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Introduction

2001 was a historic year. The events of September the 11th have had huge ramifications, their echo rumbling ominously around the world. The terrible violence of that day has spawned yet more violence, and for a while the ideas of peace and non-violence seemed to have little place in a vengeful, angry and grief-stricken world.

But those events have highlighted the even greater importance of individuals and organisations working for peace and nonviolence. Never has the work of groups like Peace Brigades International been more urgent. By making space for peace in countries like Colombia and East Timor, PBI can help those working for human rights and peace benefit their own communities and continue their struggle against violence and oppression, without fear of reprisal. And at a time when violence seems to be an ever more common currency, the voices of those promoting nonviolence and peace need to be heard ever more clearly. Last year PBI received significant recognition of the fact that it is doing this effectively. PBI was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize and received the Martin Ennals Award for its invaluable work.

PBI UK’s work has gone from strength to strength over the year. We’ve run training courses, sent UK volunteers overseas, participated in Emergency Responses and continued to support our projects overseas

And we’ve celebrated 20th year of making space for peace, since 2001 marked 20 years since PBI as a whole was set up (see page 6 on this year’s events). That means twenty years of working towards non-violence, and twenty years of projects that have often meant the difference between life and death for hundreds of people round the world.

None of this would have been possible without the endless support of volunteers in the organisation. The work of our volunteers in the field is, of course, vital, but without the many volunteers and supporters here in the UK who answer the phone, write our newsletters, and give their valuable time and support to PBI, well – PBI UK just couldn’t manage. And alongside this our Emergency Response Network is strengthened by all those people who take time to respond in time of crisis (see page 4 on the ERN). It is because of all these people that PBI UK gets stronger every year. So thanks to everyone who helped in any way at all in 2001 – and rise to the challenge of working for peace and human rights in a world that needs it more than ever

PBI UK Management Committee
(Susi Bascon, Melissa Blackburn, John Carlarne, Susan Cosgrove, Peter Hollings, Andrew Kendle, Ulrika Strand)

Mission Statement

PBI is a unique grass roots organisation that works to open a space for peace in which conflicts can be addressed in a non-violent way. PBI applies a strategy of international presence and concern that supports local initiatives and contributes to developing a culture of peace and justice. We act on request of local organisations and groups working for human rights, social change and development of civil society which use non violent means in regions where there is oppression and conflict.

The aim of PBI's international presence is to accompany both political and social processes through a joint strategy of deterring violence and promoting active non-violence. Our international teams of volunteers use methods such as protective accompaniment, peace education, independent observation and analysis of the conflict situation. In addition, PBI learns about, develops and models forms of nonviolent intervention. Where possible, PBI initiates contacts with all the parties to a conflict in order to establish and inform of our presence. This work is supported through a broad international network of organisations and individuals. Our identity is built upon non-hierarchical structures and consensual processes.

PBI – How it all started

Peace Brigades International was founded in 1981 to promote peaceful resolution of conflict and protection of human rights. It has grown from a small group of activists into a world-wide movement of concerned citizens, characterised by non-hierarchical structures and consensual processes.

The idea of a peace force, unarmed and non-violent, comes from two different traditions: Gandhi and the Quakers. Rooted in the belief that no person should be debased, exploited or destroyed, the Quakers offered their services as mediators before or during conflict in 17th century England. Gandhi who trained groups in non-violent protest acting on the basic principle that a group of neutral, non-violent people would have the moral authority to bring a sense of humanity to both sides of a conflict.

After a series of ad hoc international peace initiatives a conference was organised to revive the idea of an international organisation committed to unarmed third-party intervention in conflict situations.

A founding statement was agreed after much debating and the name Peace Brigades International was chosen. Since then the organisation has developed and expanded, and several hundred of volunteers have been sent into the field to provide protective accompaniment and peace education. Thousands more have supported these volunteers through fundraising, political support building and outreach work and the impact they have had is immeasurable, both in saving lives and changing the way we deal with conflict.

Ulrika Strand

PBI UK International Forum (IF)

'How does PBI UK deal with issues that affect the entire organisation?' you ask. More to the point, 'Does the process it uses to make such decisions work?' Well, to answer such questions, I'm afraid you need to know a little history.

PBI UK's International Forum (IF) was created in early 2000 as a new way to deal with our responses to all international PBI activities. This was done because the Management Committee (MC) had increasingly found itself over-stretched with both PBI UK and PBI global responsibilities and, as a result, wished to lighten the load on itself by encouraging more of our members to become actively involved in decision making. In other words,

The IF was set up so that the MC could focus its' attention on day-to-day PBI UK issues, while the IF would take the lead role in shaping and co-ordinating our responses to issues that have an impact on PBI as a whole.

At first, this meant that the three-member IF would inform the membership whenever a PBI International Council (IC) decision round was taking place, and send out the list of proposals that needed to be discussed at face-to-face

meetings (or via e-mail, post and telephone) so that our country group could come to a common position. This worked fine for a while, but, in 2001, we were stretched to the limit by the extra work of preparing a PBI UK representative for the PBI European Assembly in this country and, most of all, by preparing for the PBI General Assembly (GA) in Switzerland. Post the GA, changes in the membership of the IF as well as in our personal lives, have also made it difficult for the IF to effectively cover all of its responsibilities

So, in order to help rectify this situation, we (the IF) need your help! Are you interested in becoming an active on-going member of the IF? Or, instead, are you interested in receiving notice of all of the IC proposals when they are sent to us? Would you be willing to give your feed-back at face-to-face meetings or via phone or e-mail once you have received and read the proposals? If so, you are the kind of person that we want to know!!

Please inform Susi Bascon at PBI UK's office of your interest in the IF or tell us in person at the Annual General Meeting on 22 June.

Andrew Kendle

PBI: Supporting victims of violence

Imagine being told that unless you left your home in three hours, you would be murdered.

This is what happened to Pedro Rodriguez from Colombia. Like many in his rural community in Cacarica, Pedro had made a peaceful living from the land, growing and selling produce like bananas and maize.

Pedro, as well as everyone else in his village was told to abandon his home or be massacred. Only a couple of days before 100 paramilitary gunmen had invaded his village. Armed with a chainsaw, they cut up a young man while he was still alive. They kicked his head around like a football, and dumped what was left of him into the river.

The people of Cacarica had not choice but to leave behind their crops, their livestock, their belongings and their homes. Many of them only managed to escape with what they stood up in.

Pedro says: "There were 780 families (that's 3,810 people) living in one sport's hall. It was inhuman. We had to sleep on the floor squashed up against each other. We had nothing, no water and no pots or pans."

For three years, the community was forced to live in these squalid conditions. But now most of the villagers have returned to Cacarica, and are rebuilding their shattered lives.

This was possible with the presence of PBI's international observers - Volunteers from all over the world accompanying people whose lives are under threat. **PBI volunteers are living proof that the international community cares. If a person protected by a PBI volunteer were to be wounded or killed, there would be a huge international outcry. As a result, even the most hardened killer won't risk assassinating anyone accompanied by a PBI volunteer.**

The first thing people who do any kind of work for PBI UK are often asked is – ‘Yes, but does it really work?!’ And of course, the idea of sending volunteers to extremely dangerous countries to shadow human right activists would seem, on the surface, to be faintly foolhardy. Downright dangerous even.

But the record of PBI's projects abroad speaks for itself. In 2001 we celebrated twenty years of protecting those working for peace and human rights in some of the most lawless parts of the world, where violence, disappearances and intimidation can be an everyday occurrence. And we were celebrating because what PBI does works, extremely well. And one of the reasons it does work so well are the support networks that PBI has built up over the years.

As you'll see from the following case study, these emergency support networks really can save the lives of people we accompany – and protect our volunteers in the field. In life-threatening situations – and this includes death threats or abduction, arrests or assaults or expulsion of team members from the country – PBI activates it's support system.

We can call on grass roots support by sending out a call to thousands of individuals all over the world through our Emergency Response Network. Here, individuals are asked to send faxes, e-mails, telexes and letters to the appropriate bodies to protest over a specific human rights violation. Within hours hundreds of protests can be lodged, and the effect of this is to put direct pressure on the perpetrators of violations, or on the government and military forces responsible for protecting their citizens.

PBI can also call on the support of governments, intergovernmental organisations, and powerful bodies like the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN). We use a different form of network – the Red de Apoyo (RdA) or Call for Support. This is a very powerful form of pressure, which is used selectively, but this kind of high-level protest can have a significant effect on the lives of the people we accompany and our own volunteers.

However, there's nothing like a real life story to illustrate a point. And it just so happens that in 2001, the following event occurred.....

Case study of PBI's Support Network

On 8 February 2001 in Barracabermeja, Colombia, two paramilitaries burst into the offices of a women's soup kitchen and threatened a Swedish volunteer working for PBI. After confiscating his passport and mobile telephone, the volunteer was told he was now a Legitimate military target.

The threat was taken very seriously. Barracabermeja is fast earning the unenviable reputation as one of the most violent places in Colombia. The town's murder rate is three times the national average. This year alone, there have been more than 90 political killings.

It's rare that PBI volunteers are threatened in this way, but it could have had a serious effect on the work of PBI in Colombia and internationally. However, the activation of the Emergency Response Network (ERN) and the Red de Apoyo (RdA) triggered an international outcry. The resulting campaigns by several international human rights organisations and development agencies meant that the paramilitaries handed back the phone and passport and retracted their threat. Without PBI's support networks, this might not have been the case.

Melissa Blackburn

Indonesia Project

After the killing of three foreign UN workers in September 2000 in Atambua (not far from the East Timor border) the UN and all foreign organisations, including PBI, withdrew from West Timor altogether. Following the evacuation, PBI solidified its office in Jakarta and focused its work on the recently established field team in Banda Aceh while the situation in East and West Timor was reassessed. A new assessment is currently under way for West Timor, and a sub-team in Lhokseumawe, northeast Aceh, is being planned for July/August 2002, which will better enable PBI to meet the ongoing demands of local NGOs for protective accompaniment throughout the province of Aceh. West Papua has also invited PBI to establish a team, and an assessment is planned for August/September 2002. Currently in early 2002, foreign organisations are largely absent from West Timor, and the UN still classifies this area of Indonesia as too high a

International Peace Service (SIPAZ)

PBI continued to participate in this joint project in Chiapas, Mexico. SIPAZ works with local organisations to reduce the level of violence and human rights violations as well as supporting peace building.

Balkan Peace Team

The other joint project that PBI has taken part in since 1994, the Balkan Peace Team (BPT) was closed in March 2001 at a special General Assembly. It was assessed that for many reasons the BPT did not have the resources and organisational structure to meet the demands of the situation. Many other members have however continued the work for peace and justice in the Balkans. BPT's most recent project, the Dragash's Youth Centre in Kosovo/a was handed over to another organisation in the region with the commitment that it will eventually be run under the ownership and leadership of the local community. As part of the process of disbanding the BPT, PBI will carry out a full evaluation of the project.

Mexico Project

With the murder of the internationally recognised human rights defender Digna Ochoa y Plácido on October 19th 2001, and the threats against human rights defenders in Mexico City, Guerrero and other areas of the country, the outlook for human rights in the country changed radically. Consequently, so did the work of the Mexico Project and the teams in Mexico City and Guerrero. Several new petitions came from threatened human rights activists but because of the number of accompaniments the project were already doing, they were having difficulties in responding to all these petitions. In spite of this, there were also positive signs: the problems of the work permits were solved, and the quick consolidation of the Guerrero team means that the project now maintains a wide net of contacts and several accompaniments.

Colombia Project

During 2001, the serious political situation in Colombia continued to deteriorate and there was an increase in demand for PBI's presence. The PBI Colombia Team is composed of four sub-teams in four different areas, but it works as a single team. This means that the sub-teams have the same work programmes, and that decisions are made and actions carried out in a coordinated manner. At this point there are a total of 35 observers/accompaniment workers on the team, with a coordinator based in Bogotá who is in charge of coordinating information and supervising our work.

Each regional sub-team carries out its regular accompaniment/observation work and a whole range of public relations and lobbying with civilian and military authorities, as well as with state bodies, NGOs, the church and international organisations.

I started in January 2000. The initial few weeks required learning about PBI and the very sensitive nature of the organisation in relation to its non-political doctrines - which is particularly pertinent when dealing with the press.

Having taken that on board (I was gutted that I couldn't lambaste repressive regimes!) the beginning of February saw the first direct threat against a PBI volunteer in Colombia. This was what it was all about! Out came my first press release, then on the phone, speaking to all types of media, then sending off faxes left right and centre - it was an unexpectedly (but unwanted, of course) exciting start.

The highlight of my time as press officer was the interview I had with Miguel Puerto. I learnt from this unpretentious, understated, unswerving man - courage, strength and determination. His commitment to human rights was unflappable - he was an inspiration and it was then that I really appreciated PBI, and how fortunate I was to be press officer for the organisation.

The Colombian Human Rights talk was another greatly satisfying event. At last I spoke to other press officers, got to meet more inspirational human rights defenders and saw the talks well attended, which was all gratifying aspects of the tour.

These were some of the highlights over the last 18 months, not forgetting of course, the 20th anniversary newsletter and membership leaflet actually produced! I have learnt so much, done so much and received a great amount of pleasure working with such a hugely important organisation; whose salience is growing.



Ben Miller

Events of 2001

Happy Birthday PBI! 20 years old in 2001 and going from strength to strength. And the PBI UK section was no exception - we had a packed year!

To celebrate our birthday we produced a mobile photographic exhibition to commemorate 20 years of work. Wonderfully designed, this eye-catching collection illustrates the work of PBI and its predecessors with clarity, wit and passion.

And on top of that we organised a speaking tour for Colombian human rights defenders at the end of last year (in coordination with Amnesty International and Christian Aid, who were a great pleasure to work with). The aim was to raise awareness on the human rights situation in Colombia, the work of local organisations and PBI's work with them. The speakers spoke movingly and the events added a special poignancy to our celebrations. On top of this, there was also a series of talks by returned volunteers who had returned from the field.

As always, the great strength of PBI UK in 2001 lay in its volunteers here in the UK, without whom the organisation just could not continue. We had more than 20 volunteers working in different areas such as fundraising, publicity, project support work, outreach and the management committee. PBIUK's volunteers work from one or two days per week, to a few hours per month, and unlike other organisations PBI UK gives volunteers the opportunity to take responsibility for specific areas of work. We really make an effort to match skills and interests and the needs of the volunteer, and this has been really successful this year with lots of new volunteers joining us - thanks!

Also a BIG thanks to our co-ordinator Susi Bascon. Without her commitment and enthusiasm it would be difficult to imagine that the activities in 2001 would have been so successful.

We organised 2 orientation weekends with 20 keen attendees, who had the chance to quiz returned volunteers from Colombia, Mexico and Indonesia. We currently have 2 British volunteers in Indonesia, 2 in Mexico and 6 in Colombia - and some of those volunteers attended orientation weekends last year and worked at the office. Best wishes to you all!

On the fundraising front, our hard working and dedicated team have further developed our relationship with previous funders the Network Foundation and the Polden Puckham Charitable Foundation, to whom we are very grateful for their continuing support. In addition to this we've developed new relationships with funders, and hope to continue to do so. The fundraising team help to research new trusts, draft funding proposals and write reports to funders. And this was the first year we had a full time paid coordinator thanks to the support of the Ruben and Elisabeth Rausing Trust. Thanks again to all our funders.

Our publicity skills also went from strength to strength with the production of a new information pack, a new membership leaflet, posters and leaflets for the orientation weekend, and a spanking newsletter, delivered to your door twice a year. And the website (see www.peacebrigades.org) gets better all the time, with some really useful resources and stories from volunteers.

There were six urgent actions issued during 2001 to support the organisations we accompany in Colombia. On February last year a PBI volunteer was declared a military target together with one of the organisations that we accompany (see our section on PBI's Support Networks). The network was activated internationally with an overwhelming response, emphasising once again the importance of our international support.

And finally, on a lighter note - some people were willing to go that extra mile on behalf of PBI. We had people skydiving for PBI - plummeting to earth in the name of peace, and we had our first Marathon Man who ran the London Marathon for PBI UK. What a great birthday present!



'It was good to meet other people who were drawn by the chance to do something useful in the world...The challenge, the learning experience, the validity – in the end, it's too good an opportunity to miss'

David Troup, a volunteer soon to join the Colombia Project reflecting on a PBI UK Orientation Weekend.

Prospective volunteers engaged in lively discussion at the Orientation Weekend

Summary income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 December 2001

	2001	2000
	£	£
Total income		
Grants receivable from Trusts and Companies	16,656	49,861
Other operating income	7,547	10,554
	<u>24,203</u>	<u>60,415</u>
Total expenditure		
Operating expenses	(36,674)	(26,275)
Allocations to PBI projects/International Office	(9,288)	(3,000)
Operating (Deficit)/Surplus for year	(21,759)	31,140
Reserves brought forward	37,044	5,904
Reserves carried forward	<u>15,285</u>	<u>37,044</u>

Summary balance sheet as at 31st December 2001

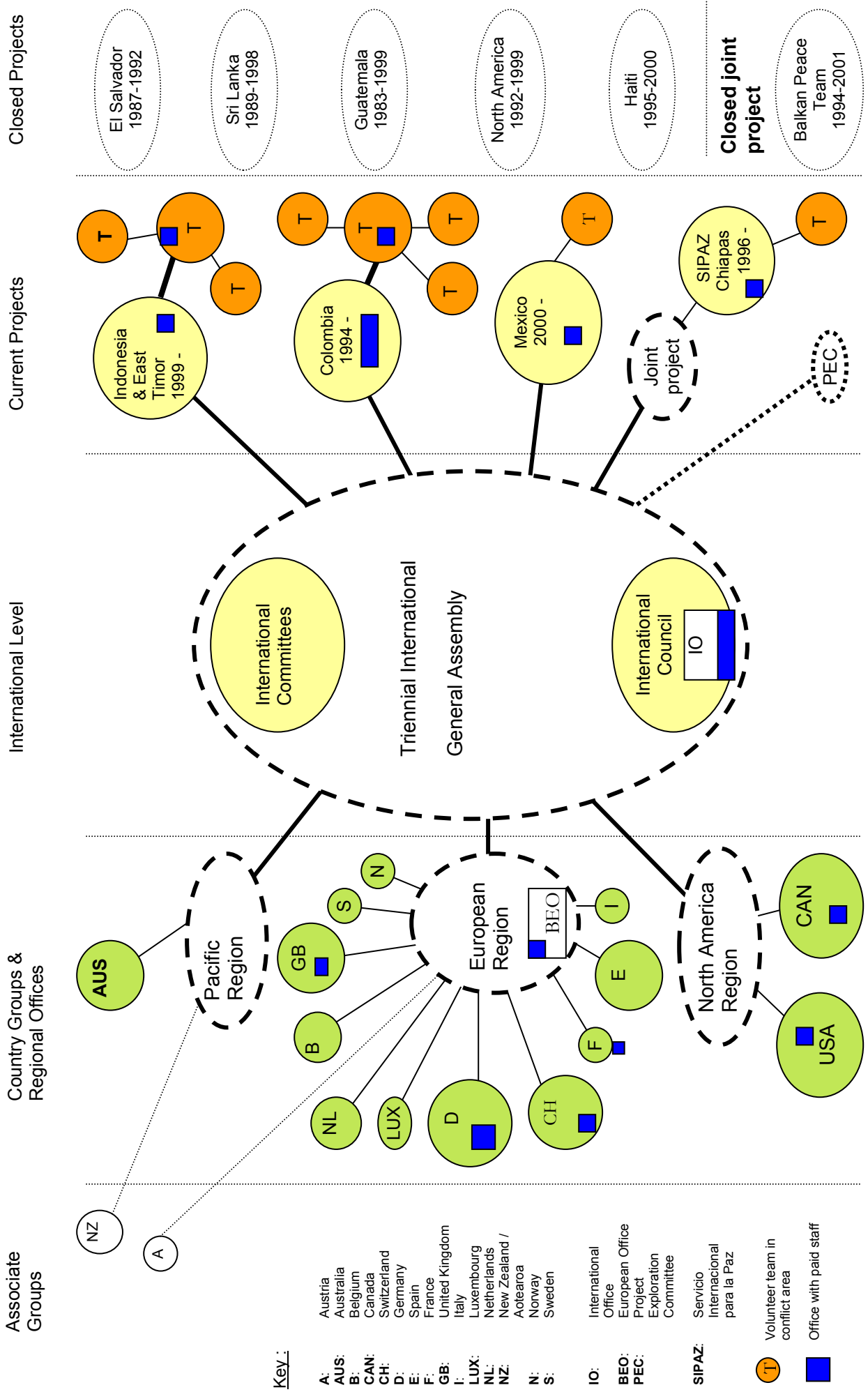
	2001	2000
	£	£
Fixed Assets	<u>713</u>	<u>835</u>
Current Assets	16,401	45,000
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(1,829)</u>	<u>(8,791)</u>
Net current assets	<u>14,572</u>	<u>36,209</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>15,285</u>	<u>37,044</u>
Reserves	<u>15,285</u>	<u>37,044</u>

The above represents summarised accounts only and a fuller understanding of the financial affairs may be obtained from the full unaudited annual accounts which are to be filed at Companies House for this organisation (Registered number 3912587). Copies are available from the registered office.

The full accounts were approved on behalf of the management committee on 24th of May 2002.



Peace Brigades International: Organisational Structure (in 2001)



Key:

- A: Austria
- AUS: Australia
- B: Belgium
- CAN: Canada
- CH: Switzerland
- D: Germany
- E: Spain
- F: France
- GB: United Kingdom
- I: Italy
- LUX: Luxembourg
- NL: Netherlands
- NZ: New Zealand / Aotearoa
- N: Norway
- S: Sweden
- IO: International Office
- BEO: European Office
- PEC: Project Exploration Committee
- SIPAZ: Servicio Internacional para la Paz
- (T): Volunteer team in conflict area
- (Blue square): Office with paid staff