contains 15 reports and interviews, with case studies from the zones in which PBI works.

In 2011, PBI publications focused on the exploitation of natural resources and their impacts—with an emphasis on mining—,impunity—focusing on extrajudicial executions, forced disappearances, forced displacement, massacres, and truth, justice, and reparations—, and the immediate attacks against human rights organisations. PBI has also worked on the issue of gender and diversity as a crosscutting issue.

## PUBLICATIONS

The legal case against human rights defender David Ravelo Crespo, member of the Regional Corporation for the Defence of Human Rights (CREDHOS) imprisoned since September 2010, was one of the

most important issues for the PBI Colombia’s Communications Area. In January 2011, a video interview was published with his defence lawyer Alirio Uribe<sup>1</sup> regarding the case, which was also included in the March 2011 newsletter. After a year of imprisonment, PBI published an audiovisual piece on the progress of the case in September 2011, which has had 30,000 hits on PBI’s YouTube channel.

PBI printed two newsletters in 2011. The first, in March, included 15 articles and interviews on the Victim’s Law, land restitution, criminal prosecutions, forced displacements, lawyers at risk, and mining and human rights. The second newsletter, “Mining in Colombia: At what price?,” included 15 articles and interviews with case studies on PBI work areas.

## In 2011, PBI also produced and published five audiovisual pieces:

- “Returning to our land” (1,700 hits), published in April 2011.
- “Bearers of hope – Risks and challenges for human rights lawyers in Colombia” (800 hits), June 2011. This video is presented within the “Lawyers at risk” campaign organised by PBI Great Britain.
- Indigenous women displaced from their territory (900 hits), August 2011.
- David Ravelo: One year in jail (30,000 hits), September 2011.
- U’wa indigenous people opt for a future without oil (700 hits), November 2011.

## Focos de interés / Action Alert

In January 2011, PBI Colombia published the Focos de Interés titled "Death threats against NOMADESC and other organisations in Valle del Cauca," which has had 162 hits.

The press release titled "Grave situation of risk for the inhabitants of the Humanitarian Zones in Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó" was pub-

lished in April and since then has had 171 hits. In June PBI expressed again concern for the threats and surveillance against members of CIJP in the Action Alert "Situation of high risk for the Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission and the communities of the Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó River Basins". The publication has had 181 hits.

In November, PBI published its most recent "Action Alert", expressing concern for the effects that the events relating to the Mapiripán massacre could have on the work of the victims' lawyers, including members of the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective.



PBI Colombia made two videos about indigenous communities; one about the Nonam women displaced from their territory and the other about the U'wa community and their resistance to the oil companies. Right photo: PBI Colombia. Left Photo: Julián Montoni.

## CONTACT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS

PBI plays an important role as a contact for international press on human rights issues in Colombia. In 2011, PBI had contact with 21 journalists from Germany, Spain, France, Belgium, Switzerland, China, and the United States, with whom PBI provided interviews, gave orientation on Colombia and consulted on different human rights issues. PBI Colombia also facilitated interviews with human rights defenders for these journalists. This work has resulted in some 10 articles, four audiovisual pieces, two photographic pieces, and two radio interviews.

## DISSEMINATION TOOLS

In addition to PBI Colombia's web page, the project maintains an account on YouTube<sup>3</sup>, Facebook<sup>4</sup>, Smugmug (for photo galleries)<sup>5</sup>, a blog<sup>6</sup>, and Twitter<sup>7</sup>. The information on the web page is updated weekly, and the other tools are updated when needed. The YouTube account contains all of project's audiovisual material and has had more than 50,000 hits.

## PRESS KITS

In June 2011, PBI Colombia published the information packet titled "Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó – The challenge remains: Land restitution", which is available on the PBI Colombia web page<sup>2</sup>.

1. "Defence lawyer Alirio Uribe speaks with PBI about the investigation and imprisonment of David Ravelo", PBI Colombia, 31 January 2011, <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMcfz-HOIMY>  
2. "Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó: Challenges continue for the return of stolen land". PBI Colombia, <http://www.pbi-colombia.org/los-proyectos/pbi-colombia/sala-de-prensa/curbarado-jiguamiando/?&L=1>

3. Please consult: <http://www.youtube.com/user/colombiapi>  
4. Please consult: <http://www.facebook.com/pbicolombia>  
5. Please consult: <http://pbicolombia.smugmug.com/>  
6. Please consult: <http://pbicolombia.wordpress.com/>  
7. Please consult: <http://twitter.com/#!/PBIColombia>

# Awareness raising with local NGOs on psychosocial and security & protection issues

Photo: Charlotte Kesl



## SUPPORTING THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE SOCIAL FABRIC

Support for the Reconstruction of the Social Fabric (ARTS) Area continued to offer support to accompanied organisations through meetings, workshops, follow-up and support on implementing self-protection measures.

Within a context as complex as the socio-political reality in Colombia, and since this is an evolving situation, it is especially important to periodically update analysis with organisations on the implications these changes have for their protection. This analysis is carried out jointly through meetings, discussions, and participatory

workshops where the organisations decide what type of actions to take with respect to different situations of risk or vulnerability.

On other occasions, PBI has carried out more extensive work on the emotional impacts for accompanied individuals, and shared tools on emotional and group self-care to help confront and resist in this context of violence. Additionally, work has been carried out on the psychosocial consequences of political violence against organisations and their members with a perspective on gender and diversity.

Another important tool for protection has been training on information security tools. Within this context where “wiretapping” and information theft represent an ongoing threat, information security is increasingly

requested as an essential protection element.

In all of the cases, the methodology used is participatory and based on experience. It also seeks to bring out the knowledge and strategies of the participants and is based on collectively constructing proposals. Respecting the principle of non-interference, PBI facilitators do not impose ideas or solutions; instead, they play a role that encourages the learning process. The area carried out 21 workshops in 2011.

Additionally, this area is in charge of the accompanied individuals’ specific needs for psychological assistance resulting from repression or political violence. When an individual asks for therapeutic accompaniment, PBI carries out a confidential interview, valuing their request and



Helena Manrique is the head of the Psychosocial area in PBI Colombia.

need. The individual is then directed to the appropriate institution that can provide a more suitable therapeutic accompaniment based on their situation. In this respect, PBI has established collaboration agreements with

three organisations believed to be experts in working with victims of political violence: AVRE Corporation, Vínculos Corporation and Terre des Hommes – Italy. In 2011, assistance was requested for six human rights

defenders from accompanied organisations for whom this support has been extremely helpful.

### SUMMARY OF WORKSHOPS CARRIED OUT 2011

Topic	Number of Organisations	Number of workshops	Number of days	Number of Total Participants	% Women
Emotional Self-Care	5	6	8	63	85%
Group Cohesion and Self-Care	1	1	1	5	80%
Processing Grief	1	1	1	25	100%
Self-Protection Strategies	11	11	14	156	71%
Political Advocacy	2	2	4	35	74%
Information Security	2	3	4	34	65%
Stress Management	1	1	1	10	60%

# Human resources and training international observers

Photo: Charlotte Kesl



Daniel Slee (PBI) interviews a leader from La Toma (Cauca) about mining and human rights.

**F**or more than ten years, PBI Colombia has had a training team to ensure that project volunteers have a common understanding for carrying out PBI work. Due to the complex nature of the Colombian conflict, and the need for all members to develop new skills—politically, personally and emotionally—, PBI has designed and implemented a selection process to ensure that volunteers are suited for PBI's work. Moreover, the project provides ongoing training so all members of PBI Colombia can continue to grow and develop their capacity.

The selection process for PBI volunteers is long and demands significant effort from the applicants. This includes filling out an application and providing the corresponding references, followed by a personal interview with a member of the PBI training team. The individuals who ful-

fill the basic selection requirements are invited to begin a self-training process that includes reading, reflection and writing in ten training packets on issues relating to Colombian history, current affairs and PBI's work. This process takes approximately six months. The selection process concludes with a weeklong training seminar that takes place three times a year in Spain. Since it is such an exhaustive process, only about 25% to 35% of the original applicants are accepted as international accompaniers for PBI Colombia.

Upon arriving in Colombia, all of the new team members receive two weeks of intense training in Bogotá before joining their respective teams. They also receive training after joining the field team, focusing on the regional context that puts into practice all of the theoretical lessons learned since joining PBI.

## ONGOING TRAINING

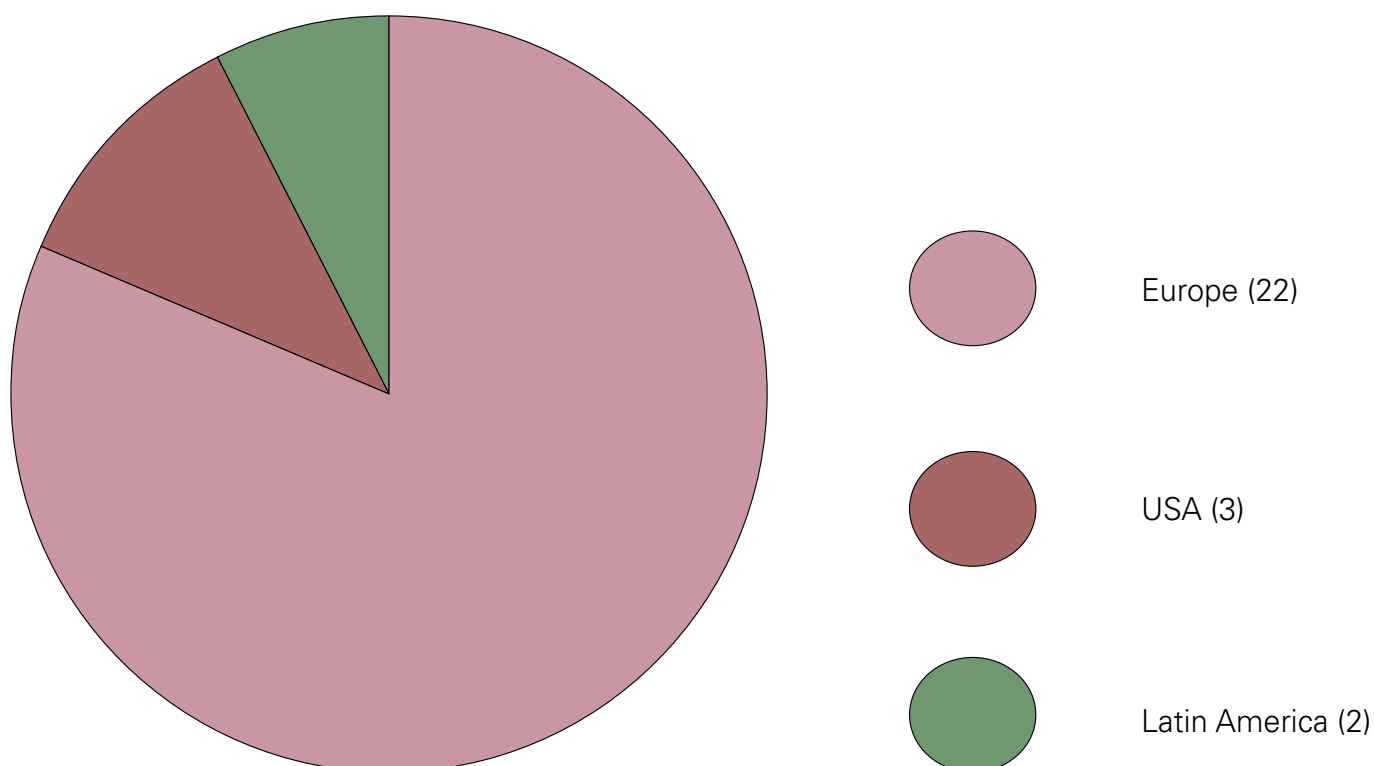
Throughout the year, PBI volunteers receive workshops on different issues ranging from emergency procedures to conflict resolution and discussions on current affairs (such as new Colombian laws). During 2011, the Training team, with help from external experts in some cases, carried out over 50 workshops with volunteers.

Nearly 50% of all PBI volunteers extend their initial one-year volunteer agreement, resulting in a profound understanding of the situation of human rights and of the human rights defenders accompanied by PBI Colombia.

## SUMMARY OF TRAINING AT PBI COLOMBIA

Selection Process	2011	2010
Applications submitted throughout the year	111	100
Individuals accepted to the training seminar (following an interview and the self-training packets).	39	46
% women	55%	70%
Training seminars (3 per year)	2011	2010
Total participants	39 (25 women/14 men)	46 (34 women/12 men)
Candidates accepted	28	34
Volunteers joining field teams	2011	2010
Total volunteers	33 (12 men/21 women)	27 (9 men/18 women)
Extended contracts (from January to December 2010)	16 (7 men/9 women)	21 (5 men/16 women)

## COUNTRY / REGION OF ORIGIN OF MEMBERS OF ACCOMPANIMENT TEAMS IN 2011



# Financial Report

## SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS AND RESOURCES

**F**inancial activity up to 31 December 2011 resulted in a net income of USD 1,968,440, which includes USD 83,879 in accounts receivable. The project also received USD 475,515 for use in 2012 (deferred income).

The period result represents a 9.8% increase in comparison to the previous year (2010: 1,792,220). The majority of funding for PBI's work is from government cooperation programs, as well as funds from foundations and private sources. PBI's funding came from 29 sources in 11 countries.

PBI Colombia's total expenditure for 2011 was USD 2,111,370, which represents a 6%<sup>1</sup> increase compared to the previous year (2010: USD 1,969,073). The movements of the period result in a loss of USD (142,931) which is attributed to an adjustment made in the value of fixed assets and depreciation costs and exchange rate differences made to reconcile PBI Colombia accounts with those of the PBI International accounts. The loss is reflected in the decrease of the project reserves at the close of 2011.

The general financial situation is constantly monitored to ensure that the organization operates within its financial limitations, taking into account the available and potential financial resources. PBI Colombia seeks to maintain a reserve equivalent to at least three months of operation. At the close of 2011 PBI's available reserve<sup>2</sup> is USD 380,695, or 22.28% of the 2012 budget (an estimated 2.6 months of operation). Even though that this amount is less than the minimum recommended, with the funds scheduled to enter early in 2012, it is sufficient to manage cash flow in the short term.

## 2011 FINANCIAL CONTEXT

PBI carried out an analysis of the global financial context in the first semester of 2011. Responding to the negative outlook of the European and global financial situation, as well as the changing value of the Colombian peso, PBI undertook preventative measures in order to counteract possible negative effects on the organization's financial situation. PBI formed an ad-hoc committee to monitor the situation and seek ways in which to reduce not only expenditures in 2011, but most importantly the 2012 budget. The committee's achievements include new initiatives regarding food and supplies guidelines, and reduced spending on publications and gasoline, among others. Moreover, the Bogotá support office was moved in November 2011, thus ensuring significant savings in rent for 2012.

In the Project Assembly (November 2011), PBI implemented further cuts in the 2012 budget which affected the organization's structure and personnel, as well as changing the training process for new volunteers and personnel benefits. The Assembly approved a budget of EUR 1,211,878 (USD 1,708,103). This represents a 15% reduction compared to the initial budget projected for 2012.

PBI Colombia hopes that these preventative budget cuts will enable to the organization to successfully weather the impacts of the current financial context and help guarantee financial stability for the coming

years. PBI continues to consider the diversification of its funding sources a priority.

## BALANCE

PBI Colombia's financial operations are registered in Colombian pesos (COP) and then converted into US dollars (USD) in line with PBI International standards. With regard to the Income and Expenditure statement, the conversion for income to USD is made by applying the exchange rate of the day funds are received in non-Colombian accounts. When funds are received in Colombia, they are registered in their original currency in the accounting programme and later converted to COP using the average exchange rate of the first five days of the month in which they are received. All exchange rate values are taken from the web site [www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com).

Project expenditures and the General Balance are presented in USD using the exchange rate of 31 December 2011 ([www.oanda.com](http://www.oanda.com), USD/COP 1,929.09).

The adjustment made to the values of fixed assets can be seen in the comparative balance. This adjustment was made following recommendations from the PBI International auditors who identified inconsistencies in fixed asset depreciation from 2006 – 2010. The adjustment is for USD (95,619)<sup>3</sup>. As a result of this recommendation, PBI Colombia has implemented a new policy regarding fixed assets.



Photo: Julián Montoni



# PPEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL- COLOMBIA PROJECT

## GENERAL BALANCE 31 DECEMBER 2011

	Exchange Rate 1.929	Exchange Rate 1.950
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	USD	USD
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>967.708</b>	<b>915.127</b>
Cash	21.164	30.776
Bank Accounts- Colombia	547.104	344.111
Bank Accounts- Foreign	273.360	267.290
Donations in transit	-	27.584
(1) Accounts receivable- Donations	83.879	219.031
Accounts receivable- Medical Insurance	27.677	19.749
Accounts receivable- Employees	259	513
Stipend advances- volunteers	3.122	(191)
Advances- Training session	1.849	-
Accounts receivable- Projects (Intermon)	8.930	-
Accounts receivable- Institutional project	97	-
Advances- Suppliers	266	6.263
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>35.478</b>	<b>128.892</b>
Computer and Communications Equipment	9.063	
Vehicle fleet	85.672	
Car	37.842	
River Boat	47.830	
Assets 2010	-	339.407
<b>Depreciation</b>		
Computer and Communications Equipment	(3.806)	
Vehicle fleet	(55.450)	
Car	(31.535)	
River Boat	23.915)	
Depreciation 2010	-	(210.515)
<b>Other assets</b>		<b>4.075</b>
Software	-	4.075
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>(587.013)</b>	<b>(495.118)</b>
(2) Accounts payable- General	(101.232)	(33.868)
Taxes due	-	(1.922)
Accounts payable- Institutional project	(8.930)	-
Accounts payable- Projects	(97)	-
(3) Deferred Income	(475.515)	(459.328)
Income- Training session	(1.239)	-
<b>RESERVES</b>		
Accumulated Reserve	(559.104)	(729.828)
Period results	(142.931)	(176.853)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS / NET ASSETS</b>	<b>(416.173)</b>	<b>(552.975)</b>

Sian Stephen  
Legal Representative

Sonia Parra  
Accountant

# PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL COLOMBIA PROJECT

## RESULTS STATEMENT 31 DECEMBER 2011

	2011	2010
Income	USD	USD
PBI Country Groups	301.196	337.228
Government Agencies	1.214.849	964.754
Foundations & Trusts	428.859	484.447
Personal / Private donations	4.359	-
<b>Other Income</b>		
Interest	105	113
Exchange rate	7.206	4.887
Other	11.866	791
<b>TOTAL INCOME RECEIVED</b>		<b>1.968.440</b>
		<b>1.792.220</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Project expenditures	1.912.438	
Teams expenditures	1.485.717	1.514.894
Outreach, preparation and training	34.023	44.179
Advocacy, and public relations	241.620	255.812
Project committee and coordination	117.480	117.976
Support office costs- Brussels	33.598	33.397
<b>Costs and Adjustments 2011</b>		<b>198.932</b>
Costs and expenditures- Results from previous periods	5.927	1.468
Exchange rate difference	92.807	1.346
Adjustment to pesos	1	-
Loss on Fixed Assets adjustment	95.619	-
Internal transfers to Country Groups (PBI UK)	4.579	-
		<b>2.111.370</b>
		<b>1.969.073</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>2.111.370</b>
		<b>1.969.073</b>
Funds brought forward 1 January		(559.104)
Result: Income minus expenditure		(142.931)
Funds 31 December		(416.173)
		(729.828)
		(176.853)
		(552.975)

Sian Stephen  
Legal Representative

Sonia Parra  
Accountant

## EXPLANATION OF TERMS

**Costs and expenditures- Results from previous periods:** A detailed revision in 2011 of account values from previous years resulted in necessary adjustments totalling USD 5,927.

**Exchange rate difference:** In expenditures, a noticeable amount of USD 92,807 is registered. This is due to an adjustment made to the beginning 2011 balance in the CENTEA Euro account of USD 60,880.24, as recommended by PBI International auditors. Moreover it also includes the differences in exchange rates on income, totalling USD 31,926.93. This is caused by the difference between the exchange rates on the day the income was received versus the average monthly exchange rate used by PBI's accounting system.

## INCOME

In the 2011 financial presentation, PBI Colombia has adopted a format similar to the global accounts presentation.

## EXPENDITURE: 2011 BUDGET EXECUTION

Expenditure in 2011 represents 98.38% of the final budget (USD 1,944,079). During the Project Assembly small adjustments were made to the budget resulting in a reduction of 0.53%, from USD 1,954,615 to USD 1,944,079. The reduction was made taking into account the financial context and projections for the second semester of 2011.

In creating the 2011 budget a projected exchange rate of USD/COP 2,040 was used. However, the Colombian peso was revalued throughout the year resulting in an average exchange rate of USD/COP 1,825.71 and a rate of USD/COP 1,929.09 for 31 December 2011, (www.oanda.com). The difference between the projected exchange rate and the real exchange rate generates an effect of inflating spending by 5.44% across all budget lines in USD. This was avoided due to preventative budget cuts and restrictions on spending in the second half of the year.

Below are the explanations for differences between budgeted amounts and actual expenditure in the most significant budget lines<sup>4</sup>. The analysis focuses on budget lines with an under-spend of more than 5%, and

10% for over-spent lines, taking into consideration the 5.44% increase due to exchange rate differences. All variations regarding salaries and stipends are explained.

## UNDER-SPENT BUDGET LINES

### • Boat Driver and Assistant. USD 1,897 and USD 390

These budget lines were under-spent due to a decrease in the use of PBI's river boat in Urabá, and therefore a contractual adjustment. The decrease in trips in the PBI boat were managed by increased use of a public boat (within the limits of the security conditions), at a much lower cost.

### • Volunteer Trainer. USD 2,150

This budget line was under-spent due to the inclusion of this post within the Civil Peace Service programme as of October 2011. This post and the Information Analysis Officer post are paid for by the Civil Peace Service and therefore are not assigned a monetary value in the 2012 budget.

### • Visas and Legal Costs. USD 8,005

This budget line is an estimate and the real expense is subject to the nationalities of the volunteers, as well as the real contract periods, which do not always coincide with the fiscal year. Some countries (the USA and Spain for example) have agreements with the Colombian government, resulting in a less costly visa process.

### • Repatriation. USD 7,661

This budget line is an estimate and payments are made at the end of each contract which do not necessarily coincide with the fiscal year. The expenditure is also affected by contract extensions and/or early departures, as well as the overall number of volunteers.

### • External Audit. USD 5,062

PBI carried out a solicitation process resulting in a lower cost than expected for the 2010 audit.

### • Food and Supplies. USD 11,713

This budget line was under-spent due to the implementation of new guidelines for the purchase of food and supplies. The saving generated was greater than expected.

### • Public Services. USD 2,248

This budget line is an estimate based on the expenditure of the previous year. The under spending is due to the fact that the apartment rented

in Cali for the exploration process included some of the utility costs, thus lowering expenditure in the Public Services budget line.

### • Interurban Travel-Gasoline. USD 6,379

This budget line was under-spent due to a decrease in trips in PBI's boat and an increase in using a public boat service in Urabá. This measure was taken due to the high costs of with using PBI's own boat.

### • Communication Costs. USD 2,850

This budget line is an estimate of the costs needed to cover the project's communications needs.

### • Correspondence and Shipping. USD 13,245

This budget line is an estimate. PBI was able to cover all correspondence needs spending less funds than in previous years. A key factor was decision to reduce the amount of printed newsletters in a year and a corresponding focus on electronic communications.

### • Travel to/from Volunteer Training Sessions. USD 8,029

This budget line is an estimate and depends on airline ticket prices and the point of departure of new volunteers.

### • Publications. USD 11,730

This budget line was under-spent due to a strategic decision to focus more on electronic publications and video, rather than printed publications. The change was implemented in order to reduce printing related costs, as well as correspondence and shipping.

### • Project Coordinator and European Support. USD 7,641 and USD 7,721

These budget lines correspond to salaries of PBI Colombia's European Representatives in Brussels. The under execution of these budget lines are not as significant when the over-spend for the administrative post in Brussels is taken into account.

### • Project Member Travel. USD 8,502

This budget line is an estimate and depends on the needs and characteristics of travel during the year.

## OVER-SPENT BUDGET LINES

### • Accounting and Finance. USD (4,067)

This budget line was over-spent as a result of hiring a full time ac-

countant rather than continuing with a part time post. This change recommended by both PBI Colombian and International auditors.

- **Project Administrative Support. USD (5,552)**

This budget line is over-spent due to a contractual change for a member of the finance staff, resulting in the liquidation of a contract and subsequent payments.

- **Domestic Service. USD (9,070)**

This budget line was over-spent due to a contractual change for a member of the domestic service team, resulting in the liquidation of a contract and subsequent payment. This budget line also includes five contracts, intensifying the 5.44% effect due to exchange rate differences.

- **Team Coordinator and Psychosocial Support. USD (3,652) and USD (3,731)**

These budget lines were over-spent due to personnel changes and necessary training to cover the posts during transitions.

- **Other posts<sup>5</sup>. Average USD (1,000)**

The slight overspending a result of the exchange rate impact.

- **Travel To and From Colombia. USD (22,377)**

This budget line is an estimate based on the average number of volunteers that enter and leave the project during the year. Volunteer con-

tracts do not always coincide with the fiscal year, making concise budgeting difficult. This budget line also depends on the volunteer's countries of origin and is subject to fluctuating airline costs (which on average increased in 2011).

- **Medical Insurance. USD (14,187)**

This budget line is an estimate based on the amount paid the previous year. The costs depend on the number of volunteers included in the plan, as well as other factors such as their age and medical history. Payments made in 2011 also include 2010 administrative costs.

- **Interurban Travel- Transportation. USD (19,719)**

This budget line was over-spent due to factors such as the increase in gasoline prices (increased on average in 2011) and the climate (harsh rainy season in 2011 which damaged roads), among others. Travel is a basic cost that the project must assume in order to undertake physical accompaniments, considered an essential activity.

- **Interurban Travel- Food and Lodging. USD (4,856)**

This budget line was over-spent due to an increase in travel with accompanied persons (slight increase in accompaniments in comparison to 2010).

- **Moving and Maintenance Costs. USD (2,683) and USD (3,455)**

PBI Colombia moved three volunteer houses / offices in 2011. The first two moves - for the Urabá team from Turbo to the city of Apartadó, and the opening of the exploratory team in Cali - were strategic project decisions. The third move involved moving the support office in Bogotá to a less expensive building, ensuring savings for 2012. The maintenance budget line was over-spent due to the need to make security adjustments to the new offices / houses.

- **Washington Support. USD (1,119)**

The slight overspending in this budget line was a result of exchange rate impact.

- **Strategy and Security. USD (4,146)**

This budget line was over-spent due to two early departures from the post during 2011 and the necessary training periods after these changes.

- **Administrator (Brussels). USD (5,873)**

The over-expenditure in this budget line levels out the under expenditure in the salaries of the other members in the PBI Colombia Brussels office.

1. Taken from the amount in Colombian pesos.  
2. This amount only includes available resources, and does not include the value of fixed assets.  
3. Detail may be found in the Results Statement as "Loss due to Adjustment in Fixed Assets."  
4. Budget lines that represent more than 1% of the overall budget - USD 19,424.  
5. Team Logistics, Advocacy Coordinator, Administration, Information Analyst, Computer Technician, Fundraisers and Communications Officer.



# PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL- COLOMBIA PROJECT

## DETAILED INCOME REPORT

		2011 USD	2010 USD
<b>Income from Government Agencies</b>		<b>1.438.974</b>	<b>1.159.877</b>
Country	Entity		
Germany	Civil Peace Service	265.629,00	189.797,80
Germany	Zivik (IFA) 2010	48.146,00	250.111,04
Germany	Zivik (IFA) 2011	93.745,00	0,00
Spanish State	Catalan Cooperation Agency (ACCD)	131.072,00	84.764,95
Spanish State	Spanish Cooperation Agency (AECID)	291.754,00	320.003,94
Spanish State	Palencia City Government	9.372,00	16.191,75
Spanish State	Pamplona City Government	43.889,00	2.069,09
Spanish State	Vitoria City Government	5.070,00	62.694,50
Spanish State	Government of Cantabria	9.470,00	26.270,69
Spanish State	Government of Navarra	144.355,00	12.850,31
Spanish State	Government of Navarra (previous years)	138.652,00	0,00
Norway	Ministry of Foreign Affairs - PBI Norway	98.934,32	195.122,63
Norway	Ministry of Foreign Affairs - PBI Norway	113.699,00	0,00
Switzerland	Canton Vaud - PBI Suiza	33.694,00	0,00
Switzerland	Ministry of Foreign Affairs- PBI Switzerland	11.493,00	0,00
<b>Income from PBI Country Groups</b>		<b>77.070</b>	<b>142.106</b>
Country	Entity		
Germany	PBI Germany	938,77	0,00
Canada	PBI Canada OPSEU	3.921,50	2098,44
Italy	PBI Italy	2.611,49	3.751,65
United Kingdom	PBI UK	-	48.156,36
Switzerland	PBI Switzerland	69.597,98	88099,21
<b>Income from Foundations</b>		<b>428.859</b>	<b>484.447</b>
Country	Entity		
Germany	Diakonische Werk	0,00	28.334,10
Germany	Misereor	54.856,00	61.885,53
Belgium	Broederlijk Delen	19.230,00	18.712,19
Spanish State	Intermon (AECID - EU)	79.420,00	45.322,44
USA	Overbrook Foundation	4.000,00	5.081,49
Holland	Mense Met Een Missie	64.575,00	94.958,68
Holland	Kerk In Actie	32.051,00	32.461,41
Ireland and UK	Christian Aid	80.821,00	62.414,39
United Kingdom	Sigrid Rausing Trust	49.949,00	24.590,22
Sweden	Diakonia Sweden	43.957,00	110.686,11
<b>Income from Individual Donations</b>		<b>4.359</b>	<b>00</b>
Switzerland	Private donations	4.359,00	0,00
<b>Income from Interest / Performance</b>		<b>7.311</b>	<b>5.000</b>
	Bank interest	105,00	113,00
	Profit in Exchange rates	7.206,00	4.887,00
<b>Other Income</b>		<b>11.866</b>	<b>791,00</b>
	Other	11.866,00	791,00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>1.968.439</b>	<b>1.792.220</b>

Sian Stephen  
Legal Representative

Sonia Parra  
Accountant

## 2011 BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE

DESCRIPTION	FINAL 2011 BUDGET USD	EXECUTION USD	BALANCE	% EXECUTED
<b>TEAM EXPENSES</b>				
Rent Offices / Houses	90.147	92.282	(2.135)	102,37%
Logistics officer	34.941	37.687	(2.746)	107,86%
Boat Driver	17.110	15.219	1.891	88,95%
Assistant Boat Driver	1.692	1.303	390	76,96%
Accounting and Finance	14.706	18.773	(4.067)	127,65%
Administrative Support	28.206	33.759	(5.552)	119,68%
Domestic Service	55.980	65.051	(9.070)	116,20%
Team Coordinator	34.734	38.386	(3.652)	110,51%
Advocacy Coordinator	17.367	18.475	(1.107)	106,38%
Administration	17.367	18.475	(1.107)	106,38%
Information Analyst	0	0	0	0,00%
Computer Technician	17.367	18.475	(1.107)	106,38%
Psychosocial Support	34.734	38.465	(3.731)	110,74%
Training Officer	35.960	33.810	2.150	94,02%
Communications Officer	17.367	18.475	(1.107)	106,38%
Fundraisers (2)	34.734	36.949	(2.215)	106,38%
Stipends	168.905	169.818	(913)	100,54%
Vacations	32.280	31.665	616	98,09%
Visa and Legal Costs	28.779	20.775	8.005	72,19%
Roundtrip Travel to/from Colombia	57.200	79.577	(22.377)	139,12%
Repatriation	49.160	41.499	7.661	84,42%
Medical Expenses	5.756	1.489	4.267	25,87%
Instalation costs	3.600	3.776	(176)	104,89%
External Professional Consultations	3.500	3.232	269	92,32%
Medical Insurance	69.339	83.527	(14.187,96)	120,46%
Team Retreats	14.607	16.780	(2.172)	114,87%
Banking Costs	10.785	9.308	1.477	86,30%
External Audit	20.343	15.281	5.062	75,12%
Project Evaluation	10.000	13.605	(3.605)	136,05%
Food and Supplies	125.345	113.632	11.713	90,66%
Public Services	28.115	25.867	2.248	92,00%
Maintenance Costs	21.660	25.115	(3.455)	115,95%
Information and Communications Equipment and Maintenance	13.779	15.069	(1.290)	109,36%
Furniture and Electro Domestic Appliances	8.471	8.893	(422)	104,98%
Office Materials	8.574	9.015	(441)	105,14%
Local Transportation	17.662	22.197	(4.535)	125,67%
Interurban Travel - Transportation	77.506	97.225	(19.719)	125,44%
Interurban Travel – Food and Lodging	43.294	48.150	(4.856)	111,22%
Interurban Travel – Gasoline	30.294	23.915	6.379	78,94%
Communication Costs (Telephones, Fax, Cellular, Internet)	53.318	50.467	2.850	94,65%
Shipping Costs	19.810	6.565	13.245	33,14%
Reference Materials	5.160	3.433	1.727	66,53%
Photocopies	2.284	686	1.598	30,03%
Image and visibility	4.059	6.361	(2.302)	156,70%
Fixed Asset Insurance	8.333	6.073	2.261	72,87%
Vehicle Maintenance	4.412	4.489	(78)	101,76%
Boat Maintenance	12.000	6.116	5.884	50,96%
Psychosocial Workshops / Support in Colombia	9.530	1.218	8.312	12,78%
Psychosocial Workshops / Support outside Colombia	4.000	2.533	1.467	63,32%
Mental Health Trips	7.966	4.405	3.561	55,29%

DESCRIPTION	FINAL 2011 BUDGET USD	EXECUTION USD	BALANCE	% EXECUTED
Moving Costs	3.500	6.183	(2.683)	176,66%
Other Expenditure	1.454	783	671	53,82%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>1.437.196</b>	<b>1.464.301</b>	<b>(27.104)</b>	<b>101,89%</b>
<b>VOLUNTEER OUTREACH, PREPERATION AND TRAINING AND CONTINUAL TRAINING FOR SUPPORT STAFF</b>				
Salaries	0		0	0,00%
Food and Lodging	18.746	17.861	885	95,28%
Travel	22.364	14.335	8.029	64,10%
Materials	1.200	1.714	(514)	142,80%
Tel/fax/e-mail	180	113	67	62,62%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>42.490</b>	<b>34.023</b>	<b>8.468</b>	<b>80,07%</b>
<b>ADVOCACY, AWARENESS RAISING AND PUBLÑIC RELATIONS</b>				
Washington Support	86.609	87.728	(1.119)	101,29%
Maintenance- USA Office	17.480	17.049	431	97,53%
European Support	63.605	55.883	7.721	87,86%
Intern	0		0	0,00%
Advocacy Travel	9.600	4.449	5.152	46,34%
Publications and Public Relations	37.898	26.168	11.730	69,05%
Advocacy / Speaking Tours	1.040	541	499	52,05%
Central Support and Public Relations- PBI International	51.203	49.814	1.389	97,29%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>267.435</b>	<b>241.632</b>	<b>25.803</b>	<b>90,35%</b>
<b>PROJECT COMMITTEE AND COORDINATION</b>				
Project Coordinator	63.605	55.964	7.641	87,99%
Strategies and Security Officer	17.364	21.510	(4.146)	123,88%
Central Support and Public Relations- PBI International	51.203	49.814	1.389	97,29%
Travel for PBI Members	19.038	10.536	8.502	55,34%
Meeting Expenses	2.130	1.172	959	55,01%
Communication	3.583	3.315	268	92,51%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>156.923</b>	<b>142.310</b>	<b>14.613</b>	<b>90,69%</b>
<b>SUPPORT COSTS – PBI COLOMBIA OFFICE IN BRUSSELS</b>				
Administrator	10.175	16.048	(5.873)	157,72%
Salary Administration Fee	2.811	1.171	1.640	41,66%
Urban Transport	183	0	183	0,00%
Office Insurance	1.803	1.323	480	73,38%
Office Maintenance	7.736	2.437	5.298	31,51%
Office Equipment	102	0	102	0,00%
Mail	1.726	1.377	348	79,81%
Tel/Fax/E-mail	0		0	0,00%
Reference Material	306	369	(63)	120,67%
Rent/Services	11.093	7.505	3.588	67,66%
Labour Compensations	3.000	0	3.000	0,00%
Job Opening Distribution	100	57	43	57,35%
Technological Support	1.000	0	1.000	0,00%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>40.034</b>	<b>30.289</b>	<b>9.745</b>	<b>75,66%</b>
<b>GRAN TOTAL</b>	<b>1.944.079</b>	<b>1.912.554</b>	<b>31.525</b>	<b>98,38%</b>



## PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN COLOMBIA SINCE 1994

Peace Brigades International (PBI) is a non-governmental organisation recognised by the United Nations, which has maintained a team of international observers/accompaniers in Colombia on an ongoing basis since 1994. PBI's mission is to protect the working environment of human rights defenders, who face repression due to their non-violent human rights activities.

PBI Colombia teams remain in the field, at the request of local organisations, accompanying persons and organisations under threat. This fieldwork is complemented by significant dialogue and advocacy with civilian and military authorities, as well as with NGOs, the Church, multilateral bodies, and the diplomatic corp, in order to promote human rights and disseminate information on the human rights situation in Colombia.

If you believe PBI's presence helps protect persons who carry out human rights work, you may do the following:

Support us economically on a personal or institutional basis.

Join the nearest PBI country group and support the international network from your place of residence.

Apply to become a volunteer with one of the PBI projects.

[www.pbi-colombia.org](http://www.pbi-colombia.org)

**PBI International Delegation**  
Development House  
56-64 Leonard St., London  
EC2A 4JX, UK

Tel. (+44) 20 7065 0775  
[admin@peacebrigades.org](mailto:admin@peacebrigades.org)

**PBI Colombia Project**  
Rue de la Linière, 11  
1060 Brussels (Belgium)

Tel. (+32) 2609 4400  
[coordinacion.europa@pbicolombia.net](mailto:coordinacion.europa@pbicolombia.net)  
[pbicolombia.net](http://pbicolombia.net)

**PBI Delegation in Colombia**  
Apartado aéreo 36157  
Bogotá (Colombia)

Tel. (+57) 1287 0403  
[coin@pbicolombia.org](mailto:coin@pbicolombia.org)

