

PBI UK

Annual Review 2013

pbi
making space for peace

**Protecting human
rights defenders
at risk since 1981**



Field projects



Colombia

Seventeen international volunteers accompany 148 defenders working on a range of issues from natural resource protection to forced disappearances, with a particular focus currently on land restitution cases. PBI also runs workshops on self-protection which offer social organisations tools for security as well as for emotional care. Volunteers are based in Bogotá, Barrancabermeja, and Urabá.



Guatemala

Nine international volunteers accompany 82 defenders working on the environment and land rights, impunity and globalisation. Volunteers are based in Guatemala City and travel to other areas of the country, including a regular presence in the department of Quiché, thereby increasing their support of human rights defenders in remote rural areas.



Honduras

In 2013, PBI sent a small team to begin the process of opening a field presence in Honduras, with vital lobbying and legal work undertaken throughout the year. Four international volunteers began the project's first accompaniments in May 2014. They are based in Tegucigalpa and travel to other parts of the country.



Indonesia

PBI has been monitoring the situation for human rights defenders, particularly in West Papua. It is working with an established NGO in Jakarta to develop a protection and capacity building programme in support of human rights defenders.



Kenya

The PBI project opened in Nairobi in January 2013, with four experienced field volunteers supported by an in-country coordinator and PBI's international structures. Its focus has been on building a support network with human rights defenders, civil society and the legal bodies, as well as engaging with state and judicial authorities.



Mexico

Nine international volunteers accompany 96 defenders working on impunity, indigenous rights and environmental protection. Volunteers are based in three field teams in Mexico City, Oaxaca and most recently in the north of the country covering the states of Chihuahua and Coahuila.



Nepal

PBI's small field team provided networking and advocacy support to human rights defenders until 1 January 2014. Since then PBI has been supporting the human rights community through an innovative on-line alert system which we aim to eventually hand over to a local organisation.

Vision and mission

PBI's vision

PBI envisions a world in which people address conflicts nonviolently, 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 nonviolence for more than 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 who determine where our assistance is most needed. PBI UK, as one of 11 country groups in Europe and North America, is responsible for the vital support work that allows the field programmes – in Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Kenya – to operate smoothly. Its main areas of work are political support building, recruitment and training of volunteers, outreach, publicity and fundraising.



COVER PHOTO

A PBI volunteer with a social movement leader in the informal settlement area of Mathare, Nairobi, Kenya.

Photo: Tom Short/PBI Kenya

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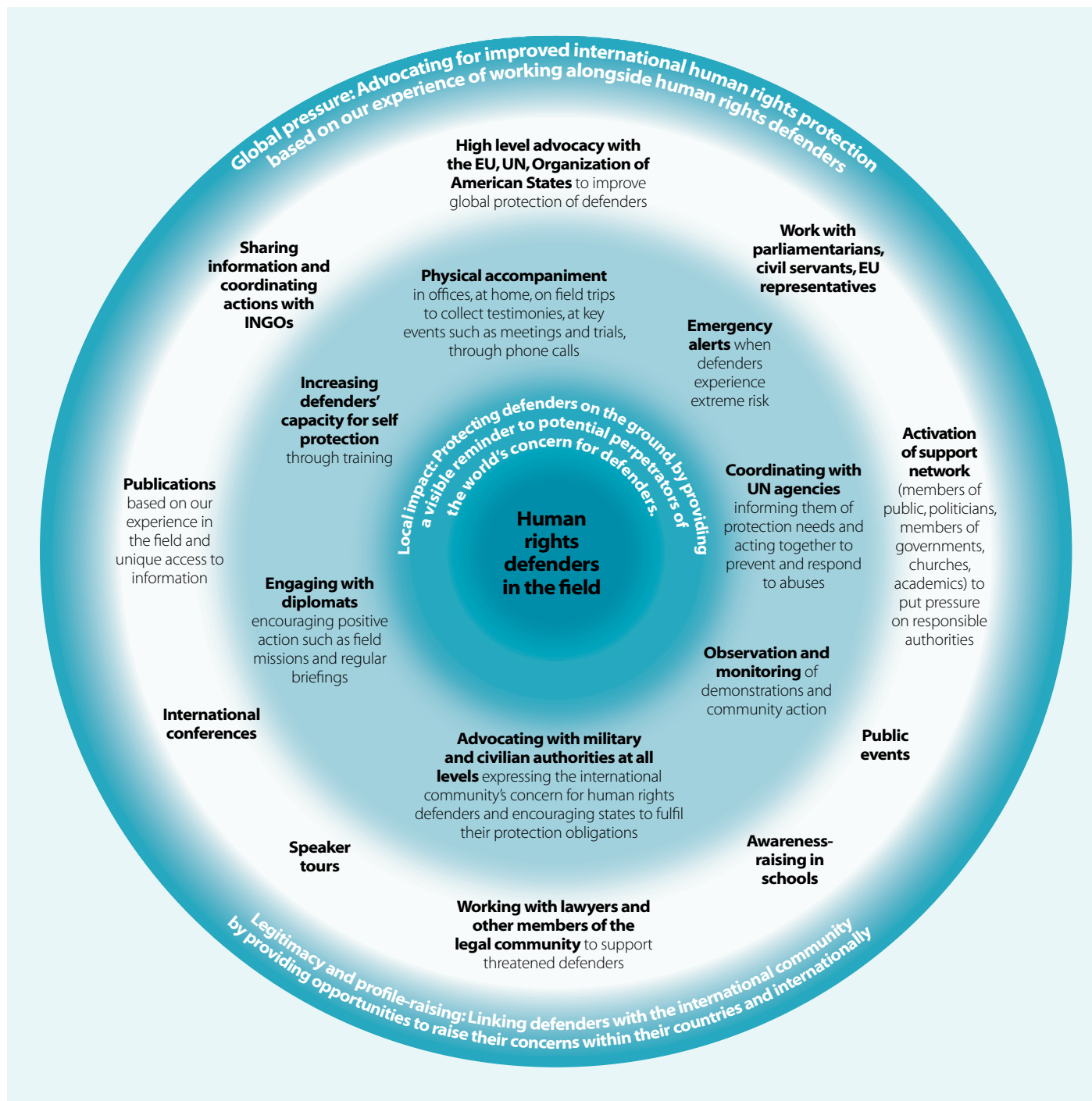
What we do

Human rights defenders – courageous people who stand up for the rights and dignity of their communities because they believe in peace and justice for all – are at the heart of all we do at PBI.

We provide protection, support and

recognition to local human rights defenders who work in areas of repression and conflict and have requested our support. In addition to this international protective accompaniment, we carry out peace education and security training, and help human rights defenders make links with others.

We advocate at all levels – from the soldier at a local checkpoint to national governments and international bodies such as the UN – for international human rights accountability. Our international volunteers send a powerful message that the world is watching and prepared to act.



Letter from the Board of Trustees

Welcome to the annual review of the UK Section of Peace Brigades International for 2013, a year in which, as well as supporting the work of PBI's field teams through fundraising, publicity and advocacy, PBI UK continued to make significant contributions to international debate on the protection of human rights defenders.

PBI UK, in collaboration with other organisations, took advantage of a number of key opportunities during the year - the UN Human Rights Council, the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, UK's presidency of the G8, and the UK Government's launch of its action plan on business and human rights - to ensure that the protection of human rights defenders was addressed in resolutions and other initiatives.

As always, the speaking tours by human rights defenders were a major focus during the year. Through meetings with decision makers, lawyers and social organisations, as well as public events, the defenders were able to build relationships, gain support and raise awareness of the challenges they face - all of which further contributed to their protection. The visits also provided a valuable opportunity for PBI's supporters to meet people they are helping us to protect. In 2013, we hosted visits by seven human rights defenders - from Honduras, Mexico, Guatemala, Nepal and Colombia.

Four of these defenders were lawyers, and the support for them and others provided by the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk continued to be extremely important in 2013. During the year, the Alliance's members performed a wide range of pro bono activities, which included providing specialist legal support to human rights defenders accompanied by PBI, engaging in advocacy on their behalf, and collaborating with PBI on major events. These included two at the Middle Temple - one featuring representatives

of the Peace Community of San José Apartadó, and a fundraising gala event in moving tribute to human rights defenders at risk upholding the rule of law in areas of conflict. We would like to thank the Alliance for its important contribution during the year, and in particular Sir Henry Brooke, Sir Peter Roth, and our Lawyers' Advisory

accompaniment - at an orientation weekend held in November, volunteers who had recently returned from the field introduced prospective volunteers to its philosophy and methods.

In the field, 2013 brought both exciting developments but also challenges - new projects were established in Kenya and Honduras,



Members of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó receiving recognition awards at an event at the Middle Temple

Committee for their continued dedication and commitment to PBI's work.

We would also like to thank our wider support network, which was activated five times in 2013. Ready to act in case of heightened threats to human rights defenders, this international network is one of the key elements that guarantee the effectiveness of PBI's protective accompaniment.

Special thanks go to Emma Marshall, who left in April 2014 after seven years as communications officer, for her longstanding dedication and commitment to PBI and the HRDs we help protect. Media work is an important complement to physical accompaniment, with the publicity generated lending credibility to HRDs' work and helping to deter attacks on them.

We continued to recruit and train the field volunteers who carry out this physical

a new team was established in Mexico covering two northern states, and PBI marked the 30th anniversary of its presence in Guatemala, a testament to the durability of the project as well as, sadly, the continuing need for it. The Colombia project, on the other hand, was forced to reduce its personnel by 40% due to cuts in funding - victim to a widely held misconception that, with the peace negotiations, the country's HRDs are no longer threatened.

In Colombia, and elsewhere, courageous human rights defenders continue to work towards a safer, better and more peaceful world, and in doing so, risk their lives. PBI will continue to protect and support them. In this, we are deeply grateful to our donors, supporters and staff, as well as volunteers, both at home and in the field, without whose commitment, passion and dedication none of this work would be possible.

PBI UK: achievements in 2013

PBI UK plays a significant role in the protection of human rights defenders (HRDs) around the world. Whether recruiting, training and supporting field volunteers, fundraising, developing links with elected officials, civil servants, lawyers, academics, organisations and other individuals, or raising awareness of human rights issues, our activities encourage action by the international community and contribute to promoting and protecting human rights around the world.

Increasing solidarity and support for HRDs and the issues they work on

PBI UK has continued to reach out to institutions and individuals across sectors to promote the work of human rights defenders and to create lasting connections, building bridges between people committed to supporting social change around the world.

PBI UK invites representatives of accompanied organisations to the UK so that they can highlight their concerns in person and discuss their needs for protection and capacity building, as well as support from the legal community.

In 2013, the following HRDs visited:

Journalist Dina Meza (Honduras), human rights lawyers Alba Cruz (Mexico), Mandira Sharma (Nepal), Edgar Pérez (Guatemala) and Alirio Uribe (Colombia), as well as Jesus Emilio Tuberquia and Arley Tuberquia of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó (Colombia).

PBI UK organised public talks and high profile meetings around these visits, many in collaboration with the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk, including roundtables in barristers' chambers. Edgar Pérez, the lawyer who has been working on the Rios Montt genocide trial (see page 16), was presented at the Law Society Human Rights Conference. In honour of representatives of the Peace Community, PBI with the Alliance organised a major event at Middle Temple in November 2013, with the participation of leading members of the legal community (see page 12).

In May 2013, the Alliance and PBI UK organised a fundraising gala event, also at

the Middle Temple, in which actors read the testimony of Alirio Uribe and Mandira Sharma, and of two PBI volunteers in Colombia (see page 8 for more details of the event).

Responding to emergency situations

PBI's presence on the ground is effective because it is backed by an international support network, developed and maintained by the 11 country groups, which include PBI UK. PBI UK's support network consists of more than 50 MPs, ministers and peers of the realm, as well as members of the legal community, who help protect threatened human rights defenders, for example through diplomatic channels or by raising issues in Parliament.

In 2013, we activated our support network five times to lobby the British government and to address situations of serious and imminent risk for HRDs and the groups they represent. In many cases, this has led to a lessening of risk, enabling them to continue their work without fear. Members of our network raised two parliamentary questions relating to threats to HRDs we accompany.

Supporting human rights lawyers and HRDs working on legal cases

Through the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk, we have identified specialist lawyers in the UK to provide strategic case support, including amicus briefs and legal opinions in cases where state officials have been charged with crimes against humanity and other human rights violations. Case monitoring by international lawyers has raised the profile of politically motivated cases against HRDs and promoted greater adherence to the rule of law and fair trials. Furthermore, the high profile of Alliance members serves as a protective measure for lawyers and other HRDs by demonstrating the concern of the international community for their safety. (For more about the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk, see page 17).

Campaigning for policy that offers better protection for HRDs

PBI UK is considered an important and reliable source of information on the situation of HRDs by government, parliamentarians, and civil society groups. By sharing this information, as well as through research and analysis, we have helped shape recommendations on a range of areas relating to HRDs and their protection, stimulating debate and contributing to key policy developments. To achieve this, we have continued to forge strategic alliances with NGOs and civil servants, both in London, Brussels and Geneva. In 2013, PBI UK played a particularly prominent advocacy role, both within the UK and internationally.

In March 2013, PBI UK spoke at a side event at the UN Human Rights Council and contributed to further lobbying which helped secure a landmark resolution calling on states to ensure greater protection of HRDs, and in particular an end to the use and abuse of national legislation to criminalise them and restrict their activities.

PBI UK also played a key role in ensuring that recognition and protection of women HRDs was specifically addressed in the G8's declaration in April 2013 on preventing sexual violence in conflict, an initiative of the UK's G8 presidency.¹

In September 2013, the UK Government launched its action plan on business and human rights, setting out guidance to companies on integrating human rights into their operations. PBI UK's advocacy in collaboration with other NGOs helped ensure that HRDs were given due prominence in the plan. Then in December 2013, at the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, PBI co-sponsored a side event and collaborated in an accompanying publication, highlighting the challenges faced by land and environmental HRDs. We were able to discuss specific cases with members of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on HRDs (see page 10).

PBI UK meets regularly with Foreign Office (FCO) officials and with embassy staff



Actors Samuel West, Hattie Morahan and Juliet Stevenson at the gala event at the Middle Temple

departing for or returning from the countries where we work. In 2013, we also met with Latin America and Human Rights Minister Jeremy Browne MP, the UK ambassadors to Colombia and Nepal, and the deputy ambassador to Guatemala, as well as participating in government roundtables on the UN Human Rights Council and on business and human rights in Colombia. We maintained links with the All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) on Human Rights, and on International Corporate Responsibility.

PBI UK also continued to be an active contributor to the work of ABColombia, an advocacy coalition of major UK and Irish organisations with programmes in Colombia. In 2013 we provided information and analysis for three of its major publications and two briefing documents, as well as participating in high-level meetings with the FCO and UK ambassador on the human rights situation in Colombia.

Raising the media profile of the work of PBI and the HRDs we accompany

Increased visibility of HRDs' situations at local and international levels lends credibility to their work, and the publicity gained helps to deter potential attacks.

PBI's work was featured in national, specialist and online publications, including The Guardian, and a BBC Outlook programme featured an interview with Edgar Perez, aired on 30 January 2014. Our events were advertised through a range of media, including the Open Democracy and Red Pepper websites, the New Internationalist and Law Society's Human Rights newsletters, as well as social media and our own website.

As well as issuing four e-newsletters to over 600 subscribers, we further developed our social media presence in 2013, using Facebook and Twitter to widen our audience and reach new supporters. PBI UK has become established as a specialised information source in social media

and the number of our followers is increasing steadily. By the end of 2013, PBI UK had over 1,600 followers on Facebook and Twitter, 50% more than at the end of 2012. In addition, during 2013, our website attracted 1,000 unique visits a month, around 70% of which were new.

Recruiting and supporting volunteers to be human rights observers

PBI UK held 1 orientation weekend for 11 potential field volunteers in 2013, and there were 5 volunteers in the field who had been through PBI UK's orientation process. We also provided short-term employment to 3 returned volunteers, supporting them as they resettled in the UK, and helping to ensure that their experiences and knowledge could contribute to PBI UK's advocacy and publicity work. They participated as trainers at our orientation weekend, spoke at public engagements, worked on our events and wrote articles and reports.

¹ Available at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/185008/G8_PSVI_Declaration_-_FINAL.pdf

Fundraising

PBI UK is enormously grateful for the support of individual supporters, as well as charitable trusts and foundations, in 2013. Our approaches to fundraising this year included grant writing, profile-raising events and appeals to our supporters. These activities helped to raise a total income of £401,779, which represents a 49% increase in income in 2013. There was an increase in grant income, which was primarily due to the receipt of an EU grant, as well as an increase in income from fundraising events and individual donors.

Most of PBI UK's income in 2013 came from generous grants made by trusts and foundations that have supported us for many years. The Sigrid Rausing Trust grant has helped PBI to expand into new geographic areas through opening field teams in Kenya and Honduras, and to engage in international thematic advocacy work focused on improving the protection of women HRDs, defenders of economic, social and cultural rights, and lawyers and HRDs challenging impunity. We were grateful to receive recurrent grants from longstanding trust supporters including the Tinsley Foundation, the Bromley Trust, the Law Society Charity and the A B Charitable Trust which have generously contributed toward our core activities in the UK, including advocacy and awareness raising, which enable our work of protecting HRDs globally.

PBI received a £20,000 match-funding grant from a trust. Match funds were raised from 58 generous individuals and several trusts including the Frederick Mulder Charitable Trust, Joffe Charitable Trust, the Philamonic Trust and the Mosse Charitable Settlement.

Some of our achievements in 2013

■ PBI is a partner in a European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) grant led by the Mexican Commission to Defend and Promote Human Rights (CMDPDH) that will improve the protection of HRDs in Mexico.

■ PBI had recurrent grants from the Staples Trust, the Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust and the Evan Cornish Foundation aimed at protecting and widening the working space of women HRDs and defenders of economic, social and cultural rights.

■ PBI UK has raised £13,402 for activities of the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk network through general grants from Linklaters LLP, the Joffe

// The work that PBI does...is so very concrete in a world that sometimes threatens to be so overcome with legal language (that it becomes increasingly abstract. PBI is probably about the most real and concrete thing that we do. So we like it very much. //

Philanthropist Sigrid Rausing

Charitable Trust, and Garden Court Chambers Limited. Funds were raised for members of the Alliance to participate in a lawyers' delegation to Nepal in June 2014 from Matrix Chambers, Berwin Leighton Paisner LLP, Weil, Gotshal & Manges, Reed Smith and the City Law School at City University London, as well as individual Alliance members.

■ PBI was selected to pitch a project at The

Funding Network (TFN) Festive Funding event in December. We were delighted to have our project presented by actress Zoë Wanamaker who helped PBI to raise funds to improve the protection of threatened environmental and land rights defenders.

■ Sir Nicolas Bratza and Lord Anthony Lester of Herne Hill QC have agreed to become PBI patrons.

Fundraising with Support from the UK Legal Sector

PBI continued to raise its profile within the legal sector with the support of our Lawyers Advisory Committee (LAC). The Committee helped PBI to organise events with prominent members of the legal sector and at risk HRDs as keynote speakers and continued to publicise our work within the legal sector. They have helped PBI UK to promote and engage new lawyers in the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk (ALR) network which hosted a fundraising gala at Middle Temple Hall on 13

May to recognise the important role of HRDs in upholding the rule of law in areas of conflict. Around 160 people attended the event. Geoffrey Robertson QC and philanthropist Sigrid Rausing spoke at the event and PBI patron and President of the ALR Sir Henry Brooke CMG was the host. The actors Juliet Stevenson, Hattie Morahan, Scott Brooksbank and Samuel West read testimonies of human rights lawyers Alirio Uribe of CCAJAR (Colombia) and Mandira Sharma of Advocacy Forum (Nepal) and of PBI volunteers working in Colombia. They also read poems written by imprisoned social leader David Ravelo Crespo (see the poems on page 18). The event was sponsored by Peters & Peters, Linklaters LLP, and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer.

Mai Chadwick/TFN



PBI's support network in action

CODIGO-DH, Mexico

CODIGO-DH (Integral Defence Committee for Human Rights Gobixha) offers legal aid, psychological support and medical attention to victims of human rights violations, as well as promoting access to justice and challenging impunity. It was founded in January 2011, and since 2009 PBI had been accompanying its predecessor organisation, the November 25 Liberation Committee. Alba Cruz Ramos, CODIGO-DH's legal coordinator, has been a beneficiary of protection measures from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) since 2007 due to the threats received because of her human rights work.

Oaxaca, where CODIGO-DH works, is one of the poorest states in Mexico, with a large, highly marginalised indigenous population. Along with Guerrero, it has the highest number of attacks on HRDs, with most associated with the defence of land rights, mainly relating to indigenous peoples.¹

CODIGO-DH has noted an increase in threats and harassment since it began supporting the APPJ (Popular Assembly for the Community of Juchiteco) by representing members of local indigenous communities opposed to the construction of a wind farm project on the Tehuantepec Isthmus. They are concerned about its impact on their agriculture and land

and argue that there has not been an adequate consultation process to obtain their free, prior and informed consent in line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. These communities and the APPJ have also suffered threats and intimidation as result of their opposition to the project.

On 8 July 2014, CODIGO-DH staff received two threatening phone calls. The first warned that they would face serious reprisals for supporting Carmen Ruiz, who works with the APPJ actively supporting legal complaints filed by community members for human rights violations associated with the construction of the wind farm. The second call, to a CODIGO-DH worker's mobile phone, again threatened them for supporting Carmen Ruiz and warned them that they did not know what they were getting involved in.

In response, we activated our international support network:

- In Mexico, we made urgent phone calls and sent e-mails to embassies, the EU Delegation and the Office of the UN High Commissioner of Human Rights, holding meetings with a number of them;
- We alerted a range of international human rights bodies outside Mexico, including NGOs, UN Special Rapporteurs and the IACHR;
- Country groups sent letters to our ministries of foreign affairs, including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in the UK, and to parliamentarians.

Many of these entities responded by mentioning the case to the Mexican authorities, both in letters and in meetings, with some offering to have meetings with CODIGO-DH. This complemented actions taken by ourselves targeted at the Mexican authorities, including letters and meetings at municipal, state and federal level, to express concern at the situation and ask for protection for CODIGO-DH and community HRDs. The PBI team in Oaxaca intensified accompaniment of CODIGO-DH, including visits to its offices.

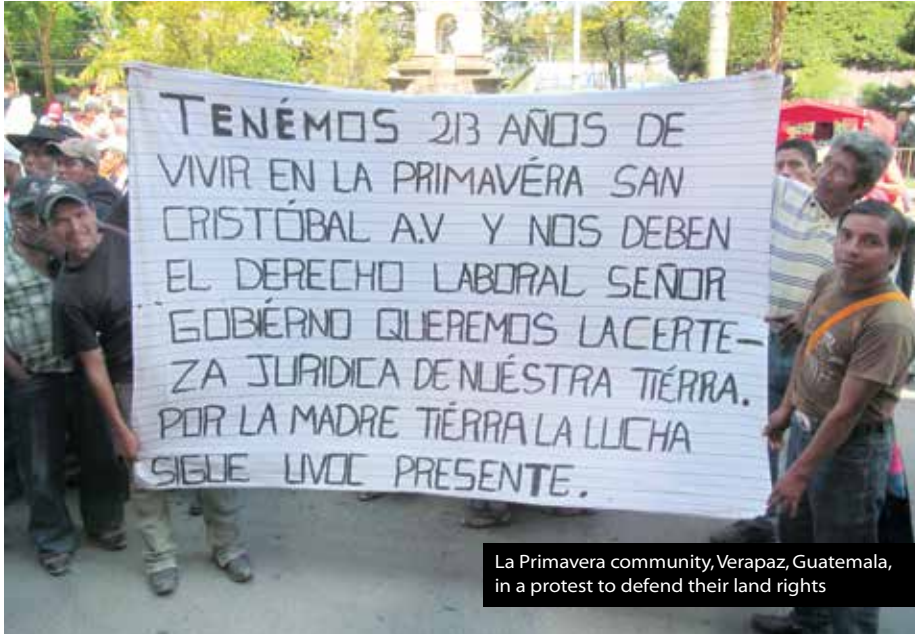
As a result of this activity by PBI, and by other organisations, including CODIGO-DH itself, the Oaxaca Ombudsman made public declarations supporting CODIGO-DH and HRDs on the Tehuantepec Isthmus, and in meetings and calls with local and federal authorities, many of them committed themselves to taking rapid measures to protect them. In the months immediately after the threats, CODIGO-DH had not experienced any new security incidents, nor was PBI aware of any involving members of the community on the Tehuantepec Isthmus itself. It is likely that the international attention raised by the alert has been a factor in this. PBI is continuing to monitor the situation closely.

¹ RedTDT El derecho a defender los derechos humanos en México: Informe sobre la situación de las personas defensoras 2011-2013 (The Right to Defend Human Rights in Mexico: Report on the Situation for Human Rights Defenders 2011-2013). Available at: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/jj1tw0490fslbx/INFORME%202014%20REDTDT%20Final.pdf>



Alba Cruz of CODIGO-DH with PBI UK's advocacy officer Rob Hawke, at a side event on HRDs at the UN Human Rights Council

Business and human rights



La Primavera community, Verapaz, Guatemala, in a protest to defend their land rights

Lawyers' delegation to Colombia

In February 2013, a delegation facilitated by PBI UK, the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk and the Colombia Caravana Lawyers' Group UK launched its report at the Law Society with Michael Mansfield QC as a keynote speaker.³ The delegation members had investigated the impact of transnational corporations on rural, Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities in Colombia, using the Ruggie Principles as a reference point. They visited three areas of the country affected by oil extraction, gold- or coal-mining, where communities had suffered from the effects of the environmental damage of these industries, not only to their land and livelihoods, but also to their health. The delegation noted that areas with major extractive industries were almost inevitably accompanied by heavy militarization, with many populations the victims of death threats, displacement and even murder from paramilitaries. HRDs who sought to intervene in such cases were also almost invariably the targets of death threats, sometimes carried out. They found that some HRDs, including the Colombian lawyers' collective CCAJAR, had made notable gains in their efforts to defend communities against projects imposed against their will, and in achieving justice for associated human rights violations. Among the main needs the delegation identified for such HRDs were more funding and other resources, including increased technical and political support from the UK.

society groups. PBI's advocacy has emphasised that greater protection and participation of HRDs is essential to ensuring an effective and meaningful application of the Guiding Principles.

UK Action Plan on Business and Human Rights

In September 2013, the UK issued its action plan on business and human rights, becoming the first country to launch a national implementation plan for the Guiding Principles. It includes guidance to companies on integrating human rights into their operations.

In 2013 many of our advocacy efforts focused on this area, reflecting the fact that an increasing proportion of the HRDs we accompany are land and environmental rights defenders, supporting communities defending their lives, livelihoods and environment against the negative impact of large-scale projects and powerful economic interests. The UK Action Plan on Business and Human Rights and the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights were two initiatives which were particularly significant in 2013 and where PBI was able to make an active contribution.

Land and Environmental Defenders

After trade unionists, land and environmental rights defenders are considered the HRDs most under threat globally.¹ They face a unique set of risks, confronting powerful economic interests while often working in isolated rural areas with poor communications and limited access to traditional protection mechanisms and support networks.

According to a recent Global Witness report,² there has been a threefold increase in murders of land and environmental defenders worldwide over the past 10 years, with the increase in demand for natural resources and competition for land. All four Latin American countries where PBI has a presence are among the seven countries with the highest number of killings recorded

in the past three years. However, these murders are only the most extreme acts of persecution in a range which includes surveillance, stigmatisation, death threats, criminalisation, and physical violence.

Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

Originally conceived as applying to states rather than businesses, the international human rights regime has struggled to keep pace with these developments, particularly in the face of the dramatic increase in the power and mobility of transnational corporations over the past few decades.

The latest initiative by the UN has been the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the so-called 'Ruggie Principles', consisting of three pillars - the duty of states to protect the human rights of those in contact with businesses; the corporate responsibility to respect human rights throughout their activities; and the need for states and businesses to provide for remedies when abuses take place.

The Guiding Principles, although not legally binding on businesses, are considered the first global standard for preventing and addressing the risk of adverse human rights impacts linked to corporate activity. As they were endorsed by the Human Rights Council in only June 2011, their implementation is still subject to much debate by states, UN bodies, and civil

PBI actively participated in a consultation process organised by the UK government, stressing the importance of the Action Plan including a strong focus on the protection and participation of HRDs. Commitments by the government within the Action Plan include instructing UK diplomatic missions to support HRDs working on issues related to business and human rights and to work with local HRDs to help inform companies of the human rights risks they face. PBI aims to provide input into a revised version of the action plan, to be published by the end of 2015, and continues to facilitate meetings between visiting HRDs and the Government's business and human rights programme team.

UN Forum on Business and Human Rights

Another key advocacy opportunity came in December 2013 with the second UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, with one of its main focuses the implementation of the Ruggie Principles. It was attended by almost 1,500 people from over 100 countries. PBI co-sponsored a side event 'Land and environmental rights defenders in danger,' with an accompanying publication.⁴ The event, attended by over 250 conference delegates, examined the challenges of increasing criminalisation and repression of HRDs who

denounce the impacts of corporate projects. It provided an opportunity to explore ways to improve their security as well as to prevent and combat impunity for attacks and violations, with speakers calling on states and all other stakeholders to fully recognise the legitimate and important work carried out by HRDs.

PBI produced a briefing paper for the event⁵ which we presented personally to the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, and which we also shared with members of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights and other stakeholders. It provided a valuable opportunity to highlight specific HRDs and the challenges they face as well as the importance of their participation in processes addressing corporate activities. We were also able to forge closer links with other NGOs working on the issue.

¹ Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights (A/HRC/4/37).

² 'Deadly Environment' available at <https://www.globalwitness.org/sites/default/files/library/Deadly%20Environment.pdf>

³ The report 'The Ruggie principles: a remedy for Colombian communities facing the environmental and human rights impact of multinationals?' is available at: http://www.peacebrigades.org.uk/fileadmin/user_files/groups/uk/files/Alliance_reports/ALR_mission_report_English.pdf

⁴ 'Land and environmental rights defenders in danger: An overview of recent cases' available at http://www.peacebrigades.org.uk/fileadmin/user_files/groups/uk/files/Publications/Compilation_LER_HRD_Dec2013_final.pdf

⁵ Available at http://www.peacebrigades.org.uk/fileadmin/user_files/groups/uk/files/Documents/13.4.12_PBI_submission_to_UNWG_on_2013_Forum.pdf

Two HRDs accompanied by PBI were panellists at the UN Forum side-event

Jorge Luis Morales, lawyer and member of the Verapaz Union of Campesino Organisations (UVOC) in Guatemala, which represents campesino and indigenous communities in the region, such as La Primavera. Its inhabitants are struggling for the right to remain on their land, where they have been living and working for over 200 years, in cases brought against them by the timber companies Maderas Filiz Diaz S.A and ECOTIERRA. As a result, their leaders have been criminalised, and the community subjected to death threats and violence at the hands of private security guards and other unidentified actors. Two community elders were murdered in one such attack in January 2012.

Sara Méndez, Coordinator of the Human Rights Integral Defence Committee Gobixha (CODIGO-DH), in Oaxaca, Mexico, whose members have suffered death threats and surveillance for their support of communities opposing wind farms in the region. (See page 9 for more details of its work).



Defenders of land and environmental rights

PBI accompanies a total of 20 organisations supporting or representing communities – indigenous and campesino – seeking to defend their land, cultures and environments. In doing so, the communities and the people who support them – their leaders, lawyers, journalists or NGOs – can face a range of threats.

■ In Guatemala, the 12 communities of San Juan Sacatepéquez, of the Maya Kaqchikel indigenous group, have been campaigning since 2006 against a quarry and a cement factory in the area. As a result of their opposition, they have suffered murders, surveillance, intimidation and physical attacks by employees of the factory. While members of the communities have been criminalised, most of these abuses remain in impunity. They have also been the targets of defamation which has extended to their supporters, including PBI.

■ In Oaxaca, Mexico, Father Martín Octavio García Ortiz of Barca-DH (Bartolomé Carrasco Briseño Regional Centre for Human Rights) has suffered harassment because of his work supporting communities in San José del Progreso in their opposition to gold and silver mining. In 2010, this included a defamation campaign, a physical attack, and culminated in his arrest for the murder of two people. He was later released without charge but he has not received any compensation for the abuses he suffered.

■ In Colombia, human rights defenders working on the restoration of land to people displaced in the conflict are among the most vulnerable in the country. In August 2013, the CIJP (Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission) faced particularly intense attacks, including a murder plot against a field team member, and a threatened paramilitary massacre of community leaders in the Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó river valleys if a Government-backed land restitution took place. This coincided with the sentencing of two palm oil businessmen to over 10 years' imprisonment for colluding with paramilitaries to drive these communities off their land, a case in which the CIJP represented the victims.

The Peace Community of San José de Apartadó

The Peace Community of San José de Apartadó is a rural community of about 1500 inhabitants in the Urabá region of North-West Colombia, who have managed to overcome displacement

UPDATE

PBI starts accompanying CEHPRODEC in Honduras

PBI began accompanying the Honduran Centre for the Promotion of Alternative Development (CEHPRODEC) in May 2014. Its focus is on defending economic, social and cultural rights, particularly the right to food and land in view of a dramatic surge in mining concessions. Through CEHPRODEC, we are providing accompaniment to a number of rural communities under threat for speaking out against major projects, which would not otherwise have access to protection mechanisms.

to return to many of their settlements by declaring themselves neutral in the armed conflict, refusing to bear arms or provide information or logistical support to either side. In return, its members demand that the parties to the conflict stay out of their settlements and respect their neutrality.

Courageous and inspirational, the Peace Community faces serious risks, due to large-scale commercial interest in their land, as well as reprisals in response to the community's struggle to hold human rights violators to account. Over 200 of its members have been murdered since it was established in 1997.

The Community's security situation continued to be extremely difficult in 2013, with disappearances of farmers in its territory, civilians caught in crossfire between armed groups, mass forced displacement, and multiple threats by paramilitary groups to 'exterminate' its members. In the course of the year, there were over 150 human rights violations against the Peace Community's members, with more than 10 murders. This is part of a wider trend within Colombia which saw an increase in attacks on human defenders in 2013.¹

Advocacy Visit to UK

In the face of these challenges, it is vital for the Peace Community to be able to raise awareness of its work and garner further support. In November 2013, as part of a wider tour of Europe, PBI arranged for two of its representatives, Jesús Emilio Tuberquia and Arley

Tuberquia, to visit the UK. In London, they met with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, MPs, members of the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk, the All-Party Parliamentary Groups for International Corporate Responsibility and for Human Rights, seven different NGOs and Lush, the ethical cosmetics company. The UK embassy in Colombia has now publicly announced the Peace Community as one of its priority monitoring cases.

PBI organised an event at Middle Temple called "Neutrality in the Colombian Conflict: The Role of Peace Communities" chaired by Sir Henry Brooke and with a speech by Kirsty Brimelow QC, Chair of the Bar Human Rights Committee. At this event, Jesús Emilio and Arley were able to present their analysis of the current security situation in light of peace talks between the Colombian government and the FARC guerrillas, and the court orders made by the Colombian Constitutional Court to protect the community. They received Peace Direct's 2013 'Tomorrow's Peace Builders prize' on behalf of the Peace Community and a recognition award from PBI UK.

Colombian President issues Historic Apology

On 10 December 2013, during a speech to mark Human Rights Day, President Santos asked the Peace Community for forgiveness for comments made by his predecessor, President Uribe, who on two separate occasions publicly accused it of having links with the guerrillas because of its neutral stance. In a Colombian context, such stigmatisation puts human rights defenders at serious risk, as it challenges their credibility and creates a justification for paramilitaries and other actors to attack.

The first smear came in May 2004, and the Peace Community believes that it led directly to the massacre in February 2005 of eight of its members, including three young children and one of its leaders and founders, Luis Eduardo Guerra. The second smear by President Uribe came only a month after the massacre, in March 2005, when the Peace Community members were still reeling from its impact. They regard this second smear as an attempt to put an end to the Community for once and for all.

In his apology, President Santos said: *"I recognise the bravery of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó in demanding the rights of Colombians and, despite having directly suffered*

as a result of the conflict, the way it has persisted in its aim of achieving peace for the country. As President, I have only deep admiration and respect for the Peace Community and I regret and deplore all those accusations issued in the past which have sought to undermine its reputation..."

We welcome this apology, one of the requirements of Constitutional Court Order 164 issued on behalf of the Peace Community in July 2012. We consider it a significant step toward the state's compliance with the other parts of the court order, which requires the Colombian government to address the Community's security situation, as well as impunity for past violations. The international community, including the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk and PBI's parliamentary support network, has played a vital role in urging the Colombian government to comply with the court order and with its wider human rights obligations to the Peace Community.

In fond memory of Paulo Mellett

We were very saddened to hear of the death from malaria of Paulo Mellett in June 2014. As Permaculture Coordinator at the ethical trade company Lush Cosmetics, he was the driving

// Having accompaniment from PBI for us has meant protection, because if we didn't have international presence in the field, we would have been massacred. For us, the international accompaniment is our security. //

Jesús Emilio Tuberquia, Peace Community of San José de Apartadó

force behind Peace Pioneers, a campaign by Lush supported by PBI UK, launched in March 2014, demanding better protection and access to justice for the Peace Community's members. Paulo had been the first person to establish a relationship between Lush and members of the Peace Community which helped them gain organic certification for their cocoa, now an important source of income for the Community. His drive and commitment are inspirational, and we are very grateful for his valuable work in support of the Community. Our thoughts go out to his family.



British volunteer Daniel Slee accompanying the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó

Accompanied organisations working on land and environmental rights

Colombia

Berenice Celeyta, NOMADESC; Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP), Bajo Atrato region; The Judicial Liberty Corporation (CJL); Luis Carlos Pérez Lawyers' Collective (CCALCP); The Peace Community of San José de Apartadó; The Peasant Farmer Association of the Cimitarra River Valley (ACVC); Social Corporation for Community Advisory and Training Services (COS-PACC)

Guatemala

Association for the Protection of Las Granadillas Mountain (APMG); Association of Women of Santa María Xalapán Mountain (AMISMAXAJ); Communities in Peaceful Resistance of La Puya, San José del Golfo and San Pedro Ayampuc; Cunén Communities Council; K'iche' Peoples Council (CPK); 'New Day' Chortí Campesino Central Coordination Group; The Verapaz Union of Campesino Organisations (UVOC); The 12 Communities of San Juan Sacatépequez

Mexico

The Bartolomé Carrasco Briseño Regional Centre for Human Rights (Barca-DH); Human Rights Integral Defence Committee Gobixha (Codigo-DH); Juan Gerardi Human Rights Centre; Organisation of the Indigenous Mé'phaa People (OPIM); Organisation of Women Ecologists of the Sierra de Petatlán (OMESP)

1 According to the 2013 Report by the Colombian NGO Somos Defensores, 78 human rights defenders were murdered in 2013, a 10% increase over 2012, with a particularly dramatic increase in killings of campesino leaders, from 3 in 2012 to 15 in 2013.

Women human rights defenders on the frontline

While women human rights defenders (WHRDs) face the same types of risks as their male counterparts, they can also suffer gender-related attacks, including the use and threat of sexual violence, harassment and verbal abuse focused on their gender, and threats directed towards their children and families. PBI accompanies 145 WHRDs, including lawyers, representatives of victims' groups, journalists, and indigenous women seeking to protect their land, culture and environment.

Dina Meza journalist, Honduras

Dina Meza has over 20 years' experience protecting and promoting human rights - reporting on violations, giving training in protection, and supporting the victims. She continues in the face of a dramatic deterioration in the human rights situation in Honduras since the coup in June 2009. Honduras is now the second most dangerous place in the world to be a defender of land and the environment, and while most of those murdered are peasant farmers, indigenous people also face persecution for trying to protect their land

// To practice journalism in a country with high levels of impunity, where they do not investigate crimes, threats, persecution and other forms of repression against journalists is to write with a gun pointed at your head... The situation of freedom of expression in Honduras is under attack and journalists' deaths are an insult. //

Dina Meza at a hearing of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in March 2014

from projects such as hydroelectric and tourist schemes.¹ The murder rate for LGBTI people has increased twenty-fold, with more killed in the first six months after the coup than in the whole of the previous decade.²

These human rights violations are rarely reported by the mainstream press or, if they are, the facts are often grossly distorted. Independent journalists therefore play a vital role in exposing abuses, but by doing so risk becoming the targets of persecution themselves. By the end of 2013, 32 journalists had been murdered in Honduras in the space of just four years.³

Dina herself has been subjected to threats, harassment and intimidation on many occasions. In 2007, she received Amnesty International UK's Special Award for Human Rights Journalism Under Threat for her work investigating private security firms for labour rights violations despite the threats against her. More recently, in February 2012, she received two texts threatening her with sexual violence, and members of her family have also been subject to intimidation. The threats, surveillance and other acts of persecution have continued through into 2014, when Dina was awarded the Oxfam Novib/PEN International Freedom of Expression Award in recognition of her bravery and commitment to free speech.

PBI facilitated a number of meetings between Dina and London-based human rights organisations while she was staying in the UK in spring 2013, and we began accompanying her in Honduras in May 2014.

¹ <https://www.globalwitness.org/sites/default/files/library/Deadly%20Environment.pdf>

² Cattrachas (Feminist Lesbian Organisation of Honduras) <http://www.presencia.unah.edu.hn/seguridad/articulo/aproximadamente-35-personas-de-la-comunidad-lgbti-son-asesinados-anualmente>

³ http://issuu.com/peninternational/docs/pen_int_honduras/1?e=6674381/6438779





Mandira Sharma
Advocacy Forum, Nepal

Mandira Sharma is a co-founder of Advocacy Forum (AF), a groundbreaking lawyers' organisation whose main aim is to challenge the impunity surrounding human rights violations committed during Nepal's 1996–2006 civil conflict. It focuses on extra-judicial executions, forced disappearances, rape of women, torture and illegal detention. As well as bringing cases to court, AF seeks to achieve justice by harnessing media attention and international support. AF now has over 100 staff and has documented more than 8,000 cases. However, as the organisation and its profile have grown, so have the attacks on its staff, who suffer direct and indirect threats, assaults, and defamation.

In January 2013 in East Sussex, UK authorities arrested the Nepali Army Colonel Kumar Lama and charged him, under the principle of universal jurisdiction,

// People often say I should leave the country. But when I consider the people we work with, the faith people have in us, it makes me think that leaving the country would be a kind of betrayal to the cause that we are all fighting for. //

Mandira Sharma

with the torture in 2005 of two men held at an army barracks. The decision to arrest the colonel and bring him to trial has been hailed by the International Commission of Jurists as having far-reaching implications, not only for the victims in this case but for all victims of torture around the world seeking justice, and came at a time when ongoing impunity is causing serious political instability in Nepal.

However, due to their work on the case, Mandira and her colleagues were called

Accompanied women human rights defenders

Colombia

Berenice Celeyta, NOMADESC; Claudia Julieta Duque (journalist); Luis Carlos Pérez Lawyers' Collective (CCALCP); Lilia Peña of the Magdalena Medio Victims' Association (ASORVIMM)

Guatemala

Association of Indigenous Women of Santa María Xalapán (AMISMAXAJ); National Coordinating Body of Guatemalan Widows (CONAVIGUA)

Mexico

Alba Cruz, lawyer for the Human Rights Integral Defence Committee Gobixha (Código-DH); Organisation of Women Ecologists of the Sierra de Petatlán (OMESP); Tita Radilla, of the Mexican Association of Relatives of the Detained-Disappeared (ADAFEM); Valentina Rosendo Cantú of the Organisation of the Indigenous Me'phaa People (OPIM)

traitors in the media in Nepal, and were the targets of incitement to violence. The District Administration Office also announced an investigation into AF's activities. In response, the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk sent letters to the prime minister of Nepal and the UK Embassy in Nepal expressing their concern for Mandira Sharma's safety. Her case has also been publicised in the UK through a visit in March 2013 organised by the Alliance during which she met both the current and outgoing UK ambassadors to Nepal, MPs from the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Human Rights, and Alliance members. This provided the basis for an Alliance delegation to Nepal in June 2014 to identify training needs for HRDs and lawyers there. She was also featured in the fundraising gala evening at the Middle Temple in May 2013 (see page 8).

Colonel Kumar Lama is due to stand trial in February 2015, and PBI and the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk will continue to monitor Mandira's security situation and offer support to ensure her safety.

Lawyers – challengers of impunity

Lawyers play a vital role in securing justice for victims and challenging impunity for human rights violations, the cornerstones of a lasting peace. However, as a result of their work, they and their families can face threats, intimidation, detention, criminalisation and violence.

The lawyers PBI works to protect may be representing victims seeking justice and reparation for human rights violations committed in the context of past conflicts, or trying to prevent impunity for more recent crimes. Some are litigating in cases which implicate officials at the highest level; others help rural and indigenous communities to defend their lands.

PBI helps to protect around 70 lawyers in Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico. However, the number of people who benefit is many times that, because when these lawyers can safely continue their work, they can in turn help

Edgar Pérez Archila Human Rights Lawyers' Office, Guatemala

Edgar Pérez is one of Guatemala's leading human rights lawyers, and has achieved some remarkable victories since 1997 when he first began representing families seeking justice for the thousands of victims of Guatemala's 36-year armed conflict. In 2009, Edgar won Guatemala's first ever conviction for the crime of forced disappearance committed during the country's 36-year civil war (1960-1996). In 2011, he represented victims of the Dos Erres massacre, resulting in four ex-soldiers being sentenced to a symbolic 6,060 years in prison for their part in the slaughter of at least 201 men, women and children in the village of Dos Erres in 1982.

For his courageous and ground-breaking work, Edgar has been awarded the American Bar Association's International Human Rights Lawyer Award in April 2012 and in December 2012 received the Medal of the General Governor of Canada.

As one of the few lawyers in Guatemala prepared to take on emblematic cases seeking to hold the state accountable for crimes against humanity, Edgar has suffered numerous attacks including intimidating phone calls, blackmail attempts, death threats and tampering of the

// I know I'm being followed and that my phone is being intercepted but if I'm accompanied there's a permanent reminder that the international community is watching. My work is not illegal, I'm helping the vulnerable and the excluded. //

Edgar Pérez

hundreds, if not thousands, more individuals, communities and victims of human rights violations.

It is worth emphasising that not only lawyers but also many other HRDs we accompany work on issues relating to impunity and the rule of law to achieve justice for victims of crimes committed by state agents, as well as by non-state actors representing powerful interests.

brakes on his car. He has been accompanied by PBI since 2010.

Of the many important cases that he has taken, the most prominent so far has been the trial of the former president Efraín Ríos Montt, charged with the murder, torture and forced displacement of 1,771 Maya-k'il indigenous people during his 1982-83 presidency. It is the first ever genocide case against a former head of state to be heard in a Latin American courtroom. There was much tension around the case, with former military officers now holding government posts, including the current president, Otto Pérez Molina, publicly stating that genocide in Guatemala did not take place. Three judges involved in the trial were granted protective measures by the Inter-Commission on Human Rights because they feared for their lives.



Edgar Pérez accompanied by PBI volunteers

Accompanied lawyers and legal organisations

Colombia

Freedom Legal Corporation (CJL); Jorge Molano; José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR); Luis Carlos Pérez Lawyers' Collective (CCALCP)

Guatemala

Human Rights Lawyers' Office

Mexico

Human Rights Integral Defence Committee Gobixha (Codigo-DH); Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre

PBI in 2013 helped ensure the safety of Edgar and victims groups by carrying out daily trial observation and keeping key members of the international community up-to-date with developments. Several diplomatic missions attended the trial, and our support network played a vital role. Lawyers' associations and European parliamentarians sent letters of support requesting security guarantees for the participants in the trial and respect for the right to justice for victims of the internal armed conflict in Guatemala. (For the contributions of the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk, see opposite page).

On 10 May 2013, Ríos Montt was sentenced to 80 years' imprisonment, but the Constitutional Court overturned his conviction only days later on a technicality. Despite this setback, the organisations we work with have

said that the ruling was very important to them as an acknowledgement of the testimony of so many victims of these crimes and for the collective reconstruction of historical memory. Furthermore, the trial is set to resume in 2015, and for Edgar the fight for justice in this case, and others, is far from over.

Alliance for Lawyers at Risk

PBI UK launched the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk in November 2010 to enhance the safety and capacity of threatened lawyers and other human rights defenders working on legal cases. The Alliance now has over 100 members across the spectrum of the legal profession, including lawyers, judges, legal experts, city firms, academics and law students. From the beginning, the Alliance's work has been an important complement to PBI's – while PBI's accompaniment provides immediate physical protection and emergency support, the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk lends the significant experience and expertise of its members to offer concrete legal support to threatened HRDs and lawyers, and to engage with states and judicial authorities in promoting accountability and the rule of law in the places where we work. Our accompanied HRDs have strongly welcomed its support - both in terms of technical knowhow and international solidarity.



Sir Henry Brooke CMG,
Honorary President of the
Alliance for Lawyers at Risk

Alliance members' activities

The members of Alliance for Lawyers at Risk are engaged in a wide range of activities. In 2013, events included the gala at Middle Temple Hall (see 'Fundraising' on page 8), and the launch at the Law Society of the report of the lawyers' delegation to Colombia (see 'Business and Human Rights', page 10). Alliance members also organised roundtable discussions with lawyers at risk, speaking at firms and chambers about their legal casework and threats made against them, and prepared a legal opinion on criminalisation for use at the UN Human Rights Council.

Below is just a sample of the important work that the Alliance has carried out on specific cases in 2013:-

Rios Montt trial

The Alliance has supported Edgar Pérez, the lawyer in the case (see opposite page) in a number of ways. Members of the ALR, the Solicitors International Human Rights Group and the Law Society submitted letters of concern and amicus briefs to the Constitutional Court of Guatemala on procedural issues, the annulment of the conviction and Ríos Montt's appeals for an amnesty. PBI and the Alliance organised a very successful visit by Edgar to the UK in November 2013. He was presented at the Law Society Human Rights Conference and

spoke at an event at Matrix Chambers briefing lawyers on issues arising from the trial. The visit received very positive press coverage. Edgar was interviewed by The Guardian and this formed the basis for an article on the trial. He was also featured on Outlook, a BBC World Service programme which aired on 30 January 2014.

David Ravelo of CREDHOS

In December 2012, David Ravelo was convicted of aggravated murder and sentenced to 18 years in prison, after being detained for two years. He had been the Secretary of the board of the Regional Corporation for the Defence of Human Rights (CREDHOS) in Barrancabermeja, Colombia, an organisation accompanied by PBI, and has been a human rights defender for many years. His conviction has been widely criticised by lawyers and international NGOs as being politically motivated due to David's human rights work, pointing to a number of procedural irregularities. Furthermore, the conviction was largely based on the testimony of a demobilised former paramilitary who gave evidence under a widely condemned law that grants reduced sentences in exchange for information. Alliance members contributed to an amicus brief submitted by the Bar Human Rights Committee to the court in Santander in support of the Jose Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective's

(CCAJAR) appeal against David's conviction in October 2013. Unfortunately, the appeal was unsuccessful and the conviction was upheld in its entirety. The UK branch of the Solicitors International Human Rights Group, along with other NGOs including PBI, issued a joint declaration on International Human Rights Day (10 December 2013) deploring the decision to uphold his conviction. In 2014, the Alliance has been supporting the CCAJAR legal team with a further appeal being heard by the Supreme Court, and submitted an amicus brief to the court which was unfortunately considered inadmissible.

Peace Community of San José de Apartadó

In January 2013, lawyers from Garden Court Chambers and a professor of law from the University of Bedfordshire submitted an amicus brief to the Colombian Supreme Court, which was accepted, concerning the appeal of soldiers convicted for the 2005 massacre in the Peace Community. Members of the Peace Community visited the UK in December 2013 for a number of meetings with Alliance members, and they were able to speak about the issues facing the Community at an event at the Middle Temple organised by the Alliance and the Bar Human Rights Committee (see page 12).

Poems by David Ravelo dedicated to Sigrid Rausing

Accuse me

Accuse me of being non-conformist, but with ideas
Accuse me of being a revolutionary, but with arguments
Accuse me of being a radical, for my principles.
Accuse me of being stubborn, for persevering
Accuse me of being armed, but with words
Accuse me of not staying silent, because my voice will always be heard
Accuse me of speaking out against the violations of rights
Accuse me of being an instigator, for being a defender (of human rights)
Accuse me of being a communist, for defending an ideal
Accuse me of being naïve, for believing in peace
Accuse me of being alive, for not letting them kill me
Accuse me of everything – but not for being a criminal.

The Firmament, La Picota Prison, 23rd January 2013

Nights, so many nights
That I do not see the firmament.
It will be full of stars, I think,
Or the moon with its radiating glow.

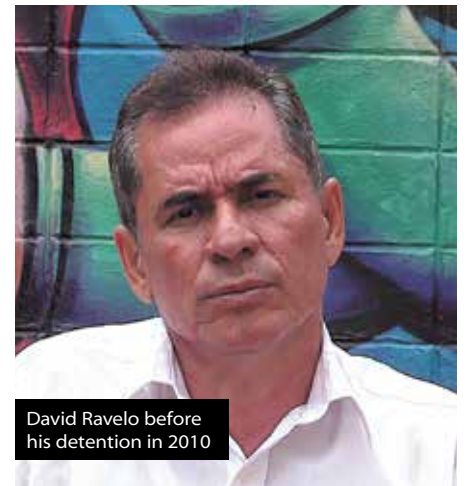
I imagine the clouds drifting
Visiting and embracing the stars and planets,
I think of the woman I love,
But what is immensity like?

Is the night dark or bright?
Night dies as dawn approaches
Day is born with a halo's splendour
The firmament is strange to me.

Night without a firmament
I do not see it but I invent it
The rain dances with the wind
And thunder sounds, like a wail.

Show me what the firmament is like
Because I have not seen it for so long
The sky will be grey or blue
I hope soon to overcome this unjust imprisonment.

David Ravelo, the Colombian human rights defender in prison since 2010 (see previous page), dedicated these poems to Sigrid Rausing when he heard of her work, to thank her for all the support she has given for over a decade to PBI and the human rights defenders we accompany. The support of the Sigrid Rausing Trust has had a major impact on our organisation, enabling us to expand our supporter base and geographical coverage as well as to diversify funding sources and help us raise our profile. The poems were read out at the Gala Evening in May 2013 by actor Samuel West. They can be seen not only as tributes to Sigrid Rausing, but also as testaments to the resilience and integrity of one of the many human rights defenders that she has supported so generously through her Trust.



David Ravelo before his detention in 2010



Sigrid Rausing at the gala evening at the Middle Temple

New developments in the field

Honduras

The situation for human rights defenders in Honduras has deteriorated dramatically since the coup in 2009. After receiving a petition for international accompaniment from the Honduras Platform on Human Rights, PBI carried out field research in Honduras in 2011 and 2012. In 2013, we focused on building support networks with Honduran defenders and civil society, meeting over 30 Honduran human rights organisations. We also developed relationships with key members of the international community in Europe and the Americas, including members of the US Congress and the State Department through an advocacy tour. The first two field volunteers arrived in Tegucigalpa in October 2013, in time to provide international observation during the elections the following month. We have published two reports, in early 2013 and 2014, on the situation faced by Honduran HRDs¹ and began formal accompaniments in May 2014.

Kenya

PBI launched its first ever field programme in Africa, in Kenya, in 2013 in response to the many risks and challenges Kenyan defenders face in their work. PBI's first months in Kenya were devoted to conducting in-depth research to inform our overall strategy and assess how we could best support HRDs in the Kenyan context. We focused on building support networks with both them and civil society, as well as the international community. Throughout the year we met with human rights organisations across the country addressing a wide variety of human rights abuses including police violations, corruption, issues around land and sexual violence, as well as pervasive impunity. In December 2013, we published an analysis of the situation in the country since 2011.² In 2014, we are building on this preparatory work, and are supporting HRDs by attending community meetings and court proceedings, and providing basic security training. We are also focusing on extending our presence alongside HRDs in the informal settlement area of Mathare in Nairobi where they face a variety of challenges.



PBI volunteer accompanying CEHPRODEC in Nahuaterique, western Honduras

Mexico

PBI has worked in Mexico since 1999. In 2013, PBI opened a new field team to accompany defenders in Chihuahua and Coahuila, states on Mexico's northern border. Along with Oaxaca, where PBI also has a field presence, these two states are among those with the highest number of attacks on HRDs in the country. We supported speaking tours to Europe and the United States, and held meetings with the Mexican authorities to make them aware of the international community's interest, encouraging them to ensure the protection and public recognition of human rights defenders in both states. To mark the launch of the new team, PBI organised a roundtable for defenders and the diplomatic corps. By the end of the year PBI was providing protective accompaniment to five organisations in the two states.

Colombia

PBI has worked in Colombia since 1994, and in 2013 it remained our largest field programme, despite a 40% reduction in field volunteers and staff. We were able to work with the same number of human rights defenders, even with this reduced capacity, by developing a more flexible and responsive programme of accompaniment, focussing on supporting defenders when they were at their most vulnerable.

Nepal

PBI has worked in Nepal since 2005. Following the closure of our volunteer teams at the end of 2012, a small PBI staff team in Kathmandu

provided advocacy and networking support to Nepali defenders in 2013. This included initiating meetings with the EU Working Group on HRDs and embassies, as a result of which defenders' concerns were incorporated into the EU's joint statement on Nepal to the UN Human Rights Council. Following extensive consultation with human rights defenders, PBI closed its field team in Nepal on 1 January 2014. In 2014 we will work with a local organisation to ensure that NepalMonitor.org, an on-line alert system we developed for security and human rights incidents, continues for as long as it is helpful to the Nepali human rights community. Over 200 HRDs had subscribed to NepalMonitor.org by the end of 2013. In addition, the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk network will continue to support Nepali human rights lawyers.

Indonesia

PBI worked in Indonesia from 2001 to early 2011. Since then, PBI has monitored the situation for defenders, particularly in Papua, and provided opportunities for them to share their experiences and build links with the international community. In 2013 PBI worked in partnership with the Indonesian NGO, Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy (ELSAM), to develop a project to help Indonesian defenders learn effective monitoring, documentation and reporting and to link them to national and international advocacy and protection networks, needs established following research by PBI in 2012. We aim to launch this project in 2014.

¹ Available at <http://www.pbi-honduras.org/field-projects/pbi-honduras/publications/?f&L=1>

² Available at <http://www.pbi-kenya.org/field-projects/pbi-kenya/publications/?L=0>

A volunteer's experience

Tom Short

I joined PBI's Kenya Project in March 2014, leaving behind my job as a lawyer with an international law firm in London.

Along with Honduras, the Kenya Project is the baby of the PBI family, and the first in Africa. The first team arrived in 2013 to provide a short-term presence during the national elections held in March last year. Moving from this initial venture to a full PBI project has meant that much of our work has been to lay the foundation that will ensure that our long-term protective presence is as effective as possible, making this a somewhat different experience from that of volunteers joining one of PBI's well-established projects in Latin America.

I arrived in Kenya at a time of great political and social uncertainty – with an increase in alleged terror attacks and intense political wrangling at all levels. This has created an interesting, if sometimes perplexing, environment in which to build support for our work. To guarantee the safety and security of those we accompany, it is crucial that civil and military authorities understand our work and the international support network that lies behind us. The progressive new Constitution of 2010 and the Government's publicly stated commitment to realising a human rights based approach in its governance go some way to creating an atmosphere conducive to PBI's work. However, nothing beats putting time and energy into meeting key stakeholders face to face and initiating and building our political network at a personal level.

While PBI field volunteers embody an expression of international concern about human rights violations in Kenya, we know that Kenyan civil society is best placed to find its own solutions. PBI focuses, therefore, on protecting the spaces in which human rights defenders work. As a field volunteer in Kenya, I have been privileged to stand side by side with Kenyan human rights defenders who work relentlessly in their struggle for justice – despite death threats, surveillance, attacks, and even, in extreme cases, the assassination of their colleagues. HRDs across Kenya work on a huge range of issues from women's rights in the rural north to post-electoral violence witness protection in the west and forced evictions at the coast. As a small team, we are currently focused on supporting HRDs in Nairobi's informal settlement of Mathare.



Tom Short with Muchangi Nyaga, chairman of Get-to-Green social movement, in the informal settlement area of Mathare

Organising around principles of social justice to achieve dignity, equality and opportunity for all, these are people who stand up to challenge corruption and police brutality and promote systems of local sustainability and good governance for the benefit of their community.

PBI stands alongside these human rights defenders as they carry out their important work. Our presence is a visible reminder that the international community is watching and will not permit the rights of HRDs to be violated. These are inspirational people who work under extremely challenging conditions.

// PBI's work deserves the support of everyone who believes in the importance of the rule of law and in resilience in the face of repression. //

Tom Short

Their achievements prove that the struggle for justice should not be confined only to the courtroom. They demand justice on all fronts: from the tin-roofed huts of Nairobi's informal settlements to the glass-fronted tower blocks of Kenya's central government; from protests on the streets in Mombasa to the people's parliament in Nairobi's famous Jevanjee Gardens; from the local courtrooms of Malindi to the African Court on Human and Peoples Rights across the border in Tanzania.

The bravery, commitment and dedication of the human rights defenders we accompany in Kenya are a constant source of inspiration. They express gratitude for our presence but, when compared with the challenges they face every day, it is obvious that our job is the easy part. My time with PBI has been a far cry from the desk-bound work of a London lawyer and it has been a privilege to show solidarity with fellow professionals and grassroots activists struggling to make their voices heard.

Volunteering with PBI

What are the qualities of a PBI volunteer?

PBI volunteers come from a wide range of backgrounds. The following qualities, experience and skills are examples of the criteria used for selecting potential volunteers. Specific requirements vary between the projects.

- ▶ **Nonviolence** A clear understanding of and commitment to nonviolence
- ▶ **Language skills** Fluent Spanish is essential for working in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Colombia. For working in Kenya, fluent English is required, and a knowledge of Kiswahili would be an advantage.
- ▶ **Discretion and diplomacy**
- ▶ **Maturity** The recommended minimum age for volunteers is 25
- ▶ **Resilience** The ability to work effectively under pressure and stress
- ▶ **Knowledge and understanding of the history, politics and culture of the country where you are working**

▶ **Cultural sensitivity** Experience of working with people of different cultures

▶ **Flexibility** The ability to change tactics, work and opinions

▶ **Experience of working in groups** Familiarity with consensus decision-making and teamwork

▶ **Experience of working within human rights or peace organisations**

▶ **Practical skills** IT, bookkeeping, writing, photography, cooking and many other skills are useful

What does the PBI field experience offer volunteers?

- ▶ A profound experience of working with an international peace and human rights organisation committed to transforming ideals into practical action
- ▶ Specialist training based on 30 years' experience working in the field
- ▶ The experience of living and working in a close-knit team of international volunteers

▶ A unique insight into the intense pressures faced by human rights defenders and their resilience and courage

Attending the orientation weekend

PBI UK organises orientation weekends 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 advises on the suitability of candidates to apply to become a field volunteer.

Attending project-specific regional training

Each field project runs periodic 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, 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.



Prospective volunteers take part in PBI UK's orientation weekend in 2013

Financial summary

PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL UNITED KINGDOM SECTION
(Charity registration number 1101016, Company registration number 3912587)
Summary statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2013

	2013	2012
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Grants receivable from trusts and companies	356,346	231,765
Donations to the Human Rights Defenders' Fund	4,355	5,696
Donations to the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk Fund	13,402	15,550
Donations and other income	27,676	15,832
	<u>401,779</u>	<u>268,843</u>
Resources expended		
Charitable activities	(282,102)	(198,415)
Costs of generating funds	(45,220)	(43,046)
Governance costs	(12,130)	(11,470)
	<u>(339,452)</u>	<u>(252,931)</u>
Net incoming resources for year	62,327	15,913
Funds brought forward as restated	80,998	65,085
	<u>143,325</u>	<u>80,998</u>
Summary balance sheet as at 31 December 2013	2013	2012
	£	£
Fixed assets	0	0
Current assets	191,924	108,725
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(48,599)	(27,728)
Net current assets	<u>143,325</u>	<u>80,998</u>
Total assets less liabilities	143,325	80,998
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	0	0
Total net assets	<u>143,325</u>	<u>80,998</u>
Unrestricted funds	99,424	75,748
Restricted funds	43,901	5,250
Total funds	<u>143,325</u>	<u>80,998</u>

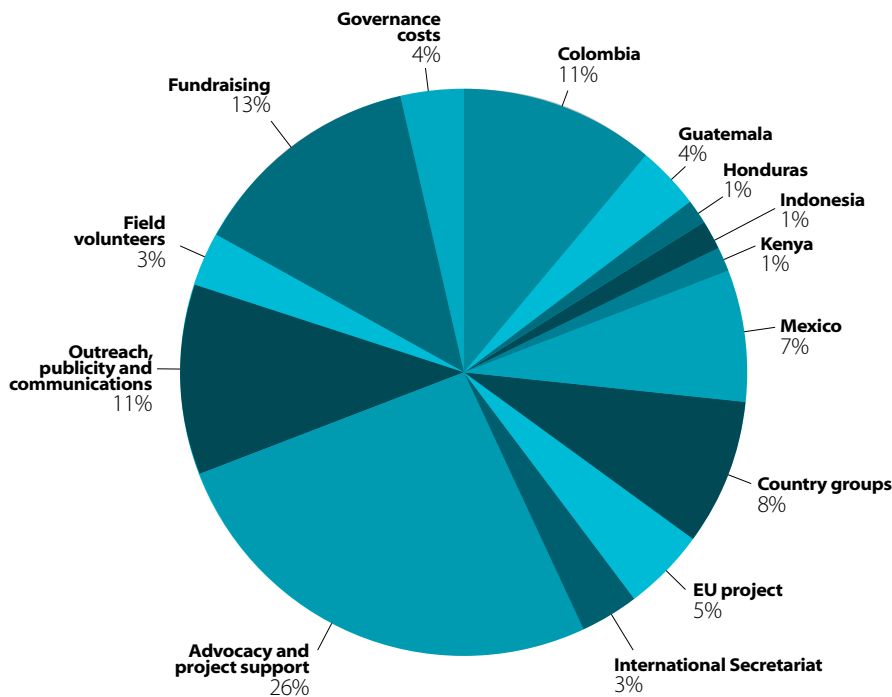
2013 donors

Anonymous Foundation
Anonymous Corporate Grant
AW.60 Charitable Trust
Bryan Lancaster's Trust
Christian Aid
European Commission
Frederick Mulder Charitable Trust
Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
Garden Court Chambers Limited
Joffe Charitable Trust
Linklaters LLP
Matrix Chambers
N. Smith Charitable Settlement
Peters & Peters
Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund
Reed Smith
Staples Trust
The A B Charitable Trust
The Bromley Trust
The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust
The City Law School at City University London
The Evan Cornish Foundation
The Law Society Charity
The Mosse Charitable Settlement
The Philamonic Trust
The Sigrid Rausing Trust
The Tinsley Foundation
The Tolkien Trust
Weil, Gotshal & Manges

Management Committee statement

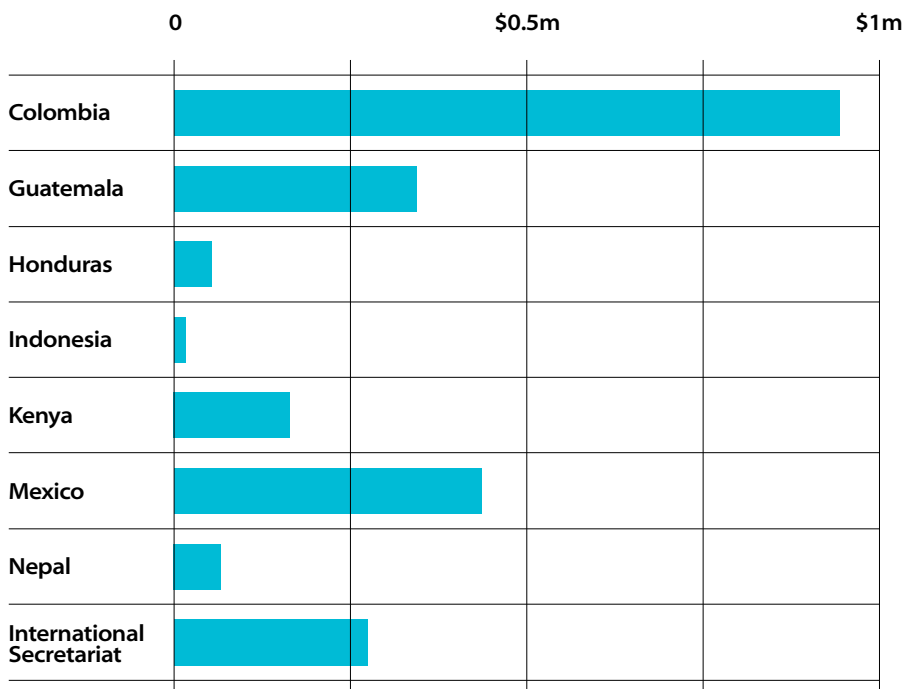
These summary accounts are not the statutory accounts but a summary of the information which appears in the full financial statements which have been subjected to an independent audit and given an unqualified report. The Management Committee approved the full financial statements on 15 September 2014 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.

How funds were spent in 2013



Funding to PBI Colombia project	£38,530
Funding to PBI Guatemala project	£12,000
Funding to PBI Honduras project	£5,000
Funding to PBI Indonesia project	£5,000
Funding to PBI Kenya project	£5,000
Funding to PBI Mexico project	£25,323
Funding to PBI country groups	£28,338
Funding to EU project	£16,428
Funding to PBI International Secretariat (incl international advocacy and other activities)	£11,400
Advocacy and project support	£87,871
Outreach, publicity and communications	£37,078
Field volunteer recruitment, training and support	£10,134
Fundraising	£45,220
Governance costs	£12,130
TOTAL	£339,452

PBI's global operations



Project	Expenditure 2013 USD
Colombia	\$938,712
Guatemala	\$341,953
Honduras	\$46,844
Indonesia	\$10,985
Kenya	\$160,827
Mexico	\$432,237
Nepal	\$62,554
ISEC	\$270,296
GLOBAL TOTAL	\$2,264,407

As noted in the full accounts, PBI UK is one of 11 separate country groups supporting field projects conducted through Peace Brigades International, a 501 (c)(3) non profit corporation registered in the United States. An indication of the global scale of PBI operations is shown above based on spending by each field project and the International Secretariat in 2013.

Please note: The final analysis of these accounts remains subject to audit.

PBI UK office

Peace Brigades International (PBI) UK Section
1b Waterlow Road, London N19 5NJ
Tel / Fax 020 7281 5370
EMAIL susibascon@peacebrigades.org.uk
WEB www.peacebrigades.org.uk

Peace Brigades International UK
Section expresses its thanks to all
volunteers who contribute their time
to its many activities. The hundreds
of unpaid hours they contribute each
year are crucial to the effectiveness of
the organisation's work.

PBI country groups

Belgium
Canada
France
Germany
Italy
Netherlands
Norway
Spain
Switzerland
United Kingdom
United States

Associate groups

Argentina
Ireland
Portugal
Sweden

Current PBI projects

Colombia (founded 1994)
Guatemala (re-established 2002)
Honduras (founded 2013)
Kenya (founded 2013)
Mexico (founded 1999)

Management committee

Kathleen Armstrong (resigned 2014)
Glenn Arradon
Emma Douglas (resigned 2013)
Chizom Ekeh (resigned 2014)
Julie Fisher (resigned 2013)
Tiffany Garside (resigned 2013)
Nicola Jeffrey
Sanjay Joshi
Deborah Nathan (joined 2014)
Samantha Pritchard

Patrons

Lord Avebury
Sir Nicolas Bratza
Sir Henry Brooke CMG
Lord Carnwath
Julie Christie
Lord Joel Joffe
Sir Jeffrey Jowell KCMG QC
Lord Lester of Herne Hill
Professor Jenny Pearce
Sir Nigel Rodley KBE
Sir Peter Roth
Juliet Stevenson
Samuel West

Lawyers Advisory Committee

Sir Henry Brooke CMG
Courtney Barklem
Silvia Borelli
Kirsty Brimelow QC
Michael Brindle QC
Sara Chandler
Mark Cunningham QC
Ole Hansen
Charlotte Haworth Hird
Richard Hermer QC
Nicole Kar
Maya Lester
Sapna Malik
Kelwin Nicholls
Sir Peter Roth
Ben Silverstone

Staff

Susi Bascon
(full-time director)
Pam Feldman
(part-time fundraiser)
Rob Hawke
(part-time advocacy officer)
Emma Marshall
(part-time communications officer)
(until April 2014)

Aissetou Traore
(part-time finance assistant)
(until early 2014)
Daniel Lakey
(part-time finance officer)
(since July 2014)
Raquel Perez Lopez
(project assistant) (2013-2014)

Returned Volunteer Scheme

Daniel Slee (2013-2014)
Gwen Burnyeat (until November 2013)

PBI UK field volunteers 2013

Colombia Project

Jack Grundy
Sophia Kerridge
Daniel Slee

Guatemala Project

Daniel Butler

Kenya Project

Belinda Goodman

Office volunteers

Sandra Astete
Ulrike Beck
Camila Beni
Georgia Booth
Stuart Bowman
Simon Crabb
Jack Grundy
Malgorzata Jahns
Athanasia Kiousi
Cristina Lopez Garcia
Hannah Matthews
Daisy Morrison
Ella Nation-Tellery
James Savage
John White
Daniel Wickham
Ann Wright