

PBI Colombia

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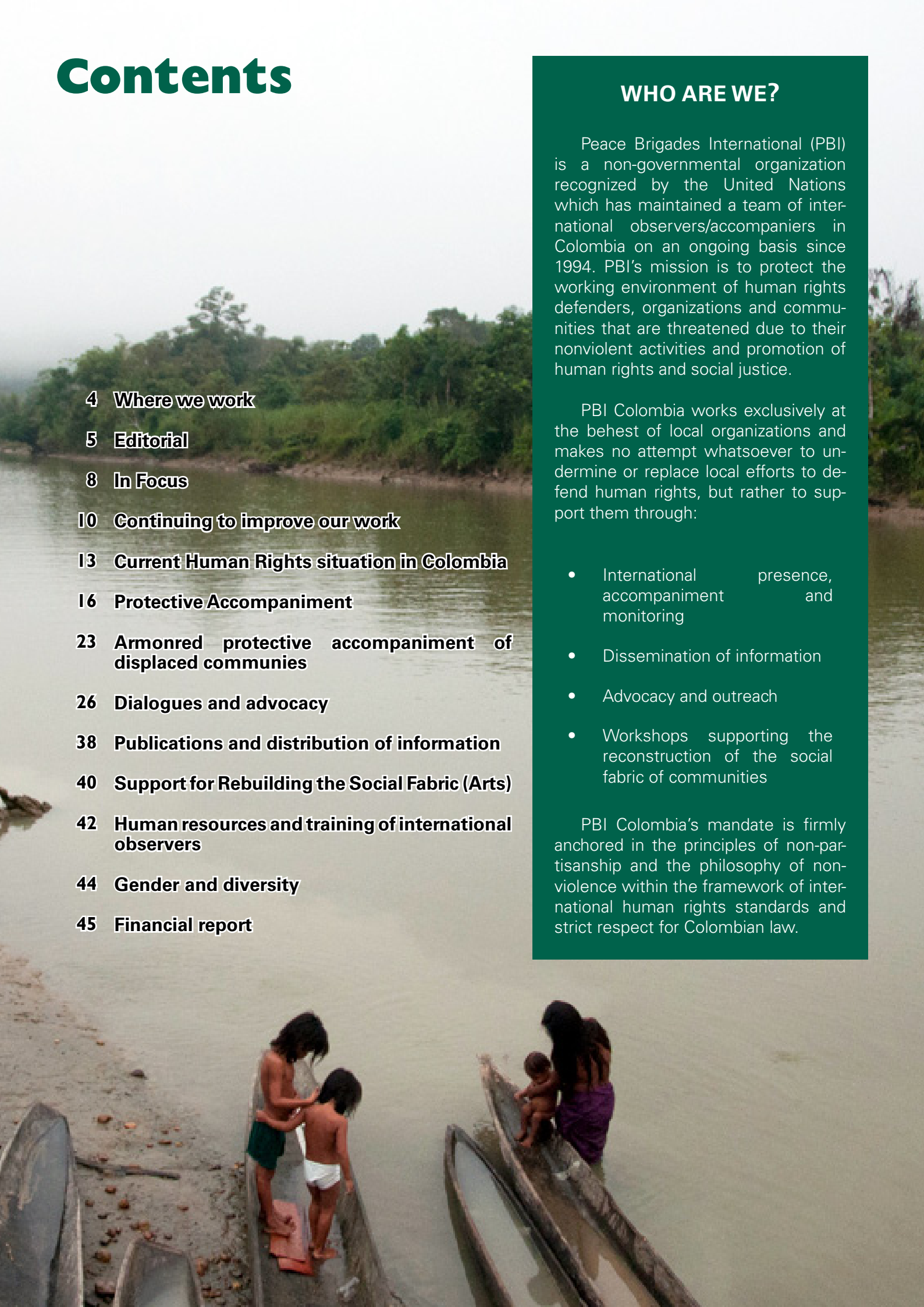
WHO ARE WE?

Peace Brigades International (PBI) is a non-governmental organization recognized by the United Nations which has maintained a team of international observers/accompaniers in Colombia on an ongoing basis since 1994. PBI's mission is to protect the working environment of human rights defenders, organizations and communities that are threatened due to their nonviolent activities and promotion of human rights and social justice.

PBI Colombia works exclusively at the behest of local organizations and makes no attempt whatsoever to undermine or replace local efforts to defend human rights, but rather to support them through:

- International presence, accompaniment and monitoring
- Dissemination of information
- Advocacy and outreach
- Workshops supporting the reconstruction of the social fabric of communities

PBI Colombia's mandate is firmly anchored in the principles of non-partisanship and the philosophy of non-violence within the framework of international human rights standards and strict respect for Colombian law.



Objetives of Pbi Colombia

GENERAL OBJETIVE:

CONTRIBUTE TO PEACE THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS IN COLOMBIA.

SPECIFIC OBJETIVE:

To protect human rights defenders in Colombia so they may freely carry out their work and actions.

In order to reach these objectives, PBI Colombia carries out work in four areas.

Area 1:

International observation and accompaniment in the field.

Area 2:

Political advocacy work in Colombia and internationally.

Area 3:

Education and awareness raising through periodic publications.

Area 4:

Self-protection, security and support for the reconstruction of the social fabric.



Where we work



Uraba

Cijp, Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, Cijp en Curbaradó y Jiguamiandó, Pedeguita/Mancilla, Cacarica

Places: Curbaradó, Jiguamiandó, Cacarica

Bogota

Ccajar, Cijp, Cos-pacc, Fcsp, Claudia Julieta Duque, Jorge Molano, Movice, Nomadesc, Cijp-ET Valle.

Familiares Colombia, Sisma, FNEB, Humanidad Vigente, Fundación Cepeda, Minga.

Places: Arauca, Atlántico, Boyacá, Casanare, Córdoba, Cundinamarca, Guajira, Meta, Norte de Cauca, Putumayo, Sucre, Tolima, Valle del Cauca.

Barrancabermeja

Acvc, Ccalcp, Credhos, Fcsp, CJL

OFF, Asfaddes, IPC, Lilia Peña

Places: Magdalena Medio, Nordeste Antioqueño, Norte de Santander, Sur de Bolivar, Cesar, Medellín

Editorial



The year 2013 has been marked by the peace negotiations between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the social mobilizations that have occurred throughout the year in Catatumbo, the agricultural strikes that have occurred throughout the country, and several mobilizations of a more regional character.

On the other hand, attacks on human rights defenders continue to increase. Among these, attacks directed against land restitution leaders have seen the most notable increases.

This situation has led PBI to devote much of its resources to the accompaniment of these leaders.

Furthermore, attacks against women human rights defenders rose between 2012 and 2013, which led PBI to consider the issue of differential protection more seriously.

Hence, in the month of March, we put in place activation measures for women that were under serious threat in the area of Magdalena Medio.

This led us to consider developing a two-day retreat on the topic of gender, which took place in September.

The retreat was the basis for the revival of the Working Group for Gender and Diversity and had widespread participation from the entire organization: the teams in Barrancabermeja and Apartadó, the office in Bogota, and our representatives in North America and Europe.

Its main goal for 2014 is to promote debate and new tools related to differential protection.

Internally, during 2013 PBI Colombia underwent restructuring that led to a 40% reduction in personnel.

This situation has forced us to change our work flows to ensure the lowest possible impact over our accompaniment of human rights defenders.

Thus, tools have been developed to streamline our work. As a result of these reforms, in 2013 we have been able to accompany the same organizations as in previous years, particularly in landmark moments

and high-risk regions. Nevertheless, despite our efforts, we have had to reject many more requests than last year due to scarcity of personnel.

At this time, when a peace agreement with the FARC seems like a possible scenario, it is necessary for the international community to guarantee the protection of human rights defenders, of those communities that wish to return to their lands, and of all members of civil society that wish to work constructively and peacefully on a post-negotiation scenario.

Regardless of which scenario the future brings and whatever resources are at our disposal, at PBI Colombia we are firmly convinced that peace can only be realized if human rights defenders, civil society organizations, victims, and the entire citizenry have safe spaces where they can work towards building peace with justice, truth, reparations, and guarantees of non-repetition.

Achievements

We accompanied

13 organizations

3 communities

2 human rights
defenders



We provided

672 days

of accompaniment and

233 rounds

dedicated to making our

international presence
known

29 workshops
in self-protection
strategies

with 410

people

301

advocacy meetings



We have carried out

8 advocacy
campaigns

in Colombia

and

internationally

In focus



We accompanied
proceedings

that seek to **end**
impunity.

We have accompanied
the Inter-church
Justice and Peace
Commission
and the Community

Cavida,
in their complaint
before the Inter-
American Court
of Human
Rights, which
condemned the
Colombian
government for
**Operation
Genesis.**

We accompanied proceedings that seek to protect returnees, as in the case of the Ruiz family or the Hidruitango case, in which communities returned after 9 months of displacement.



We accompanied proceedings to enable Civil Society to actively participate in peace initiatives. We accompanied the Cos-Pacc at its leadership schools in Casanare.

Continuing to improve our work

During 2013, PBI Colombia underwent restructuring that led to a 40 % reduction of its budget. This has forced us to change our workflows to ensure that these cuts have the lowest possible impact over our accompaniment of human rights defenders.

Thus, we have developed tools and workflows that have made our work more efficient. An example of these tools are flexible accompaniments.

This is a mechanism that is used with organizations that in a given moment request accompaniment for landmark proceedings that pose a high risk and for a very limited period of time.

We have also streamlined our internal procedures through simplified report systems, optimized meeting efficiency through better preparation, and implemented other improvements to expedite our work.

On the other hand, the accompanied organizations are very conscious of the cuts made and have prioritized more strictly their accompaniment requests.

Teams have also been relocated, which has worked very well. Now accompaniments are carried out by those volunteers in closest proximity.

Thus, accompaniments have been made from Barrancabermeja in Cesar, Magdalena Medio, Catatumbo, and Sur de Bolivar, and from Apartadó, in Urabá and Sucre. And from Bogota we have covered the regions of Cauca and Valle del Cauca in order to minimize the effects of closing the office in Cali. In any event, the evaluation of the Cali office closure came to the conclusion that it is

necessary to maintain a presence in the southwestern region of the country. Hence, we have created a working group inside PBI for covering and monitoring this region.

Likewise, we have evaluated the move of the Colombia Project representative from Brussels to Barcelona.

This change involved a significant decrease in costs and enabled us to maintain the advocacy activities necessary to advocate for human rights defenders from Europe.

Nevertheless, a year is not enough time to be able to clearly evaluate the consequences of such a change. Thus, the changes will be evaluated again in late 2014.

Despite the efficiency improvement brought by these system changes, for example, each volunteer has performed an additional 14% accompaniments compared to the previous year, we receive many requests from accompanied and new organizations that pose added challenges for 2014.

This, combined with the

EACH VOLUNTEER HAS PERFORMED AN ADDITIONAL 14% ACCOMPANIMENTS COMPARED TO THE PREVIOUS YEAR, WE RECEIVE MANY REQUESTS FROM ACCOMPANIED AND NEW ORGANIZATIONS THAT POSE ADDED CHALLENGES FOR 2014

possibility that the agreements between the government and the FARC guerrillas may be signed this year, leads us to expect an increase in accompaniment requests in the medium-term, (experts predict the post-conflict phase to last some ten years), one in which PBI will play an even more crucial role.

In 2013, PBI has remained committed to improve its work, perfecting the impact measuring tools that it developed in 2012.

This time we have performed a semi-structured survey with the aim to obtain data about the perceptions and opinions held by the diplomatic corps about the impact of PBI's work.

Ten diplomatic missions have responded, including seven embassies (Germany, Spain, the United States, France, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland), the European Union delegation, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR).

These surveys complement the impact evaluation that PBI's Colombia Project performs thrice a year and that it will conduct during the first trimester of 2014.

Here are some highlights of the survey's findings:

- All of the surveyed institutions consider the information and petitions circulated by PBI to be very useful.

- Fully 100 % of the organizations use said information in their dialogues with the Colombian government and to inform their own country, both during consultations (from their government, parliament, or civil society) and during the drafting of annual human rights reports.

- All the embassies are very familiar with the human rights defender cases that have led to activation measures during the last year. This confirms the effectiveness of the activation measures, although it raises the question of whether we need to perform preventive work as part of our advocacy focus area.

- Several embassies agreed that they receive information both through Country Groups or representatives as well as through Bogota personnel. They deem this to be an effective way to close the information loop.

- Most of the embassies consider that PBI offers a combination of proximity to the victims, presence on the field and at a local level, and an international image that offers trustworthy information regarding events in the region.

In the words of the German embassy representative: "The added value of PBI, due to their position as observers, lies in their neutrality, good performance, and high reliability.

On the other hand, it is evident that it is well connected and this helps to improve advocacy efforts".

The value of neutrality was also highlighted by the UK embassy representative: "We need organizations that keep us informed and it is good to have information that does not originate from the communities or from the government".

However, others, such as the US, value the work we do to put them in contact with communities and grassroots human rights organizations that they may be unfamiliar with due to their remote location.

The embassies also highlighted PBI's professionalism

and thoroughness.

Lastly, they consider accompaniment to be very necessary given the current situation in Colombia as well as in a possible future post-conflict scenario, since—as many point out—the situation is not going to change immediately, but will be a process that will last almost a decade.



Current Human Rights situation in Colombia



The country's political and social agenda has been determined by the development of dialogues—established during the last trimester of 2012 in Oslo¹ and currently taking place in La Havana (Cuba)—between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas.

The imminence of presidential elections (May 2014) and their inextricable link to the negotiation process, the recall of Bogota's mayor, and large protests set the country's political and social agenda.

On the other hand, the economic agenda was marked by sustained GDP growth, which was estimated at 3.9%² for 2013; breaking the barrier of one million barrels of crude oil per day, and gradual growth in the mining-energy sector³; the entry into force of a free-trade agreement with the US (a process that culminated with the publication of [Decree 993 from](#)

[15 May 2012](#)); and the ratification of the free-trade agreement with the European Union.

POLITICS

In the political sphere, the pre-electoral agenda has revolved around the negotiation process. Political parties have been positioning themselves based on their support or lack of support for it.

The greatest critic of the negotiation process is ex-president Álvaro Uribe⁴ and his Democratic Center movement, which has as its presidential candidate former Finance Minister Óscar Iván Zuluaga, who has already stated that, if elected, he would put an end to the current negotiation process⁵ and reinstate the strategy of ending the conflict through armed combat.

On the other hand, the opposition group, although mostly in favor of the proceedings, is greatly divided over whether to support President Santos

as its guarantor.

Aside from the traditional parties (Conservative and Liberal), there is the Democratic Center; the reformed and expanded Green Alliance, presumably with former Mayor Enrique Peñalosa as its presidential candidate⁶; Radical Change, with Carlos Galán; the Democratic Pole, with Clara López; the Patriotic Union recovered its legal status after presenting former Bogota councilwoman Aida Abella, who returned to the country after 17 years in exile; as well as a great number of parties and minor political movements.

Colombia Speaks, (Colombia Opina)⁷, a major survey performed during the last trimester of 2013, gives President Santos a clear lead over his opponents, with 28 % on the first round.⁸ President Santos would garner the support of parties, labor unions, social sectors, and large businesses⁹ over other candidates, although he is not assured immediate

re-election in the first round.¹⁰ It also predicts a likely strong representation in Congress and the Senate for the party led by Álvaro Uribe, whose presence in the chamber is practically assured.

The survey also predicts the fragmentation of votes deemed to be leftist. Of special importance will be the choices of 25 % of voters who remain undecided, as well as the 25 % that is inclined to cast a blank vote.

Different schools of thought interpret this expected victory of the current president as a popular vote of support for the negotiation process.

NEGOTIATIONS

Of the six points included in the Agenda for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, agreements have been reached regarding the first two points.

These are also considered to be the most difficult, as they deal with the beginning of the armed conflict: agrarian reform and the FARC's objective to negotiate political participation. The third point is solving the illegal drug problem, which is expected to be decided soon.

With respect to the agreement on the first point in the agenda ("Towards a new Colombian countryside: Comprehensive rural reform") and while implementation details are being negotiated, it was agreed that tools would be established for solving the structural problems that underlie the underdevelopment of the countryside and has fueled the war, including the establishment, by the government, of¹¹ "a vigorous program of land formalization", perhaps the most revolutionary point in the agreement given the high level of informality of rural property.¹²

Regarding the second point, the government negotiators and the guerrilla were able to reach common ground regarding what could be considered to be the heart of the negotiation: the FARC have agreed to disarm and become a political movement and the government has committed to promoting democratic openness that incorporates those political and ideological conditions needed to guarantee the exercise of political opposition within an institutional framework.¹³

The most salient points are the formalization of a "real and effective"

AT AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, THE PROCESS HAS GREAT SUPPORT, FROM THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION, TO THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

Opposition Statute, as well as the drafting of legislation that guarantees citizen participation.

Both points would include at their core: guarantee mechanisms for social protests; the establishment of national and regional Councils for Reconciliation and Coexistence; constitutional changes to facilitate the establishment of parties; special support to new parties; attention to guarantees for electoral processes; organization of an experts' commission to inspect the current Colombian electoral system; the establishment of transitional districts for peace; and a comprehensive security system for demobilized FARC members who transition into politics.¹⁴

Particularly significant is the creation of "special transitional districts of peace," which have been presented as one of the most important achievements of the roundtable.

These districts would have, during a transition period, special representation of their interests in the House of Representatives, which is particularly relevant to territories that have been historically controlled by the guerrilla.

Regarding the third point, although discussions are still in their early stages, it is expected that the FARC will propose alternatives to the use of coca leaf derivatives to legalize crops, since the public prosecutor has already rejected the idea¹⁵ and it is doubtful that the government will accept it.

According to the proposed methodology, "nothing is agreed upon until everything is agreed upon," hence none of these points will enter into force if agreement is not reached upon the complete negotiated agenda.

In addition, the FARC guerrillas continue to refuse to comply with the recent Legal Framework for Peace,¹⁶ as well as their intention to reopen the proceedings through the establishment of a Constituent Assembly.

On the other hand, the government firmly rejects the possibility of

forming said assembly,¹⁷ although it does not rule out the possibility of holding a referendum to reopen the proceedings.

We must also assess widespread rumors that claim that several FARC commanders and guerrillas (civil column Teófilo Forero, Front 36, etc.) have declared that their interests are not represented in Havana, and the risks of fragmentation that this might pose for the conflict.

Unlike the proceedings performed in El Caguán (1998-2002), negotiating in the midst of the conflict has made the proceedings susceptible to the various armed movements of one or the other party. Those who oppose a negotiated peace use these activities to support their view of the negotiation process as inconvenient.

Despite majority support for the proceedings amongst the population, statistics show that there is skepticism regarding whether a solution negotiated within one year can succeed, as well as whether the current proceedings may lead to the permanent demobilization of the FARC guerrillas.¹⁸

At an international level, the process has great support, from the Obama administration,¹⁹ to the European Union and the Organization of American States.

Various sources indicate that a dialogue with the Army of National Liberation (ELN) guerrilla is now underway.²⁰ Both guerrillas agree in several of the points already included in the negotiation agenda, to which it is said that the ELN would add a revised model for the exploitation of mining and energy resources. They also agree, despite opposition from the government, on the need for a bilateral truce for the adequate development of the negotiations.

STATUS OF ADC DEFENDERS

In parallel with advances in the dialogue taking place in Havana, there has been an increase in the number of threats against human rights defenders in Colombia. This trend has been increasing during the last three years as indicated by CINEP²¹ and other international organizations and umbrella organizations.²²

According to the Somos Defensores program, in September 2013, a total of 263 attacks have been recorded, including: 52 murders, 32 murder attempts, 153 threats,²³ (which is an increase with respect to the same period in 2012, when 235 attacks and 37 murders were recorded²⁴).

WOMEN

A parallel report presented in September 2013 to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), insists that the persecution and stigmatization of women human rights defenders are systematic.

The document highlights the lack of results from the prevention strategy and the lack of coordination with sufficient legal measures and guarantees of non-repetition.²⁵

In the case of Colombia, women defenders continued to be one of the groups who suffered the highest number of attacks.

During the first 9 months of 2013 they fell victim to 60 attacks, at least six of them were murdered, and two had previously reported being the target of threats.²⁶

LAND RESTITUTION LEADERS

The leaders of land restitution processes are some of the primary victims of groups such as the Anti-restitution Army, the Rastrojos, and the Urabeños. Between the end of

March and the middle of May 2013, at least eight individuals who claimed for restitution were murdered.²⁷

Human Rights Watch's World Report indicated that in the last year-and-a-half, 520 land claimants have reported threats and, despite them, the Public Prosecutor's Office has not brought charges as a result of any of these investigations.²⁸ After the November murder of a land restitution leader in Córdoba, the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia (MAPP/OAS) urged the government to double its efforts to protect the life and physical safety of all the victims in the country, particularly its leaders, and warned that these types of events "can dash the hopes of the victims and damage their confidence in the land restitution process."²⁹

INVOLVEMENT OF ILLEGAL ARMED GROUPS

The annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) considers the Colombian government to have embarked in important initiatives to solve some of the existing problems, but that effective change has not occurred due to "vested interests and structural obstacles."³⁰

UNHCHR points out that most of the attacks against human rights defenders are attributed to "post-mobilization groups."³¹

According to Somos Defensores, these groups are responsible for 59 % of attacks against defenders, followed by the Armed Forces (military and police), and guerrilla groups.³² Likewise, the International Committee of the Red Cross says these groups cause "many or more deaths, threats, forced displacements, and disappearances than does the war that the process of Havana seeks to end."³³

2014 Outlook

The support of the international community, its continuance, and its field monitoring will be fundamental to achieving peace in Colombia. PBI will continue to accompany those who place their own lives in danger to defend

human rights, work against impunity for a political solution to the armed conflict, and seek to uncover the truth.

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6. El Espectador: [Peñalosa confirma candidatura a la Presidencia](#). 27 December 2013.
7. Encuesta contratada por LA F.m. Radio, RCN Televisión, RCN Radio y Semana.
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Protective Accompaniment

**offered to organizations and
communities that promote
human rights in Colombia**

Bogota



During 2013, the PBI team in Bogota worked in the department of Cundinamarca and the eastern plains and the southwestern area of the country accompanying human rights organizations that are fighting against impunity, defending those unjustly detained, and strengthening the social fabric of the indigenous and peasant farmer communities that they accompany.

Furthermore, PBI accompanies different organizations and human rights defenders during their work in the city of Bogota, which includes being present at hearings, landmark events and demonstrations, as well as visibility rounds through their offices.

JOSÉ ALVEAR RESTREPO LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (CCAJAR)

PBI continues to visit CCAJAR's office to show that the organization has international accompaniment. Similarly, PBI held frequent meetings

regarding the status of the organization and court cases represented by its lawyers.

On the other hand, the accompaniment of lawyer Eduardo Carreño, from the Trujillo massacre case, is noteworthy. During the last few months he has made important progress in the case before IACHR.

SOCIAL CORPORATION FOR COMMUNITY ADVICE AND TRAINING SERVICES (COS-PACC)

PBI has continued to accompany the organization in its travels to regions that pose a high risk for its members, within the framework of its work in coordination with organizations from east-central Colombia.

Furthermore, during 2013, PBI had to perform an emergency accompaniment of COS-PACC during the coffee strikes that took place in March.¹

PBI accompanied the president of the organization, Fabián Laverde,

to Cruce de Armero (Tolima) where he received a report of police brutality against a peasant farmer who participated in the protests.²

In addition, during the first half of the year, the office of COS-PACC fell victim to a raid in which equipment—hard drives, photographic cameras, memory—containing all information about their work was stolen.

After that incident, PBI gave special attention to visits to his office and held self-protection and security workshops for members of the organization.

INTER-CHURCH JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION (CIJP)

During 2013, PBI activated its International Support Network twice, due to multiple threats to which the organization has been subjected, including three murder attempts against a CIJP³ member and innumerable threats, monitoring and surveillance of his home and

office⁴, as well as mail⁵ and phone⁶ interceptions.

In August there was a period of more intense attacks against the organization, which affected the leadership in Bogota as well as lawyers, members of the field team, and community leaders in the Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó river valleys that are accompanied by CIJP.

This increase in threats coincided with the sentencing of two business leaders in Case 3856⁷, which has led to an investigation of the involvement of the companies in the forced displacement of residents of these river valleys. CIJP represents the victims in this case⁸.

NATIONAL MOVEMENT OF VICTIMS OF STATE CRIMES (MOVICE)

In Bogota, the PBI team continues its visits to the organization's office with the goal of making international accompaniment more visible and monitoring the security situation. PBI accompanied the 6th Victims' Conference organized by MOVICE on March 6th to commemorate Colombia's National Day for Victims of State Crimes.

Furthermore, we have also accompanied lawyers Jeison Paba and Diego Martínez, members of the steering committee of MOVICE in Bogota, during their travels through the regions of Sucre and Meta to

counsel victims' groups as they register under the Land Restitution Act. These two lawyers have been victims of threats from the illegal armed group Land Anti-restitution Army, which twice sent threatening flyers naming the lawyers to the organization's office.

COMMITTEE IN SOLIDARITY WITH POLITICAL PRISONERS (FCSP)

The PBI team in Bogota has maintained its relationship with the organization through visits to its office and monitoring meetings with its members.

During this year, the organization was admitted as a civil party in the Guacharacas case,⁹ a process that is linked to several families including that of former President Álvaro Uribe Vélez with the founding and expansion of the Metro Bloc of the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC).

In several occasions PBI drew attention to the security situation of FCSP members due to the threats they faced as a result of their involvement in the case¹⁰ and we have requested that the proceedings be monitored to ensure compliance with judicial guarantees and the lawyers' safety.

Hence, PBI's accompaniment has been strengthened from a physical and political standpoint.

JORGE ELIÉCER MOLANO RODRÍGUEZ

He has been an independent lawyer and human rights defender for more than 20 years and works on cases involving the security forces and serious human rights violations, such as extrajudicial executions, forced disappearances, illegal interceptions by the former Administrative Department of Security (DAS), and massacres like the one in San José de Apartadó in 2005.

At present, one of its most landmark cases is the one that charges the Colombian Army with the extrajudicial execution of the young men Darbey Mosquera and Alex Hurtado.

This case is making progress with respect to the determination of criminal penalties against its perpetrators. In April of last year, seven members of the Colombian military were sentenced to more than 40 years in prison for these crimes.

Criminal proceedings were brought against two officers of the same battalion that allegedly ordered the executions.

In the context of this case, Jorge Molano, along with the victims, and lawyer Germán Romero, received death threats,¹³ increasing their risk and need for accompaniment.

Claudia Julieta Duque

This March, the prosecutor handling the case of journalist and human rights defender Claudia Julieta Duque, issued security measures against seven former high officials of the former Administrative Department of Security (DAS) accused of espionage and illegal wiretapping.

PBI accompanies Duque as part of its lawsuit against the DAS, which is considered a national and international precedent given that

they are charged with aggravated psychological torture. It is the first time that proceedings are held for psychological torture as a specific offense and is one of the few in the world.¹¹

Nevertheless, due to the landmark character of the accusation and the high public offices it affects, the risk to the journalist is significant, as well as his personal involvement (if we take into account the crimes committed

against him). This is why PBI has continued to accompany him.

Ever since the announcement by the prosecutor against seven former DAS officials in the first half of the year, Claudia Julieta has recorded several security incidents that include monitoring of her person and her daughter, as well as her home.¹²

Southwestern Organizations

The PBI Bogota team occasionally performed accompaniments outside of the Colombian capital. Thus, the volunteers have traveled regularly to the city of Cali to conduct follow-up meetings with the organizations and respond to requests for accompaniment.

PBI has carried out physical accompaniments for members of NOMADESC as well as members of CIJP's Valle del Cauca field team during their travels to the region.

During the trips to Cali—one each month on average—PBI has also made visibility visits to the offices of the organizations that were previously accompanied by the Cali team.

ASSOCIATION FOR SOCIAL INVESTIGATION AND RESEARCH (NOMADESC)

During the month of March, the association NOMADESC coordinated the organization of the Peace Regional Preconference in the city of Popayán, a meeting of the human rights organizations in the southwestern region of the country, to offer a forum for proposals for the construction of “peace with social justice” that can reach the negotiating table of the FARC and the government in Havana (Cuba).

It was a landmark event in a region that has been hit especially hard by the conflict that mobilized human rights organizations for inclusion in

the peace negotiation process.

On the other hand, NOMADESC coordinated and accompanied a verification mission to the Honduras indigenous reservation (municipality of Morales, north of the Cauca department), with the participation of government authorities, members of the Indigenous Guard, and the Popayán Courts, with the objective of settling the writ for the protection of constitutional rights filed in 1986 by this indigenous community against the government.¹⁴

In those two occasions, NOMADESC requested international accompaniment from PBI, given the landmark character of the events and their particular relevance for the proceedings in which they take place.

DURING THE TRIPS TO CALI—ONE EACH MONTH ON AVERAGE—PBI HAS ALSO MADE VISIBILITY VISITS TO THE OFFICES OF THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY ACCOMPANIED BY THE CALI TEAM

Inter-church Justice and Peace Commission - Valle del Cauca Site Team (CIJP Valle Field Team)

During 2013, the communities accompanied by CIJP's Valle del Cauca field team have gone through major advances in their respective struggles, which is why PBI's accompaniment of the team during its travels to the region has become more important.

During the month of January, PBI accompanied the CIJP's Valle field team to Bajo Naya (in the southern part of the Valle de Cauca department) for the meeting of the Naya Community Council where the collective titling of its territory would begin to be organized.

It was a very significant and important event for the

community—one attended by more than 200 individuals from 52 communities—and their struggle for the territory.

After a 14-year wait, a portion of the land they claim has been recognized by the Colombian Institute for Rural Development (INCODER),¹⁵ which will benefit more than 18,000 individuals. However, this progress also means the continuation of threats to the community and those who accompany them in their struggle.

The Nayan community has requested the collective title to approximately 100,000 hectares located across the river, in the

department of Cauca, lands which are also claimed by the University of Cauca. This legal battle is before the Council of State and the community is waiting for the ruling.

Furthermore, in February PBI accompanied the CIJP's Valle field team to the community of El Crucero/Km 9 (municipality of Buenaventura, Valle del Cauca) to establish its own El Porvenir Community Council, a requirement for an Afro-Colombian community to be able to claim the title to the ancestral lands where they have lived, a decisive step in the struggle for the recovery of their lands.¹⁶

Barrancabermeja



The field team in Barrancabermeja works directly with organizations that cover the regions of Magdalena Medio, Catatumbo, Norte de Santander, and Antioquia. During 2013, the Barrancabermeja team directly accompanied six organizations: the Peasant Farmers Association of the Cimitarra River Valley (ACVC), the Luis Carlos Pérez Lawyers Association (CCALCP), the Regional Corporation for the Defence of Human Rights (CREDHOS), the Committee in Solidarity with Political Prisoners (FCSP), the Corporation for Judicial Freedom (CJL), and the Social Corporation for Community Advisory and Training Services (COS-PACC).

The cycle of violence in the region has been strongly defined by the land restitution process in the country. In this respect, we have been accompanying the NGOs involved in the peasant farmers' strike and in their work with displaced communities, and, in some cases, returnees. To be precise, we also accompany FCSP in its accompaniment of the rural community of Pitalito.

Another large part of our work focused occasionally on the two waves of threats towards members of the human rights NGOs in Barrancabermeja that were also characterized by gender distinctions: women defenders were specifically targeted.

Despite the worrisome security situation faced by human rights organizations, this year the Barrancabermeja team has reduced the number of accompaniments due to the budget cuts already mentioned.

PEASANT FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF THE CIMITARRA RIVER VALLEY (ACVC)

ACVC is an organization that works at a national level in the defense of human rights and for the sustainable development of the region's peasant farmers. It implements productive and food security projects, plans regional development, trains, and promotes organizational processes amongst the peasant farmers.

Among the security incidents affecting ACVC members we note the

inclusion of Melkin Castrillón as one of the victims of the wave of threats against the members of human rights NGOs in Barrancabermeja, which took place in February and March.

As a result of these threats, PBI held meetings with the Colombian authorities and with the international community of Bogota with the objective of raising awareness and legitimizing their work due to the accusations towards, and the stigmatization of,¹⁷ human rights defenders during 2013.¹⁸

During this period, PBI accompanied the organization to protect it during its work organizing the agro-mining strike and the Agro-mining National Summit in Barbosa, as well as the Roundtable for a Life of Dignity.

The latter was held in Remedios with representatives of the Community Action Committees to discuss the topic of the Peasant Farmers Reserve Zones and facilitate agreements and pledges with regional public institutions within the framework established by the law.

REGIONAL CORPORATION FOR THE DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS (CREDHOS)

CREDHOS was founded in 1987 and has been directing and coordinating the promotion of, and respect for, human rights in the city of Barrancabermeja and the region of Magdalena Medio.

Education is the basis of their work and they often travel to the field to hold workshops in Antioquia, Sur de Bolívar, and Santander.

They perform investigations and studies about human rights violations and violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). They receive complaints from the public regarding human rights violations and provide legal assistance to victims. PBI has accompanied the members of CREDHOS' board of directors for 19 years.

PBI has the role of drawing attention to landmark events, legitimizing their work, and protecting them in cases where non-violent international accompaniment is requested.

We accompanied the case of David Ravelo, CREDHOS human rights defender and the subject of a litigation campaign, who has been sentenced in first and second instance to 220 months in prison.

Various international organizations have drawn attention to the constant violations to due process and the right to self-defense. PBI makes prison visits as part of its emotional



accompaniment and engages in political advocacy at the national and international levels to raise awareness about their situation.

CREDHOS has worked in the documentation and investigation of 60 cases of forced disappearances, holding trainings and establishing human rights committees in the rural areas of Magdalena Medio.

PBI has performed these accompaniments to mitigate the high risk of harassment from government security forces and armed groups operating outside of the law, in order to protect its workspaces.

COMMITTEE IN SOLIDARITY WITH POLITICAL PRISONERS (FCSP)

FCSP has been engaged in human rights promotion and education in several regions of Colombia for 40 years, to confront politically motivated forms of persecution.

From Barrancabermeja, we accompanied FCSP sections in Bucaramanga and Medellín. In the case of the Bucaramanga section, we focused our accompaniment on the specific case of the rural community

Luis Carlos Pérez Lawyers' Collective (CCALCP)

The main objective of CCALCP's work is to bring the law and the communities together through the following work: the fight against impunity, comprehensive reparations for victims, popular education, and the defense of collective rights. They work in Magdalena Medio, Guamocó, and Norte de Santander.

There was a serious incident in which defender Judith Maldonado

was physically attacked¹⁹ while working in defense of human rights. PBI was called and we organized an emergency accompaniment following the attack and the filing of a criminal complaint.²⁰

CCALCP supports and provide legal counsel to AHERAMIGUA, an organization of peasant farmers and artisanal miners in the regions of Guamocó, Mina Walter, Bagre, and Santa Rosa.

This region of Magdalena Medio has been strongly affected by conflicts between artisanal mining and large-scale mining.

During this year CCALCP has performed, among other activities, training events on mining and victims' rights. PBI has accompanied some of these proceedings with the aim of reducing risk, raising awareness, and legitimizing the lawyers' work.

of Pitalito, in Sur de Cesar. Specifically, we accompanied FCSP through the return process and during the community's eviction. In the case of the Medellín section, we focused our accompaniment on their work inside the prisons of Antioquia, with political prisoners, and monitoring the living conditions of prisoners.

Recently, lawyer Rommel Durán Castellano had a serious security incident while he verified crop conditions at the rural community of Pitalito after their eviction.

According to a subsequent complaint by FCSP, alleged employees of Juan Manuel Fernández de Castro fired gunshots in the direction of the Verification Commission in which the lawyer and other members of the Colombian social movement and the community itself were taking part.²¹

CORPORATION FOR JUDICIAL FREEDOM (CJL)

Founded in Medellín in 1993 by a group of lawyers, in accordance with its social goals, CJL develops activities such as the establishment accountability processes against the government for human rights violations; legal representation of victims of crimes against humanity in search for truth, justice, and reparations; the filing of complaints before international human rights organizations; and assisting and training communities and social organizations in the ownership and demand of citizen rights and guarantees.

During 2013, all accompaniments of CJL fell inside the framework of their work with people displaced by the Hidroituango project, which were brought together under the Ríos Vivos Social Movement.

In the case of the Hidroituango energy project, the communities denounced the forced displacement of residents from the region affected by the Medellín Public Enterprises (EPM) project as well as threats and murders of members of the Ríos Vivos movement.

After the displacement, many of the affected families lived in deplorable conditions in a secondary coliseum of the University of Antioquia in Medellín, where they only had the support of students and social organizations, despite having been declared forcibly displaced.²²

In October, the government provided transportation for the displaced to return to the region, although many of them knew that they could not return to their homes or that their homes had been destroyed.²³ PBI accompanied CJL while they counseled those affected during their return.

1. In the month of March this year there was a coffee strike that affected several regions of the country, including the department of Tolima.
2. El enfoque regional: www.enfoqueregional.co : [Al menos 11 heridos en enfrentamientos en El Cruce Libano-Armero en primer día de paro cafetero](#), 25 February 2013.
3. CIJP: ["Continúan los actos intimidatorios: ataque a carro de defensor de Derechos Humanos de la Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz"](#), 13 February 2013.
4. CIJP: ["Seguimiento a defensores de Justicia y Paz"](#), 7 March 2013.
5. Ibid.
6. CIJP: ["Vigilancia e interceptación telefónica"](#), 29 April 2013.
7. CIJP: ["Condenan a dos empresarios por alianza con paramilitares en negocio de palma"](#), 30 July 2013.
8. CIJP: ["Plan de atentado contra defensores, frustrado el primero de ellos contra Faiver Chimonia, Demandamos garantías"](#), 6 August 2013.
9. Arcoiris.com: ["La maldición de Guacharacas, la hacienda de los Uribe Vélez"](#), 31 January 2013.
10. El Espectador: ["Iván Cepeda será parte civil en proceso contra hermano de ex presidente Uribe"](#), 14 February 2013.
11. El Espectador: ["¿Por qué el DAS se enseñó contra mí?": Claudia Julieta Duque"](#), 14 January 2012.
12. Front Line Defenders: ["Campaña de intimidación contra la defensora de derechos humanos Claudia Julieta Duque"](#), 12 April 2013.
13. Corporación Sembrar: ["Urgent Action: Nueva Amenaza contra Alfamir Castillo y los abogados Jorge Eliécer Molano y Germán Romero"](#), 18 May 2013.
14. In 1986, the government promised the community a series of compensation and repair measures for the damages caused during the construction, without prior consultations, of the [La Salvajina dam](#) (Norte del Cauca). Of these measures, incorporated in Act 86, only 40 % have been enacted. This is the reason why the community filed a writ for the protection of constitutional rights against the government.
15. This process occurs within the framework of Act 70 of 1993 and in compliance with [judgment T-909](#) of 2009, which recognizes the collective rights born of the ancestral occupation of a territory.
16. In early 2011 military units set fire to the huts of the community of El Crucero and burned their crops, at the request of Project Aguadulce, which is expanding the port of Buenaventura. Despite threats, last year the community decided to once again cultivate the lands that have been theirs for over 70 years. CIJP: ["Destrucción de bienes de supervivencia a afrocolombianos de Calima"](#), 1 March 2011. ["En el bajo Calima afrontan a empresa privada"](#), 10 February 2013.
17. Prensa Rural: ["Detenido Francisco Toloza, líder de Marcha Patriótica, en Cúcuta"](#), 4 January 2014.
18. Semanario Voz: ["Matriz de información: La doctrina mediática"](#), 10 July 2013.
19. CCALP: ["Violencia, atropello y agresión contra Judith Maldonado"](#), Abogada defensora de Derechos Humanos, 21 November 2011.
20. Movimiento Social Colombiano: ["Desalojo violento contra comunidad en Cúcuta y grave atropello contra defensora de derechos humanos"](#), 25 November 2013.
21. Fcsp-Grupo Jurídico Pueblos, ["Urgente: Hombres armados al servicio de Juan Manuel Fernández de Castro disparan contra integrantes y acompañantes de la Comunidad de Pitalito"](#), 4 December 2013.
22. Radio Nizkor: ["El desalojo forzoso de 1.500 mineros en Buriticá \(Antioquia\) se salda con 2 civiles muertos y 17 heridos"](#), 7 December 2013.
23. Agencia de Prensa IPC: ["Iniciará retorno de desplazados de Hidroituango, refugiados en la UdeA"](#), 24 October 2013.

* Biweekly meetings with the organization and the monitoring of their security situation are coordinated from Bogotá, but the Barrancabermeja team is in charge of the accompaniments, documents about the organization, and its work region (Casanare/Boyacá).

** The BB team punctually performs accompaniments according to an evaluation of elevated and landmark risk, and supports the CIBO team with documentation.

Table of direct work with accompanied NGOs

	Acvc	Ccalp	Credhos	Fcsp- Buca.	CJL	Cos- Pacc*	Otras**
Rounds	24	14	46	26	7		
Accompaniments	78	64½ days (47 ½ days with RA 17 ½ days without RA)	54, 98 ½ days; (36 ½ days with RA; 62 ½ days without RA)	128½ days; (104 with RA 24 without RA)	11 ½ days	18 ½ days	CCJAR 16 ½ days. FCSP- Medellín 2½ days. CIJP½ days
Meetings	7	5 3 every two months (2 others)	36 3 every two months (33 others)	4 Every two months: 2 Others: 2	1		

Armored protective accompaniment of displaced communities



Urabá was historically a region of conflicts due to its great wealth of mining and biodiversity resources, and the presence of illegal armed actors. It is a region of landmark proceedings regarding land restitution, has a high level of threats and attacks against claimants.¹

Despite the reduction in the number of volunteers, in 2013 the Urabá team has continued to accompany several processes in displaced communities who live under critical security situations due to threats and attacks.

In the river valleys of Cacarica, Curbaradó, and Jiguamiandó, the team accompanies the Inter-church Justice and Peace Commission

(CIJP), a human rights organization. Furthermore, we have continued to accompany the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, located in the rural district of San José de Apartadó and the municipality of Tierralta in Córdoba.

PEACE COMMUNITY OF SAN JOSÉ DE APARTADÓ

The visibility of neo-paramilitary groups, their military movements, and their control over the civilian population have increased throughout 2013 on the road to San José de Apartadó.²

Furthermore, peasant farmers continued to report battles between members of government security

forces and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas within community territory, which endanger the civilian population.³

Members of the Internal Council (particularly leaders Jesús Emilio Tuberquia, Germán Graciano and Arley Tuberquia) continue to have a high profile due to possible claims against them.

The Peace Community continues to be a victim of accusations and defamation, a situation that poses the need to continue accompanying them for their protection.

The neo-paramilitary group with the strongest presence is the Gaitanista Self-defense Forces of Colombia (AGC), which control the region and have performed numerous

incursions, causing displacements and terror among the communities.⁴

During an accompaniment in September 2013, members of PBI encountered six armed and uniformed men that identified themselves as AGC.⁵ Hence, we have voiced out concern to embassies, civil organizations, and the Colombian military.

On 10 December, President Santos officially apologized to the Peace Community for the accusations made by his predecessor, Álvaro Uribe Vélez.

The community thanked him for the gesture and deemed it as progress in complying with the orders of Order 164/12 of the Constitutional Court, although they regretted the lack of monitoring and compliance with the remaining court orders and the lack of security guarantees in their territory. It is worth noting that the community itself was not invited to the event and hence did not witness the apology.⁶

Despite the hostile context, the community continues to develop its strategy through projects based on food, energy, and educational independence.

Furthermore, they offer support to displaced families that do not form part of the community and seek reconciliation to avoid new displacements. PBI values the work they do and continues to accompany them to build a social alternative to violence.

INTER-CHURCH JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION (CIJP) IN CURBARADÓ AND JIGUAMIANDÓ AND IN THE BIJAO ONOFRE COMMUNITY

This year, CIJP and several community leaders in Curbaradó have been victim to attacks and intimidation from ill-intentioned occupiers, as well as to accusations and constant defamation.

The pressure was so intense that in August the CIJP field team was forced to leave the river valley temporarily because they had learned about a murder plot against one of the field team members.⁸

Furthermore, in several occasions threats were made by neo-paramilitaries, who warned that they would carry out a massacre if land restitution took place.⁹

Landmark accompaniment: Internal CDP Council, to perform visibility and protection walks after the repeated incursions of neo-paramilitaries and armed actions in the civil population zone. (October and November 2013)

The persistence and increase in activity by armed groups and the presence of neo-paramilitaries in the rural district of San José de Apartadó throughout this year led the community to perform pilgrimages with the objective of raising awareness, protecting the CDP district, and support neighboring communities such as La Hoz y Rodoxalí.⁷

They were accompanied by PBI and various organizations and national and international media outlets in October and November 2013.

The long-awaited land restitution to displaced communities, ordered by the Constitutional Court,¹⁰ was not completed in a legitimate and lawful manner.

The territory has not been cleared of ill-intentioned occupiers, nor there is adequate implementation of the Comprehensive Plan for Peace, as required by Court Order 299 of December 2012, despite complaints by CIJP and the community councils regarding its risk situation and high vulnerability.¹¹

On the other hand, PBI has shown the Colombian authorities its concern for the events reported by CIJP.

Fourteen communities from the Curbaradó river valley have been excluded from the ad hoc committee that determines who can participate fully in the General Assembly.¹² The General Assembly will elect community representatives who, in turn, will decide how the territory will be used.¹³ Within this context, PBI's accompaniment, whether physical or political, continues to be a priority and an essential protection tool for CIJP and the displaced communities.

In 2013 we accompanied the CIJP team on their visits to the Humanitarian Zones as well as their entry and exit from the river valleys. Furthermore we occasionally perform accompaniments for threatened leaders per request of CIJP.

PBI also continues to accompany on the Pedeguita Mancilla river valley, where the Bijao Onofre community continues to resist, in their lands, the occupation by business leader, Juan Guillermo Gonzales. Gonzales is being investigated in relation to case no. 3856 against 19 oil palm growers for their role in forced displacement of the river valleys since 1996.¹⁴

INTER-CHURCH JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION (CIJP) IN CACARICA

In the Cacarica river valley we accompanied CIJP and, indirectly, the Community for Self-determination, Life and Dignity (CAVIDA). The presence of illegal actors and the pressure against the population in the context of megaprojects continue to be a threat to the security of the residents of the Humanitarian Zone.

In 2013 we noticed a more visible pressure from armed actors in the Atrato River, which is the only access point for the residents of the Cacarica river valley.

According to CIJP and CAVIDA, since September 2014, neo-paramilitary groups have gathered and mobilized through the region and in the vicinity of community lands.¹⁶

They also established checkpoints along the Atrato River and in Tumaradó, where they stopped, threatened, and accused members of CAVIDA and leaders such as Pedro Hurtado and Marco Velasco, which is the reason why the latter was forced to leave the Cacarica river valley.¹⁷

The profile of several CAVIDA leaders was raised after participating as witnesses in the Operation Genesis case against the Colombian government at the Inter-American Court for its role in this operation.

On 27 December, the Court ruled against the Colombian government for its involvement in the forced displacement of thousands of people through a joint operation between the military and paramilitaries named Operation Genesis and the 1997 murder of Marino López.¹⁸

In this context, CIJP learned in February of a letter addressed to,

among others, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the COIDH accusing Danilo Rueda and CIJP of procedural fraud and of representing the FARC against the 17th Brigade of the National Army.¹⁹

Despite legal advances at the international level, the security situation in the river valley continues to be worrisome and thus it is still necessary to continue with PBI's accompaniment to protect CIJP, who has represented the victims in this case.

Landmark accompaniment: The return of the Ruiz family (June 2013)

Despite threats received by the Ruiz family for reporting the murder of Manuel Ruiz and his son in March 2012, they decided to return to their land and create a new Humanitarian Zone, Costa Azul.¹⁵

As requested by CIJP, PBI accompanied the family during their return and maintained a permanent presence in the Costa Azul Humanitarian Zone during June.



1. Human Rights Watch: [El Riesgo de volver a casa: Violencia y amenazas contra desplazados que reclaman restitución de sus tierras en Colombia](#), September 2013.
2. Comunidad de paz: [Derecho de Petición N.11 al Presidente de Colombia, sobre Comunidad de Paz de San Jose](#), 17 September 2013.
3. Comunidad de paz: [Esquizofrenia de un estado terrorista](#), 9 September 2013.
4. Noticias Urabá: [Campesinos denuncian presencia de autodefensas gaitanistas](#), September 2013.
5. Comunidad de Paz: [Complicidad, cooperación y protección al crimen: la «democracia» que tenemos](#), 11 September 2013.
6. CdP: [El Presidente nos pidió perdón](#), 16 December 2013.
7. Comunidad de Paz: [Sin armas en búsqueda de un ejército de asesinos armados](#), 15 October 2013.
8. CIJP: [Acompañantes de Justicia y Paz se ven obligados a abandonar el Curbaradó](#), 16 August 2013.
9. CIJP: [Informan de eventual masacre si hay restitución de tierras, serían asesinados reclamantes e integrantes de CIJP](#), 27 June 2013.
10. Corte Constitucional: [Auto](#), 18 May 2010.
11. Corte Constitucional: [Auto 299](#), 18 December 2012.
12. The Assembly appoints the Upper Council of the Curbaradó river valley and the legal representative, who manage the collective lands and make land use decisions.
13. CIJP: [Carta de comunidades de Curbaradó a gobierno sobre proceso de restitución](#), 6 September 2013.
14. CIJP: [Orden desalojo protege a beneficiarios del paramilitarismo](#), January 2013.
15. CIJP: [Sin plenas garantía regresa familia Ruiz a territorio colectivo](#), 2 June 2013.
16. CIJP: [Constancia - Alerta temprana: Incursión paramilitar a territorio de Cacarica](#), 10 September 2013.
17. CIJP: [Intimidación Armada a pobladores de Cavida, amenazas a integrantes de la Cijp](#), 7 May 2013.
18. CIJP: [Sentencia de la Corte IDH en caso Operación Génesis](#), 28 December 2013.
19. CIJP: [Constancia - Continúan los actos intimidatorios; ataque a carro de defensor de Derechos Humanos de la Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz](#), 13 February 2013.

* This refers to formal meetings. With CIJP we usually share the latest information informally during accompaniments.

Resumen de actividades con las organizaciones y defensores acompañados

	Cijp Curbaradó y Jiguamiandó	Cijp Cacarica	Comunidad de Paz	Otros
Acompañamientos	269	124	223	27
Reuniones*	3	3	27	1

Source: Progress Report Urabá



Dialogues and advocacy



Raising awareness about the work of human rights defenders among the international community and colombian state authorities dialogues and advocacy

Last 26 August was the first anniversary of the opening of talks between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas. In parallel with advances in the dialogue taking place in Havana (Cuba), there has been an increase in the number of threats against human rights defenders in Colombia.

This is a trend that PBI has drawn attention to during numerous

meetings throughout the year. Furthermore, PBI has shown its concern for the threats and attacks against women defenders, the risk faced by land restitution leaders and the organizations that accompany them, and the ever more visible presence of neo-paramilitary groups.

At the same time, PBI was able to participate as an observer in certain spaces, forums, and conferences related to the situation faced by human rights defenders.

Moreover, at national and international levels and in conjunction with other organizations, PBI had numerous meetings within the context of the Universal Periodic Review. (See *Advocacy in Europe*, p.32)

ATTACKS ON DEFENDERS

According to the Somos Defensores program, the number of attacks recorded in 2012 was 49 % greater than in 2011 and the highest in



the last ten years. In September 2013, a total of 263 attacks were recorded, including: 52 murders, 32 murder attempts, 153 threats, (which is an increase with respect to the same period in 2012, when 235 attacks and 39 murders were recorded).

Last August, members of the Inter-church Justice and Peace

IN SEPTEMBER 2013, A TOTAL OF 263 ATTACKS WERE RECORDED, INCLUDING: 52 MURDERS, 32 MURDER ATTEMPTS, 153 THREATS, (WHICH IS AN INCREASE WITH RESPECT TO THE SAME PERIOD IN 2012)

Commission (CIJP) were victims of four acts of intimidation and aggression that resulted in, among other things, the temporary exit of the field team from Curbaradó.²

PBI re-activated its Alert and Early Response system in August. Due to the gravity of the situation we were invited to a meeting held by the Human Rights Groups of the European Union Delegation. Three embassies participated in the event, after which we were also able to meet with representatives of another three embassies.

Furthermore, PBI also held meetings with government authorities, among which we note: Office of the Ombudsman, Interior Ministry, National Protection Unit (twice; one of them jointly with the Presidential Program for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law under the supervision of the Vice-President).

On 28 August, the Committee for Risk Assessment and the Recommendation of Measures (CERREM) approved several protection measures, among them a new security protocol and an increase in the number of guards for CIJP members. These await implementation.

The Public Prosecutor's Office promised to consolidate all investigations related to the threats and aggressions against CIJP Bogota under a single dossier.

STATUS OF LAND RESTITUTION LEADERS

In 2012, Colombia began to implement the Land Restitution and Victims Law, whose objective is the

restitution of millions of hectares of land to the people who were violently displaced from them during the last few decades.

Nevertheless, despite this significant gamble by the government, land restitution leaders continue to be one of the main victims of neo-paramilitary groups.

The most recent Human Rights Watch's World Report indicated that in the last year-and-a-half, 520 land claimants have reported threats and that, despite them, the Public Prosecutor's Office has not brought charges in any of these investigations.³

During 2013, PBI accompanied the Committee in Solidarity with Political Prisoners (FCSPP) during its work with the rural community of Pitalito, located in the department of Cesar (Colombia).

FCSPP began two years ago a process of accompaniment with this community and reported its displacement in 2010. On 21 May, in consultation with FCSPP and within the framework of the Land Restitution and Victims Law, the community returned to the hamlet, although it was later evicted on 25 October.

Given the risky situation faced by land claimants in Colombia and those who accompany them before

they returned, PBI held a series of preventive dialogues with several authorities.

We held a joint meeting with the participation of members of FCSPP and representatives of four embassies.

Later on we met with the four embassies, UNHCHR, and civil authorities such as the Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Ombudsman, and the Presidential Program for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law under the supervision of the Vice-President.

PERPETRATORS OF THE ATTACKS

In its last annual report, UNHCHR indicated that out that most of the attacks against human rights defenders are attributed to "post-mobilization groups."⁴

According to Somos Defensores, these groups are responsible for 59 % of attacks against defenders, followed by the Armed Forces (military and police), and guerrilla groups.⁵

In numerous occasions throughout the year, PBI has drawn attention to various checkpoints set up by these groups, mainly in the region of Urabá.

In some cases, even PBI members were stopped by these groups. Last 6 September in the hamlet of La Hoz (Antioquia), members of PBI who accompanied members of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó encountered a group of six armed uniformed individuals who identified themselves as the "Gaitanista Self-defense Forces of Colombia"⁶; that

Consultations

PBI participated in eight consultation meetings with national and international civil society regarding the human rights situation in Colombia, called by representatives of foreign countries.

PBI contributed information gathered in the field regarding the main topics of concern, in order to reach a complete picture of the human rights situation.

In December, PBI was invited by the UK embassy during the visit of Archibald Young, Sub-Director of the Department of the Americas for the UK Foreign Office, in which we voiced our concerns regarding some of the organizations we accompany.

Likewise, we participated in a consultation meeting called by the European Union Delegation, which was held during the visit of the President of the European Parliament to Colombia.

same week, the Humanitarian Zones of the Cacarica river valley reported the threat of incursion by neo-paramilitary groups that carried a list with the names of individuals to be assassinated.⁷

PBI made a total of twelve emergency calls to diplomatic corps, the United Nations, various authorities, and, later, we held dialogues with five embassies and Colombian civil authorities such as the Office of the Vice-President, the Interior Ministry, and the National Protection Unit.

According to the Cacarica communities, the neo-paramilitary threat was stopped as a result of international pressure.

COORDINATION SPACES

PBI has continued to participate as an observing member in the Interagency Dialogue platform (DIAL). Through DIAL, we have attended the consultation meeting and subsequent social activities between

the European Union Delegation and civil society, within the framework of human rights in Colombia, and to different meetings with government civil authorities.

Through DIAL, PBI has participated as an observer of the Roundtable on Guarantees (dialogue including more than 500 Colombian NGOs) with the Colombian government regarding the subject of guarantees and protection for human rights defenders.

We have also continued to participate as an observer in other spaces, such as the International Complementarity Forum of Magdalena Medio (MIC-MM), the Colombia - Europe - United States Coordination (CCEEU), the Alliance and Common Roof (Techo Común).

1. Op. cit.: Programa Somos Defensores: Héroes anónimos, 4 August 2013; Programa Somos Defensores: Boletín Trimestral July-September 2013, October 2013; Programa Somos Defensores: [Un camino solitario](#), August 2012; Programa Somos Defensores: [Boletín Trimestral julio-septiembre 2012](#), October 2012.
2. CIJP: [Constancia, Intimidación a defensor de derechos humanos, Manuel Garzón, abogado de la Cijp y otros defensores](#), 2 August 2013; CIJP: [Frustrado atentado a defensor de dh](#), 5 August 2013; CIJP: [Seguimientos a abogados de Justicia y Paz en Bogotá](#), 9 August 2013.
3. Human RightsWatch: [El riesgo de volver a casa](#), September 2013.
4. OACNUDH: [Informe de la Alta Comisionada de las Naciones Unidas para los Derechos Humanos sobre la situación de los Derechos Humanos y el Derecho Internacional Humanitario en Colombia durante el año 2012](#), 7 January 2013.
5. Op. cit.: Programa Somos Defensores: Boletín Trimestral julio-septiembre 2013, October 2013.
6. CDP: [Paramilitares atacan a todas anchas](#), 21 August 2013.
7. CIJP: [Paramilitares atacarán afrocolombianos e indígenas](#), 4 September 2013.



Summary of talks with Colombian authorities and institutions between January and June 2013

	Colombian government and enforcement agencies	State security forces	Diplomatic Corps, UN Agencies, MAPP-OAS, INGOs	Coordination spaces, civil society, churches, etc
National	26 Ministry of Justice Attorney's Office Office of the Ombudsman Ministry of Defense Public Prosecutor's Office National Protection Unit Ministry of the Interior Office of the Vice President Office of the Chancellor Office of the Vice President—Presidential Program for Human Rights National Unit for Victim Support and Reparation	3 National Police Colombian Army (Office for Human Rights)	99 Embassies UN Agencies International cooperation agencies International organizations	86 DIAL (Inter Agency Dialogue on Colombia), (37) CCEEU (Colombia-Europe-United States Coordination), (11) MIC, (3) Techo Común, (4) Alianza, (6) Roundtable on Guarantees, (5) IONG space, (10) Civil society, (10)
Within the framework of the DIAL platform	9 Ministry of the Interior National Protection Unit, (4) Office of the Ombudsman, (2) Public Prosecutor's Office Office of the Vice President		5 ACNUR EU Delegation G24	
Barrancabermeja The regions of Magdalena Medio and Northern Santander	24 Office of the Ombudsman Local human rights liaison Land Restitution Unit Government Attorney's Office Mayor's Office	43 National Police, (21) Army, (22)	30 OACNUDH UNDSS ICRC INGOs OCHA, (1) ACNUR, (51)	37 Coordination spaces Civil society
Bogotá Various provinces (departments)		1 Police	1 ICRC	
Urabá	8 Community Advocate of Bajo Atrato SAT Ministry of the Interior	14 Army (7) Navy (2) National Police, (5)	11 ACNUR OACNUDH Oxfam Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) Operazione Colomba (Palomas) PCS (Project Counseling Service)	4 Coordination space Church
TOTAL	67	61	146	127

Table of Threats

Type of harassment	Accompanied organizations, individuals and communities affected
Death threats / assassination plans	Inter-church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP), National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVICE), Joint Communities of the Humanitarian Zones of Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó, Grassroots Women's Organization (OFFP), Forum for Human Rights Workers of Magdalena Medio (ETTDDHH), Regional Victims Association of Magdalena Medio (ASORVIMM), Peasant Farmers' Association of the Cimitarra River (ACVC), Association of Family Members of the Detained and Disappeared (ASFADDES), Community for Self-determination, Life and Dignity (CAVIDA), family of Manuel Ruíz, Committee in Solidarity with Political Prisoners (FCSPP), José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR), Humanidad Vigente, Manuel Cepeda Vargas Foundation, Jorge Molano, Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, Regional Corporation for the Defense of Human Rights (CREDHOS), Luis Carlos Pérez Lawyers Association (CCALCP), Association for Social Investigation and Research (NOMADESC).
Ongoing criminal prosecutions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Criminal prosecutions with formal charges: David Ravelo Crespo (CREDHOS) Carmelo Agámez (MOVICE, Sucre Chapter).• Alleged investigations and/or arrest warrants: ACVC, CIJP, residents of the Humanitarian Zones of Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó.
Stigmatization on the media	CIJP, Joint Communities of the Humanitarian Zones of Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó, CAVIDA, Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, Committee for Solidarity with Political Prisoners (FCSPP), ACVC, CCAJAR, MOVICE.
Information Theft	Social Corporation for Community Advisory and Training Services (COS-PACC), Nidia Erika Bautista Foundation, CREDHOS, and CIJP
Monitoring and harassment	Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, joint communities of the Humanitarian Zones of Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó, CAVIDA, Luis Carlos Pérez Lawyers' Collective (CCALCP), Regional Corporation for the Defense of Human Rights (CREDHOS), CIJP, ASORVIMM, MOVICE, Jorge Molano, Claudia Julieta Duque, FCSPP, Ruiz family.

Dialogues and advocacy with the international community

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF PROTECTION AND ACCOMPANIMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS AND COLOMBIAN COMMUNITIES, THE COLOMBIA PROJECT (COP) ALSO PERFORMS ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES IN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY, SUPPORT THE PETITIONS OF ACCOMPANIED INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES, AND GENERATE INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE TO SECURE FULL RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

Europe

In the various advocacy settings: European Union, United Nations, and Ministries of Foreign Affairs, through the collaboration of PBI's Country Groups we have drawn attention to the persistence of serious human rights violations in Colombia; the increase in attacks and murders against human rights defenders; the high levels of impunity; and the increase in the presence of neo-paramilitary groups that are allegedly responsible for most of the attacks.

UNITED NATIONS

From our European office we have continued dialogues and communication with the different United Nations offices. In April 2013, Colombia underwent the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) for the second time. PBI has contributed to writing the UPR report regarding international networks and organizations and participated on a Geneva tour along with ODHACO and representatives of the Colombian social movement.

This was an opportunity to meet several permanent missions of Member States, in front of the United Nations, requesting that questions be asked under examination.

As a result, it is worth mentioning, various countries made recommendations regarding the situation of human rights defenders.

Likewise, we have held meetings with several UN special rapporteur offices and with representatives of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, with whom we maintain a permanent dialogue.

On the occasion of the twenty-second session of the UN Human Rights Council, we held a side event along with Colombian and international organizations and umbrella organizations. Furthermore, in conjunction with MISEREOR, we spoke about the annual report release by the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights.

In December, in conjunction with other PBI departments and international organizations, we held another side event in Geneva during the session of the UN Work Group on Business and Human Rights.

We sought to draw attention to the risks faced by human rights defenders

Meetings

United Nations, (4)	Permanent missions, (7)	NGO, (4)
Office of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights	Albania	Franciscans International
Office of the Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women	Spain	CAT (Committee Against Torture)
Working Group on Forced Disappearances	Finland	OMCT (World Organisation Against Torture)
High Commissioner for Human Rights	The Netherlands	FCSP
	Hungary	
	Norway	
	Switzerland	



Franklin Castañeda (FCSP), in Brussels (Belgium)

that work on topics related to human rights violations by economic interests, including defamation and litigation campaigns; promote the role that said defenders can play during consultation and planning; and urge governments and companies to take measures that support human rights.

EUROPEAN UNION

Throughout 2013, PBI has held meetings and communicated with members of the European Parliament, Member of the Permanent Representations of the Member States to the EU and the External Action Service of the EU (EEAS).

Due to the serious plight of the communities in the communities of

Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó, and its national accompanying organizations (the Inter-church Justice and Peace Commission), PBI has requested the European Parliament to monitor the situation.

As a result, a parliamentary question was submitted to the European Commission.

We have raised awareness about the increase in threats directed towards women defenders and the persistence of violations of national and international standards in the case of defender David Ravelo Crespo; as well as the stigmatization, accusation, and defamation that resulted from participation in the various strikes that occurred in Colombia during the second semester of 2013.

We showed the risk faced by leaders, such as Cesar Jerez (ACVC), after accusations publicized in several Colombian media outlets. Thus, some members of Parliament have raised parliamentary questions about this topic.

Meetings

European Parliament, (17) (members and their offices)	European External Action Service, (4)	Permanent Representations, (6)
Members of the IU/ GUE, S&D, and Greens political groups, (15)		Spain
Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI), (2)		Lithuania
		Portugal Reino Unido
		Sweden, (2)

We have also participated in the dissemination of information regarding the worsening of the security situation in the Cacarica river valley and the increased presence of neo-paramilitary groups.

Some members of Parliament have voiced their concerns and asked the European Union Delegation in Colombia to monitor the situation.

In conjunction with ODHACO, we organized a tour for Franklin Castañeda, president of the Committee in Solidarity with Political Prisoners (FCSP), during which we met with various members of the European Parliament and the EEAS.

We obtained various commitments for monitoring and action, and some members of Parliament contacted the Colombian authorities regarding the cases brought by FCSP and the security risk these entail for them.

In addition, we were successful in achieving that Franklin Castañeda could speak during a session of the Human Rights Subcommittee of the European Parliament, where he talked about the human rights situation in Colombia and in particular the criminalization, attacks against defenders, and the outlook for justice.

After this intervention, the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI) held a hearing on 27 November 2013 regarding Colombia and the impact of the free trade agreements on human rights, to which representatives of Colombian social movements were invited.

PBI reported to DROI members on the current situation of human rights defenders through a specific publication.

COUNTRY GROUPS

From the European office we have continued to collaborate with PBI's Country Groups in Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom, France, Norway, Sweden, Italy, Spain, Belgium, and Switzerland.

The various activations held this year were well supported in terms of disseminating information, advocate, and raise awareness by Ministries of Foreign Affairs, national parliaments, and umbrella organizations.

We worked as a team in preparation and face-to-face advocacy for the Universal Periodic Review, so that Country Groups could make recommendations to their governments. Furthermore, we have been supported by PBI France, Switzerland, Spain, and Norway for Franklin Castañeda's tour.

The Country Groups of the United Kingdom, Spain, The Netherlands, and Germany held meetings with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs from their respective countries, parliamentary groups, and organization networks, due to the tour by representatives of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, the Inter-church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP), and the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers Association.

PLATFORMS AND NGOS

Throughout this year we have continued to participate in the different umbrella organizations in which we are members: ODHACO, CBC and Platform Against Criminalization.

In May, in conjunction with the Catalan Table for Peace and Human Rights in Colombia (Taula Catalana per la Pau i el Drets Humans a Colòmbia), we participated in the organization of the European roundtables for peace and began collaboration as meeting observers for this umbrella organization.

Furthermore, we organized different advocacy activities in collaboration with international organizations: three press releases about the David Ravelo Crespo case, one each for the sentencing of first instance, the sentencing of second instance, and the third anniversary of his arrest.

As a result, more than 20 organizations and international networks voiced their concerns regarding the violation of due process against the prominent defender.

WE WERE SUCCESSFUL IN ACHIEVING THAT FRANKLIN CASTAÑEDA COULD SPEAK DURING A SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, WHERE HE TALKED ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN COLOMBIA AND IN PARTICULAR THE CRIMINALIZATION, ATTACKS AGAINST DEFENDERS, AND THE OUTLOOK FOR JUSTICE.

1. ODHACO: [Franklin Castañeda sobre la situación de derechos humanos en Colombia](#), 29 May 2013.

North America



Manuel Garzón,(CIJP) in Washington D.C., (USA)

The North American office of PBI Colombia is located in Washington DC and maintains a constant dialogue with members of the US Congress, government officials, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Furthermore, we collaborate with US and international non-governmental organizations. Along with PBI Canada, we coordinate advocacy activities and awareness raising in Canada.

CURRENT SITUATION

At the beginning of 2013, new representatives took office in the US Congress after the November 2012 elections.

The topics of labor rights and land restitution continue to be key ones for some members of Congress and above all, within the framework of the free trade agreement that entered into force last year.

The US government has voiced its support of the peace negotiations, which were one of the main topics during a bilateral meeting between

President Santos and President Obama last December. And, for the first time, the US government showed some openness towards the possibility of reformulating its drug policy, a key topic of the negotiations.

The political situation in CANADA continues to be a difficult one for social justice organizations. In the framework of the free trade agreement between Colombia and Canada, the Canadian government is required to report to Parliament regarding the impact on human rights.

However, this year's report did not include any substantial information regarding the human rights violations faced by Colombian organizations, not was any reference made to the negative impacts that, according to various complaints, Canadian mining companies have had on some rural communities.

PBI ACTIVITIES IN NORTH AMERICA

POLITICAL ADVOCACY

Given the delicate security situation of the Inter-church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP) and the Afro-Colombian communities that it accompanies in the river valleys of Curbaradó and Jiguamiandó, PBI performed several advocacy activities in their support.

As a result of our meetings, seven members of Congress sent a letter to President Santos, voicing their concern regarding the security situation and the apparent lack of expediency and efficiency in the land restitution process in the region.

The letter gathered much media attention in Colombia, forcing the government to respond quickly to the vast majority of the applications.

In September, after receiving a direct death threat in relation to his advocacy work for the communities, CIJP lawyer Manuel Garzón left Colombia and traveled to the US.

PBI organized a tour that included meetings at the offices of members of Congress, Senators, the State Department, and non-governmental organizations.

Thanks to these meetings, several pledges of support were made to CIJP. Likewise, with the support of Wola, the seven representatives that signed the letter in February, along with five others, signed a letter in November that drew attention to the multiple irregularities in the land restitution process in Curbaradó and requested that the Colombian government take corrective measures and implement protection for CIJP and the communities.

In May, lawyer Jorge Molano, accompanied by PBI, traveled to Washington to take the testimony of a general accused in the case of the 2005 massacre of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó.

The trip presented an opportunity to hold a series of meetings with members of Congress, the State Department, and allied NGOs.

On the last day of his visit we learned of the death threats against his colleague Germán Romero, the mother of one of the victims in a case of extrajudicial execution, and Molano himself.

The fact that Jorge Molano was in Washington helped the organization of demonstrations of support from Congress and the Kennedy Center for Human Rights.

In October, PBI collaborated closely with personnel from the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and the US Congress in the preparation of comments by CCAJAR and CIJP representatives (the only representatives from Colombian civil society invited) for your a hearing regarding the status of human rights and possibilities for peace in Colombia.

Finally, in March and October, PBI supported four of its accompanied organizations in trips to Washington, in the context of hearings by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Several meetings were organized with the offices of members of Congress, the State Department, and White House advisors so that accompanied individuals could report on their security situation and request assistance.

COLLABORATION WITH NGO ALLIANCES LOBBYING THE US GOVERNMENT

In March and April PBI, together with the Latin America Working Group (LAWG), the US Office on Colombia (USOC), and WOLA, organized meetings with those members of Congress that took office in January.

Meetings were organized under the initiative of collecting the signatures of congressmen to send a letter to Secretary of State

John Kerry to request the support of the US government for the peace negotiations and change its approach regarding its cooperation with Colombia to one aimed at supporting peace initiatives rather than war.

PBI secured the signatures of sixty-two representatives and the meetings allowed us to establish new allies in Congress.

DIALOGUES WITH GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

PBI continues to be one of the few organizations invited by State Department to high-level meetings with NGOs regarding human rights topics.

Furthermore, we held frequent bilateral meetings with the Department to highlight topics of special concern. Representatives

PBI CONTINUES TO BE ONE OF THE FEW ORGANIZATIONS INVITED BY STATE DEPARTMENT TO HIGH-LEVEL MEETINGS WITH NGOS REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS TOPICS

of this organization have described, in several occasions, the quality and usefulness of the information provided by PBI.

Proof of this is the fact that most of the cases mentioned in State Department human rights reports continue to be mostly those organizations we accompany.

WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

This year we continued our work with the Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition.

In March, we participated on the 57th Session of the Commission on the Legal and Social Status of Women at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The coalition succeeded in incorporating in the final document a text that mentioned the obligations of States to protect women human rights defenders.

PBI's participation was key to obtaining the support of the Colombian government, which later prompted other Latin American States to support the initiative.

WORK WITH OTHER PBI ORGANIZATIONS

In Washington, PBI Colombia collaborated with Country Groups from the United States and Canada on various activities, such as the coordination of a visit by members of Canadian NGOs and labor unions to Colombia, to learn about the status of human rights defenders and labor unions.

On the other hand, we led the drafting of a document, with contributions from all of PBI, regarding enabling environments for defenders, in response to the request by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders for inclusion on the report that will be published in 2014.

Meetings

Entity	Meetings
US Senate	11
US House of Representatives	47
US State Department	20
NGO	32
Colombian Embassy	5
White House	2

1. Amnesty International: [Canada-Colombia Free Trade: Another Human Rights Report without human rights](#), 24 June 2013.



Publications and distribution of information



The Publications area has the objective of notifying PBI Colombia's support network of the country's situation, broadcasting the human rights violations committed against accompanied organizations and communities, and reporting their protection needs. Our documents are published in English and Spanish.

The publications have reported on the work by human rights defenders and PBI's accompaniment.

They also raise awareness within the international community about the situations faced by these individuals, who work in the context of armed conflict.

We have also held several fundraising campaigns to enable PBI Colombia to continue its work of supporting human rights defenders.

PUBLICATIONS

ELECTRONIC BULLETINS

In 2013 we published four electronic bulletins: March, April, June, and September. All of them include different media products, from video interviews to in-depth reporting.

On the first, through a video, we traveled to [Curumaní](#), (César), to learn about the situation of displaced families accompanied by Committee for Solidarity with Political Prisoners (FCSP); a photo essay brought us closer to the [March for Water](#) that took place on 15 March in Bucaramanga, (Santander); we interviewed [Jesus Emilio Tuberquia](#), member of the Internal Council and leader of the Peace Community of

San José de Apartadó, who spoke to us about the resistance and neutrality ethics in the context of the war waged by the community; journalist [Claudia Julieta Duque](#), Colombia correspondent for the human rights radio station Radio Nizkor, granted us a video interview— she was one of the journalists whose was the subject of extensive surveillance by the former presidential Department of Administrative Security (DAS); in conjunction with the Inter-church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP) we visited the Afro-Colombian community of the small village of [El Crucero](#), and this accompaniment was the basis of a photo blog.

In April, we published a second video of the series "Human rights defenders speak Out." [Danilo Rueda](#), member of CIJP, spoke to us about

the constant threats they suffer and the protection plan they follow to enable their work.

The bulletin published on June 2013, "[Starting all over again](#)" was the video that told the story of the return, to the small rural community of Pitalito, of 14 peasant farmer families that had been deprived of their land for three years. The lawyer and human rights defender [Leonardo Jaimes Marín](#) described in an interview the return to Pitalito. Five [women human rights defenders](#) that work in the region of Magdalena Medio spoke on video about the attacks that they face every day. The photo blog about the [March for Peace](#), from 9 April, showed the Bogota demonstrations.

Lastly, in September, [Niamh Ni Bhriain](#) and [Sophia Kerridge](#) blogged about their experiences as PBI Colombia volunteers. "[Looking for Henry Diaz](#)." In this post, the partner of peasant farmer leader, Henry Diaz, spoke with resignation and, at the same time, hope about how she tries to remain active in the search for her partner, who disappeared on 18 April 2012. Volunteer [Dan Slee](#) wrote a post regarding his experience in Urabá.

Through Constant Contact, 1663 individuals accessed the bulletins.

ACTION ALERTS

This document intends to draw attention to high-risk situations that affect the individuals, organizations, and communities accompanied by PBI.

Throughout 2013 we published 2 Action Alerts: in February, due to the harassment against Padre Alberto Franco, member of CIJP (517 visits). In August, we published another one due to the attacks against several CIJP members, including Manuel Garzón and Faiber Chimonja, in Bogota and in the Curbaradó river valley (350 visits). Both were disseminated through Constant Contact.

FOCUS OF INTEREST

Is a publication that describes threats, monitoring, and harassment of the organizations accompanied by PBI Colombia. In 2013 there were three issues.

They were distributed through

Constant Contact; more than 1100 visits were recorded.

INFORMATION PACKAGES OF THE ACCOMPANIED ORGANIZATIONS

We updated some of the information packages in our blog. We also released a publication that was distributed in the European Union Subcommittee for Human Rights regarding the current situation and the human rights defenders in Colombia.

And in June, PBI published a flyer regarding the organization's work in Colombia.

BLOG/PHOTOBLOG

The blog is a tool with which volunteers can report on the human rights situation and their daily work of PBI through their accompaniment experiences.

More than 17,000 individuals have visited it, most of our followers learn about our publications through new posts on Facebook or Twitter. Throughout the year we have published 54 posts in English and Spanish. The most visited have been:

- the information packages regarding [Accompanied Organizations](#), 371 visits.

- [Empezar el año llena de vida](#), 257 visits.

- [A voice that won't be silenced](#) 245 visits.

- [¿Sabes por qué disminuye el riesgo de las personas defensoras con nuestro acompañamiento?](#), 248 visits.

- [«Peace doesn't come from the future, peace belongs to the present»](#) 243 visits.

- Interview: [Lo económico y lo político – luchas complementarias desde la Comunidad de Paz de San José de Apartadó](#), 200 visits.

DISSEMINATION TOOLS

PBI Colombia's [webpage](#) receives visits from more than 80 countries. In it we publish news, videos, and notices.

We also have profiles in: [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Smugmug](#) (photo gallery), and [Twitter](#). the number of visits and followers has grown throughout 2013,

for example, in the Facebook and twitter accounts where we publish blog and web updates and articles of interest about current affairs in Colombia.

These have 1670 and 1191 followers, respectively, most of which are from Colombia, the United States, Spain, the United Kingdom, and Germany. Our Facebook profile receives 4800 visits per week.

Our YouTube account received more than 83,500 visits. The page Smugmug received 69,698 visits in 2013 and the photo essays "[Did you know that the first members of PBI Colombia arrived 20 years ago?](#)" and "[March for Peace](#)" the most popular ones with 6,498 and 4,435 visits, respectively.

We have a crowdfunding webpage in Razoo to support fundraising for the Colombia Project. It has been used by people close to the project to launch fundraising campaigns, such as Lorraine Ni Bhriain, who raised funds and ran a marathon in Ireland to benefit PBI Colombia. Her effort raised 1,015 USD.

CONTACTS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS

PBI plays an important role an international press contact regarding human rights in Colombia. In 2013 we worked with 26 journalists from Germany, Argentina, Austria, Spain, United States, France, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Ireland, and Switzerland.

We offer and facilitate interviews with human rights defenders, logistical support, and advice regarding human rights topics.

Support for Rebuilding the Social Fabric (Arts)



During 2013 the ARTS focus area has continued to work towards the central objective of strengthening the capabilities of self-protection of human rights organizations, with special attention to psychosocial interventions during emergency situations.

The psychosocial organizations with which we coordinate, such as Avre Corporation and the Center for Psychosocial Care, have cared for 15 human rights defenders that required specific therapeutic accompaniment in a personal and specialized manner due to the political violence to which they were victims.

We reiterate our gratitude to these organizations for the professional and committed care they provide.

One of the greatest risks identified

is the threat to land restitution leaders and claimant communities.

In 2013, PBI gave priority to this highly vulnerable group by accompanying displaced communities as they collectively carried out their community protection strategies.

Within the social movement, we have accompanied 15 human rights organizations: associations of lawyers that fight against impunity; of victims that seek truth, justice, and reparations; and women peasant farmers with alternative land proposals.

These organizations are: Association of Family Members of the Detained and Disappeared (ASFADDES) of Medellín, José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers Association (CCAJAR), Colombia-Europe-United States Coordination Office (CCEEU),

Social Corporation for Community Advisory and Training Services (COS-PACC), Standing Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (CPDH), Committee in Solidarity with Political Prisoners (FCSP), Regional Association of Magdalena Medio Victims (ASORVIMM), Luis Carlos Pérez Lawyers Association (CCALCP), Regional Corporation for the Defence of Human Rights (CREDHOS), Forum for Human Rights Workers (EETDDHH), and the Civil Peace Service—Tumaco Diocese.

We have held 29 workshops that are forums for group discussions in which we supply methodological and teaching tools that support the possibility that organizations and communities make their own decisions regarding self-protection and self-care.

Workshops

Topics	Number of workshops	Men	Women	Total
Psychosocial	12	109	124	245
Protection tools	17	168	181	366
Information security	16	43	85	144

- Total number of workshops (day): 29
- Accompaniment in emergency situations: 20 days (ASORVIMM, FCSPP)
- Psychosocial referrals: 15 Defenders Prior interview, monitoring, adapting to needs.

In order to be able to adequately accompany and monitor these security strategies, and as decided by the PBI Assembly in 2012, the ARTS work area has been strengthened to train field volunteers that specialize in protection work. The objective is to provide protective accompaniment that is as comprehensive and constant as possible.

The ARTS work team has theoretically and methodologically developed training modules about the main topics of our work: psychosocial work, political advocacy

and communications, basic security and self-protection tools, and organizational accompaniment.

This theoretical trove constitutes a very valuable tool for the daily work of the COP.

INFORMATION SECURITY

Attacks against digital information and the theft of information and equipment have continued this year. It has been necessary to intervene after numerous thefts.

The implementation of digital security tools and continuing

education regarding their use have become ever more strategic and necessary to protect the work of human rights defenders.



Human resources and training of international observers



The objective of the training and human resources department is to maintain a body of adequately-trained field and support volunteers able to fulfill the tasks, responsibilities, and requirements of the Project, in order to protect the workspaces of human rights defenders.

Training and human resource management focus on guiding every phase of candidate training in order to prepare and select them according to established criteria, monitor and provide advice for training processes during their participation in the Project, ensure their well-being, and verify that established human resource policies are being followed.

In June 2013 the International Training and Selection Conference

was held in Valladolid (Spain), with the participation of 16 candidates from 8 countries.

During weekdays we cover, through participatory and interactive methods, topics related to history and analysis of the current situation in Colombia, the mandate, the principles and focus areas of PBI Colombia, fear and stress management, constructive conflict resolution, group and consensus dynamics, gender and diversity, and practical preparations for travel to Colombia.

All participants (6 men and 10 women) were selected and joined the project in September 2013 and January 2014.

Upon arrival, the new volunteers participated in a week-and-a-half orientation in Bogota to settle in,

become acquainted with the various work areas and their responsibilities, and familiarize themselves with the security protocols.

Later, within their work groups, they had further training in order to settle into their team and new environment and learn about the work areas and accompanied organizations and individuals.

They also had the chance to improve and expand their capacity to perform analyses, communicate with authorities, and perform in the field.

During their stay, all members of PBI Colombia receive ongoing training on different topics (for example, security and crisis, political debates, team status, emotional accompaniment, or seminars regarding the current situation) to

Gender and diversity



PBI Colombia continues its commitment to implementing equal opportunity policies and ensuring that project members comply with the directives related to the cross-cutting topics of gender and diversity. We seek to maintain a gender balance within the Project.

Nevertheless, the current trend is for most applicants (66%), field volunteers (56%), support volunteers (64%), and Colombian personnel (86%) to be women.

The project's Diversity Committee, established in 2011, is monitoring the implementation of gender and diversity policies approved by the different entities within PBI International for use in its internal units and work areas.

The topics of gender and diversity constitute an important part of the different phases of the Project's internal training process.

During the Training Conference, participants worked on the topic "power and privilege" to reflect and prepare for their arrival in

Colombia. During orientation, the new volunteers attended a workshop about PBI's internal gender and diversity policy, and about opportunities to work in the Diversity Committee from the teams.

During the September 2013 retreat, all of the Project's members were immersed for one-and-a-half days in gender and diversity topics as part of a workshop facilitated by two external trainers.

THE PROJECT'S DIVERSITY COMMITTEE, ESTABLISHED IN 2011, IS MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER AND DIVERSITY POLICIES

Financial report



The financial charts shown below reflect the financial status of the PBI Colombia Project (COP) at the end of the 2013.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

The Colombian peso is the unit of currency used to record and assess financial transactions, operations, and assets of Peace Brigades International in Colombia.

The US dollar is the unit of currency used to record expenses and income originating in the United States. The euro is used for those originating in Brussels or Barcelona.

In any case, at the end of the accounting period, the Financial Report has been valued in pesos and presented in dollars and euros according to the exchange rate published on 31 December 2013 by OANDA.¹

Income and expenses are entered in the currency in their original currency. Given that the income originates in different countries, it is common to use different currencies to record accounts receivable, advances,

and their justifications.

According to the date and currency under consideration, losses and earnings can be generated according to the type of exchange, known as an exchange rate difference account.

Records from this account are included in the income statement.

2013 FINANCIAL CONTEXT

From a financial perspective, 2013 has been a stressful year. The strategy has been based on the 2011 preventive measures adopted by the Committee for Project Colombia (CPC), which were completed on November 2012 and included drastic restructuring measures.

Furthermore, the persistence of the crisis has been synonymous with scarcity of available public and private resources. This situation posed the need to review how PBI works to fulfill its function and ensure its sustainability.

The greatest changes are related to the capability of the Project to respond to accompaniment requests, on the one hand, and the sustainability

strategy, on the other.

RESPONSE CAPABILITY OF THE PROJECT

The budget cuts have directly affected PBI Colombia's capacity to select, train, and maintain international observers on the field and the support team's structure. In 2013, COP has successfully maintained an average of 19 observers to accompany 13 organizations, 3 communities, and 2 individuals working to defend human rights.

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

In conjunction with the preventive measures, we also enacted financial measures. Thus, at the end of the first trimester, the European office was moved from Brussels to Barcelona.

The effects of such a measure have been evaluated throughout the year, in order to determine the real costs of the location of our European office from a financial point of view as from a political/advocacy point of view.

Accounting is centralized in our Colombia office and includes income and expenses for the offices in Brussels, Barcelona, and Washington. In order to support this, every month the office directors mail accounting records of income and expenses, which are reviewed, verified, and entered.

The management of the Bogota office is in constant contact and reports any changes, discrepancies, missing documents, or documents that need revision. This process ensures control and monitoring of the consolidation process.

At the end of the year, we can say that this strategy has turned out to be efficient and enabled a sustainable project structure in a financial as well as a human sense.

The results show that PBI Colombia has been capable to adapt to new circumstances and encourage us to face any possible new challenges that may lie ahead in 2014.

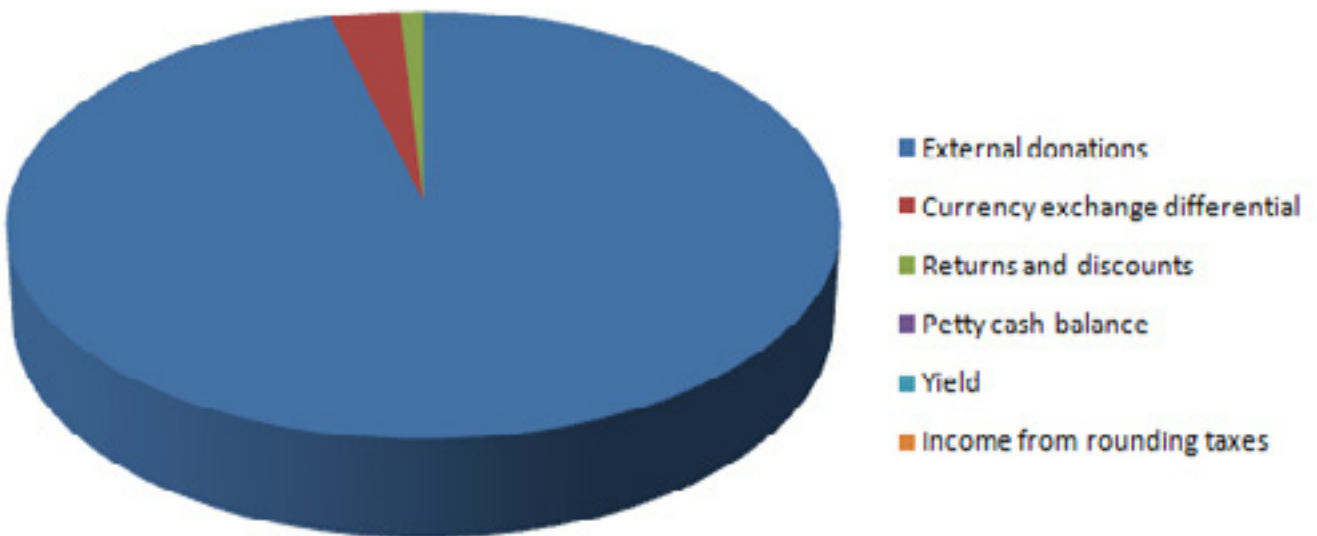
FINANCIAL STATUS AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR

At the end of the fiscal year on 31 December 2013, our accounts have a BALANCE of \$515,014,119.89.

Income reached a total of \$2,388,115,813.13 and originated from the following sources:

<http://www.oanda.com/>

*Some sources do not appear on the figure due accounting for less than 1 % of total income. Without these external donations, we would not have been able to carry out our accompaniment and advocacy work. We are grateful to the following donors for their contribution to the work of COP during 2013:



Peace brigades international - Project Colombia
Income statement 1 January to 31 December 2013

INCOME	COP	USD	EUR
Government Income	1.387.588.209,49	751.941,36	568.252,94
Navarra Government / Mugarik Gabe	338.189.267,96	186.682,97 ¹	141.233,13
Navarra Government / Mugarik Gabe	48.793.709,90	25.796,85 ¹	18.691,11
Norwegian MAE	237.249.044,24	131.975,86 ¹	102.204,75
Norwegian MAE	137.023.143,96	72.550,84 ¹	53.768,15
Barcelona City Hall	57.119.299,10	32.018,36	24.229,17 ¹
Pamplona City Hall	55.197.651,87	30.018,99	22.941,00 ¹
Weltwaerts	4.579.713,63	2.470,86	1.903,40 ¹
Zivik IFA Program	119.643.466,87	64.766,70	49.725,68 ¹
Zivik IFA Program	62.434.817,92	33.025,56	24.862,84 ¹
Zivik IFA Program	63.801.528,23	33.784,87	24.862,84 ¹
Civil Peace Service	96.242.800,00	51.611,20	40.000,00 ¹
Civil Peace Service	157.693.800,00	82.114,20	60.000,00 ¹
Donostia City Hal	9.619.965,81	5.124,10	3.830,87 ¹
Foundation Income	905.640.914,18	482.646,19	366.279,94
Misereor - 2012	6.776.851,50	3.721,50 ¹	2.955,69
Misereor - 2012	9.662.667,10	5.642,90	4.329,17 ¹
Misereor - 2012	50.948.532,25	27.708,12	21.175,00 ¹
Misereor - 2012	12.791.925,52	6.745,67	4.988,00 ¹
Misereor - 2012	31.960.656,68	17.198,67	12.462,53 ¹
Opseu - Canadá	4.502.826,23	2.378,00 ¹	1.782,12
Sigrid Rausing Trust	32.516.722,35	18.088,26 ¹	13.978,06
Sigrid Rausing Trust	5.370.324,17	2.926,70	2.231,99 ¹
Sigrid Rausing Trust	31.693.300,00	16.105,00 ²	11.741,19
Icco	60.441.500,00	33.461,75	25.000,00 ¹
Aecid / Intermón Oxfam	47.292.600,00	26.056,60	20.000,00 ¹
Aecid / Intermón Oxfam	12.049.598,56	6.566,74	5.008,00 ¹
Aecid / Intermón Oxfam	60.875.732,17	31.843,76	24.395,18 ¹
Aecid / Intermón Oxfam	1.489.753,80	779,28	597,00 ¹
Bread for the World	53.204.175,00	28.940,18	22.500,00 ¹
Christian Aid	25.917.891,12	13.983,02 ²	10.909,97
Christian Aid	132.201.516,15	71.828,50	54.945,00 ¹
Pbi Uk / Law Society	8.547.270,00	4.481,40 ²	3.428,18
Mensen Met Een Missie	112.243.092,00	58.336,81	44.980,00 ¹
Pbi Suiza - Fdfa	104.039.963,58	55.352,90	41.692,70 ¹
Pbi Suiza	83.036.016,00	42.856,32 ²	31.321,54
Anonymous donors	18.078.000,00	7.644,12 ²	5.858,61
Donations from Country Groups	0,00	0,00	0,00
Individual Donors	6.811.574,90	3.698,16	2.763,59
Various donors, US	1.103.293,75	625,00 ¹	475,91
Various donors, US	887.940,00	500,00 ¹	374,32

Norwegian MAE, various	320.000,00	176,66	136,15
Various donors, US	1.042.578,50	575,00 ¹	441,10
Various donors, US	1.168.669,97	614,36 ¹	454,25
Private donation	600.000,00 ¹	314,14	232,35
Various donors, US	1.689.092,68	893,01 ¹	649,51
Other income	88.075.114,56	45.739,05	33.226,11
Yield	70.413,83	36,57	26,56
Income from rounding taxes	9.423,99	4,89	3,56
Favorable exchange rate adjustment	66.154.925,22	34.355,49	24.956,78
Expense and cost recovery	20.299.142,57	10.541,72	7.657,80
Discounts	1.524.071,76	791,48	574,95
Petty cash balance	17.137,19	8,90	6,46
TOTAL INCOME	2.388.115.813,13	1.284.024,76	970.522,58

1. Currency in which income was originally received, pending monetization

2. Recorded income in GBP.

3. Recorded income in CHF



Peace Brigades International - Project Colombia
Total Balance on 31 December 2013

ASSETS	COP	USD	EUR
Cash Assets			
Cash	38.864.224,00	20.182,92	14.661,43
Colombian bank accounts	1.005.673.473,70	522.264,99	379.387,76
Foreign bank accounts	833.080.385,58	432.634,18	314.277,45
Donations received, pending monetization	108.992.255,00	56.601,71	41.117,05
Accounts receivable — Medical insurance	59.520.906,76	30.910,32	22.454,11
Stipend advances — Volunteers	2.979.670,29	1.547,40	1.124,07
TOTAL CASH ASSETS	2.049.264.215,33	1.064.221,13	773.079,70
Fixed Assets			
Furniture and appliances	4.263.039,00	2.213,88	1.608,22
Computer and communication equipment	7.912.703,01	4.109,21	2.985,05
Depreciation			
Computer and communication equipment	(5.986.135,91)	(3.108,71)	(2.258,25)
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS	6.189.606,10	3.214,38	2.335,01
TOTAL ASSETS	2.055.300.521,43	1.067.355,90	775.356,88
LIABILITIES			
Cash Liabilities			
Accounts payable — General	(168.011.073,85)	(87.251,28)	(63.381,75)
Social benefits	(9.774.287,00)	(5.075,97)	(3.687,32)
TOTAL CASH LIABILITIES	(142.124.726,72)	(73.808,02)	(53.616,19)
Long-Term Liabilities			
Income received in advance	(673.202.352,92)	(349.606,54)	(253.963,87)
Income from training events	(8.730.098,16)	(4.533,70)	(3.293,41)
TOTAL LONG-TERM LIABILITIES	(681.932.451,08)	(354.140,24)	(257.257,28)
TOTAL LIABILITIES	(859.717.811,93)	(446.467,50)	(324.326,35)
ASSETS			
Accumulated reserve	(716.382.523,74)	(372.030,81)	(270.253,48)
Period results	(479.200.185,06)	(248.857,60)	(180.777,05)
TOTAL ASSETS	(1.231.396.643,63)	(639.487,25)	(451.030,53)
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND ASSETS	(2.055.300.519,73)	(1.067.355,90)	(775.356,88)

Peace Brigades International - Project Colombia
Account Statement for 1 January to 31 December 2013

EARNINGS	COP	USD	EUR
Operating Income			
Government income	1.387.588.209,49	751.941,36	568.252,94
Foundation income	905.640.914,18	482.646,19	366.279,94
Income from Country Groups	0,00	0,00	0,00
Individual donors	6.811.574,90	3.698,16	2.763,59
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	2.300.040.698,57	1.238.285,71	937.296,47
Non-Operating Income			
Yield	70.413,83	36,57	26,56
Income from rounding taxes	9.423,99	4,89	3,56
Favorable exchange rate adjustment	66.154.925,22	34.355,49	24.956,78
Returns and discounts	21.823.214,33	11.333,20	8.232,75
Petty cash balance	17.137,19	8,90	6,46
TOTAL NON-OPERATING INCOM	88.075.114,56	45.739,05	33.226,11
TOTAL INCOME	2.388.115.813,13	1.284.024,76	970.522,58

EXPENSES

Operating Expenses

Direct - Colombia	245.361.278,00	127.420,69	92.561,92
Indirect - Colombia	245.273.987,00	127.375,36	92.528,99
Advocates in the US and Europe	176.668.000,92	91.746,99	66.647,55
Equipment expenses	458.146.820,05	237.924,19	172.834,72
Travel and transportation	291.911.983,99	151.595,34	110.123,05
Training	35.466.313,14	18.418,32	13.379,58
Operational expenses	160.144.314,86	83.165,93	60.414,03
Communications and advocacy	11.656.743,47	6.053,56	4.397,48
Monitoring and evaluation	40.387.599,44	20.974,03	15.236,12
Administration	29.614.434,24	15.379,33	11.171,97
Contribution to ISEC	144.238.176,60	74.905,58	54.413,48
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	1.838.869.651,71	954.959,31	693.708,89

Non-Operating Expenses

Costs and expenditures from previous years	23.367.786,86	12.135,33	8.815,44
Adjustments to Pesos	219.597,67	114,04	82,84
Contributions to Country Groups	9.856.830,00	5.118,84	3.718,46
Estimated taxes	787.825,00	409,13	297,20
TOTAL NON-OPERATING EXPENSES	34.232.039,53	17.777,34	12.913,95

TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1.873.101.691,24	972.736,65	706.622,84
<i>Unrealized earnings</i>		<i>43.831,67</i>	<i>69.611,98</i>

RESULTS FOR 2013	515.014.119,89	267.456,44	194.287,76
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PBI Colombia funding agencies



Barcelona City Hall

Government of Navarra

Bread for the World

Pamplona City Hall

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs / PBI Norway

PBI Switzerland / FDFA

San Sebastián City Hall

Misereor

Sigrid Rausing Trust / PBI UK

Individual donations

Overbrook Foundation / PBI USA

The Law Society /PBI UK



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PBI Colombia
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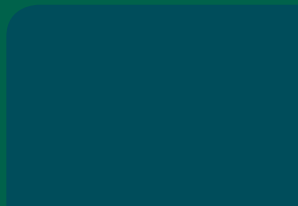
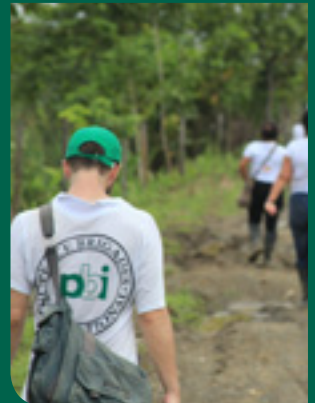
The opinions and positions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of Peace Brigades International or its funding agencies.

Contact: publicaciones@pbicolombia.net



20
YEARS

PROTECTING
HUMAN
RIGHTS
DEFENDERS
IN COLOMBIA



Deace Brigades International (PBI) is a non-governmental organisation recognised by the United Nations, which has maintained a team of international observers/accompaniers in Colombia on an ongoing basis since 1994. PBI's mission is to protect the working environment of human rights defenders, who face repression due to their nonviolent human rights activities.

PBI Colombia teams remain in the field, at the request of local organisations, accompanying persons and organisations under threat. This fieldwork is complemented by significant dialogue and advocacy with civilian and military authorities, as well as with NGOs, the Church, multilateral bodies, and the diplomatic corp, in order to promote human rights and disseminate information on the human rights situation in Colombia.

If you believe PBI's presence helps protect persons who carry out human rights work, you may do the following:

- Support us economically on a personal or institutional basis.
- Join the nearest PBI country group and support the international network from your place of residence.
- Apply to become a volunteer with one of the PBI projects.

www.pbi-colombia.org

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