



Peace Brigades International

PBI UK

Annual Review 2005



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PBI's Vision

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

What does PBI do?

PBI has been working to support human rights and promote 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 express 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.

Farewell to a valued friend

2005 began sadly, marked by the passing of John Ziman, a loyal and committed supporter and friend to PBI UK.

John was an eminent scientist and humanist with a keen interest in human rights. He cared deeply about PBI's work and his support through the Network for Social Change was instrumental in PBI UK's development.

John's support was not limited to his role as member of the Network. He took a personal interest in PBI's work, which he expressed in regular correspondence and through generous private donations. He also enjoyed meeting returned volunteers, for whom he had great respect, hearing first-hand about their experiences and the human rights situation in the field.

Since our first encounter with John, PBI UK has evolved into a still humble but much more solid organisation. While this has been a joint effort of volunteers, supporters and funders, John's support meant a lot to PBI and to me personally. He helped us to build our capacity and realise our potential. But most importantly he believed in us, and in our ability to bring about social change and contribute to a more just and fair world for human beings.

Susi Bascon, Coordinator, PBI UK

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Cover photo:

"No more violence" – peace demonstration in El Estor, Guatemala.
Photo by PBI volunteer Jacqueline Hefti (Switzerland)

Letter from the Board of Trustees

Pace Brigades International works in countries where there are complex histories of prolonged civil conflict.

Understanding and tolerance of the principles underlying human rights work is often misunderstood and even deliberately misrepresented, making human rights defenders' work very difficult. Their lives and the lives of those close to them come under threat.

In the 25 years since we began accompanying these brave people our strategies have evolved. In 2005 we continued to offer a protective accompaniment programme in Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia and Mexico and saw a new Nepal project develop with significant funding from the International Commission for Jurists. Our Brussels office provided workshops in the Democratic Republic of Congo designed to support human rights defenders in developing strategies to improve their own safety. This significant development in methodology encompassed a website focused on the security of human rights defenders and a co-produced manual on security strategies for human rights defenders.

Our protective accompaniment work has two components. A visible volunteer presence works alongside the human rights defenders, directly monitoring the situation on a day-to-day basis. Outside the field, project offices and country groups, such as PBI UK, work to build and strengthen a network of political supporters, media contacts and individuals who can be called on to highlight repression of human rights defenders when this occurs.

PBI UK raises funds to underpin the accompaniment programme. In 2005 we spent £173,200, the major part of which, £91,899, was passed directly to support fieldwork. PBI UK spent £81,301 on its activities in the UK and at the year-end we were holding £38,592 in unrestricted reserves. This represents 22% of expenditure in the year.

Since the year-end, a further significant grant of £150,000 has been committed by the Sigrid Rausing Trust. We have also received significant support for three years from the Bromley Trust, the Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust and the Tinsley Foundation. This funding stability has contributed to a secure medium term financial outlook and has enabled Trustees to begin implementing a new three-year strategic plan.

about their work and the difficulties they face.

PBI UK's work would not happen without Susi Bascon, PBI UK's Coordinator. Susi's commitment, professionalism and energy for PBI's work are outstanding. We are also fortunate to have accountant Keith Smith on board, and in 2005 we welcomed Lani Parker, our first intern, onto the staff team. We are grateful to the Quaker Peace and Social Witness joint



Tita Radilla (left) with PBI UK coordinator Susi Bascon

PBI UK coordinated two major awareness-raising speaking tours in 2005 by two inspiring women human rights defenders that we accompany in the field, Tita Radilla and Soraya Gutierrez Arguello. Both speakers addressed diverse organisations and audiences during their visits to the UK, helping to promote awareness of human rights abuses and detailing how our accompaniment programme makes their work possible. We are grateful to the Law Society, the Bar Human Rights Committee, the International Solicitors Human Rights Group and the Funding Network and the Polden-Puckham Charitable Trust for making Soraya's speaking tour possible. We will continue to bring other human rights defenders that we accompany here so that a UK audience can hear from them directly

initiative with Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust for funding this position, which has considerably boosted the development of our outreach strategy. Thanks also to Jane Walker, our fundraiser until October 2005, and our temporary fundraiser, Tamsin Mitchell, for her work in the later part of 2005, and to our excellent volunteers who bring great skills and expertise to PBI UK. We could not maintain the level or scope of our work without them.

However, we ended the year knowing that our work is needed more than ever. The climate in which human rights defenders work continues to deteriorate and we need to work harder to maintain and strengthen our voice on their behalf. We go into 2006 resolved to intensify our efforts.

PBI UK Trustees

Activities in 2005



Stuart Bowman presents a workshop at a PBI Orientation Weekend.

Recruitment & Training

With the help of returned volunteers, PBI UK ran two Orientation Weekends during 2005, in which 30 potential field volunteers gained a thorough introduction to PBI's philosophy and aims, including the principles of non-violent conflict resolution and consensus decision-making. 15 volunteers recruited in the UK served in Colombia, Indonesia and Guatemala. There are also around 30 volunteers providing vital support to the field projects from PBI UK's London office.

Outreach & Publicity

PBI's work depends on public awareness: Awareness of the organisations we accompany in the field – ensuring that our presence signifies the

eyes of the international community and thus deters violence and repression – and awareness of PBI as an organisation whose work warrants the generous voluntary and financial support that makes it possible.

This significant aspect of PBI UK's work was enhanced during 2005 by the appointment of full-time Quaker Peace and Social Witness intern, Lani Parker, and her development of PBI's outreach work among students and universities.

UK media awareness has continued to grow, with PBI mentioned in 22 articles and broadcasts in the national, local and specialist media.

PBI UK also published its twice-yearly newsletter and a special lawyers' pack, and disseminated project newsletters

among supporters. Returned field volunteers continued to support the organisation, giving talks and running stalls at some 45 events during the year. Exposure was also achieved through PBI's touring photo exhibition *Making Space for Peace*, which travelled throughout Ireland. It consists of 50+ images of human rights defenders in some of the most volatile countries in the world. Over 2000 people visited the exhibition. The PBI UK Annual General Meeting and a special memorial event for PBI supporter John Ziman were held in October.

Speaking tours

No one can illustrate the importance of protecting the work of human rights defenders better than the defenders themselves. In 2005, PBI UK brought to Britain representatives of organisations we accompany in the field, to speak to lawyers, students and supporters around the country about their work and the threats they face. Tita Radilla, founder of Families of the Disappeared and Detained Victims of Human Rights Violations (AFADDEM) – whom PBI Mexico Project has accompanied in Guerrero since 2003, gave talks at Amnesty International UK and several universities. Soraya Gutierrez, president of the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers Collective (CAJAR), spoke at the Law Society and Opening of the Legal Year event as well as with many in the legal and political fields.

Stuart Bowman explains why he began running PBI UK's orientation sessions after returning from volunteering with the Indonesia Project.

"I wanted to stay involved with PBI at a broad level – not specifically with the Indonesia Project – because it was the overall principles that attracted me in the first place. This has been a way of continuing to support the organisation that suits me. In PBI, given the short-term nature of the 12 month contract in the field, I think it is vital to retain the knowledge and experience of former volunteers.

"As facilitator, I have certainly developed my training and facilitation skills. I also have learned a lot about the other

projects to the point where I feel I can talk about them in an informed way when I meet people who are interested in PBI. I take on the energy and enthusiasm from potential volunteers, which reminds me why I found PBI exciting when I first heard about it, and keeps me feeling committed to the organisation.

"When I attended an orientation weekend as a potential volunteer, the experience was mainly about me. I had lots of questions and there was a lot of uncertainty about my own relationship with the organisation. Now the emphasis is more on others, trying to give participants space to explore all of this and to identify whether PBI is for them."

Fundraising: Making it possible

PBI's political independence requires that our finance comes from independent sources. As such, we rely on the generosity of private individuals and organisations to continue our work. In 2005 our incoming resources totalled £172,068, mainly from charitable trusts, but crucially supplemented by our individual members and supporters, and a number of special fundraising events.

We are grateful that some longstanding benefactors have renewed their support, notably the Appletree Fund, the Network for Social Change, the Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation, the Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund and the Sigrid Rausing Trust. Furthermore, firm indications of significant funding support for three years have also been received from the Allan & Nesta Ferguson Trust, the Bromley Trust and the Tinsley Foundation.

We extend our special thanks

also to the generosity of individual donor Nick Sturge, and to the Quaker Peace and Social Witness joint initiative with the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust for funding Lani Parker's internship.

"A marathon with a sit down, a shower and a cuppa in the middle," was Su Chard's view of running the Stroud and Bristol half-marathons within three weeks of each other in October 2005. An amazing feat, accomplished with determination

Volunteer Sepp Brudermann raising money for PBI at Glastonbury 2005



and humour, and with all the proceeds – approximately £300 – going to PBI UK. We are in awe and hugely grateful for her efforts.

Requiring possibly less inner fortification but undoubtedly plenty of humour, PBI UK volunteers worked the beer tents at a number of summer festivals including Glastonbury and Reading. Organised by the Workers Beer Company, the volunteers worked a six-hour shift for an hourly rate that was donated straight to PBI – and for the rest of the day enjoyed music for free. Everyone was happy!

PBI would like to acknowledge and thank the following key funders for their support during 2005:

Appletree Fund
Bromley Trust
The Funding Network
The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust
Network for Social Change
Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation
Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund
Quaker Peace and Social Witness
Radley Charitable Trust
The Rowan Charitable Trust
The Sigrid Rausing Trust

New PBI Publication: A PROTECTION MANUAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

The challenges faced by human rights defenders in armed conflict situations require them to implement comprehensive and dynamic security strategies in their day-to-day work. In 2005 PBI, in collaboration with Front Line, a Dublin-based organisation working for the protection of human rights defenders world-wide, published a manual which aims to equip activists with additional knowledge and some tools that may be useful for improving their understanding of security and protection.

The manual is the result of PBI's long-term project on field protection for defenders. We have had the opportunity to learn from and share experiences and

knowledge with hundreds of defenders in the field, as well as in workshops, meetings and discussions about security. The manual is the fruit of all these exchanges, and we owe the defenders involved a huge thanks for their input.

It must not be forgotten that the best tool for protecting defenders is political action to address the one big remaining issue: the need for governments and civil society to put pressure on and act against those who day after day threaten, harass and kill defenders. The advice given in this manual is in no way intended to replace the due responsibility of each and all governments to protect human rights defenders.

I hope that this manual will support human rights defenders in developing their own security plans and protection mechanisms.... It is important that all of us involved in working for human rights understand that we must be concerned about security, not just for ourselves but for the people we work with and for.
Hina Jilani, UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders

For more details visit
www.protectionline.org
To purchase a copy of the manual contact PBI UK:
coordinator@peacebrigades.org.uk

Emergency Support Network

The support network is a way for PBI to bring human rights violations to the attention of the international community, governments, and the media, enabling PBI to continue its work. PBI UK's

Society of England and Wales, the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales and the International Bar Association. PBI UK also participated in regular meetings with Ministers, MPs, All-Party Groups and Foreign Office



Soraya Gutierrez Arguello at work in her Bogotá office

support network is activated following instances of extreme human rights violations, such as the massacre of eight members of the San José de Apartadó Peace Community in February 2005, as well as in cases of disappearances and assassinations.

Membership of PBI UK's support network includes MPs, MEPs, and Lords; legal professionals; NGOs; and other individuals. Members write letters to presidents and their governments to raise awareness of extreme human rights abuses and call for action. MPs and Lords may also raise questions in the Houses of Parliament to bring such abuses to the attention of the British government.

In 2005, PBI UK succeeded in expanding its support network to 80 parliamentarians, lawyers and academics, as well as securing the support of three of the UK's key legal societies, the Law

representatives, and enjoyed a high level of respect and support in Parliament. Several parliamentary questions proposed by PBI UK were tabled and an Early Day Motion celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Colombia Project – and expressing support for its work – was signed by 86 MPs.

In 2005, all three of PBI UK's urgent activations of the support network were for Colombia. In February, the support network was activated following the San José de Apartadó massacre, and its

STOP PRESS

Soraya Gutierrez Arguello honoured

The American Bar Association (ABA) has named Soraya Gutierrez Arguello International Human Rights Lawyer of the Year 2006.

For more than 20 years Ms Gutierrez Arguello, president of the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CAJAR), has been a human rights defender, representing victims of crimes against humanity, seeking truth, justice and reparation, and exposing powerful human rights abusers who would otherwise act with impunity. She receives PBI protective accompaniment, having faced numerous threats because of her work.

impact contributed towards an unprecedented delay in the annual certification of US military aid to Colombia. The disappearances of five members of the Inter-Ecclesiastic Commission of Justice and Peace in April and the disappearance and subsequent assassination of Orlando Valencia, a member of the Afro-Colombian community of Jiquamiando in Choco (Uraba), also prompted the activation of the support network.

Laurie Munslow

■ During 2005, PBI UK also played an active role in 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 information sharing group, Indonesia Forum.

■ PBI UK also attended the 61st session of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva as an observer, as well as a seminar on the UN Special Mechanisms on Human Rights Defenders and IDPs held in Geneva.

On the front line

Human Rights Defenders: *"Individuals, groups and associations...contributing to...the effective elimination of all violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of peoples and individuals."* (United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders)

Pace communities, environmentalists, families of the disappeared, indigenous groups, lawyers collectives, trainers and capacity builders, trade union organisers. PBI accompanies a diverse range of organisations and individuals trying to improve life for their fellow human beings, who find their lives threatened as a result of that work. Below are some examples of groups PBI accompanied in 2005.

PBHI (Perhimpunan Bantuan dan Hak Asasi Manusia Indonesia)

In Papua, Indonesia, PBI accompanies the Jakarta-based legal aid and human rights organisation, PBHI, which is working for the promotion and protection of human rights. Its activities include legal awareness training, legal assistance and advocacy for victims of human rights violations.

PBHI has been responsible for the investigation and trial of many human rights cases. Its lawyers have been under threat because of their work in this area, including the Abepura case, during which PBI accompanied them to the first permanent Human Rights Court in

Makassar, South Sulawesi. The court heard the cases of victims of human rights violations committed in the Abepura district of Papua in December 2000 when police, retaliating after an attack on a local police station, raided student dormitories. The night ended in two deaths by beating, one by shooting, and one hundred detentions, with reports of beatings and torture in custody¹. There has been no evidence that any of the victims were linked to the earlier attack on the police station.

Two senior members of the Indonesian security forces were tried during 2005 and acquitted in September. Despite an earlier National Human Rights Commission inquiry naming another 23 suspects, there have been no further prosecutions.

SITRA-NB

An on-going struggle for employment rights between the management of the NB maquila (Assembly Plant) in Guatemala City and its all-female Trade Union of Workers (SITRA-NB) came to an end in July 2005.

Union and executive board members experiencing harassment, including

It is an act of bravery for a group of Papuans to stand up and claim that the police have acted criminally, and to seek justice and compensation. There are few lawyers or institutions prepared (or brave enough themselves) to take on such cases.

**PBI Indonesia Project
volunteer**

intimidating visits to their homes, requested accompaniment from PBI in July 2004 because they were frightened of the threat of violence against them. PBI also maintained a presence outside the factory.

After a union representative was hit in the face by a manager early in 2005, PBI Guatemala activated its Internal Support Network and held meetings with local authorities to express concern about the situation. Negotiations for a collective bargaining agreement were underway, but in June the maquila was suddenly shut. Labour Ministry workers were prevented from entering the plant to negotiate settlement terms for the employees; instead plant management coerced the 300 employees to accept just 20% of their severance pay entitlement. The union filed a complaint about the circumstances surrounding the plant closure and union members began a vigil outside the plant to prevent the removal of any equipment. PBI continued in its capacity as international observer.

Eventually, Labour Ministry inspectors deemed that the management of the plant had acted fraudulently and in doing so had contravened both the Labour Code and the conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO). The employees collected the full compensation in July 2005.



PBI volunteer Helen Woodcock (UK) accompanying members of SITRA-NB outside the NB maquila

¹ Human Rights Watch report: www.hrw.org/report/2001/paua/PAPUA0701-05.htm

Guatemala: Legacy of the genocide

According to the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Latin America was the most dangerous region in the world for human rights defenders in 2004. And 2005 saw a further deterioration of their treatment in Guatemala. PBI Guatemala's mandate is to help improve the country's human rights situation. To do this PBI provides international accompaniment and observation to enable human rights defenders to work without threat.

The National Human Rights Movement (MNDH) reported that 37% of attacks upon human rights defenders in 2005 were aimed at those who seek historical justice. Sons and Daughters for Identity and Justice in the Face of Indifference and Silence (HIJOS) works for the recovery of historical memory. Their offices were ransacked in January 2005 and members faced death threats and an attempted kidnapping. PBI has since made regular visits to its offices and provides international accompaniment at its organised events.

The MNDH also reported that 43% of attacks were against *campesinos*, union members and environmentalists. This is reflected in the five new organisations for which PBI Guatemala began accompaniment in 2005. One such



PBI volunteer Tawia Aabam (UK) on an accompaniment in Joyabaj

organisation is the Verapaz Union of Campesino Organisations (UVOC), which helps campesinos gain access to land and provides them with legal advice. Its director, Carlos Morales, has received death threats and been followed by unidentified assailants. In April 2005, threats against his life increased, prompting him to go into hiding. Subsequently, he asked PBI to accompany him 24 hours a day so that he could work and his family

could live without fear of attack.

National Civil Police figures revealed that more than 600 Guatemalan women were murdered in 2005 – an 18% increase on 2004. Last July, PBI were observers during discussions for the creation of the Network to Stop Violence against Women, which is seeking justice in the face of a rising number of women murdered. It was also agreed that PBI would accompany lawyers who received threats. PBI were also observers at a march on the International Day to Stop Violence against Women in November.

CASE STUDY

Indigenous Municipality Of Sololá

The Indigenous Mayoress of Sololá, Dominga Vásquez, works to safeguard the rights and customs of the Maya as well as the protection and development of their communities.

In January 2005, protests against the transportation of a cylinder for use in open-air mining through their village ended violently. Consequently, PBI began accompanying the Mayoress in her work.

In March, letters threatening the life of Ms Vásquez and another member of the Indigenous Municipality, Carlos



Indigenous Mayoress Dominga Vásquez

Humberto Guárquez, were found after arsonists set fire to Mr Guárquez's car. The letters read: "for your stupid meddling in society, tomorrow will be the day you disappear from this world." As a result, PBI Guatemala activated its Internal Support Network for the second time in as many months.

Ms. Vásquez's term as Indigenous Mayoress ended 1 January 2006, but the level of threat against this community and its representatives remains high and PBI will continue to monitor the situation in Sololá.

Laurie Munslow

Colombia: Still struggling for peace

Scarred and traumatised by a four-decade-long internal conflict, Colombia is home to more than three million internally displaced persons – only Sudan has a larger number. According to Human Rights Watch, it is illegally-armed paramilitary and guerrilla groups who carry out most of the systematic human rights abuses that blight the lives of ordinary Colombians, although government forces are also implicated at times.²

Despite a ceasefire agreed by paramilitary groups, the violence in Colombia continued with little relief during 2005. Crimes against civilians included massacres, intimidation, death threats, kidnappings, forced disappearances, torture and extortion. Human rights defenders were particularly vulnerable to such abuse, as were indigenous communities, afro-descendants, trade unionists, journalists, and peasant farmers.



Justicia y Paz member Ana Maria giving a workshop with displaced communities in Uruba

Those committing violence and intimidation against human rights defenders largely continued to enjoy impunity for their crimes. Attacks against peaceful activists were if anything legitimised by government officials, who (again) made statements suggesting human rights workers were terrorist

sympathisers. In March, for example, President Uribe said of the San Jose de Apartadó Peace Community that “some of its leaders, sponsors and defenders have been marked out by people who have lived there, as assisting the FARC and as wanting to use the community to protect this terrorist organisation.”³

The San Jose de Apartadó Peace Community has seen some 170 of its members murdered by paramilitaries and guerrillas since it was founded in 1997. In February 2005, the peace community’s emblematic leader Luis Eduardo Guerra, his partner, young son, and five other community members including three more children, were killed in a brutal massacre.

In July 2005 the Government attempted to launch the ‘Justice and Peace Law’ (Law 975). Offering reduced sentences to paramilitaries participating in a demobilisation process, the law would have effectively extended impunity for many of those responsible for human rights violations, while denying victims their right to truth, justice and reparation. Under it, forcibly displaced communities could not reclaim their land. The Justice and Peace Law drew strong criticism from within Colombia and the international community for failing to meet international standards for the rights of victims. In May 2006 it was overturned by Colombia’s constitutional court.

It is in this context that PBI Colombia volunteers in Bogotá, Barrancabermeja, Medellín and Urubá, provided protective accompaniment for around 20 individuals or organisations working for human rights in their communities. To strengthen their work, the project networked extensively with civil and military authorities (not with illegal armed groups), diplomatic officials and international organisations, informing them of PBI’s presence, activities and concerns for the safety of those we accompany, thus ensuring the effectiveness of our work.

Surveying environmental damage caused by African palm plantations in collective territories



CASE STUDY

The Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission (Justicia y Paz)

Justicia y Paz provides humanitarian, legal and psychological support to several communities in Cacarcica, Jiguamiandó and Curvaradó, Dabeiba, Cauca, Meta, Putumayo and Bogotá. PBI accompanies its members, who face threats because of this work.

In 2005, members of Justicia y Paz suffered death threats, kidnappings and surveillance. The organisation has been smeared in the media and attacked in the legal arena. Accused of supporting guerrilla forces, it currently faces several legal suits relating to its work with displaced rural communities.

Justicia y Paz’s clients include displaced communities trying to set up a Humanitarian Zone in the midst of illegal African palm plantations in Curvaradó. The cultivation of this cash crop is displacing the largely Afro-Colombian communities in the region, as well as threatening the bio-diversity of one of the world’s largest natural reserves. In October 2005, Orlando Valencia, a community leader publicly opposed to the plantations, was assassinated.

Emma Marshall

² Human Rights Watch Country Summary 2006 ³ “Uribe ordered the police to rapidly enter San José,” *El Colombiano*, 20/3/05; “In 20 days at the latest the security forces should enter the San José de Apartadó Peace Community,” *El Tiempo*, 20/3/05

Mexico: In pursuit of justice

Its proximity to the United States may have helped Mexico become one of the most developed countries in Latin America, but according to Anders Kompass of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mexico's justice system languishes behind those of other South American countries.

The failure to bring to justice the killers of hundreds of women and girls in Ciudad Juárez demonstrates the ineffectiveness of Mexico's legal system. In February, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Ms. Yarkim Ertük, visited Ciudad Juárez, and in June, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Louise Arbour, expressed concern about the "extreme violence" Mexican women face.

PBI provides accompaniment for human rights organisations which seek justice for human rights violations, including violence towards women. The Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre of the Mountain Region provides support and legal advice to Guerrero's large indigenous population. PBI has been accompanying Tlachinollan since 2003 when its director began receiving threats. Since then other members of the Centre have also received threats and PBI has agreed to accompany the Centre's legal advocates, Claudia Vazquez and Rogelio Teliz.

Tlachinollan represents cases such as that of Inés Fernández Ortega and Valentina Rosendo Cantú, two indigenous women who in 2002 were, according to Tlachinollan, raped by members of the

Mexican army. It is also involved in opposing the controversial La Parota hydroelectric plant in Guerrero – a plan to create energy by flooding farmland and displacing some 25,000 people. The dam has divided community opinion and in August 2005, a community meeting ended with police beating protesters with chairs and clubs. In September, a villager who opposed the dam was shot dead by another villager who supported it.

CASE STUDY

Cerezo Committee

PBI Mexico has been providing accompaniment and international observation to the Cerezo Committee since 2002 when Emiliana and Francisco Cerezo Contreras became victims of intimidation and harassment.

The Cerezo Committee was set up by Emiliana and Francisco after their brothers, Alejandro, Héctor and Antonio were imprisoned and allegedly tortured in 2001. The case for the defence took a tragic turn when the brothers' lawyer, prominent human rights defender Digna Ochoa y Placido, was murdered in 2001.

In March 2005, youngest brother Alejandro was cleared of all charges against him and released. However, despite the fact all three brothers were accused of the same crime, the Appeal Court ruled that Héctor and Antonio should serve the rest of their sentence.

Also in 2005, the case of Rosendo Radilla Pacheco, became the first case of its kind to be presented to the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights. The father of Tita Radilla, Vice President of the Association for the Families of the Detained-Disappeared and Victims of Human Rights Violations in Mexico (AFADEM), was disappeared in 1974. In August 2005, an arrest warrant was issued for General Francisco Quiros Hermosillo for Mr Radilla's enforced disappearance. PBI has been accompanying Tita Radilla and AFADEM in their investigation and documentation of disappearances and other human rights violations since 2003, when Ms Radilla requested accompaniment following threats to her life. Members of AFADEM are all relatives of persons disappeared during Mexico's so-called *guerra sucia* (dirty war) in the 1970s and 1980s.

Laurie Munslow

Effigies of the imprisoned Cerezo brothers created for a protest during the Day of the Dead celebrations in November 2005



Indonesia Project expansion as human rights landscape shifts in the archipelago

The later half of 2005 has been a significant moment in the history of Indonesia. On 15 August 2005, GAM (Free Aceh Movement) and the Government of Indonesia signed a Memorandum of Understanding, formally ending the 30-year conflict. Many feel that one impact of the December 2004 tsunami has been to make both sides re-evaluate their priorities and that there now exists sufficient political will to make lasting peace a real possibility. According to PBI client The Coalition of Human Rights Organisations, there were only 311 human rights violation cases in Aceh during 2005, compared to 779 cases reported in 2004.

In response to changing needs in Aceh, PBI has been asked to develop its local peace-building capacity in partnership with clients. In November it co-facilitated a Training of Trainers event for women with "Flower Aceh". The new work aims to develop a pool of local peace-builders trained in gender issues, reconciliation, conflict and non-violence. The newly formed Participatory Peace Education

sub-team is based in Banda Aceh but plans to expand to the island of Sulawesi when capacity allows. PBI has received repeated requests to work in the region where religious conflict has claimed hundreds of Muslim and Christian lives since 2001.

In Papua political tensions have increased over the year. The implementation of the special autonomy law, the government elections, and an increase in the number of security forces in the region, have all amplified conflict. PBI has consolidated its position in Papua, developing its protective



Victim of torture Raga Kagoya inside the Human Rights Court in Makassar, PBI volunteer in background

Since PBHI has become a client in 2004, self-confidence has emerged here, we feel safe and not hesitant in the fight for Human Rights... PBI has created a network, not only in Papua and Jakarta, but also internationally, which has made us feel safe and free to talk."

Peneas Lokbere, client organisation PBHI

(see Human Rights Defenders, page 7)

services and peace education. In July, PBI opened a new office and sub-team in Papua in Wamena, after existing clients and civil society groups identified a need for PBI accompaniment in the area. Local NGOs had reported the presence of non-government troops and new militias organising training camps in the surrounding forests.

In 2005, the Indonesia Project received "Foundation Status" from the Government of Indonesia meaning that it is an official NGO in the country. It was also able to secure several large funding grants, allowing it to expand its work in Papua and in the area of participatory peace education. In December 2005 there were 19 volunteers in the field and the project hopes to expand to an average of 30 volunteers in 2006.

Megan Ciotti

Aceh – a volunteer's perspective

The situation in Aceh today is very different from when PBI first arrived in 2000, or even when compared with when I arrived in April 2005. Now there is peace, large numbers of soldiers have been withdrawn. GAM (Free Aceh Movement), which has disarmed and officially disbanded its armed wing, and the government are working together to reintegrate former GAM members. In this context, our team has continued to monitor our client's security and help them to network with other organisations, including the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM), here to monitor the implementation of the peace agreement. Reported human rights abuses have decreased

enormously, and our clients have diversified their work in line with the changing situation – some gathering data on past abuses, some socialising the peace through radio and other programmes, and some focussing more on victims of the tsunami. PBI has responded to the changed context by opening a peace education programme here in Aceh. In recent months then, our greatest impact has probably been through peace education activities, including discussions on what is peace, non-violence and the role of Islam in peace-building; and workshops on gender and peace-building, and non-violent behaviour.

Kathryn Tomlinson

Nepal: Conflict and transition – 2006 update

Lucy Carver joined the fledgling PBI Nepal Project in February. As an experienced PBI volunteer who has volunteered in Indonesia and the UK, she was well placed to help establish the new project in Kathmandu.

The initial priority in Nepal is to register with the government so that PBI can fully begin its work. The situation for Nepali human rights and peace activists has significantly deteriorated over the last year since King Gyanendra's February 1 coup, and civil society continues to be squeezed by the on-going conflict between Maoist guerrillas and the state security forces. Following the reinstatement of democracy after the people's movement in April this year there is some hope of dialogue or resolution of the conflict in sight; however the need for PBI's services during this transition period is constantly being reiterated by the activists we meet. Nepali civil society is extremely active and engaged and I have been impressed by the high level of organisation here.

One really inspiring initiative I have encountered was a conference organised by a Nepali women's NGO for women human rights defenders (HRDs). About 400 women attended from all over Nepal (quite an achievement considering the financial, social and physical obstacles to getting woman HRDs from the far districts to Kathmandu). It was amazing to meet all these women struggling for change under difficult circumstances and a reminder how far they have to go. Many basic obstacles remain within their families, villages and in society generally. Women here suffer from the multiple effects of conflict as well as often experiencing violence and discrimination from within existing social structures.

I have also been inspired by the work of the NGO workers and journalists involved in mediation with the Maoists and government security forces in cases of abductions or threats to civilians in the districts. We have heard about cases where negotiations, often in very intimidating circumstances, have led to the release of those detained by the Royal Nepalese Army (RNA) or the Maoists, and the return of communities displaced due to the conflict.



Lucy Carver observing pro-democracy rallies in Katmandú in April 2006

There are many obstacles to establishing a new project – building trust with all parties and explaining PBI's unique way of working – but helping shape how PBI can have an impact in Nepal is really exciting. The last few months have seen historic changes in Nepal as democracy has been restored through a people's movement and the King stripped of his powers. These rapid changes have brought a cautious hope to those working for peace here. As I write this letter PBI is sending teams to the remote regions of Nepal to assess the impact of the current changes and how PBI's presence can support this transition. The violence continues in Nepal and real transformation after more than 10 years of conflict may take a long time but we hope to be able to support those struggling non-violently to bring some lasting peace here.

Lucy Carver

Mainstreaming protection in DRC

PBI has many more requests for its accompaniment than we can respond to. However, our Research and Security Unit in Brussels has responded to some of this need by developing and delivering training and workshops for human rights defenders – the focus of these workshops is to give human rights defenders the skills to develop security awareness and protection strategies for themselves – we call this 'mainstreaming' protection.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been ravaged by armed conflict for more than 40 years. Despite a cease-fire agreement between the main factions in 2003, violence over the control of territory and natural resources has continued to claim thousands of lives. Many human rights groups work in the region despite facing grave threats from all sides and little protection from the government. Their work spans a broad range of issues and activities, among them protecting and supporting former child soldiers, providing human rights education, supporting victims of rape and torture, and investigating human rights violations.

In 2005, PBI's Research and Training Unit gave security management trainings to more than 80 participating organisations and individuals in the Uvira, Bukavu, Goma and Kindu regions. These followed on from trainings given in May 2004 with the cooperation of Frontline, a Dublin-based organisation working for the protection of human rights defenders worldwide, and BMZ, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

For further information about PBI-BEO's Mainstreaming Protection Programme, please visit www.protectionline.org

Volunteer Profiles

Paul Mukerji

Why did you join PBI?

I joined PBI Colombia to put my principles of non-violence into practice. To support people who are non-violently seeking the same human rights that I take for granted. To do something that provides me with job satisfaction. To learn from others how to bring about non-violent change.

In february of 2005, seven people from the Peace Community of San Jose de Apartadó were massacred, including three young children and one of the Community's leaders. The Peace Community was the main reason I came to Colombia. They are a peasant community who just want to live in



peace. They live by a simple set of principles – they don't allow the presence of any armed actors in the community and they don't carry weapons. They don't even drink alcohol. These people are a threat to no-one, and yet, because of their refusal to take sides, they have witnessed the murder of over 170 members of their community at the hands of the military, the paramilitaries and the guerrillas. Despite these losses still they keep going – believing in their principles and the right to a life free from violence. The news of the massacre came as a real shock to me but has only deepened my conviction to show my solidarity with these people.

Why do you think protective accompaniment works?

I think it works because we represent the international community, and since we are

working within a country that wishes to be part of the international community we can have an effect on how the government treats those who criticise it. We have an influential support network and in general good contacts both within and outside of Colombia who can exert the necessary pressure when a critical situation arises.

What do you get out of being a PBI volunteer?

It has enabled me to help other people, learning from the same people, and develop a bond with like-minded people from a different part of the world. I have a much deeper understanding of the causes of conflict in Colombia now and also of the possible solutions. I have also learned of the important role the UK and the EU can play in improving or worsening the situation in this country.

Naomi Baird

Why did you join PBI?

I joined PBI Indonesia because PBI, working with civil society actors seeking justice or striving to enhance the quality of life for local people who themselves are subject to threats and other acts of terror, has a role in creating a peaceful and just world – something that I personally would like to play a role in promoting.



Why do you think protective accompaniment works?

I think protective accompaniment works because of the integrated approach it takes – i.e. working in a transparent manner with the local organisations, government bodies and security apparatus on both a national and regional level, and with the international community – and the principles on which this service is founded – i.e. non-violence, non-partisanship, and non-interference.

What do you get out of being a PBI volunteer?

Being a volunteer gives me the opportunity to work with dedicated and inspiring individuals, both within the PBI teams and wider project and amongst local civil society actors. Every day offers up new challenges and rewards and the chance to expand and grow. My time with PBI has been a great opportunity to work with a close-knit team of committed individuals all striving for the same ideals. The Indonesians and others that I have come to know and work with are amongst the most courageous and awe-inspiring souls I have ever met.

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.

FIRST STEP 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 Management Committee decides on the suitability of candidates to attend a regional training.

SECOND STEP 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.

For more information on how to volunteer, contact: coordinator@peacebrigades.org.uk

Financial Summary

(Charity registration number 1101016, Company registration number 3912587)

Summary statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2005

	2005 £	2004 £
Incoming resources		
Grants receivable from trusts and companies	149,785	142,120
Donations and other income	22,283	24,914
	<u>172,068</u>	<u>167,034</u>
Resources expended		
Charitable expenditure	(145,349)	(148,667)
Cost of generating funds	(27,851)	(18,415)
	<u>(173,200)</u>	<u>(167,082)</u>
Net incoming resources for the year	(1,132)	(48)
Funds brought forward	<u>42,866</u>	<u>42,914</u>
Funds carried forward	<u>41,734</u>	<u>42,866</u>

Summary balance sheet as at 31 December 2005

	2005 £	2004 £
Fixed assets	<u>0</u>	<u>323</u>
Current assets	49,209	49,488
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	<u>(7,475)</u>	<u>(6,945)</u>
Net current assets	<u>41,734</u>	<u>42,543</u>
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>41,734</u>	<u>42,866</u>
Restricted funds	3,142	1,500
Unrestricted funds	<u>38,592</u>	<u>41,366</u>
Total funds	<u>41,734</u>	<u>42,866</u>

Management Committee statement

These summary accounts are not the statutory accounts but a summary of the information which appears in the full financial statements which have been subjected to an independent audit and given an unqualified report. The Management Committee approved the full financial statements on 4 April 2006 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

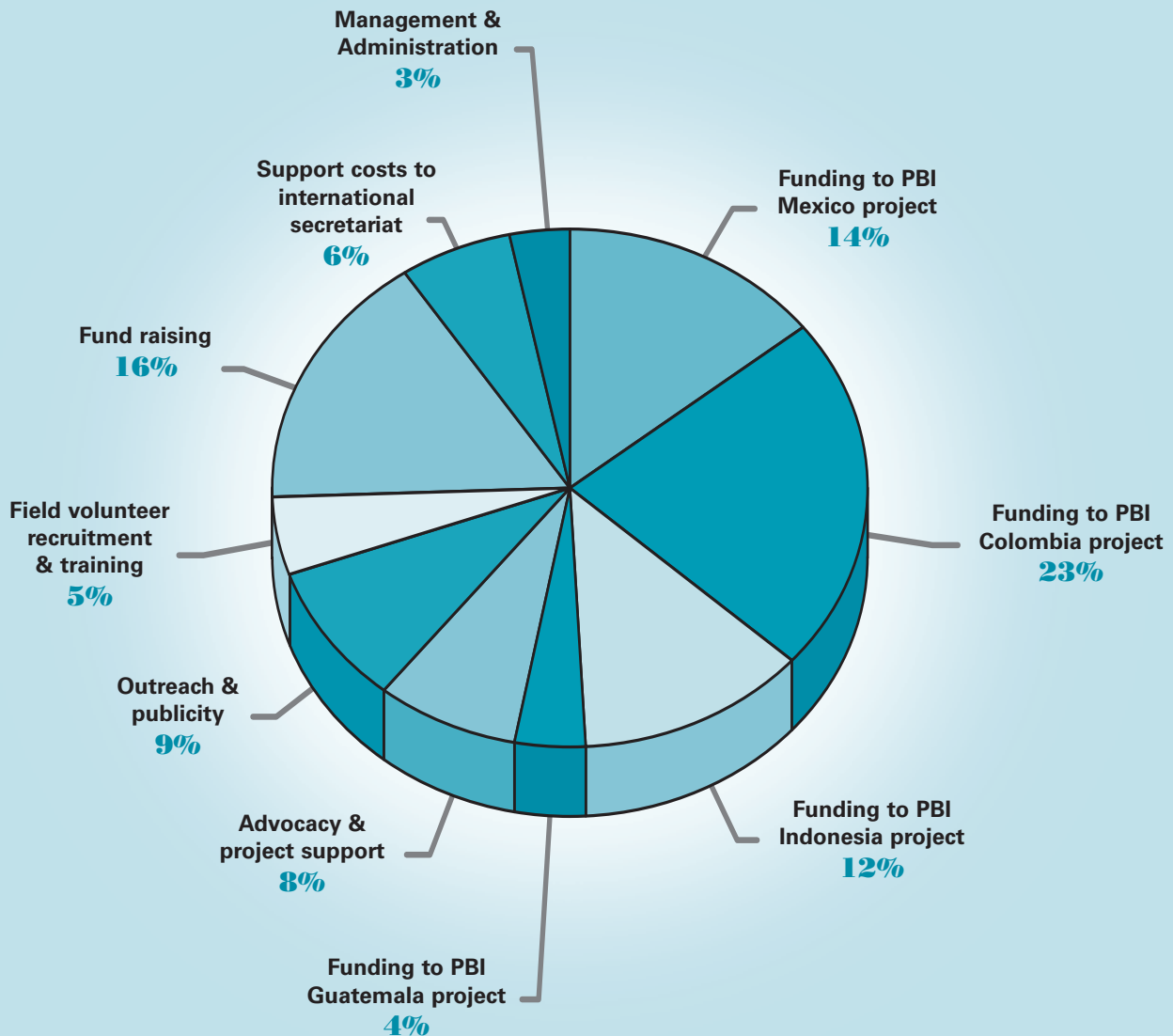
The summary accounts are the responsibility of the Trustees. It is our responsibility to report to you on their consistency with the full accounts. Our report on the full accounts of Peace Brigades International United Kingdom Section includes information on the responsibilities of the Trustees and the auditors relating to the preparation and the 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 2005.

**Critchleys, Chartered Accountants,
Registered Auditors 10 May 2006**

How the funds were spent in 2005



How you can help

We are grateful to our regular donors who provide the means for us to protect lives and to the many hundreds of PBI volunteers contributing to long-term peace and justice.

These are just a few ideas. If you would like to organise your own event, please call us.

Give As You Earn

Give directly to PBI UK from your pay and we get more from your donation:
www.cafonline.org

Join our festivals team

PBI volunteers at music festivals throughout the country have fun while raising funds. Call our office on 020 7281 5370 to join them.

Make a donation

See enclosed slip to find out how.

Parachute for peace

Have the experience of a lifetime and create funds for PBI UK with a sponsored skydive. See our website for details:
www.peacebrigades.org/uk.html



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

web www.peacebrigades.org

PBI UK Management Committee in 2005

Christopher Chapman
Susan Cosgrove
Joanne Holden
Andrew Kendle

Staff

Susi Bascon
(full-time coordinator)
Tamsin Mitchell
(part time fundraiser Oct-Dec 05)
Lani Parker
(Full-time intern Sept-Dec 05)
Keith Smith
(part-time finance worker)
Jane Walker
(part-time fundraiser Jan-Oct 05)

PBI Field Volunteers in 2005

Indonesia project

Naomi Baird
Julie French
Kathryn Tomlinson
Edward Wright

Colombia project

Chizom Ekeh
Nicola Evans
Lydia Greatex
June Holmes
Paul Mukerji
Anna Musgrave
Hugo (Yogz) Tighe
Louise Winstanley

Guatemala project

Matt Fawcett
Silke Gatermann
Helen Woodcock

PBI UK volunteers

Tamsin Alger
Roberta Bacic
Rachel Beck
Richard Bennet
John Bird
Miriam Bradley
Fiona Brennan
Lucy Carver
Frank Jack Daniel
Joyce Edling
Rebecca Ellis
Michelle Grieve
Helen Guilbert
Ruth Halstead
June Holmes
Anna Jones
Buddha Kush
Maria Louro-Luana
Renee De Luycker
Mia Moilanen
Stuart Morton
Katherine Mote
Maria Mursell
Nida Vohra
Tamsin Mitchell
Janet McGaig
Emily Oopen
Jill Powel
Harman Sandher
James Savage
Alice Shirley
Andrew Hickman
Fahreen Walji
Pat Wheeler
Ann Wright

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
Spanish State
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)