



Peace Brigades International

Promoting nonviolence and protecting
human rights since 1981

Annual Review



2007-8

What does PBI do?

“Whenever PBI is with us we are safe, and all the fear goes. When we are alone, mentally we feel afraid if there is someone new in the area, we ask ourselves about who they are, we can’t concentrate and we are distracted, we feel uncomfortable and we feel unknown fear. When PBI is present, we can concentrate on our work because we don’t have to fear.”

Advocacy Forum Lawyer, Nepal

PBI has been working to protect human rights and promote nonviolence since 1981. On request, we send teams of international volunteers to areas of repression and conflict to provide a protective accompaniment to local human rights defenders whose lives and work are threatened by political violence. Our work is based on the principles of non-partisanship and non-interference in the internal affairs of the organisations we accompany. We believe that lasting transformation of conflicts cannot be imposed from outside but must be based on the capacity of local people to build a genuine peace. The PBI model has proven that this external presence can deter violence and thus create greater space for local activists to carry out their work. In addition to accompaniment, PBI also carries out workshops, training and other types of peace building, with the goal of strengthening local capacity for conflict transformation.

PBI has projects in Colombia, Indonesia, Guatemala, Mexico and Nepal. PBI’s work in the field is complemented by 16 PBI country groups in North America, Europe and Australasia. They are responsible for building political support, recruiting and training volunteers, outreach, publicity and fundraising.

PBI projects	Period
Guatemala	1983 – 1999, 2003 – present
El Salvador	1987 – 1992
Sri Lanka	1989 – 1998
North America	1992 – 1999
Haiti	1995 – 2000
Colombia	1994 – present
Indonesia	1999 – present
Mexico	1998 – present
Nepal	2005 – present

Cover photo: PBI volunteer Michael Tamblin with Louise Arbour, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Amerigo Incalcaterra, UN Representative in Mexico, listen to the testimonies of indigenous organisations that PBI accompanies in Guerrero, Mexico.

PBI International Council 2007

- Sergi Bach Mexico Project**
- Paola Carmagnani Nepal Project**
- Tiffany Easthom Indonesia Project**
- Joke Edenburg Netherlands/Germany**
- Steven Davies At large member**
- William Fairbairn Canada**
- Montserrat Garcia Guatemala Project**
- Celia Guilford Indonesia Project**
- Andrew Kendle (Vice-President) UK/Norway/Sweden**
- Liam Mahony (Treasurer) At large member**
- Rohan Martyrs Australia**
- Steven Molnar (President) USA**
- Claudia Müller-Hoff Colombia Project**
- Roger Nash At large member**

Contents

Letter from PBI International Council	3
PBI International Secretariat & Country Groups	4
PBI Colombia	6
PBI Guatemala	8
PBI Indonesia	10
PBI Mexico	12
PBI Nepal	14
Publications	15
Expanding the scope of protective accompaniment	16
Volunteer perspectives	17
Finance Report	18
Donors	19
PBI Contacts	20

PBI is registered as a non profit corporation in the State of Washington, USA

Letter from PBI International Council

“As a human rights lawyer in South Africa in the 1960s I defended courageous political prisoners including Nelson Mandela. I know how lonely and dangerous this can be for the defence lawyers involved. PBI plays a vital role in protecting and supporting human rights defenders in countries where such defenders are often in far greater danger than we in South Africa ever faced. The presence of PBI is critical for the lawyers... both for their safety and ensuring that their clients and their communities obtain justice.”

Lord Joffe, patron of PBI UK

Dear Friends,

Our work is motivated by one objective – to enable local human rights organisations and peace communities to carry out their work undeterred by violence or the threat of violence.

In 2007 – 2008 we provided protective accompaniment for 40 organisations, two communities and three individuals in Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Nepal and Mexico, all of them facing repression and intimidation as a result of their work. The range of groups we accompany is broad: from human rights defenders, lawyers and women’s organisations to environmentalists and indigenous and displaced communities. During this period we extended our accompaniment to organisations working in very remote, marginalised rural areas where few if any other internationals operate.

What makes our work unique is the fact that we are there on the ground alongside these organisations. As one ex UN employee commented: ‘UN missions and other international organisations come and go according to international priorities. PBI makes a commitment to remain as long as their presence is needed.’

Another unique feature is the way we exert pressure at all levels in a chain of authority, from the soldier at a local check point to local commanders, to national governments and military through to governments and institutions internationally who, when appropriate, can put pressure on governments to abide by international commitments to protect their citizens. In this way global pressure has a local impact.

The higher our profile and influence nationally and internationally, the greater our capacity to dissuade potential perpetrators of violence and so protect our field volunteers and those we accompany.

In 2007 – 2008 we successfully focused our efforts on extending all the protection mechanisms that add to the dissuasive effect of the physical accompaniment provided by our field volunteers. For example, in Nepal and Guatemala we contributed to the development of the implementation of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders. In the UK we raised awareness, developed support networks and promoted links

between the lawyers and environmental organisations we accompany and their counterpart organisations internationally. We increased the number of speaker tours in Europe, North America and Australia to raise our own profile and that of the organisations we accompany. Our unique access to

Photo: PBI



PBI volunteer accompanies Afro-Colombian human rights defenders in the humanitarian zone of Nueva Vida, Choco, Colombia

information and the depth of our analysis resulted in the publication of special reports on the Petén area of Guatemala and the human rights situation in Guererro, Mexico. In Colombia we had 55 meetings with members and officials of the Colombian government, 106 with the armed forces and 46 with the members of the diplomatic corps and the EU. These meetings served to strengthen our deterrent strategy by raising our profile and that of the organisations we accompany.

In this report we are proud to present the achievements of the 134 volunteers from 24 countries who served on our field teams, and our staff and hundreds more volunteer activists and supporters in 16 countries. However, our work is not an end in itself but a means of enabling local organisations to go about their own work without fear of violence. We remain committed to our belief in nonviolence and inspired by the courage of human rights defenders and communities that we accompany, whose spirit and commitment against enormous odds enable them to achieve the seemingly impossible.

In peace

Steve Molnar

Steve Molnar
PBI president

PBI organisational structure

Triennial General Assembly

Highest decision making body: representatives of Country Groups and projects

International Secretariat: International Council, Executive Committee, International Office, and technical committees:
Governance, management, coordination, finances, fundraising, policy development and monitoring, strategic development

Country groups/Associate groups in 16 countries

(see back page for full list)

Recruitment, initial training and support for project volunteers, maintaining and activating project support networks, fundraising, publications, outreach

Projects in Colombia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mexico, Nepal

Protective accompaniment, public relations, reporting, training and support for volunteers, advocacy, fundraising, collaboration with other organisations, publications, support networks

Note: The International Secretariat and projects form the global structure of PBI registered as a nonprofit corporation in the State of Washington, USA. Country groups and associate groups are independent bodies that determine their own structures and are legally responsible for their own actions.

International Secretariat and Country groups

Human rights abuses require the collaboration and collusion of players at different levels in lines of authority from local to national and international. PBI's approach is unique, in that it is multi-layered and seeks to influence every point in this chain. The presence of international volunteers would have a very limited protective effect, if it were not backed up by an international infrastructure that adds weight to the deterrent effect of the teams in the field. PBI Country Groups build this infrastructure and ensure that the Support Networks are not only a deterrent but can act swiftly and effectively if human rights abuses occur. The International Secretariat plays a vital role in drawing together all the entities of PBI to determine strategic direction and to coordinate our work.

Raising the profile of human rights defenders and PBI

Organising public events and speaker tours of human rights defenders and returned volunteers strengthens the protection we provide. Their first-hand testimony is an essential means of engaging audiences (whether the general public or decision-makers) with the situation in the countries concerned, opening doors for the organisations we accompany and raising both their and PBI's profile.

- **Country groups in Europe and North America** organised speaker tours for human rights defenders from Colombia, Mexico, Indonesia and Guatemala. This resulted in broader and better informed Support Networks and a higher profile for PBI and the organisations we accompany.

- **PBI USA** organised a speaking tour for Liza Smith, a returned Colombia Project field volunteer. She presented PBI's work to congressmen, UN representatives, members of the State Department, students and churches of different faiths, covering a total of eight states and twelve cities.

- **PBI Switzerland** held a travelling exhibition "Facing Peace" featuring eight returned volunteers' impressions of their experiences and their reflections on peace. By December 2007 the exhibit had visited 13 cities and received extensive coverage by the media, including television and radio, and at least 3,000 visitors.

Participation in wider forums

- **PBI European country groups and the Colombia and Guatemala projects** participate in advocacy and coordination groups relating to Colombia, the Brussels-based International Office on Human Rights Action Colombia (OIDHACO), and the European lobbying group Copenhagen Initiative for Central America (CIFCA). They are able to draw on the knowledge gained from PBI's unique direct experience on the ground to inform and strengthen the advocacy efforts of these forums, while at the same time raising awareness of the situation of the human rights defenders we accompany, and promoting mechanisms for their protection.

- **PBI Switzerland** is a member of the UN Resolution 1325 implementation group, on gender-based violence in conflicts and post-conflict inclusion of women in peace-building processes. Following lobbying by the group, in which PBI participated, the Swiss government adopted a national action plan for the Resolution's implementation.

- **PBI UK** has appointed lawyers as patrons to act as ambassadors to the legal sector, and established an advisory committee of lawyers, consolidating the support network to strengthen PBI's accompaniment of legal organisations such as the José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CAJAR). In 2008, as a result of links between PBI UK and the legal profession, a delegation of more than 40 lawyers from the UK travelled to Colombia to learn more about the difficulties CAJAR and other lawyers face, and to show solidarity for their work. Daniel Carey received the Law Society's New Solicitor of the Year Award for 2007 for his work as a PBI volunteer

in Guatemala, further raising PBI's profile within the legal profession and strengthening support within it.

Volunteer development and support

A major part of country group work is finding and training potential volunteers for both their own work and for PBI's field projects. They organise introductory trainings to provide potential volunteers with initial orientation to PBI's work before they go on to project-specific training.

- As a result of **PBI Germany's** expansion of its volunteer support programme before, during and after their field work, the number it recruited for projects almost doubled in 2007, to 18.
- **PBI France** shared expertise and experiences on volunteer training and support at a weekend conference organised by CICP (Peace Civil Intervention Committee – a confederation of accompaniment organisations).
- **PBI USA** revitalised its mentoring programme, whereby a new volunteer receives the support and advice of a former field volunteer and has hired a member of staff to focus on volunteer recruitment and services.

Fundraising

Country groups and projects fundraise for the International Secretariat, projects and their own infrastructure and activities. Funds come from national, regional and local governments, the European Union, NGOs, trusts, faith-based and peace and justice organisations, individual donors, foundations, and special fundraising events. See list of donors on page 19.

- **PBI UK** was chosen for a BBC funding appeal on Radio 4, a station with over 9 million listeners. The Appeal was read by the actress Julie Christie and raised £6,000 from a wide range of people from throughout the country, thereby increasing PBI's profile as well as funds. See finance report page 18
- We both increased our income by over \$400,000 and broadened the number and range of our donors. Our total income of \$US3,819,000 reflected our continued steady growth: this compared with an annual income of US\$2,500,000 in 2003

Influencing policy development and contributing to international debate

- **PBI Spanish State**, in collaboration with Amnesty International Spain and Protection International (formerly PBI European Office), secured unanimous agreement by all political parties to a parliamentary resolution pressing the government to provide political support for human rights defenders.
- **PBI UK** participated in the UN Human Rights Council round-table organised by the Foreign Office, part of a programme of meetings with its representative to UN Council meetings, strengthening our influence within these institutions.

Building and activating international support networks

Country groups work together with projects to develop and activate support networks that provide a vital lifeline if the human rights defenders PBI accompanies are threatened.

- **PBI Germany** has a political support network, which consists of high-level contacts such as church leaders, members of government, officials, diplomats, parliamentarians, other NGOs and the German Bar Association, as well as a 400-strong Emergency Response Network (ERN) open to everyone. The ERN is occasionally activated at the request of projects when mass urgent action is required – members are asked to write to the Foreign Ministry.
- **PBI USA's** ERN consists of over 2,000 people to be contacted via email for support for emergency activations by writing or calling their members of Congress.

Peace and Human Rights education

- **PBI Spanish State** has secured funding from the Regional Government of Cantabria to carry out a human rights education project in schools, dealing with the origins of conflict, community action and the defence of human rights. The materials – books and interactive CD Roms – draw on PBI's field experience in Latin America.
- **PBI Germany's** successful peace education project in Hamburg schools has continued to expand. It included puppet theatre for young children (nursery to primary), which was performed over 100 times in 2007, and is now the subject of a book produced by PBI Germany.

Strengthening international structures and coordination

In line with PBI's six year strategic plan 2006 – 2011 the International Council expanded the International Office staff, and facilitated coordination and development relating to advocacy, fundraising, finance and personnel management, volunteer support, country group development and gender and diversity.



Eloyda Mejia of the Association of Friends of Lake Izabal, Guatemala, speaks in London at PBI UK's 'Giving Voice to the Earth' conference on human rights and the environment

PBI Colombia

“I also dedicate this distinction to Peace Brigades International, who have accompanied us, with solidarity, for many years, guaranteeing that we can continue working...”

Iván Cepeda, Director of the Manuel Cepeda Vargas Foundation, on receiving the 2007 Roger N Baldwin Medal of Liberty for human rights defenders, a US award

“We are aware that we are one of the processes of return which has had the fewest deaths, a fact which is in large part due to the international presence... If PBI were to leave the river basin, we would once again be a very vulnerable population.”

Elber Mora Arce, Community of Self Determination, Life, Dignity of Cacarica (CAVIDA)

Context

The paramilitary demobilisation has continued to dominate the political landscape. The hearings under the Justice and Peace Law, far from guaranteeing victims’ rights to truth, justice and reparations, have served to increase their vulnerability, with at least 16 of those involved in the hearings assassinated by the end of 2007. The Organisation of American States recorded 22 new armed structures in areas where paramilitary groups had previously been demobilised, and by mid-2008, 60 members of the Colombian congress were under investigation for suspected links to paramilitary groups, in the so-called ‘parapolitics’ scandal.



Photo: PBI

PBI volunteer accompanying Alirio Uribe of José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers’ Collective (CCAJAR) as he listens to an indigenous lawyer’s account of a massacre in Guajira

PBI priorities

We accompany organisations involved in the **struggle against impunity**, such as the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes (MOVIC), a federation of over 200 organisations.

We highlight the **role of economic interests in the violation of human rights** by accompanying organisations such as the Inter-Ecclesiastical Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP) to enable them to support

families displaced by large-scale agribusiness, and by providing information and reports which can be used to raise awareness internationally.

We support **grassroots peace initiatives** by, for example, providing protective accompaniment to the San José de Apartadó peace community.

Our physical accompaniment is underpinned by advocacy, both nationally and internationally, and by frequent meetings with local and national officials to ensure that our legitimacy is recognised and that our protection is thus effective.

Infrastructure

35 field volunteers in Urabá, Barrancabermeja, Medellín and Bogotá, and 18 international support volunteers and staff in Bogotá, Brussels, and Washington DC.

Key achievements

- We continued to raise the international profile of the effect of biofuel production on human rights: with PBI’s support, CIJP has established itself as a respected source of information and analysis about the impact of palm oil plantations, establishing links with international environmental and social responsibility organisations, and speaking at international conferences in Europe.
- We published a special edition of our bulletin ColompBla in March 2008, to highlight malicious criminal charges against human rights defenders, not only in Colombia but also in Mexico and Guatemala. The launch was attended by representatives of 14 North American and European embassies, and received coverage on Telesur, a TV channel accessible in millions of homes in 20 countries throughout the world.
- We have collaborated with the respected US organisation Human Rights First (HRF) since 2007 by providing HRF with information about the situation of the human rights defenders we accompany, drawing on our direct experience on the ground. This information is

included in the HRF's white paper on baseless criminal charges entitled "Colombia's Human Rights Defenders in Danger" (September 2007).

- Together with other international organisations, in May 2008, we met representatives of COHOM (Human Rights Working Group of the Council of Ministers of the European Union) to present our view of the human rights situation in Colombia, against a background of increased threats and attacks on human rights defenders. Following the meeting, and intensive advocacy work by PBI and other organisations, the EU as well as other non-EU states – a total of 36 countries – issued a public statement insisting on the legitimacy of the work of Colombian human rights defenders.

- We significantly increased the number of accompaniments with no increase in field volunteers, and are exploring the possibility of accompanying two more grassroots organisations in key rural areas, thereby strengthening our support of this sector.

- We held 55 meetings with members and officials of the Colombian government, 106 with the armed forces and 46 with the members of the diplomatic corps and the EU. These meetings served to strengthen our deterrent strategy by raising our profile and that of the organisations we accompany.

Examples of the kind of work PBI's presence has enabled

- Luis Carlos Pérez Lawyers' Collective (CALCP) supports the Motilón Bari indigenous people of the remote area of Catatumbo, helping them win a court case against oil exploration on their lands. Such work increases the risk to CALCP, as it puts them in direct opposition to powerful economic interests. PBI's accompaniment enables them to visit the Motilón Bari to provide legal advice and collect evidence of human rights violations.

How PBI supports human rights defenders: case study

During 2007 and early 2008, PBI accompanied the Solidarity Committee for Political Prisoners (CSPP) on visits to Casanare in eastern central Colombia. Due to the presence of the oil industry, it is a highly militarised region, where the *campesinos* have suffered at the hands of all parties to the conflict.

The CSPP requested PBI's accompaniment to enable them to conduct investigations into extrajudicial executions. This process took them into remote areas where it would have been too dangerous to go without PBI's presence, as well as to the headquarters of the army brigade alleged to have committed most of the killings. Alongside this work, CSPP also carried out workshops for the *campesinos* and the U'wa indigenous people, advising them of the process for reporting human rights violations, as well as their rights in the case of arrest.

In this way, with PBI's accompaniment, CSPP continued their work against impunity, through direct investigations and by giving the local population the tools with which they could gain access to justice.

- The Community of Self-Determination, Life and Dignity of Cacarica (CAVIDA), formed by displaced Afro-Colombians, is in one of the most biodiverse areas in Latin America, and under heavy pressure from the logging and banana industries. Despite these pressures, and alleged harassment and attacks by the army, CAVIDA has created Biodiversity Reserve Zones, an innovative concept for the protection of civilians and the environment. PBI has accompanied the community for 10 years, including while they were displaced in Turbo, and throughout their process of return. Members of the Community say that without PBI's accompaniment, it may have ceased to exist.

Who we protect

Association of Families of the Detained and Disappeared (ASFADDES): moral support and legal aid, investigation of cases of forced disappearance

Association for Alternative Social Advancement (MINGA): legal aid, civil society capacity building for victims of forced displacement and massacres

Inter-Ecclesiastical Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP): human rights promotion & protection of displaced communities

José Alvear Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR): legal advice and representation on human rights cases

The Manuel Cepeda Foundation: part of the National Movement of Victims of State Crimes

Grassroots Women's Organization (OFP): works with the displaced running workshops, raising awareness, offering medical and psychological treatment, and providing legal aid

Luis Carlos Perez Lawyers' Collective (CALCP): legal advice & education on human rights

Regional Corporation for the Defence of Human Rights (CREDHOS): raises awareness of human rights in Barrancabermeja and Magdalena Medio

Corporation for Judicial Freedom (CJL): legal aid for victims of political persecution

Solidarity Committee for Political Prisoners (CSPP): defence of the rights of political prisoners

Popular Training Institute (IPC): research, training & documentation on human rights & conflict in Antioquia

Peace Community of San José de Apartadó: community of displaced *campesinos* who have returned to their lands and declared them a neutral zone

Cacarica Community of Life, Dignity and Self-determination (CAVIDA): community of displaced Afro-Colombians who have returned to their lands in the Cacarica River basin and set up a 'humanitarian zone'

PBI Guatemala

“The protection I received from Peace Brigades International saved my life.”

Eloyda Mejía, Association of Friends of Lake Izabal (ASALI)

Context

In late 2007, Álvaro Colom became president on a social democratic platform, inheriting deep-rooted problems – the stark inequalities in the distribution of wealth and land combined with the weakness of the State. Hina Jilani, UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders, expressed concern during her visit in February 2008 at the doubling in the number of attacks against human rights defenders over the previous five years, with an average of one attack against a defender every other day. The International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), created by agreement between the government and the UN, finally began operating in March 2008.



Photo: PBI

PBI volunteer with a member of the Women's Sector

PBI priorities

The struggle against Impunity

According to CICIG, impunity in Guatemala is running at 98%, and at 100% for cases in recent years involving the murder of women ('femicide'). PBI accompanies organisations such as the Women's Sector, which fights for justice for these women and their families, and CONAVIGUA, indigenous widows seeking the remains of their husbands killed or disappeared in the civil war, in which over 200,000 people died. PBI also advocates at both national and international level for mechanisms to end impunity.

Land rights

Two-thirds of the land is concentrated in the hands of 1.5% of the population, the second-most unequal level of land distribution in Latin America, and a deep source of social conflict. The Campesino Unity Committee (CUC) estimates that 10,000 families, roughly 30,000 people, were evicted from their land between 2004 and 2007. For the National Indigenous and Campesino Coordinating Body (CONIC) "one of the main causes of hunger is the lack of land and a fair wage." PBI accompanies organisations such as CONAPAMG and UVOC who work on land access for campesinos (peasant farmers) and the legalisation of land occupied by settlers.

Globalisation and Human Rights

The steep rise in global metal prices has led to a surge in mining concessions to foreign companies, despite the widespread opposition of affected communities, most of whom are poor and indigenous. PBI accompanies environmental groups such as Friends of Lake Izabal Association (ASALI) and Madre Selva that work to oppose the mining operations and the environmental destruction they cause.

How PBI supports human rights defenders Case study

In early 2008, witnesses travelled to Spain to testify in court in the Guatemala Genocide case against five former military officers and two civilians. The hearings are extremely important in the struggle against impunity. Our activities during this period illustrate our unique multi-layered approach to protection.

- We accompanied individuals and organisations in Guatemala involved in the case. In particular we increased accompaniment of a co-plaintiff CONAVIGUA because of their heightened level of risk as a result of the hearings.
- We observed the trial in Spain in order to highlight international interest in the case and provide support for the witnesses.
- Through CIFCA and PBI country groups, we drew the attention of European Union governments and institutions to the security situation for the witnesses, and to the importance of the trial in the struggle for universal justice.

Infrastructure

Ten field volunteers, four paid staff in Spain, Portugal and Guatemala, five volunteer committee members and five volunteer trainers.

Key achievements

- The establishment of the CICIG was in large part due to concerted pressure by Guatemalan and international organisations. PBI played a very active role in this process, much of it through our participation in CIFCA (Copenhagen Initiative for Central America and Mexico), a network of European NGOs.
- An expansion of our work by undertaking an exploratory trip to El Petén, Guatemala's largest and most northern department, to analyse the possibilities for future PBI work there. Many of the issues are common to the rest of Guatemala, such as land and labour disputes, environmental degradation and indigenous rights, but with access to justice complicated by isolation. We published a special report on El Petén in April 2007, which was very well received, given the lack of information on the human rights situation in the area. Further visits and reports are planned to focus attention on communities and organisations working to counter deforestation, to preserve protected areas, and for access to health, education, and justice.
- We drew on our long-standing presence in Guatemala to publish a special report – '10 years without war... hoping for peace. The State of Compliance with the Peace Accord on Strengthening Civilian Power and the Role of the Armed Forces in a Democratic Society.' Its aim is to engage the international community in monitoring compliance with this Accord, which we consider key to protecting and strengthening civil society. Its publication was welcomed in Guatemala, as the only report dealing specifically with this Accord. The new government is now implementing outstanding areas.
- We expanded our accompaniment related to the struggle against impunity, accepting requests from three additional organisations. One of them is the Centre for Human Rights Legal Action (CHRLA) whose work includes seeking justice in cases of genocide and other crimes committed during the civil war.
- We successfully promoted the European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders and strengthened our relationship with the European Commission. After we held a number of meetings with officials and made written recommendations, they chose Guatemala as a pilot country for implementation of the Guidelines.

Examples of the kind of work that PBI has enabled

- Julio Archila of the Campesino Workers' Movement (MTC) began a legal process in 2001 to get the owners of Las Delicias plantation to give the workers six years' back pay. PBI started accompanying Julio after he was the target of threats and intimidation by the owners. A settlement was finally reached in late 2007, allowing the workers to buy new property and begin rebuilding

their community. Julio commented: that 'PBI's accompaniment 'has given us strength and helped us to continue our work'.

- San Rafael Pie de la Cuesta Organisation for Peaceful Resistance (CRP) was set up in late 2007 to organise opposition to a hydroelectric plant, which was being planned without consultation with the community. During their first meeting the police detained a man for interrogation about the community's activities. Our observer presence has meant that the CRP now feels more secure in carrying out their work including being able to hold meetings without further interference or harassment.

Who we protect

Guatemalan Association of Indigenous Mayors and Authorities (AGAAI)

National Co-ordinating Body for Inhabitants of Marginalised Areas, (CONAPAMG): access to housing, social infrastructure, and the legalisation of occupied land

Women's Sector: umbrella organisation of women's groups

The Organisation to Support an Integrated Sexuality to Confront AIDS (OASIS): HIV/AIDS education and prevention, defending the rights of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people

Movement of Campesino Workers (MTC): associations of campesino communities working to defend employment rights

Association of Friends of Lake Izabal (ASALI): umbrella group of communities concerned about mining activities

Centre for Human Rights Legal Action (CHRLA): counselling, accompaniment and training

Project Counselling Service (PCS): capacity building with refugees and those who are affected by displacement and other forms of exclusion

San Rafael Pie de la Cuesta Organisation for Peaceful Resistance (CRP): community movement, working to oppose the building of a hydro-electric dam

National Coordinating Body of Guatemalan Widows (CONAVIGUA): indigenous women seeking the remains of victims of the civil war, and justice for them.

Union of Verapaz Peasant Organizations (UVOC): access to land, legalisation of occupied land and training

Madre Selva: environmental organisation raising awareness about megaprojects

Lesbiradas: promotion of the human rights of lesbians

Association for the Defence of the Mountains of Las Granadillas: environmental organisation concerned about deforestation

PBI Indonesia

“PBI was unique in that the people it brought to Aceh knew the language, knew the culture, could interact as easily with government figures as with the NGOs and it provided a really critical buffer to the kind of polarisation that was taking place.”

Sidney Jones, International Crisis Group

“The police and [army] have changed since PBI has been here. We are now treated with more respect... If PBI wasn't here, there would be way more intimidation. After the shooting, we would have all been arrested, interrogated and tortured if PBI wasn't here.”

Herman, Space for Culture Foundation (YSBA)

Context

Indonesia was re-elected as a member of the UN Human Rights Council for the period 2007 – 2010. Hina Jilani, the former UN special representative for human rights defenders, visited the country in June 2007 and welcomed the improvement in the situation in Aceh. However, she expressed concern at the climate of fear in Papua, especially for defenders fighting for the rights of communities to participate in governance, control over natural resources and demilitarisation of the province. Amnesty International reported that there was a sharp increase in attacks and threats against human rights defenders following her visit.

PBI priorities

- **Local peace and human rights initiatives:** We work with local communities in areas of deep-rooted conflict, to support them in developing their own security mechanisms for resolving conflicts nonviolently.
- **Impunity and access to justice:** We accompany organisations committed to ending impunity for both past and continuing human rights violations, such as PBHI (Indonesian Legal Aid and Human Rights Association), whose work includes providing free legal advice for victims and their families.
- **Land rights and the environment:** We accompany local organisations, such as WALHI (Friends of the Earth Indonesia) working to ensure that indigenous rights to land ownership are respected and natural resources are used responsibly and sustainably.

Infrastructure

Twenty-one field volunteers based in Jakarta and Papua (Jayapura and Wamena), six support staff based in Indonesia and Canada, and 12 volunteer committee members.

Key achievements

- After seven years in the province we closed the team in Aceh in June 2008 because the security situation had improved since the signing of the 2005 peace

agreement, and civil society had developed exceptional capacity to conduct peace-building initiatives without our involvement. We successfully implemented an exit strategy, aimed at handing over ownership of our peace education programme to local partners. We continue to monitor the political and security situation in Aceh through regular field visits.

- We produced ‘We Are Not Alone’ a 30-minute documentary showcasing PBI’s work in Aceh through interviews with the organisations we accompanied and partners. This has provided a tool to promote PBI’s work and the principles of international accompaniment and peace education.

- In Papua’s Central Highlands, where we provide protective accompaniment and peace-building programmes, human rights organisations and local communities report that they ‘feel a lot safer’ as a result of our presence. In particular they report a distinct improvement in the way they are treated by the military and police. This has enabled organisations to expand their work by, for example, carrying out investigations in villages where previously they had been refused access.



Photo: PBI



Photo: PBI

PBI volunteers accompanying Matus Murib of KontraS to Mulia

- Due to PBI's presence and support, local groups felt sufficiently secure and confident to organise ambitious programmes of events to celebrate the International Day of Peace and Human Rights Day in 2007, on a scale unprecedented in the Central Highlands of Papua. Between 700 and 1,000 people attended each event.
- We have acted as a catalyst for an emerging peace network in the Central Highlands. Local groups who have attended PBI's film screenings now organise activities in their own villages, such as peace displays and discussions.

Case study: Protective Accompaniment

In February 2007, Matius Murib of KontraS (Commission for Disappearances and Victims of Violence) asked PBI to accompany him so that he could assess the situation of 5,000 internally displaced people in the Mulia area in the Papuan Highlands. The previous month they had fled a government offensive against a separatist group following the killing of two soldiers, and many were living in a river valley, exposed to disease and malnutrition. Matius was concerned about his security in such a remote area at a time of heightened tension. Two PBI volunteers accompanied him for a week while he gathered information from churches and local organisations, and PBI volunteers had meetings with the authorities to explain their role. In the days following his return, PBI made a number of phone calls to him to check on his security. In this way, with PBI's protection, Matius was able to carry out his work in support of victims of the conflict.

Case study: Peace Education

PBI's final major peace education activity in Aceh took place in February 2008 in the form of two four-day summits bringing together twelve organisations to share experiences, skills, and knowledge about peace education. Local peace builders prepared the content of each summit. Between the summits PBI organised a reception to introduce participants to international organisations including funding agencies as well as other peace-building stakeholders in Aceh.

At the request of the participants and with their collaboration, we published a 75-page Peace Education Manual based on the outcomes of the summits, which was distributed throughout the Acehese peace-building community. As well as being a success in terms of empowerment and capacity-building, the summits also resulted in the creation of a new peace education network among participants, and established new links between them and the international community. A typical quote from a participant was *"I am happy to have met all of you in this PBI summit, union is strength... I am learning"*.

- The organisations we accompany in Papua reported that we successfully met their needs when their risk increased substantially in the first half of 2007. In this period we undertook 30 accompaniments in often very remote areas, inaccessible by road.
- In partnership with Protection International we facilitated two rounds of workshops for 46 participants from 28 different organisations, on Mainstreaming Protection for Human Rights Defenders in Jakarta, Aceh and Papua. Those who attended, from 14 regions of Indonesia, said that it had increased their security awareness and their capacity to protect themselves, their organisations and those they work with.
- We contributed to the protection of human rights defenders by making regular phone-calls to monitor the security of those facing potential threats, and holding 180 meetings with embassies, other international NGOs, the security forces and government officials to raise concerns about human rights and to increase our own profile and that of human rights defenders.

Who we protect

KontraS (Commission for Disappearances and Victims of Violence): campaigns for victims of violence, organises fact-finding missions, monitors demonstrations

Suciwati Munir: pursuit of justice by Suciwati, widow of Munir Said Thalib, formerly a leading human rights campaigner, murdered in 2004

SKP (Office for Justice and Peace of the Catholic Diocese in Jayapura): human rights advocacy & prevention of abuses

LP3BH: empowerment of local groups through human rights education & advocacy

YAPH & HAM: raising awareness, enforcing human rights law, reporting violations in mountainous areas of Wamena, Papua

PBHI (Legal Aid and Human Rights Association): human rights promotion & protection, advocacy for rights violations victims

WALHI (Friends of the Earth Indonesia): environmental sustainability and social transformation

FOKER: forum and capacity-building for local grassroots organisations

Deacon Pastor John Djonga: Catholic priest supporting the local community and indigenous Papuans in a remote, heavily-militarised area

BUK (United for Truth): solidarity network of groups of survivors of human rights abuses throughout Papua

Emanuel Goo: independent investigative journalist exposing violations of land rights, illegal practices and corruption in Papua

PBI Mexico

“In a context like Guerrero’s, where the law is worthless to the authorities and violence is the main characteristic, the presence and accompaniment of [PBI] is essential in order to carry out our work...”

Abel Barrera Hernandez, Director of The Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre

“...I would like to reiterate my and the Office’s recognition of the work members of Peace Brigades have carried out in the last seven years in the State of Guerrero and emphasise its importance.”

Liliana Valiña, interim representative in Mexico of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Context

Due to escalating violence throughout Mexico and after months of negotiations, in June 2008, President George Bush signed into law the so-called Merida Initiative, an aid package of US\$400 million in the form of military assistance, police equipment and other funds to combat organised crime and drug trafficking. This reinforces Mexico’s public security policy strategy based on militarisation and force against drug cartels. Unfortunately this has not yet resulted in increased security for the general population – Amnesty International has expressed concern at reports of torture, arbitrary detentions and killings during these operations. Felipe Calderón’s presidency has also been marked by a significant decrease in dialogue between civil society and the Mexican government, and an increase in the criminalisation of social activists.

PBI priorities

PBI focuses on Guerrero and Oaxaca, two states with large indigenous populations that are marginalised both economically and politically. These heavily militarised states are rich in natural resources much sought after for exploitation. Within this context we focus on four themes:

- Impunity and access to justice
- Indigenous rights
- Militarisation
- Natural resources and development projects

The activities of the organisations we accompany span several or all of these themes. For example, the Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre works where people often have to travel long distances on poor roads from their communities to public offices. This, together with a lack of financial



Launch of the special report, *Human Rights Defenders in the State of Guerrero* – Celsa Valdovinos (OMESP), Abel Barrera (Tlachinollan Human Rights Centre), Jamie Wick (PBI In-Country Coordinator), Obtilia Eugenio Manuel (OPIM) and Tita Radilla (AFADEM)

resources, linguistic difficulties, discrimination, and the poor functioning of the Mexican judicial system make access to justice slow, expensive, and inaccessible to a large majority of rural communities. The Centre’s cases include human rights violations by the army, and defence of communities opposing the controversial ‘La Parota’ hydroelectric dam project.

Infrastructure

Ten field volunteers based in Guerrero and Oaxaca, five paid staff in Mexico City, the USA and Europe, and three volunteer committee members.

Key achievements

- We expanded our work in the Costa Chica area by providing a weekly presence in Ayutla de los Libres, Guerrero. This strengthened our support for Me’Phaa indigenous communities in remote areas who have little contact with international human rights organisations. As a result of this increased presence, the Organisation of Indigenous Me’phaa People (OPIM) receives

increased protection, legitimacy, and increased access to government officials and decision-makers.

- We opened a new team in Oaxaca to enhance support to civil society organisations in a state where the human rights situation has dramatically deteriorated since 2006.
- We provided accompaniment to Radio Calenda, a community radio station with an indigenous audience, enabling it to provide some of the only independent coverage of Oaxaca's elections in August and October 2007, and to encourage listeners to engage in the political process by voting.
- We provided a series of three security workshops to ten organisations in Oaxaca who continue to suffer from harassment since the conflict in 2006.
- We published a special report, *Human Rights Defenders in the State of Guerrero*. Liliana Valiña, interim representative in Mexico of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, speaking at the report launch, commented that it "reflects the seriousness and commitment which Peace Brigades shows in its daily work... [and] records the voices of many who perhaps without PBI's accompaniment could not be heard or taken into account."

Examples of the kind of work that PBI has enabled

- Association of Relatives of the Detained, Disappeared and Victims of Human Rights Abuses (AFADEM) vice president Tita Radilla is based in Atoyac, Guerrero, where over 600 people disappeared during the Dirty War in the 1970s and 1980s. AFADEM works with their families, encouraging them to come forward and testify so that the perpetrators of the disappearances can be brought to justice. As a result of AFADEM's work, the case of Tita's father, who disappeared in 1974, has been taken up by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the first case from the Dirty War to be sent to an international court. As such, it could set an important precedent for similar cases, challenging the impunity, which currently surrounds them. AFADEM has said 'Before [PBI's] accompaniment we were very fearful about carrying out our work and there were many difficulties with authorities. Accompaniment helps us work with greater security and confidence.'
- The Organisation of Women Environmentalists in the Sierra de Petatlan (OMESP), Guerrero, is dedicated to environmental justice and the protection of native forests. Celsa Valdovinos Rios, the organisation's President, and her husband, campesino environmentalist Felipe Arreaga Sanchez, are internationally recognised for their activism to protect the region's forests from illegal logging. In 2005, the OMESSP received the Sierra Club's prestigious Chico Mendes Award. Despite this, Felipe Arreaga and various community members involved in OMESSP have faced assassination attempts, harassment, arbitrary legal persecution and incarceration. In 2005, Amnesty International declared Felipe Arreaga a prisoner of conscience when he was unjustly imprisoned – the charges were dropped ten months later. The persecution of environmentalists continues including the 2007

murder of an activist who reported over 100 cases of illegal logging. PBI's accompaniment enables OMESSP to continue its work in defence of local environmentalists and communities who seek to defend the natural resources their lives depend upon.

How PBI supports human rights defenders: Case Study

Cerezo Committee members Emiliana, Francisco and Alejandro Cerezo continue to work for the release of their brothers, Hector and Antonio, imprisoned since 2001, and for other political prisoners. During the second half of 2007, their security situation deteriorated – they received eight threats and security incidents accusing the Committee of having links to guerrilla groups, accusations that delegitimise the Committee's work.

In response, we activated our international support network. In Mexico City we organised a meeting between Francisco Cerezo and representatives from nine embassies to highlight the Committee's situation and persuade embassies to raise the issue with Mexican authorities, home governments and entities of the European Union. In the international arena, PBI country groups generated significant support from members of US Congress, foreign affairs departments, and high-level networks in Europe, the United States and Australia.

Following the activation, these threats ceased, and in early 2008 both Hector and Antonio Cerezo were transferred from a high security prison to a state-run prison in the state of Morelos where the living conditions are better and where family and friends can visit the inmates without the restrictions of federal prisons.

Who we protect

Francisco, Alejandro and Emiliana Cerezo Contreras, members of the Cerezo Committee: working for the release of prisoners of conscience and political prisoners

Organisation of Women Ecologists of the Sierra de Petatlan (OMESP): environmental protection

Organisation of the Indigenous Me'Phaa People (OPIM): indigenous rights of the Me'Phaa community

Tlacinollan Human Rights Centre: legal defence of cases affecting the Nava, Na'Saavi, Me'Phaa and mestizo communities of the "La Montaña" region in Guerrero

Tita Radilla Martinez, Vice-President of AFADEM (Association of Relatives of the Detained, Disappeared and Victims of Human Rights Abuses): investigation of forced disappearances during Mexico's "dirty war" of the 70's and 80's

Members of Radio Calenda, Oaxaca: independent community radio that broadcasts programmes of general and cultural interest for the local population.

PBI Nepal

“When Conflict Victims’ Committee (CVC) are in the field, they experience a lot of problems. When people speak out about what happened to them, they are faced with problems. Since PBI has begun accompanying CVC, they feel very different. They now feel that they can fully speak from their hearts and they will not be disrupted by anyone.”

Committee member of CVC

Context

Following the 2006 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the Maoists entered the political mainstream by joining the interim government in April 2007. A year later, they were elected the largest political party in the Constituent Assembly, which abolished the monarchy in its first session. The delay in these elections, and disagreements on the subsequent division of power, fuelled political instability and slowed implementation of the Peace Agreement.

PBI priorities

In Nepal, we accompany organisations working against impunity and for justice. According to Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OCHCR) impunity remains the greatest human rights challenge. Amnesty International reports that the Nepalese state has so far failed to address atrocities committed during the decade-long civil war. In addition, the security forces continue to commit human rights violations, such as rape and torture, and armed groups such as the Maoist Young Communist League (YCL), formed in early 2007, have carried out abductions, murder and extortion.

Human rights defenders throughout Nepal have reported threats and attacks by the security forces and these armed groups. Those working on sensitive issues such as disappearances and impunity are particularly vulnerable. In this difficult context PBI works to increase their security by providing protective accompaniment and undertaking political advocacy nationally and internationally. We are expanding our thematic focus to cover women’s rights and economic, social and cultural rights.

Infrastructure

Six field volunteers, three international support staff and seven volunteer committee members.

Achievements

- As part of our protection strategy in Nepal, we significantly developed our support network with international and local organisations, at both central and regional levels. We also increased our advocacy activities inside and outside Nepal.
- We increased our protective presence in south west Nepal, the most under-developed region and the most affected by the war. We conducted an exploratory



PBI volunteer accompanying Advocacy Forum lawyer as he interviews two detainees at a police station

mission to meet international and governmental organisations, thereby strengthening our networks in order to provide protection for the organisations we accompany who are located or have their regional offices there. The exploratory mission and subsequent visits confirmed the need for a stronger presence, which PBI is now providing.

- We contributed towards the development of the implementation of the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders in Nepal. We participate in the working group established by EU missions to review the situation of human rights defenders and the progress in implementation of the Guidelines.
- We have developed our protective presence in Kathmandu, at the request of two individuals at high risk, Jitman Basnet, a journalist and human rights lawyer and Ramdev Das, a reporter.

Who We Protect

Protective accompaniment of Advocacy Forum (AF)

Since October 2006, we have provided protective accompaniment to AF, considered by Human Rights Watch as one of Asia’s most respected and effective human rights organisations. In 2007, it awarded Mandira Sharma, AF’s co-founder, its prestigious Human Rights Defender Award, in recognition of her efforts to build and preserve civil society. AF works throughout the country on conflict-related human rights abuses on behalf of victims’ families including the investigation,

filing and prosecution of key cases related to torture, disappearances and extra-judicial killings.

PBI has developed a strong working relationship with AF and has accompanied their staff from their head office, four regional offices and seven district offices. AF says that PBI's presence offers security to their lawyers and facilitates the filing of cases and communication with the authorities – previously the police would fail to register cases AF brought before them, and threaten their lawyers. AF have broken new ground in filing the first case ever against an army officer for human rights violations in the south west of the country during the civil war – the disappearance of a schoolteacher.

Protective accompaniment of the Conflict Victims' Committee (CVC)

Since February 2007, we have accompanied the Bardiya Conflict Victims' Committee (CVC) which has over 200 members from the Tharu indigenous community, mainly women. Bardiya district has the highest number of disappearances in Nepal. CVC's aim is to establish the fate of their disappeared family members, bring perpetrators to justice and secure reparations. We have provided

regular protective accompaniment in Bardiya and Banke Districts, where CVC members face risks while organising committees and working on documentation. PBI's presence has not only enabled CVC to work in more security, but has also meant that victims and their relatives are more likely to provide testimonies.

An example of the kind of work that PBI's presence has enabled

In their work against torture, illegal detention and impunity, AF in Nepalgunj is monitoring the custody of detainees in the district's police post and detention centre. AF interviews detainees to gain an overview of their situation and to gather information on illegal detentions. AF believes that custody monitoring is an effective tool to prevent torture. They also promote and protect the constitutional rights of detainees, and increase their confidence in the police and judicial system. AF had previously been refused privacy for discussions with detainees, undermining the effectiveness of the monitoring process. However, with PBI's accompaniment and sustained advocacy, AF have been given the use of private rooms for their interviews.

Publications

An essential element of our accompaniment strategy is rigorous and nonpartisan analysis of the political situation as it affects the organisations and communities that we accompany. Our publications also contain information on the specific threats to human rights and the pressure authorities can exert to prevent human rights abuses. Our permanent presence in the countries where we have projects gives PBI unique access to this information.

Books

Unarmed Bodyguards: International accompaniment for the protection of human rights defenders by Liam Mahony and Enrique Eguren, Kumarian Press 1997. (Also available in Spanish and German) Drawing on the experience of PBI in Sri Lanka and Guatemala, this book presents the theory and practice of PBI's pioneering method of human rights protection – international accompaniment of those whose lives and work are threatened by violence.

For copies of the English version, contact PBI UK or PBI USA. For the Spanish version, PBI Spanish State and for the German version, PBI Germany.

Human Rights defenders under attack by Liam Mahony, PBI UK 2006. Provides an overview of the theoretical framework behind protective accompaniment and how PBI has put this into practice since 1981 in Guatemala, El Salvador, Sri Lanka, North America, Haiti, Colombia, Indonesia, Mexico and Nepal. Available from PBI UK.

Project publications

PBI Colombia: *ColomPBIa*, quarterly bulletin with news of the current situation in Colombia, issues affecting the

organisations we accompany and the work of the project in Colombia and internationally (English).

PBI Guatemala: Monthly Information Package with news of the current situation and team activities (Spanish).

Quarterly Bulletin with more in-depth analysis of the issues affecting the organisations we accompany (Spanish and English).

Special Reports: *Metal mining and human rights in Guatemala: the Marlin Mine in San Marcos*, September 2006; *El Peten*, April 2007; *10 years without war... waiting for peace: The state of compliance with the peace accord on strengthening civilian power and the role of the armed forces in a democratic society*, August 2007.

PBI Indonesia: Monthly Information Bulletin provides news on the current situation and team activities (English).

Documentary film: *We are not alone* about PBI's presence in Aceh (English and Bahasa Indonesian).

PBI Mexico: Monthly Paquete de Información with news of the current situation and team activities (Spanish).

Quarterly Bulletin with articles on national political context, and the work of Mexican human rights organisations and the PBI team (Spanish and English).

Special Report: *Human Rights Defenders in the State of Guerrero: cases of resistance and initiatives from civil society regarding the defence and promotion of fundamental rights in Guerrero*, May 2008 (Spanish, English, and German)

PBI Nepal: *Namaste*: monthly bulletin with news of the current political situation and the work of the team (English).

PBI website: www.peacebrigades.org

Expanding the scope of protective accompaniment

“I would like to thank PBI, because if it were not for their accompaniment my name would certainly be on the list.”

Eloyda Mejia, Association of Friends of Lake Izabal (ASALI), Guatemala, referring to a long list of her colleagues who have been murdered for protecting their communities. ASALI is campaigning against the damaging effects of nickel mining operations by a subsidiary of a Canadian company.

In 2007-8 we continued to work across PBI on key issues affecting the 40 organisations we accompany. These themes included impunity, human rights violations linked to economic interests, and the malicious criminal charges against human rights defenders.



Faces of the disappeared displayed at a march in Guatemala City calling for an end to impunity.

Photo: PBI

Impunity is a major obstacle to true and lasting peace. In all five field projects we protect relatives of the disappeared seeking justice and lawyers pursuing cases of human rights violations and addressing the conditions that sustain impunity. Our multi-layered approach includes:-

- Physical accompaniment in offices, courts and on trips to remote areas to enable lawyers to collect testimonies and victims' relatives to witness exhumations. For example, in Nepal we accompany Advocacy Forum lawyers to facilitate their work filing cases of human rights abuses and communicating with the authorities.
- Advocacy in country and internationally to support the organisations we accompany, to increase the pressure on governments to bring perpetrators to justice, and to promote an end to impunity. For example, PBI Guatemala participates in CIFCA (Copenhagen Initiative for Central America and Mexico), a network of European organisations that successfully pressed for the establishment of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG).
- Promoting links between the organisations we accompany and their counterpart organisations internationally. For example, PBI UK has built up a substantial support network among the UK legal profession. In August 2008 a delegation of 42 British lawyers visited Colombia as guests of the Colombian Association of Human Rights Defence Lawyers (ACADEUM)

Human rights violations associated with economic interests

A quarter of the organisations we accompany face repression and intimidation from national and international economic interests because of their work in defence of natural resources and land rights threatened by mining and logging operations and African palm oil plantations. We provided physical accompaniment, raised awareness internationally and helped environmental organisations build contacts globally. For example, over 100 people attended a PBI UK conference on the links between environmental issues and human rights. Ana Maria Lozano and Father Henry Soler from the Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP) spoke on the impact of African palm oil and logging in Colombia and Eloyda Mejia, (ASALI) on the impact of mining in Guatemala, alongside British environmentalists and other rights defenders. The conference provided both organisations with direct links to academics, lawyers and UK environmental networks that are able to offer them solidarity.

The bravery and persistence of victims' organisations and lawyers has resulted in ground-breaking successes such as that of the Association of Relatives of the Detained, Disappeared and Victims of Human Rights Abuses (AFADEM) in bringing the first case of human rights violations committed during Mexico's Dirty War to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, potentially creating a precedent for other cases. PBI's eight-year accompaniment has been essential to this achievement. Tita Radilla from AFADEM stated: 'International opinion is important to our government and for this reason when we are accompanied by an international organisation, they have to be more careful with us. For the families, if they know foreigners are accompanying them... it gives them greater peace of mind.'

Malicious criminal charges against human rights defenders

Human rights organisations, particularly in Latin America, have increasingly been subjected to unfounded accusations often based on false testimony and manipulated intelligence reports. This practice forces them to divert time, money, and energy from their human rights work. These charges can also jeopardise future support for human rights defenders, and increase their physical risk.

In Colombia the CIJP and the displaced communities it supports have been the targets of repeated prosecutions using the same false evidence. PBI has highlighted this issue with the international community through its publications and through meetings with embassies, foreign ministries, and international organisations. In this way, we highlight the issue, contribute to efforts to end the practice, and counter the stigmatisation of the human rights defenders.

Perspective of field volunteers

PBI accompaniment extends the boundaries of what is referred to as the 'international community' beyond governments, the UN, and humanitarian agencies. PBI volunteers are a bridge between threatened local activists and the outside world, and also between their home communities and the global struggle for peace and human rights. Volunteers represent the global network for human rights both when they are in the field, and also in the contribution they make after they return home.

Volunteers and security

When undertaking any accompaniment, particularly those where risks are high, PBI teams undertake a thorough analysis of the political situation and inform the army, police, and local authorities that PBI volunteers will be in the area. This high level of visibility signals to the authorities that they will be held accountable for anything that should happen to the volunteers or those they are accompanying. The embassies of the volunteers' home countries are also informed as a preventive measure. When undertaking an accompaniment, the volunteers have mobile phones (or satellite phones in remote areas) so they can communicate instantly with the teams and support offices. The teams in the field are backed up by an international support network that provides political weight to deter violence against the organisations we accompany or PBI volunteers.

Tomasz Krzyzowski, Sweden (Colombia Project)

"What I most like about PBI is its principle of non-interference, which means that volunteers do not try to change the political agendas of accompanied organisations. PBI's work responds to the protection needs of human rights NGOs and displaced communities without trying to change or influence their proposals and ideals."

Marielle Tonossi, Switzerland (Mexico Project)

"If I had to summarise this Mexican year, I would simply say that it was an extraordinary experience on both a human and professional level. Despite their daily



Marielle Tonossi accompanying Obdulia Balderas of ROGAZ (Network of Environmental Organisations & Groups of Zihuatenejo, Mexico)

difficulties, the discrimination, the pressures on them and the violence against them, the human rights defenders carry on their struggle for a fairer world day after day. Their example has made me stronger... on my return to Switzerland, I intend to continue to commit myself to supporting the activists on the ground, so that their voices can be heard..."

Guro Nilsen, Norway (Colombia Project)

"In Colombia I learned what it really means to work as part of a team. How to struggle for what I believe in, and ignore the unimportant things. I learned a great deal about security and protection, and I think this is what we do really well in PBI. I learned about war and peace, and what it is like for people to live within an armed conflict. I learned about displacement and the strength of human beings. I learned to detest seeing weapons in public spaces. I learned about hope."



Megan Ciotti accompanying human rights lawyer Yan Christian Warinussy

Megan Ciotti, UK (Indonesia Project)

"I joined PBI because I was keen to get involved in human rights work abroad, something I had been interested in for a long time. Two things attracted me to PBI particularly: the fact that accompaniment work is non-interventionist and respects the idea that local people have the best knowledge and resources to solve local problems; the nonviolence principle of PBI which includes the consensus decision-making model and non-hierarchical structure of the organisation."

- Total volunteers who served on PBI projects in 2007: 134
- Average number of volunteers in the field at any time: 66
- Volunteers came from the following 24 countries: Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA.
- Minimum time volunteers spent in the field: 1 year

Financial Report 2007*

Summary Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2007

	2007 USD	2006 USD
Incoming resources		
Donations from PBI Country Groups and Grants	3,686,685	3,266,015
Individual donations	43,316	63,429
Other incoming resources	79,545	70,503
Interest receivable	10,284	14,303
	3,819,830	3,414,250
Resources expended		
Field projects:		
Colombia	1,533,537	1,135,358
Guatemala	308,685	243,156
Indonesia	651,274	630,764
Mexico	289,664	220,413
Nepal	450,278	298,359
International Secretariat	223,568	150,322
	3,457,006	2,678,372
Net incoming resources for the year	362,824	735,878
Foreign Exchange Translation Gain	111,150	
Funds brought forward	1,195,847	459,969
Funds carried forward	1,669,821	1,195,847

Summary Balance Sheet at 31 December 2007

	2007 USD	2006 USD
FIXED ASSETS		
Tangible fixed assets	142,998	100,343
CURRENT ASSETS		
Debtors	876,317	196,800
Cash at bank and in hand	1,290,683	1,346,858
	2,167,000	1,543,658
CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	640,177	448,154
NET CURRENT ASSETS	1,526,823	1,095,504
NET ASSETS	1,669,821	1,195,847
FUNDS		
Project funds	1,291,849	947,387
International Secretariat	377,972	248,460
TOTAL FUNDS	1,669,821	1,195,847

International Council Statement

These accounts are not the statutory accounts but a summary of the information that appears in the full financial statements of Peace Brigades International, which have been subjected to an independent audit and an unqualified report. The International Council approved the full financial statements on 29 October 2008.

The Financial Summary may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the organisation. For further information the full Financial Statements including the auditor's report may be obtained from the PBI website: www.peacebrigades.org or from the PBI International Office in London.

Auditor's Statement on the Summary Accounts

We have examined the summary accounts set alongside.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Auditors

The Financial Summary is the responsibility of the PBI International Council. It is our responsibility to report to you on their consistency with the full accounts. Our report on the full accounts of Peace Brigades International includes information on the responsibilities of the International Council and the Auditor relating to the preparation and audit of the accounts and on the basis of our opinion of the accounts.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 1999/6 'The auditors' statement on the summary financial statements' issued by the Auditing Practices Board for use in the United Kingdom.

Opinion

In our opinion the summary accounts are consistent with the full accounts of Peace Brigades International for the year ended 31 December 2007.

Critchleys, Chartered Accountants, Registered Auditors November 2008.

* These financial statements do not include the accounts of PBI country groups. While recognition by PBI and use of the PBI name depends on each Country Groups adherence to PBI principles, PBI Country Groups are independent bodies that determine their own structure and are legally responsible for their own actions. For information on the accounts of Country groups see back cover for contact details.

Thanks to...

PBI would like to thank all those organisations who have made our work possible with their time, energy and financial contributions:

Institutional donors

Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional (AECI); Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament (ACCD); Alistair Berkley Charitable Fund; The Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust; Amnesty International – Americas Human Rights Defenders Program; Appletree Fund; Ayuntamientos españoles de Camargo, Palencia, Pamplona, Santander, Valladolid y Vitoria; A. W. 60 Charitable Trust; Basilian Fathers Human Development Fund (Canada); Bischofe Hildesheim; British Embassies in Indonesia and Nepal; Broederlijk Delen; The Bromley Trust; The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust; The Calpe Trust; Caja de Burgos; Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA); Canadian Auto Workers (CAW); Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD); Charities Aid Foundation; Christian Aid; Civil Peace Service/Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – Germany; Clifford Chance; CMC/AMA (Netherlands); Danish Embassy; Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland; Diakonia Sweden; Diakonisches Werk; Diocese Limburg and Hildesheim; Fairshare Foundation; Fons Català (Catalan Cooperation Agency); Fund for Nonviolence (USA); Fund for Global Human Rights; Fons Mallorqui de Solidaridad y Cooperacion; Foundation for Non-violence (France); Foundation Umverteilen; French Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Garden Court Chambers; German Federal Foreign Office; Gandhian Foundation, GFM; Gobierno de Cantabria; Government of Canton Vaud; Hannover Church; Herb Block Foundation (USA); HIVOS; ICCO; Intermon Oxfam; Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations/zivik, Germany; Ireland Aid; Kerkinactie; Lonely Planet; The Law Society Charity; Marmot Charitable Trust; Mental Health Programme, Italy; The Merry Trust; Misereor; Mugarik Gabe, Gobierno de Navarra; Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Oakdale Trust; Ole Hansen & Partners; Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU); Oxfam GB; Oxfam Solidarity; Overbrook Foundation (USA); Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation; Primate's World Relief Development Fund (Canadian Anglican Church); Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund; Project Counselling Service; Protestant Church Deanery; Radley Charitable Trust; Reed Smith Richards Butler; Rights and Democracy (Canada); Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation; SC And ME Morland's Charitable Trust; The Scurrah Wainwright Charity; Sigrid Rausing Trust; Simons Foundation; Sodepaz; Stichting Vluchteling; Stiftung Umverteilen; La Tavola Valdese (Italy); Tinsley Foundation (UK); Trocaire (Ireland); United Evangelical Mission (UEM) Wuppertal; W.F. Southall Trust; Weltwärtz.

“There are two privileges attached to a foreign passport in a conflict area. You can use it to board the next flight out of trouble. Or you can use it as a tool to help protect human rights.”

*Hans Ulrich Krause,
PBI volunteer.*

Felipe Arreaga Rios (Organisation of women ecologists of the Sierra de Petatlan (OMESP), Guerrero, Mexico accompanied by a PBI volunteer. Felipe and his wife Celsa Valdovinos have faced threats, intimidation and false imprisonment as a result of their work promoting women's rights and protecting the environment. Commenting on PBI's accompaniment of OMESSP since 2005 Felipe stated: “If PBI hadn't accompanied us we would be dead.”



Photo: PBI

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