

TOGETHER WE RISE

Standing Up for Equality, Justice, and
the Future of Our Planet

ANNUAL REVIEW 2024



**Peace Brigades
International**



**“PBI HAS SAVED LIVES IN
OUR COUNTRY...
THE PROTECTIVE
ACCOMPANIMENT,
THE HUMAN CONNECTION
THAT PBI GIVES US IS
FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR
WORK.”**

[Mildrey Corrales Charry](#), Human Rights Defender and Technical Secretariat, Coordination of Colombia Europe and United States

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

Dear Friends of Peace Brigades International:

The world is changing — and rapidly. Human rights defenders are facing threats that are growing in scale and complexity, fuelled by escalating global crises: armed conflict, political instability, environmental collapse, and the erosion of democratic space.

These pressures affect defenders deeply, compounding longstanding risks and creating new ones. Many are criminalised, surveilled, and targeted simply for defending life, land, and justice. And yet, their courage remains unwavering.

That courage inspires us every single day.

Together with the communities we accompany, we are rising to the challenge — with this last year seeing us evolve our protection strategies and make sure that defenders are supported from every angle: physical, legal, digital, emotional, and psychological. As we work, the light we shine on human rights violations gets brighter. Through global advocacy, community organising and public awareness, we can help amplify defenders' voices and pressure institutions and governments to act.

We can't stop now.

While the challenges are many, it is the successes that drive us forward. From new laws to protect women searching for loved ones in Colombia, to the halting of plans for a nuclear power plant in Kenya, and legislation for justice in Guatemala and Nepal, every step forward gives us strength.

Our new Global Strategic Plan will help us use it — guiding PBI forward by making us more inclusive and responsive to the complex realities that defenders live every day.

But more than what we do, it's how we do it that defines us. We stand beside defenders, not in front of them. We listen deeply, build trust, and co-create support rooted in shared values.

And we do it all with humility, compassion, and a deep belief in collective power.

To everyone who walks this path with us, thank you. Together, we will continue to stand by those who defend justice, dignity, and the future of our planet.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lien', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Lien Pham, a member of PBI International Council

PART 1

Introducing Peace
Brigades International



WHO WE ARE

PBI is an international NGO protecting and empowering human rights and environmental defenders across the globe. At the heart of all we do, these defenders are ordinary people taking extraordinary action — voluntarily, professionally, individually, or collectively — to protect human rights and the environment.

For over 40 years, we have worked alongside individuals, communities and organisations in high-risk situations — mobilising comprehensive protection strategies to make sure defenders stay safe, stay alive, and stay heard as they fight for justice, equality, and the future of our planet.



HOW WE WORK

PBI takes a holistic view of protection. This multi-layered approach combines direct physical protection with emotional solidarity while also working to build capacity, strengthen networks, and mobilise the support needed to affect change.



Network building

A trusted, independent actor, we create space for defenders to connect, share experiences, and expand their networks. These connections help break down silos and build individual and collective protection.

Awareness raising

With four decades of experience behind us, we are a trusted source of information and expertise. We use this to raise awareness of human rights issues and mobilise support by sharing information in a range of creative formats.

Protective accompaniment

Highly trained volunteers from around the world physically accompany human rights defenders in situations of risk. Recognisable by their distinctive PBI vests, volunteers spend at least a year providing a protective presence and helping deter potential threats.

HOLISTIC PROTECTIVE ACCOMPANIMENT

Advocacy

We connect human rights defenders with national and international actors, creating platforms to amplify their voices. These advocacy efforts ensure defenders are recognised and heard, encourage governments to fulfil their protection duties, and mobilise international support to help deter attacks.

Capacity development

We provide tools, training, support, and networks through which defenders can strengthen their ability to protect themselves from physical and emotional harm.

Independent observation

First-hand information is key to an effective response. Our long-term, in-country presence makes us well placed to gather insights, monitor the political landscape, and assess the type and level of risk faced.

Designed by PBI, our approach is rooted in a deep understanding of defenders' needs and a sophisticated, ongoing analysis of potential threats.

OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

In 2024, PBI provided protective accompaniment to over

3 900
defenders

We also supported
1236
communities
and **83**
collectives



Together we protected

307 480
people



Add in our advocacy and awareness raising activity and

420 248
people

benefited from PBI's work in 2024

98

staff across 20
teams

291 total volunteers, including
70 trained protection volunteers



For every 1
defender we
accompany,
another 79
people from
their collec-
tives or com-
munities are
protected.

RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE

The world is changing and so must we. There are more conflicts than at any time since the Second World War, our natural environment is under attack, and the rights of women and minority groups are being rolled back in country after country. As defenders stand strong against these threats, this last year has seen PBI mark:

Three Decades of Solidarity in Colombia

As one of PBI's oldest teams reached its 30th year, PBI [brought over 60 Colombian defenders together](#) to reflect on human rights issues, celebrate shared achievements, and discuss future challenges.



“Over the past three decades we have witnessed demobilisations, peace talks, ceasefires, and agreements. At the same time, armed groups have re-armed and reorganised, with legal and illegal economies continuing to fuel the war.

But it is not the bad news that keeps us here. It's the good: the defenders and social movements who peacefully resist and defend their land, water, and communities, risking their lives for a better future.

Their commitment to environmental and social justice, to living memory, and to building peace among neighbours, peoples and Mother Earth inspires us. Their conviction and hope, love and strength give meaning to our work.”

Claudia Müller-Hoff, Coordinator for PBI in Colombia

10 Years of Protective Accompaniment in Honduras

It has been a decade since the first green vests arrived in Honduras. In the years since, our team has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with defenders across the country.



“Dressed in green, we have seen the country change, and we have contributed to that change. Dressed in green, we have opened spaces for peace. Dressed in green, we have listened, reflected, given, received, laughed, cried, embraced, and lived.

Our work would not exist without the commitment, courage, and resilience of the defenders we have accompanied. In particular, we want to use this anniversary to highlight and celebrate the important role played by women defenders in their communities and organisations — a role that is often invisible, undermined, or discredited in today's societies.”

PBI Honduras team

Read the team's 10 year report [here](#).

The Launch of PBI in Cameroon

PBI began its work in Cameroon in 2024, offering expertise and support to defenders confronting repression and advocating for human rights. The team brings experience in feminist, youth, environmental, and accountability work, and aims to build networks of defenders across French-speaking Africa to strengthen their collective voice and support their efforts for justice.



PART 2

Standing Up for What's Right



PROTECTING THE PEOPLE FIGHTING FOR EQUALITY, JUSTICE, AND THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET

No PBI team works in isolation. From fundraising and advocacy to capacity building and protection strategies, every staff member and volunteer is part of a wider ecosystem that comes together to enable the protection of human rights defenders in high-risk countries and situations.



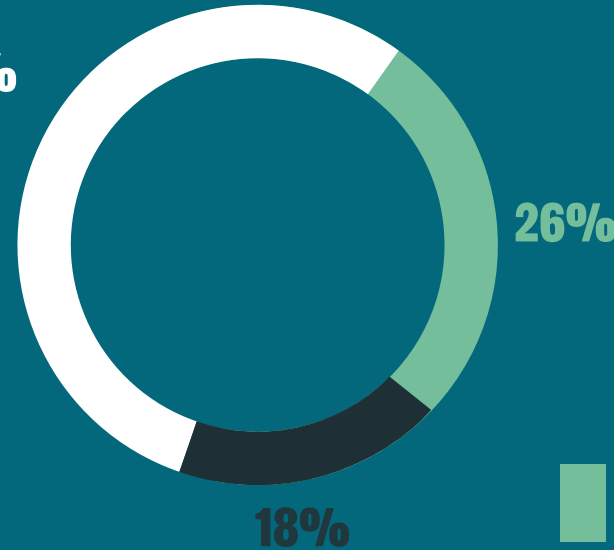
307,480
people protected

3,900+
defenders
accompanied

■ **2,184**

defenders fighting for land,
environmental, and Indigenous
Peoples' rights

56%



26%

■ **1,014**

defenders fighting
for peace, justice, and
the rule of law

■ **702**

defenders fighting for women's
rights and gender equality

WHERE WE WORK

Belgium

Cameroon

Canada

France

Germany

Italy

Norway

Spanish State

Switzerland

The Netherlands

United Kingdom

United States

Countries where PBI
offers direct protection:

Colombia

Guatemala

Honduras

Indonesia

Kenya

Mexico

Nepal

Nicaragua



Demand for PBI's protection services continues to grow, with many individuals, collectives, and communities in urgent and high-risk situations awaiting support. If you would like to help close this gap and support our work, please reach out to: contact@peacebrigades.org

SPOTLIGHT: LAND, ENVIRONMENTAL AND INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

2184
defenders
accom-
panied in
2024

Last year, more than half of the defenders accompanied by PBI were focused on land, environmental and Indigenous Peoples' rights. On the front line of the fight for our planet, these are the people working to protect essential and often sacred landscapes from the corporations and companies that put profit and power over environmental protection.

They do so at great personal risk. **Around four land and environmental defenders are killed every week. Of these, 43% are Indigenous People** whose collective wisdom is recognised as a vital part of effective climate action.

Mining. Deforestation. Industrial development. As the battle to control and extract the world's resources intensifies, our teams are working to make sure defenders have everything they need to do their job in safety.



WHO WE PROTECT: SNAPSHOTS FROM OUR TEAMS

MEXICO:

La Alianza Yoreme en Sonora (Yoreme Alliance)

For centuries, state, businesses, and local elites have forced the Yoreme people from their ancestral lands. Bringing members of the Bachoco el Alto, Buay-siacobe, Cohuirimpo, and Masiacahui peoples together, the [Yoreme Alliance](#) is working to defend their rights, culture, and territory, and to protect their language, Yoremnokki.

Accompanied by PBI since 2023

GUATEMALA:

Maya Ch'orti' Indigenous Council of Olopa

In 2012, the government of Guatemala granted American Minerals S. A. a 25-year licence to mine the Maya Ch'orti' region — without consulting its Indigenous communities. The [Maya Ch'orti' Indigenous Council of Olopa](#) has been fighting for their people's rights, spiritual recovery, and environmental protection ever since.

Accompanied by PBI since 2021

HONDURAS:

Association for the Defence of Common Property in Quimistán (ASODEBICOQ)

The region (departamento) of Santa Barbara has long been a target for extractive activities in Honduras – with local groups identifying [75 different new business projects](#) in 2023 alone. Despite a legal ban against “secret” mining concessions, many companies proceed without proper public consultation or regard for environmental and social impact. [ASODEBICOQ](#) was founded in 2013 to defend land, territorial, and environmental rights in the region.

Accompanied by PBI since 2018



STANDING STRONG AGAINST PROPOSALS FOR A NEW NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IN KENYA

Uyombo village sits on the coast of Kilifi County, Kenya, flanked by the Watamu National Marine Park and the Arabuko-Sokok Forest — a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. The coral reefs are teeming with marine life and the forest — which is home to countless rare birds, insects and plants — is critical to the region's rich ecosystem. For the community that lives there, this land is part of their cultural heritage, a symbol of their identity and, for many, a vital source of income through fishing and eco-tourism.

In August 2020, without consultation with the local community, Uyombo was announced as the proposed site for Kenya's first nuclear power plant. The proposal sparked intense opposition from the community and environmentalists, who feared the impact on delicate ecosystems and the health risks associated with radioactive spills and inadequate waste management.

Leading the opposition was the [Centre for Justice Governance and Environmental Action](#)

[\(CJGEA\)](#), a grassroots environmental justice organisation working to protect communities from the harmful effects of pollution. Phyllis Omidio is the organisation's Executive Director:

"We host the only East African coastal forest, we host the Watamu marine park, we host the largest mangrove plantation in Kenya. We do not want nuclear [energy] to mess up our ecosystem."

After a series of peaceful protests and petitions, tensions rose as protestors and organisers faced a brutal response from authorities. In addition to physical attacks by police, they were also subjected to cyberattacks and online surveillance. In 2024, they asked for support and protection from PBI.

Standing alongside the CJGEA team, PBI observed protests, marches and a high-profile public meeting against the project, with our international support ensuring events remained peaceful and protestors remained safe. Lance Mbani, Program Officer for CJGEA, explains the impact of this:

“Having PBI present has provided a strong sense of security and solidarity. It has significantly deterred threats against us and has emboldened us to speak out and act more confidently in the pursuit of human rights and the protection of the communities’ right to a clean and healthy environment.”

Alongside this, PBI also provided targeted security training for CJGEA staff and local activists who were facing the worst of the physical and online abuse:

“The training has helped us create clear steps for assessing and managing risks, and has significantly enhanced our safety and that of the defenders we work with — especially women who are often at the greatest risk of reprisals.”

PBI's team in Kenya supported CJGEA in their advocacy, including delivering a petition to the Kilifi County Governor, urging protection of communities' right to a clean, healthy environment and a just energy transition in Kenya's nuclear power program.

Their efforts bore fruit in January 2025, when Kenya's Cabinet decided to dissolve the Nuclear Power and Energy Agency (NuPEA), which had promoted and implemented the country's nuclear power program, recognising it as a poor use of taxpayers' funds.

This landmark move underscores the government's recognition of the economic and environmental concerns raised by CJGEA, the Uyoimbo community, and Kenyans at large, who continue to advocate for renewable energy over nuclear power.



SPOTLIGHT: WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER EQUALITY

702

defenders
accom-
panied in
2024

In 2024, 18% of accompanied defenders worked to protect women and LGBTQI+ communities from the discrimination and structural violence that strips away their right to healthcare, dignity, and the freedom to live in safety without fear.

While all defenders face risks to their safety, entrenched stereotypes and rigid social “norms” expose women and LGBTQI+ defenders to a distinct set of challenges. In addition to physical attacks, arrest, and detention, these defenders are often subjected to sexual and gender-based violence. They are also more likely to endure verbal abuse, surveillance, and online attacks.

As fundamentalist groups fuel division and stoke fear around so-called “gender ideology” these risks increase, with PBI standing by to make sure they are managed effectively.



KENYA: WHRD Toolkit Organizers Network

In the community of Kilifi, Ruweida Muhammad (Executive Director of [Desire Youth Initiative](#)) is leading a quiet yet powerful revolution. Growing up in an area where harmful practices like female genital mutilation are a celebrated norm, she is on a mission to empower women and communities through education and legal action.

Accompanied by PBI since 2023

HONDURAS: The Arcoíris Association

Homosexuality has been legal in Honduras since 1899, yet violence, stigma, and discrimination against the LGT-BQI+ community continue — with trans women facing some of the world's [highest rates of transfemicide](#) in the world. An active member of the Honduran Committee for Sexual Diversity and the Coalition Against Impunity, [Arcoíris](#) is fighting back with sexual health education, training, legal support, and advocacy for more equitable laws.

Accompanied by PBI since 2015

NICARAGUA: Red de Mujeres Pinoleras (REMUPI)

Founded by Nicaraguan refugees in Costa Rica, [REMUPI](#) is a network of solidarity, collective memory, and care. Through their work, they help women who have fled to their homes build emotional and financial stability, while continuing to fight for the rights of those who have chosen to remain in Nicaragua.

Accompanied by PBI since 2023



PROTECTING THE WOMEN SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS IN COLOMBIA

Yanette Bautista was just 27 when her sister Nydia disappeared during Colombia's devastating armed conflict. She was murdered by state authorities and her whereabouts concealed.

"I found my sister three years after she was taken away and disappeared," Yanette explains. "I knew it was her. She was wearing the same clothes she had on the day she disappeared. When they eventually agreed to give me Nydia's body, they handed it over in a trash bag."

Across Colombia, an [estimated 210,000](#) people disappeared between 1985 and 2016. For their families, this means never truly being able to mourn their loved ones. Most often, it is women who take on the long, and exceptionally dangerous, task of searching for answers:

"When women start searching,

we become human rights defenders — we challenge the rules of silence and oppression imposed by those who disappeared our loved ones, and we end up defending the rights of everyone."

For Yanette, the threats to her life became so severe that she was forced to leave her home, send her children elsewhere, and live in exile for eight years. But in 2007, she reached out to PBI, and through our support and protection was able to continue her advocacy work. Returning home, she founded [the Nydia Erika Bautista Foundation \(FNEB\)](#), to help other women like her:

"I wanted to empower families to search for their loved ones, so we started our organisation in my living room. There's no hierarchy. It is an exchange of knowledge. We provide legal support, document stories, and advocate."

As well as providing physical and emotional support and protection to Yanette and her organisation, whose offices are frequently threatened, PBI has helped bring the plight of women searching for those disappeared to an international audience. Over the years, we have supported FNEB to engage with policymakers, lawyers, and the UN Special Procedure on Enforced Disappearances, and advocated at the Human Rights Council for a law to protect these women.

Andrea Torres Bautista, deputy director of FNEB explains the impact of this support:

"PBI's accompaniment has been much more effective than bodyguards. For them to see you alongside us, accompanying us, doing daily office rounds and visits, enables us to keep doing our work. And the tours of Europe PBI sup-

ported allowed us to highlight issues and talk about forced disappearance with the international community.”

In 2022, accompanied by representatives from PBI, Yanette helped put forward a bill to the Congress of Colombia that aimed to recognise and protect the work and rights of women and people searching for victims of forced disappearance.

A world first, this historic bill was signed into law by President Gustavo Petro in June 2024. Law 2364 formally recognises the work of women searchers, orders the prevention of attacks against them, and states that local and national authorities must ensure their rights to healthcare, housing, and education are protected.

If implemented as promised, the bill could inspire transformation in countries such as Argentina, Chile, and Mexico, where forced disappearances have devastated hundreds of thousands of families.

Yanette is rightly proud to see her life's work having such an impact:

“We don’t want hope to disappear. It strengthens us, it inspires us, the memory of our loved ones is in our hearts. I do feel a lot of satisfaction about what I have done over these 30 years, walking alongside the victims.”

PBI wishes to dedicate this section to the memory of Yanette Bautista, who sadly passed away before the publication of this report.

Thank you, Yannette, for your example of dignity and courage. Your voice and your fight will live on.

Peace be with you.

SPOTLIGHT: PEACE, JUSTICE, AND THE RULE OF LAW

1014
defenders
accom-
panied in
2024

In 2024, 1 in 4 defenders accompanied by PBI were focused on building, protecting, and strengthening the institutions that allow democracy to flourish and safeguard human rights. Whether working on emblematic cases of injustice or advocating for systemic change, these activists are on a collision course with vested interests benefiting from the status quo — very often, this includes state and corporate actors, as well as criminal gangs.

It is dangerous work, with many defenders putting their lives at risk in order to stand up for what's right. PBI is there to make sure that they have the protection and the tools they need to combat impunity, fight corruption, and catalyse effective transitions to peace, as well as to support the creation of laws and mechanisms that give life to international human rights standards.



COLOMBIA: The Peace Community of San José de Apartadó

The [Peace Community of San José de Apartadó](#) was founded in 1997 during the height of Colombia's armed conflict. Based in Urabá Antioqueño, the Community rejects the presence of armed groups and is working to protect both their environment and the rights of those who call it home. Despite — or because of — their neutral stance, the community is the target of multiple threats. But they remain strong, gaining international recognition and building deterrence as a model of peaceful resilience.

Accompanied by PBI since 1999

NEPAL: Madhesh Human Rights Home (Mahuri Home)

[Mahuri Home](#) is a grassroots organisation protecting the rights of marginalised and minority communities in Nepal. In collaboration with PBI, the team promotes evidence-based advocacy, builds the capacity of human rights defenders, and has created vital platforms such as the Minority Rights Protection Forum. They also promote gender-responsive policies and mobilise champions to monitor and report human rights violations.

Accompanied by PBI since 2024

KENYA: Mothers of Victims and Survivors Network

Lucy Wambui was almost nine months pregnant when a police officer murdered her husband. Turning her story from one of “victim” to “defender”, she co-founded the [Mothers of Victims and Survivors Network](#) — an initiative documenting extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, police brutality, and other abuses by law enforcement. The group also unites victims' families through meetings and vigils and encourages them to speak out about their experiences.

Accompanied by PBI since 2018



SUPPORTING LEGAL REFORM IN GUATEMALA AND NEPAL

Guatemala's civil war might be over, but the scars from 36 years of violence and genocidal war crimes run deep. Indigenous communities continue to face repression, violence and criminalisation — with an independent legal delegation travelling to Guatemala in 2023 to investigate the deteriorating human rights situation.

Bringing together experts from the UK, Brazil, Peru and the US, their findings shone a hard light on the state's failure to prevent unlawful violence. It also recognised the need to acknowledge Indigenous Peoples' ancestral connection to their land as the cornerstone of their rights.

Sparking a wave of advocacy and legal action, in 2024, Indigenous and campesino movements signed an Agrarian Agreement with the Guatemalan government. While the fight for justice is far from over, the accord marks an important shift — creating

space for ongoing dialogue and setting concrete commitments on land access and conflict resolution.

The success of this first delegation also paved the way for a second. Destined for Nepal, delegates were invited to investigate the rule of law and access to justice for victims of human rights abuses during the country's civil war.

As with Guatemala, the delegation included experts from different regions, including those with experience in transitional justice in Colombia, the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, and Sri Lanka. Supported by PBI, they travelled to Kathmandu, Janakpur, Nepalgunj and Bardiya to meet state officials, human rights defenders, and the people living with the unresolved pain of this brutal war.

Among them was [Gita Rasaili](#), whose sister was murdered by the Nepalese army. Since that fateful day, she has

dedicated her life to the fight for justice — not just for herself, but for other women whose lives were forever changed by the conflict.

“I realised that there has never been a rule that says that if my sister is raped and killed, the conflict will be over... That is when I understood that what happened to my sister was and is wrong. I think that gave me a very strong sense of belief. I became stronger and aware that I need to do something about it.”

Gita Rasali, Vice Chairperson, Conflict Victim Women National Network

By highlighting victims' concerns and sharing legal expertise with decision-makers, the delegation helped drive the push for legislative action, with a new transitional justice bill passed into law in August 2024. While critical gaps remain, the delegation recognised the bill as having transformational potential. Their report offered guidance for implementation of the law and urged leaders to use it as a tool to deliver the truth, justice, and reparations people need.

“We have finally got a law on transitional justice. This is the result of years and years of advocacy and

campaigning by civil society. But this delegation added one more step, to encourage legislators to get this over the line.”

Mandira Sharma, Nepali human rights lawyer

The presence of international delegations at key junctures in Nepal and Guatemala's legislative histories strengthened local advocacy by amplifying victims' voices, offering legal expertise, and attracting international media attention. This added legitimacy and puts pressure on governments to pursue meaningful, lasting reforms.

Find out more about PBI's legal delegations [here](#).

PART 3

Together We Rise



STRENGTHENING OUR PROTECTION OF DEFENDERS

As the risks facing human rights defenders evolve, so must our protection strategies. Business as usual is not enough. To truly support defenders, PBI must be prepared to think and act radically — evolving our approach to ensure that they, their families, and communities are protected.

To this end, 2024 saw PBI expand our focus to include defender-led strategies informed by local knowledge and lived experience. This was combined with efforts to explore new approaches to protection that work to strengthen our response to evolving threats.

Collective Protection

Traditional protection models prioritise the direct, physical safety of individual defenders. In contrast, “collective protection” refers to a set of actions and social practices that build the resilience of entire communities. Deeply rooted in local context and culture, these approaches promote protection through collective power and increase individual and group capacity to respond to evolving threats.

In June 2024, PBI and ALLIED (a global network of defenders of which PBI is a member) launched a research project to bring these strategies — long used by communities and defenders across Latin America — into the light. Starting with research into the operational context of defenders in Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, and

the Amazon tri-border region, defenders were invited to come together in collaborative workshops and share their first-hand experiences.

An insightful and illuminating process, findings underscore the value of collective protection and reinforce the importance of expanding the scope of traditional models. While aggressors want to provoke short-term, reactive responses, research shows us that the most effective strategies do the opposite: preventing risk by centring the community, preserving wisdom and cultural identities, and fostering approaches that are both life-creating and self-sustaining.

These principles have long underpinned PBI’s approach to protection, but we will now work to incorporate these recent learnings into both our strategy and the tools that we share with defenders.

When we asked Mario Luna, from the Yaqui Tribe, state of Sonora, Mexico, about the Collective Protection strategies implemented, his first answer referred to the construction of an autonomous school.

This answer was given as a result of a systemic analysis of the violence experienced by the Yaqui people: the hegemonic powers try to impose their culture over theirs, co-opting Yaqui ideas and initiatives for their own benefit. Faced with this realization, strengthening the cultural identity appears as an almost vital necessity for the Tribe.

Excerpt, Collective Protection Report

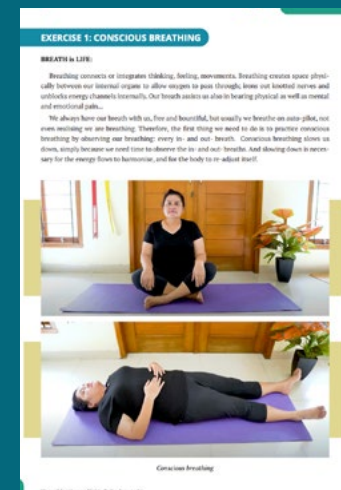
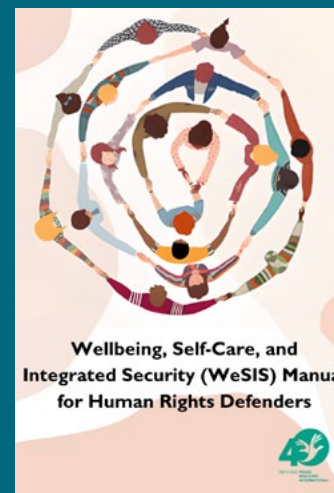
Read the Executive Summary [here](#).
Access the final FanZine [here](#).

Promoting Well-being and Self-Care

Personal well-being isn't a luxury — it's a lifeline. Yet too often, techniques to build inner strength and resilience are left out of standard protection strategies. The result is burnout, illness, and the quiet erosion of the movements defenders are working to sustain.

It is a challenge that is all too real for women and LGBTQI+ rights defenders in Indonesia in particular. And it is one that prompted PBI and the Institute for Women's Empowerment (WEI) to create a [practical manual](#) encouraging defenders to build the well-being strategies they need to grow their work.

Led by defenders and experts working across the region, the manual offers important local perspective and insights. Launched at an international forum in Bangkok, it is our hope that the techniques shared will help defenders create space for solidarity, healing, movement-building and growth.



FACILITATING PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT AND TRAINING

Alongside the development of new protection strategies, this last year has seen PBI increase its focus on workstreams and initiatives that build the capacity of human rights defenders and accompanying teams.

As the examples below highlight, our experience working in and across different continents sees us well-placed to meet the needs of defenders in varying contexts — offering tools, resources, and systems that help them stand strong as individuals and as part of a dynamic, interconnected movement.

Applying a Decade of Learning to Security and Protection in Mexico

The [Security and Protection Advisory Programme \(PASAP\) Guide](#) is a foundational tool to support risk analysis and assessment in Mexico. A decade after its initial publication, the team

set out to create an updated document that would capture ten years of lessons learned.

Designed to complement — not replace — the original guide, the new PASP is a practical toolkit comprised of six interconnected booklets that:

- **Explore the political and theoretical foundations underpinning PBI's work.**
- **Identify elements for an intersectional approach to security and protection training.**
- **Outline steps to mainstream collective care in workshops and advocacy.**
- **Guide the facilitation of context and actor analysis.**

- **Support the development of a comprehensive risk analysis.**

- **Detail the elements of comprehensive protection planning, including both preventive and reactive measures.**

Through the above, this guide addresses the protection needs of individuals, organisations and groups, while also enabling the collective design of alternative strategies that address intersectional issues of diversity and promote psychosocial support.

Supporting Women on the Frontline of Human Rights Abuses in Nepal

In addition to the challenge of achieving transitional justice, geopolitical dynamics in Nepal pose a serious threat to human rights defenders and non-profit organisations in the region. Women defenders are at particular risk, with [73%](#) reporting threats, intimidation or harassment, and [81%](#) experiencing psychosocial violence.

In 2024, our team in Nepal collaborated with partners to help strengthen the physical, digital and emotional security of women defenders. Through training, collective reflection, informal networks, and shared advocacy platforms, we worked to build solidarity, resilience, and empowerment — helping to create a safer, more inclusive civic space where defenders can lead transformative change without fear.

“Working as a Woman Human Rights Defender is fraught with immense challenges, including constant threats and life-threatening risks... but we step in as a pillar of strength where the state fails to protect.” — Renu Karna, Madhesh Province



ADVOCATING FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Effective protection not only treats the symptoms of human rights violations, but also addresses their causes. Our advocacy work is an essential component of this, with the last 12 months seeing our teams deploy a range of tactics to connect defenders with key decision-makers in order to influence politicians, multilateral institutions and other stakeholders with the power to respond to defenders' demands.

Raising the Alert

On 19 March 2024, Nallely Sepúlveda (30 years old) and Edinson David Higueta (14 years old) were murdered. Both were members of the [Peace Community of San José de Apartadó](#).

In response to this senseless killing, community members Ruby (Yudis Alba) Arteaga and José Roviro López Rivera travelled to Europe on an international speaking tour. Supported by PBI teams in the UK, Netherlands,

Switzerland, Norway, and France, their efforts gained significant recognition and sparked a wave of advocacy activity. This included a [letter](#) from a group of UN Special Rapporteurs to the Colombian government, expressing concern over the killings and urging greater transparency in judicial proceedings.

Read the [response](#).

Making the Case for Change

SPOTLIGHT COMPANIES

Amerisur Resources, Anglo American, BHP Group, Fresnillo plc, Glencore, HSBC, Rio Tinto.

Between 2015 and 2023, [209 attacks on human rights defenders](#) were linked to UK companies, including 30 murders. As part of a collective re-

sponse, PBI joined hundreds of civil society groups, businesses, and investors in urging the UK government to mandate corporate human rights and environmental due diligence through a new law.

To support this push, PBI's team in the UK published a landmark report, [The Case for Change](#), in November 2024, gaining widespread media coverage.

Featuring case studies from Colombia, Honduras, Indonesia, and Mexico, the report exposes how human rights defenders have faced brutal reprisals for standing up to extractive industries with links to UK companies or investors. In doing so, it also dares to imagine a different future: one in which businesses consult defenders and prevent abuses from occurring in the first place — something that the proposed law would oblige them to do, holding those who fail to account.

The report's launch proved a catalyst for defender engagement with the UK government, which has since announced a National Baseline Assessment into the UK's implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

“Profit cannot be put before life. The only way to guarantee that British companies abroad operate legally and free from violence is to hold them to account.”

Jesús Javier Thomas, Land rights defender, Mexico

A Documentary Miniseries With a Difference

[Wounds of the River](#) exposes the environmental, human, and spiritual devastation caused by armed conflict along the Magdalena River in Co-

lombia. More than a documentary, it is part of a long-term drive to recognise the river as a victim of the conflict. Through the testimony of victims, communities, and defenders, it reveals the true scale of the physical and emotional damage caused — and the role of security forces and paramilitary groups in committing crimes against those who came to the river's defence.

The series was developed by [the Regional Corporation for the Defence of Human Rights \(CREDHOS\)](#). Launched at a public screening in August 2024, PBI accompanied defenders and supported those who chose to share their truth.

PBI on the Global Stage

PBI engaged in advocacy at the global level throughout 2024. Supported by the strategic positioning of our team in Switzerland, we have made an active contribution to the 55th, 56th and 57th sessions of the UN Human Rights Council. Presenting 15 interventions throughout the year's events, issues raised include the shrinking of civic space in Nicaragua, the democratic crisis in Guatemala, and the implementation of peace agreements in Colombia.

We also organised events on:

- The human rights situation of Indigenous Peoples in Colombia
- Declaration+25, a civil society-led, expert-endorsed document that builds on the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and sets new protection standards

- The state of the justice system in Guatemala
- The effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in agrarian and land tenure issues in Guatemala
- Enforced disappearances in Kenya
- The outcomes of Mexico's Universal Periodic Review
- Violations and abuses against church members in Nicaragua.

In addition to the above, PBI strives to create space and connections that enable defenders to join national and international conversations and ensure that their voices and solutions are heard.



Human Rights Council
56th Session - Side Event

Enforced disappearances in Kenya

June 25th, 2024
13:00 - 14:00
Room XXV, Palais des Nations, Geneva



TURNING PUBLIC ENERGY INTO ACTION



In addition to our advocacy work, we are working to find new, creative ways to raise awareness of human rights and environmental issues among members of the public. With a focus on youth engagement, this past year has seen our teams deliver a range of initiatives that drive support for both PBI's work and the broader pursuit of social justice.

Fast Forward Future

In June 2024, PBI's team in Germany partnered with Alternation e.V. and hamburg.global to host the inaugural [Fast Forward Future! Congress](#).

Ahead of the event, students from eight local schools developed a set of demands to advance local progress around the Sustainable Development Goals. The final Congress brought 200 of these students together to hear from a range of speakers — including PBI — and collaborate on their vision for a more just Hamburg.

Resulting priorities included free school meals, therapy services in schools, and support for Equal Pay

Day. Ideas were brought to life through creative formats such as comic exhibitions, staged readings, and dance performances — and were presented to Senator for the Environment, Jens Kerstan at the Nachtasyl (Thalia Theatre) in Hamburg.

Podcasts that make a point

[Voces de la Tierra](#) (“Voices of the Earth”) is a podcast series spotlighting the countries and contexts of human rights defenders accompanied by PBI. Developed in partnership with the online radio programme Carne Curda, its third season reached over 135,000 listeners and spotlighted human rights defenders work in [Guatemala](#), [México](#), [Colombia](#), [Honduras](#) and [Nicaragua](#).

“That year, protests broke out across the country, starting peacefully and ending with the deaths of more than 300 people and the exile of many citizens, leaving Nicaragua with human rights that are nothing but a piece of paper...”

Ángela Sepúlveda on the rights of protesters in Nicaragua ([Season 3, Episode 5](#))

This last year also saw PBI’s team in Germany continue its podcast, [Making space for dialogue](#) — with two new episodes published in 2024 to raise awareness on the work and tactics of human rights defenders in [Guatemala](#) and [Colombia](#).

All episodes are available in their original language (English or Spanish) and German.

It’s Time to Talk About Climate Change

Turning a global threat into personal truth, the Climate Monologues (Klima-Monologe) is a piece of documentary theatre sharing real stories from people on the frontline of climate change.

Climate Monologues is written and directed by Michael Ruf and presented by the artists network Wort & Herzsschlag, which he founded. PBI’s team in Germany secured funding for a series of performances and developed complementary educational workshops. The events explored interconnected themes including the emotional impact of the climate crisis,

global justice, climate displacement, resistance and struggle, and the potential for social change.

“It was crazy to look up and see the palm trees burning. I cried. I saw a police officer, and said: I don’t want to be alone.”

The Climate Monologues

The Climate Monologues are part of [PBI’s Education Project](#), with activities set to continue into the new year.

BREAKING DOWN TRADITIONAL POWER STRUCTURES

PBI is not a traditional international NGO. Born out of a social justice movement originally led by defenders in global majority countries, our mandate and horizontal structure is designed to uphold and safeguard our collective power and organisational identity.

In 2024, PBI strengthened its commitment to decolonialising its practices and ensuring that organisational systems and processes do not reinforce or reproduce top-down hierarchies and Western-centric ideologies.

A foundational part of our new Global Strategic Plan, this means working together to embed systems and strategies that protect and centre the diversity of voices, leadership, and experiences that make up our organisation.

Building a Diverse and Inclusive Workforce

PBI staff and volunteers come from many different countries and backgrounds — with each bringing a unique set of skills and experiences that help keep defenders safe and their voices heard.

In 2024, our team comprised 90 staff members from 38 different countries. Of our 291 volunteers, 90 were providing direct protection to human rights defenders.

Of these, more than one in three came from countries in the global majority.

PBI Members: Countries of Origin

 Argentina	 Ireland
 Australia	 Italy
 Austria	 Kenya
 Belgium	 Mexico
 Bolivia	 Nepal
 Brazil	 the Netherlands
 Cameroon	 Nicaragua
 Canada	 Nigeria
 Chile	 Norway
 Colombia	 Philippines
 Costa Rica	 Portugal
 Czech Republic	 Romania
 El Salvador	 Spanish State
 France	 Switzerland
 Germany	 Ukraine
 Honduras	 United Kingdom
 Hungary	 United States
 India	 Uruguay
 Indonesia	 Zimbabwe

Whether providing life-saving support to human rights defenders, advocating for their protection, or raising vital resources, our team is united by a belief in the power of ordinary people to build a more just and peaceful world.

Promoting Inter-Regional Volunteering

Inter-regional protection is a key part of this approach, especially in Latin America, where more and more local volunteers are joining our accompaniment teams.

Laura Camila Suárez is one of them. Born in Bogotá, Colombia, and raised in Costa Rica, Laura spent years working on human rights issues in the region before making a personal and political decision to learn from other defenders, movements, and organisations.

The more she saw, the more Laura felt compelled to join the struggle for dignity, justice, and life. Completing a 12-month placement with our team in Mexico, inter-regional volunteers like Laura are a vital part of PBI's

work — with their shared linguistic and cultural backgrounds enriching both their own experience and the quality of our services.

It isn't easy. Volunteering in a country so emotionally close to home brings unique challenges. But Laura wasn't alone. She was part of a deeply supportive network and community that is growing stronger by the day.

In 2024, PBI launched a new working group for the Latin America region. Approved at November's General Assembly, this initiative is part of a broader effort to increase representation from the global majority and provide staff, volunteers, and defenders with localised resources to support shared learning and development.

“The richness of the teams lies in their diversity, which is why it is essential to continue supporting teams that increasingly include voices from Latin America, but also from other regions outside Europe and North America. We undoubtedly have a lot to learn from each other, and building on that diversity makes our accompaniment not only

more meaningful, but above all more attuned and transformative for those we work with.”

Laura Camila Suárez



Standing Up for the Rights of Indigenous Defenders in Canada

Another key aspect of this work is the recognition that human rights violations can happen anywhere.

The construction of a new gas pipeline through the unceded ancestral territory of the Wet'suwet'en Nation in northern British Columbia is a prime example. For the Wet'suwet'en people, this move didn't just violate their legal right to consent. It was an assault on their spiritual and cultural heart.

For the people who come to the land's defence, violence, forced evictions, raids, and murder — often carried out by the Canadian Mounted Police — are a daily reality.

It is a fight PBI follows closely. Last year, we monitored court proceedings of three defenders charged with contempt, raising awareness of their case and the risks they and other Indigenous communities face. We also conducted research into the weapons used in historic attacks, met with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right

to Water, published articles and held public events to highlight Canada's constitutional failings.

This last year also saw our team in Canada begin developing a framework to extend PBI's protective accompaniment into a "Northern" territory. This transformative proposition would mark a move away from traditional models and start to recognise and address the human rights abuses that threaten us all.



LOOKING FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

Finally, PBI's new Global Strategic Plan (2025–2030) guides organisational commitment to supporting human rights defenders worldwide. Approved at our General Assembly in November 2024, the document was developed through joint participation from across PBI's teams, who will use it as a foundation to develop strategic and operational plans tailored to their own country contexts.

As shown below, our new strategic plan places equal emphasis on internal and external goals. This approach is designed to ensure organisational sustainability and enhance our ability to support human rights defenders and protect human rights defenders across the world.



EXTERNAL GOALS

EXPANDING PROTECTION & PREVENTING THREATS

Defenders expand their protection networks, with future threats prevented following actions based on PBI's analysis.

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL MOVEMENTS

Defenders are increasingly interconnected and benefit from mutual learning and support, collective protection, and joint strategic activities.

SHARING OUR RESOURCES

A broader range of human rights defenders will benefit from PBI's tools and interventions.

STRATEGIC INDICATORS

Broadening our regional reach

Expanding the protection ecosystem

Finding and using new leverage points

Fostering exchange and mutual learning

An international support network of HRDs

Defender-led advocacy

Systemising methodologies, tools, and learning

Enriching the strategies and tactics of HRDs

Ensuring fast and effective protection responses

INTERNAL GOALS

STRENGTHENING INTERNAL DECISION-MAKING

PBI has increased its capacity to deliver on its mandate and ensure that internal systems support a dual focus on process and outcomes.

FOSTERING EFFICIENCY

The consolidation of key operational areas enables PBI to work more efficiently and effectively and build organisational support.

STRENGTHENING CARE

PBI provides a supportive environment where people can grow and thrive, and where the impact of our work can be sustained for the long-term.

STRATEGIC INDICATORS

Our commitment to horizontality

Stronger internal decision-making

Identifying and leveraging new opportunities

Human and financial resourcing

Building a coherent and unified brand

Strengthening internal systems and processes

Prioritising "care" across PBI

A person-centred approach to development

Building a caring, respectful, and inclusive culture

A FOUNDATIONAL PROMISE

All work will be underpinned by a renewed emphasis on PBI's internal processes and strategic evolution as an organisation. This includes an absolute commitment to anti-racism and decolonialisation, as well as move to ensure our work is built on a foundation of equality, inclusivity, care, and well-being for all.



OUR FINANCES

PBI's total income in **2024**

rose by 10 %

compared to the previous financial year

In the same period, the number of accompanied defenders grew

by 10 %

accompanied organisations

by 20 %

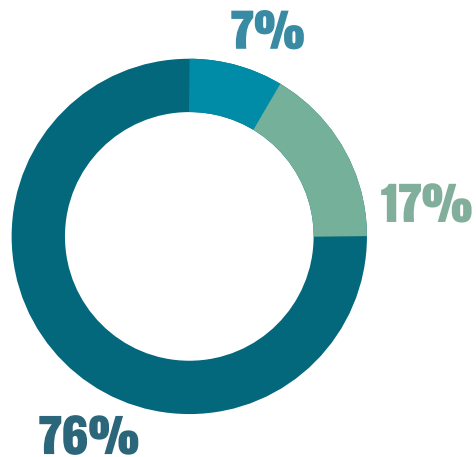
and accompanied communities

by 30 %

These results are a reminder that meaningful progress is possible, even with limited means — and PBI remains committed to making every euro go as far as possible. In the coming year, we will also expand our focus on income generation, aiming to increase support from trusts, foundations, and individual donors as a way to counter growing restrictions in and reduce our dependency on the institutional funding landscape.



TOTAL INCOME: € 6.236.256

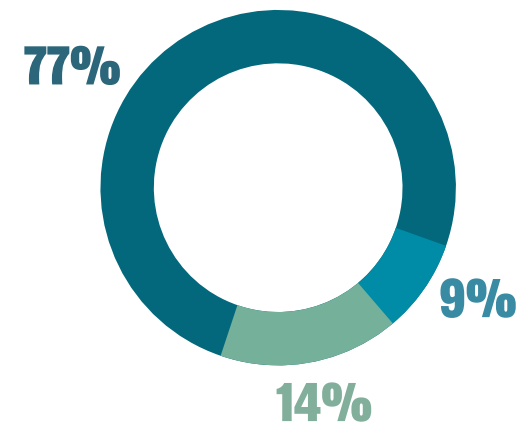


 Multilateral and government funds
(€4.739.555)

 Trust funds and foundations
(€1.060.163)

 Private donors
(€436.538)

TOTAL EXPENDITURE: €6.049.006



 Holistic protection
(€4.657.735)

 Program development
(€846.861)

 Governance and structure
(€544.410)

** All figures are in EURO and subject to final audit.*



PBI would like to dedicate this year's report to the environmental and human rights defenders who are bravely defending their communities and our planet, and who we have the privilege to stand alongside. You are our inspiration.

We would like to also extend our heartfelt thanks to the thousands of current and former volunteers who enrich PBI's work, and to our donors, supporters, and civil society friends who help get life-changing protection out to where it's needed the most.

OUR DONORS

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Generalitat Valenciana	Kinder- und Jugendplan des Bundes (KJP) - Bundesministerium für Bil- dung, Familie, Senioren, Frauen und Jugend (BMBFSFJ)	Mirianog Trust
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Hernaniko Udala	Kirchlicher Entwicklungsdienst der Nordkirche (KED)	OeME Zug
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«Thanks to PBI, I never went into exile».

- Alirio Uribe, Member of the House of Representatives,
and 2003 recipient of the Martin Ennals Award.