



## PBI UK Annual Review 2007



Registered Charity Number: 1101016  
Company Registration Number: 03912587



# Vision and Mission

## **PBI's Vision**

PBI envisions a world in which people address conflicts non-violently, where human rights are universally upheld and social justice and intercultural respect have become a reality.

## **What does PBI do?**

PBI has been working to support human rights and promote non-violence for almost 30 years. We send teams of international observers to areas of conflict and repression to provide protective accompaniment to local human rights defenders whose lives and work are under threat. Our work is based on principles of non-partisanship and non-interference, in the belief that lasting transformation of violent conflict cannot be imposed from outside but must be based on the capacity of local people to build a genuine peace. We act only at the express request of local people and it is they that determine where our assistance is most needed.

PBI UK, one of 15 country groups around Europe, North America and the Pacific, is responsible for the vital support work which allows the field programmes – in Colombia, Mexico, Indonesia, Guatemala and Nepal – to operate smoothly. Its main areas of work are political support building, recruitment and training of volunteers, outreach and publicity, and fundraising.

# Contents

- 3** PBI's Vision
- 4** Letter from the Board of Trustees
- 5** PBI UK: Achievements in 2007
- 6** Building Political Networks
- 7** Fundraising
- 8** **FOCUS** Challenging Cultures of Impunity
- 10** **FOCUS** Lawyers' Organisations
- 12** **FOCUS** Women Human Rights Defenders
- 14** **FOCUS** Indigenous Communities Rights – Workers' Rights
- 15** **FOCUS** Displaced persons
- 16** **FOCUS** Environmental Defenders
- 17** PBI UK Volunteers
- 18** Financial Summary



## **Cover photo:**

**PBI volunteer accompanies Afro-Colombian human rights defenders to the humanitarian zone of Nueva Vida, Choco, Colombia**

# Letter from the Board of Trustees

In 2007, Peace Brigades International (PBI) saw its 27th year of protecting human rights and promoting non-violence. PBI's methodology continues to be at the core of its success; since 1981 we have been sending trained volunteers to areas of conflict, providing protective accompaniment to human rights defenders. This deters violence against them and gives them the space to continue their work.

PBI supports a range of human rights defenders such as those fighting environmental degradation, organisations working on issues of enforced disappearances and state-sponsored violence, human rights lawyers, organisations supporting women who have been subjected to violence including domestic and sexual abuse and organisations fighting for the rights of indigenous people.

We stand in admiration for those who work under such threat; their commitment to human rights is truly inspirational and we at PBI reassert our commitment to continue assisting them in their struggle.

This has been a busy and exciting year. In addition to continuing work in Colombia, Guatemala, Nepal, Mexico and Indonesia, we have held several high profile events, hosted tours including our 25th anniversary Exhibition Tour, met with various bodies and organisations, held ongoing training for volunteers going into the field, and welcomed new patrons and trustees.

One particularly exciting event in 2007 was Liliana Uribe's tour of the UK. Liliana is a prominent Colombian human rights lawyer who has been accompanied by PBI since 2001. She works for Legal Freedom Corporation (CJL), a not-for-profit legal firm that provides advocacy and legal assistance to victims of human rights violations. CJL's particular area of work focuses on



Liliana Uribe speaks at event on extra-judicial killings at Amnesty UK as part of her UK tour

extra judicial killings. Liliana's visit really brought home the profound importance and effect of PBI's work in protecting and enabling such people to undertake their work.

We have also had some fantastic media exposure in 2007; PBI has featured on the BBC World Service, Radio 4, *The Guardian*, *The Times*, legal publications and we were also given a BBC appeal slot, which was read by our patron Julie Christie.

The new Board of Trustees is honoured to be part of such a fantastic organisation and are thrilled at these achievements. We are excited about the coming year and being part of the future of PBIUK.

**There are two privileges attached to a foreign passport in a conflict area. You can use it to board the next flight out of trouble. Or you can use it as a tool to help protect human rights.**  
**Volunteer HANS-ULRICH KRAUSE, Indonesia**

# PBI UK: Achievements in 2007

Increasing the visibility of human rights defenders in the field helps deter threats against them and protect the political space in which they work.

Through publicity, outreach and advocacy work, PBI UK has continued to inform new audiences about our work and that of accompanied organisations in the field and amplify our influence at UK, EU and UN levels. We are also pleased to welcome new, highly regarded patrons to the organisation.

## Raising the profile of PBI's work

Our public profile was especially enhanced by a BBC Radio 4 appeal broadcast by Julie Christie in October, and with volunteer Daniel Carey's Law Society New Solicitor of the Year Award, won in large part for his work as a field volunteer with PBI Guatemala.

PBI UK featured in broadcasts by the BBC World Service, BBC Indonesia, BBC Latin America, BBC Cumbria and BBC Radio Four's *Saturday Live*, and in articles published by *The Guardian Abroad*, *The Times Online* and in legal publications *Counsel* and *LexisNexis*.

Returned volunteers spoke about their experiences at many events, talks, workshops and stalls, held at universities, careers fairs, churches, Quaker meetings and conferences.

## Talks and tours

The importance of the work of human rights defenders, the significance of the threats against them, and the value of their continued protection, are all best communicated in their own words. In 2007

**PBI UK patron Julie Christie reads the BBC appeal in support of PBI**



**As a human rights lawyer in South Africa where in the 1960's I defended courageous political prisoners including Nelson Mandela, I know how lonely and dangerous this can be for the defence lawyers involved. Peace Brigades International UK plays a vital role in protecting and supporting human rights defenders in countries where such defenders are often in far greater danger than we in South Africa ever faced. The presence of PBI's defenders is critical for the lawyers and other human rights defenders involved both for their safety and ensuring that their clients and their client's communities obtain justice. That is why I am proud to be a Patron of Peace Brigades International UK.**

**LORD JOFFE**

PBI UK hosted the following human rights defenders, who spoke at a wide range of events around Britain, including to large audiences at the Law Society, universities, and the Houses of Parliament.

- Alirio Uribe and Eduardo Carreño of the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR, Colombia)
- Cecilia Naranjo and Alberto Franco of the Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP), and José Girón, president of the Grassroots Training Institute (IPC) (Colombia)
- Neil Arias, lawyer at the Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre *de la Montaña* (Mexico)
- Peneas Lokbere, representative of the Abepura Survivors Community, accompanied by Brother Rudolph of the Jayapura Justice and Peace Commission (Indonesia)

## Advocacy

PBI UK has maintained and developed its contacts with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and members of both Houses of Parliament, keeping them informed of our concerns for the safety of accompanied human rights defenders, and discussing the international tools and mechanisms that can be used to further protect them. The strength of our Support Network meant that messages of concern reached the relevant authorities swiftly and effectively when PBI had to activate the network in response to serious threats against accompanied groups and individuals, which unfortunately was necessary on five occasions in 2007.

## Volunteer recruitment & training

PBI UK continues to play a significant role in the recruitment and training of accompaniment volunteers for the field projects. In 2007, returned volunteers facilitated three orientation weekends, at which 35 prospective volunteers were introduced to PBI's philosophy, the principles of non-violent conflict resolution and consensus decision-making. 12 UK volunteers served in the field

## Patrons

We welcomed six new patrons who have offered valuable advice and acted as ambassadors to the organisation: Sir Henry Brooke, Sir Robert Carnwath, Julie Christie, Sir Nigel Rodley, Peter Roth QC, Baroness D'Souza. PBI UK is delighted to announce as we go to press that Lord Joffe has also agreed to become a patron of PBI UK.

# Building Political Networks

## Support network

Dialogue with decision-makers in the political sphere complements and enhances the physical accompaniment of the threatened human rights defender. In turn, the field volunteers' presence serves as a visible reminder of international attention and of the potential 'cost' of attacking human rights defenders. In situations of heightened threat, PBI is able to trigger its support network of influential individuals, quickly bringing an international spotlight onto the problem.

The support network was activated five times during 2007, in response to: the murder of Dairo Torres, community leader from the San Jose de Apartado Peace Community (Colombia); threats against Terai-based human rights defenders (Nepal); threats against Yan Christian Warinussy, executive director of the Institute of Research, Analysis and Development for Legal Aid (LP3BH) (Indonesia); threats against Alberth Rumbekwan, director of the Papuan branch of the National Human Rights Commission (Komnas HAM) (Indonesia); and threats against Francisco, Emiliana and Alejandro Cerezo from the Cerezo Committee (Mexico).

## Bringing together activists and decision-makers

PBI UK invites human rights defenders and representatives of accompanied organisations to the UK, where they are able to meet interested members of the public as well as decision-makers in Westminster, Whitehall and beyond. In 2007, PBI UK hosted six such speaking tours. The examples below give an idea of some of the activities and achievements of these visits.

**Eduardo Carreño**, of the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR, Colombia), spoke at a joint Amnesty International/International Centre for Trade Union Rights conference, the Bar Human Rights Committee, and a House of Lords event hosted by PBI UK patrons Baroness D'Souza and Sir Henry Brooke and attended by members of the legal and academic sectors, the judiciary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Attorney General, Baroness Scotland QC. He met with MPs, members of the



**Peneas Lokbere (right) and PBI volunteer Andrew Hickman give a radio interview for the BBC World Service during his UK tour**

All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Human Rights and addressed a meeting of the Federation of European Bars (FBE) in Strasbourg.

**Peneas Lokbere**, representative of the Abepura Survivors Community, Papua, Indonesia, met members of the APPGs on Human Rights and on Indonesia, including members of both Houses of Parliament and the European Parliament, and the FCO regional desk officer. Following the meeting with Peneas Lokbere, the APPG on Human Rights wrote to the Indonesian

ambassador raising concerns about the lack of justice for the victims in the case.

## Strengthening ties and contributing to international debate

PBI UK has been active in shaping the implementation of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders, holding meetings with several departments of the FCO to discuss PBI's recommendations for making the guidelines more systematically and effectively applied.

PBI UK advocated on the need to support the mandate of the UN Special Procedures to scrutinise the situation on human rights around the world. Participation in a round table organised by the FCO on the UN Human Rights Council has enabled PBI to discuss our concerns directly with the team representing the UK in the sessions in Geneva.

### STOP PRESS!

The FCO has granted funding for an April 2009 conference on protection and security for human rights defenders, to be organised jointly with London Metropolitan University, and the All Party Parliamentary Group on Human Rights.

# Fundraising

PBI's work relies on the generosity of our donors. In 2007 PBI UK was successful in attracting greater and more diverse sources of funds, bringing total income for the year to £286,400. This enabled us to continue supporting the field projects and sending international observers to protect human rights defenders working under threatening conditions.

## In 2007:

- Our income increased by 33%
- We were successful in our application for a BBC Radio 4 appeal that raised the awareness of the UK public and attracted new donors to PBI
- Several new donors began supporting PBI UK, including the Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation and the Scurrah Wainwright Charity
- Volunteers at dozens of music festivals worked to raise money and awareness of PBI

## Consultancy with the Charities Aid Foundation

Michael White of the Charities Aid Foundation gave valuable advice to PBI UK on our organisational and fundraising strategies, helping us to strengthen our internal processes and trustee management. We hope these changes will continue to bear fruit and contribute to greater financial stability in the future.

## Launch of Human Rights Defenders at Risk Fund

In April 2008, PBI launched the Human Rights Defenders at Risk Fund. Aimed at the general public and especially members of the legal community, the fund provides a way for them to support their international colleagues working under constant threat to defend the rule of law.

Former Lord Justice and PBI UK patron Sir Henry Brooke chaired a well-attended launch event addressed by Sir Adrian Fulford, an International Criminal Court judge, and Colombian human rights lawyer Liliana Uribe. The Fund has already raised £45,000 and won great support and encouragement from the legal community.

PBI UK gets 80% of its income from charitable trusts and foundations

and the rest is raised through donations from members and other supporters, as well as from groups such as Quaker meetings. Sustained financial support from the legal sector would enable us to diversify our income sources and take a strategic and coordinated approach to planning for the future and step up protection efforts in situations of more immediate need. We hope to engage in fundraising efforts with the legal sector in the following ways:

- Develop joint fundraising schemes such as sponsoring the protection of overseas lawyers by law firms/chambers, sisterhood schemes between firms in the UK and human rights lawyers overseas, and organising specific awareness raising events in support of lawyers or legal cases.
- Identify key legal awards and nominate lawyers who receive protective accompaniment from PBI for these awards
- Develop a network of lawyers who will provide political and financial support to PBI on a regular basis (for example through payroll giving schemes)
- Promote PBI UK as the Charity of the Year in UK legal firms

## LIST OF TRUSTS

The Sigrid Rausing Trust  
The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation  
Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund  
The Bromley Trust  
The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust  
Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation  
The Tinsley Foundation  
Charities Aid Foundation  
Anonymous  
WF Southall Trust  
Appletree Fund  
Clifford Chance  
Alistair Berkley Charitable Fund  
The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust  
The Scurrah Wainwright Charity  
Garden Court Chambers  
AW 60 Charitable Trust  
Ole Hansen & Partners  
The Calpe Trust  
Marmot Charitable Trust  
Reed Smith Richards Butler  
SC and ME Morland's Charitable Trust  
The Merry Trust  
The Law Society Charity  
Amnesty International-Americas Human Rights Defenders Programme  
Oakdale Trust  
Radley Charitable Trust



Sir Adrian Fulford, PBI patrons Peter Roth QC and Sir Henry Brooke, Liliana Uribe and interpreter Valeria Luna at the launch of the Human Rights Defenders at Risk Fund, April 2008

To find out more about the Human Rights Defenders at Risk Fund, visit [www.peacebrigades.org.uk/1806.html](http://www.peacebrigades.org.uk/1806.html)

# Challenging Cultures of Impunity

In the countries where PBI works, human rights defenders continue to work in the face of grave threats to their lives and livelihoods, as evidenced by the constant stream of requests for accompaniment that the field teams receive. State systems of law and order should be the bulwark on which people promoting justice can rely, but where internal conflicts have created climates in which impunity flourishes, the perpetrators of attacks against human rights defenders are rarely brought to account.

PBI accompanies many organisations working to see their governments held accountable for the protection of civilians and the prosecution of those responsible for human rights violations, helping to open up space within which the pattern of impunity can begin to be reversed.

## Accompanied organisations and individuals working to end impunity

### Indonesia

The Commission for Disappearances and Victims of Violence (KontraS Papua), Office for Justice and Peace of the Catholic Diocese in Jayapura (SKP), Suciwati Munir and Action Committee in Solidarity for Munir (KASUM), Theo Hese gem

### Colombia

Manuel Cepeda Foundation, Committee for Solidarity with Political Prisoners (FCSPP), Association of the Families of the Detained and Disappeared (ASFADDES), Regional Corporation for the Defence of Human Rights (CREDHOS), Grassroots Training Institute (IPC)

**I also dedicate this Human Rights First award to Peace Brigades International who have accompanied us in solidarity for many years, guaranteeing that we can continue to work in Colombia.**  
**IVÁN CEPEDA**

### Mexico

Cerezo Committee, Association of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared and Victims of Human Rights Abuses in Mexico (AFADEM), Radio Calenda

### Guatemala

Centre for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH), The National Movement for Human Rights (MNDH), Project Counselling Service (PCS)

### Nepal

Lawyers' Forum for Human Rights (LAFUR), Conflict Victims Committee (CVC)

### Colombia

Iván Cepeda of the Manuel Cepeda Foundation

The Manuel Cepeda Foundation received the Human Rights First award in July 2007 for its distinguished contribution to the protection and promotion of human rights in Colombia. Iván Cepeda set up the foundation in 1996 after the assassination of his father, Senator Manuel Cepeda of the Patriotic Union Party. Since then it has helped document thousands of crimes against humanity in Colombia.

The PBI team in Bogotá accompanied Iván Cepeda and his wife Claudia Girón during their trips to other regions of Colombia (between two periods of enforced exile) and when they brought the case before the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights.

During his acceptance speech at the Human Rights First award ceremony, Iván Cepeda said: "I also dedicate this award to Peace Brigades International who have accompanied us in solidarity for many years, guaranteeing that we can continue to work in Colombia."



PBI volunteer accompanies a member of the Cerezo committee at a protest march





**Faces of the Guatemala's disappeared displayed at a march to end impunity in Guatemala City**

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:**

**Naomi Baird (Former in-country coordinator of PBI Indonesia)**

Papua is closed off to the outside world - foreign journalists and diplomats are routinely refused entry to the conflict-affected province and there is questionable rule of law. In these conditions the presence of PBI provides protection, support, and solidarity for human rights defenders struggling against impunity.

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:**

**John Hampson (PBI volunteer, Indonesia)**

During the year that I was with the Jayapura team in Papua, we saw the organisation KomK (Abepura Survivors Community) become stronger, more organised, confident, and vocal. One of the members of the group, Peneas Lokbere, took part in a speaking tour of the UK, where he had the opportunity to talk about the problems of human rights abuses and impunity in Papua and Indonesia.

**Nepal: Lawyers' Forum for Human Rights (LAFHUR)**

In Nepal, the Lawyers' Forum for Human Rights works on issues of impunity and forced disappearances which took place during the drawn-out civil conflict. The secretary general of the organisation, Jitman Basnet, has been detained on several occasions and has suffered torture and an extended period of detention lasting 258 days. He has written a book about his ordeals and the impunity that still prevails in Nepal. Since its publication, Basnet has received threatening phone calls and death threats. PBI accompanied Basnet during the second half of 2007, allowing him to continue his work against impunity in Nepal with greater freedom and security.

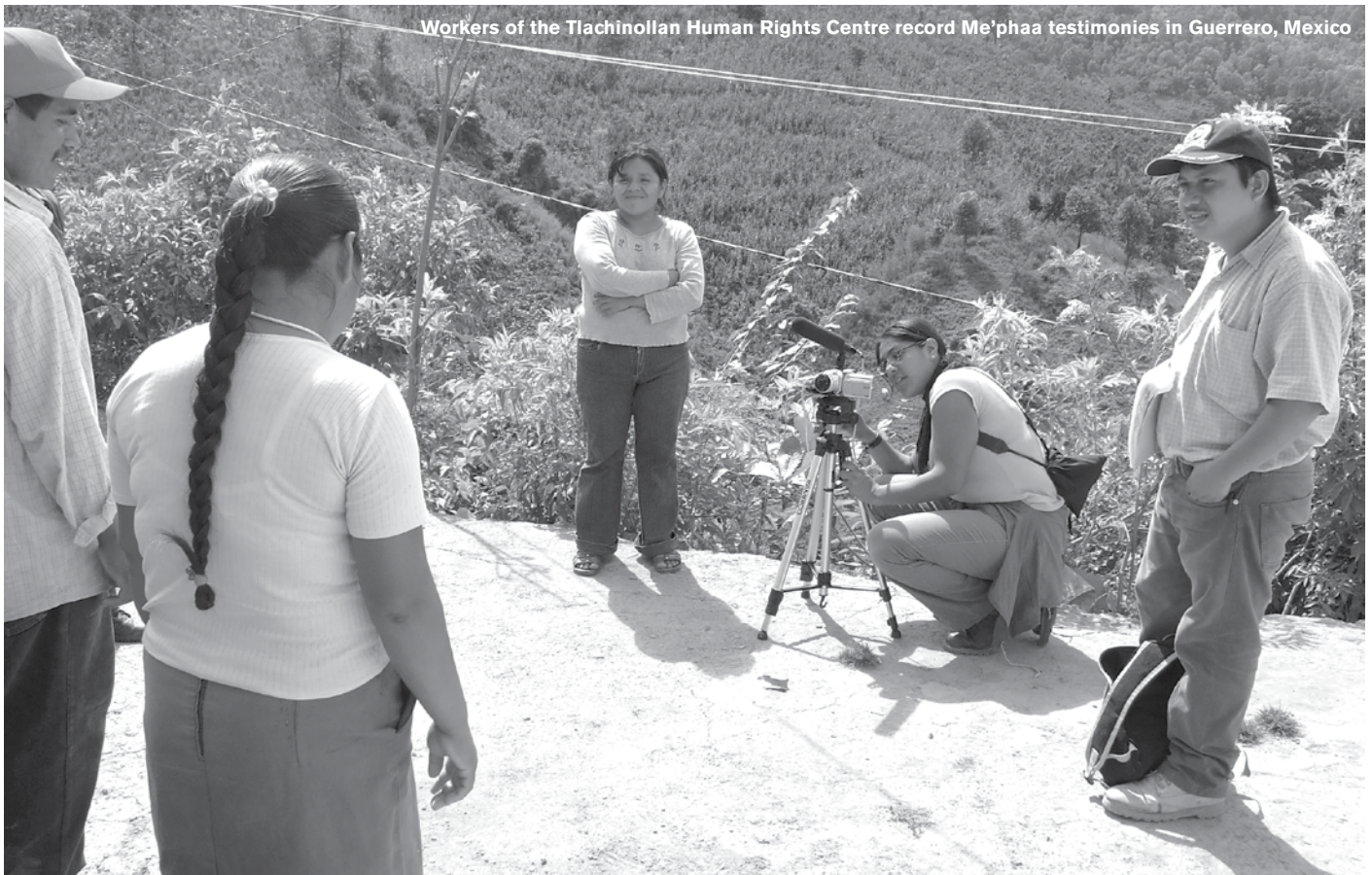
**Guatemala: Project Counselling Service (PCS)**

In May 2007, the Project Counselling Service (PCS) asked PBI to accompany a Guatemalan employee who had been kidnapped and sexually assaulted as part of a campaign of political harassment.

PCS is an international organisation that helps populations affected by political violence to strengthen their organisations and further their work in defence of human rights. PCS is addressing the problem of continued impunity in the aftermath of Guatemala's armed conflict, with special emphasis on sexual violence.

PBI has been accompanying the original employee and other members of the organisation since it filed a complaint about the assault with the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Human Rights Ombudsman, helping to protect the organisation's ability to continue its work.

# Lawyers' Organisations



Workers of the Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre record Me'phaa testimonies in Guerrero, Mexico

Throughout 2007, PBI continued to accompany legal organisations in Latin America and Asia whose members pursue human rights work despite death threats, torture and disappearances. In this high-risk environment, PBI protects and supports organisations that provide both human rights and legal advice to marginalised groups. Lawyers are central to peace-building as they can bring cases of human rights abuses before the courts.

**PBI's protection makes us braver.**

**LP3BH executive director  
YAN CHRISTIAN WARINUSSY**

## Accompanied legal organisations

### ■ Indonesia

Institute of Research, Analysis and Development for Legal Aid (LP3BH), Legal Awareness and Human Rights Advocacy Organisation (YAPH and HAM), Indonesian Legal Aid and Human Rights Association (PBHI)

### ■ Colombia

Legal Freedom Corporation (CJL), José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR), Luis Carlos Pérez Lawyers' Collective (CALCP)

### ■ Mexico

Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre

### ■ Guatemala

Centre for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH)

### ■ Nepal

Advocacy Forum (AF)

## Indonesia: Institute of Research, Analysis and Development for Legal Aid (LP3BH)

PBI began accompanying the Institute of Research, Analysis and Development for Legal Aid (LP3BH,) in 2006.

LP3BH works in West Papua to empower local people through legal aid and education about basic human rights. In August 2007, its workers believed that their offices were being watched, and executive director Yan Christian Warinussy, who had previously been threatened at gunpoint, received messages accusing him of being part of the separatist movement. PBI monitored his security throughout 2007 with daily telephone calls and protective accompaniment when it was requested. Warinussy said: "I feel safer, and the people in Manokwari know that LP3BH is not alone.... There is no pressure or intimidation any more. We feel supported, we have more self-confidence, and we are assured that the work we are doing is worthwhile. PBI's protection makes us braver."

#### VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

**Laura Burgess**  
(PBI volunteer, Nepal)

"Besides documenting human rights violations and bringing legal cases against the perpetrators, Advocacy Forum carries out a vital role in monitoring detention centres. AF documents and challenges the practice of torture, illegal detention, and lack of access to legal and medical aid, risking intimidation and threats from security forces. AF staff were regularly denied a private room to interview detainees (a legal right) and on occasion were denied access to detainees altogether. PBI would accompany AF staff to the detention centres to provide a deterrent against threats, and speak to State Security Force personnel to raise concerns in order to open up the space for AF to continue their important monitoring work".



**Kopila Adhikari of  
Advocacy Forum, Nepal**

**PBI strengthens human rights  
defenders so we can claim  
our rights as citizens.**

**Advocacy Forum lawyer**

#### **Mexico: Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre**

PBI accompanies the lawyers of the Tlachinollan Centre on their trips through Guerrero state, one of Mexico's most marginalised regions.

Lucia Genaro Linares had been receiving serious threats since the arrest of two policemen in connection with the death of her son in police custody in 2004. PBI's presence helped ensure the safety of her lawyers, enabling them to continue working on the case. The two policemen have now been convicted.

In October 2007, troops entered Ayutla de los Libres, prompting PBI to intensify its presence in the region. PBI observed during the gathering of the Me'phaa people's testimonies about the events, and the Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre denounced the militarisation of the region, reporting repeated attacks against indigenous communities, intimidation and destruction of property. Tlachinollan lawyer, Alejandro Ramos Gallegos said: "PBI is one of the few means we have to keep going forward in a struggle that is very risky

and complicated." He added: "The fact that you have gone with us to visit these [remote] communities has given us more confidence to keep striving without fearing that something could happen to us."

#### **Nepal: Advocacy Forum (AF)**

Set up in 2001 by human rights lawyers, Advocacy Forum (AF) works to investigate and prosecute cases of human rights violations, provides free legal assistance to victims of torture, and raises awareness of human rights violations. Mandira Sharma is one of the founding members of AF and a recipient of a Human Rights Watch award in recognition of her work. PBI accompanies staff from AF's head office, four regional offices, and seven district offices, as they build and file their cases and campaign for legal reforms to make the Nepalese justice system more efficient. "The work of human rights organizations in Nepal is still very important," said a human rights lawyer at the Advocacy Forum. "PBI strengthens human rights defenders so we can claim our rights as citizens."

#### VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

**John Hampson**  
(PBI volunteer, Indonesia)

"PBI Indonesia's Jayapura team in Papua accompanied the lawyer Yan Christian Warinussy, executive director of LP3BH, his family, and other members of LP3BH for sustained periods when he was under increased surveillance and intimidation from security forces. We also accompanied members of the legal aid organization PBHI when they defended indigenous Papuans accused of being involved in the deaths of security forces personnel during demonstrations in Jayapura, Papua. The lawyers had to work in a sometimes intimidating environment, and received death threats because of their work.

"Working with such people, who manage to carry on their work for human rights despite the intimidation and threats they receive, often year after year, is always a source of inspiration. The whole idea of the use of accompaniment to help them to do their work is the thing which really inspired me to join PBI. I am always surprised by how such people and their families manage to carry on under such difficult and dangerous circumstances."

# Women Human Rights Defenders

Women are both particularly susceptible to marginalisation, poverty and the suffering caused by armed conflict, and are often at the forefront of groups mobilising for peace.<sup>1</sup> As such they are frequently at the cutting edge of the transformation of their societies. More than half the human rights defenders PBI accompanies are women. PBI accompaniment helps empower them and protect the space in which they work to protect human rights in their communities.

## Accompanied women's organisations and individual activists

### Colombia

Grassroots Women's Organisation (OFP)

### Guatemala

National Coordinating Body of Guatemalan Widows (CONAVIGUA), Women's Sector (Sector de Mujeres)

### Mexico

Organisation of Women Ecologists of the Sierra de Petatlán (OMESP)

### Indonesia

Suciwati Munir



An Indigenous woman protests about violence against women in Guatemala

### Colombia: OFP

The 'Organización Femenina Popular', or Grassroots Women's Organisation (OFP), defends women's rights and speaks out against human rights violations. The OFP's headquarters and much of its work is in Barrancabermeja, but it also has projects in the shanty towns of Bogotá and Neiva. During 2007, members of OFP were increasingly harassed, experiencing threats, attacks, and intimidation against their families. The sister of one executive committee member, Katherine Gonzalez Torres, was abducted and held between 13 February and 12 March. In November the director Yolanda Becerra was held at gunpoint while her apartment was ransacked.

This escalation of threats created an environment of fear, and PBI stepped up its work around OFP, in both the physical accompaniment of the organisation and political work, raising concerns about the

situation with the authorities. On 20 July 2007, OFP commemorated 35 years of working towards the reconstruction of the social fabric of communities caught in the conflict. Yolanda Becerra called the situation in Colombia a humanitarian crisis. "What war destroys every day," she said, "women have to mend 24 hours a day – in the search for social justice."

### Indonesia: Suciwati Munir

Suciwati Munir has campaigned tirelessly for justice since the murder in 2004 of her husband, human rights activist Munir Said Thalib. She has also founded the Victims' Families Solidarity Network to provide support for other families struggling against impunity.

Suciwati has become one of the more prominent human rights campaigners in Indonesia, working also with the Tifa Foundation to promote

a more open society that celebrates diversity and honours the rule of law, justice and equality.

In 2006, the courts freed the only person to be convicted of Munir's murder. In 2007, PBI accompaniment helped Suciwati to step up her efforts to bring the case to international attention. She believes the murder is linked to the Indonesian intelligence agency, and has questioned the competence of the police force, parliament and the judiciary to resolve the case.

What war destroys every day, women have to mend 24 hours a day.

**YOLANDA BECERRA,**  
director of the Grassroots Women's Organisation



**PBI volunteer observes while members of CONAVIGUA and the Guatemalan Forensic Anthropology Foundation search for the remains of people who forcibly disappeared in the 1980s**

**Guatemala: CONAVIGUA**

In 2007, overt surveillance of the offices of the National Co-ordinating Body of Guatemalan Widows (CONAVIGUA) increased, prompting PBI Guatemala to increase the intensity of its accompaniment. CONAVIGUA works with families throughout Guatemala to facilitate the exhumation and reburial of the remains of relatives who were forcibly disappeared during the 36-year civil conflict. Through its work it also seeks to aid the recuperation of the population's collective memory,

disrupted and eroded during the extended period of trauma and violence.

During the 'scorched earth' campaign in the 1980s, an estimated 45,000 people went missing without trace. CONAVIGUA's work is a painful process, sometimes leading to disputes between victims' families and the killers, who often still live in the same communities today.

PBI accompanies CONAVIGUA at exhumations and reburials in remote areas, and in the capital, with regular visits to its office.

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE: Emma Marshall (PBI volunteer, Guatemala)**

"I found it a humbling experience, accompanying members of CONAVIGUA on exhumations. You could see how important it was for the relatives to find the remains of the disappeared and give them a proper burial. Everyone would turn out to help in the search, or watch, or provide food for all the workers. It was a traumatic process for the communities as those responsible for the deaths were still living nearby. The families were so grateful for our presence but it was always clear to me that our job was the easy part."

**VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:**

**Megan Ciotti (PBI volunteer, Indonesia)**

"On several occasions I met women survivors of massacres or violations committed by security forces in the province of Papua. The women were attending capacity-building workshops organised by client organisation PBHI (Indonesia Legal and Human Rights Association). They were always anxious to tell me about what the women in their communities had suffered and saw it as their role to ensure that this story was told. The PBHI project in Papua was led by Maya, a woman activist from Jakarta who for many years had worked hard to help Papuan survivors begin to recover from their experiences and organise themselves politically."

# Indigenous Community Rights

In 2007, the UN Human Rights Council adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, marking an historic acknowledgment of the vulnerability of many Indigenous populations around the world, and of the fact that human rights abuses against Indigenous people are still widespread. PBI accompanies grassroots organisations set up by Indigenous groups to defend their rights.

## Accompanied Organisations

### ■ Mexico

Organisation of the Indigenous Me'Phaa People (OPIM)

### ■ Guatemala

Association of Indigenous Mayors and Authorities (AGAAI)

## Mexico: Organisation of Indigenous Me'phaa People

The Organisation of Indigenous Me'phaa People (OPIM) in Mexico has felt the positive impact of PBI's work in the Ayutla region, where human rights violations against Indigenous communities increased considerably in 2007.

PBI has been accompanying OPIM's secretary, Obtilia Eugenio Manuel, since 2005. On 12 April 2007, Obtilia took part in a hearing before Florentín Meléndez, the President of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. This

UK Volunteer Billy Kyte with Obtilia Eugenio Manuel, secretary of the Organisation of Indigenous Me'Phaa people, Ayutla, Mexico



hearing resulted in significant pressure being put on the Mexican Department for Foreign Affairs, with Meléndez's report to the department expressing profound concern over Mexico's alarming level of impunity, particularly in cases involving members of Indigenous communities.

PBI was present while OPIM worked alongside the Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre to support Inés Fernández and Valentina Rosendo in the rape cases they took to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in 2007.

## STOP PRESS:

### PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

On 11 November 2008, Amnesty International (AI) adopted as prisoners of conscience five members of OPIM who have been imprisoned for more than six months, and called for their immediate and unconditional release. AI believes that the charges against them are politically motivated, and related to their legitimate activities promoting the rights of their community and exposing local abuses of power.

# Supporting Workers' Rights

Rural farm workers or *campesinos* in Latin America are often exploited and denied their basic rights, facing violence and oppression when they attempt to claim those rights. In 2007, PBI stepped up its commitment to organisations working to stop such abuses.

## Accompanied Organisations

### ■ Guatemala

Union of Verapaz *Campesino* Organizations (UVOC), *Campesino* Workers Movement (MTC)

## Guatemala: MTC

The *Campesino* Workers Movement (MTC) in San Marcos teaches rural workers about their labour rights, empowering them to demand their rights from farm and plantation owners. PBI Guatemala has accompanied MTC founder and legal adviser, Julio Archila since 2005. Archila had been advising 26 families of the plantation *Las Delicias*, who had been dismissed after demanding unpaid wages. Despite the courts finding in the *campesinos'* favour, the landowner had refused to pay, and in response the families had occupied a section of the plantation.

Having in most cases lived on the plantation all their lives, they had no alternative home or source of income.

Threats against Archila and his family increased after the owners of *Las Delicias* brought a legal case against him and his son, accusing them of theft of coffee from the plantation, which they believed was intended to frighten them into giving up their support to the *Las Delicias* workers. He said that PBI helped him carry on: "This accompaniment has given us strength and helped us to continue our work."

# Displaced Communities

Internally Displaced Persons have been forced or obliged to leave their homes due to violence or other factors beyond their control but do not have the protection accorded by refugee status, not having crossed an internationally recognised state border. PBI works with internally displaced communities, primarily in Colombia, where as many as four million

people<sup>1</sup> have been displaced by the conflict, the second highest number in the world after Sudan. The Colombian Commission of Jurists (CCJ) reports that forced displacement, using violence or coercion, is a tactic used by paramilitary groups seeking to strengthen their hold on farmland, often with the active or tacit support of the Colombian police and armed forces.<sup>2</sup>

## Accompanied Organisations

### Colombia:

- Community for Self Determination, Life and Dignity (CAVIDA), Cacarica
- The InterChurch Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP), Curvaradó
- Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, Urabá

### VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:

**Anna Musgrave**  
(PBI volunteer, Colombia)

“The Peace Community of San Jose is a community of campesinos who, by no fault of their own, have found themselves

at the sharp end of the Colombian conflict. Instead of fleeing, they have stood their ground and learnt the language of peaceful resistance to protect themselves. In an isolated region, they provide a vital role as human rights defenders, and others turn

to them for advice and protection. Yet their struggle for survival continues, and without international accompaniment, every day tasks, such as travelling to the local town to buy groceries, become dangerous.”



**Painted stones inscribed with the names of the murdered members of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó**

### Colombia: Peace Community of San José de Apartadó

The Peace Community of San José de Apartadó was established by 500 displaced villagers in Urabá in 1997. More than 170 members of the community have been murdered since its creation, and more than 10 years on, they continue to suffer kidnappings and attacks. The community has remained non-violent, refusing to participate in armed conflict.

PBI monitored events in the Peace Community throughout the year, including the 10th anniversary celebratory walk to the settlement of Arenas Altas, and the commemoration of a massacre in 2005 in which eight people were murdered, including community leader Luis Eduardo Guerra. Since accompanying the Peace Community, PBI has put it in touch with other high-profile human rights defenders such as Iván Cepeda to help raise awareness nationally and internationally of the situation faced by the community.

Sadly, the community suffered further losses during 2007. On 14 May 2007, Francisco Puerta was assassinated. Puerta was one of the co-ordinators of the Miramar Humanitarian Zone, an initiative to build easily-recognised refuges for civilian protection during combat. The murder of Dairo Torres, another community leader, on 13 July, triggered an activation of PBI's International Support Network. The seriousness of the human rights situation in Colombia at that point led the European Union to express concern to the Colombian government by means of a demarche.

<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International Report 2008

<sup>2</sup> Colombian Commission of Jurists, *Desplazamiento, vida, vivienda y tierras*, (Displacement, life, home and land) United Nations Week, October 21, 2005 Bogotá

# Environmental Defenders

Climate change presents a huge threat to the world. The expansion of huge palm oil plantations into rainforest areas has unfortunately exacerbated the problem. The rights of many Indigenous people, who have traditionally protected their natural environments, are jeopardised by large scale plantations and mining projects, and in many countries environmental activists face more than just official indifference to saving their ecosystems. PBI supports environmental and human rights defenders, enabling them to work towards safeguarding the health of the land for their descendents without fearing for their lives.

## Accompanied Organisations

- **Indonesia:** Friends of the Earth Indonesia (WALHI)
- **Mexico:** Organisation of Women Ecologists of the Sierra de Petatlan (OMESP)
- **Guatemala:** Madre Selva, Association of the Friends of Lake Izabal (ASALI)
- **Colombia:** Inter-church Justice and Peace Commission, Curbaradó region

## Indonesia: WALHI

Friends of the Earth Indonesia (WALHI) is a forum of more than 430 community-based organisations promoting social transformation, environmentally sustainable development, and respect for the sovereignty of local communities and Indigenous peoples.

The search for environmental justice is particularly challenging in Indonesia, as the government plans to expand palm oil production considerably, and local people are increasingly losing land to investors. In their struggle to protect Indonesia's natural resources and the rights of local communities, WALHI members have often come under threat. PBI's accompaniment helps their vital work to continue.

In February 2007, PBI went, at WALHI's request, to the Central Kalimantan province to visit member organisations. They also met academics, local government authorities, and the military. Described by WALHI as one of the most dangerous places in the world for human rights and environmental activists, the area was identified as having a high need for protection. PBI supports WALHI with regular phone calls to members as well as visits to the area.

**The protection I have received from Peace Brigades International really saved my life**  
**ELOYDA MEJIA, Association of Friends of Lake Izabal**

## Guatemala: Association of the Friends of Lake Izabal (ASALI)

Lake Izabal in the east of Guatemala is the largest lake in the country. It is home to a wide range of wildlife including monkeys and rare manatees, and is a crucially important part of the country's water system. The Association of the Friends of Lake Izabal (ASALI) works to protect the area and has struggled to stop pollution of the lake, particularly from mining in the area.

Eloyda Mejia, the legal representative of ASALI, has received a number of threats against herself and her home, and in late 2006 was charged with usurping land, seen as an effort to intimidate her and stop her work. PBI accompanies Eloyda in her meetings with affected communities, and with regular visits to her office in Izabal.

**Eloyda Mejia of the Association of Friends of Lake Izabal presents a workshop on activism to community leaders, Guatemala.**



## Mexico: Organisation of Women Ecologists of the Sierra de Petatlan (OMESP)

Since 2005, PBI has provided international accompaniment to the Organization of Women Ecologists of the Sierra de Petatlan (OMESP). Founded by Celsa Valdovinos Rios and her husband Felipe Arreaga Sanchez, OMESSP promotes reforestation and the protection of existing forests in the sierra. Despite the persecution of environmental activists, including the murders of environmental activists Juan Millán Morales and Aldo Zamora in 2007, OMESSP continues to work with activists in Guerrero and with communities defending the natural resources on which their lives depend. In July, OMESSP organised a forum on deforestation, showcasing their work. Despite continued harassment, Celsa Valdovinos and her husband persisted in their invaluable work throughout 2007 with PBI support.



# PBI UK Volunteers

## **PBI volunteer wins Law Society Excellence Award 2007**

Solicitor Daniel Carey, a returned volunteer from PBI's Guatemala project, won the 2007 Law Society New Solicitor of the Year Award.

Daniel swapped his UK office for fieldwork in Guatemala between March 2007 and April 2008. The award recognised his courage and dedication in helping to protect and support human rights organisations and individual lawyers who are seeking to rectify some of Guatemala's legislative weaknesses and strengthen the basic principles of human rights and justice that are taken for granted in many other parts of the world. Daniel has described his decision to volunteer in Guatemala as his "duty to show solidarity with fellow professionals struggling in countries where the rule of law is not observed".

## **"Why PBI?"**

### **Volunteer Billy Kyte, Mexico Project 2007**

"PBI seemed to represent the purest form of human rights work – working to protect people who struggle for their basic rights. It appealed due to its emphasis on non-interference and respect for local methods of conducting human rights work. The egalitarian approach to decision-making and the first-hand 'on the ground' experience were also strong factors in inspiring me to join. I think in the end it was PBI's heady mix of real idealism and, at the same time, practicality and pragmatism that convinced me that they did inspiring work.

"The most surprising aspect of working for PBI was probably the sheer commitment of those who work within PBI. Not only the PBI team but also the people we accompany. There was a real sense of relentless determination, in spite of the odds, to fight for something that was worth struggling for. As a team member it was a real surprise to find how caught up you get in the work. You end up living, breathing and, more often than not, crying over PBI! It takes over your life if you're not careful!"

**I lend my whole-hearted support to PBI UK's nomination of Daniel Carey for the Law Society Solicitor of the Year Award. Daniel has not only shown great personal courage and generosity towards his Guatemalan colleagues, but he is exemplifying some of the best aspects of the human rights tradition within our profession – integrity, internationalism and compassion.**

**SIR HENRY BROOKE, former Lord Justice and PBI UK patron**

**Daniel Carey (left) and PBI UK director Susi Bascon at the Solicitor of the Year award ceremony at the Royal Artillery Barracks in October 2007**



## **Volunteer Training**

Before joining a PBI project, potential volunteers undergo a period of training to assess their suitability for the challenges of fieldwork and enable them to decide if PBI is right for them.

### **1 Attending the Orientation Weekend**

In the UK, we organise Orientation Weekends several times a year to introduce potential volunteers to the principles, philosophy and work of PBI, and guide them through a process of self-evaluation. On the basis of the trainers' recommendations and the self-evaluation of the potential volunteers, PBI UK decides on the suitability of candidates to attend a regional training.

### **2 Attending project-specific regional training**

Each field project runs periodical regional training courses lasting 7-10 days. The training covers the history and current political situation of the project country, the causes of the conflict and the role of PBI, and the kinds of situations team members may have to address. At the end of the training, candidates will be informed of their suitability to join the project.

# Financial Summary

(Charity registration number 1101016, Company registration number 3912587)  
Summary statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2007

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Grants receivable from trusts and companies	256,176	218,200
Donations and other income	30,224	27,409
	<u><b>286,400</b></u>	<u><b>245,609</b></u>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable activities	(235,594)	(210,327)
Cost of generating funds	(27,202)	(23,969)
Governance costs	(13,264)	(8,549)
	<u><b>(276,060)</b></u>	<u><b>(242,845)</b></u>
<b>Net incoming resources for year</b>	10,340	2,764
Funds brought forward	44,498	41,734
	<u>54,838</u>	<u>44,498</u>
Funds carried forward	<u>54,838</u>	<u>44,498</u>
<b>Summary balance sheet as at 31st December 2007</b>		
	<b>2007</b>	<b>2006</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fixed assets	226	453
Current assets	83,978	87,751
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(29,366)	(33,706)
Net current assets	<u>54,612</u>	<u>54,045</u>
Total assets less liabilities	54,838	54,498
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	0	(10,000)
Total net assets	<u>54,838</u>	<u>44,498</u>
Unrestricted funds	54,838	44,498
Restricted funds	0	0
Total funds	<u>54,838</u>	<u>44,498</u>

## Management Committee statement

These summary accounts are not the statutory accounts but a summary of the information which appears in the full financial statements which have been subjected to an independent audit and given an unqualified report. The Management Committee approved the full financial statements on 10th May 2008 and a copy has been submitted to the Charity Commission. The summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. For further information, the full financial statements including the auditor's report may be obtained from the charity's registered office.

## Auditor's statement on the summary accounts

We have examined the summary accounts set out alongside.

## Respective responsibilities of the trustees and the auditors

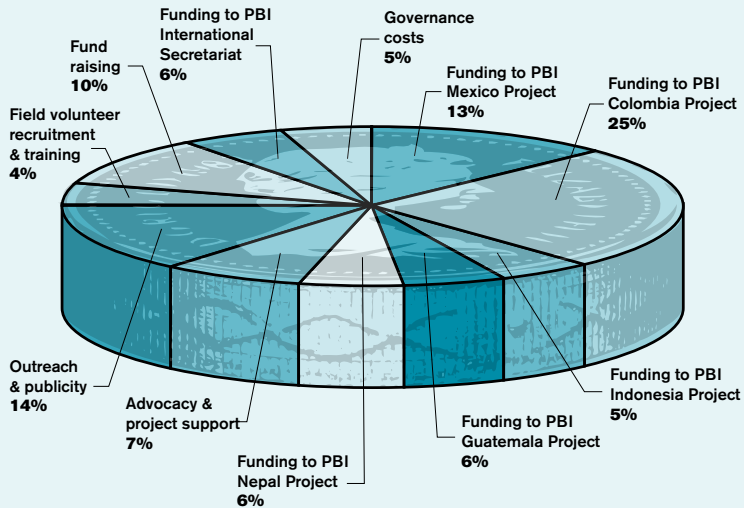
The summary accounts are the responsibility of the Trustees. It is our responsibility to report to you on their consistency with the full accounts. Our report on the full accounts of Peace Brigades International United Kingdom Section includes information on the responsibilities of the Trustees and the auditors relating to the preparation and audit of the accounts and on the basis of our opinion on the full accounts.

## Opinion

In our opinion the summary accounts are consistent with the full accounts of Peace Brigades International United Kingdom Section for the year ended 31 December 2006.

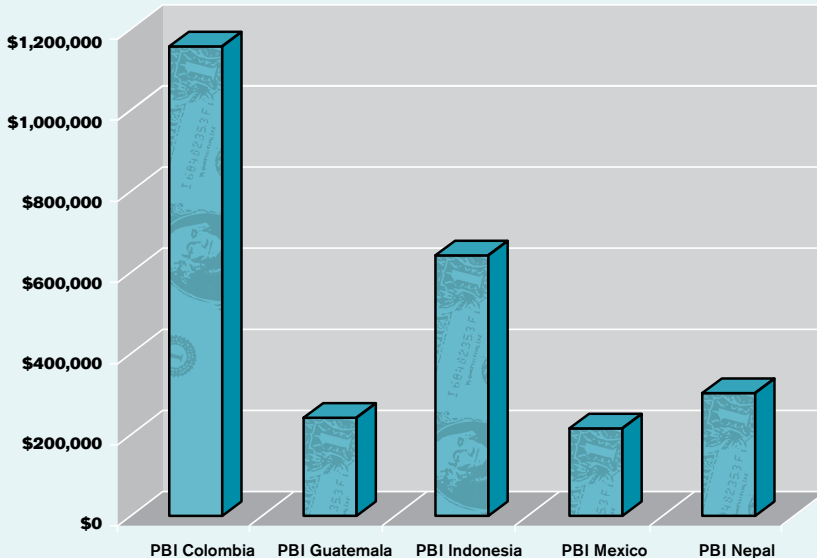
**Critchleys, Chartered Accountants,  
Registered Auditors  
7th October 2008**

# How funds were spent in the UK in 2007



Funding to PBI Mexico project	£35,954
Funding to PBI Colombia project	£68,893
Funding to PBI Indonesia project	£13,380
Funding to PBI Guatemala project	£15,234
Funding to PBI Nepal project	£15,600
Advocacy & project support	£20,200
Outreach & publicity	£38,833
Field volunteer recruitment & training	£11,967
Fund-raising	£27,202
Funding to PBI International Secretariat	£15,533
Governance costs	£13,264

**TOTAL** **£276,060**



As noted in the full accounts, PBIUK is one of 15 separate country groups supporting field projects conducted through Peace Brigades International, a separate overseas company incorporated in the United States. An indication of the global scale of PBI operations is shown below, based on spending by each field project in 2006.

PBI Colombia	\$1,135,358
PBI Guatemala	\$243,156
PBI Indonesia	\$630,764
PBI Mexico	\$220,413
PBI Nepal	\$298,359

**TOTAL** **\$2,528,050**



#### **PBI UK office**

Peace Brigades International (PBI) UK Section  
1b Waterlow Road, London N19 5NJ  
Tel / Fax 020 7281 5370

**email** [coordinator@peacebrigades.org.uk](mailto:coordinator@peacebrigades.org.uk)

**web** [www.peacebrigades.org.uk](http://www.peacebrigades.org.uk)

Peace Brigades International UK Section expresses its thanks to all volunteers who contribute their time to its many activities. It is not practicable at present to quantify the value of the many hundred of unpaid hours they contribute each year but this time is crucial to the effectiveness of the organisation's work.

#### **PBI Country Groups**

Aotearoa/New Zealand  
Australia  
Belgium  
Canada  
France  
Germany  
Italy  
Luxemburg  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Spain  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
United Kingdom  
United States

#### **Associate Groups**

Austria  
Portugal

#### **Current PBI Projects**

Colombia  
(founded 1994)  
Guatemala  
(re-established 2002)  
Indonesia  
(founded 1999)  
Mexico  
(founded 1999)  
Nepal (founded 2005)

#### **Management Committee members**

Christopher Chapman  
Susan Cosgrove  
Joanne Holden  
Andrew Kendle  
Jill Powis

#### **Staff**

Susi Bascon  
(full time director)  
Anna Jones  
(part time fundraiser until  
October 2007)  
Lani Parker  
(full time outreach worker)  
Keith Smith  
(part time finance worker)

#### **PBI Field Volunteers 2007**

##### **Indonesia project**

Lynda Mills  
Jane Canavan  
Lars Stenger

##### **Mexico**

Billy Kyte  
Michael Tamblyn

##### **Colombia project**

Alice Garside  
Anna Musgrave  
Alice Shirley

##### **Guatemala project**

Mary Scott  
Emma Marshall  
Daniel Carey

##### **Nepal project**

Laura Burgess

##### **Office volunteers**

Thomas Bacon  
Mitzi Bales  
Monica Bergos  
Stuart Bowman  
Isabel Carlton  
Jonathan Cheethamp  
Ruth Cherringdon

Megan Ciotti  
Nikkie Evans  
Matt Fawcett  
Flakito  
John Hampson  
Andrew Hickman  
June Holmes  
Libby Kerr  
Joanna Krolikowska  
Valeria Luna  
Natalie Mercier  
Sian Morgan  
Paul Mukerji  
Jessicca Peake  
Gregor Peterson  
Gabriela Pollard  
Eleanor Openshaw  
Jill Powis  
Laura Richardson  
Katia Salmi  
Evrin Sanal  
James Savage  
Katherine Tolymson  
Ronja N. Annexstad Trolie  
Mark Williams  
Ann Wright  
Helen Woodcock  
Nick Worthley

**With special thanks to  
Anna Baldock for writing  
much of this publication**