

PBI UK Annual Review 2009



Photo credit: Jorge Mata/Surimagenes IPA



Protecting human rights defenders at risk since 1981

Peace Brigades International's projects in 2009



Colombia Project

35 volunteers accompany 15 NGOs, individuals and communities from offices in Barrancabermeja, Bogotá, Urabá, and Medellín.



Guatemala Project

10 volunteers based in Guatemala City accompany 12 organisations working on issues relating to environment and land rights, impunity and globalisation.



Indonesia Project

14 volunteers in three teams in Jayapura, Jakarta and Wamena accompany seven organisations, some of which are accompanied in their various regional offices.



Mexico Project

12 volunteers in Guerrero and Oaxaca, and a coordination team of four in Mexico City, accompany 10 human rights organisations, focussing on impunity, upholding indigenous rights and environmental protection.



Nepal Project

10 volunteers based in Kathmandu and Mid West accompany three NGOs and three individual human rights defenders working on women's rights and impunity and promoting the rule of law.

In memory of Emmanuel Goo



We are sad to report the death of Papuan journalist and human rights defender Emmanuel Goo, whom we wrote about in our 2008 Annual Review in the section on freedom of expression. Mr Goo died in hospital on 24 May 2010, after suffering from ill health for a long time. He was 34 years old.

Emmanuel Goo was best known for his work as an independent journalist and author based in Nabire, Papua. He wrote for the weekly Women's Voice Papua (SPP), one of the newspapers most critical of district and provincial politics, corrupt practices and illegal extraction of resources. He was also a member of the Papuan Alliance of

Independent Journalists. In 2009 he published a book on local indigenous peace culture.

PBI had accompanied Mr Goo since 2008, due to threats and surveillance he experienced because of his work. He was also a long time friend of the Indonesia project, which writes:

"All of us whose lives and work have been influenced by Emmanuel Goo will remember a dedicated human rights activist who had time to talk. In the last years of his life he worked prodigiously for the causes that he believed in. He will be sorely missed."

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 nonviolence 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 that 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, publicity and fundraising.



Cover photo:

PBI volunteers in San José de Apartadó, Colombia.
Photo: Jorge Mata/
Surimágenes IPA

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Letter from the Board of Trustees

2009 was another busy year for the UK Section of Peace Brigades International (PBI UK), raising awareness of human rights issues and building further on its work to support the protection of human rights defenders in the five countries in which PBI works – Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mexico and Nepal. This year we made particular strides in strengthening our advocacy on behalf of human rights defenders, meeting regularly with Foreign and Commonwealth Office desk officers, members of parliament and the legal sector.

In April 2009 PBI UK organised a high profile conference, in collaboration with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Human Rights and the Human Rights and Social Research Institute at London Metropolitan University, on the 'Security and Protection of Human Rights Defenders'. The conference brought key stakeholders from government, international non-governmental organisations and academia together to discuss the implementation of the EU Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders.

We organised speaking tours for six

human rights defenders who addressed audiences at a wide range of venues, including Amnesty International, the House of Commons, the Law Society and universities. They also met with representatives from government and academia, gaining vital support for their work.

PBI UK helped to facilitate the visit of a delegation of lawyers to Mexico in December 2009. The lawyers met with human rights defenders in the areas in which PBI works as well as with government officials.

All this has helped us to raise awareness of the security threats faced by human rights defenders and to help build support, both locally and internationally, for the protection of human rights defenders and to create networks of support in the UK and internationally.

Despite the economic downturn, PBI UK's income increased in 2009, thanks to support from a wide range of trusts and our members. This support is vital to our ability to carry out our work both in the UK and internationally. We would like to extend our thanks to all those who have helped us throughout the year including our donors, volunteers, the members

of our Lawyers Advisory Committee, and our patrons, especially for the invaluable support of Sir Henry Brooke, Peter Roth and Sir Nigel Rodley.

Also vital to our work are the volunteers who accompany human rights defenders in the five countries in which we work. In 2009, PBI UK organised three orientation weekends to recruit new volunteers for our projects. We also organised an art therapy weekend for returned volunteers to help them share their experiences and provide support on their return.

At the international level, we are continuing our work with PBI's international structure to help strengthen its strategic direction. This will be further supported by a three-year grant we received from the Sigrid Rausing Trust which will help reinforce the work PBI does in the field as well as its global advocacy at EU and UN level.

In 2010-11, we will continue to build on our achievements and further strengthen PBI's work for the protection of human rights defenders. And as trustees of PBI UK, we look forward to working with PBI UK's team of dedicated staff and volunteers to achieve this.

Former High Court Judge Thomas Bingham, Baron of Cornhill KG, translator Beatrice Blackett, Mexican human rights defender Tita Radilla and PBI Mexico in-country co-ordinator Michael Tamblyn take part in an event at Freshfields law firm, November 2009



Photo: PBI

TRIBUTE

It is with great sadness that PBI has received news of the death of Lord Bingham of Cornhill on 11 September 2010. On behalf of the PBI staff and Trustees and our Lawyers Advisory Committee which is chaired by Sir Henry Brooke, we would like to express our most sincere appreciation for Lord Bingham's support for the struggle of Tita Radilla and her fellow human rights defenders to challenge injustice and uphold the rule of law. Sir Henry writes: "Lord Bingham dedicated his life to the defence of the rule of law. It was typical of him to spare an evening from his busy schedule to champion Tita's brave campaign for justice, and we mourn his passing."

PBI UK: Achievements in 2009

Throughout 2009 PBI UK continued to make a tangible contribution towards both the protection of human rights defenders (HRDs) in project countries and the wider international discourse on human rights. Through a combination of accompaniment, advocacy, publicity and outreach PBI UK has sustained its support for the many groups and individuals who run the daily risk of violence and intimidation in countries where those rights we take for granted are considered a luxury.

Raising PBI's profile

In 2009 PBI UK raised the profile of its work with HRDs through a combination of media coverage, new media communications and high-profile events. PBI's work was mentioned in numerous publications including the Yorkshire Star, Peace Matters, the Edinburgh Courier, the Wiltshire & Gloucestershire Standard, The Guardian Weekly and on air on BBC World's Outlook. A bi-monthly email bulletin was launched in November 2009 and gained 680 subscribers within the first few months, complementing an average of 330 unique website visits per week.

Returning volunteers continued to speak of their experiences at meetings, workshops and stalls around the country and PBI UK maintained its presence at dozens of university careers fairs and other events such as Urban Green Festival, London; and by giving talks, including at the College of Law, York University, the Institute of Education, and at the Law Society's International Human Rights Symposium at Essex University.

In April 2009 PBI jointly organised the International Conference on Security and Protection for Human Rights Defenders, which was attended by a range of diplomats, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and academics from around the world, and is referred to in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)'s 2009 Annual Report on Human Rights. Full coverage of the event can be found on page 8 of this report.

PBI publications during 2009 included a special report by the Colombia project marking 15 years of PBI's presence in the country, and a cross-PBI report on impunity. A documentary, "PBI Colombia: Creating Space for Peace", produced and directed by filmmaker Oliver Merchant, was also released in hard copy and online and shown at PBI UK's annual general meeting in December. The film is available to watch online at www.vimeo.com/pbi



Photo: PBI

Author and comedian Mark Thomas with PBI UK volunteers Shay Sigafoos, Louise Strange and Sarah Hoad, who helped run a stall at the Urban Green Fair in south London in September 2009

PBI's work featured in Howard Clark's book *People Power: Unarmed Resistance and Global Solidarity*, which was published in August 2009.

PBI UK's then advocacy officer, Louise Winstanley, contributed a chapter called "With Peace Brigades International in Colombia".

// Since PBI protects me, I feel a lot safer. I can work more self-confidently and openly. I don't have to hide anymore. //

MATIUS MURIB,
KontraS Papua

Advocacy

Advocacy work remains one of PBI UK's most important activities. A growing network of supporters and allies in the political, diplomatic, academic and human rights spheres are kept informed of PBI's particular concerns about the situation for human rights defenders in the countries where we work.

PBI UK's influence has continued to grow and the organisation continues to contribute its expertise to debate about international protection mechanisms for human rights defenders at the highest level.

During 2009, PBI UK hosted six advocacy and awareness-raising visits by human rights defenders from Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico and Nepal.

Building political networks

Establishing ongoing dialogue and relationships with political decision makers is a key element of PBI UK's support for human rights defenders. Through our political support network, PBI can call upon influential individuals and groups in times of emergency or high risk to the people we accompany, bolstering the efforts of field volunteers to deter attacks on defenders.

The support network was activated at least eight times during 2009, in response to heightened levels of threats to HRDs in Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mexico and Nepal.

diplomats, academics, lawyers and activists, with whom they can highlight their concerns.

In 2009 PBI UK hosted the following human rights defenders: **Mandira Sharma**, Advocacy Forum (Nepal), **Christian Waranussi** (Indonesia), **Alirio Uribe**, Jose Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR) (Colombia), **Vidulfo Rosales**, Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre (Mexico), **Eduardo Carreno**, Jose Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR) (Colombia) and **Tita Radilla**, Mexican Association of Relatives of the Disappeared (AFADEM).

Rights Group; ■ High Court judge Peter Roth; ■ former Lord Justice Sir Henry Brooke; ■ UN Human Rights Committee member and current PBI UK patron Sir Nigel Rodley; ■ Dr Clara Sandoval of Essex University; ■ Dr Peter Watt of Sheffield University; ■ journalists from the legal and Latin American press.

In addition to these private meetings, Tita told her story to large public audiences at the Frontline Club, Amnesty International Human Rights Action Centre, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Canning House, the University of Essex Law School, and the Institute for Latin American Studies.

Shortly after her visit, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights condemned Mexico for the forced disappearance of Rosendo Radilla and recognised the existence of massive and systematic violations of human rights during the Dirty War years. Among other measures, the ruling ordered the reform of the Military Justice Code, to ensure that human rights violations committed by members of the Mexican armed forces would no longer be investigated and tried in military courts. At the time of writing, Tita and her supporters – including many of those named above with whom she met in London – were still battling to see the Court's judgment fulfilled.

Strengthening ties and contributing to international debate

PBI UK continues to attend FCO roundtables on the United Nations Human Rights Council, where we are able to discuss the plight of human rights defenders with British diplomatic officials. The FCO mentioned the Conference on Security and Protection for Human Rights Defenders (see page 8) in its 2009 Annual Report on Human Rights. PBI UK's recommendations were also incorporated into the UK's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process for Mexico, Guatemala and Colombia.

2010 UPDATE

After five years with PBI, Advocacy Officer Louise Winstanley left to join ABColombia in February 2010. PBI UK is grateful to her for all her good work during this period and we wish her well for the future. We are pleased to welcome Louise's replacement, Rob Hawke, a recent volunteer with PBI's Colombia project.



Photo: Amnesty International

Tita Radilla in a meeting with Amnesty International, London 2009

However, it is not only in moments of high alert that PBI engages with the members of our support network. All of the HRDs accompanied by PBI are living with a constant level of threat to their security. PBI's advocacy work is therefore a continuous activity, as we keep the members of our network informed of the situation for human rights defenders in the regions or thematic areas that concern them, and share our expertise on ways in which the international community can help protect them.

Bringing together activists and decision-makers

Face-to-face meetings are an invaluable method of establishing long-lasting and effective relations between policy makers and human rights defenders. PBI UK invites representatives of accompanied organisations to the UK, facilitating meetings with politicians,

Visit of Tita Radilla Martinez, Mexican Association of Relatives of the Disappeared

Tita carried out a speaking tour in Britain and Spain in November 2009 to raise awareness of her struggle to hold the Mexican state to account for the forced disappearance of her father, Rosendo Radilla Pacheco. A list of people Tita met and events she addressed during her week in London shows the potential scope and reach of such a visit:

■ Jeremy Corbyn MP; ■ Dai Davies MP; ■ Mark Pritchard MP; ■ former Latin America Minister Tony Lloyd; ■ Lord Joffe; ■ Lord Brennan; ■ Baroness Miller; ■ Baroness D'Souza; ■ eight officials of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), including the desk officer and head of section for Mexico; ■ Amnesty International; ■ the Law Society; ■ the International Bar Association; ■ the Bar Human Rights Committee; ■ the Solicitors Human

Fundraising

Thanks to the generous support of individual donors as well as charitable trusts and foundations, PBI's income increased in 2009, in spite of the economic downturn. PBI has engaged in diverse approaches to fundraising from grant writing and high profile events to publicity and media work and the development of our website; all of which helped us to raise a total income of £330,382.

Most of PBI's income in 2009 came from grants from trusts and foundations that have supported us over many years, including the Tinsley Foundation, the Bromley Trust and the Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation. We were delighted to receive another three-year grant from the Sigrid Rausing Trust, which will allow PBI to expand its presence and impact in the field and strengthen its global advocacy work: a vital element of our protection strategy. Multi-year funding has helped PBI maintain its organisational capacity, enabling it to continue its core work and plan for the future in economically uncertain times.

Further examples of fundraising achievements in 2009 include:

- PBI UK's income increased by 6%
- PBI UK has raised over £70,000 for the Human Rights Defenders at Risk Fund, thanks to donations from barristers, solicitors and other individuals, as well as trusts and foundations with

which we have long-standing relationships

- PBI UK received its first ever funding from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) for the "Security and Protection for Human Rights Defenders" conference, which was held on 29 and 30 April 2009. The conference was co-funded by the Sigrid Rausing Trust

- Volunteers serving drinks at music festivals raised £5000 for PBI while raising awareness of our work with music lovers

- Several energetic and courageous supporters ran marathons to raise funds for PBI

Fundraising with support from the UK legal sector

PBI continued to raise its profile within the legal sector with the support of members of our Lawyers Advisory Committee. The Committee helped PBI organise events at which prominent members of the legal sector gave keynote addresses alongside HRDs whom PBI accompanies, and continued to raise awareness of our work within the legal sector. These profile-raising activities helped to generate more than £12,000 in 2009 for the Human Rights Defenders at Risk Fund. These funds enable PBI to respond immediately to life-threatening situations in the field, and to expand its field operations to offer protection to those HRDs at greatest risk due to the nature of their work, the geographical

// What was especially impressive was the calm, unassuming professionalism with which [PBI volunteers] carried out their job. Nothing reckless. The [human right defenders] were the protagonists, not their protectors who stayed in the background. It is thus a great honour to be invited to support the work of PBI by playing the very unchallenging role of being a patron //

PROFESSOR SIR NIGEL RODLEY KBE, member of the UN Human Rights Committee

area in which they are working, or to trends in repression, such as the use of unfounded criminal charges to stigmatise HRDs.

Funding for global advocacy

This year PBI received funding to strengthen its international advocacy work, which is integral to its overall protection strategy on the ground. These activities are supported through grants made by the Rowan Trust, the Sigrid Rausing Trust and a special fund that was established by the Network for Social Change from the will of John Ziman, a friend and supporter since PBI's earliest days.

LIST OF DONORS 2009

Alistair Berkley Charitable Fund

The Bryan Guinness Trust

Bryan Lancaster's Trust

Garden Court Chambers

German Foreign Ministry (Zivik)

Law Society Charity (for its donation to the "Human Rights Defenders Fund" in 2008)

Matrix Chambers

Network for Social Change

Philamonic Trust

Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation

Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund

Radley Charitable Trust

SC and ME Morland's Charitable Trust

Sigrid Rausing Trust

The A B Charitable Trust

The Bromley Trust

The Eva Reckitt Trust

The Mosse Charitable Settlement

The Rowan Charitable Trust

The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation

The Taylour Foundation

The Tinsley Foundation

Trocaire

UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

Conference on Security and Protection

Professor Kevin Boyle, human rights defenders Mandira Sharma (Nepal) and Alirio Uribe (Colombia), and interpreter Maureen Ivens participate in a panel during the first day of the conference.



Photo: Emma Marshall, PBI

Overview

Organised by PBI, the Human Rights and Social Justice (HRSJ) Research Institute at London Metropolitan University and the All Party Parliamentary Human Rights Group (PHRG), the International Conference on Security and Protection for Human Rights Defenders brought together key members of the international human rights movement from governments, European Union (EU) bodies, embassies, NGOs and academia.

The two-day event was funded by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Sigrid Rausing Trust. Its aims were to identify security risks faced by HRDs, develop common strategies to improve protection, and agree on best practice for implementing the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders.

Speakers

The keynote speaker was the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, **Margaret Sekaggya**, who talked of her experiences in the field and called on the international community to improve its co-ordination in its measures to protect HRDs and provide greater financial aid in the area of protection.

Other speakers at the high-level event included **Ulrika Sundberg**, Council of Europe; **Anders Kompass**, OHCHR; **Alessio Capellani**, European Commission; **Sir Nigel Rodley**, University of Essex Human Rights Centre; **Hassan Shire Sheikh**, East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project; **Tanya Lokshina**, Human Rights Watch Moscow; **Mandira Sharma**, Advocacy Forum, Nepal; **Alirio Uribe**, Jose Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective, Colombia; **Lena Nordstrom**, Ambassador of Sweden to Colombia; **Liam Mahony**, Peace Brigades International; **Mary Lawlor**, Frontline; **Leos Javurek**, Czech Foreign Ministry; **Nicolas Beger**, Amnesty International; **Riina Kionka**, Personal Representative of Javier Solana; **Susan Hyland** FCO; **Ann Clwyd MP**, PHRG.

Issues

Day one, at HRSJ, was an open session of speeches and panel-based discussions, which outlined the issues currently facing HRDs, governments and missions, such as improving emergency procedures, support for particularly vulnerable groups such as internally displaced people, and the coherence of EU member-state responses.

Day two was a closed session at the Houses of Parliament conducted under Chatham House Rules. Working groups of FCO officials took key messages from day one and expanded them, focussing on: strengthening the working relationship between in-country diplomatic missions and HRDs, HRD case selection criteria, and emergency case procedure.

Dedication to Natalia Estemirova

The conference report is dedicated to the memory of delegate Natalia "Natasha" Estemirova. Internationally recognised for her work with the Russian-based Memorial Human Rights Centre, Estemirova was kidnapped and

brutally murdered in Chechnya on 19 July 2009. Her fearless documentation of killings, tortures and disappearances in Chechnya, at a time when few dare to speak out, means her death is a loss not just for those who knew her but for the human rights community as a whole.

for Human Rights Defenders

Recommendations

The conference report was published in December 2009. It included a list of 26 recommendations. Among them were:

- Creating a "tool kit" for missions' staff, describing the prevalent human rights issues and setting out a scale of embassy actions so staff can identify the most suitable, proportionate response to each situation.
- Reviewing the arrangements for providing

// The key to protection of HRDs is good policy at the national level, good implementation at the local level, and coherent responses at the international level. //

MARY LAWLOR, Frontline,

direct support, such as funding systems, and the provision of safe houses and emergency shelters, medical and psychological support, legal aid and advocacy.

- Reviewing the granting of emergency visas for HRDs who need to leave their country temporarily, including a survey of the range of visa mechanisms available through each state as well as the potential for new initiatives, such as the Czech-proposed Shelter Cities.

The conference and subsequent report were warmly received by attendees and the conference was cited in the FCO's 2009 Annual Report on Human Rights. Based on the outcomes of day two, the FCO sent out a revised action plan for the protection of HRDs to all its embassies.

More information on the EU Guidelines and the Security and Protection Conference can be found at: www.peacebrigades.org.uk.

EU Guidelines

The EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders were first introduced in 2004 (after consultations with PBI) as a means of providing coherent and consistent EU-wide support for HRDs around the world. The Guidelines set out a range of suggested actions for embassies in their protection of HRDs, including regular contact with them, the provision of emergency visas and independent observation of judicial proceedings. They were updated and improved in 2008, once again with PBI input in the revision process. Download the full text of the EU Guidelines from PBI UK's website: www.peacebrigades.org.uk (accessible from the page titled 'Human rights defenders: Who are they?')



United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Margaret Sekaggya, meeting with PBI UK director Susi Bascon before the Conference on Security and Protection, April 2009

Photo: PBI

Impunity and the rule of law

Impunity has been defined as “a failure by states to meet their obligations to investigate violations [and] to take appropriate measures in respect of perpetrators, particularly in the area of justice.”¹ As a result of impunity, those suspected of criminal acts are not prosecuted or punished and victims are left without effective remedy or compensation for their injuries or loss. At the same time, they – and society – are denied access to the truth about the violations suffered.

In the longer term, violence can become endemic when criminals and human rights violators understand that they can act without consequences, and when ordinary people who have no confidence in the justice system resort to taking the law into their own hands.

Impunity occurs in the absence of the rule of law, a term that describes a system of governance in which all people, all entities and the state itself are equally accountable to laws that are fairly applied and enforced, and there is equal access to adequate legal redress when rights are violated.

Many of the human rights defenders (HRDs) accompanied by PBI are working within a system where the rule of law is weak. They are particularly vulnerable because their would-be attackers are able to act without fear of punishment. Unsurprisingly, HRDs who work specifically to counter impunity and promote the rule of law, for example bringing legal cases against agents of the state, are often subject to aggressive threats and reprisals from those who benefit most from the status quo.

“I live in fear for my children and for myself, I do not know what else the government wants, the only thing we have asked for is justice”

INÉS FERNÁNDEZ ORTEGA

Inés Fernando Ortega, Mexico

Inés Fernando Ortega was at home with her four children on 22 March 2002, when soldiers came uninvited into her home in the state of Guerrero. The three men wanted to interrogate her about the meat she was drying outside, but when she failed to answer their questions (an indigenous Me’phaa woman, she did not understand Spanish), they became angry. Anger turned into aggression, aggression became rape.

Inés reported the assault but the case was referred to Mexico’s military jurisdiction. This system, which is applied to any offence committed by military personnel while on duty, has been widely criticised by human rights groups and the international community for perpetuating impunity for acts that violate the human rights of civilians.²

Inés took the courageous step of challenging

the use of military jurisdiction in her case and, supported by the Organisation of Indigenous Me’phaa People (OPIM) and the Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre, her struggle for justice has gone all the way to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

There has been a high price for choosing to take this path. Inés’ husband has been beaten, and her brother murdered, members of OPIM and Tlachinollan have been threatened, with some forced to leave the state for safety reasons. In early 2009, the Inter-American Court ordered protection measures for Inés, her family, and for more than 100 human rights defenders in Guerrero. “Not even those of us taking Inés’ case to trial, nor Inés, nor the OPIM, believed that this would unleash a strategy of aggression against all of us,” said Abel Barrera, the director of the Tlachinollan Centre.

2010 UPDATE

Inter-American Court of Human Rights heard Inés’ case against the Mexican state, and the very similar one of Valentina Rosendo Cantú, in April and May 2010 respectively. The verdicts are expected in autumn 2010.



Vidulfo Rosales of the Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre speaks at an event at Doughty Street Chambers, London, with interpreter Valeria Luna. London, June 2009

Photo: Emma Marshall, PBI

The role of lawyers

Lawyers play a fundamental role in combating impunity and promoting the rule of law. Sadly, as a result, many face daily persecution and threats in the countries where PBI works. All of PBI's projects accompany lawyers. In Colombia especially (where up to 25 human rights lawyers are murdered each year³), there is a high demand for international protective accompaniment, and PBI accompanies members of three lawyers' collectives, as well as lawyers working within organisations that provide legal advice and services among their other activities.

Kashiram Dhungana, Advocacy Forum lawyer, Nepal

A group of lawyers founded the organisation Advocacy Forum (AF) in 2001, to address cases of human rights violations for victims of Nepal's civil war (1996-2006). Many of the cases taken up by AF are against high-ranking security personnel and its lawyers routinely face threats and obstructions to their work. PBI has accompanied the organisation since 2006.

On 10 December 2009, AF coordinated a countrywide campaign to file criminal reports of human rights violations to coincide with Human Rights Day. From its new office in the western district of Bardiya, PBI accompanied lawyer Kashiram Dhungana to a rural police station so that he could file reports on behalf of several victims. The police refused to register the cases, despite PBI's presence.

"In most cases I've dealt with my security level is low," said Kashiram. "In this case, I had to put my signature on the report to the police, and never before were so many names of high state authorities mentioned."

Despite concerns about his own security, Kashiram remains committed to his part in the process of achieving justice for victims of human rights violations and strengthening the rule of law in Nepal. "If the law is violated there needs to be punishment," he says.

Accompanied lawyers, legal organisations and others working to combat impunity

Colombia Freedom Legal Corporation (CJL); José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR); Luis Carlos Pérez Lawyers' Collective (CALCP); Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP); Association for Alternative Social Advancement (MINGA); Association of the Families of the Detained – Disappeared (ASFADDES)



PBI volunteer Ellis and interpreter Geeta accompany Kashiram Dhungana, right, to file cases on Human Rights day, 10 Dec 2009

photo: PBI

// When the rights of human rights defenders are violated, all our rights are put in jeopardy and all of us are made less safe. //

**KOFI ANNAN,
former UN Secretary-General**

Guatemala Centre for Human Rights Legal Action (CALDH); Human Rights Defenders Protection Unit (UDEFEQUA)

Indonesia Institute of Research, Analysis and Development for Legal Aid (LP3BH); Legal Awareness and Human Rights Advocacy Organisation (Japh & Ham); Indonesian Legal Aid and Human Rights Association (PBHI); Commission for the Disappeared and Victims of Violence (KontraS Papua)

Mexico Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre; Committee 25 November; Centre for Human Rights and Legal Advice for Indigenous Peoples (Cedhapi)

Nepal Advocacy Forum

Facilitating international connections between lawyers

With the support of our Lawyers Advisory Committee, especially Peter Roth and Sir Henry Brooke, PBI UK has helped facilitate links between British lawyers and those we accompany. Many have offered their support, by donating to PBI or by getting actively involved in other ways. In 2009, for example, a Bar Human Rights Committee (BHRC) delegation carried out a fact-finding visit to Mexico (following the success of a similar delegation by British lawyers to Colombia in 2008), where its lawyers met with several of those accompanied by PBI. The resulting report, *Recalling the Rule of Law*, was launched at the House of Lords in July 2010. It can be read in full at www.peacebrigades.org.uk

¹ UN Commission on Human Rights 61st Session, Report of Diane Orentlicher, independent expert to update the set of principles to combat impunity - Updated set of principles for the protection and promotion of human rights through action to combat impunity: E/CN.4/2005/102/Add.1, 08/02/2005 http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/alldocs.aspx?doc_id=10800

² See for example Human Rights Watch, 'Mexico's Obligations Under International Law', in *Uniform Impunity: Mexico's Misuse of Military Justice to Prosecute Abuses in Counter-narcotics and Public Security Operations*, Chapter VI, April 2009. <http://www.hrw.org/en/node/82539/section/8>

³ Lawyers without Borders and the American Jurists Association, *Informe sobre la situación de los abogados y abogadas en Colombia [Report on the situation of lawyers in Colombia]*, 10 December 2007, p.21-22. <http://www.aai.org.br/InformeASFQ-AAJ.pdf>

Defenders of environmental and land rights



Photo: PBI

Indigenous Kaqchikel women sort firewood in front of graffiti expressing opposition to cement company Cementos Progreso, San Juan Sacatepéquez. Photo: PBI

Human rights defenders working for the defence of environmental and land rights find themselves up against powerful opponents. Whether they are members of communities facing displacement or health risks due to large-scale development projects, or organisations supporting and advising threatened communities, their work pits them against powerful economic interests. Many rural communities have a historical relationship with the land. As well as providing food and shelter, it can hold cultural and spiritual significance, particularly for indigenous peoples.

National or transnational companies and local authorities always promote the benefits that megaprojects such as hydro-electric power plants, mining projects or mono-crop plantations will bring to communities. Local opposition movements arise when the necessary environmental impact assessments are not properly carried out, or when indigenous communities are not consulted (as required by Convention 169 of the International Labour Organisation), and communities face displacement or the destruction of their environment, jeopardising not only their wellbeing, but also that of their descendants.

With such powerful opponents, defenders of environmental and land rights are frequently threatened because of their work. PBI has noted that criminalisation in particular is increasingly used

as a form of repression, where defenders' work is constrained while they defend themselves against baseless prosecutions. Militarisation is another cause of concern, as is companies' use of unaccountable private security firms. Forced evictions of communities by security forces frequently result in injuries and even fatalities.

Accompanied organisations

Colombia Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP), Curbaradó region

Guatemala Association for the Protection of Las Granadillas Mountain (APMG), Association of Women of Santa Maria Xalapán Mountain (AMISMAXAJ), 'New Day' Chortí Campesino Central Coordinator, Camoteca Campesino Organisation, Qamoló kí Aj Sanjuani- People of San Juan Unite

Indonesia Friends of the Earth Indonesia (WAHLI)

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

Qamoló kí Aj Sanjuani – People of San Juan Unite

In January 2007, indigenous Kaqchikel residents of San Juan, Sacatepéquez, applied to the municipality for a community consultation on proposals for a cement factory and quarry in the area. Project San Juan, owned by Guatemalan company Cementos Progreso and the Swiss multinational company Holcim, was to be built in the San Gabriel Buena

Vista estate and the villages of San Jose Ocaña and San Antonio Las Trojes I and II.

The communities' request was refused, so they organised their own consultation. Almost 9,000 people turned out to express their opposition, with all but four voting against the project. Its subsequent implementation has been met with widespread protest, as the inhabitants fear the pollution of their lands and the wider environment.

Opponents to the project have reported numerous threats and human rights abuses, and a fierce criminalisation campaign, with several community leaders currently standing trial. The son of one of the defendants, a community leader himself, was recently abducted and found brutally murdered.

In November 2009, the Constitutional Court acknowledged the communities' right to consultation and ruled that a new referendum on the project could take place. However, it also ruled that the results would not be legally binding. The situation in the region remains tense and conflictive, as the activities of the cement works continue.

Qamoló kí Aj Sanjuani represents the affected communities, working to make their voices heard. Already subject to threats, its members' safety was further compromised by defamatory communiqués distributed anonymously in early 2010, one of which accused them of being part of a terrorist organisation.

Women human rights defenders

Women human rights defenders (WHRD) do the same work as their male counterparts, and face many of the same challenges and threats as a result. However, women face additional obstacles and threats on account of their gender. In many societies women are not expected to speak out and challenge the status quo. WHRD suffer threats, stigma, social rejection and worse, not only because they are promoting and defending the rights of others, but also because they are women doing that work.

Women are particularly affected by conflict, when they may be left to support families on their own, and it is often women who set up and lead organisations seeking justice and information about disappeared family members. PBI accompanies many women from poor, rural communities, who have found themselves challenging their countries' civil and military authorities in their determination to know the truth about their relatives' forced disappearances, and in their struggle to change a system that allows such crimes to continue in impunity.

WHRDs face many particular challenges to their work and security. When they do not conform to accepted norms of female behaviour, threats can come from within their own communities, and even their own families. Like male human rights defenders, they are at risk of physical attacks, intimidation and abduction, criminalisation, death threats and assassination. Commonly, these threats are also directed at their families and children, in an attempt to exploit their vulnerabilities.

Accompanied organisations and activists

Colombia Grassroots Women's Organisation (OFP)

Guatemala National Coordinating Body of Guatemalan Widows (CONAVIGUA); Women's Sector; Lesbiradas; Association of Women of Santa María Xalapán Mountain (AMISMAXAJ)

Indonesia Suciwati Munir; Humi Inane (Women's Voice)

Mexico Organisation of Women Ecologists of the Sierra

de Petatlán (OMESP); Tita Radilla, of the Mexican Association of Relatives of the Detained-Disappeared (ADAFEM); Alba Cruz, lawyer for the Committee 25 November;

Nepal Dalit Feminist Uplift Organisation (DAFUO)

Dalit Feminist Uplift Organisation (DAFUO), Nepal

As a Dalit woman, Radha Sunar was living in poverty when she was introduced to an Oxfam scheme offering training and financial support to women. With this support, she was able to buy some land to support her children, and soon became committed to social work, helping others like herself.

Radha's work was met with incomprehension and anger from her family. Relatives conspired against her and her marriage ended, leaving Radha doubly discriminated against for being both Dalit and divorced. Despite such obstacles, she went on to co-found DAFUO, of which she is now treasurer.

"These days the people I meet through DAFUO react to me in two different ways," said Radha. "Some think that I intend to break up other people's marriages, as I did my own. Others

According to the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition 2009 report, urgent appeals involving WHRDs were circulated by the coalition's members at a rate of at least one per week, while the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders responded to, on average, two communications per week involving WHRDs.

worry that my work will have no clout because I myself am so discriminated against. However, there are some who think I should be respected and listened to because of my experiences."

In 2009, PBI began to accompany DAFUO, an NGO established by Dalit women in 1997. Broadly focussed on women's rights, DAFUO currently works primarily on domestic violence and rape cases against Dalit women. Women speaking out against domestic and sexual violence frequently face threats themselves, and PBI's accompaniment provides protection to DAFUO's members presenting these reports.

Women from the Dalit Feminist Uplift Organisation, with PBI Nepal volunteers and staff



Photo: PBI

Defenders of indigenous rights

Despite being the original inhabitants of their lands, and endowed with rich histories and traditions, indigenous communities occupy society's lowest rung in many parts of the world. In places where PBI works, indigenous communities lack adequate access to justice, health and education systems, whether due to open discrimination, inadequate infrastructure, or a lack of basic provisions like translators and interpreters in indigenous languages.

International declarations and mechanisms on indigenous rights enshrine the right to self-determination for indigenous peoples and recognise the importance of land rights for the original inhabitants of many countries now governed by the descendants of colonisers. These rights are the foci of conflict as powerful interests wish to exploit the natural resources contained in indigenous peoples' traditional lands.

Dissent is frequently met with violence, threats or criminalisation, while violators of the human rights of indigenous groups are able to act with impunity. Such is the case in Guerrero, Mexico, where in 2009, the Inter-American Commission of Human Rights ordered protection measures for more than 100 defenders of indigenous rights due to the grave threats against them.

In Colombia between 2002 and 2008, 1244 indigenous Colombians were murdered¹ with the situation now so serious that, in January 2009, the country's Constitutional Court called for the protection of at least 34 indigenous groups in danger of extinction.² In Guatemala, where up to 50 per cent of the population identifies itself as indigenous, communities protesting against the exploitation of their natural resources are facing threats, assassinations and lawsuits. For the indigenous Papuans, the peaceful expression of a desire for self-determination is met with repression including intimidation and prison sentences.³

Despite these threats and challenges, indigenous peoples around the world are standing up for the recognition and respect of their rights.

Accompanied organisations

Colombia

Indigenous groups accompanied indirectly through organisations such as: Social Corporation for Community Advisory and Training Services (COS-PACC); Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP); Jose Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR)

Guatemala

Association of Mayan Lawyers and Notaries of Guatemala (AANMG); Association of Women of Santa María Xalapán Mountain (AMISMAXAJ)

Indonesia

Papua's NGO Forum (FOKER), United for Truth (BUK), Institute of Research, Analysis and Development for Legal Aid (LP3BH), Advocacy Network for Upholding Law and Human Rights (JAPH&HAM)

Mexico

Organisation of the Indigenous Me'Phaa People (OPIM), Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre



Photo: PBI

United for Truth (BUK)

Most of PBI's work in West Papua is related to the indigenous population's struggle for recognition and respect for a wide range of human rights issues. Papuans face extensive restrictions on their freedom of expression; there are numerous documented cases of violence against them by state security forces;⁴ impunity reigns for human rights violations;⁵ and many political prisoners are incarcerated for activities deemed 'separatist', such as displaying the Morning Star flag, a symbol of Papuan independence.⁶ Papuans are also increasingly affected by large-scale development projects, including mining and African palm plantations, which national and transnational companies wish to implement on their traditional lands.⁷

United for Truth (BUK) offers support and

solidarity to survivors of violent human rights violations in Papua. Its coordinator, Peneas Lokbere, was a survivor of the Abepura incident of 7 December 2000, in which police beat and detained hundreds of Papuan students in retaliation for an attack on the police station by unidentified persons. Three students were killed during the attack and several others later died as a result of their injuries.⁸ The two senior police officers allegedly responsible for the atrocity were prosecuted in Indonesia's human rights court but were then acquitted in September 2005.⁹ In the face of continuing impunity for this and other violations, BUK helps survivors to come to terms with their experiences and seek justice, which it considers of particular importance, given that the truth and reconciliation body provided for under the 2001 Special Autonomy Law has so far failed to materialise.¹⁰ 'The ability for us to talk and speak out is limited by the military and police. People are too scared of the consequences,' says Lokbere.¹¹

PBI began accompanying Peneas Lokbere in 2005 after he received threats related to his role as coordinator of the Abepura Victims' Association. BUK is supported by several other Papuan organisations accompanied by PBI – Foker LSM, SKP and KontraS – and with Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, has become the driving force behind a new NGO coalition advocating for political prisoners in Abepura jail.

¹ PBI Colombia, ColomPBlA, Quarterly Newsletter No. 11, May 2009. http://www.pbi-colombia.org/fileadmin/user_files/projects/colombia/files/colomPBlA/0905_ColomPBlA_no11_ingles.pdf

² Constitutional Court Order 004 of 2009

³ Human Rights Watch, Prosecuting Political Aspiration: Indonesia's political prisoners, June 22, 2010

⁴ Minority Rights Group International, State of the World's Minorities and Indigenous Peoples 2010 - Indonesia, 1 July 2010. <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4c3331155f.html> [accessed 13 September 2010]

⁵ Amnesty International, Indonesia: On the fourth anniversary of the Abepura raids, impunity remains entrenched in Papua, 6 December 2004, AI Index: ASA 21/052/2004 (Public). <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA21/052/2004/en/e1c89240-d549-11dd-8a23-d58a49c0d652/asa210522004en.html>

⁶ Amnesty International press release, Indonesia: Release Papuan Flag Raisers, 14 January 2009. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/for-media/press-releases/indonesia-release-papuan-flag-raisers-20090114>

⁷ Environmental Investigation Agency, Indonesian indigenous peoples alliance requests UN probe into rights abuses and land grabbing in Papua plantations project, 20 April 2010. <http://www.eia-international.org/cgi/news/news.cgi?t=template&a=593&source=>

⁸ Amnesty International, Indonesia: Impunity and human rights violations in Papua, 2 April 2002, AI Index: ASA 21/015/2002. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA21/015/2002/en>

⁹ Amnesty International USA press release, Indonesia: Killing and torture acquittals demonstrate failure of justice system, 8 September 2005, AI Index: ASA 21/018/2005

¹⁰ BUK, Commemoration of Bloody Abepura, 7 December 2009. <http://www.bukpapua.org/7deceng2.html>

¹¹ Red Pepper, Papuan Justice Denied, 1 November 2007. <http://www.redpepper.org.uk/Papuan-justice-denied>

Internally displaced populations



Women wash clothes in the Cacarica river basin

Photo: Libby Kerr

In Colombia, almost a tenth of the country's population has been displaced since 1985.¹ By the end of 2009, the number of internally displaced Colombians had risen to 4.9 million, on a par with that of Sudan, making it one of the two countries with the world's largest internally displaced populations.² The phenomenon is closely connected with the internal conflict afflicting the country during the last five decades, as armed groups seek to control territory to strategic advantage. In recent years populations have increasingly been displaced from areas rich in natural resources, which are seized for legal or illegal exploitation (e.g. African palm in Chocó or coca plants in the south of Colombia)³. According to the Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP), paramilitaries have been displacing Afro-Colombian communities in the Lower Atrato area of Chocó and giving the land to companies for African palm plantations for the production of palm oil. Whatever the reason for displacement, the original inhabitants are condemned to the impoverished, insecure existence of the internally displaced.⁴

The populations most affected by displacement are members of Afro-Colombian or indigenous communities. Many settle in large cities, where they struggle to find employment and the basic necessities of a dignified life. Others have resisted, returning to their

traditional lands to form peace communities or humanitarian zones where they can support one another and maintain their identities and connection with the land. Most of PBI's work with displaced populations is in Colombia, where we accompany three such communities directly (two in the Cacarica river basin, Chocó, and one in San José de Apartadó, Urabá), as well as others indirectly accompanied through organisations like the Inter-Church Commission for Justice and Peace. However, forced displacement is also an issue in other countries where PBI works, particularly in the context of major development projects such as mining and oil extraction on land traditionally occupied by indigenous communities (see page 12).

Accompanied organisations and communities

Colombia: Communities for Self Determination, Life and Dignity (CAVIDA); Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, Urabá; The Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP), in its work in support of communities in Curvaradó and Jiguamiandó.

Communities for Self Determination, Life and Dignity of Cacarica (CAVIDA), Chocó, Colombia

The communities Nueva Esperanza ('New Hope') and Nueva Vida ('New Life') nestle in the Cacarica

// International support has helped us to build up our strength in resisting as we live on our land. If we hadn't had this support we would either have been displaced again or dead. //

CAVIDA community member

river basin, a five-hour boat ride to the nearest town. They are home to 150 families who were forcibly displaced during "Operation Genesis" of the army's 17th Brigade, which sought to reclaim control of the area from the FARC. This 1997 military operation, which was characterised by forced disappearances and massacres by paramilitary groups, forced approximately 3,600 people to flee the area.

The following year, 1,500 of those founded CAVIDA, and in 2000-2001, they began to return to Cacarica with the agreement of the Andrés Pastrana government. PBI volunteers accompanied their return. The returnees found that much of the pristine rainforest that had covered the region had been cut down, with African palm plantations in their place. CAVIDA's members believe this was the real reason for their displacement: "The government was interested in our lands for investments," said one community member.

Almost immediately after their return, the two settlements were attacked. In response, the people established their status as humanitarian zones; peaceful enclaves, where weapons are not permitted, and the people will not assist or share information with armed groups.

Eight years later, the communities continue to live within the humanitarian zones, despite only using a fraction of their constitutionally recognised ancestral lands. Before the displacement they had lived as individual subsistence farming households. Now, they work together, farming, schooling the young, and developing their community. As one community member said: "We have to work together. We have to seek strategies to live in the midst of war. We have to take on for ourselves this civil struggle."

¹ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Colombia: New displacement continues, response still ineffective. <http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CE90B/%28httpCountries%29/CB6FF99A94F70AED802570A7004CEC41?OpenDocument>

² Ibid.

³ Peace Brigades International Colombia Project, Forced displacement in Colombia: A crime and a humanitarian tragedy, p.4

⁴ Ibid.

Life, work and volunteering with PBI

Michael Tamblyn, who holds both British and Australian citizenship, joined PBI Mexico as a field volunteer in 2007. He is now in-country coordinator for the PBI Mexico project.

I have travelled a long way from the blood-red sands and rocky outcrops of the central desert regions of Australia in the past six years. Working there as a lawyer for the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement I witnessed forgotten indigenous desert communities struggle to enjoy fundamental rights such as education, access to justice and basic health services. Inspired to keep working for justice, I embarked on a journey that has taken me around the world, from isolated indigenous communities in southern Mexico to the House of Lords in London. A journey in large part thanks to and because of Peace Brigades International.

As a PBI volunteer in Guerrero I was privileged enough to work side by side with Mexican human rights defenders who, despite death threats, constant surveillance, attacks, and in some tragic cases, the assassination of their colleagues, work relentlessly in their struggle for justice. Inspirational people who have taught me that the battle for justice should not be confined to the local courtroom. They have shown me that justice must be demanded on all fronts: from the mud-bricked halls of isolated indigenous communities to the sky-scraping offices of federal authorities; from protests on the streets to internet activism; from the local prosecutors office to the Inter-American Court for Human Rights in Costa Rica, from town halls to the marble-floored offices of senators on Capitol Hill in Washington DC. As a member of PBI I have stood alongside these human

rights defenders as they carry out their struggle for justice, and by doing so, reminded their opponents that the international community is watching and will not permit their rights to be violated.

Thanks to PBI I have come to know many extraordinary Mexicans. I have been touched and inspired by their relentless struggle to defend and promote human rights, their resilience in the face of repression and their steadfast decision to never give up.

After my year as an accompaniment volunteer in Guerrero I moved to the PBI Mexico City office where I currently work as the project's in-country coordinator. My job description has changed as I now focus almost entirely on

advocacy and lobbying, but there has been no change in my belief in the importance of the work of PBI.

Last year, Tita Radilla and I were invited by PBI UK to conduct high-level meetings with lords, MPs, lawyers and judges in London. Over many years PBI UK and other PBI Country Groups have worked incredibly hard to develop a broad network of diverse individuals and organisations around the world who are prepared to do everything in their power to support the struggle of people like Tita. There in London, Tita and I were a long way from the tropical town of Atoyac, theatre of the so-called Mexican 'Dirty War' of the 70s, where in 2007 I would regularly accompany Tita in her daily struggle for justice.



Michael Tamblyn with indigenous woman Valentina Rosendo Cantú, at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights where her case was heard in May 2010 (see 2010 update box on p10)

Photo: 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.

- **Non-violence** - a clear understanding of and commitment to nonviolence
- **Language skills** - fluent Spanish is essential for working in Mexico, Guatemala and Colombia. The Indonesia and Nepal teams use English but volunteers are required to learn the local language before joining the team
- **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

// I'd recommend PBI 110%. It can be hard, intense, exhausting, frustrating – but it can also be one of the most amazing experiences of your life. //

Former PBI Colombia volunteer¹

Tita's father Rosendo Radilla was forcibly disappeared at a military checkpoint in Atoyac in 1974. PBI has accompanied Tita for close to a decade, as she has bravely sought to achieve justice, not only for her father but also for the other 1,200 individuals forcibly disappeared during the Dirty War. Thanks largely to groups like PBI UK, Tita's case has become one of international interest and importance. Shortly after our speaking tour in London, Tita's persistence was rewarded by a favourable judgement from the Inter-American Court, holding the Mexican government responsible for a series of human rights violations related to her father's disappearance. It is expected that that this binding judgement will serve to ensure that the Mexican state commits to discovering the whereabouts of Rosendo Radilla and punishing those responsible for his disappearance 36 years ago.

Victories like the Radilla judgement help to remind me that, despite the obstacles, justice is a right that must never be relinquished. If there is one thing that PBI has taught me since I left the Pitjantjatjara Lands in the Australian desert it is that while the struggle for justice is the responsibility of each and every one of us, it is most effective when shared by many.

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.

Attending the orientation weekend

In the UK, PBI organises 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

PBI volunteer Daniel Slee, from Exmouth, shares some first impressions of work in the field

Medellín is situated in a basin on the Cordillera Central (Colombia's central mountain range, a branch of the Andes). With hills on all sides, travellers arriving by short-haul plane get some amazing views as it makes its curved approach to land. The city is Colombia's second largest, famous for its drug cartel in the era of Pablo Escobar, and many consider it a testing ground for government policies before they are implemented nationally. It's an interesting place to be.

My first week here was Semana Santa (Easter) and much of the town was on holiday, so there was plenty of time for workshops and learning the ropes of day-to-day life in the PBI Medellín team. By my third week I had been on my first accompaniment and participated in a meeting with the chief of police for the whole province of Antioquia. My role was limited in these early activities but I was gradually taking on responsibilities and feeling more like part of the team.

My first accompaniment was with a lawyer who is working on 65 cases involving extrajudicial executions and who has requested that the Office of the Attorney General of

the potential volunteers, PBI UK advises on the suitability of candidates to attend a regional training.

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 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.



Daniel Slee in Medellín

Photo: PBI

Colombia investigate alleged human rights abuses committed by the former commanders of the Colombian National Army and the Medellín Metropolitan Police. In February this year, he was told that someone had paid hit men to kill him. But instead of fleeing the country or finding a different job, this courageous and dedicated man decides to persist with his work, with protective accompaniment from PBI. I'm meeting real-life heroes like this on a daily basis – it's one of the reasons I'm here.

¹ <http://www.volunteerlogue.com/perspectives/interview-with-a-returned-peace-brigades-international-volunteer-colombia.html>

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 almost 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

Financial summary

(Charity registration number 1101016, Company registration number 3912587)
Summary statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2009

	2009	2008
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Grants receivable from trusts and companies	250,482	233,757
Human Rights Defenders' Fund	12,435	48,818
Donations and other income	67,466	28,758
	330,383	311,333
Resources expended		
Charitable activities	(302,353)	(218,373)
Cost of generating funds	(36,926)	(34,264)
Governance costs	(11,527)	(10,101)
	(350,806)	(262,738)
Net incoming resources for year	(20,423)	48,595
Funds brought forward	103,433	54,838
Funds carried forward	83,011	103,433
Summary balance sheet as at 31st December 2009		
	2009	2008
	£	£
Fixed assets	0	0
Current assets	98,329	123,488
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(15,319)	(20,055)
Net current assets	83,011	103,433
Total assets less liabilities	83,011	103,433
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	0	0
Total net assets	83,011	103,433
Unrestricted funds	83,011	68,433
Restricted funds (HRD fund)	0	35,000
Total funds	83,011	103,433

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 8 June 2010 and a copy is to be 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

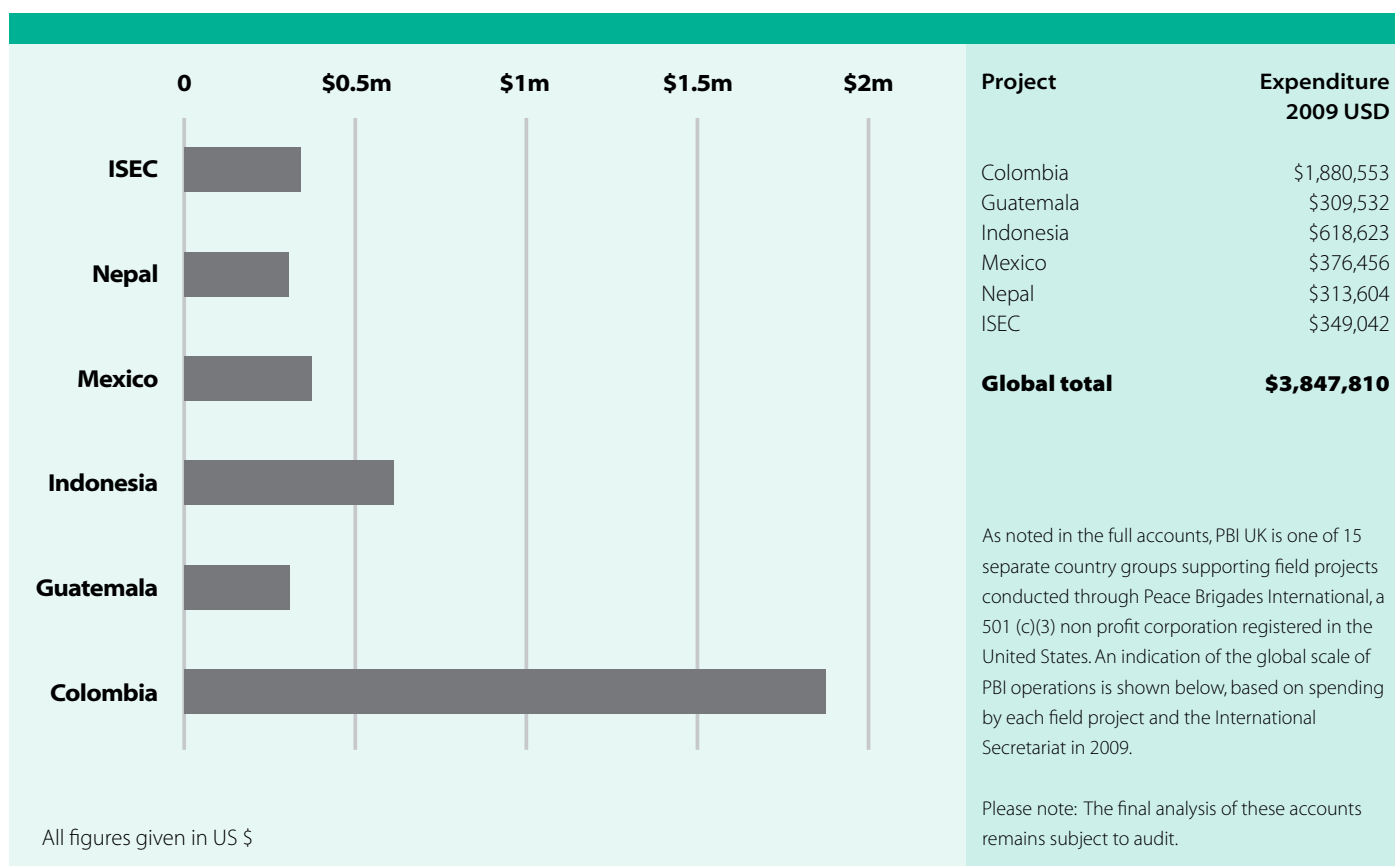
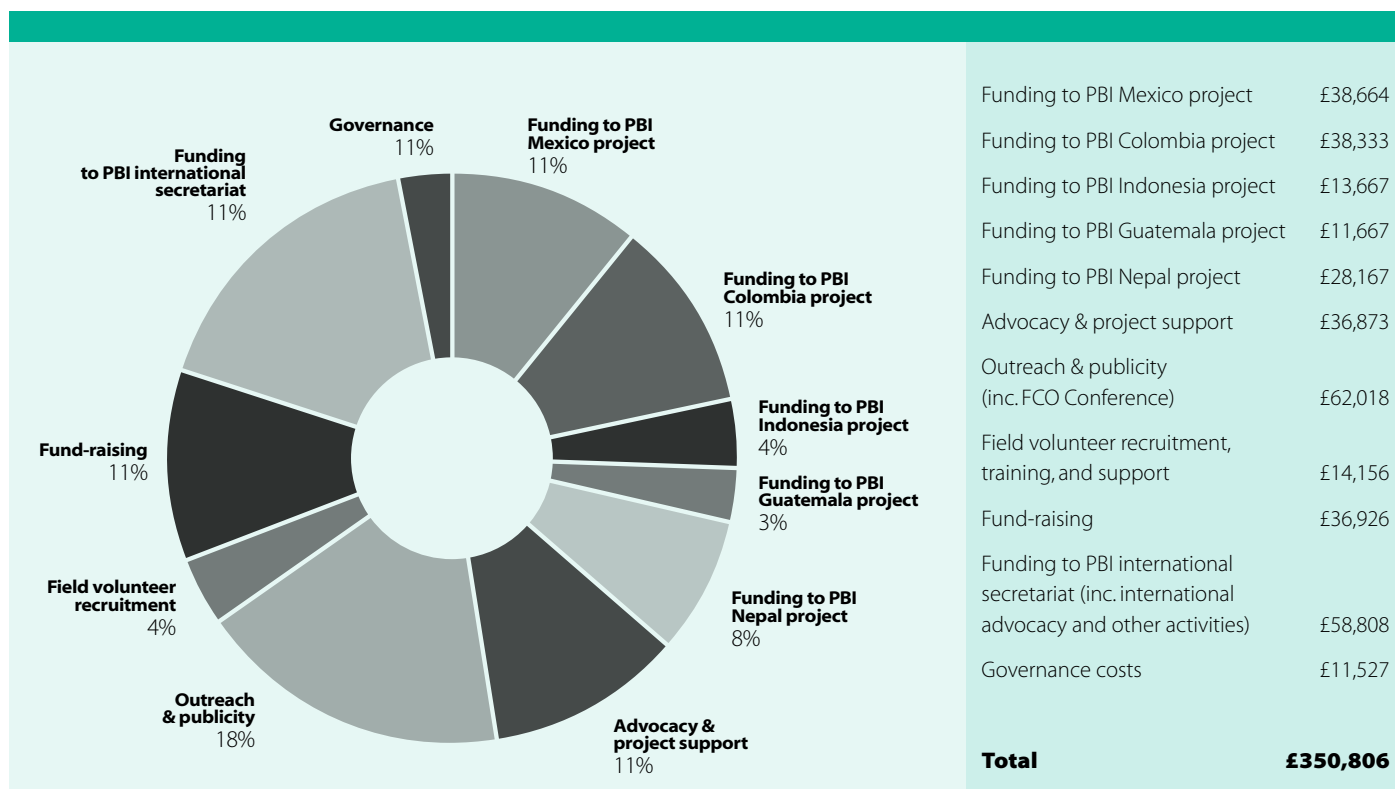
The summary accounts are the responsibility of the Trustees. It is our responsibility to report to you on their consistency with the full accounts. Our report on the full accounts of Peace Brigades International United Kingdom Section includes information on the responsibilities of the Trustees and the 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 2009.

**Critchleys Accountants LLP,
Chartered Accountants,
Statutory Auditor Registered Auditors
11 June 2010**

How PBI UK funds were spent in 2009





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 many hundreds of unpaid hours they contribute each year are 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

Kathleen Armstrong
Sarah Curtis
Tiffany Garside
Saima Hirji
Joanne Holden
Jill Powis
Rebekah Wilson

Patrons

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

Lawyers Advisory Committee

Michael Brindle
Sir Henry Brooke
Saimo Chahal
Henrietta Hill
Peter Roth QC
Ralph Wilde

Staff

Susi Bascon
(full time director)
Pam Feldman
(part time fundraiser)
Emma Marshall
(part time outreach and communications worker)
Roy Taylor
(part time finance worker)
Louise Winstanley
(part time advocacy worker)

PBI UK field volunteers 2009

Colombia Project

Rob Hawke

Guatemala Project

Jacqueline Benfield
Marina Comandulli
Samuel Jones
Chris Moye

Indonesia Project

Esther Cann
Chris Chaplin
Sophie Crocker
Emma Douglas
Belinda Goodman
Nico Prins

Mexico Project

Caroline Hay
Ben Leather

Nepal Project

Sophie Buxton
Jessica Johnston
Iona Liddell

Office volunteers

Alexandra Aisbitt
Christian Anton
Attilio Altieri
Jacqueline Benfield
Beatrice Blackett
Marika Blunck
Stuart Bowman
Daniel Carey
Ori Chandler
Ruth Cherrington
Camille Coleman
Lautaro Coloma
Deryn Collins
Diana Currie
Nikkie Evans

Kinisha Forbes
Helen Forsberg
Charlotte Gill
Franziska Grobke
Amy Hailwood
Rob Hawke
Clare Hill
Sarah Hoad
Terezie Holmerova
Peter Hunt
Stefan Hyman
Haia Ironside
Adam Jessup
Marcel Kellner
Athanasia Kiousi
Billy Kyte
Iona Liddell
Valeria Luna
Cathy McFadden
Liam Mahony
Nathalie Mercier
Diana Mota
Anna Musgrave
Sandra Nistri
Simona Onidi
Eleanor Openshaw
Jeska Rees
Andreas Riemann
Laura Richardson
Elena Rosini
James Savage
Joseph Shawyer
Nicola Scott
Chris Snow
Stella Sebastian
Sasha Scott
Shay Sigafoos
Louise Strange
Heather Thomas
Sarah Topa
Mark Williams
Ann Wright