



# PBI UK Annual Review 2011



Protecting human rights defenders at risk since 1981

## Field projects



### Colombia

Thirty-eight international volunteers accompany 209 defenders working on a range of issues from natural resource protection to forced disappearances. PBI also supports peace building by running workshops on self-protection which offer tools for security as well as emotional care for social organisations and their members. Volunteers are based in Bogotá, Barrancabermeja, Urabá and Cali.



### Guatemala

Ten international volunteers accompany 11 human rights organisations and a human rights lawyer (around 59 human rights defenders), working on the environment and land rights, impunity and the negative impacts of globalisation. Volunteers are based in Guatemala City and travel to other areas of the country according to the location and movements of accompanied defenders. In order to increase their support to human rights defenders in remote rural areas, they also have a semi-permanent presence in the department of Quiché.



### Mexico

Eleven international volunteers accompany 65 defenders working on impunity, upholding indigenous rights and environmental protection. In 2011, volunteers were based in Mexico City, Guerrero and Oaxaca. In 2012, the project is carrying out exploration in other states, with the aim of placing a new team in a region where threatened human rights defenders lack support from the international community.



### Nepal

Ten international volunteers accompany 39 defenders working on women's rights, impunity and promoting the rule of law. Volunteers are based in Kathmandu and Gulariya, in the mid-west of the lowland Terai region, and travel to many remote areas in Nepal according to need. They work with isolated defenders and provide a range of support in addition to accompaniment, including training, field consultations and roundtable events.



### COVER PHOTO

Women participate in a performance commemorating victims of forced disappearance in Colombia  
Photo: Bianca Bauer/PBI

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

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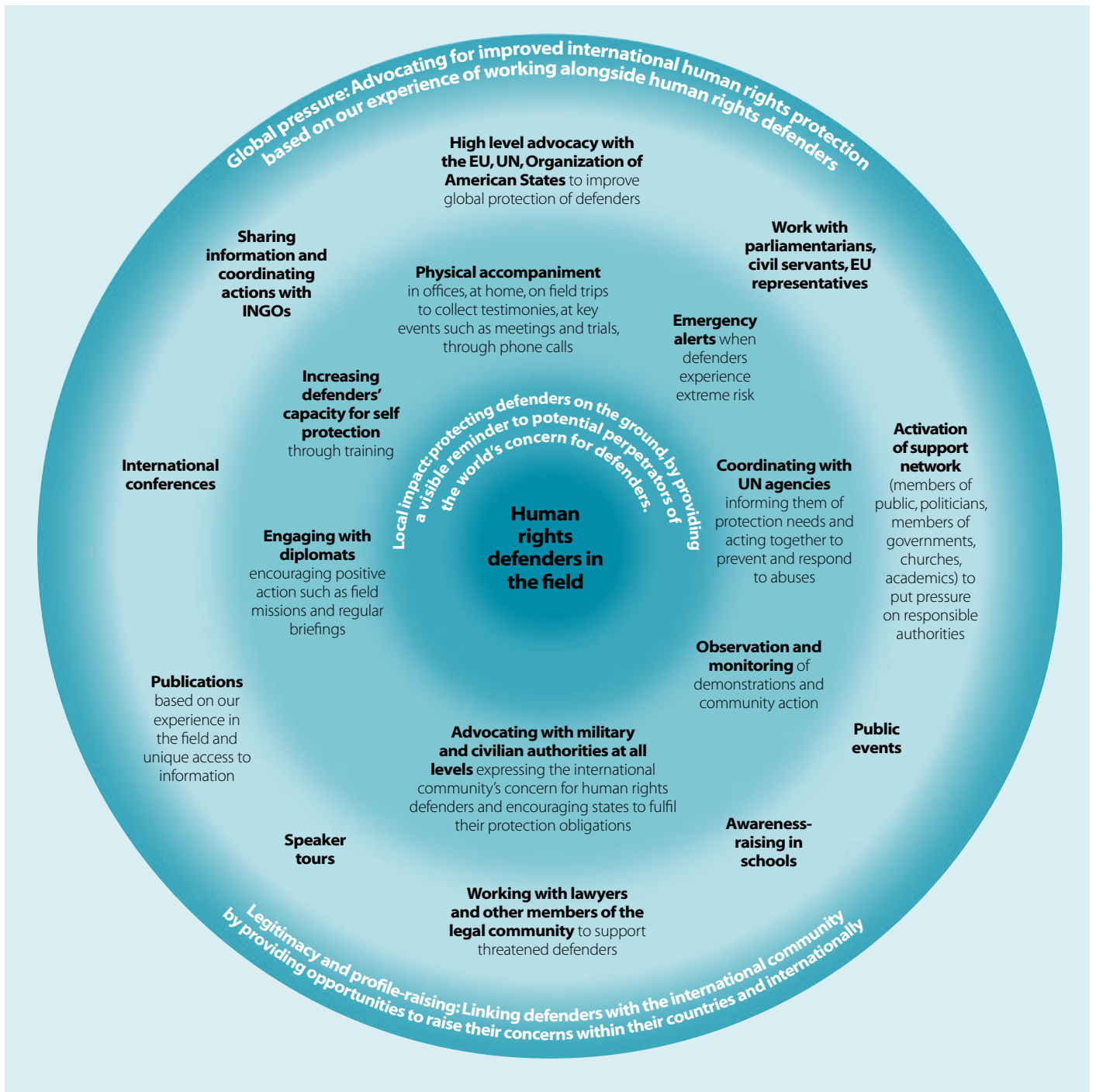
# What we do

**H**uman 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

**W**elcome to the 2011 annual review of the UK Section of Peace Brigades International.

2011 was PBI's 30th year, and one in which PBI UK's work continued to grow and develop. As ever, our achievements would not have been possible without the hard work and support of volunteers and benefactors – including our funders, patrons and the members of our Lawyers Advisory Committee. We would like to thank all those who have contributed to PBI UK's work in 2011 and throughout our history, making special mention of Sir Henry Brooke CMG, whose support as chairman of the Lawyers Advisory Committee, patron and friend continues to be invaluable to us.

In 2011, in addition to supporting the work of PBI's field teams in Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Nepal through fundraising, publicity and advocacy, PBI UK continued to make significant contributions to international debate around protection of human rights defenders. We connected British lawyers to threatened lawyers in the field, brought the work of PBI to new audiences and grew our influential political support network. Being ready to act in case of heightened threat, this network is one of the key elements that guarantee the effectiveness of PBI's protective accompaniment.

In 2011, PBI UK hosted speaking tours of eleven threatened human rights defenders who PBI accompanies in Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala and Nepal. Through meetings with British parliamentarians, lawyers, civil servants and social organisations, as well as public events, these defenders were able to build relationships, gain support and raise awareness of the challenges they face – all of which further contribute to their protection. These visits also provided a valuable opportunity for PBI's supporters to meet some of the people they are helping us to protect, and hear their stories first-hand.

An important aspect of our work in the UK is to contribute to debate around issues facing human rights defenders, particularly in relation to their protection. To this end, PBI UK organised two conferences in 2011 – one exploring the effectiveness of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in Mexico, and another on the challenges faced by human rights defenders working



Photo: Emma Marshall/PBI

**Santiago Aguirre (Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre) and Valentina Rosendo Cantú, in London for PBI's conference Mexico and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights**

on environmental and land rights whose work places them in conflict with business interests. These were organised around speaking tours, so that the voices of threatened defenders themselves could be a prominent part of the debate.

We were pleased that visiting defenders were also able to attend our 30th Anniversary Gala, in which accomplished actors and musicians paid moving tribute to the work of PBI and the stories of those we protect.

In its first year, the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk grew to more than 100 members – from legal bodies and associations to firms, chambers and individual judges and lawyers. Whether contributing time, knowledge, skills, money or endorsement, their input has had a great impact on our work of protecting

threatened lawyers, as well as other defenders working on legal issues.

In 2011, PBI UK continued to recruit and train the field volunteers who carry out the work of physical accompaniment to threatened human rights defenders in Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Nepal. At an orientation weekend held in June, volunteers who had recently returned from the field introduced prospective volunteers to the philosophy and methods of international protective accompaniment.

Another 35 volunteers gave their time to support our work in the UK, including in the areas of administration, advocacy, communications, recruitment and training. It is down to the passion, dedication and commitment of our volunteers and staff, in the field and at home, that PBI is able to achieve so much despite the organisation's relatively small size.

We will continue to build on these achievements in 2012-2013. Sadly, the need to protect threatened human rights defenders remains as pressing as ever, and we remain deeply indebted to all of the donors, supporters and volunteers who enable us to do this work.

**// Thank you for your accompaniment and solidarity, it has helped us continue in our struggle for justice. //**

**VALENTINA ROSENDO CANTÚ  
and INÉS FERNÁNDEZ ORTEGA**

# PBI UK: Achievements in 2011

**P**BI UK plays a significant role in PBI's protection of threatened human rights defenders (HRDs) around the world. Whether finding, 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 the broader conversation about human rights and their protection worldwide.

## Raising PBI's profile

An important aspect of PBI's accompaniment of human rights defenders in the field is to raise awareness of their situation at the local and international level. Increasing their visibility in this way lends credibility to their work, and the glare of publicity helps to deter potential attacks. Increasing PBI's own profile helps to amplify the impact of this work.

PBI UK began the year with the broadcast in January of our BBC Radio 4 Appeal. Presented by Oscar-winning actress and PBI patron Julie Christie, the appeal reached a global audience and raised more than £6,000.

Our work was featured in numerous publications during 2011 – national, specialist and online. These included pieces in the *Guardian* and *Daily Telegraph*, as well as the *Law Gazette*, *The Firm Magazine* (of the Scottish Law Society), *Independent Catholic News* and the website *Latino Life UK*.

We issued two e-newsletters to more

than 600 subscribers,<sup>1</sup> and produced a further two newsletters for members of the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk (see page 13).

Our events (see below) were advertised in the *New Statesman*, the *New Internationalist* newsletter and the newsletter and website of Open Democracy, which also featured us in its 'recommended events' section.

PBI UK's website continued to attract around 300 visitors a week, while our social media presence grew significantly in 2011 – our combined followers on Twitter and Facebook<sup>2</sup> more than tripled, from around 200 to more than 600. Through sharing focussed news on human rights issues and the situation in the countries and regions where we work, as well as news about our own work and that of the human rights defenders we accompany, PBI UK has become a valued social media 'influencer' in the area of human rights, with a potential reach of up to 10,000 people.<sup>3</sup>

Our website was also strengthened with the introduction of thematic navigation among other updates, and a new section – In Their Own Words – in which we present interviews with human rights defenders talking about their experiences.

## Recruitment and volunteer support

PBI UK continued to be active in the recruitment and training of field volunteers. We held one orientation weekend, attended by 15 potential volunteers. In 2011, there were eight volunteers in the field who had been through PBI UK's

orientation process.

PBI UK also supported two returned volunteers during the sometimes challenging resettlement process, helping ensure that their experiences and knowledge could contribute to PBI UK's advocacy and publicity work in Britain. They were able to get involved in the organisation's work and build on their experiences in the field by way of becoming trainers at our orientation weekend, speaking at public engagements and writing articles.

## Events

PBI UK organised two conferences – 'Mexico and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights' and 'A Dangerous Business: The human cost of advocating against environmental degradation and land rights violations'<sup>4</sup> – and a 30th anniversary fundraising gala, as well as several smaller public events organised around the visits of accompanied HRDs.

Following the extremely successful 30th Anniversary Gala (which raised more than £10,000), the actors Sam West and Juliet Stevenson agreed to join PBI UK as patrons.

PBI was selected by Legal Week to be the nominated charity for its annual British Legal awards event in December. A charity auction was held on the night, raising more than £4,000 for PBI's work with threatened lawyers and human rights defenders working on legal cases.

## Advocacy

PBI's presence on the ground is effective because it is backed by an international support network, developed and maintained by the 16 country groups, of which PBI UK is one. As part of this work, we meet regularly with Foreign and Commonwealth Office, EU and UN officials. In the event of threats or attacks, these contacts can be mobilised to influence local governments to take immediate action to deter further violence.

During 2011, PBI UK organised advocacy tours by eleven visiting human rights defenders, who were able to meet with and put their concerns directly to many members of this support network. [See page 7 for more information on this area of PBI UK's work.]



Photo: Emma Marshall/PBI

<sup>1</sup> To receive our eNewsletter, please sign up via the link on PBI UK's home page – [www.peacebrigades.org.uk](http://www.peacebrigades.org.uk)

<sup>2</sup> Follow us on Twitter – @pbiuk  
Like us on facebook – [www.facebook.com/pbiuk](http://www.facebook.com/pbiuk)

<sup>3</sup> Figure obtained through <http://tweetreach.com>

<sup>4</sup> See page 10

# Building political networks

**E**stablishing ongoing dialogue and relationships with political decision-makers is a key element of PBI UK's support for human rights defenders. Through our international support network, PBI can call upon influential individuals and groups in times of emergency or high risk to the people we accompany.

PBI UK's support network consists of more than 80 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.

The network was activated eight times during 2011 in response to heightened levels of threat to human rights defenders.

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

## Bringing together defenders and decision-makers

PBI UK invites representatives of accompanied organisations to the UK, facilitating meetings with politicians, diplomats, academics, lawyers and activists with whom they can highlight their concerns, and discuss protection mechanisms and needs for capacity building and various forms of legal support.

### PBI's support network in action – José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective, Colombia

Over five days in July 1997, Colombian paramilitaries<sup>1</sup> murdered up to 49 residents of the municipality of Mapiripán. They disposed of the bodies, making it impossible to fully identify or count the victims.

The internationally recognised and respected José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR) represented many of the victims and relatives seeking justice and reparations.

In October 2011, magistrates ordered



Rupert Knox (Amnesty International), Santiago Aguirre (Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre), Baroness Hooper, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Valentina Rosendo Cantú, Susi Bascon (PBI)

Human rights defenders visiting in 2011 were: Santiago Aguirre and Valentina Rosendo Cantú (Mexico), Ram Kumar Bhandari (Nepal), Eduardo Carreño (Colombia), Manika Jha (Nepal), Jorge Molano (Colombia), Father Wilfrido Mayrén Peláez (Father Uvi – Mexico), Edgar Pérez (Guatemala), Reinaldo Villalba (Colombia).

Public events around these visits, including film screenings, talks and meetings, took place at the House of Commons, universities and other venues in London, Edinburgh and Warwick.

## Contributing to international debate

PBI UK is considered a reliable source of information on the situation of human rights defenders and meets regularly with officials of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and with embassy staff departing for or returning from the countries where PBI has its projects.

In 2011, we also met with the Minister for

Latin America Jeremy Browne and the Attorney General Dominic Grieve. We participated in a roundtable on business and human rights in Colombia at the FCO, and in government roundtables on the UN Human Rights Council.

PBI UK maintained links with the All Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) on Human Rights and on Mexico and Nepal, and began working with the APPG on International Corporate Responsibility: Business, Human Rights and the Environment. We made an advocacy submission to the UN Working Group on Human Rights and Transnational Corporations, also contributing to reports on women human rights defenders and land rights by ABColombia (of which PBI UK is an observer member).

Our two conferences (see page 6 – Events) drew expert and high-profile speakers from the United Nations, NGOs, business, government, academia and the legal field.

an investigation into the possible existence of false victims after one victim revealed that the disappearance of her two sons and the death of her husband were not related to the case.

The media quickly reported statements by high-level officials, including President Juan Manuel Santos, suggesting that CCAJAR and other victims' organisations had acted in bad faith.

Concerned about the impact of these statements on CCAJAR's security, PBI activated our support network, providing detailed information to key audiences, including diplomatic staff, parliamentarians and authorities. In the UK, support network members

voiced their concerns to the FCO and the Minister for Latin America.

No legal action has been taken against CCAJAR, but officials have not retracted their defamatory statements. In its *2011 Annual Report*, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights expressed concern about the impact of such statements on the legitimate work of human rights defenders.

<sup>1</sup> The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights found that the perpetrators had the acquiescence of the VII Brigade of the Colombian Army – Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, Report No. 34/01, 22 February 2001

<sup>2</sup> Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, *2011 Annual Report*, Chapter IV, par.119. Available at: <http://www.oas.org/en/iachr/docs/annual/2011/TOC.asp>

# Fundraising

**P**BI UK is enormously grateful for the support of individual supporters as well as charitable trusts and foundations in 2011. Our approaches to fundraising this year included grant writing, radio appeals, presentations at high profile events and PBI's 30th Anniversary Gala. Together with publicity, media work and our online presence, these activities helped raise a total income of £274,990. Our annual income decreased slightly in 2011, although we were successful in widening our supporter base and diversifying our income sources.

Most of PBI UK's income in 2011 came from generous grants made by trusts and foundations that have supported us over many years, including the Sigrid Rausing Trust, Tinsley Foundation and the Bromley Trust. Funding from the Sigrid Rausing Trust has helped PBI provide lifesaving protection to gravely threatened human rights defenders (HRDs), such as environmental and land rights defenders, women human rights defenders and HRDs in particular geographic areas, while also strengthening our global advocacy impact. The Tinsley Foundation and the Bromley Trust have contributed toward our core activities in the UK, including advocacy, fundraising and outreach, which enable our work of protecting threatened human rights defenders around the world.

## Some of our achievements in 2011:

■ The Alliance for Lawyers at Risk hosted a 30th Anniversary Gala at Middle Temple on 21 November. The evening raised over £10,000 in ticket sales and donations. A number of legal firms and individuals sponsored the event including Sir Henry Brooke, Clifford Chance, Bindmans, Linklaters, No5 Chambers, Hansen Palomares Solicitors, Caravana de Abogados, The City Law School at City University London, Simmons & Simmons, and John and Taline Halpern.

■ A BBC Radio 4 Appeal, aired in early February, was presented by our patron Julie Christie, raising over £6,000.

■ PBI UK pitched a new project aimed at increasing the protection of women human rights defenders to The Funding Network (TFN) at an evening fundraising event held at the House of Lords on 10 March. We are extremely grateful to our patron Lord Joel Joffe for sponsoring the project and to TFN, which helped us raise over £8,000 for this much



**Jo Wickens and Pam Feldman of PBI and former volunteer Nikki Evans at The Funding Network (TFN) funding event at the House of Lords**

needed project on the evening.

■ PBI UK raised over £19,000 for the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk through grants provided by legal trusts, firms and chambers, and from generous individuals including those who attended the Legal Week awards ceremony in December.

■ PBI UK raised over £3,700 for the Human Rights Defenders at Risk Fund from trusts and foundations and smaller individual donations.

## Fundraising with support from the UK legal sector

PBI has continued to raise our profile within the legal sector with the support of our Lawyers Advisory Committee. The Committee helped PBI to organise events with prominent members of the legal sector and continued to publicise our

work within the legal sector. Its members have helped PBI UK attract more than 100 barristers, solicitors, legal firms and chambers to join the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk network. We have received funding for advocacy and awareness-raising activities from legal firms and chambers, as well as the Law Society Charity.

Legal Week selected PBI UK as its nominated charity for the British Legal Awards 2011 on 1 December, due to the protection PBI offers to lawyers overseas who are threatened as a result of their work. Because of this, we gained the support of 50 new members of the legal community, and an auction of donated items raised over £4,000 on the night for the protection of lawyers and other human rights defenders at risk.

### 2011 donors

The Sigrid Rausing Trust  
The Law Society Charity  
The Funding Network (TFN)  
Philamonic Trust  
BBC Radio 4 Appeal  
The Tory Family Foundation  
Garden Court Chambers Limited  
The Eva Reckitt Trust Fund  
Carter-Ruck Solicitors  
The Tinsley Foundation  
Matrix Chambers  
W.F. Southall Trust

Christian Aid  
Legal Week Award  
The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust  
Human Rights Consortium, School of Advanced Study  
The Bromley Trust  
The AB Charitable Trust  
The Rowan Charitable Trust  
AW.60 Charitable Trust  
The Marmot Charitable Trust

Bryan Lancaster's Trust  
John and Taline Halpern  
Sir Henry Brooke  
Clifford Chance  
Bindmans  
No5 Chambers  
Hansen Palomares Solicitors  
Caravana de Abogados  
The City Law School at City University London  
Linklaters  
Simmons & Simmons  
Lord Lester  
Lord Brown



# 30 years of PBI

In 2011 across Europe, North America, Latin America and Asia, PBI celebrated 30 years of protecting threatened human rights defenders. Several PBI country groups and projects organised events, aiming to contribute to the global debate on human rights and peace by amplifying the voices of the brave people we work with.

With the help of our Lawyers Advisory Committee and the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk, PBI UK put on a star-studded 30th Anniversary Gala. The event raised funds to continue our work protecting threatened human rights defenders and lawyers in the field, and also brought their voices to audiences in a new way.

## 30th Anniversary Gala

On 21 November, a 300-strong audience crowded into Middle Temple Hall for PBI's 30th Anniversary Gala, hosted by the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk.

The actors Simon Russell Beale, Jack Fortune, Juliet Stevenson, Stephanie Street, Zoë Wanamaker and Samuel West performed powerful stories of struggle, loss, setback and triumph – dramatisations scripted from interviews with human rights defenders and PBI volunteers, and directed by Ice & Fire.

The beautiful and haunting songs of musicians Helen Chadwick, Joanna Foster, Barbara Gellhorn and Osnat Schmool accompanied the stories.

After the performances, PBI presented lifetime achievement awards to Mexican human rights defender Tita Radilla, and to the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR) from Colombia, as well as to former PBI volunteer Nikki Evans on behalf of all past and present PBI field volunteers.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our sponsors and supporters, and the artists who all performed for free, the night raised over £10,000 towards PBI's work protecting threatened human rights defenders and lawyers.



Simon Russell Beale, Samuel West, Juliet Stevenson, Zoë Wanamaker and Jack Fortune take part in the gala performance

Photo: Emma Marshall/PBI



Sir Peter Roth congratulates Tita Radilla (centre) on her lifetime achievement award. Tita is accompanied by her lawyer, Juan Carlos Gutiérrez, and interpreter Valeria Luna

Photo: Emma Marshall/PBI

**“ It is a testimony to their work that, since the involvement of PBI, not one of CCAJAR’s lawyers has fallen victim to any physical attack. ”**

**Lawyer BRIDGET PETHERBRIDGE, accepting a lifetime achievement award on behalf of the lawyers of the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR)**

**“ I think all PBI volunteers agree about the inspiration that these human rights defenders give us – it feeds our souls, their courage and strength. So this award is in honour of that. ”**

**NIKKI EVANS, accepting her award on behalf of PBI volunteers past and present**

**“ I want to thank you once again, PBI, for the accompaniment that has helped us carry out our work in a secure environment. [...] Without PBI there is no doubt we wouldn't have achieved everything we have achieved. ”**

**TITA RADILLA, accepting her lifetime achievement award**

# Conference – A Dangerous Business

**H**uman rights defenders (HRDs) working on land and environmental issues face a unique set of risks. As well as standing up against extremely powerful interest groups, they work in isolated rural areas, often with poor communications and limited access to traditional protection mechanisms and support networks.

Despite the existence of international standards, guidelines and legislative codes meant to protect threatened individuals and communities, human rights violations and environmental degradation are rife, particularly in the context of large-scale extractive and infrastructure projects. HRDs advocating for those affected continue to be particularly at risk.

Held at the University of London's Senate House on 31 October, this conference looked at the relationship between business and human rights, particularly the threats facing human rights defenders working on environmental issues related to large-scale development projects around the world.

The conference brought together human rights defenders from Mexico and Colombia, as well as experts from academia,

non-governmental organisations, business, government and the legal profession. James Anaya, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and Michael Mansfield QC gave keynote presentations.

In a series of panels, the speakers analysed the reasons why violations continue to occur, and what can be done to address the gaps in policy, legislation and enforcement to ensure better protection. Their recommendations are set out below.

## Preventing human rights violations

International governments should use their influence, technical capacity and resources to encourage countries of concern to achieve the greater adoption and implementation of:

- national and regional court rulings on land and environmental rights
- international human rights norms such as the International Labour Organisation's Convention 169, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and relevant UN recommendations
- judicial reform to combat impunity and increase access to justice

## Monitoring and addressing human rights violations

Amend existing laws and introduce new judicial and non-judicial mechanisms at home to hold companies based or registered in the UK accountable for human rights violations committed overseas. Some examples include:

- new legislation or the clarification of existing regulatory frameworks certifying how to sanction domiciled businesses and their employees for involvement in abuses abroad
- a commission on Business, Human Rights and the Environment to advise government and business on best practice and policy reform, while also serving as a forum to receive complaints, provide sanction and remedy, or mediate between parties
- ensure that the body which replaces the Financial Services Authority enshrines the highest environmental and human rights regulatory standards, and is provided with greater powers to sanction and expel offending companies from the London Stock Exchange<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A full report of the conference and its recommendations is available at [www.peacebrigades.org.uk/country-groups/pbi-uk/publications-and-resources](http://www.peacebrigades.org.uk/country-groups/pbi-uk/publications-and-resources)

# Environmental and land rights defenders

## People of San Juan Unite (Q'amolo Q'i San Juan) – Guatemala

Since 2006, People of San Juan Unite, an association of residents of communities in the municipality of San Juan Sacatepéquez, have been campaigning against a cement factory and quarry that threaten their land and livelihood.

The Guatemalan company Cementos Progreso has an 80% share in the project, while 20% belongs to the Swiss multinational Holcim.

In May 2007, residents carried out a community consultation on the project independently of the municipality. Although the result was a resounding 'no' vote, the work was nevertheless started.

Residents have since made numerous complaints about human rights abuses and a campaign of criminalisation against people opposed to the project.

PBI has accompanied the organisation since December 2009. In March 2011 PBI



issued an alert due to concern about ongoing violence, including armed attacks against people and property, death threats and physical attacks against local indigenous authorities and other community members.

On 30 June 2012, San Juan communities

held a march to oppose the deployment of a military brigade to the municipality. They stated: "We are united in rejecting the militarisation of our territory. We want to live in tranquility and peace, working in our own model of development."

Photo: PBI

**Father Uvi (Father Wilfrido Mayrén Paláez) – Bartolomé Carrasco Briseño Regional Human Rights Centre (Barca-DH) – Mexico**

Dismayed by the murders and violent acts that were being inflicted with impunity on Oaxaca state's largely poor, indigenous and marginalised population, Father Uvi founded the Bartolomé Carrasco Briseño Regional Human Rights Centre (Barca-DH) in 1992.

Barca-DH's mission is to promote and defend human rights in the state. Among their cases, its workers provide legal advice and training to the communities of Santa Maria Zaniza, whose livelihood of small-scale agriculture, livestock and forestry is threatened by the development of a large iron mine.

Considered one of the largest iron deposits in Latin America,<sup>1</sup> exploratory work took place in the municipality in 1998-1999. The community opposed the project after observing damage to the environment and health, including water pollution and

respiratory diseases, and the terrible conditions for workers who were hired from the community.<sup>2</sup>

The company (Altos Hornos de México S.A., a subsidiary of Grupo Acerero del Norte) threatened to call in the army to force the community to accept the mine.<sup>3</sup>

During the course of his work on this and other cases, Father Uvi has received death threats and escaped an assassination attempt. He has been smeared in the media and accused of links with illegal armed groups. PBI has accompanied him since October 2010.

Despite these threats, Father Uvi and Barca-DH have helped countless local communities improve their situations. In October 2011, Father Uvi took part in PBI's conference 'A Dangerous Business', sharing his experience and expertise at the conference and associated roundtable discussion with parliamentarians and Foreign Office representatives.

**// Without [PBI] many of us would be in prison or dead. //**  
**Father Uvi**



**Father Wilfrido Mayrén Paláez – affectionately known as Father Uvi**

<sup>1</sup> *Minería, comunidades y medio ambiente: Investigaciones sobre el impacto de la inversión canadiense en México, [Mining, communities, and the environment: Investigation on the impact of Canadian investments in Mexico]*, FUNDAR, Center for Analysis and Investigation, Mexico, July 2002, p28

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p32

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

Photo: PBI

**Berenice Celeyta – NOMADESC – Colombia**

Investigating powerful multinational corporations and supporting vulnerable communities struggling to defend their rights leaves Berenice Celeyta and her colleagues very vulnerable. They have received death threats, sensitive material has been stolen and their phones have been illegally tapped.

Berenice is a human rights advocate, forensic anthropologist and founder of NOMADESC, an organisation that provides advice and support to indigenous and Afro-Colombian groups, small-scale farmers' organisations and trade unions in resource-rich southwest Colombia, as well as monitoring and

reporting human rights violations.

On several occasions in late 2010 and early 2011, NOMADESC received death threats through text messages sent to its mobile phones. The threats named NOMADESC as well as other social organisations, human rights defenders and indigenous and artisan mining leaders in the region. In one of the messages Berenice was

named specifically as were the children of other threatened human rights defenders.<sup>4</sup>

PBI has accompanied Berenice Celeyta as an individual since 1999. In December 2011, we extended our accompaniment to the whole of NOMADESC.

**// PBI's international accompaniment is the most effective form of protection NOMADESC could hope for. //**  
**Berenice Celeyta**



**Berenice Celeyta**

<sup>4</sup> 'Nuevas amenazas a los defensores de derechos humanos en el Sur occidente', NOMADESC, December 2010. Available at <http://nomadesc.blogspot.co.uk/2010/12/nuevas-amenazas-los-defensores-de.html>

Photo: Julian Montoni

# Focus on lawyers

**L**awyers play a crucial role in securing justice for victims and challenging impunity for human rights violations – important building blocks for lasting peace. They pay a heavy price for this work. Around the world, lawyers and their families face threats, intimidation, detention, baseless prosecution and violence – just because of the work they do. In Colombia alone, six judges, 12 prosecutors and 334 lawyers were murdered between 2003 and 2009.<sup>1</sup>

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 prevailing for more recent crimes. Some are litigating in cases implicating officials at the highest level; others help rural and indigenous communities to defend their lands.

PBI supports around 100 lawyers in Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Nepal. However, the number of people who benefit from our protection is many times that, because when these lawyers can safely continue their work, they in turn help hundreds more individuals, communities and victims of human rights violations.

## Accompanied individuals and organisations

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

**Guatemala** Edgar Pérez Archila

**Mexico** Alba Cruz and the Integral Defence Committee for Human Rights 'Gobixha' (Codigo-DH); Centre for Human Rights and Legal Advice for Indigenous Peoples (Cedhapi); Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre

**Nepal** Advocacy Forum; Lawyers' Forum for Human Rights (LAFHUR)

**// I believe that PBI's presence and accompaniment in Colombia has saved many lives and prevented many attacks against human rights defenders, especially when it comes to human rights lawyers. //**

**REINALDO VILLALBA, José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR), Colombia**

## Edgar Pérez, Guatemala

Against a background of entrenched impunity and political violence, Edgar Pérez has achieved some remarkable victories. Since 1997, he has been representing families seeking justice for the thousands of victims of Guatemala's 36-year armed conflict, becoming one of Guatemala's leading human rights lawyers.

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 case, resulting in the sentencing of four former soldiers 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.

Edgar is one of the few lawyers in Guatemala prepared to take on emblematic cases that seek to hold the Guatemalan state accountable for grave human rights violations. As a result of this work, he has received death threats and bribe attempts and had the brakes of his car tampered with, among other incidents. Due to concern about his safety and that of his family, he requested protective accompaniment from PBI in 2010.

He is currently litigating in the case against former president Efraín Ríos Montt – the first ever genocide case against a former head of state to be heard in a Latin American courtroom. There is much tension around the case, with former military officers who now hold posts in the government (including President Otto

**// I want to thank you and ask you not to take your eyes off Guatemala [...] We hope the justice system can affirm if we are, in fact, strengthening a democratic state based on the rule of law. All of this work is with the end goal, that I imagine we all share: that through justice, we find peace. //**

**EDGAR PÉREZ, receiving the American Bar Association's International Human Rights Lawyer Award for 2011-2012**

Pérez Molina) publicly stating that genocide in Guatemala did not take place.<sup>2</sup>

In August 2011, we issued an emergency alert expressing our concern about the security situation of people – including Edgar – who are challenging impunity and involved in emblematic cases in Guatemala.

For his courageous and groundbreaking work, Edgar was awarded the American Bar Association's International Human Rights Lawyer Award in April 2012.

<sup>1</sup> Informe de la Relatora Especial sobre la independencia de los magistrados y abogados, Sra. Gabriela Carina Knau de Albuquerque e Silva, April 2010, A/HRC/14/26/Add.2, at para 53.

<sup>2</sup> The UN-sponsored Commission for Historical Clarification, in its report *Memory of Silence*, documented evidence that "clearly illustrated a governmental policy of genocide in Guatemala" – Press Conference by Members of Guatemalan Historical Clarification Commission, 1 March 1999. Available at: [www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/1999/19990301.guate.br.html](http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/1999/19990301.guate.br.html) (accessed 25 Sept 2012)

Edgar Pérez outside Garden Court Chambers in London



Photo PBI

# Alliance for Lawyers at Risk

To enhance the safety and capacity of threatened lawyers and other human rights defenders working on legal cases, PBI launched the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk in November 2010.

While PBI's accompaniment provides protection, encouragement and support, the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk harnesses the legal expertise of its members – and their passion for the rule of law – to help protect lawyers, build capacity and encourage the rule of law in places where it is weak.

## Member actions in the first year of the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk

Alliance members contributed in numerous ways, whether responding to specific threats to lawyers accompanied by PBI, or contributing their expertise in the form of *amicus curiae* on emblematic cases, contributing financially to PBI's protection work, or supporting us by publicly endorsing the work of PBI and the Alliance.

In May, Alliance members had a meeting with Reinaldo Villalba, of the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR), Colombia. They shared their expertise in working within the adversarial system (recently adopted in Colombia), and discussed how Colombian human rights lawyers could better engage with the International Criminal Court. The Alliance also arranged a meeting between Reinaldo and the Attorney General Dominic Grieve MP.

In September, Alliance lawyers met with Guatemalan lawyer Edgar Pérez in London to share information and explore collaboration in relation to the genocide trial of ex-general López Fuentes. The former general is accused of ordering 12 massacres, as well as executions, sexual assault, threats and persecution in 1982 and 1983.<sup>1</sup>

Also in September, a delegation of the Bar Human Rights Committee (BHRC – a founder member of the Alliance) conducted a fact-finding mission in Mexico, to follow up on the findings and recommendations of the 2010 BHRC report, *Recalling the Rule of Law*, and to consider developments in relation to the rule of law since its publication.<sup>2</sup>

In November, in response to the attacks and stigmatisation of CCAJAR (see page 7), Alliance members took several actions. These included:

- The Bar Human Rights Committee issued a public statement regarding the case and President Santos' accusations against the



Lawyer Mandira Sharma, founder of Advocacy Forum, Nepal

Photo: Emma Marshall/PBI

lawyers' collective

- Several legal bodies and practitioners (including the Law Society Human Rights Committee, Leigh Day & Co, Sir Geoffrey Bindman QC, and Michael Mansfield QC) issued an open letter to the Prime Minister to coincide with the visit to London of the Colombian president on 21-22 November<sup>3</sup>

Among other actions, the BHRC and the Solicitors' International Human Rights Group (SIHRG) wrote letters of concern to national authorities and UN bodies about specific cases of impunity and criminalisation, and the Law Society published a report on the independence of lawyers in Mexico, sending its findings on the situation in Guerrero, Oaxaca

and Chiapas to Gabriela Knaul, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers. The report described death threats, kidnappings, intimidation, telephone tapping, fabricated criminal charges, unlawful detention, physical aggression, attempted murder and defamation against lawyers, within a context of impunity in which perpetrators could act without fear of sanction.

<sup>1</sup> The trial is currently suspended after López Fuentes' lawyers argued that his poor health made him unfit to face trial. However, in May 2012 the Court for High-Risk Cases refused to throw out the charges. A revised hearing date has not been set.

<sup>2</sup> The report from the 2011 delegation will be published in Autumn 2012. *Recalling the Rule of Law* is available from: <http://www.barhumanrights.org.uk/content/bhrc-report-recalling-rule-law>

<sup>3</sup> View these documents at [www.peacebrigades.org.uk/alliance-for-lawyers-at-risk/alliance-resources](http://www.peacebrigades.org.uk/alliance-for-lawyers-at-risk/alliance-resources)

## 2012 update

The Alliance for Lawyers at Risk has grown in membership in 2012 and continues to be active. Among other actions, there are three fact-finding delegations planned for 2012-2013 – one to Colombia, to explore legal support and capacity building with indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities affected by large-scale

development projects and ways of improving use of the UN Ruggie framework in this context; one to Guatemala, to explore the issue of criminalisation of human rights defenders; and a third one to Nepal, to look at gaps in local legislation relating to international rights standards, issues around torture of women in prisons and the security and protection of lawyers in Nepal.

# Human rights defenders challenging impunity

Impunity happens in the absence of the rule of law. The rule of law ensures that all people, organisations and the state itself are equally accountable to laws that are fairly applied and enforced, and there is equal access to justice when rights are violated.

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.

Many of the human rights defenders PBI accompanies 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.

Defenders whose work specifically challenges impunity and promotes the rule of law are often subject to aggressive threats and reprisals from those who benefit most from the status quo.

A large proportion of the human rights defenders PBI protects are challenging impunity in some way.

## Accompanied individuals and organisations

**Colombia** Association for Alternative Social Advancement (MINGA); Association of the Families of the Detained Disappeared

“ Since we have had [PBI’s] accompaniment, the threats have diminished. ”

ALBA CRUZ

(ASFADDES); Freedom Legal Corporation (CJL); Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP); Manuel Cepeda Foundation; National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE); Regional Corporation for the Defence of Human Rights (CREDHOS)

**Guatemala** Edgar Pérez Archila; Human Rights Defenders Protection Unit (UDEFEQUA); National Coordination of Widows of Guatemala (CONAVIGUA); The National Police Historical Archives Project (AHPN)

**Mexico** ‘Bartolome Carrasco Briseño’ Regional Centre for Human Rights (Barca-DH); Centre for Human Rights and Legal Advice for Indigenous Peoples (Cedhapi); Cerezo Committee; Integral Defence Committee for Human Rights ‘Gobixha’ (Codigo-DH); Organisation of the Indigenous Me’Phaa People (OPIM); Tita Radilla and the Mexican Association of Relatives of the Detained-Disappeared and Victims of Human Rights Violations (AFADEM); Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre

**Nepal** Advocacy Forum; Conflict Victims’ Committee (CVC); Conflict Victims Society for Justice (CVSJ); Devi Sunuwar; Madhesi Human Rights Home (Mahuri Home); Ram Kumar Bhandari, journalist and chair of the National Network of Families of Disappeared and Missing (NEFAD); The family of Jai Kishor Labh

## Alba Cruz, Integral Defence Committee for Human Rights ‘Gobixha’ (Codigo-DH), Mexico

Widespread violence engulfed the Mexican state of Oaxaca in 2006, when protests against the state governor met with a brutal crackdown resulting in the deaths of at least 18 civilians, with 370 more injured and 349 arrested.<sup>1</sup>

In 2009, the country’s Supreme Court found that the state authorities should be held accountable for human rights violations including excessive force, arbitrary detention, torture and fabrication of criminal charges against protesters.

Lawyer Alba Cruz, legal coordinator of the Committee for the Comprehensive Defence of Human Rights ‘Gobixha’ (Codigo-DH), is one of the human rights defenders representing victims and campaigning for justice for the violations that took place at that time. She also represents, among others, the case of Marcelino Coache, a trade union leader who is seeking justice and reparation after he was detained illegally and tortured in April 2009.

Codigo-DH gives legal and psychological support and medical attention to victims of human rights violations, while promoting access to justice and challenging impunity. It was formed in January 2011, arising from the November 25 Liberation Committee, an organisation that PBI had accompanied since 2009 due to constant threats against its staff.

In spite of the wide recognition of Alba’s work both in Mexico and at an international level, she has been repeatedly threatened and harassed. In January 2011, PBI activated its support network after she received threats on her mobile phone on two occasions. She suffered further serious threats in the spring of 2012. Among the actions taken in response, members of PBI’s Alliance for Lawyers at Risk wrote letters of concerns addressed to the President of Mexico expressing concern about Alba’s security situation.

<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International Urgent Action: Mexican Human Rights Lawyer Harassed, FU 52/10 Index: AMR 41/001/2011, 12 January 2011



Lawyer Alba Cruz

Photo: PBI

# Women human rights defenders under threat

**W**omen around the world are working to create positive change in their communities. This work makes them human rights defenders according to the definition enshrined in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders – even if they do not see themselves as such.

Women human rights defenders face many of the same challenges as their male counterparts. However, many face additional obstacles and threats because they challenge the status quo twice over – through their work and by challenging (by their very existence) accepted norms, traditions, perceptions and stereotypes about femininity, sexual orientation and the role and status of women in society. As a result, they are vulnerable to threats, stigma, rejection by family and community, and violence.

In Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Nepal, women defenders face additional pressure and discrimination because of their gender

**“ I am a displaced journalist because I speak against violence, oppression and exploitation and also because I voice my opinion freely. ”**

**MANIKA JHA**

and because they challenge entrenched discrimination and accepted norms of behaviour. Indigenous women and women from rural areas are among those most at risk.

Almost half the human rights defenders PBI accompanies are women.

PBI is a member of the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition, a network dedicated to protecting and supporting women human rights defenders worldwide. The Coalition also calls for recognition and protection of men who defend women's rights, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) defenders and groups committed to the advancement of women's human rights and sexual rights.

## Accompanied organisations and individuals

**Colombia** Berenice Celeyta, NOMADESC; Grassroots Women's Organisation (OFP); Luis Carlos Pérez Lawyers' Collective (CCALCP)

**Guatemala** Association of Indigenous Women



Journalist Manika Jha, Nepal

Photo: PBI

of Santa Maria Xalapán (AMISMAXAJ); National Coordinating Body of Guatemalan Widows (CONAVIGUA)

**Mexico** Alba Cruz, lawyer for the Integral Defence Committee for Human Rights 'Gobixha' (Codigo-DH); Organisation of Women Ecologists of the Sierra de Petatlán (OMESP); Tita Radilla, of the Mexican Association of Relatives of the Detained-Disappeared and Victims of Human Rights Violations (AFADEM); Valentina Rosendo Cantú

**Nepal** Dalit Feminist Uplift Organisation (DAFUO); Fatima Foundation; Manika Jha

## Manika Jha, Nepal

One night in January 2009, a gang of men broke into the home of Manika Jha's neighbour and fellow journalist Uma Singh, and knifed her to death. They scrawled a cross on Manika's door, with the message that she would be next.

Manika is a young female journalist writing on corruption, women's rights and

discrimination. In Nepal this is a dangerous profession if you are a man; as a woman doubly so. Dhanusha district, where Manika is based, is one of the most volatile regions of Nepal. It is also very conservative, particularly when it comes to the role of women in society.

Manika started working as a journalist in this context when she was 19 years old and now writes for a national daily newspaper. She is the only female reporter in the district. She has received numerous verbal and written threats and has been attacked on at least three occasions, including an attempt on her life in May 2010.

Manika cannot rely on many other people to help keep her safe because most of them disapprove of a young woman working as she does. Despite the danger, she continues to write and is passionate about human rights and the power of journalism to change society.

## 2012 Conference: Women Human Rights Defenders: Empowering and protecting the change-makers

The broad spectrum of women human rights defenders' (WHRDs) work is crucial to building long-term sustainable and stable futures within their countries, but they face a heightened risk of violence on account of being both women and change-makers.

PBI UK's conference on 24 October 2012 aims to recognise the work of WHRDs and seek practical ways in which existing mechanisms can be strengthened to support this work – both by empowering WHRDs and by creating avenues to enhance their protection. For further information, please see [www.peacebrigades.org.uk](http://www.peacebrigades.org.uk)

# Volunteering with PBI in the field

**G**wen Burnyeat, a British volunteer with the Colombia Project in 2011-12 writes about her experience with PBI:

“Urabá is the epicentre of the Colombian conflict. It was where paramilitarism was born, where it solidified, and it still continues its reign of terror, social control and land acquisition through the post-demobilisation armed groups. But it is also a centre of community resistance to the decades-old conflict, and of initiatives that try to break the cycle of violence with pacific alternatives, such as humanitarian zones, peace communities and sustainable living.

“The humanitarian zones along the Curvaradó and Jiguamiandó rivers are involved in a complex land restitution process, and are home to returned Afro-Colombian communities who are waiting for their collective territory title, and meantime are subject to threats by those who oppose their ancestral right to this land which is so fertile that several large mono-culture companies are interested in its exploitation. In March 2012, Manuel Ruíz Gallo and his 15-year-old son Samir were assassinated by paramilitaries associated with land exploitation because he was a community leader and in charge of guiding a government agency around the area he lived in to indicate the illegal occupation of land by non-ancestral farmers who sell exclusively to big companies. The risk involved for these communities to campaign for what is rightfully theirs is huge. The risk in not campaigning for it, equally so, for they might be forcibly displaced again.

“In my year in Urabá I generally went on three or four field trips per month, to each of the three communities that we accompany. Sometimes these trips involved a lot of travel – in jeeps, on motorbike taxis, in boats, walking

or on a mule – as the community leaders who risk their lives to claim justice and work for peace often are most exposed when they are travelling. Sometimes it was roads and paths and rivers for days on end. Other times, our protective presence was needed for a few days in a specific community, and this represented

farmers have an enviable natural balance and quite often I had to throw dignity to the wind and take someone’s hand to cross these poles), until we finally arrived at a humanitarian zone where we were to stay for two nights.

“We slipped gratefully into the stream where the community children were playing



**Gwen travelling by mule with a member of the San José Peace Community**

Photo: PBI

an amazing chance to spend time with the families who live in these remote, complex places and hear about their lives – their stories of forced displacement and suffering, but also about how they farm their crops, what their land means to them, their stories of witches and their traditional riddles.

“Once, in the river basin of Curvaradó, we walked hours in dusty tracks under a burning sun, through the banana plantations of bad-faith occupiers with their waving fronds and the glittering blue plastic bags around the banana fruit, sweating into our wellington boots (an Urabá essential) and our loaded backpacks, crossing streams on thin slippery logs (the rural

and their mothers washing their clothes, and sloughed off the dust and sweat into the cool water, a glittering black from the fertile earth below, tree roots and mud between our toes. We fixed our PBI flag next to the humanitarian zone sign which designates the area as civilian population only, with provisional protection measures from the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The flag ensured that anyone nearby knew that PBI was present, and that behind our presence was a network of political support interested in ensuring the security of the community. Then we hung our hammocks in the wooden house of one of the community leaders, and we talked with her until night fell, over a dinner she prepared of rice and river fish, about the threats to the community, her children and how the women of the humanitarian zone were going to surprise their husbands by organising a party for Father’s Day. She became one of my favourite people to accompany, with her bright humour and her strong commitment to fighting for the rights of her people. It is moments like this, and the direct contact with the people that working in the field gives you, that makes the hard work of the ‘brigadista’, the hours on the road, the longer hours in the office, all worthwhile. I learned so much in my year in Urabá, about Colombia, its people and myself. That’s why I’m going back for a second year.”



**Gwen learns how to descale and gut fish in the Curvaradó River basin**

Photo: PBI



# Update on PBI's exploratory fieldwork

**S**ince 1981, PBI has protected threatened human rights defenders in 11 countries.

We work at the request of local human rights defenders and in response to their needs, and receive requests for support from around the world. Before creating a new project, detailed research and exploratory fieldwork must be carried out to ensure that PBI's method of international protective accompaniment would be appropriate and effective in the context of the country or region and the nature of its conflict. PBI is currently responding in this way to requests from Honduras and Kenya.

**Kenya** PBI has decided to establish a short-term project in Kenya in 2012-2013, to provide support and protection to defenders during a period of expected

heightened risk during the March 2013 presidential elections. In response to the precarious situation for human rights defenders in the country, PBI undertook an in-depth assessment in 2011-2012, to determine whether we could establish a field project there. We went to Kenya to talk to human rights defenders to find out what their protection needs were and whether protective accompaniment would be effective in the country, publishing a report on our findings in July 2012.<sup>1</sup>

**Honduras** In response to a request from the Honduran Human Rights Platform, PBI carried out field research in Honduras in 2011 and produced a report on the situation for human rights defenders.<sup>2</sup> In 2012, PBI has conducted further research and explored the possibility of opening a field presence in the country.

A formal exploratory mission is planned for late September 2012.

**Indonesia** Following the closure of our Indonesia Project in December 2010, PBI has continued to monitor the situation for human rights defenders in Indonesia, particularly in West Papua. We also carried out initial research into the feasibility of returning to Indonesia. A field trip will take place in September 2012, during which PBI will run security workshops with threatened human rights defenders.

<sup>1</sup> Available at: [www.peacebrigades.org.uk/country-groups/pbi-uk/publications-and-resources/thematic-and-special-reports](http://www.peacebrigades.org.uk/country-groups/pbi-uk/publications-and-resources/thematic-and-special-reports)

<sup>2</sup> Available at: [www.peacebrigades.org.uk/country-groups/pbi-uk/publications-and-resources/thematic-and-special-reports](http://www.peacebrigades.org.uk/country-groups/pbi-uk/publications-and-resources/thematic-and-special-reports)

## 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 and Colombia. The Nepal teams use English, but volunteers are required to learn Nepali 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

## 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 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, the role of PBI and the kinds of situations team members may have to address. At the end of the training, candidates will be informed of their suitability to join the project.

# Financial summary

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 2011

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Grants receivable from trusts and companies	217,562	242,020
Donations to the Human Rights Defenders' Fund	3,751	8,225
Donations to Alliance for Lawyers at Risk (established 2010)	19,011	16,377
Donations and other income	34,667	11,401
	<b>274,990</b>	<b>278,023</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable activities	(222,970)	(247,068)
Cost of generating funds	(44,425)	(34,868)
Governance costs	(10,537)	(11,072)
	<b>(277,932)</b>	<b>(293,007)</b>
<b>Net incoming resources for year</b>	(2,942)	(14,984)
Funds brought forward	68,027	83,011
Funds carried forward	65,085	68,027
<b>Summary balance sheet as at 31st December 2011</b>		
	<b>2011</b>	<b>2010</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fixed assets	0	0
Current assets	88,172	78,670
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(23,087)	(10,643)
Net current assets	65,085	68,027
Total assets less liabilities	65,085	68,027
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	0	0
Total net assets	65,085	68,027
Unrestricted funds	59,026	50,027
Restricted funds (Sigrid Rausing Trust)	6,059	18,000
Total funds	65,085	68,027

## 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 11 May 2012 and a copy has been submitted to the Charity Commission. The summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the charity. For further information, the full financial statements including the auditor's report may be obtained from the charity's registered office.

## Auditor's statement on the summary accounts

We have examined the summary accounts set out alongside.

## Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the auditors

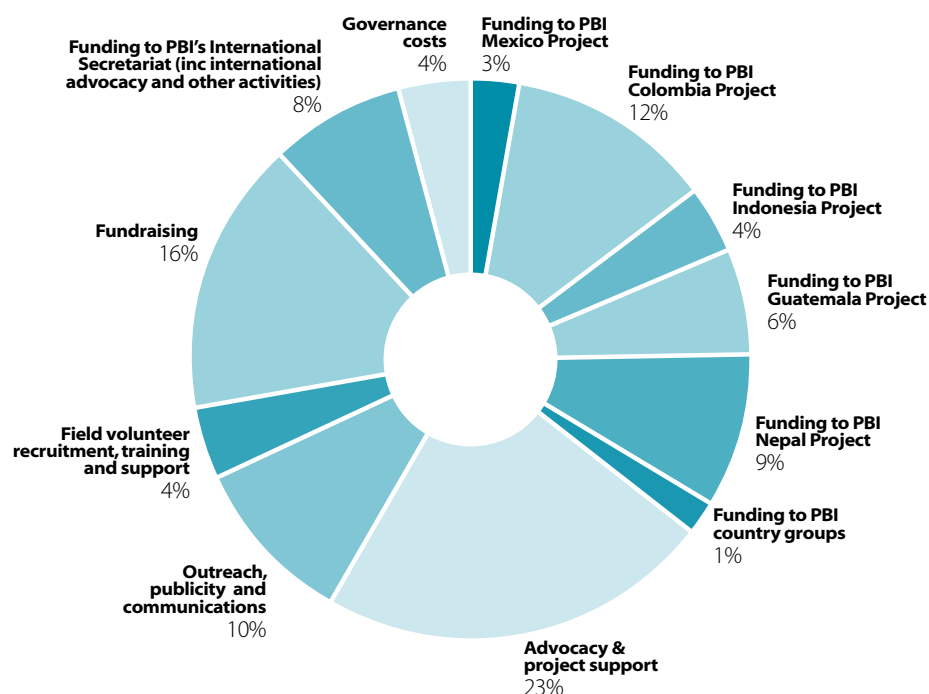
The summary accounts are the responsibility of the Trustees. It is our responsibility to report to you on their consistency with the full accounts. Our report on the full accounts of Peace Brigades International United Kingdom Section includes information on the responsibilities of the Trustees and the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

## Opinion

In our opinion the summary accounts are consistent with the full accounts of Peace Brigades International United Kingdom Section for the year ended 31 December 2011.

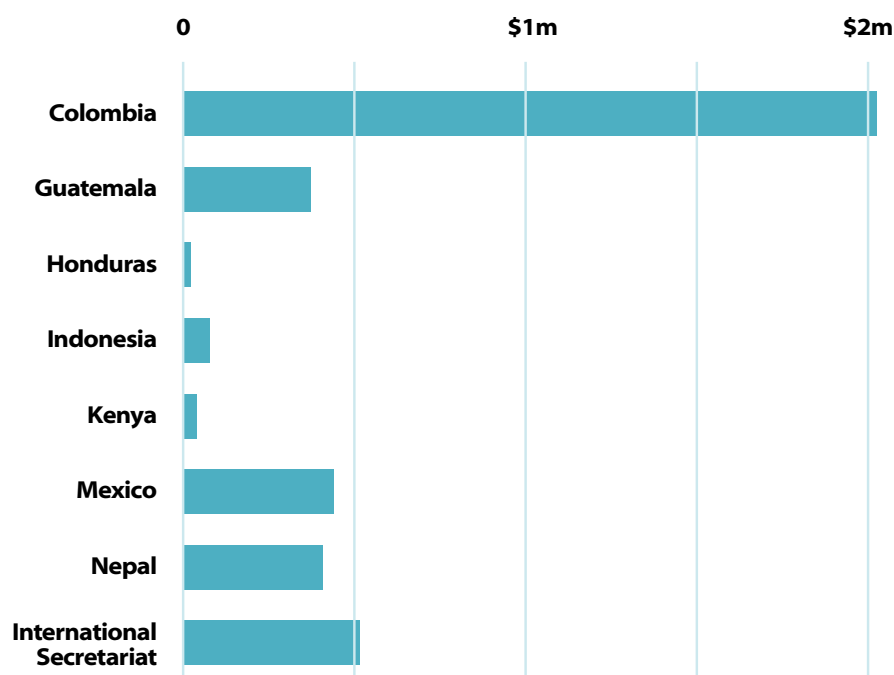
**Critchleys LLP,  
Chartered Accountants,  
Statutory Auditor,  
21 May 2012**

# How funds were spent in 2011



Funding to PBI Mexico Project	£7,350
Funding to PBI Colombia Project	£33,334
Funding to PBI Indonesia Project	£11,666
Funding to PBI Guatemala Project	£16,667
Funding to PBI Nepal Project	£24,667
Funding to PBI country groups	£4,430
Advocacy & project support	£64,353
Outreach, publicity and communications	£28,036
Field volunteer recruitment, training and support	£10,044
Fundraising	£44,425
Funding to PBI International Secretariat (inc international advocacy and other activities)	£22,423
Governance costs	£10,537
<b>Total</b>	<b>£277,932</b>

## PBI's global operations



Project	Expenditure 2011 USD
Colombia	\$2,011,742
Guatemala	\$371,811
Honduras	\$19,304
Indonesia	\$71,543
Kenya	\$25,276
Mexico	\$430,351
Nepal	\$420,054
International Secretariat	\$496,788
<b>Global Total</b>	<b>\$3,846,869</b>
<b>Test</b>	<b>\$3,846,869</b>
<b>Audit</b>	<b>\$3,829,255</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-\$17,614</b>

As noted in the full accounts, PBI UK is one of 16 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 2011.

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



### **PBI UK office**

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email [susibascon@peacebrigades.org.uk](mailto:susibascon@peacebrigades.org.uk)  
web [www.peacebrigades.org.uk](http://www.peacebrigades.org.uk)

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

### **PBI country groups**

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

### **Associate groups**

Argentina  
Portugal  
Sweden

### **Current PBI projects**

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

### **Management Committee**

Kathleen Armstrong  
Emma Douglas  
Julie Fisher  
Tiffany Garside  
Sanjay Joshi  
Jill Powis  
Samantha Pritchard  
Rebekah Wilson

### **Patrons**

Sir Henry Brooke CMG  
Lord Carnwath  
Julie Christie  
Sir Nigel Rodley KBE  
Sir Peter Roth  
Baroness Frances D'Souza  
Lord Joel Joffe  
Juliet Stevenson  
Samuel West

### **Lawyers Advisory Committee**

Sir Henry Brooke CMG  
Courtenay Barklem  
Silvia Borelli  
Michael Brindle QC  
Sara Chandler  
Mark Cunningham QC  
Ole Hansen

Charlotte Haworth Hird  
Henrietta Hill  
David Hughes  
Nicole Kar  
Maya Lester  
Sir Peter Roth  
Michael T Smyth CBE  
Rock Tansey QC  
Peter Weiss

### **Staff**

Susi Bascon  
(full-time director)  
Pam Feldman  
(part-time fundraiser)  
Emma Marshall  
(part-time communications worker)  
Roy Taylor  
(freelance financial officer)  
Rob Hawke  
(part-time advocacy worker)

### **PBI UK field volunteers 2011**

#### **Colombia Project**

Gwen Burnyeat  
Robbie Packer  
Kyla Sankey  
Daniel Slee

#### **Guatemala Project**

Samuel Jones  
Phil Murwill

#### **Mexico Project**

Lisa Pattison

#### **Nepal Project**

Aaron Robinson

### **Office volunteers**

Cristian Anton  
Michael Bluett  
Stuart Bowman  
Gwen Burnyeat  
Sophie Buxton  
Tomas Cabarcos  
Viola Cassetti  
Ruth Cherrington  
Megan Ciotti  
Simon Crabb  
Mia Crojevic  
Jack Dahlsen  
Camila Ferreira  
Kate Hallam  
Taline Halpern  
Katie Hortenstine  
Stefan Hyman  
Sarah Johnstone  
Nancy Kiousi  
Marine Bertrand Lamour  
Katherine Mote  
Phil Murwill  
Samantha Nethsinghe  
Andrew Noakes  
Elizabeth Okunola  
Christine Oram  
Lisa Pattison  
Gina Rico  
Kyla Sankey  
James Savage  
Clare Scoltock  
Dan Slee  
Debra Stanislawski  
Rebecca Tuck  
Mark Williams  
Ann Wright  
Steffi Zehnder

Charity number 1101016