



Peace Brigades International/USA

*Promoting Nonviolence and Defending Human Rights
Since 1981*

www.peacebrigades.org

Spring 2006

What is PBI?

Peace Brigades International (PBI) is a grassroots organization which protects human rights and promotes the nonviolent transformation of conflicts. When invited, we send teams of volunteers into areas of repression and conflict. The volunteers accompany human rights defenders, their organizations and others threatened by political violence. Perpetrators of human rights abuses usually do not want the world to witness their actions. The presence of volunteers backed by a support network helps to deter violence. We create space for local activists to work for social justice and human rights.

“BODYGUARDS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PEACE BRIGADES CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF NONVIOLENT PROTECTIVE ACCOMPANIMENT”

Join Peace Brigades International, July 7, 8 & 9, 2006, at the beautiful 4-H conference center on the Appalachian Trail in Front Royal, Virginia, one hour outside of Washington, D.C., to celebrate 25 years of protecting human rights and promoting nonviolence. Please open up the center of this newsletter to register for the conference.

Members of our field teams will be sharing stories, strategies and experiences of providing nonviolent protection for hundreds of courageous men and women struggling for fundamental rights and justice in Nepal, Indonesia,

Guatemala, Mexico and Colombia.

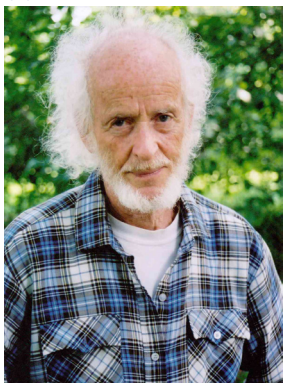
This conference will be more than just an occasion to mark PBI's anniversary, it is a chance to create a dynamic learning community, to take stock of where we are in the global human rights movement, and to increase PBI's profile and protection for human rights workers.

The conference will begin at 4 PM on Friday and end with lunch on Sunday. A conference information packet and list of luminaries and speakers will be sent to you once we have received your conference registration.

My Gift for PBI's Groundbreaking Work: Establishing an Endowment

By Joe Morton, Professor Emeritus, Goucher College

I recently “graduated” from 37 years of teaching with a substantial nest egg—and no dependents. As a single



person who takes very seriously Gandhi's urging to “live simply so others can simply live,” I have the privilege of spreading around more than half my assets. It's been a pleasure to help those in need—especially when the contributions have a multiplier effect.

Using my retirement funds, I have set up an interest bearing account which produces \$750 a month for PBI or \$9,000 a year for the next ten years. PBI is the beneficiary of this account. The money would go to PBI in a lump sum if I croak. I also contribute another \$100 as a monthly electronic “sustainer”. If you have the means and inclination, I urge you to consider such an approach.

Supporting PBI is a pure delight. It's bold, creative function has enormous multiplier effects. The presence of a few skillful, patient, courageous, thoroughly prepared international field teams frees dozens or hundreds of peace workers

in violent areas of the world to survive and sow peace. PBI fulfills another Gandhi ideal: a “peace army,” composed of persons with as much courage, endurance, and training as is expected of the best soldiers.

It is constantly educational and inspiring to be in the presence of the field workers and of the thoughtful, creative staff members who do indispensable organizing work. I can't imagine how my dollars could stretch further than by contributing to the groundbreaking work PBI has been doing so successfully for twenty-five years.

Where Peace Brigades Int

*"The physical presence of PBI at the Human R
security and moral support. For us, o
PBI presence showed us that the internatio
The victims were very thankful t
--Maya, PBHI, S*



Colombia Project

This country's four decades of civil war have led to the forced displacement of over 3 million people while many others have been assassinated. PBI's Colombia Project, established in 1994, focuses primarily on protective accompaniment and raising awareness in the Colombian government and international community about human rights violations.



Guatemala Project

Re-established in 2002, in an effort to protect marginalized communities and promote justice, PBI Guatemala's objectives are to provide an effective international presence to ensure the political space of human rights organizations as well as keep the international community and Guatemalan government informed of human rights violations.



Indonesi

**The communities of Indonesia have b
natural disasters. This project, establi
lencnt conflict resolution through peac
dialogue, and create a peaceful space
This photo shows a PBI volunteer with
representative of PBHI (Indonesian Le
front of the Makassar Court. Indonesi
the court.**

Does International Work?

Rights Trial in Makassar gave us the feeling of and especially the victims of torture, personally community did not totally forget us. that you (PBI) were at the court”
September 2005



ia Project

een ravaged by political unrest and
ished in 1999, helps promote nonvio-
e education, foster social and political
for civil society to operate and grow.
n Matias Helukas, a torture victim and
legal Aid Human Rights Association), in
an police are blocking the entrance of



Mexico Project

Established in 1999, this project is located in Guerrero where human rights violations such as rape, torture and disappearances are too common. As one of the few international organizations with a presence in this area, PBI seeks to provide physical and political accompaniment and raise international awareness of the current situation.



Nepal Project

Established in 2005, this project is providing security trainings and encouragement for local human rights workers, while raising international awareness of the violent conflict that threatens so many lives in Nepal.

Why Peace Teams Risk Their Lives

provided by the Toronto Star and written by Lyn Adamson, March 29, 2006

We are working to get the word out about how Iraqis are suffering and to exert pressure for due process and respect for international human rights, says Lyn Adamson

The recent rescue of James Loney, Harmeet Singh Sooden, and Norman Kember in Iraq, and the death of Tom Fox, have focused attention on the Christian Peacemakers. Not all the attention has been flattering; there have been sharp



questions raised about the role of non-violent peacemakers in a conflict zone.

There has been criticism and suggestions that peacemakers are naïve and just create problems for soldiers. But it is important for Canadians to understand the benefits of the presence of non-violent peace teams, in order to understand why they are there.

In his lifetime, Mahatma Gandhi developed the concept of the shanti sena or peace army. This vision has contributed to the formation of many peace-team organizations based on non-violence. At any one time there are hundreds of peace-team members placed in a

dozen or more conflict zones, each person working within the framework of making space for peace through their presence.

Each organization has its own safety protocols, its own criteria for selecting volunteers and for choosing deployments.

Each provides training and support for its team members, and although there are many commonalities among these peace teams, there are also unique features in each group's mandate.

One of the longest running peace team organizations is Peace

Brigades International, which celebrates 25 years of global non-violent accompaniment this year.

PBI currently has projects in Colombia, Mexico, Indonesia, Guatemala, and Nepal. It has deployed more than 1,000 team members and has suffered no fatalities.

PBI provides international presence for human rights activists whose lives are at risk due to the activities of armed groups (death squads, paramilitary, etc).

This method is effective in protecting lives because the armed groups in these regions will not benefit but, rather, will pay a diplomatic price for harming internationals. Thus PBI team members are able to

pass on some safety through their presence, with limited risk to themselves.

Iraq is currently a chaotic situation, with armed groups not unified with a single strategy, and undeterred by criticism when internationals are harmed. This makes it more dangerous for international organizations to be present, and all such groups with the exception of the Christian Peacekeeping Teams have withdrawn their members. However, without an international presence, the Iraqi people will be left alone to suffer the ill-effects of the occupation and the armed chaos.

For 3 1/2 years CPT has provided an effective voice of support for Iraqi civilians and has reported what team members have learned to the larger world.

Christian peacemakers documented the abuse suffered in Abu

**Peace Brigades
Delegation to
Guatemala**

August 2006

For details visit:
[www.peacebrigades.org/usa/
quatedel.html](http://www.peacebrigades.org/usa/quatedel.html)

Ghraib prison before this became a major story and is highlighting to the world the ongoing detention of some 14,000 Iraqis without due process.

I consider the most important aspect of CPT's presence in Iraq to be its message to Iraqis:

There are internationals, including Americans, Britons, Canadians, and many others, who care happening to you. We are working to get the word out about what is about what you are suffering and to put pressure on for due process and respect for international human rights.

We are doing this through non-violent means and we are willing to take some risks to do this.

We can never know how many Iraqis have been moved in a positive way by this presence, although we do know that CPT's work has encouraged the formation of a Muslim Peacemakers Team, which is working at bridging the Shia-Sunni divide.

How many Iraqis have been inspired by this example? How much violence has this presence de-

terred?

CPT's presence has been an inoculation against blanket hatred of the West. Iraqis now know that there are those in the West who care about their communities and their lives.

Do we believe that the only ones who should take risks for peace are men and women in uniforms? Many of us passionately believe in the power of non-violent presence.

This passion has led to the formation of the newest peace team organization, the Non-violent Peaceforce, which has placed 25 team members in Sri Lanka.

The force has plans to expand this unarmed presence to many other conflict zones where there is a need. There is a role that cannot be played by the military or police.

It is one of working with civil society organizations to develop the social infrastructure needed to rebuild a wartorn country, and it is one of showing international support for threatened individuals, organizations and communities.

This role has been recognized by Amnesty International, by

human rights defenders and by Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, including the Dalai Lama, Rigoberto Menchu Tum, Adolfo Perez Esquivel, and Oscar Arias Sanchez.

Anders Kompas, Director of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, describes international presence as "extremely necessary and valuable in working to defend human rights."

Active non-violence has transformed conflict in many parts of the world: in India, in the civil rights movement, in the campaign against apartheid. Lives have been lost in these struggles. These must be measured against the gains that have been achieved.

Ultimately society must put an end to war. To do so we must build a culture of peace and respect for human rights.

We cannot attain this by staying inside a bubble of safety. Taking risks will be necessary.

We all know too well the devastation of war. We would do well to support the development of non-violent alternatives, and to see what can be accomplished by them.

PBI depends on supporters like you! Join PBI's peacemaking effort with a tax-deductible donation of:

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$200 Other

Sign me up as a PBI sustainer! With my monthly donation of \$_____ I will contribute to the year-round sustainability of PBI/USA.

Method of Payment: Visa
 Web Mastercard
www.peacebrigades.org Check

_____ Name

_____ Address

_____ Credit Card#

_____ Exp. date

_____ Please detach and mail this coupon with your contribution to:
PBI/USA 1326 9th St., NW, Washington, DC 20001

_____ Signature



**“BODYGUARDS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS:
PEACE BRIGADES CELEBRATES 25 YEARS
of NONVIOLENT PROTECTIVE ACCOMPANIMENT”**

July 7th - July 9th 2006

Please Return your Registration by May 20th 2006

\$50 Registration Fee: \$_____ + Food & Lodging \$_____
Rates on next page. Make checks payable to PBI-USA.
Mail check to 1326 9th St., NW, Washington, DC 20001

I cannot attend, but would like to contribute \$_____

**Come Join Our
Celebration!**

At the 4H Center in
Front Royal Virginia

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Organization: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

- *Room check-in at the camp is not available until 4 PM on Friday, July 7th.**
- *PBI staff will be in the 4-H auditorium beginning at 1 pm on July 7th .**

ACCOMMODATIONS- Rates on next page

MEALS- Price per meal per person

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------|-----------|
| NUMBER OF GUESTS/ BEDS: | BREAKFAST (\$6) | Sat. | Sun. |
| PRIVATE OR SHARED ROOM: | LUNCH (\$8) | Sat. | Sun. |
| DORM REQUESTED: | DINNER (\$12) | Friday | Sat. Sun. |

PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING NEEDS:

Dietary _____ Do you need Childcare? **YES NO**
 Wheelchair Accessibility **YES NO** Number of Children/Ages _____
 Medical Condition _____

TRANSPORTATION:

Will You Provide Your Own Transportation to and from Dulles Airport to the 4H Center? **YES NO**

- Ground transportation provided by PBI only from Dulles International Airport starting at noon on Friday, July 7th.
- If flying into Reagan National Airport or Baltimore-Washington Airport, please take the airport shuttle to Dulles.
- If you will NOT be arranging your own transportation, please provide flight itinerary below.

DULLES AIRPORT FLIGHT ITINERARY:

PICK UP SCHEDULE AT DULLES BY A PBI VAN TO BE SENT AFTER WE RECEIVE ALL ITINERARIES

Arrival Time: _____ **Flight Name/Number:** _____
Departure Time: _____ **Flight Name/Number:** _____



BODYGUARDS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS: PEACE BRIGADES CELEBRATES 25 YEARS of NONVIOLENT PROTECTIVE ACCOMPANIMENT”

Lodging and Food Information

REGISTRATION FEE = \$50 (no one will be turned away for lack of funds)

ACCOMMODATIONS (all dorms have common lounge areas):

PLEASE NOTE: All rooms are shared, unless you are willing to pay full cost of a room per night. Bring your own pillow and blanket / sleeping bag. Sheets & towels provided.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Congressman Hall:</p> <p>Price Person: \$30 per night</p> <p>- This is the only air-conditioned dorm. Priority will be given to those with need.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 4 beds per room - Bunk style beds - Bathroom in each room <p style="text-align: center;">Linen & towels included in the cost of the room</p> |
| <p>Rector Lodge (non-airconditioned):</p> <p>Price Per Person: \$15 per night</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 6 beds per room - Bunk style beds - 4 baths total for this building <p style="text-align: center;">Linen & towels included in the cost of the room</p> |

MEALS (per person):

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Breakfast | \$ 6.00 | 7:30 a.m. |
| Lunch | \$ 8.00 | 12:00 p.m. |
| Dinner | \$12.00 | 6:00 p.m. |

- **No charge for children under the age of two.**
- **1/2 price meals ages 3 to 6**



PBI/USA Co-Directors:

Michael Joseph and Barbara Wien

Graduate Peace Fellows:

Csilla Horvath and Angie McCarthy

Board (NCC) Members:

Christopher Barkan, Kelli Corrigan, Randy Divinski, Angie Garling, Rebecca Haacker-Santos, Brenda Humphrey, Matt Messier, Joe Morton, Paul Paz y Mino, and Jim Polk

Newsletter Design/Layout: Samantha Dorn

PBI OFFICE

1326 9th St., NW

Washington, DC 20001

(202) 232-0142

info@pbiousa.org

http://www.peacebrigades.org

How Can You Help?

Volunteer on a PBI team: Requirements include a commitment to PBI's principles, being at least 25 years old, appropriate language skills, and availability for one year in the field.

Join Our Grassroots Support Network: This network helps respond to threats or other emergency situations through letter writings.

Host a PBI House Party: Host an event in your house to spread the word about PBI (materials provided).

Get involved with PBI/USA: This includes internships in DC, involvement in the National Coordinating Committee, or special initiatives.

Support PBI's important work: Sign up as a member (\$30/year) or as part of our sustainer program.

Stay informed: Receive various PBI publications

PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL

1326 9th St, NW

Washington, DC 20001

Return Service Requested