

# Annual Review 2012

## peacebrigadesinternational

Promoting nonviolence and protecting human rights since 1981



## **Dear friends**

ur human rights work would not be possible without the support of committed volunteers, activists and supporters from across the world. In 2012 in partnership with others we celebrated some remarkable achievements including the establishment of a Mexican Human Rights Mechanism (see page 9); however we also saw first-hand that the need for our work remains as pressing as ever.

In 2012 PBI worked with more than 300 inspirational women and men risking their lives to defend the rights of others in Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Nepal. These courageous individuals are the motivation for everything we do.

PBI also carried out exploratory work in Kenya, Honduras and Indonesia – and we plan to expand these efforts in 2013.

We know, sadly, that human rights will continue to be violated in 2013 and PBI's mandate to open space for peace will remain vital. PBI will continue to work in support of people struggling to uphold human rights and social justice throughout 2013. Every donation we receive will make a positive difference to the lives of human rights defenders – so please consider pledging your support.

In peace,



Neena Acharya PBI President



# The following people served on PBI's International Council in 2012:

Neena Acharya (President), John Carlarne (Vice president), Michael Bluett (Secretary), Ellen Kaas (Treasurer), Juliana Cano Nieto (resigned April 2012), Paola Carmagnani, Annette Fingscheidt (resigned December 2012), Diane Hendrik, Guro Nilsen, Gary Ockenden.

Cover photo PBI volunteers observe a community police celebration, Guerrero State, Mexico



Peace Brigades International (PBI) envisions a world in which people address conflicts nonviolently, where human rights are universally upheld and social justice and respect for other cultures have become a reality. We believe that enduring peace and lasting solutions to conflicts cannot be achieved by violent means.

PBI works in countries where communities experience violent conflict, intimidation or repression. We always work at the request of defenders and in response to their needs. We are convinced that lasting transformation of conflicts cannot come from outside, but must be based on the capacity and desires of local people. We avoid imposing, interfering or getting directly involved in the work of the people we accompany. We don't provide financial support or development aid to the organisations we work with. Our work is effective because we take an integrated approach, combining a presence on the ground alongside human rights defenders with an extensive network of international support.

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## What we do

uman rights defenders – courageous people who stand up for the rights and dignity of their communities because they believe in peace and justice for all – are at the heart of all we do at PBI.

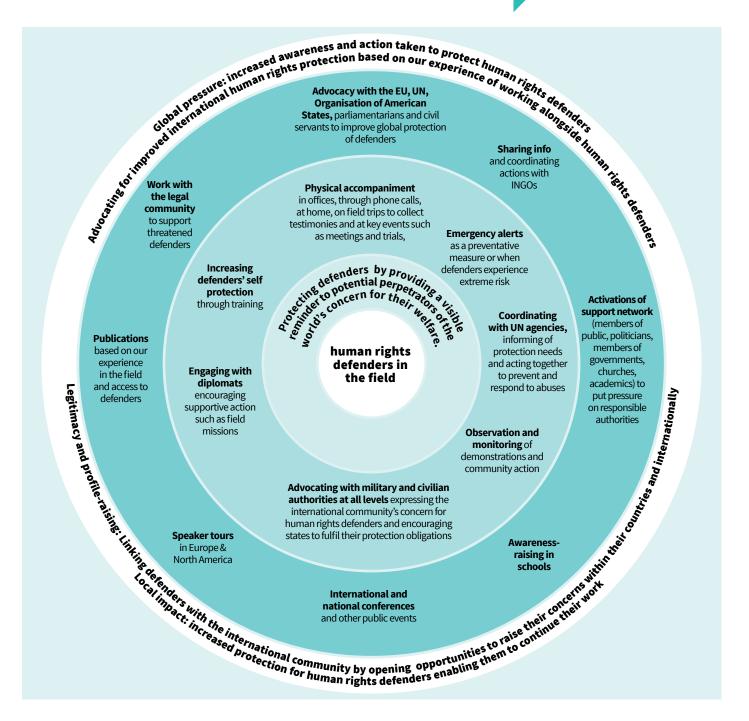
We provide protection, support and recognition to local human rights defenders who work in areas of repression and conflict and have requested our support. We help

human rights defenders make links with others and raise awareness of the issues they face.

We advocate at all levels – from the soldier at a local check point to national governments and international bodies such as the UN – for international human rights accountability. Our international volunteers send a powerful message that the world is watching and prepared to act.

"PBI's protection has helped ensure there are no more murders of members of our organisations"

FRANKLIN CASTAÑEDA
President of the Political Prisoners
Solidarity Committee (FCSPP), Colombia



# 2012 in numbers

n 2012 PBI provided protection and support to **130 women** and **183 men** human rights defenders from **54 organisations**. Between them, these organisations supported thousands of women, men and children who have been denied their basic rights – from being forcibly evicted from their land, to seeing family members "disappeared", to suffering torture and rape at the hands of the armed forces.

PBI provided **1,365 days of physical accompaniment** to human rights defenders in 2012.

We **visited accompanied organisations and individuals 1,343 times** during 2012. These visits and meetings provide moral support and practical advice and range from checking on defenders' wellbeing to providing help with responses to specific security incidents.

We also made **hundreds of phone calls to defenders** to check on their whereabouts and safety.

We **monitored 52 demonstrations** providing a peaceful international presence and helping participants feel more confident about exercising their right to protest peacefully and reducing the potential for violence.

On request from human rights organisations, we ran or hosted **48** workshops attended by **388** women and **309** men human rights defenders, providing security training and enabling them to take preventative action and to cope with constant stress and psychological pressure.

We expressed our concern for human rights defenders in **433 meetings with government, local and regional authorities**, urging officials to uphold their commitments to protect human rights in Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Nepal.

We released **more than 35 information bulletins and videos** featuring interviews,
news updates and background information
on the defenders we work with and the
issues they are tackling. We also sent detailed
information on the human rights situation
to members of our support network each
month. Our unique access to information, our
rigorous analysis and our objectivity are key
elements in the effectiveness of the protection

We activated our emergency support

#### PHYSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT Chortí New Day Campesino Association, Guatemala

Chortí New Day provides advice and training services to rural communities in Eastern Guatemala, high risk activities in a region dominated by mega projects. Members of Chortí New Day requested PBI accompaniment regularly in 2012, and PBI made monthly visits to communities who participate in Chortí New Day. PBI played a key role in observing information and "collective consultation" processes aiming to help ensure that communities exercised their right to free, prior and informed consent. We provided 22 days accompaniment to Chortí New Day in 2012.



## WORKSHOPS Training for human rights defenders in Colombia

We trained 229 women and 164 men human rights defenders in Colombia in 2012.
Workshops were delivered at the request of

defenders and in response to their needs. In 2012, much of our training focused on security. We shared our risk analysis tools, provided practical help and advice tailored to defenders' specific needs and supported them to develop their own long-term security policy and emergency response strategies.





## EMERGENCY ACTIVATION Alba Cruz, Codigo-DH, Mexico

Alba Cruz is a human rights lawyer and the coordinator of Codigo-DH in Oaxaca State, one of the poorest and most underdeveloped states in Mexico, with a large, highly marginalised, indigenous population. Codigo-DH offers legal aid, psychological support and medical attention to victims of human rights violations, as well as promoting access to justice and challenging impunity.

In May 2012, Alba and other defenders that PBI works with in Oaxaca State received threatening telephone calls. In response, PBI launched an emergency activation to put pressure on National and Federal Government. PBI provided detailed information about Alba's situation to key audiences including diplomatic staff, parliamentarians, activists and government authorities. We expressed our concern and

urged those responsible to fully investigate the threats she had received and ensure her security, and we asked others to lobby for her safety and security. Various embassies including the European Union expressed their concern to the Oaxacan and Mexican authorities and organisations including the Washington Office on Latin America lobbied with us on Alba's behalf. Following this activation there was some improvement in the protection measures that Alba has received since 2007, and the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL) and the Mexican Government

invited PBI to conduct a risk analysis which will include recommendations for improved protection.

PBI Mexico publicly expressed its concern about the situation for defenders in Oaxaca, including at the United States House of Representatives and at a photography exhibition marking the launch of the Mexican Government's new Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders and Journalists, which gained media coverage. We also arranged for Alba to visit Europe and the United States to garner further support for her work.

**networks 15 times** in response to the most pressing and serious issues being faced by the defenders we accompany.

We attended 775 meetings with the diplomatic corps, UN and other international agencies and local, national and international organisations and coalitions to raise concerns about the safety of human rights defenders, provide information on the effectiveness of protection and preventative measures and propose ways in which policy and practice could be improved.

We organised **speaker tours for 13** women and 13 men human rights defenders, enabling them to travel to Europe and North America to raise international awareness about, and support for, their important work. These tours empowered defenders to develop and build relationships with key allies ranging from parliamentarians to grassroots activists, and gain much needed political, moral and financial support.

In 2012 we also researched the situation for human rights defenders on the ground in Honduras, Indonesia and Kenya to find out whether and how PBI could best support defenders at risk in these countries.

#### SPEAKER TOUR Shyam Shah, Nepal

Shyam Kumari Shah, chairperson of Mukti Nepal, works in Eastern Nepal on cases such as witchcraft accusation, domestic violence as well as rape, dowry demands and polygamy. She conducts fact finding missions, legal awareness programmes at the grassroots level, and organises events that encourage dialogue among victims, police, media and human rights organisations. In providing justice to victims and working continuously for the protection of human rights on the grassroots level, she faces serious risk. In recognition of her work, Shyam received the Human Rights Prize from the Embassy of France in Nepal in January 2012. PBI arranged a speaking tour for Shyam in October 2012 to Germany, the Netherlands and the UK. In Germany Shyam participated in a PBI conference and meetings with MPs from key political parties, the Deputy President of the Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid Commission and members of a network of INGOs working for Nepal. In the Netherlands Shyam met representatives from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Dutch Parliament,



Shyam Shah at a PBI Conference "Women as Human Rights Defenders in the resolution of conflicts", Germany

INGOs and funding agencies. She spoke at an awareness-raising event organised by PBI Netherlands and a Dutch national newspaper published an article about her. In the UK Shyam was a speaker at a conference on Women Human Rights Defenders organised by PBI together with Gender Action for Peace and Security, Womankind Worldwide and Amnesty International. The conference was attended by representatives from the UK Government, the UN and the EU as well as women human rights defenders from 11 different countries. While in the UK Shyam received training on UN Mechanisms to protect women human rights defenders and attended a workshop on wellbeing and security. She also attended as a guest of honour to a PBI UK / Alliance for Lawyers at Risk patrons and donors event at the House of Lords.

# Where we work



Indonesia

PBI monitored the situation for human rights defenders in Indonesia, particularly Papua, in 2012. We conducted in-depth research into the feasibility of returning to Indonesia, and how we might be able to support defenders. In 2013 PBI will be working with an established NGO in Jakarta to develop a protection and capacity building programme in support of Papuan defenders. Further info on page 13

#### Kenva

In 2011-12 PBI carried out an in-depth assessment of the situation for human rights

defenders. In 2012 we published a public report on our findings and took steps to establish the first PBI field presence in Africa. Our project in Kenya opened in January 2013, with four experienced field volunteers supported by an in-country coordinator and PBI's international office.

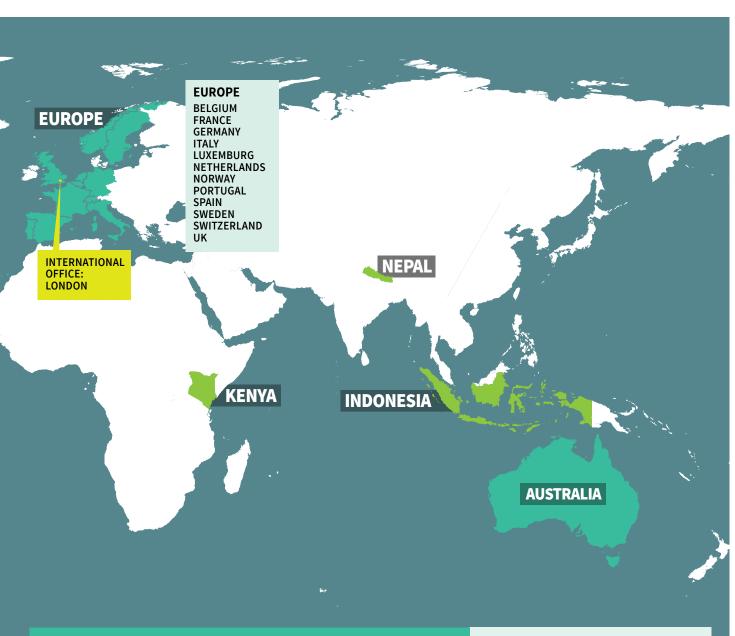
Further info on page 12

#### Mexico

In 2012, nine international volunteers accompanied 64 defenders working on impunity, indigenous rights and environmental protection. In 2013, 10 volunteers will be based in three field teams in Mexico City, Oaxaca and in the north of the country covering the states of Chihuahua and Coahuila.

#### Nepal

10 international volunteers provided a range of support to 40 defenders, including accompaniment, training, field consultations and round table events. In response to the increasing influence of China and India in Nepal and the changing needs of defenders we also undertook a strategic review in 2012. As a result, in 2013 PBI will maintain a small project in Kathmandu to monitor the political and human rights situation, help defenders build capacity to meet their own protection and support needs through networking and advocacy with the international community. Further info on page 13



### **Country Groups**

Germany

Argentina Italy Switzerland
Australia Luxemburg Sweden
Belgium Netherlands UK
Canada Norway USA
France Portugal

**Spain** 

#### **PBI Country Groups**

Without country groups, PBI would be unable to offer international protective accompaniment to human rights defenders and would have limited international support or impact. Country groups find, train and support our international volunteers. They raise funds for our field projects. They develop links with elected officials, embassy staff, lawyers, judges, academics, NGOs, churches, community groups and individuals to support human rights defenders. Country groups raise awareness of human rights abuses and advocate for action by the international community.

# **Advocacy highlights**

n 2012, PBI field volunteers worked in Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Nepal – all countries where human rights defenders face threats, intimidation, harassment, arrest, detention, persecution, torture and death because of their beliefs and actions. And, just as crucially, we used detailed and accurate information from defenders on the ground to raise awareness with the international community and contribute to making the world a safer place for those brave individuals who stand up for the rights of others, often at great personal cost to themselves.

These pages illustrate just some of the highlights of our advocacy work, carried out by PBI country groups and PBI field projects working in partnership, in 2012.

#### **Conferences and awareness-raising**

PBI country groups organised speaker tours for 26 human rights defenders in 2012. PBI country groups organised a conference and a round table focusing on support for women human rights defenders (WHRDs), in the UK and Germany respectively as well as a seminar on criminalisation in Spain in 2012.



Throughout the year, PBI country groups and projects held high-level meetings with Government officials, members of parliament, representatives of the EU and the UN as well as participating in various Human Rights coalitions.

PBI country groups ran events to raise awareness about human rights defenders and the issues they face. PBI Germany organised 28 public events on topics from land rights to impunity, as well as a series of workshops featuring puppet theatre. PBI Germany reached over 7,000 children, young people and adults with these educational activities. Awareness-raising in the Netherlands included holding two "Human Rights Cafes" with human rights defenders and information stalls at four other events.

#### PBI UK Conference Women Human Rights Defenders: Empowering and Protecting the Change Makers

PBI UK's conference on 24 October 2012 brought together women human rights defenders (WHRDs) from Afghanistan, Colombia, Iran, Kenya, Mexico and Nepal with professionals working in the fields of human rights, government, law and academia, including representatives of the EU and UN. Its aims were to recognise the work of WHRDs and seek practical ways in which existing mechanisms can be strengthened to support this work – both by empowering WHRDs and by creating avenues to enhance their protection. The conference helped to increase understanding of the issues facing WHRDs, and strengthened PBI's relationship with the EU and the British Government. Issues raised in the conference were brought to a roundtable in Parliament on 25 October organised by the All Party Parliamentary



Group on Woman, Peace, and Security.
As a direct result of this conference and lobbying from PBI and GAPS UK, the British government have included "Women Human"

Rights Defenders" as a category in their new Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI) to be launched when the UK assumes the G8 presidency in 2013.



#### Lawyers' delegations

A number of PBI country groups work closely with lawyers who identify with their fellow professionals who suffer threats, abuse and even death in the course of their work. In 2012, PBI country groups organised a number of delegations for lawyers. Members of PBI UK's Alliance for Lawyers at Risk network travelled to Colombia to work with Colombian lawyers investigating the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. PBI USA's National Lawyers Committee on Human Rights worked with American Bar Association Human Rights Association on letters of support for Colombian, Guatemalan and Mexican defenders. A group of lawyers visited Mexico to provide advice and support to Oaxacan Human Rights activists, visiting with high level Mexican contacts, NGOs and defenders, and receiving Mexican press coverage.

"I draw inspiration from the defenders PBI accompanies, and support their struggles for justice by helping them devise regional advocacy initiatives, strengthening their international law arguments, raising awareness, and consolidating political support for them in the United States."

DAVID BALUARTE, Law Professor and Founding Member of PBI USA's National Lawyers Committee on Human Rights

## A new protection mechanism for Mexico: "a triumph for civil society"

Mexican human rights defenders have expressed the need for a protection mechanism for many years. Defenders face extreme risk in carrying out their work in defence of human rights and Mexico is the most dangerous country in the Americas to be a journalist. For several years defenders and civil society organisations have been working together, and more recently with Mexican senators, to make protection for defenders and journalists a reality. PBI has supported Mexican defenders throughout this important process. In 2012 we worked with Mexican organisations and with embassies and other members of our international support network, to ensure that positive developments throughout the year were encouraged and endorsed.

On 30 April 2012 the Mexican Congress unanimously approved the Law for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists. This followed the development of a protection mechanism by the Mexican Ministry of the Interior in March. The April law gives the mechanism important legislative grounding – providing continuity regardless of political developments in the country. The mechanism itself is designed to coordinate the responses of different Governmental departments responsible for the protection of human rights defenders. A protection mechanism unit will provide urgent response measures, including relocation, within 72 hours of a request for assistance and other protection measures for cases considered "less urgent". Crucially, the mechanism will be supported by a consultative council of four defenders, four journalists and an academic, helping to ensure views of defenders on the ground continue to be heard. The official inauguration of the Mexican Protection Mechanism took place in November 2012.

PBI is proud to have played a part in achieving this important victory for human rights in Mexico. However, it is clear that serious challenges remain – particularly regarding implementation. The protection mechanism unit needs to be resourced sufficiently by the Mexican State. Coordination between federal and national authorities, often completely lacking, needs to be strengthened as the mechanism will rely upon this. Dialogue between the Mexican state, defenders and journalists, essential to this process, needs to be maintained throughout the life of the mechanism.

On the International Day of Human Rights in December 2012, PBI launched the video "The Duty to Protect" and organised the forum "The duty of the Mexican state to guarantee the security of human rights defenders and journalists" to encourage effective implementation. The Under Secretary for Legal Affairs and Human Rights Lía Limón García, representing the new Mexican Government, participated in the panel discussion alongside defenders. She committed the administration to an effective implementation of the Mechanism and to maintain dialogue with civil society organisations. PBI will continue to play a vital role in supporting Mexican defenders to drive this process forward in 2013.

### **New developments**

# **Latin America**

BI has worked in Latin America for 30 years and has maintained a strong commitment to supporting at risk defenders in various countries across the

continent during this time. In 2012, we worked in Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico and conducted field research into the situation for defenders on the ground in Honduras. We

always work at the request of defenders and in response to their needs, and adapt our work accordingly. These pages describe new developments in our work in Latin America in 2012.

#### Colombia

According to the International Office for Human Rights Action on Colombia (OIDHACO), attacks against defenders increased in 2012 compared to the previous two years. Defenders working on peace processes and land restitution cases were among those identified as particularly at risk. Twenty-nine defenders were killed, thirteen of whom were leaders of indigenous communities.

PBI has worked in Colombia since 1994. Human rights defenders in and around Medellin had received support from a volunteer team based in the city since 2001. Over the eleven years of PBI's presence, defenders' capacity to protect themselves had increased. After consultation we closed our office but continued providing support as and when needed. Based on in-depth research carried out in 2011 that indicated a strong need for our presence, we opened a new volunteer team in Cali in 2012.

Throughout 2012 we provided extensive support to defenders in the south western Cauca region from our Cali office. We provided protective accompaniment to the Jose Alvear



Restrepo Lawyers' Collective (CCAJAR) in the Río Anchicayá case, Colombia's first major environmental justice legal case involving traditional Afro-Colombian communities and the Pacific Energy Company. We also accompanied members of the Association for Social Investigation and Research (NOMADESC) during peace negotiations between indigenous

communities in the region and the Colombian Government, providing protection and support to all the organisations involved. In August, we were present at an official meeting where indigenous communities from across Colombia formulated proposals for a peace agreement with the Colombian Government.

#### Guatemala

In 2012, the Unit for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders (UDEFEGUA) registered 305 acts of aggression against human rights defenders, sixty percent of which were against defenders of indigenous rights, the environment and sustainable development.

PBI worked in Guatemala between 1983 and 1999 and returned in 2002. We have been supporting human rights defenders in the country ever since. Many of the defenders we work with put their lives on the line to support vulnerable communities, and aim to ensure the rights of indigenous communities challenging powerful multinational corporations and economic interests are upheld.

In 2012, PBI received a request for



support from the La Puya Peaceful and Legal Resistance Movement, made up of more than 500 community members protesting against the development of a gold mine in the La Puya region. Community members were not informed or consulted and despite repeated requests, the government did not disclose the existence of the mining license until well after it was granted. Community members

exercised their right to peacefully protest by blocking the entrance to the development. Since the start of their blockade in March 2012, members of the organisation have been intimidated and threatened, and an attempt was made on the life of Yolanda Oquelí, who was shot on leaving the blockade in June. PBI began formally accompanying the movement in November 2012, following a thorough assessment. PBI provided international accompaniment while over 100 ex-army employees of the company regularly attempted to intimidate and provoke the protesters during November and December. We were also present at the first roundtable discussion convened by the Guatemalan Government's National Permanent Dialogue (SNDP) in December and will continue to provide support to the Movement in 2013.



#### Honduras

Since the coup in 2009, the situation for human rights defenders in Honduras has deteriorated dramatically. Honduras is one of the most dangerous places in the world, according to the United Nations.

In 2010 PBI was asked by Honduran defenders to establish an international accompaniment and observation project and since then we have been working hard to investigate the situation for defenders and provide support to them. We carried out field research in Honduras in May 2011 and more recently in September 2012. In 2012, we met with journalists, judges, workers from human rights organisations, indigenous and small-farmers movements, women's organisations and trade unions. The committed women and men we spoke with talked about the danger and grave threats they face.

Many defenders and others we

"We really need high profile accompaniment from an organisation like PBI to guarantee our safety and ensure we can continue with our work in defence of human rights."

Honduran defender, 2012

spoke to such as embassy staff felt that the presence of PBI volunteers on the ground, and the activation of our extensive international support networks, could have a tangible impact and enable human rights defenders to continue with their work. We published a report on the situation for human rights defenders in Honduras, based on our work in 2012, and plan to open a protective accompaniment project in the country in 2013-14.

#### Mexico

Mexican human rights defenders face risks ranging from death threats by telephone to attacks, criminalisation, murder and disappearances. According to the Cerezo Committee, 29 extra-judicial executions and 38 enforced disappearances were reported between January 2011 and May 2012.

PBI has worked in Mexico since 1999. In recent years, we have received more and more requests for support from defenders in different regions. As a result in 2012 PBI conducted desk-research and undertook interviews with NGOs and authorities. We looked at the political and security situation in each place, as well as the risks local defenders' face and whether (and which) means of support and international presence were already available to help mitigate them. Based on this research, we selected five states where defenders face high risks, where the presence of the international community was clearly needed and where the security situation for an international human rights organisation with PBI's expertise could be manageable. We then travelled to these five states - Baja California, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Estado de México and Puebla - to talk to



defenders and others, and get a better idea of the situation and needs on the ground.

In 2013, PBI will open a volunteer team in the northern states of Chihuahua and Coahuila. This field team will offer protective accompaniment to women and men defenders who work with some of the most vulnerable populations in Mexico including migrants, survivors of gender-based violence, the families of disappeared persons and others challenging militarisation and abuse of authority.

# New developments **Africa**

#### Kenya

PBI works in countries where communities are experiencing violent conflict, intimidation or repression and where human rights defenders face grave and serious threats to their work. In Kenya, where the majority of the population live below the poverty threshold of US\$1 a day, human rights violations are widespread. PBI went to Kenya to talk to human rights defenders at the end of 2011 to find out what their protection needs were, and whether protective accompaniment would be effective in the country.

#### Risks

In Kenya, local human rights defenders are, for example, combating impunity and advocating for equal rights for women, LGBTI communities and those living in extreme poverty in slum-dwellings. Their work exposes them to threats including surveillance, having offices raided or burgled and computers hacked, and being arbitrarily arrested particularly during peaceful demonstrations, often accompanied by the denial of bail or demands for bribes. Women defenders (WHRDs) working in the slums of Nairobi face rape and other forms of

sexual violence. LGBTI persons are routinely harassed by police, detained without due process, blackmailed, and subjected to violence. In addition to direct attacks, more sophisticated methods of obstruction are being used, including criminalisation of defenders through unfounded charges. These conditions of repression and fear can hamper or even prevent the work of Kenyan defenders completely.

## "I am not safe, and those I am defending are not safe"

Woman human rights defender from the slums of Nairobi

#### **Protection needs**

Kenyan defenders told us they would welcome a PBI presence in their country. We could help support them to build and develop networks, create international and regional links, and we could raise awareness of their stories and encourage their broad recognition by the international community. They told us they would like security training

and follow-up support with this. All those we met with were open to protective accompaniment.

#### **Elections: increased risk for defenders**

Presidential elections in December 2007 triggered long-standing tensions and reignited a cycle of electoral violence in Kenya. Ethnic violence erupted across the country, involving killings, sexual violence, vandalism and looting. More than 1,100 people were killed, thousands injured, and some 350,000 displaced. There is a danger that presidential elections in 2013 could once more lead to an increase in violence and repression.

#### PBI in Kenya in 2013

PBI has decided to launch its first ever field programme in Africa at this crucial time, with the establishment of a project in Kenya in January 2013. We hope that a small group of experienced field volunteers, backed by our extensive network of international supporters, will be able to make a real difference to Kenyan defenders at risk in 2013. In addition, PBI will research the feasibility of PBI providing support to defenders in Kenya and surrounding countries over the longer-term.



## New developments

## Asia

#### Indonesia

PBI worked in Indonesia from 2001 to early 2011. Since then, PBI has continued to monitor the situation for defenders, particularly in Papua, and provided opportunities for them to share their experiences and build links with the international community. In 2012 PBI found an increased level of fear and greater sense of instability in Papua.

In September 2012 PBI travelled to Indonesia to assess whether and how we could provide support to defenders in 2013 and beyond. We met with grassroots Papuan activists as well as NGOs, INGOs and diplomats. We also organised a training workshop in Jakarta for Papuan defenders. This focused on IT security, increasing awareness of the importance of secure communications and helping develop strategies to minimise risks in these areas. In the safe environment provided, thousands of kilometres away from Papua, defenders were able to openly discuss their situation and needs with PBI.

Papuan defenders asked PBI to help them gain skills—to conduct



effective monitoring, documenting and reporting and to link them to national and international advocacy and protection networks. They said that their weaknesses in these areas affected their ability to offer carry out their work effectively. In 2013 PBI will work in partnership with a local human rights organisation to develop a project in Indonesia to meet these needs.

#### Nepal

PBI has worked in Nepal since 2005, when the country was emerging from a ten year civil war which left 13,000 people dead and around 1,500 disappeared. Since then national and international actors have pushed for the conclusion of a protracted peace process and an end to longstanding political stalemate. Meanwhile there has been no justice for those who have suffered human rights violations. This climate puts Nepali human rights defenders at great risk. Those combatting entrenched impunity or challenging social and cultural norms are particularly vulnerable.

In 2012, PBI supported Nepali women and men human rights defenders through security workshops, roundtables bringing together local human rights organisations and authorities, and through protective accompaniment. PBI also researched and produced a report and short film on the



situation of women human rights defenders, highlighting the particular challenges and obstacles that they face.

In 2011-12 Nepali human rights defenders' needs were changing. In addition, it became more difficult for international organisations including PBI to meet high level government officials. It thus became harder for us to relay the experiences of defenders and concerns of the international community to the Nepali Government, a key element of protective accompaniment. In 2012 we spoke to human rights defenders and a range of other stakeholders to find out how we could best support Nepali defenders in this new context. This research formed the basis of our plans for 2013.

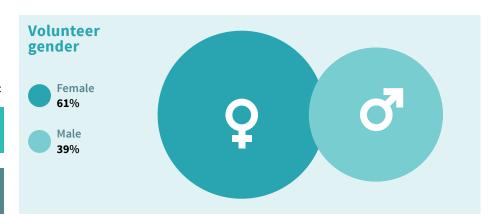
In 2013 PBI will support Nepali human rights defenders aiming to ensure that defenders develop the tools and networks to better protect themselves. We will also carry out international advocacy activities and explore how we might be able to support defenders in Nepal in the longer term.

# Our volunteers and supporters

n 2012, PBI was supported by a total of 482 volunteers, who worked in our field programmes, at our country groups and in our international office and secretariat:

381 volunteers provided support to 16 PBI Country Groups and our International Secretariat in 2012.

101 field volunteers provided protection to 313 human rights defenders in the field in 2012.



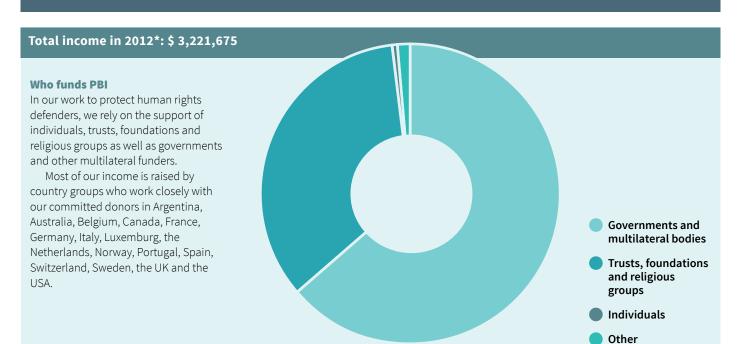


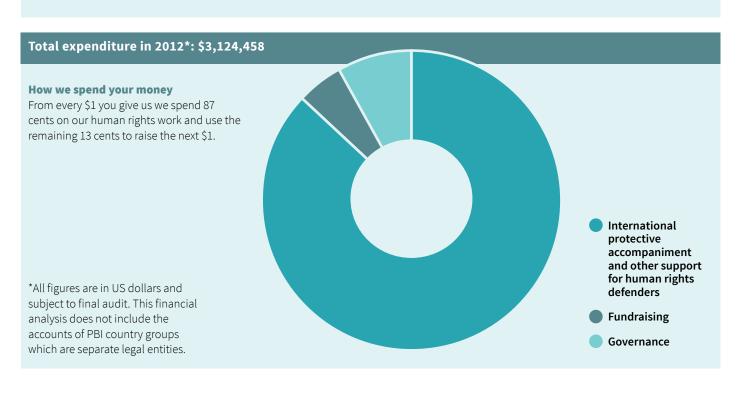
e would like to thank the many organisations and individuals who made generous contributions to our work in 2012, including:

Agencia Catalana de Cooperación al Desarrollo; Amnesty International Australia; Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID); Ayuntamiento de Barcelona; Ayuntamiento de Pamplona; Ayuntamiento de Santander; Ayuntamiento de Valladolid; Basilian Fathers Human Development Fund; Berti Wicke Foundation; Bread for the World; Broederlijk Delen; Canadian Auto Workers Social Justice Fund (CAW); Catholic Church Pieterlen-Lengnau; Christian Aid; Civil

Peace Service; Diputación de Valladolid; European Union - European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights; Fair Share Foundation; Fédération vaudoise de coopération (FEDEVACO); Fondo Cantabria Coopera; Fribourg Solidarity; Fund for Nonviolence; German Federal **Ministry for Economic Cooperation and** Development (BMZ); German Federal Foreign Office; Gobierno de Navarra -Mugarik Gabe; Hartstra Foundation; ICCO and Kerk in Actie; Iglesia Valdés; Institute for Foreign Cultural Relations (ifa), zivik programme (Civil Conflict Resolution); Intermon-AECID; International Youth Volunteer Service (IJFD); International Solidarity Service - Switzerland Canton Geneva; Irish Aid - Civil Society Fund; Maya Behn-Eschenburg Foundation; Mensen met een Missie; Misereor; Municipality Plan-les-Ouates; Municipality of Renens; Municipality Wallisellen; Non Violence XXI; Oxfam Solidarité/ Solidariteit; Protestant Church St. Gallen-Tablat; Swedish Amnesty Fund; Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs; Switzerland Canton Bern; Switzerland Canton Vaud; The British Embassies in Mexico and Nepal/ Foreign and Commonwealth Office; The Canadian Embassy in Mexico; The Dutch Embassy in México; The Foreign Ministry of Norway; The Norwegian Embassy in Mexico; The Overbrook Foundation; The Sigrid Rausing Trust; The Tolkien Trust; United Evangelical Mission; weltwaerts

Without hundreds of dedicated individuals and organisations who support us with their time, energy and financial contributions our human rights work would not be possible. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to PBI.







### peacebrigadesinternational

Promoting nonviolence and protecting human rights since 1981 **www.peacebrigades.org** 

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