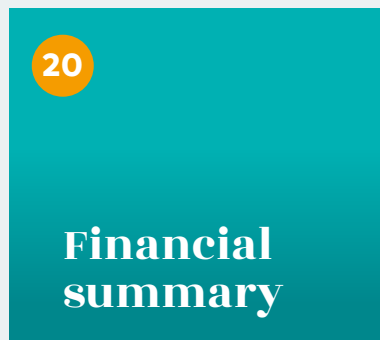
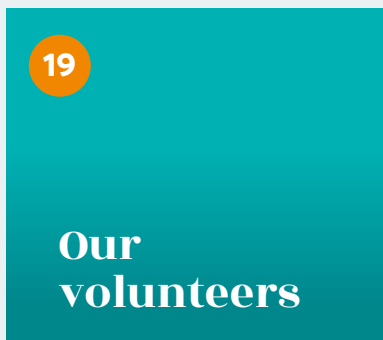




1981 // 2021 PEACE
BRIGADES
INTERNATIONAL

Annual Review 2021

Contents



Introduction

2021 was a year of regenerating so much of what was lost, put on hold or forgotten the year before with the Covid-19 pandemic. Priorities and plans have shifted and PBI, along with so many other organisations, has been reflecting on and adjusting our work to ensure that the protection we provide to human rights defenders (HRDs) across the world remains relevant and responds to their urgent needs.

Amidst the challenges and complexities of the pandemic HRDs were on the front lines, defending land and environmental rights, providing essential support to vulnerable people in their communities, calling attention to the needs of the most vulnerable, and demanding that human rights be put at the forefront of international discussions. Actions these individuals and communities undertook included raising their voices in protest against the application of laws limiting freedom of speech and movement; standing up to powerful economic interests to protect the environment; and providing legal support to

the victims of torture, enforced disappearance and excessive use of force.

HRDs defend the climate, seek redress for injustice and seek to resolve conflict non-violently. Their work is a cornerstone of democracy and the rule of law, and their protection is paramount to the realization of human rights for millions of people around the world. Despite the essential nature of their work, HRDs continue to face threats, harassment, attacks and even death. Throughout 2021, [Frontline Defenders reported](#) the killing of 358 HRDs in 35 countries. Those most at risk were defending land and environmental rights and the rights of indigenous people, freedom of expression, women's rights and the rights of the LGBTQ+ community. PBI's accompaniment extends to all five of these sectors across the countries we work in.

Throughout 2021, PBI accompanied defenders as both a means of protection and a powerful demonstration of international solidarity with their struggles. As a movement of activists working towards social justice, PBI remains committed to the protection of HRDs as a way of advancing towards the fulfillment of human rights across the world.

PBI are our unarmed bodyguards

Donald Hernández

CEHPRODEC, Honduras

“

I know that PBI was always available by telephone, but I am grateful that they are now back in the communities because it is very important that those who attack us see that we have international accompaniment

Domingo Vásquez

New Day Ch'orti' Indigenous Association, CCCND, Guatemalan

”



PBI Colombia accompanies the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, to provide protection while they carry out their agricultural and community work

2021 in numbers

Throughout 2021 PBI participated in **2,356 external meetings** including political advocacy meetings with local, national and international actors in order to promote protection mechanisms for HRDs and ensure their voices are heard in international spaces. This number includes bridging meetings undertaken to support the construction of support networks for the organisations and individuals we

accompany.

In addition to these meetings, PBI ran and participated in **178 events**, from local level peacebuilding initiatives to international fora including COP26 in Glasgow and the United Nations Human Rights Council. We highlighted the work and struggles of HRDs around the world through **205 communications activities** in addition to constant publications on social media, reaching over



Launch of the PBI game at the 40th anniversary event in Lausanne, September 2021

“

Having attended the security training by PBI, I am able to avoid unnecessary confrontation with police while still carrying on with my duties as an HRD

Beth Atieno

Mathare Social Justice Centre, Kenya

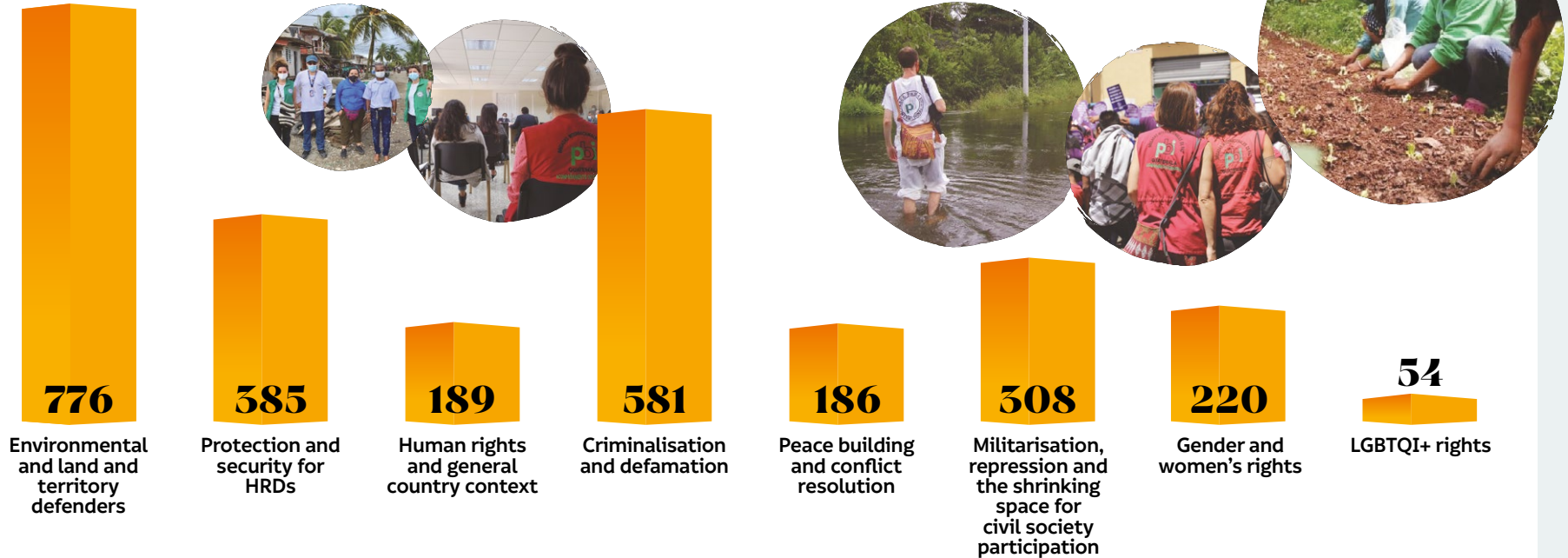
”

2 million people over the year. These communications activities include newsletters, alerts, blog posts, videos, podcasts and written articles.

PBI provided direct training to **2,686 defenders** through **335 workshops** on security and protection, digital security, protection plans with a gender focus and other topics in order to increase the defenders' abilities to analyse their own risk and design effective protection strategies accordingly.

Across all of our projects we carried out **984 accompaniments** as well as office visits and international observation missions in both rural and urban settings to a variety of activities, including court hearings, humanitarian missions and workshops.

Our work was divided thematically over 2021 into the following categories:



“

PBI does not have a magic wand; the magic wand is the struggle of the communities that PBI accompanies

Kevin Ramírez

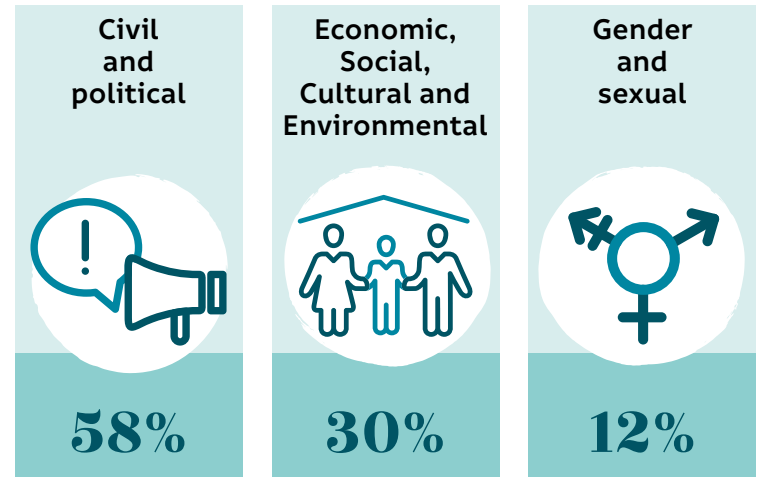
ASODEBICOQ, Honduras

”

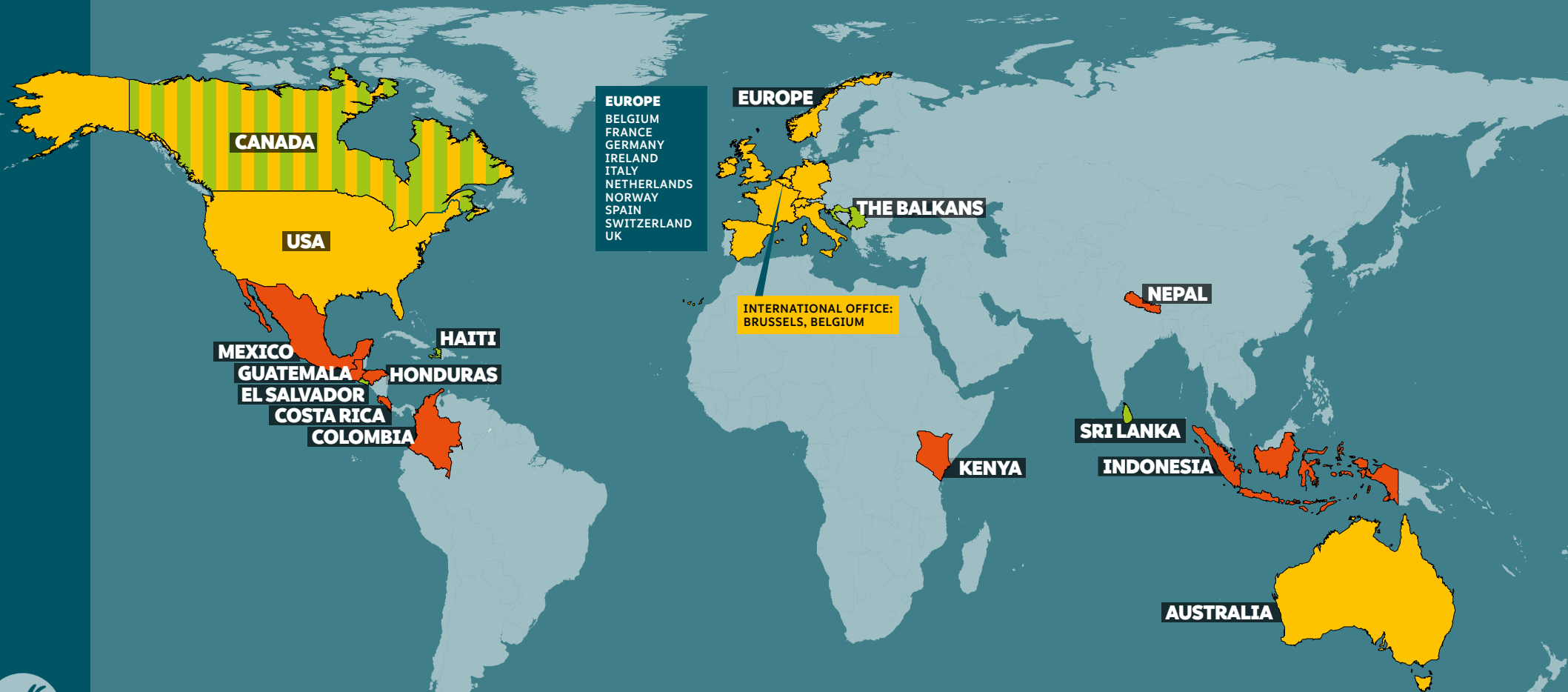


Throughout 2021 we accompanied **58 organisations**, comprising **1,784 individuals** – 883 of whom were women and 899 were men. These HRDs support 205,928 people in the work they carry out in defence of human rights across the world.

The organisations that we accompany can be divided into the following categories:



Where we work



EUROPE
BELGIUM
FRANCE
GERMANY
IRELAND
ITALY
NETHERLANDS
NORWAY
SPAIN
SWITZERLAND
UK

- Country groups
- Projects
- Previous projects

Colombia

In Colombia, 44 field volunteers responded to emergencies arising due to the brutal [repression of peaceful protests](#), an escalation of violence in rural areas, and the lack of implementation of the Peace Agreement.

Kenya

In Kenya 2 local and 3 international staff provided support to a range of HRDs, including women working on gender-based violence and organisations dedicated to work in urban settlements.

Guatemala

A team of 13 volunteers from 9 different countries responded to huge challenges throughout 2021, including new [repressive laws](#) that limit the freedom of HRDs and their organisations and a [crackdown on anti-impunity campaigners](#).

Mexico

PBI commemorated its [20th Anniversary](#) in Mexico with celebratory as well as activities reaffirming our commitment to support HRDs in the country. Two teams of international volunteers support organisations in northern and southern Mexico ranging from those defending their land and territory to those helping families of the victims of enforced disappearance.

Honduras

PBI supported defenders, ranging from LGBTQI+ activists, to lawyers supporting victims of human rights violations, in a country that is constantly signaled as [one of the most dangerous of HRDs](#). 12 volunteers accompanied defenders throughout the year.

Nepal

In the final year of a successful cooperation between the local network organisation Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP) and PBI, we continued to operate NepalMonitor; an online violence monitoring tool covering all forms of violence including gender-based violence as well as non-violent political contestation across Nepal. From 2022, COCAP will be running NepalMonitor on its own. PBI and COCAP have now initiated a new project focused on peer learning.

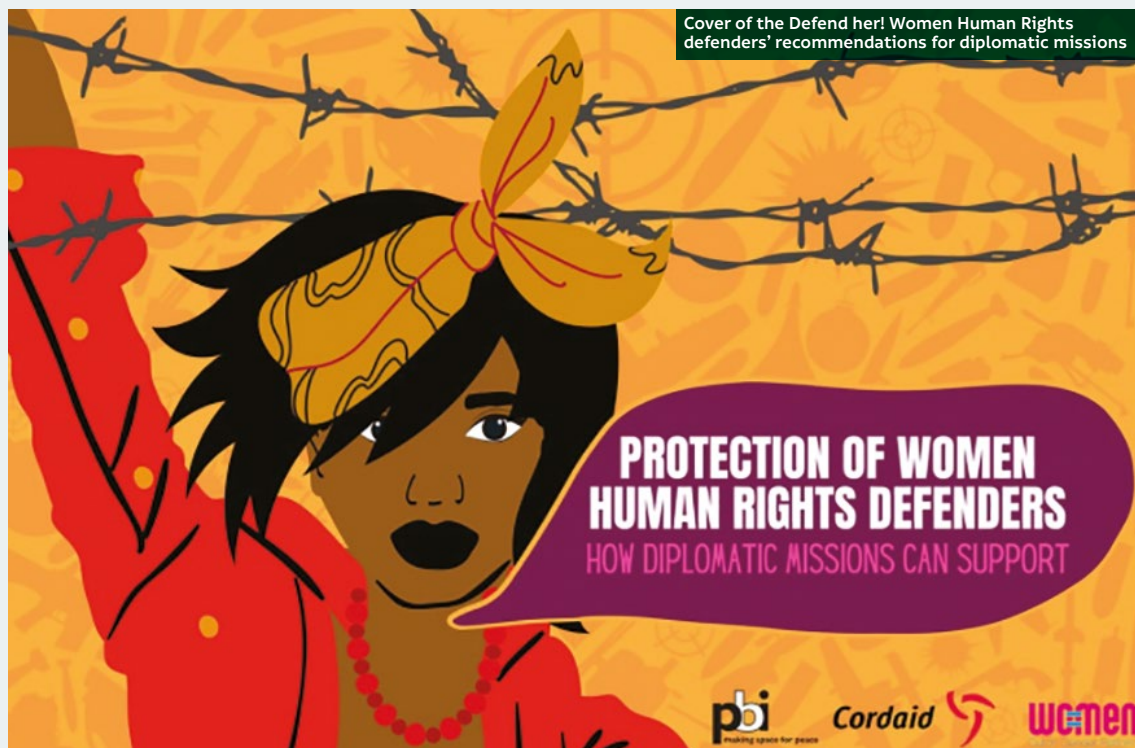
Indonesia

Alongside our partner organization PBI continued to support EHRDs via capacity building trainings and network strengthening activities. We also launched a peace building project in east Indonesia despite struggles due to the pandemic. We ended the year with a Jakarta-based speaking tour with two HRDs.

Nicaragua (in Costa Rica)

2021 saw an increase of repression in Nicaragua which led to an increase in political refugees. PBI supported a variety of HRDs living in exile in Costa Rica, including groups of farmers protesting against the building of a canal, LGBTQI+ activists and those working to rebuild the social fabric that has been damaged through political repression.

Supporting Women Human Rights Defenders



Cover of the Defend her! Women Human Rights defenders' recommendations for diplomatic missions

Throughout 2021, PBI supported Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) across the world to ensure that despite the difficulties they face, including gender-based violence, discrimination and attacks that are often aimed at their families, they can continue with

their fundamental work in defense of human rights and social justice. Applying a gender focus (a lens used to analyse, design and implement strategies from an understanding of structural violence based on gender) to our protection model is key in ensuring that the support we

provide defenders is effective in their local context and responsive to their specific, often intersectional needs.

In the Netherlands, PBI worked together with WO=MEN and Cordaid, on a [toolkit](#) for mission leads, staff and policy makers, including recommendations for the international community, on how best to support WHRDs in contexts of violence. These recommendations were then discussed at the UN Security Council session about Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in October.

“
 The international community should advocate for legal frameworks to ensure violations of the rights of WHRDs are punished, including indigenous women, afro-communities and sexual diversity
 ”

Jacob Ellis
 Red de Mujeres Piñoleras, Nicaragua



Healing meeting in Cahabón, Alta Verapaz, the first face to face meeting after two years of virtual spaces

Throughout 2021, PBI's projects provided tools and strategies to WHRDs to assess their risk, continue their work safely, and strengthen their support networks and wellbeing. Workshops also help WHRDs realise that they are not alone, that their work is valued, and that they form part of a global

movement that demands a fairer world where human rights are protected, respected and fulfilled. We carried out workshops with the Red de Mujeres Sanadoras in Guatemala, a network of WHRDs who work using ancestral wisdom and techniques to support victims of socio-political violence.

“

I am very grateful for the healing space between WHRDs facilitated by PBI. I feel it is very necessary because we suffer from many security incidents

María Guadalupe

participant in healing meeting, Guatemala

”



PBI observes the 25 November march against violence against women, November 2021

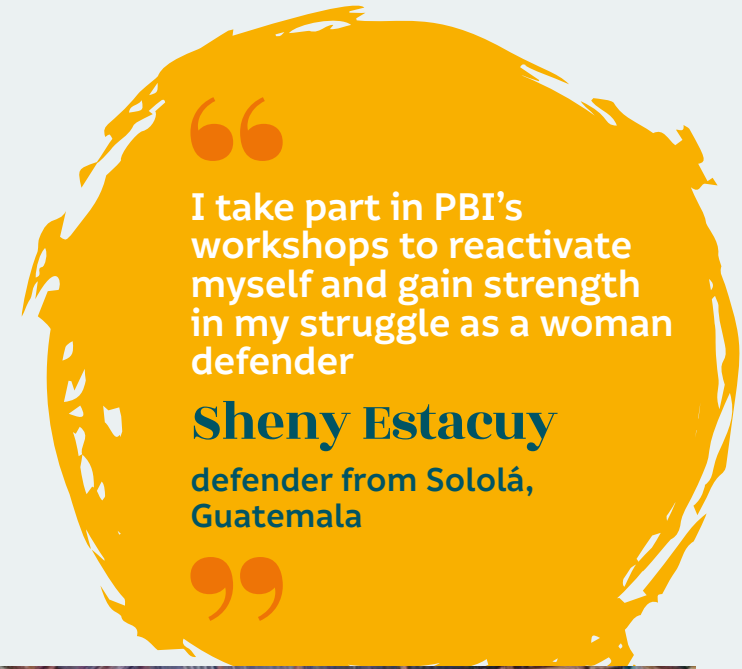
“

Our organisation has been empowered at the national level with the support of PBI. We have had many successes and our campesino bases have been strengthened

Carlos Armijo

CNTC, Honduras

”



“

I take part in PBI's workshops to reactivate myself and gain strength in my struggle as a woman defender

Sheny Estacuy

defender from Sololá, Guatemala

”



PBI Colombia's area of Support for the Reconstruction of the Social Fabric in a psychosocial workshop with the Finca la Europa in November 2021



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Strengthening networks and building bridges

A key part of PBI's work protecting HRDs is supporting them to build networks between one-another and with other organisations and institutions on a national and international level. These networks can be activated to support HRDs in different ways – from rapid responses to emergency situations by UN and EU institutions to expressions of solidarity from defenders across the world facing similar risks.

Throughout 2021, PBI met virtually and in person with regional, international and multilateral authorities to advocate for the protection and recognition of HRDs and ensure that they could be relied

upon to respond in an emergency. We also facilitated meetings and speaking tours so that HRDs could meet directly and discuss their cases with key actors in the international community. PBI has also leveraged virtual tools to give HRDs a platform so that their voices are heard by an even wider audience.

“

Having the international community acknowledge our work makes me feel that I am not alone in the struggle, I feel supported and encouraged to keep soldiering on

Faith Kasinaa

Kayole Social Justice Centre, Kenya

”



Accompanying one of the hearings of the Diario Militar Case, Guatemala



Mothers of police abuse victims tell their stories



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The Colectivo de Derechos Humanos “Nicaragua Nunca Más”, a Nicaraguan organisation supported by PBI and operating from exile in Costa Rica was among the finalists for the Human Rights Tulip 2021, awarded by the Dutch government to recognize the outstanding contributions of human rights defenders. PBI nominates defenders and organisations for international awards such as this one in order to raise their profile and help build their support networks.

“

Their voices are heard, at home and around the world. And that is the key to Nunca Más’s success. It is the power of a collective of courageous people protecting a collective memory

Ben Knapen

former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands

”

In 2021, PBI joined with the donor community and development partners, community members, physicians for human rights, pro-bono lawyers, governmental institutions and other civil society organisations to organise the campaign consortium “Mulika Wabakaji” in Kenya. Through community research, HRDs identified that the low conviction rate of rape perpetrators is problem that needs to be solved collectively. They expressed the need to work in collaboration with more actors, including government and legal experts, to address this issue.

“

We can only do so much as individuals or in our organisations, but together, we can accomplish what we did not even know was possible

Njeri Migwi

Usikimye, Kenya

”



The organisers of the toolbox, together with their partners, launched a campaign to increase the conviction rate of rape perpetrators



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“

I believe that the visit of the Canadian Ambassador to Cobán, and the meeting that they had with us during this trip, has happened thanks to the requests made by PBI

Lesbia Artola

CCDA, Guatemala

”

In March 2021, PBI facilitated a virtual speaking tour for members of the Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice (**MADJ**) in Honduras. The tour included meetings with offices of several US Congresspeople and Senators, as well as the State Department, in order for MADJ to share their concerns about the negative socio-environmental impacts of the Jilamito hydroelectric project, located in the buffer zone of the Texiguat wildlife reserve, financed by US investors. Following the tour, one of the investors withdrew from the project which MADJ considers a

Activist and human rights defender, Franklin Castañeda, meets with UN High Commissioners



“partial triumph”, although they warn that they will maintain the Jilamito Camp and legal actions to continue protecting the commons.

PBI is constantly adapting its work to the challenges of the pandemic has, including a critical analysis of the ways in which dynamics surrounding the management of the pandemic impact HRDs and their work.

“

Many of the populations that PBI accompanies are at high-risk for Covid, these areas generally lack access to healthcare services, and are often controlled by armed groups

Morna Dick

PBI volunteer, Colombia

”

Faith Kasina and Collince Maxx, HRDs from urban settlements in Nairobi, Kenya, participated in a virtual speaker tour at the end of 2021. They attended online meetings with the international community about environmental justice, safety of HRDs during the upcoming 2022 general elections in Kenya, extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances. The specifically advocated for adequate implementation of the National Coroners' Service Act and the Prevention of Torture Act.

In the United Kingdom, PBI organised a webinar for the International Day of the Endangered Lawyer, held with Lawyers Against Poverty and the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk which resulted in the strengthening of the international legal solidarity network leading to our [legal empowerment project](#) launched in October.

“

I never imagined that one day I would be in the same meeting with any of the UN officials discussing issues of ecological justice. I am glad that the issues that affect HRDs from humble settlements can be of interest to the international community

Collince Maxx

Ruaraka Social Justice Centre, Kenya

”

“

At the moment, PBI supports us by providing space for rest and training in safety. This is exactly what I needed to recharge my battery and continue the tireless search for missing persons in Mexico

David Jiménez

Fray Juan de Larios Human Rights Centre, Mexico

”

Film screening and discussion with David Jiménez and former PBI volunteer Marleen Folkerts interviewed Melanie van den Heuvel en Tessa Laan



Solidarity and bonds of trust

In 2021, PBI celebrated its [40th Anniversary](#). In France we celebrated 30 years of solidarity, and [in Mexico we looked back on the past 20 years of work accompanying HRDs](#). These celebrations allowed us to take stock of our achievements, and most importantly those of the individuals and organisations that we accompany, with whom we have cultivated bonds of solidarity and trust over the decades.

During 2021 PBI accompanied the Corporation for Humanitarian Action, coexistence and peace ([Cahucopana](#)) during several humanitarian missions in the rural area of Northeast Antioquia, Colombia, a region severely affected by the armed conflict. Given the lack of security guarantees provided by state authorities, humanitarian missions are part of the self-protection mechanisms developed by local communities. Following requests from PBI, several multilateral organisations, embassies and national authorities visited the region, giving defenders the chance to raise awareness of their demands for territorial peacebuilding directly with decision makers.



In Mexico, PBI accompanied Tita Radilla and the Association of Relatives of the Detained, Disappeared and Victims of Human Rights Violations in Mexico ([AFADEM](#)) collective at a meeting organised by the UN Committee against Enforced Disappearances, which aimed to hear testimonies from relatives of disappeared persons.



Throughout 2021, PBI has taken advantage of virtual spaces to ensure that, even without physical contact, the stories of those we accompany are shared and understood across the world. The greater the visibility and understanding of issues of injustice and the abuse of human rights, the harder it becomes for aggressors to continue their attacks unnoticed. With this in mind, we are grateful to our followers and collaborators who help us share the stories of those we accompany, their challenges and successes.

“

The psychosocial support training focused on me and how I can heal to do my job better. I took full advantage of it. For the first time, a person was asking me to forget my work and focus on helping me

Nahashon Kamau

**Kasarani Social Justice Centre,
Kenya**

”

Throughout 2021, we collaborated with the popular radio programme “*Carne Cruda*” in the Spanish State with a series, “Voices of the Earth”, through which Latin American environmental defenders shared stories about their work and the challenges they face with over 20,000 listeners.

PBI accompanies Asociación LGTB Arcoiris on a walk in defence of the rights of the LGTBI+ community



“

The communicative work that PBI does is very important to make it clear to the world that violence against the LGTBI+ community has not stopped, on the contrary, it has increased

Esdra Sosa

Asociación Arcoiris, Honduras

”



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Accompanying the march of victims' organisations on the Day for the Dignity of Victims of the Internal Armed Conflict, Guatemala



At the end of the year we published a [magazine](#) about the different expressions of Nicaraguan human rights defense in exile in Costa Rica, including testimonies from LGBTQI+ activists, farmers, women defenders, all accompanied by PBI.

“

These PBI meetings keep us strong to continue in this struggle. I have learned how to protect myself in many of the security workshops that PBI has organised, where I have learned to understand what security measures to apply even in very complex situations

Imelda Teyul

CCDA, Guatemala

”

“

On International Human Rights Day, I thank Peace Brigades International and the supporters of my nomination for the National Human Rights Award for the recognition of my work

Daniel Prado

Colombia

”



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PBI Colombia accompanies the Justice and Peace Commission in the Uradá-Jiguamiandó Humanitarian Resguardo, following the assassination in September 2021 of Dilio Bailarín, one of its emblematic leaders



“
Thanks to the presence
of PBI, we haven't been
pepper sprayed in marches
Anonymous HRD
CNTC, Honduras
”



Accompanying the organisation COSPACC in Yopal (Casanare) in the framework of the National Strike 2021

Our volunteers

We are hugely grateful to everyone who collaborates with and contribute to PBI's work. We couldn't provide protective accompaniment to human rights defenders without the commitment of volunteers from across the world

who stand in solidarity with those facing injustice. The dedication of PBI's volunteers inspires and encourages us to continue fighting for a fairer society where human rights are protected, respected and fulfilled for all.

Johan Jaquet presents PBI-The Game at the Festival Alternatiba in Geneva



“

Getting closer, listening, observing, transforming are words we use every day to talk about the work we do

**Anonymous
volunteer**

Colombia

”

In an event organised by PBI in the Netherlands, after showing a documentary about David Jimenez, a guest in the Shelter City Programme, an initiative that provides respite for HRDs from around the world, David and former PBI Mexico field volunteers shared their experiences and explained what accompaniment of human rights defenders in the field entails.

Financial Summary

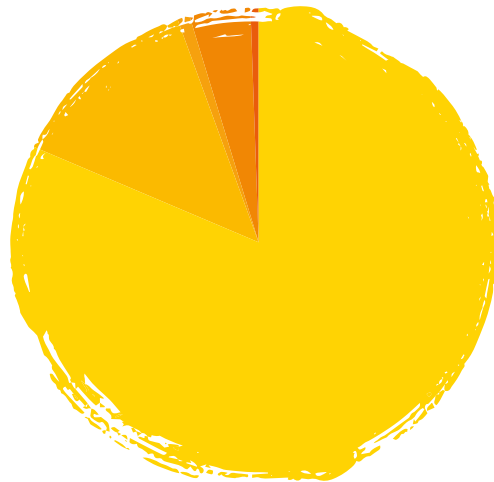
We would like to thank the many organisations and individuals who made generous contributions to our work throughout the year.

Who funds PBI?

In order to protect human rights defenders, we rely on the support of individuals, trusts, foundations and religious groups as well as governments and other multilateral funders. Most of our income from governments and foundations is raised by country groups with project support. We would like to thank the many organisations and individuals who made

generous contributions to our work throughout the year. groups also work closely with our committed individual donors in Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, the UK and the USA.

Total income in 2021*
2,235,839 €

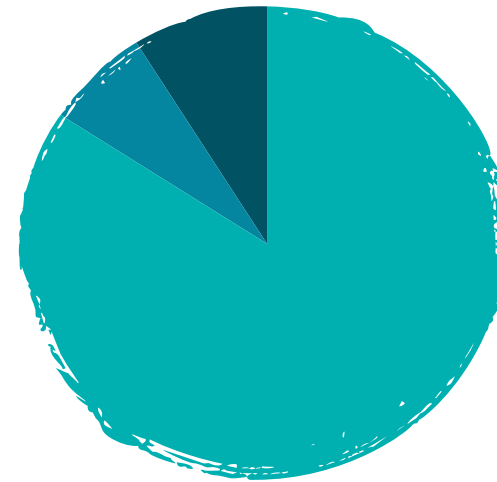


- **Governments and multilateral bodies**
1,814,294
81.15%
- **Foundations**
306,880
13.73%
- **Individuals**
14,773
0.66%
- **Country Groups**
99,519
4.45%
- **Other**
373
0.02%

How we spend your money

From every €1 you give us we spend 85 cents protecting defenders and 8.6 cents on ensuring best practice in organisational governance is followed in line with PBI's principles of non-hierarchy and consensus decision making. The remaining 6.7 cents is used to raise the next €1

Total Expenditure in 2021*
2,251,596 €



- **International protective accompaniment and other support for human rights defenders**
1,906,351
84.7%
- **Fundraising**
151,217
6.7%
- **Governance**
194,028
8.62%

*All figures are in EURO and subject to final audit. This financial analysis does not include the accounts of PBI country groups which are separate legal entities

Donors

Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament (ACCD)	Bilboko Udala / Ayuntamiento de Bilbao	Fedevaco	Haëlla Stichting	Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, Gobierno de España
—	—	—	—	—
Agencia Extremeña de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AEXCID)	Bischöfliches Hilfswerk MISEREOR e.V.	Ferster Stiftung	Hartstra Stichting	Misereor
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—	—	—	—	—
Ayuntamiento de Barcelona	Christian Aid	Fribourg-Solidaire	Iruñeko Udala / Ayuntamiento de Pamplona	Samuel Rogers F
—	—	—	—	—
Ayuntamiento de Madrid	Comisión Española de Ayuda al Refugiado (CEAR)	Garapenerako Lankidetzaren Euskal Agentzia / Agencia Vasca de Cooperación para el Desarrollo	Kirchgemeinde Saanen-Gsteig	Service de la Solidarité International
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—	—	—	—	—
Ayuntamiento de Valladolid	Dirección Víctimas y Derechos Humanos, Gobierno Vasco	Gezamenlijke religieuzen in Nederland via KNR – Projecten in Nederland (KNR PIN)	MAE Noruega	Ville de Genève
—	—	—	—	—
Barreau de Paris	Donostiako Udala / Ayuntamiento de San Sebastián	Gobierno de Cantabria	Mairie de Paris	Ziviler Friedensdienst (ZFD)
—	—	—	—	—
—	Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands, San José	Gobierno de Navarra	Maya Behn-Eschenburg Stiftung	—
—	—	—	—	—
—	Fair Share Foundation	—	Ministère de l'éducation nationale et de la jeunesse français	—
—	—	—	—	—



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Annual Review
2021

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