

# Peace Brigades International



## PBI UK Annual Review 2006

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# Vision and mission

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

## What does PBI do?

PBI has been working to support human rights and promote non-violence for almost 25 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 expressed request of local people and it is they that determine where our assistance is most needed.

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

# Contents

Vision and mission	2
Letter from the Board of Trustees	3
PBI UK: Activities in 2006	4
Fundraising	5
Emergency Support Network	6
Lawyers Event 2006	7
PBI's 25th anniversary	8
International Human Rights Service Awards	9
Human Rights Defenders	10
Guatemala Project	11
Mexico Project	12
Colombia Project	13
Nepal Project	14
Indonesia Project	15
Democratic Republic of Congo and Proactive Presence	16
Volunteer Profiles	17
Financial Summary	18



## Cover photo:

Dominga Vazquez, The Maya Foundation (Fundamaya) Guatemala, winner of the International Service Human Rights Award 2006.

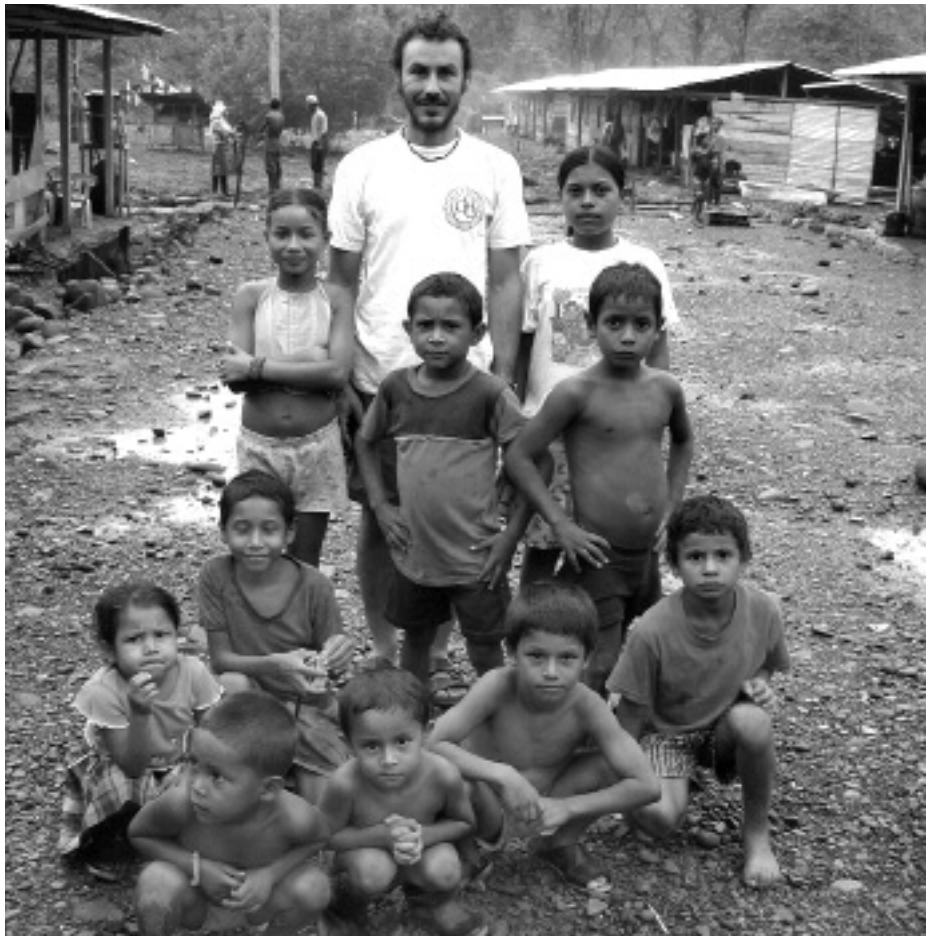
# Letter from the Board of Trustees

In 2006 Peace Brigades International celebrated twenty-five years' work supporting and protecting human rights defenders. Over this time PBI has initiated and refined a very effective strategy – we send trained PBI volunteers to the field to protect human rights defenders through their presence, and to directly observe the situation on the ground. We use our sixteen Country Groups to ensure that their plight is heard internationally. When we review our work over the years we are glad that our strategies for protecting human rights defenders have been so successful and that they have acted as a catalyst and model for many other effective human rights interventions around the world. Sadly however, petitions from human rights defenders for our 'protective presence' far exceed our capacity to deliver. The protection of human rights defenders is needed now as much as ever.

All of our work is underpinned by one objective – to enable local people where we work (currently in Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mexico and Nepal) to carry out their work undeterred by the threat of, or actual, violence. Our projects are in regions with prolonged and complex histories of conflict that has undermined and devalued work on human rights. The men and women who undertake human rights work in these regions live in the constant shadow of violence against them and those close to them. Throughout this report you will read about the extraordinary people PBI

I first heard about PBI's work when I met Reinaldo Vargas, the brave Colombian lawyer, in London in October 2006. As a patron of PBI, I now know very much more. It deserves the support of everyone who believes in the importance of the rule of law.

**Sir Henry Brooke**  
former Lord Justice



**PBI volunteer with the children of the San Jose de Apartado internally displaced community, Colombia.**

accompanies. It is a real privilege to stand alongside these people and provide an international support system that can strengthen their space to continue this work.

The importance of this partnership between PBI and the human rights defenders we accompany was again recognised in December 2006, when Dominga Vásquez, the first indigenous female mayor of Sololá and a tireless defender of women's and indigenous rights in Guatemala, and Helen Woodcock, a PBI volunteer from the UK who had accompanied her, jointly received the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) award for the Defence of the Human Rights of Women, at a ceremony at the House of Commons.

On his visit in October 2006, Dr Reinaldo Villalba from the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective, said of PBI's accompaniment of the Collective, which has lasted for over 10 years,

that it 'has allowed us to continue working in Colombia. It has prevented us from being physically attacked or needing to go into forced exile. It has opened a space for life and closed the doors on death. It has permitted us to travel in different regions of Colombia, and to increase our work.'

We have many such testimonies and we highlight these to show our supporters that the work of PBI is truly valued by these brave men and women. They in turn inspire us to continue working on their behalf.

Our sincere thanks go to all of our supporters – every one makes a difference. We hope in the coming years to bring more and more human rights defenders to the UK so that we can all hear directly from them about their work and how valuable your support is to them.

**PBI UK TRUSTEES**



# Activities in 2006

## Recruitment & training

PBI UK plays a significant role in the training and recruitment of volunteers for field and accompaniment projects. With the professionalism and commitment of returned field volunteers, PBI UK ran two successful Orientation Weekends in 2006. Thirty prospective volunteers attended, gaining a thorough introduction to PBI's philosophy and principles of non-violent conflict resolution and consensus decision-making. Fifteen are now serving on our field projects. We now have plans to organise an extra orientation weekend each year. There are also around twenty volunteers continuing to provide vital support to the field projects from PBI UK's London office.



Speaking tour public event at SOAS, London. Lani Parker PBI UK (left), Alejandro Cerezo (centre) and translator, Valeria Luna (right)

## Outreach & publicity

Public awareness is of vital importance to PBI. Alongside raising the organisation's profile and increasing the support network, PBI's outreach schemes critically inform members of our work in the field. This area was given a significant boost in 2006 through the work of Lani Parker, a full-time intern, funded by Quaker Peace and Social Witness/the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and the Tinsley Foundation. This enabled us to carry out a feasibility study into universities across the country and, as a result, we have developed important relationships with various groups including career services, heads of departments, societies, People and Planet students' groups, and Quaker groups.

Over thirty talks and discussion groups have taken place across the country in the past year. Returned volunteers have continued to support the organisation, giving talks and attending various fairs and conferences.

PBI UK also produced a series of publications including its newsletter, 2005

review, an information pack, and a special publication to mark the 25th anniversary of PBI. Our website has also been subject to continuous improvements.

Media interest and recognition of PBI's work has continued to grow. A number of high profile events organised by, or associated with, PBI UK took place in 2006. PBI UK Lawyers' Event in October, the PBI 25th Anniversary Event and the International Service for Human Rights Award Ceremony generated national media coverage, including an article in *The Times*, and three programmes on BBC radio. The 25th Anniversary Event was accompanied by a photo exhibition, which began touring nationwide in 2007. In November, the film *Hasta la Ultima Piedra* (Until the Last Stone, directed by Juan Jose Lozano) that concerns the displaced community of San José de Apartadó in Colombia, was screened at London's Latin America Film Festival. It was introduced by a returned PBI volunteer who also led a lively discussion following the screening.

## Speaking tours

Tours by representatives of the organisations that we accompany are one of the most effective means of conveying the situation in their countries. The importance of their work, the dangers they face, and their vital need for protection are essential issues to raise. In 2006, PBI UK organised five such tours, with talks to a variety of audiences – students, lawyers, supporters, the general public – and covering a range of the countries where PBI has a presence: from Mexico, Alejandro Cerezo of the Comité Cerezo, who had recently been released from prison; from Colombia, Wilson David, one of the leaders of the San José de Apartadó Peace Community, Liliana Uribe of the Freedom Legal Corporation, together with Henry Ramirez Soler of the Interchurch Justice and Peace Commission, and Dr Reinaldo Villalba Vargas (see Lawyers' Event on page 7). Guatemalan Dominga Vasquez, ex-mayor of the Solalá Indigenous Community, and Nepalese human rights defender Kopila Adhikari, from the Advocacy Forum, both spoke at the 25th Anniversary Event.

# Fundraising

None of PBI UK's activities would be possible without the generosity of our donors. In 2006, our total income was £245,609 an increase of over £70,000 compared to 2005. This sum was mainly from charitable trusts, but there were also important contributions from individual members and other supporters, as well as from special fundraising events. Of the funds raised, £128,625 went into field project operations, £16,895 to PBI's International Secretariat, and the remainder to support PBI's activities in the UK. We would like to thank all of our donors for their generosity in 2006.

## Key developments in 2006:

- New 3-year grants from three trusts – the Tinsley Foundation, the Bromley Trust and the Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust.
- The Sigrid Rausing Trust, a long-standing supporter of PBI, granted us a further 3-year cycle of funding.
- The Law Society Charity donated £5,000 towards our work protecting human rights lawyers in Colombia, a reflection of our deepening relationship with the legal community.
- We made an application to the BBC Appeal, which has now been approved, and will be broadcast on 14th October on BBC Radio 4 to an audience of around 2.5 million people.
- We secured support from the Charities Aid Foundation, in the form of paid professional consultancy and financial support to provide an organisational review and help in developing a more integrated outreach and fundraising strategy. It is hoped that in 2007 this will enable us to expand our support base and diversify our funding sources.
- Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund renewed their support of PBI to continue providing protection to Mexican Human Rights Defenders Emiliana, Francisco and Alejandro Cerezo.

Diversifying our resource base in order to increase our financial sustainability was a key objective for 2006. While it is important to seek new funders, we are extremely grateful for the continued support of our longstanding benefactors, who have been crucial to PBI's financial stability. These are:

## 2006 Trusts

The Sigrid Rausing Trust  
Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund  
The Bromley Trust  
The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust  
Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation  
The Tinsley Foundation  
The Law Society Charity  
Amnesty International - Americas Human Rights Defenders Program  
Appletree Fund  
Alistair Berkley Charitable Fund  
Garden Court Chambers  
AW.60 Charitable Trust  
Oakdale Trust  
Radley Charitable Trust  
S C and M E Morland's Charitable Trust  
The Funding Network  
The Rowan Charitable Trust  
Charities Aid Foundation  
Quaker Peace and Social Witness and J Rowntree

PBI welcomes any innovative ideas for fundraising throughout the year. The donations generated by PBIUK volunteers assisting the Workers Beer Company at festivals and concerts continues to be a valued activity, not only for the money raised, but also for the publicity generated for PBI.

In 2006 Ruth Cherrington ran the London marathon to raise funds for PBI. She said, *"Even if I couldn't be a volunteer out in Colombia at that particular point in my life, surely there was something I could do here"*.

## Flakito's pilgrimage

Returned PBI Colombia volunteer Flakito dedicated three months of last year to walking 750km across northern Spain along the Camino de Santiago, the ancient pilgrimage route, playing and singing along the way. A two-wheeled customised shopping trolley was used to tow his accordion. Flakito's aim was to raise funds for PBI and awareness of the human rights situation in Colombia. Along the way, he linked up with local Amnesty International groups who organised events, concerts, talks and photo exhibitions, and had meetings with mayors and interviews with the media. During the walk he also sold CDs of his songs, that are based on his experiences in Colombia, in order to raise funds for PBI. As well as being a unique and inspired way of raising money and awareness, Flakito enjoyed meeting people from many different countries. The simplicity of his life during the pilgrimage made him remember, "the joys I encountered in isolated, rural communities in Colombia, not ruled by cars or TV".



Flakito

Flakito's CD 'En camino' ('On the Way') is available on his website [www.flakito.net](http://www.flakito.net) or [www.justgiving.com/flakito](http://www.justgiving.com/flakito)

# Emergency Support Network

A strong international support network is essential to PBI's work. For physical accompaniment to be effective, the volunteer on the ground must serve as a constant and visible reminder of international attention and the 'cost' of attacking human rights defenders. PBI UK's support network includes parliamentarians, lawyers' associations, churches, NGOs and individuals, and is mobilised at times of crisis. Members write letters to politicians to raise awareness and the profile of extreme human rights abuses and call for responsive action. In the UK, active participation can also encourage MPs and Lords to raise questions in Parliament and bring such abuses to the attention of the British Government. Raising awareness and helping to direct the attention of the international community on issues can also substantially influence governments that are ignoring human rights violations within their own countries. In 2006, our support network continued to expand and become more diverse. PBI UK maintained regular contact with MPs and members of the House of Lords, including members of All Party Groups, as well as with Foreign Office officials. Several Parliamentary Questions proposed by PBI were raised in 2006. Fifty four MPs and twenty eight Scottish MSPs signed motions marking PBI's 25th Anniversary and supporting the work of its volunteers.

The support network was activated on three occasions in 2006, for human rights defenders in Guatemala, Colombia and Mexico. In Guatemala, this was in response to the assassination in August of Carmen Sagastume, a member of CONAPAMG, the National Council on Marginalised Peoples of Guatemala, and death threats against one of her colleagues. The other two activations were also in response to death threats: in Mexico, against Francisco and Emiliana Cerezo Contreras, of the Cerezo Committee, and in Colombia, following a general escalation in threats and other acts of harassment against a range of human rights organisations.

Given the conditions of great instability that broke out in the state, we consider that it is important to count on an international presence that will assist in backing up the human rights organizations that have taken on the task of documentation. We asked advice from other people in the field and they recommended that we invite you (PBI). It has been a pleasure to have your presence which has helped to facilitate a process that otherwise would have taken longer

**Sara Mendez, Coordinator,  
Oaxaca Human Rights  
Network**

PBI's volunteers literally embody in themselves the expression of international concern and support for human rights defenders on the front line...their courage and selflessness express the highest ideals in the defence of human rights

**Hans Thoolen, Chair of the  
Martin Ennals Foundation**

## Strengthening ties and contributing to international debate

- In October PBI organised a round table, Palm Oil Cultivation, Communities in Resistance and the Environmental Impact, held in London. The participants were from a variety of national and international organisations concerned with human rights, the environment and palm oil. The round table's aim was to facilitate the exchange of information and to explore ways of supporting communities affected by the activities of palm oil companies.

- PBI UK also continued to play an active role in existing advocacy and coordination groups, such as the British and Irish Agencies working in Colombia (ABC Group), the Brussels-based International Office on Human Rights Action Colombia (OIDHACO), the European lobbying group Copenhagen Initiative for Central America (CIFCA) and the UK-based Indonesia Forum.

- PBI members lobbied the 62nd session of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva and attended a seminar on the UN Special Mechanisms on Human Rights Defenders and Internally Displaced Persons.

- PBI was mentioned as a contributor to the review of the implementation of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders. The European Council approved the summary analysis and recommendations of the review in June 2006. The recommendations focus on improving the awareness and training of EU officials, increasing external publicity of the Guidelines and EU efforts to implement them, strengthening coordination and sharing of information by EU Missions, and effective support and protection of human rights defenders.

For further information, see:  
<http://www.protectionline.org/spip.php?article1610>

# No peace without justice, no justice without lawyers

Lawyers are crucial to the fight against impunity, but, in carrying out their vital work, they themselves can become targets. In October 2006 PBI, together with the City of Westminster and Holborn Law Society, held an event in support of lawyers under threat in Latin America at St. Ethelburga's Centre. It was supported by the Law Society's International Human Rights Committee, The Solicitors' International Human Rights Group, the Bar Human Rights Committee and the Garden Court Chambers.

The main speaker was Dr Reinaldo Villalba Vargas, a prominent human rights lawyer from Colombia where, it is estimated, between twenty and thirty lawyers and human rights defenders are killed or attacked every year. The José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CAJAR), to which Reinaldo belongs, has been accompanied by PBI for

has been the target of threats, harassment, and worse, in the form of attacks. One of its founders, Eduardo Umaña Mendoza, was assassinated in 1998. Two of the nine lawyers on its current governing body are in permanent exile and a number have been forced to flee the country temporarily. The systematic persecution of the Collective led the IACHR to grant precautionary measures of protection.

In his speech, Reinaldo explained that the current process of demobilisation of paramilitary groups in Colombia encouraged impunity for thousands of crimes against humanity. He outlined serious deficiencies in the Colombian legal system in which military courts hear cases of grave human rights violations and the independence and impartiality of the judiciary is consistently undermined. The Director of Public



Reinaldo Villalba (CAJAR), and interpreter Mark Williams (left) at the PBI lawyers event 2006.

over 10 years. The Collective has been involved in numerous high profile cases, including the prosecution of Colonel Lino Sanchez for his involvement in the massacre of over thirty people in the Colombian village of Mapiripán in 1997. It has brought cases before the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights (IACHR) and the UN. This high profile work has meant that the Collective

Prosecutions is chosen from a shortlist drawn up by the President, and prosecutions are thus subject to inconsistency and the interests of each government. The Colombian Government has publicly questioned judgments which it considered inconsistent with its policies and, as a result, members of the judiciary have themselves been imprisoned and subjected to arbitrary legal

PBI is a relatively modest organisation – but its contribution has been remarkable. It has shown how 'protective accompaniment' by unarmed international volunteers can bring security and support to those courageous defenders of human rights in places where this is most needed.

**Peter Roth QC**

proceedings. Human rights lawyers are subjected to stigmatisation, with President Uribe accusing them of being 'politicians serving terrorism'. Senior civil servants and paramilitary groups have echoed such beliefs and enhanced the hostile climate in which human rights lawyers work.

Reinaldo said of PBI's accompaniment of the Collective that it 'has allowed us to continue working in Colombia. It has prevented us from being physically attacked or needing to go into forced exile. It has opened a space to life and closed the doors on death. It has permitted us to travel in different regions of Colombia, and to increase our work.' He stressed the importance of international support to the Collective and the value of the solidarity of lawyers from around the world.

Other speakers at the event were Sarah Lucy Cooper, Head of the South America sub-committee of the Bar Human Rights Committee, who talked of the threats to lawyers world-wide, and recently returned field volunteer Louise Winstanley who outlined PBI's work in Colombia. The event was considered a great success by those who attended, and it helped to further strengthen our relationship with the legal profession, a relationship that we greatly value. Sir Henry Brooke attended the event, had lunch with Reinaldo and subsequently became a patron of PBI UK. Peter Roth QC also attended the event and has since become a PBI UK patron. PBI was actively engaged in the organisation of this event and thanks go out to all those who participated, supported, and attended this important meeting.



# 25th Anniversary

Since its foundation in 1981 PBI's field volunteers have provided an international protective presence for hundreds of people defending human rights around the world. Our physical accompaniment backed by networks of international support has proven extremely effective in enabling them to continue with their vital work.

In 25 years of operations PBI has expanded across multiple spheres. Successful accompaniment throughout the countries in which PBI operates has ensured that we have developed considerable linkages and trusting relations with local grass-roots organisations that strive for the protection of human rights. In the UK, PBI has expanded its outreach programme and now actively engages with an increasing membership base. As a result, PBI's profile has been raised and support from various political and legal sources has expanded. Our volunteer recruitment and training has continued to evolve with great success. Within the global arena PBI has also enhanced its network base and incorporated important contacts with various international

**There are always people on the street corners spying on us to watch our movements. So when they see that internationals are physically entering our offices, this helps us tremendously.**

**Aura Elena Farfari,  
Guatemalan Families  
of the Disappeared**

organisations such as the United Nations and Amnesty International. PBI UK is now one of 16 country groups throughout the world that provides critical direct and indirect support, financing, and training to our field programmes.

In December 2006 PBI celebrated its 25th anniversary with an event dedicated to the work of women human rights defenders and their pivotal role in the struggles for justice.

By using the experiences of numerous speakers, the event sought to underline and celebrate their important work and relationships with PBI. The evening was informative and inspiring, displaying the continued value of PBI accompaniments across the world. Human rights lawyer Kopila Adhikari from Nepal's Advocacy Forum travelled to the event. Her accounts of the multiple illegal detentions and extra-judicial killings throughout Nepal reaffirmed the necessary continued presence of both Advocacy Forum and PBI accompaniment in the country. The anniversary was marked by the fantastic news that Mandira Sharma, Executive Director of Advocacy Forum received Human Rights Watch's highest honour that year (see page 14 on Advocacy Forum and PBI accompaniment in Nepal).

**The work of the international brigades is very important for the work that we do**

**Dominga Vasquez**

Dominga Vasquez, the first elected female indigenous mayor of Sololá, Guatemala, also spoke at the event. She is a prominent member of the indigenous rights group FUNDAMAYA (Maya Foundation), who has made a name for herself opposing the destructive expansion of mining. She was invited to the UK to receive the International Service Human Rights Award along with one of her PBI companions, Helen Woodcock. Current patron of PBI UK, Baroness D'Souza, chaired the event and representatives of Amnesty International and PBI also gave powerful, well-received speeches.

**There is more need than ever for them (PBI) to continue to expand their work**

**Susan Lee, Director of  
Amnesty International's  
Americas Programme**



**Kopila Adhikari, human rights lawyer for Advocacy Forum works against illegal detentions and extra-judicial killings in Nepal**



# A Partnership for Peace

The work of PBI received high-level recognition when Dominga Vásquez, the Guatemalan defender of women's and indigenous rights, and Helen Woodcock, who had accompanied her as a PBI volunteer, jointly received the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR) award for the Defence of the Human Rights of Women at a ceremony in the House of Commons in December 2006. The ISHR is an international NGO that supports, encourages, and facilitates the work of human rights defenders.

Dominga works in an environment where the rights of women, peasants and indigenous communities are rarely upheld despite being enshrined in Guatemalan law. With widespread illiteracy and lack of access to education few are fully aware of their rights and even fewer able to fight for them in the legal and political arena. With great courage and commitment, Dominga has worked, through her Association of Indigenous Women, to raise awareness of the rights of indigenous women in the town of Sololá. She has also campaigned against mining operations, and their attendant environmental, economic and social costs. Dominga has refused to be intimidated, despite the threats of violence and imprisonment she has received because of her activities.

Public appreciation of Dominga's hard work was recognized when she was elected the first female indigenous Mayor of Sololá, occupying the post until the beginning of 2006. When performing her Mayoral duties, Dominga applied Mayan vision and traditional approaches to conflict resolution.

PBI began accompanying Dominga in her work in February 2005 and it was through this partnership that she met Helen Woodcock. As one of the PBI volunteers, Helen accompanied Dominga from the outset, allowing her to continue in her activities with greater assurance for her and her family's safety. Helen says, "accompanying Dominga Vasquez was an amazing experience. She is an inspirational woman in a very male world – with a real vision for a just Guatemala and a determination to struggle for it even in the



**Award for the Defence of the Human Rights of Women, 13th December 2006. Joint winners Dominga Vásquez (Guatemalan Women's Rights Activist) and Helen Woodcock (Peace Brigades International UK volunteer). Photograph of the ceremony attended by Jon Snow and other award winners.**

face of so much aggression." The award celebrates this physical and moral partnership – between human rights defender and international accompanier – which reflects PBI's belief that a lasting transformation of conflict and respect for human rights must be based on the will and capacity of local people to build a genuine peace. Alongside such aims is recognition that the international community has the ability and responsibility to aid and encourage this process.

**A New PBI Publication:**  
***Metal Mining and Human Rights in Guatemala - The Marlin Mine in San Marcos***  
Mining operations have been associated with human rights abuses in Guatemala for decades. After a lull in activity in the 1980s and 1990s, the issue came to prominence again in 2003 when the Marlin silver- and gold-mining project was set up in the municipality of San Marcos by the American company, Glamis Gold Ltd. As environmentalists and grass-roots leaders, such as Dominga Vásquez, raised

increasing concerns about the potential environmental and social consequences of this project, threats against them mounted, leading to requests for accompaniment from PBI. Having obtained funding from Trocaire in September 2006, PBI researched and published a report that drew on its and others' local experiences in the region in recent years. It provides a background to mining in the country, including its history and legal framework, the establishment of the Marlin project, and its impact so far on the local inhabitants and civil society organisations. As well as Dominga, PBI accompanies a number of other human rights defenders and organisations working on the issue of mining in Guatemala – *Fundamaya*, an indigenous organisation defending Mayan rights; *Madre Selva*, an environmental movement; and ASALI – Friends of Lake Izabal which works for the conservation and protection of Lake Izabal which is threatened by mining operations.

To read the full report  
visit: [http://www.peacebrigades.ch/upload/sitebuilder/doc/publications/gp\\_mineriyaddhh\\_en.pdf](http://www.peacebrigades.ch/upload/sitebuilder/doc/publications/gp_mineriyaddhh_en.pdf)

# Defending Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

In her 2006 report to the second session of the UN Human Rights Council, Hina Jilani, UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on Human Rights Defenders, focused on economic, social and cultural rights. She described how local activists working on upholding these rights often had difficulty having their activities recognised as 'real' human rights work. Such negative labeling has often jeopardized productive political responses to protect economic, social and cultural rights. This was the case despite the people trying to defend these rights being subject to similar and sometimes even greater levels of persecution as those who work to defend civil and political rights. According to the report, human rights defenders working on land rights and natural resources are one of the groups most at risk of suffering threats and assassinations. The situation is particularly serious in Latin America and Asia amongst indigenous and minority groups. PBI accompanies human rights defenders who have been persecuted because of their vital work for the rights enshrined in the ICESCR.

## Communities of Jiguamiandó and Curbaradó

In Colombia's Chocó province communities of people displaced by conflict are seeking to recover their territories by setting up Humanitarian and Biodiversity Reserves Zones. In their absence, their lands were illegally planted with African palm. Palm production is expanding rapidly in Colombia to meet the growing demand for biofuels. However, this monoculture is threatening the

tropical forest in one of the world's most biodiverse regions. The community, in seeking to peacefully recover land which is legally theirs, is finding itself threatened by the palm companies as well as the Colombian army and paramilitaries. The work of the InterChurch Commission of Justice and Peace (Justicia y Paz) and the Corporation for Judicial Liberty (CJL), who are both accompanied by PBI and giving support to the communities, is also threatened. One of the community leaders, Orlando Valencia, disappeared and was later murdered in October 2005. The threats increased in 2006,



**Helen Woodcock accompanying Dominga Vásquez in Sololá, Guatemala, in April 2005**

as the community established two new Humanitarian Zones. In February of that year, Justicia y Paz revealed that a legal case was being brought against members of the community who were accused of being supporters of the guerrillas. The case was later dropped due to a lack of evidence.

## WALHI (Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia, Friends of the Earth Indonesia)

WALHI is the largest forum for grassroots NGOs in Indonesia – grouping 450 of them. Its focus is diverse and includes defending the rights of the forest communities whose lives have been endangered by the destructive

The ideal of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear can only be achieved if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his economic, social and cultural rights, as well as his civil and political rights

## International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

planting of palm oil. PBI began accompanying WALHI in 2005, after it suffered continuous threats and harassment for supporting local people in their peaceful opposition to a waste-processing site in Bojong, near the capital city Jakarta. WALHI has experienced considerable growth and provides a participative voice in Indonesian environmentalism.

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

The Sierra de Petatlán, in the state of Guerrero in Mexico has suffered from aggressive and often illegal logging. OMESSP, under the leadership of Celsa Valdovinos, has undertaken a successful reforestation campaign, developed a system of sustainable organic gardening for local families, and carried out educational campaigns to prevent local air and water pollution. Recognising the importance of self-organisation to defend land rights and ensure their families are fed, the work of these women is expanding across the country to other rural communities. The success of this work has brought with it threats from the military and logging groups and the wrongful imprisonment of Celsa's husband and campesino ecologist, Felipe Arreaga Sanchez, in 2004. Having been declared a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International in 2005, Felipe was released after 10 months unlawful imprisonment. In 2005, Celsa was awarded the Chico Mendez prize by the Sierra Club, the oldest and largest environmental organization in the Americas, in recognition of "the vital importance of her work and the risks she takes in a dangerous climate". It is all the greater a tribute given that, in her work, she has had to face double discrimination – that of being indigenous and a woman.

# Guatemala: Working Towards a True 'Firm and Lasting Peace'

2006 marked the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Peace Accords, designed to bring about a 'firm and lasting peace' after 36 years of brutal civil war. However, the legacy of civil war has not ended and violent deaths in 2006 numbered 5,885, the highest in the last 10 years, which according to the Guatemalan Myrna Mack Foundation, is the 'equivalent to the bloodiest period recorded during the hostilities'. After a visit to the country in August 2006, Philip Alston, the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions stated that "the impunity, the lack of investigation and convictions make all of these violent deaths the responsibility of the state".

The MNDH (National Human Rights Movement) reported a total of 278 attacks, including 14 murders, against human rights defenders and social activists in 2006, an increase of almost 25% over the previous year. Moreover, it reports that the number of attacks during the three years of the presidency of Oscar Berger, at 629, already represents a 65% increase over those committed during the four years that his predecessor, Alfonso Portillo, was in power.

Despite this depressing situation, there were important developments in the fight against impunity in 2006. Six Guatemalan

military officers and two civilians were charged in the Spanish courts with carrying out genocide, terrorism, torture, murder and illegal detention between 1978 and 1986. In addition, in December 2006, the UN and the Guatemalan government signed an agreement to establish the International Commission Against Impunity in Guatemala.

PBI helps Guatemalan organisations in their fight against impunity. As well as continuing to accompany CONAVIGUA, the Guatemalan war widows' association, we provided protection in 2006 on a short-term basis to three other organisations - the Sector de Mujeres, (Women's Sector-see case study below), CHRLA (the Centre for Human Rights Legal Action), after the murder of one of its workers and threats to his family, and OASIS.

OASIS is an organisation supporting homosexual and transgender rights and fighting the spread of AIDS, which became the target of threats after working on behalf of Zulma, who had witnessed the murder of a transsexual and had been wounded herself in the attack.

Regarding human rights and globalisation, PBI continued to provide protection to a range of environmental organisations. We also began accompanying the leader of the National Front of Market Vendors and the Informal Economy (FENVEMEGUA), Erwin

Orrego, after he was abducted in July 2006 by armed men who identified themselves as the police, held for two hours, and subjected to torture.

PBI's emergency support network was activated in mid-September for CONAPAMG, the National Council on Marginalised Peoples of Guatemala, after Carmen Sagastume, one of its members, was shot 13 times on her doorstep and killed. This was followed by death threats against general coordinator, Roly Escobar Ochoa, and other members of the organisation. CONAPAMG works for access to housing and land rights, an issue which, according to the UN, continues to be a great source of social conflict in Guatemala.

## Sector de Mujeres (Women's Sector)

In Guatemala, two women are murdered per day on average, in attacks frequently involving sexual violence. While the murders seem to have no single direct cause, the attacks and the almost total indifference with which these women have been met reflect the low status often given to women in Guatemala. The Sector de Mujeres (Women's Sector) is an umbrella organisation of associations that has been speaking out against violations of women's rights for the last 13 years. It has played a prominent role in calling for an end to the impunity for these murders, and has provided legal advice and support in many cases of violence against women. PBI provided accompaniment to this organisation after its office was broken into twice in 10 days, in May and June 2006. The first time, the perpetrators took telephones and money, and left blood stains on the walls. The second time, they destroyed the furniture, searched through files and left a piece of bloodied glass on one of the desks. Since then, the organisation has reported other strange incidents around its offices. By displaying international support to the Sector de Mujeres, PBI accompaniment has sought to provide a deterrent to these attacks and encourage the continuation of their crucial work.

## Women's march by the Peasants Committee of the Highland (Comite Campesino del Altiplano), Guatemala 2006





# Mexico: Progressive strides in changing times

Significant political changes have taken place in Mexico over the past year. Both national and regional shifts and widespread unrest in the state of Guerrero posed new challenges for the work of PBI and the organisations it accompanies in the field. In a climate of change and at the desires of local communities, PBI has grown and effectively adapted in Mexico. Exemplified by the recent opening of an office in Mexico City in 2006, PBI has enhanced its monitoring capacities of human rights and established stronger linkages with officials. Consistent with PBI's interests in empowering local organisations, PBI accompaniment has ensured that cases such as that of the Cerezo brothers (see page 6), are being recognised by the Mexican CNDH (National Human Rights Commission). Alongside having established direct advocacy links with the Mexican government and helping to counter previous government scepticism towards civil organisations, PBI accompaniment has enabled numerous organisations to establish links with some domestic policy groups and, thus, lessen their isolation. PBI has developed trusting relations with local communities in Guerrero and empowered local organisations to act with confidence in their protection of essential human rights.

PBI is actively engaged in participative dialogue with various sectors throughout Mexico and the international community. Its advocacy work and the establishment of an effective communications network have proven highly beneficial to the organisation's work. Backed by the UK Embassy in Mexico, in 2006 PBI was successful in meeting with military personnel and various governmental officials who are instrumental for the protection of human rights in Guerrero. Without such

active and engaging advocacy these achievements would have been significantly harder to obtain. These meetings have developed strong foundations for future relations between PBI, its accompanying organisations and state departments.

The accompaniment of OMESSP (Organisation of Women Ecologists in the Sierra Petatlan) displays how PBI has a positive, popular role within Mexico. Working to counter violence perpetrated against women and the continuation of intensive local deforestation through various



**Volunteer Pilar Romero accompanying Francisco Cerezo in Mexico City during a march in commemoration of the massacre of Corpus Christi of 10 June 1971 (10 June 2006).**

agricultural, reforestation and education programmes, OMESSP has experienced numerous threats in Guerrero. OMESSP's effective operations (symbolised by its Sierra Club, Chico Mendez Award in 2005 for excellent environmental work) have been considerably aided by PBI accompaniment and the confidence and empowerment this brings. Similar positive impacts have been

In a context like Guerrero's (Mexican state), where the law is worthless to the authorities and violence is the main characteristic, the presence and accompaniment of Peace Brigades International is essential in order to carry out our work as a human rights organisation.

**Abel Barrera Hernandez,  
Director of Tlachinollan  
Mountain Human Rights  
Centre, Guerrero, Mexico**

derived from PBI's work with OPIM (Organisation of Indigenous Me'phaa People), an organisation defending indigenous communities facing human rights violations. Based in Ayutla de los Libres, Guerrero, OPIM has successfully expanded its membership and activities, and has begun implementing educational programmes concerning communities' human rights. PBI's protective accompaniment has sought to ensure these programmes can continue and expand in a securer environment of reduced threats.

In 2006 PBI also expanded the nature of its accompaniment, establishing a new short-term scheme for specific events. This new means of accompaniment has already had positive impacts, enhancing flexibility and responsiveness to immediate crises. PBI undertook two short-term accompaniments in 2006. The first, in June, accompanied the petition of the Oaxaca Human Rights Network that is made up of regional organisations concerned with the forced removal and security of striking teachers in Oaxaca. The second accompaniment of the Civil Observation Mission (Misión Civil de Observación) took place in September. The Mission is made up of over 50 Oaxacan organisations whose purpose is directly concerned with the documentation of human rights violations. Both accompaniments have already had positive impacts by enhancing international exposure to Mexican human rights violations, drawing together multiple organisations and empowering them to act in an environment of reduced threats.



# Colombia: Complex Accompaniment

In 2006, President Álvaro Uribe won a second term in office, having changed the Constitution to allow him the possibility of running again. Congress was rocked by numerous scandals concerning alleged links between the political elite and paramilitary structures, and various politicians were arrested and several imprisoned. Jorge Noguera, head of the DAS, the Colombian state's main security department, was arrested for links with paramilitary chiefs.

The formal paramilitary demobilisation process is now complete, and totals some 31,671<sup>1</sup> demobilised combatants. Despite this, paramilitary groups continued to operate, many in new forms. This was particularly evident in Barrancabermeja, where the *Aguilas Negras* (Black Eagles) group intimidated local NGOs – including CREDHOS (Regional Cooperation for the Defence of Human Rights) and the OFP (Women's Grassroots Organisation) which PBI accompanies – through surveillance, death threats and physical abuse. According to the Colombia-Europe-United States Coordinating Committee, Colombia is currently experiencing a period of paramilitary consolidation in all social, economic and political spheres. Guerrilla forces increased their activity in the second half of the year, and negotiations for a Humanitarian Accord between the Government and the FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia), which aimed to free imprisoned guerrilla combatants and kidnapped civilians, collapsed due to a bomb explosion at the military academy in Bogotá.

In 2006, according to the Observatory for

**To the People of PBI I send expressions of affection and of gratitude for the invaluable support that they give to those individuals and organisations which have to face insecurity in the course of their work. Not only has the accompaniment offered a certain level of protection to life and limbs, but also, and above all, it has provided great moral support.**

**Jaime Prieto, Comité de Solidaridad con Los Presos Políticos (Political Prisoners' Solidarity Committee), Colombia**



**Girl amidst the environmental destruction in Chocó, Colombia. Destruction of the rain forest is being caused mainly by logging and palm oil companies.**

the Protection of Human Rights, Colombia had the highest reported global number of cases of repression against human rights defenders – cases including death threats, detention and assassinations. Despite these inhibiting conditions, local human rights organisations continue to carry out their invaluable work.

In Medellín, PBI intensified its accompaniment of CJL (Corporation for Judicial Liberty), after they presented evidence of an increased number of extrajudicial executions allegedly carried out by the Colombian Army in the East of Antioquia. PBI accompanied CJL more than thirty times on their trips to four towns in the region, in order to guarantee their safety during human rights workshops and to help the group avoid limiting its work because of the increased security threats.

The Community of Self-Determination, Life and Dignity of Cacarica (CAVIDA), is a community of Afro-Colombians originally displaced in 1997 from Cacarica, who live in humanitarian zones on the Cacarica river basin in the northern Chocó region. In 2007 PBI will have been accompanying the community for

ten years. The Colombian army has a permanent presence in the river basin and has allegedly attacked and threatened members of the community. Despite these pressures, and by its example, CAVIDA has encouraged others to create associations or Biodiversity Reserve Zones, a new, broader concept for the protection of civil society and the environment. Establishing and marking out their lands is an important step in the recuperation of community areas. PBI accompanied CAVIDA to numerous meetings in 2006 and their relationship continues to be strengthened throughout the region.

Although the number of field volunteers was reduced from 40 to 32 for financial reasons, we continued to accompany 12 organisations and 3 communities in Colombia. PBI also established an accompaniment agreement with CALCP (Luís Carlos Pérez Lawyers' Collective), formalising a relationship built throughout 2005. CALCP's activities include important work on behalf of the threatened indigenous Motilón Bari people in the Catatumbo region.

## **Manuel Cepeda Foundation**

The Foundation, set up by Iván Cepeda, and his wife, Claudia Girón, is named after Iván's father, the assassinated Congressman and Patriotic Union leader. Its aim is to oppose impunity and strive to keep victims' memories alive. They are also leading members of the National Movement of Victims of Crimes of the State, an umbrella organisation which fulfils an essential role in the search for truth, justice and reparation. For example, in February 2006, PBI accompanied Iván to San Onofre and the capital of the Sucre region, Sincelejo, for an event to set up the Victims' Movement in a region which has at least 2000 bodies buried in shallow graves at the paramilitary farmlands of El Palmar. After many years of terror and repression by illegally armed groups, the people of these towns were empowered to speak for the first time of the atrocities suffered, without immediate fear of persecution. PBI intensified its accompaniment of Iván and Claudia at the end of 2006 because of increased threats and harassment as a result of this work.

<sup>1</sup> High Commissioner for Peace, [www.altocomisionadoparalapaz.gov.co/desmobilizaciones/2004/index\\_resumen.htm](http://www.altocomisionadoparalapaz.gov.co/desmobilizaciones/2004/index_resumen.htm)

# Nepal: Continuity and growth in a changing climate

After over a decade of conflict and 13,000<sup>2</sup> deaths, 2006 marked a transformative year in Nepalese politics with the signing of a peace agreement between the government and Maoists, and the establishment of an interim government under the Seven Party Alliance. However, protests and violent reprisals, both last year and this, have ensured that PBI's protective accompaniment remains essential in Nepal. Although Nepal's human rights situation improved in 2006, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights in Nepal has highlighted a lack of accountability on the part of both the state security forces and the Maoists for past human rights violations. Both groups of actors are frequently inhospitable to human rights activists and continue to limit human rights organisations' operations. PBI accompaniment has aided the protection of groups seeking to legally rectify past injustices, and ensured their struggles against impunity can continue. Uncertainty surrounds the future of Nepal in 2007. In the south, conflicts have arisen over governmental representation of the Madhesi population,

while recent changes in the interim constitution and reforms in the timing of constitutional assembly elections have led to uncertainty and instability in the country.

Following extensive prior research and consultation, in 2006 the PBI Nepal Project began the implementation of its Security, Protection and Advocacy programme in Nepal. In providing International Protective Presence for human rights advocates and organisations, and facilitating the Nepal Support Network for Peace and Human Rights Activists (NSN), PBI has been welcomed by the human rights

community in Nepal. Having formally established an office of 5-6 field volunteers in Kathmandu, in 2006 PBI Nepal developed an extensive communications network that includes the Nepalese government, local and international NGOs and civil society, the diplomatic community, and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights in Nepal.

In August 2006 the Nepalese NGO, Advocacy Forum formally requested protective accompaniment from PBI in light of threats against the continuation of its work. Promoting the rule of law and seeking to uphold international human rights standards in Nepal, Advocacy Forum has faced opposition from both Maoist and government security related sources seeking to avoid accountability for



PBI volunteer, Jenny Brav with a Nepalese HRD

past atrocities. Embarking on a potentially dangerous legal strategy to spearhead cases against torture, disappearance, and extra-judicial killings. Advocacy Forum has received multiple threats. Their effective accompaniment throughout Nepal and their effective operations were recognised in 2006 by Human Rights Watch's Human Rights Defender Award for Advocacy Forum's Executive Director, Mandira Sharma.

Throughout the political battles of 2006, PBI's protective presence in an established Human Rights Home in the capital ensured

the safety of many human rights activists during periods of repression. Fearing for his life, Gopal Siwakoti, the executive director of the human rights organisation "HimRights", took refuge at the Home. Not only a safe haven, the Home provided a secure location in which Gopal was able to continue his work and coordinate with colleagues. During the 2006 People's Movement, COCAP, a coalition of civil society organizations working for peace and human rights in Nepal, suffered severe intimidation and threats. PBI accompaniment was of fundamental importance during this time as it ensured COCAP could continue working on and monitoring the country's human rights situation.

Due to extensive work throughout last year and new requests for accompaniment, PBI has developed additional relationships throughout Nepal. In February 2007 PBI began accompanying the Conflict Victims' Committee of Bardiya District in a region that has been severely restricted and disrupted by prolonged conflict and a very high presence of landmines.

In January 2007, a further volunteer selection and training process took place in New Delhi. Volunteers from countries including, France, Germany, India, Netherlands, South Africa, USA and UK will be deployed throughout Nepal in the coming year. Past volunteers have often continued working with PBI, helping to raise the profile of their work and facilitate open, active discussion and recognition of events inside Nepal.

When we have threats, we tell PBI who activates their own internal mechanisms—the alert network, or meetings with ministers, ambassadors, and giving us protection on our trips to speak with victims and authorities where we have to raise the issue of human rights violations. The PBI volunteers don't intervene or do our work, rather they give us international moral support.

Nepali Human Rights Lawyer

<sup>2</sup> <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2006/11/02/nepal14398.htm> 04/06/07

# Indonesia: Educational empowerment

Since arriving in Indonesia in 2000, PBI's work in Indonesia has expanded and evolved. The peace agreement between the government and GAM (Free Aceh Movement) has not ended the military's central societal role in Aceh and PBI accompaniment remains crucial throughout the country in regions such as Papua. Alongside accompaniment and having

**"Because of my work as a human rights activist, I have been intimidated, terrorised and detained. I had to be evacuated in a freight plane and even thought I had to leave the country. Since PBI has protected 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**

received governmental "foundation status" in 2005, the Indonesia Project took on new responsibilities in 2006. In coordination with existing Protection Service teams, Participatory Peace Education programs have begun in Aceh and both Jayapura and Wamena, Papua. PBI worked with numerous local community groups and various national and international NGOs in establishing contextually sensitive approaches to peace education. Rather than imposing any universal construct of peace education, PBI seeks to provide opportunities and guarantee a secure space for local communication and dialogue. Emphasis on participation and mutual learning are core features of these programs that seek to ensure individual recognition of the available alternatives to violence. In line with beliefs of empowerment and sustainability, PBI began developing resource centres for the continuation of accessible peace education for the long-term. The focus of its education has also been broadened to encompass not only

public, group interactions but also to counter pressing concerns over domestic violence. Through a variety of workshops, peace education activities, and continuous participatory communications, PBI's aim of making space for peace is being established within Indonesia.

At the request of the Indonesians themselves, PBI also expanded the number of groups it works with in 2006. PBI has begun working with LP3BH, an NGO based in Manokwari, West Irian Jaya, which received the Rights and Democracy 2005 John Humphrey Freedom Award.



**Megan Ciotti (UK volunteer) accompanying Yan Christian Warinussy, from LP3BH (Yayasan Lembaga Penelitian, Pengkajian dan Pengembangan Bantuan Hukum, The Institute for Analysing, Investigation and Development of Legal Aid) in Manokwari, Papua.**

**"Frankly, we feel more comfortable if there is accompaniment from PBI. We really need PBI on these trips.**

**Khairani Arifin, Coordinator Relawan Perempuan untuk Kemanusiaan/RPuK (Women Volunteers for Humanity in Aceh) Aceh, Indonesia.**

## **Perhimpunan Bantuan dan Hak Asasi Manusia Indonesia**

PBHI (Perhimpunan Bantuan dan Hak Asasi Manusia Indonesia), an organisation that seeks to give legal training and assistance to victims of human rights abuses has an active presence in Indonesia. PBI accompaniment of PBHI and its lawyers has ensured that many cases of human rights violations have reached the permanent Human Rights Court in Makassar, South Sulawesi. Retaliations to an attack on a local police station in the Abepura district of Papua in 2000 were allegedly reported as extreme and unjustifiable; two people died and multiple beatings and detentions occurred despite no evidence linking the victims to the initial attack. Although the trial of members of the Indonesian security force led to their acquittal in 2005, PBI accompaniment has importantly empowered local actors to seek legal means of compensation for past injustices. Two people died and multiple beatings and detentions occurred. No evidence was found linking the victims to the initial attack.

For an account of PBI's work in Indonesia and the experience of our volunteers see:  
[http://www.peacebrigades.org/etp/reports/pakhabar\\_jan07.pdf](http://www.peacebrigades.org/etp/reports/pakhabar_jan07.pdf)

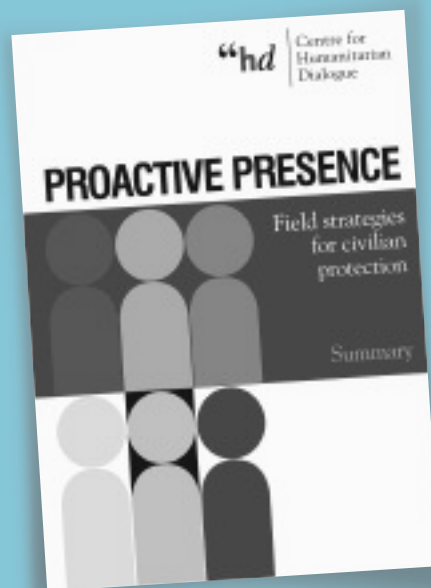


# Mainstreaming Protection Programme in DRC

Despite a cease-fire in 2003, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has remained embroiled in certain conflicts orientated around issues of territory and natural resources. Human rights organisations operating in the region have received little governmental support or security and are subject to continual threats. Their work is concerned with various issues including sexual violence, child soldiers, human rights education, and detainees' rights. Following extensive research from the DRC, Rwanda and Burundi from 2004, PBI-BEO (Brussels European Office) began work in the DRC in 2006. Initial management and security trainings that began in 2004 have continued and new contacts with both local and international authorities and human rights defenders have developed. These programmes have occurred in cooperation with Frontline, a Dublin-

*Proactive Presence:  
Field strategies  
for civilian protection*  
by Liam Mahony

In 2006 PBI's International Council member, Liam Mahony, and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (Geneva, Switzerland) published the above titled book. Having worked extensively in the field of human rights, including within the UN, Liam's publication casts an enlightening perspective on the role of civilian protection. Considerable research and field trips, including a ten-year assessment of PBI's work in Colombia, have gone in to this publication and it is recommended to all those considering work in the field.



<http://www.hdcentre.org/Proactive%20Presence>



based human rights organisation, the Belgium and German Foreign Ministries and some elements of the Swiss local government.

In 2006 PBI-BEO developed an Action Plan with the aim of raising national consciousness of the value of protecting human rights and HRDs throughout the country. This Plan included the objective of creating an alert process in which human rights violations are reported.

For further information about PBI-BEO's Mainstreaming Protection Programme (MPP), please visit [www.protectionline.org/](http://www.protectionline.org/)

**Participants in a PBI workshop on Security in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.**



# Volunteer's Accounts

## My experience as a PBI

### Guatemala team member

#### Silke Gatermann

First, when I arrived in January 2006, I remember being very impressed by the range of contacts the team had, ranging from very local human rights activists to high level human rights lawyers or members of international organisations, and the respect that these people have for PBI's work. To have access to such a wide variety of experts, who so willingly share their knowledge with PBI because of the well-known respectability and integrity of the organisation, is a privilege and provides an invaluable base of information from which the team can make its decisions. These contacts are the result of 23 years of experience and respected work in the field.

An average week can include accompaniments in and outside Guatemala City, meetings with national and international organisations and authorities, article and report writing, internal team meetings, attending conferences, receiving (announced and unannounced) visitors at the PBI office and house, and, of course, cooking and cleaning. It isn't unusual of course to have a whole carefully planned week turned upside down after an emergency phone call requiring immediate action. The Project Coordinator and Committee, its members situated in 5 countries around the world, are also on call 24 hours a day, and are there to provide constant advice and support on everyday matters and in emergencies.

Through PBI I have had the chance to meet some of the few people who still believe change for the better is possible, who believe in a better future, in a more just and equal Guatemala. These human rights defenders face death threats, intimidation and surveillance, but are prepared to risk their lives in order to achieve what they believe in. Through the accompaniment of PBI they are able to continue campaigning and continue being an inspiration to everyone who has the fortune of coming into contact with them.

## Indonesia Project 2006

### Mike Bluett

At the 2-week training course I was impressed by PBI's experience and methods. 4 months later I moved to Indonesia. I'm now half way through a year's field service with a PBI field team in Wamena in the Central Highlands of Papua, Indonesia. If, like me before I got here, you've never heard of it, google it, – you'll soon read something amazing! There are many local individuals and groups working for peace and human rights. They all tell us it is important for their work that PBI are here, especially as there are very few international organisations in the area.

Our peace education partners in the Highlands include local NGOs working for peace through promoting indigenous culture, women's groups and active individuals. The peace education program allows local people to explore their own experiences of conflict and identify their own strengths in resolving it. PBI relates with the local community through various film screenings, discussions on human rights issues, community activities and workshops. The peace libraries in Wamena and Jayapura have proven popular locations.

PBI volunteers may sit outside the office of a client who is being threatened and monitored by unknown groups, accompany a client organisation to a village in the Highlands where they are carrying out training for survivors of human rights



**Mike Bluett accompanies KONTRAS (Komisi Untuk Orang hilang dan Korban Tindak Kekerasan, The Commission for Disappearances and Victims of Violence) in the Central Highlands of Papua**

violations, or travel with a human rights investigator in a six-seated plane to a remote mountain area where armed conflict between rebels and government soldiers has just displaced 3000 people from their homes. I have been lucky enough to do all of these. PBI's protective accompaniment provides an unquantifiable mix of real physical protection and moral support for local human rights defenders to continue their struggle in the face of intimidation and attack.

Although it's been a big commitment for me personally and financially, I would wholeheartedly recommend volunteering for PBI. The support for volunteers is good and I have high hopes for exciting professional opportunities abroad following my experience in Papua.

## VOLUNTEER TRAINING

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

### 1 Attending the Orientation Weekend

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

### 2 Attending project-specific regional training

Each country 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 in the country, together with the kinds of situations team members may have to address. At the end of the training, candidates will be informed of their suitability to join the project.

# Financial Summary

(Charity registration number 1101016, Company registration number 3912587)

## Summary statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2006

	2006	2005
	£	£
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Grants receivable from trusts and companies	218,200	149,785
Donations and other income	27,409	22,283
	<u>245,609</u>	<u>172,068</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Charitable activities	(210,327)	(138,310)
Cost of generating funds	(23,969)	(27,451)
Governance costs	(8,549)	(7,439)
	<u>(242,845)</u>	<u>(173,200)</u>
<b>Net incoming resources for year</b>	2,764	(1,132)
Funds brought forward	<u>41,734</u>	<u>42,866</u>
Funds carried forward	<u>44,498</u>	<u>41,734</u>
<b>Summary balance sheet as at 31st December 2006</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>
	£	£
Fixed assets	<u>453</u>	<u>0</u>
Current assets	87,751	49,209
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(33,706)</u>	<u>(7,475)</u>
Net current assets	<u>54,045</u>	<u>41,734</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	54,498	41,734
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	<u>(10,000)</u>	<u>0</u>
Total net assets	<u>44,498</u>	<u>41,734</u>
Unrestricted funds	44,498	38,592
Restricted funds	<u>0</u>	<u>3,142</u>
Total funds	<u>44,498</u>	<u>41,734</u>

### Board of Trustees 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 Board of Trustees approved the full financial statements on 4th June 2007 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

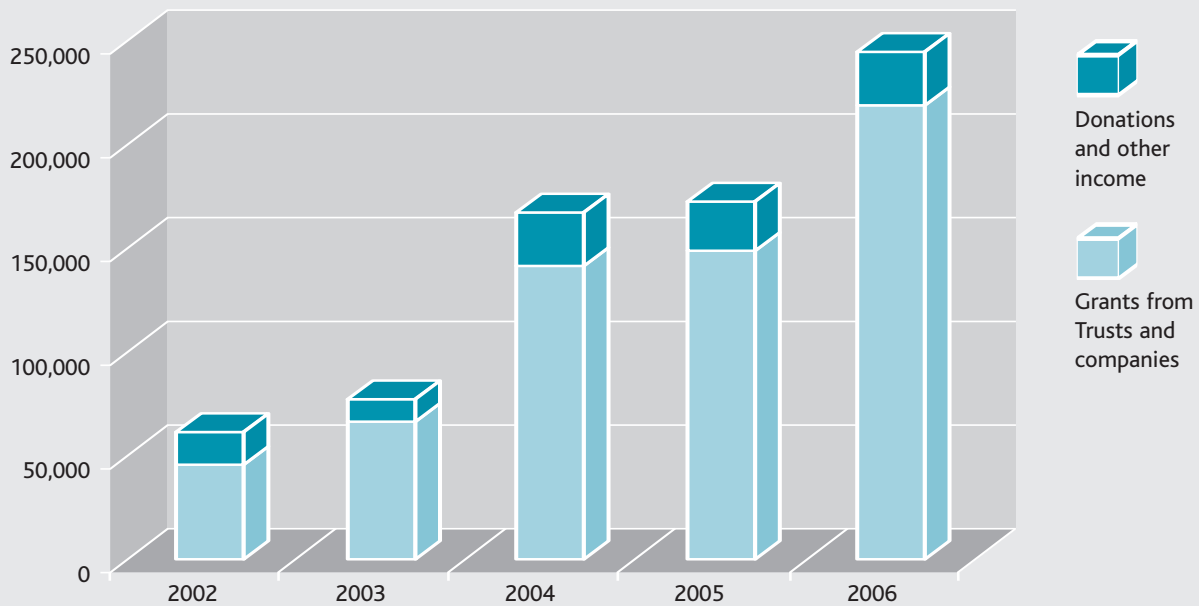
The summary accounts are the responsibility of the Trustees. It is our responsibility to report to you on their consistency with the full accounts. Our report on the full accounts of Peace Brigades International United Kingdom Section includes information on the responsibilities of the Trustees and the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

### Opinion

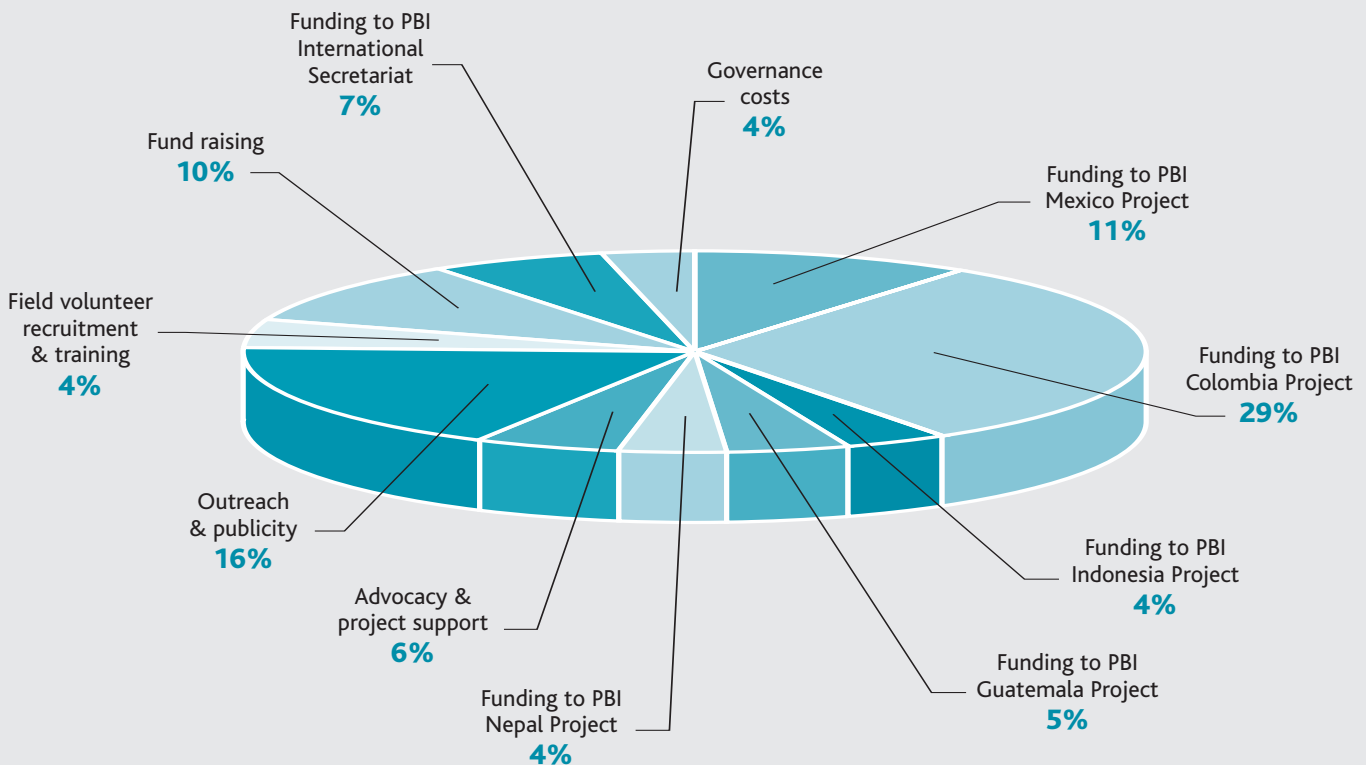
In our opinion the summary accounts are consistent with the full accounts of Peace Brigades International United Kingdom Section for the year ended 31 December 2006.

**Critchleys, Chartered Accountants,  
Registered Auditors 7th June 2007**

# Total incoming resources by year



# How the funds were spent in 2006





#### **PBI UK Office**

Peace Brigades International (PBI) UK Section  
1b Waterlow Road, London N19 5NJ

Tel / Fax 020 7281 5370

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

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

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

#### **PBI Country Groups**

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

#### **Associate Groups**

Austria  
Portugal

#### **Current PBI Projects**

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

#### **Board of Trustees**

Christopher Chapman  
Susan Cosgrove  
Joanne Holden  
Andrew Kendle  
Ben Miller

#### **Staff**

Susi Bascon  
(full time coordinator)  
Anna Jones  
(part time fundraiser)  
Lani Parker  
(full time outreach worker)  
Keith Smith  
(part time finance worker)

#### **PBI Field Volunteers 2006**

##### **Indonesia project**

Naomi Baird  
Mike Bluett  
Megan Ciotti  
John Hampson  
Nicholas Loc  
Catherine Mota  
Edd Wright

##### **Colombia project**

Chizom Ekeh  
Alice Garside  
June Holmes  
Paul Mukerji  
Anna Musgrave  
Alice Shirley  
Louise Winstanley

##### **Guatemala project**

Mary Scott  
Silke Gatermann

##### **Nepal project**

Lucy Carver

##### **Office volunteers**

Arul Aram  
Tehneyat W. Asif  
Mitzi Bales  
Rachel Beck  
Richard Bennet  
Monica Bergos  
Phili Bird  
Stuart Bowman  
Daniel Carey  
Santi Carballo  
Isabel Carlton  
Jonathan Cheethamp  
Deryn Collins  
Santi Cortinas  
Irene Costelo  
Hanna Coughlam  
Alex De Cata  
Nikkie Evans

Matt Fawcett  
Sophie Fosker  
Helen Gilbert  
Lidia Greatex  
Ruth Halstead  
Yasmine Hashen  
Andrew Hickman  
Louise Kellerman  
Libby Kerr  
Valeria Luna  
Emma Marshall  
Natalie Mercier  
Mia Moilanen  
Sian Morgan  
Stuart Morton  
Paul Mukerji  
Laurie Munslow  
Gregor Peterson  
Gabriela Pollard  
Jill Powell  
Eleanor Openshaw  
Eleanor Rosengreen  
Evrin Sanal  
James Savage  
Eva Szokol-Humay  
Katherine Tolymson  
Flakito  
Mark Williams  
Ann Wright  
Helen Woodcock

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