



Annual Report 2018

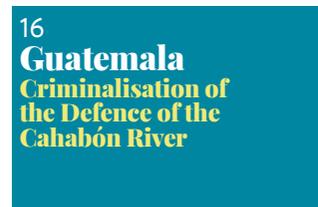
peacebrigadesinternational



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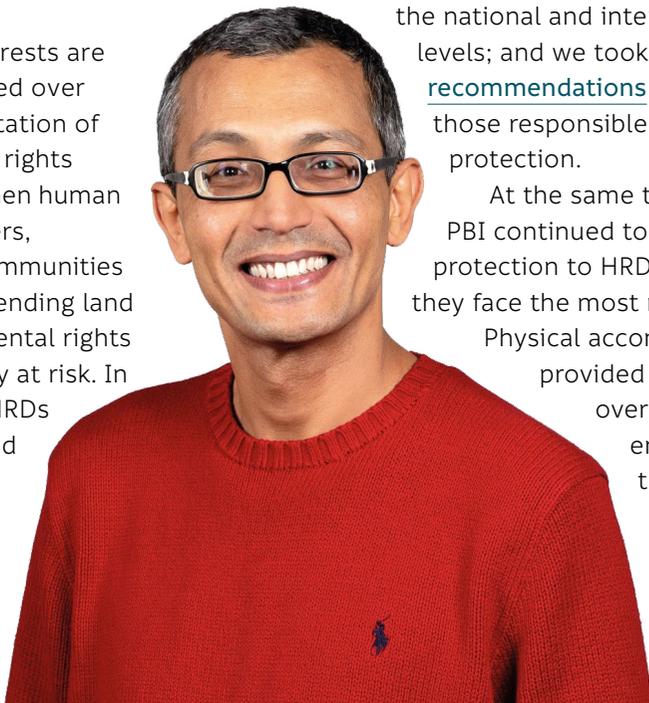
Cover photo

Volunteer from
PBI Honduras



Dear friends,

Whilst we recognize and celebrate the advances made by the global human rights movement over the 20 years since [UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders](#), challenges remain. PBI is deeply concerned about the grave risk faced by many HRDs around the world. The same judicial systems that fail to bring their aggressors to justice are quick to criminalize defenders themselves. Laws that restrict freedom of expression and association are enacted in the name of national security, and economic interests are often prioritized over the implementation of robust human rights systems. Women human rights defenders, indigenous communities and those defending land and environmental rights are particularly at risk. In this context, HRDs themselves and the role of international civil society in providing



protection and support to ensure that their work can continue are more important than ever.

To respond to this context, in 2018 PBI began implementation of an ambitious global strategic plan that focuses on drawing attention to the situation of HRDs around the world, and ensuring that they are able to access the necessary protection measures to continue and expand their vital work. We organized [global](#) and [regional](#) spaces for exchange between defenders from different countries and contexts and [meetings](#) between HRDs and key actors at the national and international levels; and we took their [recommendations](#) directly to those responsible for their protection.

At the same time, PBI continued to provide protection to HRDs where they face the most risk.

Physical accompaniment provided by PBI to over 1,000 HRDs ensured they could continue and

expand their work. We advocated for the protection of defenders through over 1,100 meetings with civil and military authorities in the countries where HRDs work, as well as with representatives from third countries and multilateral bodies. We called attention to the situation and protection needs of HRDs and amplified their voices through 400 events and publications. And we provided opportunities for over 2,500 HRDs to participate in capacity development activities.

As always, PBI's work in 2018 would not have been possible without the support of our dedicated staff, volunteers and donors around the world. We extend our heartfelt thanks to you and hope that, together, we can continue to support and accompany defenders in 2019.

In solidarity,

FATHI ZABAAR
President
International Council

International Council members 2018

Fathi Zabaar (President)
Erika Zarate (Vice President)
Elly Kaas (Treasurer)
Shane Guthrie (Secretary)
Sonia Di Mezza
Christen Dobson
Marianne Bertrand
Denise Cauchi
Ana Sánchez Mera

2018 in Numbers

PBI is a global movement of activists seeking justice and peace, supporting and standing in solidarity with threatened human rights defenders (HRDs) across the world. Our aim is to protect and support these brave individuals and organizations; strengthen their physical, digital and political security; and enhance their well-being. We adapt our approach to both the changing global context and the various constraints human rights defenders and organizations that support them encounter.

*Names have been changed to protect participant's identities.

Physical accompaniment, observation and office rounds alongside 705 women and 629 male **human rights defenders** in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya and Mexico on **1334 occasions**.

Highly visible physical presence alongside threatened defenders as they carry out their work is an integral part of our protection strategy. PBI field volunteers provide a visible reminder to potential perpetrators of human rights abuses that the world is watching and prepared to act.

“

I believe that without PBI's accompaniment I would not be here today

LORENA CABNAL

Red de Sanadoras del Feminismo Comunitario de Iximulew

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224 capacity development workshops reached 2689 HRDs, 63% of which were women and LGBTI human rights defenders.

Capacity development is crucial to our aim of ensuring locally-based and owned self-protection networks can develop and thrive.

PBI's Platform Seguridad Para Defender collects information on resources, tools and training opportunities for HRDs.

“

The workshop helped me get closer to the political and diplomatic actors and see how we can strengthen human rights

AMAL*

”

202 events brought HRDs together with local, national and international authorities, civil society organizations, media, academia and one another.

PBI supports defenders to build and expand their support networks by bringing them together with a wide range of actor's key to their protection.

“

The [training] materials greatly helped me as someone coming from a conflict region, where we are still struggling to get the basic rights that should be enjoyed in any nation

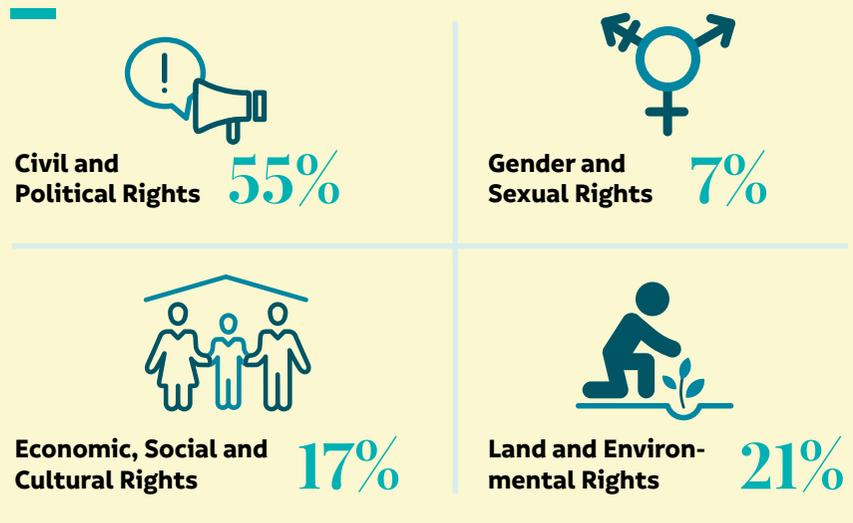
ZAREM*

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Concern for the situation of HRDs was raised in **410 meetings with local, national, and regional authorities and 787 meetings with third government representatives, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs and coalitions** carried out by PBI Projects and Country Groups.

Advocacy is a crucial element of PBI's protection work. We use our in-depth knowledge of human rights defenders' situations and established relationships to urge local and international officials to uphold their human rights obligations and take action to recognize and protect human rights defenders. We raise concerns, provide recommendations to improve policy and practice, and work in partnership to strengthen global action to defend human rights.

PBI Accompanies HRDs who Defend...



“

When PBI advocates for specific cases that require attention, we are open to listen to them

JANY DEL CID

Attorney of the Special Prosecutor for Ethnic Groups and Cultural Heritage, Honduras

”

International advocacy tours enabled 36 human rights defenders to raise international awareness of and support for their work in Europe and North America.

PBI amplified the voices of HRDs and provided a platform for their stories to be told and profiles to be raised through **316 bulletins, reports, videos, radio and online tools.**

#RemarkableWomen Campaign

To commemorate the International Women Human Rights Defenders Day (WHRDs Day), PBI launched the **Remarkable Women** campaign to highlight the tireless work of WHRDs around the world and invite the international community to #standwithher.

#ShouldertoShoulder Campaign

Under the umbrella of the campaign **“Shoulder to Shoulder with Human Rights Defenders”**,

PBI UK led an initiative for the global community of HRDs to win the Nobel Peace Prize. The campaign aimed to shine a spotlight on a critical issue, at a critical moment. As part of the campaign, PBI UK and the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk awarded the first **Sir Henry Brooke Awards** to Kenyan social justice activist Naomi Barasa and Colombian human rights lawyer Daniel Prado.

“

PBI can offer a very important accompaniment. It would be this guardian angel that would be watching over and in the event that things go wrong there would be somebody to give visibility to the issue

NAOMI BARASA
Amnesty International, Kenya

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Where we work

Country Groups:

The work of country groups is fundamental to the protective accompaniment of human rights defenders and increases our global impact. Country groups work to raise the visibility of at-risk HRDs and to create support networks. Thanks to their links with government officials, members of Congress, parliamentarians, legal bodies and other groups, they are able to amplify the voices of HRDs around the world and ensure that the international community responds adequately to their needs. Country groups are also responsible for recruiting and training field volunteers, raising awareness of attacks against HRDs and securing funding for our field work.

Australia

Belgium

Canada

France

Germany

Ireland

Italy

Norway

**The
Netherlands**

Spain

Switzerland

United Kingdom

**United States
of America**

COLOMBIA

Twenty-seven international volunteers accompanied members of 13 organizations and two individual HRDs working on business and human rights and forced disappearances. Volunteers are based in Bogotá, Barrancabermeja and Apartadó

GUATEMALA

Ten international volunteers accompanied members of 11 organizations and three HRDs working on environmental and land rights, impunity and globalization, and women's and gender rights. Volunteers are based in Guatemala City from where they travel to other regions of the country.

HONDURAS

Eight international volunteers accompanied members of six organizations and one individual HRD working on business and human rights, land rights, indigenous rights, freedom of expression, support to victims, women's rights and LGBTI rights. Volunteers are based in Tegucigalpa.

INDONESIA

Two international staff provided training and support to emerging HRDs in the PBI project in partnership with the Indonesian human rights organization, Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy (ELSAM).

KENYA

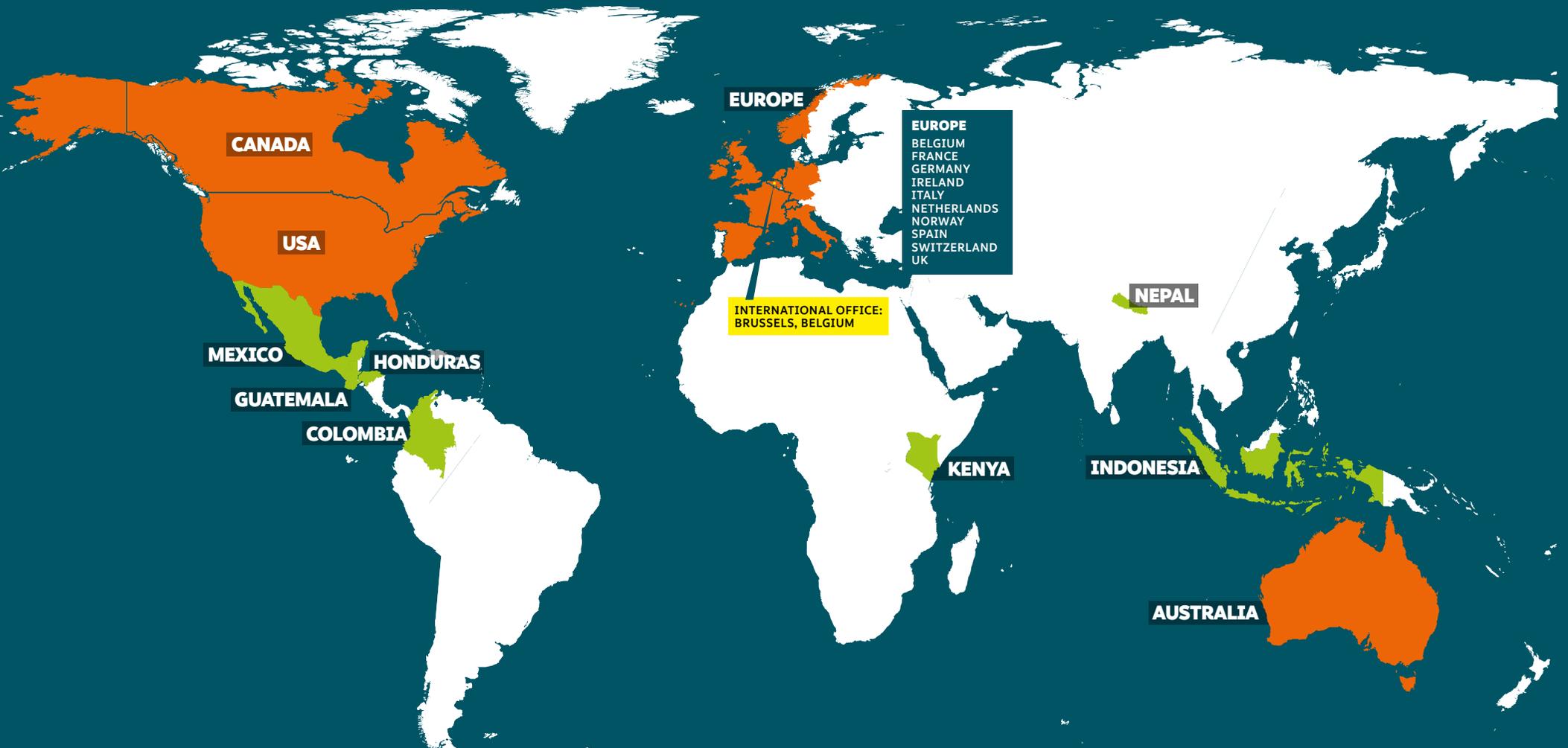
Four international volunteers accompanied members of two grassroots organizations and twenty-nine HRDs working in Nairobi's urban settlements and the Mount Kenya region. They observed trials, attended community forums and visited police stations. The PBI Kenya project is based in Nairobi.

MEXICO

Ten international volunteers accompanied members of 16 organizations working on forced disappearances, impunity, women's rights, indigenous rights and environmental protection. Volunteers are divided into two field teams located in the north and south of the country, covering the states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Oaxaca and Guerrero. Their activities are coordinated from the PBI offices in Mexico City.

NEPAL

Two international and five Nepali staff members based in Kathmandu coordinated the [Nepal Monitor](#), an initiative established to provide protection and to prevent conflict by mapping security incidents and human rights violations in the country.



KEY

-  Field projects
-  Country Groups
-  International Office

Global Action, Local Impact

“

**It was a trip full of learning,
of shared experiences, and
of strengthening networks**

DONNY REYES
'Arcoiris' LGBT
Association, Honduras

”



PBI Commemorates the 20th Anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders

PBI commemorated the 20th Anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders with a series of activities intended to create networks between HRDs from different countries; raise the profile of their work; and ensure spaces for direct dialogue between HRDs and international actors who have a key role to play in their protection. PBI therefore organized a meeting in Brussels, Belgium between HRDs from the Americas, Africa, Asia and Europe in order to evaluate the last 20 years, and develop strategies for the next 20 to come. During these meetings, participants shared their

experiences and knowledge on integral protection, analysed global and regional trends and identified the challenges and needs they share as HRDs. Meetings were also held with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and with advisers to Members of the European Parliament, who had an opportunity to listen to the results and analyses of the working sessions and to hear HRDs' recommendations first hand. To conclude the activities in Brussels, PBI and the Permanent Representation of Austria organized a round table with HRDs Carlos Fernández, of the Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP), Colombia; Sandra Alarcón, of the 'Tlachinollan' Human Rights Centre, Mexico; María Rosa Santamaría, Board-member of the National Union of Rural Workers (CNTC), Honduras; Domingo Vásquez, of the Nuevo Día Chortí Indigenous Association (CCND);

“

**I loved meeting so many
people from PBI who make
the accompaniment we
receive possible. From the
bottom of my heart, I am
eternally grateful to them**

CRISTINA AUERBACH

**Pasta de
Conchos Family
Organization
(OFPC), Mexico**

”



“

**The people we met at the
European Union's EEAS were
genuinely interested in the
situation in Honduras**

MARIA ROSA SANTAMARIA
**Board member of Central
Nacional de Trabajadores
del Camp (CNTC)**

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“

Meetings were organized with a range of European authorities and organizations according to the particular needs of each defender

SANDRA ALARCÓN

‘Tlachinollan’ Human Rights Centre, Mexico

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the European Commission’s Directorate General for Trade; Permanent Representations of member states; and international human rights organizations. The key messages and recommendations of these meetings were published in Analysis of the situation of Human Rights Defenders 20 years after the approval of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

Following the events in Brussels, with the support of country groups, HRDs visited Germany, Belgium, Spain, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Ireland, Norway, the United Kingdom and Switzerland, and participated in advocacy meetings, public events and media interviews.

“

Today, when we were participating in the session, I felt it was a workshop that could change lives

INDIRA GHALE
Change Action Nepal (CAN)

”



Carlos Fernández (CIJP), at the Volunteering Fair in Dublin, Ireland



From left to right: Sandra Alarcón (Tlachinollan), María Rosa Santamaría (CNTC), Carlos Fernández (CIJP), during their speaker tour in France



Cristina Auerbach (OFPC), Indira Ghale (CAN) and María Mutauta (WHRDs toolkit organizer) following the meeting with the German Foreign Ministry's Human Rights Department



Members of the Permanent Representation and the Ambassador of Austria, HRDs, and PBI staff following round table discussion

Learn more about HRDs' activities in Brussels
<http://bit.ly/2VGIJNQ>



Participants in activities in Brussels, Belgium

Global Action, Local Impact

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An important strategy for the protection of WHRDs is to be coordinated, to be in contact, to meet each other, to reflect on the forms of violence we face and on the mechanisms available to us to confront them

FLOR GOCHE

National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders in Mexico

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Regional Meeting Addresses Psychosocial Impact of the Defense of Human Rights

The work of women human rights defenders (WHRDs) involves high levels of risk and is carried out in the midst of social and political violence and growing criminalization. The stress and permanent worry associated with their work have physical and emotional consequences that can plague defenders and negatively affect their organizational processes and resilience.

To provide an opportunity to speak of these psychological effects, PBI together with the Mesoamerican Women Human Rights Defenders Initiative (IMD) organized a regional meeting in which 30 WHRDs from across Latin America participated.

The meeting facilitated a space for community building which involved discussion and the sharing of strategies, as well as the creation of a space where WHRDs could breathe and rest.



Participants during one of the sessions at the Regional Event

“

I believe that self-care is a part of protection

YESSICA TRINIDAD
National Network of Women Human Rights Defenders in Honduras

”



It also provided an opportunity to improve understanding of the particular needs of WHRDs and to strengthen the psycho-social focus and gender perspective that are central to PBI's integral model of accompaniment. Shared learning that emerged from the event was used to inform advocacy activities with authorities on the creation and implementation of public policies and protection mechanisms in the region, and to insist that they should incorporate the specific needs of women human rights defenders.

**Learn more
about the
Regional
Event**

<http://bit.ly/2IupKSY>



World Summit Demands Protection for Human Rights Defenders

In 1998, the same year the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, HRDs from around the globe gathered in Paris to outline a vision that would guarantee the application of the declaration and ensure they were able to carry out their work

safely. In 2018, on the 20th anniversary of the declaration and the summit, PBI supported the organization of the [HRD World Summit 2018](#) and invited accompanied defenders from Guatemala, Indonesia, Honduras, Colombia, and Mexico to participate.

The Summit sought to celebrate the essential role played by HRDs

their communities for the realization of human rights.

Throughout the summit, participants attended meetings, panels and networking spaces which allowed them to meet and speak with other defenders and key international actors. They agreed a bold [action plan](#), which they called on states,



Participants in the Human Rights Defenders World Summit 2018, Paris, France



PBI members with Suani Isabel Martinez, Honduran Centre for the Promotion of Community Development, and David Ravelo, (CREDHOS)

in advancing human rights throughout the world; reaffirm the demand that States fulfill their obligations

under international law to ensure a safe environment in which HRDs can carry out their work; provide a platform for HRDs to propose bold solutions to today's urgent human rights challenges; and identify creative strategies that go beyond reliance on institutional actors and seek the support of wider audiences within

businesses, financial institutions, donors and intergovernmental institutions to implement. Participants also made an urgent appeal to States worldwide to "strongly and unequivocally pledge support for core shared human values and principles and integrate human rights as a corner stone everywhere". Following the Summit, Alice Mogwe became the first ever civil society representative to address the UN General Assembly on behalf of Summit participants, during which she [called](#) on States to protect HRDs around the world.

Oliver Papegnies



Closing day at the Human Rights Defenders World Summit 2018, Paris, France

Country Groups: International Pressure Key to Supporting Land and Environmental Rights Defenders

Land and environmental rights defenders (LERDs) face excruciating levels of risk, and those accompanied by PBI regularly report harassment, threats, physical attacks, defamation campaigns and criminalization due to their work. HRDs working in the context of large-scale economic projects or exploitation of natural resources are particularly vulnerable. In 2018, PBI Country Groups played a vital role in raising awareness about the obstacles faced by land and environmental defenders and bringing them together with key international actors relevant for their protection.

UN High Commissioner Promises Support to COPINH

Human rights and environmental defender Berta Cáceres, Coordinator of the Civil Council of Grassroots and Indigenous Organizations in Honduras (COPINH) was murdered on March 2, 2016. Before her death, Berta had been actively denouncing the Agua Zarca dam project, and DESA, the company behind the dam. Following her death, the International Advisory Group of Experts (GAIPE) produced a report concluding that Honduran state agents and senior DESA executives had colluded in the planning and execution of the murder.

In 2018, PBI Switzerland co-organized a speaking tour for members of COPINH and GAIPE, including Berta's daughter, Bertha Zúñiga Cáceres, during which they met with diplomatic missions, the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and staff from UN

Special Procedures, including High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein.

Following the meetings, the High Commissioner for Human Rights pledged the support of his office to COPINH and published a tweet denouncing Berta Cáceres's murder. He also committed to addressing the civil responsibility of the FMO (Netherlands Development Institution) in funding the Agua Zarca Project during a trip to the Hague the following month.

In November 2018, seven people were convicted of the murder of Berta Cáceres, although COPINH and other civil society organizations denounced irregularities throughout the process. United Nations experts reiterated their concern that the intellectual authors of her murder have not (yet) been investigated, prosecuted and sanctioned.



From left to the right: Víctor Fernández, Movimiento Amplio por la Dignidad y la Justicia; Bertha Isabel Zúñiga Cáceres, COPINH; Zeid al Hussein, UN HCHR; Miguel Ángel Urbina Martínez, GAIPE; Andrea Bolaños, Pici, and Kim-Mai Vu of PBI Switzerland



Pat Davis, of PBI USA, with HRDs José Ángel Rivas Vega, Raúl Caal Ical and Ariel Madrid

US Department of State Recognises Key Role of Human Rights Defenders in Strengthening Democracy

In June, PBI-USA hosted a weeklong [advocacy tour](#) with LERDs from the Peaceful Resistance of Cahabón, Guatemala; Broad Movement for Dignity and Justice (MADJ) in Honduras; and the Sierra Madre Alliance (ASMAL), in Mexico. These defenders participated in public events and met with Congressional offices, as well as representatives from the U.S. State Department and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

Following the tour, several of the congressional offices the HRDs had met with signed on to a [dear colleague letter](#) addressed to the US Ambassador to Guatemala, raising concerns about the criminalization of defenders and the dramatic increase in killings and attacks against them. Sharing a photo with the defenders on its Twitter account, the US State Department also [expressed](#) support for them and recognized the important role they play in “strengthening Democracy in their countries”.

German Parliament Demands Respect for Indigenous Rights in Guatemala

In 2017, PBI Germany received information that the German state-owned cooperation agency (GIZ) had advised on the drafting of a national law on the consultation of indigenous peoples which was strongly [criticized](#) by human rights organizations in Guatemala. Seemingly, GIZ had taken insufficient efforts to ascertain the concerns of local indigenous groups regarding the draft law.

In 2018, PBI Germany organized a meeting between indigenous rights defender Omar Jeronimo, of the ‘New Day’ Ch’orti’ Campesino Central Coordinator (CCCND) and representatives of the Ministry of International Cooperation and Development and the German Foreign Office, as well as several members of the German parliament. As a result, a parliamentary question was sent to the Government, demanding accountability on the role of the GIZ in Guatemala and calling for the respect of indigenous rights.



Omar Jerónimo and Annette Fingscheidt of PBI Germany

“

When I received serious threats, there were many reactions at the international level and I feel that this happened thanks to the work done by PBI on my case

OMAR JERÓNIMO

Central Campesina Chortí Nuevo Día (CCCND)

”

COLOMBIA :

International Community Concerned Over Safety of HRDs in Colombia

In 2018 at least 126 HRDs were murdered in Colombia. In the midst of a complex and risky situation for social leaders, PBI joined with other civil society organizations to invite Michel Forst, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, to make an 'academic visit' to Colombia and meet with civil society organizations and official institutions, in an effort to encourage the state to extend an official invitation.

During this academic visit, Mr.

Forst traveled to several regions of the country to meet with HRDs, members of the diplomatic

community and state institutions. The visit included an academic event on the important role of HRDs in the peace process. During his meeting with the Colombian Foreign Ministry, Mr. Forst received confirmation that he was likely to receive an official invitation towards the end of the year.

In November, the official invitation to Mr. Forst was confirmed. He visited the country again between November 20th and December 3rd, traveling to different regions in order to understand the realities faced by those living within the reconfigured armed conflict and to comprehend the attacks suffered by HRDs.

“

As Colombia is turning the page on decades of armed violence, there is a collective and historic responsibility to protect those who dedicate their lives to the realization of human rights and peace building

MICHEL FORST

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

”



Michel Forst, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders during his visit to the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó in November 2018

His itinerary included a visit to Apartadó, where he met with leaders from the Bajo Atrato region and visited the principal settlement of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó. In his December 3rd press conference the Special Rapporteur presented his initial conclusions on the risks faced by HRDs, along with his preliminary recommendations to the Colombian state, setting out how it could facilitate the

Michel Forst, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders meets with HRDs in the PBI offices in Bogotá



“

Guardianship by the army in this case is a dangerous antecedent and can have side effects not only to silence and criminalize the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, but also to prevent other human rights defenders from reporting alleged violations

MICHEL FORST

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

”

work of HRDs and arguing that they “will not be safe in Colombia, as long as impunity persists. This is one of the areas that needs to be addressed urgently.”

A more comprehensive report was produced by the Special Rapporteur for the March 2019 session of the UN Human Rights Council, also attended by PBI and accompanied defenders and communities. The Special Rapporteur confirmed that the Colombian state committed to following his recommendations and that a monitoring visit would be organized soon.

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Human rights defenders in Colombia are operating in a coercive and unsafe environment

MICHEL FORST

United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

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GUATEMALA :

Criminalization of the Defense of the Cahabón River

Since 2015, the [Peaceful Resistance of Cahabón](#) has been defending its territory against a series of hydroelectric schemes planned for the catchment area of the Cahabón River. The licence for these projects was granted without prior consultation of the indigenous peoples required under International Labor Organization Convention 169. As a result of constant threats, intimidation and criminalization suffered by its members, PBI began to accompany the organization in 2017.

Bernardo Caal Xól, a member of the Peaceful Resistance of Cahabón, was detained in January 2018 and sentenced in November to seven years and four months in a [trial](#) that was

[described by the United Nations](#) as “an attempt to silence and discredit the legitimate exercise of the rights of the indigenous community”.

Throughout 2018, PBI accompanied the Resistance, making regular visits to communities and the prison, and observing trial hearings. The profile of the case has been raised by organizing advocacy activities within and outside Guatemala, speaking tours by members of the organization to the United States and Europe, the [publication of information](#), and issuing of alerts.

The accompaniment provided by PBI contributed to the Office



Members of the
Peaceful Resistance
of Cahabón

“

Because of the presence of PBI, the Resistance has been strengthened in its belief in what it is doing. [...] With the presence of PBI the people feel calmer; if it wasn't here, there would be more acts of aggression

CARLOS SOTZ

Peaceful Resistance of Cahabón

”

“

Every time the PBI delegates visit me in prison I feel very inspired, and they strengthen my ability to resist. The powerful forces and the corrupt apparatuses I face control everything. I am no longer afraid of prison; everything is for the dignity of the Q'eqchi people'. All I ask is for [PBI] to keep accompanying me

**BERNARDO
CAAL XOL**

**criminalized leader
of Peaceful
Resistance of
Cahabón**

”

of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Guatemala and the Swiss Embassy publicly expressing their concern about the case and attending hearings. It also contributed to the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, the Filter Group and a delegation of four Members of the European Parliament visiting Mr. Caal Xól in prison and meeting with members of the Resistance. PBI also helped persuade the Guatemalan authorities to respond to emergency situations involving attacks on leaders of the Resistance and monitor their security situation.

As a result of the accompaniment it has provided, PBI has developed a relationship of trust with Resistance members, which will help them to continue exercising their right to defend its territories.



Bernardo Caal Xól
prior to a hearing
in his case

“

Before PBI arrived, we in the communities thought we were alone. Others don't speak badly of me now, because they know I receive accompaniment. Since PBI has been here, the number of security incidents has fallen

JOSÉ BO MO

Peaceful Resistance of Cahabón

”

HONDURAS :

Strengthening Local Capacities: Putting the European Guiding Principles Into Practice

*Names have been changed to protect participant's identities

On July 11 and 12, 2018 PBI co-facilitated a workshop on 'Applying the European Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders in Honduras'. The aim of the workshop was to strengthen the ability of HRDs to interact with the diplomatic community and broaden their local and international support networks. The workshop was attended by eight representatives of the diplomatic community in Honduras and by 14 members of civil society organizations working on a range of questions, including LGBTI, land, and environmental rights.

“

[During the workshop I was able] to learn about the roles and competency of diplomats in the country and the quickest and most concrete ways to make contact with them

AMAL*

”



Participants in the workshop 'Applying the European Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders in Honduras', June 2018



PBI volunteer accompanies HRDs in Honduras

The workshop included a presentation of the reasons for creating the Guidelines and provided opportunities for participants to practically apply them. It also gave participants a chance to share experiences of the application of the Guidelines in Honduras and communicate their concerns to European diplomats. Furthermore, participating members of the diplomatic corps had an opportunity to build closer links with HRDs and to improve their understanding of the range of HRDs

and human rights organizations in the country. This contributed to reducing the levels of stigmatization, defamation and potential criminalization from which HRDs suffer.

The workshop enabled civil society organizations to consolidate their capacity to engage in advocacy activities with the diplomatic community and provided Some organizations – in particular those based outside the capital – with their first opportunity to interact with international players, thereby strengthening their own support networks and their advocacy strategies.

“

Thanks to the workshop, we became aware of the need to prioritize cases and to provide national and international context in order to increase our impact and improve responses
RODRIGO*

”

MÉXICO:

In Search of the Disappeared

According to various international treaties and tribunals, investigations of the crime of forced disappearance must remain open until the fate or whereabouts of the victim are established. Relatives also have the right to know the truth about the fate and whereabouts of their disappeared family members.

Faced with the inaction of the state, it is often family members themselves who take

on the role of searching for their loved ones and, as a result, face threats, attacks and even murder.

Across Mexico, more than 40,000 people have been disappeared, at least 1,779 of them in the state of Coahuila. In 2017, responding to the demands of different groups of relatives of the disappeared, and in fulfilment of international recommendations and Mexico's General Law on the Forced Disappearance, the Coahuila State Congress passed the State Law on Forced Disappearance, and in 2018 began implementing the State Plan for Exhumations, which it created.

Throughout 2018, PBI accompanied the Fray Juan de Larios Diocesan Centre for Human Rights (FJdL) and relatives of victims of forced disappearance during exhumations, in an effort to raise the profile of their work, ensure their safety, and provide moral support at such a difficult time. Simultaneously, PBI's advocacy has focused on ensuring that state authorities continue implementing the Plan until "each and every disappeared person" has been identified.



PBI accompanies exhumations in the Piedras Negras Cemetery, Coahuila, October 2018



PBI Volunteers during an accompaniment in Coahuila

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We would have had a lot of concerns [without your] accompaniment. [With it] we felt more secure as we engaged with this work

NORMA QUINTERO

**Fray Juan de Larios
Diocesan Centre for
Human Rights**

”

KENYA :

Combating Extrajudicial Killings

Throughout 2018, human rights abuses committed by security forces in Kenya remained rampant. To respond to this issue, PBI together with [Saferworld](#) and local civil society organizations [Mathare Social Justice Centre \(MSJC\)](#) and [Ghetto Foundation](#), began a project to tackle the normalization of extra-judicial killings in three constituencies of Nairobi's Eastlands.

The project seeks to improve the

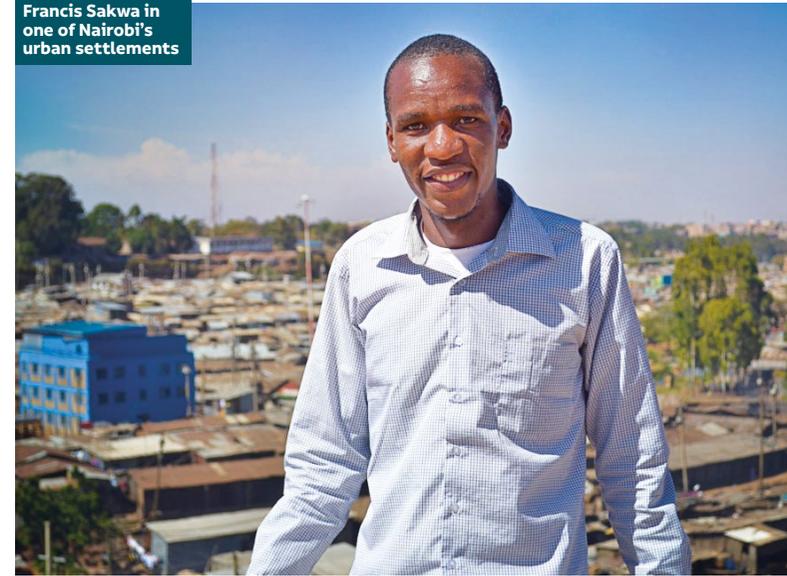
“

[PBI has] taken the lead to create advocacy channels, to remind human rights defenders that they can work with full confidence knowing that the global community is aware of the work they are doing and that they are ready to assist them or protect them in case there are any threats against them

STEPHEN KINUTHIA MWANGI
Mathare Social Justice Center

”

Francis Sakwa in
one of Nairobi's
urban settlements



relationship between police and grassroots human rights defenders through documentation, sensitization of police, advocacy and capacity development.

To increase the visibility of Kenyan HRDs participating in the project and open doors for them to carry out international advocacy, in 2018 PBI organized international speaking tours for several grassroots HRDs from MSJC and PBI Kenya's Toolkit for Women HRDs. Through the tours, Toolkit Organizer Maria Mutauta and Stephen Mwangi, Administrative Coordinator for MSJC, were able to participate in [global events](#) commemorating

the 20th anniversary of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. They visited Belgium, Switzerland and Germany, where they participated in meetings with EU and UN representatives, round tables and conferences, as well as being [interviewed](#) on the Swiss radio program RaBe Info. Francis Sakwa, also one of PBI Kenya's Toolkit Organizers, visited the Netherlands and participated in a Human Rights Café to speak about the problem of extrajudicial killings and the criminalization of HRDs in Kenya.

PBI Kenya has also joined

other civil society organizations in creating an online platform called [Missing Voices](#), with the aim of providing facts and figures around extra-judicial killings and enforced disappearances and contributing to increased visibility for these issues. With rising international attention on the issue, organizations such as Amnesty International have [called](#) on the Kenyan government to halt extrajudicial executions, properly investigate those that have taken place, and bring those responsible to account.



Interview carried out with Francis Sakwa in the Utrecht City Hall, Netherlands



Kenyan HRDs Maria Mutauta Mahia-Ini (WHRD toolkit) and Stephen Mwangi (MSCJ) during their interviews for the radio station RaBe, Berma, Switzerland

Want to know more about the work of PBI's partners in Kenya? Check out these video interviews with Francis Sakwa <https://bit.ly/2FDkKZm> and Stephen Mwangi <https://bit.ly/2WrK5fm> of the Mathare Social Justice Centre.

INDONESIA :

Supporting Emerging Human Rights Leaders

In 2018, PBI in conjunction with the [Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy](#) (ELSAM) welcomed 10 human rights defenders who participated in the sixth cohort of the Basic Course for Human Rights Defenders in Indonesia.

Over the four-month course, participating HRDs met with a wide variety of organizations in Jakarta and conducted intensive study in human rights theory, safety and protection, field research and reporting, and human rights advocacy. Among the highlights was a live-in experience where the trainees were embedded

in the Pasundan Peasant Union (SPP), applying their field research skills as they built links with a successful popular movement in Indonesia.

Eight of the trainees completed field research projects, often examining cases through a human rights lens for the first time. Projects included research on the rights to organize unions, the right to indigenous cultural identity, the impacts of palm oil expansion on the right to health, and the rights of incarcerated people.

Following successful completion of the course, trainees from this and



Servo Tuamis, Arso's community leader, speaks about palm oil during an interview

*Names have been changed to protect their identities.

“

The training methodology is really helpful to me personally. In general, in my studies, I never saw this, never had teachers who taught this well.

ZARAM*

”



Participants during one of the workshop sessions

previous cohorts have returned to their organizations and begun to play prominent roles in advancing human rights and implementing security measures in their communities. Past trainees have gone on to present a land displacement case to the national human rights commission, and play leading roles in investigating how local communities are affected by

operations of the security forces in a region that journalists and civilian officials have had difficulties accessing. There are now 49 alumni from the course, many of whom now hold leadership roles in diverse organizations. Having completed a Training of Trainers workshops, they now plan to conduct their own trainings.

“

The material provided [was] very helpful for the work we do, for example in analyzing cases of human rights violations. The visits made to other organizations are good for building relationships and networks

NOLAN*

”

NEPAL:

Peer learning program strengthens local cooperation

After an extensive period of needs assessment and recruitment, the [Nepal Monitor Project](#), in collaboration with the [Collective Campaign for Peace](#) (COCAP) launched its first Peer Learning Program, targeting women human rights defenders from three districts of Province 2 of Nepal, a region that faces particularly big challenges in dealing with high rates of Gender Based Violence and discrimination. 18 WHRDS, including two LGBT WHRDs, were recruited and engaged with the intention of cultivating a self-sustaining local network that promotes more connectedness and peer support, as well as joint action on issues of shared concern.

Three peer learning sessions were delivered with this group, working on a participatory basis to establish an agenda for learning and action. The participants proposed that they lead an event in early

2019 focussing on the issue of child marriage, with special focus on the Siraha District. They laid the groundwork for a session involving 30 local people, including a large group of young women and the local Deputy Mayor, to take place in January 2019.

Participants in the peer learning space report increased confidence, communication and cooperation. According to Sarada Mubary, a WHRD who participated in the peer learning, “there is constant family pressure to step back, political pressure to remain quiet, and government agencies are very reluctant to take those cases [of violence against women] seriously. With the peer learning group, I have



*Names have been changed to protect their identities.

WHRD contemporaries working in the same sector as me and I hope and believe that they will support me in this work". Their initiative and cooperation at a regional level is a forward step and reflects strongly on long term investment on a micro level, in addition to more widespread outreach and capacity building measures. Based on this initial success, the peer learning program will continue and expand in 2019.



Discussion during the learning program at Bardibas



Working group during an outdoor learning program

“

[since the beginning of the program] I have improved my leadership skills and knowledge of how one person can take a lead in their work

BANHI*

”



Working group during the learning program

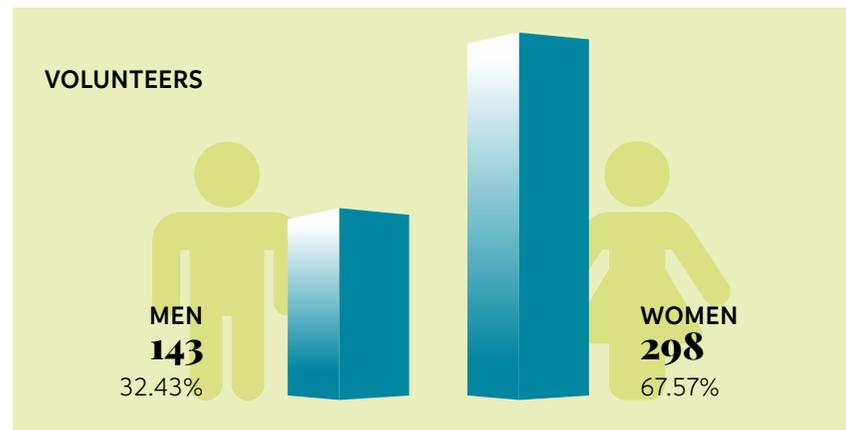
Without hundreds of dedicated individuals and organizations who support us with their time, energy and financial contributions, our human rights work would not be possible.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to PBI and to Human Rights Defenders.

Our Volunteers and Supporters

PBI Volunteers' Gender

In 2018, PBI was supported by a total of **441** volunteers who worked in our field projects, our country groups and our international office: 143 men (32.43%) and 298 women (67.57%).



Where do Field Volunteers Come From?

441 volunteers provided support to 13 PBI country groups, 7 projects and our International Office in 2018. **84** international volunteers provided protection to human rights defenders in the field in 2018.



Financial Summary

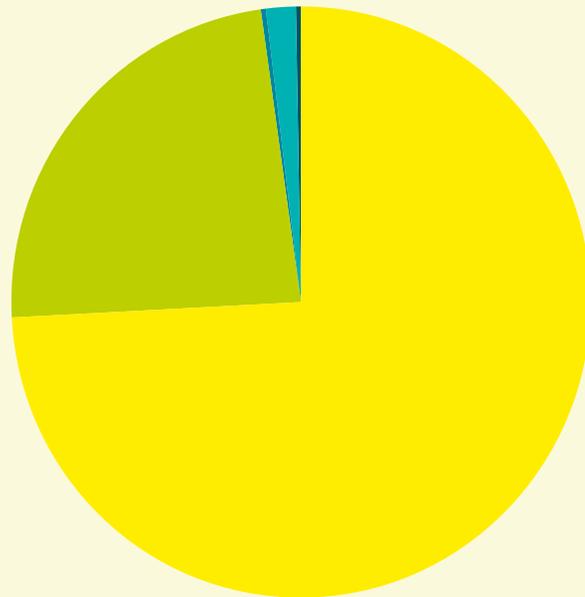
Who funds PBI?

In our work protecting human rights defenders, we rely on the support of individuals, trusts, foundations and religious groups as well as governments and other multilateral funders.

Most of our income from governments and foundations is raised by country groups with project support. Country groups also work closely with our committed individual donors in Belgium, Canada,

France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, the UK and the USA.

Total income in 2018*:
2,761,576 €



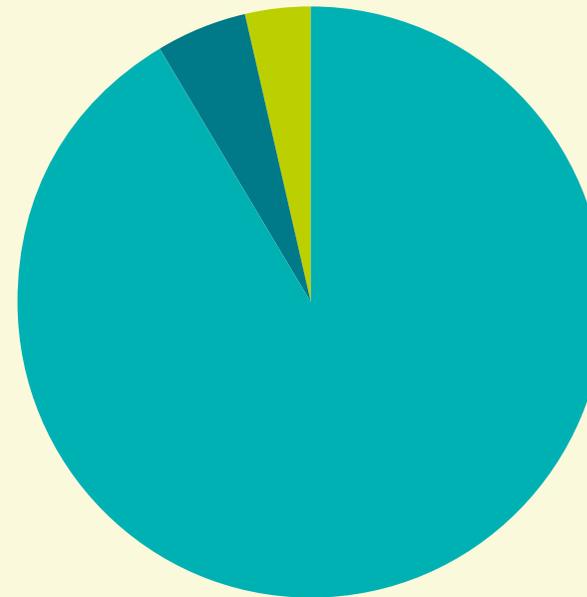
- **Governments and multilateral bodies:**
2,050,243 €
74.24%
- **Foundations:**
652,012 €
23.61%
- **Individuals:**
6,959 €
0.25%
- **Country Groups:**
48,794 €
1.77%
- **Other:**
3,569 €
0.13%

How we spend your money

From every €1 you give us, we spend 91.6 cents on our human rights work and 3.6 cents on ensuring best practice in organizational governance is followed in line with PBI's principles of non-hierarchy and

consensus decision-making. The remaining 4.8 cents is used to raise the next €1.

Total expenditure in 2018*:
2,631,445 €



- **International protective accompaniment and other support for human rights defenders:**
2,412,110 €
91,6%
- **Fundraising:**
125,555 €
4,8%
- **Governance:**
93,780 €
3,6%

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

Our Donors in 2018

We would like to thank the many organizations and individuals who made generous contributions to our work in 2018, including:

Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament (ACCD)
Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)
Agencia Extremeña de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AEXCID)
Agencia Vasca de Cooperación para el Desarrollo
Ayuntamiento de Barcelona
Ayuntamiento de Castellón de la Plana
Ayuntamiento de Donostia
Ayuntamiento de Torrelavega
Ayuntamiento Santander
Ayuntamiento Valladolid
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Basilian Human Development Fund
Brot für die Welt
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)
Christian AID Charity
Commune de Bernex
Cooperativa Libra – Fondo Lara Groppo
Dr. Jenö Staehelin Stiftung
Diputació de Barcelona
Diputación de Córdoba
Diputación de Valladolid
Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa

Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs FDFA
Swiss Embassy in Mexico
European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) - ProtectDefenders.eu
Evangelisch-reformierte Kirche Zug
Evangelisch-reformierte Kirchgemeinde St. Gallen Tablat
Fédération Vaudoise de Coopération (FEDEVACO)
Ferster Stiftung
Fonds pour le Développement de la Vie Associative (FDVA)
Fonds de Solidarité du Barreau de Paris
Fribourg Solidaire – Fédération fribourgeoise de coopération internationale
Gobierno de Cantabria
Gobierno de Navarra-Mugarik Gabe
Gobierno Vasco
Hartstra Stichting
Huisman Vredesfonds
ICCO Cooperation
ifa –Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (zivik Funding Programme)
Ilustre Colegio de Abogados del Señorío de Vizcaya (ICASV)
IUCN National Committee of the

Netherlands
Katholischer Konfessionsteil des Kantons St. Gallen
Non Violence XXI
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mairie de Paris
Maya Behn-Eschenburg Stiftung
Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Misereor
Open Society Foundation
Overbrook Foundation
Oxfam Solidarité
Römisch-katholischen Gesamtkirchgemeinde Bern und Umgebung

Reformierte Kirchgemeinde Saanen-Gsteig
Reformierte Kirchen Bern-Jura-Solothurn
Secours Catholique – Caritas France
Service for International Solidarity (SSI)
Stiftung Temperatio
Swisslos I Kanton St.Gallen
Terra 21 Foundation
Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund, Tides Foundation
Trócaire
Unifor
Civil Peace Service (resources provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ))

“

The accompaniment of PBI is very valuable, PBI's support is priceless

ISELA GONZALEZ
Alianza Sierra Madre (ASMAC)

”

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**PBI has played a
fundamental role in the
possibility of political
advocacy for the defense
of human rights**

CARLOS FERNÁNDEZ
**Comisión Intereclesial de
Justicia y Paz (CIJP)**

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since 1981

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