



PEACE IN ACTION

a publication of Peace Brigades International - USA (PBI-USA)

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WINTER 2025

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pbi USA

PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL USA

PBI was founded in 1981 with the mandate to create space for peace and protect human rights. PBI has a horizontal structure with an international coordinating office in Brussels, international working groups and committees, eight field protection teams, and a dozen support teams, including PBI-USA. The work of PBI-USA is made possible through the efforts of a small staff and group of volunteers, including PBI-USA's Board of Directors (the National Coordinating Committee or NCC).

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PBI-USA is a 501c3 nonprofit organization registered in the state of Washington. Our EIN number is 91-1702845. We file an annual 990 tax return with the IRS and a corporate annual report with the state of Washington. To read our full financial records, visit PBIUSA.org/finance.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF PBI:

- ➡ Return the included envelope with credit card information or a check to PBI-USA, P.O. Box 75880, Washington, DC 20013; or
- ➡ Go to PBIUSA.org and click on "Donate" to contribute online; or
- ➡ Call us to make a donation or planned gift by phone (202) 232-0142.



JOIN TEAM PBI-USA



PBI-USA's National Coordinating Committee (NCC), our board of directors, is looking for new members to **join the NCC**

and/or our internal committees: **Institutional Fundraising, International Advocacy, and the Turtle Island Working Group.**

For more info, email pbiusancc@gmail.com.



Andrew Miller
NCC



Bill Eisenstein
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Amelia Parker
Executive Director

Other Ways to Get Involved and Support the PBI team in the U.S.



Each year, we host a fun, 3-day, online fundraiser and each year we need volunteers to help ensure its success! Training & support is provided. Interested? Join by emailing pbiusancc@gmail.com.



Our amazing Sustainers of Peace donate monthly, quarterly, or annually. Join our circle of peace & help provide year-round support to PBI's work by starting a recurring gift at bit.ly/peacesustainers.



PAID FUNDRAISING AND COMMS PART-TIME INTERNSHIP

PBI-USA will add a paid, part-time position in 2026 to support our outreach & fundraising efforts. Returned PBI vols are strongly encouraged to apply. For more info, email amelia@pbiusa.org.



HUMAN RIGHTS INTERNSHIP

PBI-USA offers unpaid internships for those interested in working with us on a voluntary basis. All interns work remotely. Students (high school to grad) are welcome to apply. For more info, email amelia@pbiusa.org.



MAKING SPACE FOR PEACE

PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL USA

U.S. UPDATES

The current state of the world and new human rights challenges that have emerged demand of us to reflect and consider new ways to strengthen our work of providing protection and support to threatened human rights defenders, which was our focus at the PBI-USA National Gathering held in May 2025. Read below for updates from the gathering as well as resulting commitments for 2026.

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND THE PBI-USA NATIONAL GATHERING

Over three days in May, dedicated PBI alumni and staff gathered in Washington, D.C. (pictured below with PBI Canada Executive Director Brent Patterson and a PBI Mexico field volunteer zooming in) to discuss the work of the U.S. team and the possibilities for our work as we adopt a new global strategic plan and in response to the repressive actions of the Trump regime.

The group reflected on PBI's history, the current context for human rights work broadly, and the opportunities and challenges we face as a result. Following our discussions, we identified priorities for our work in the near and long term and we formed internal committees, filled leadership roles, and made plans to hire additional staff to help carry out the work. We plan to gather again next year and hope you will consider joining us!



PREPARING FOR 2026: PBI'S 45TH YEAR OF PROVIDING PROTECTIVE ACCOMPANIMENT

In May 2025, Pat Davis wrapped up her time at PBI and U.S. advocacy work shifted to an internal advocacy committee who took on the challenge of developing an approach to supporting accompanied defenders within the U.S.'s current political context. Multiple PBI entities have expressed a fear of traveling to the U.S. as federal officials target non-citizens in the U.S. for their speech particularly when in support of Palestine, and for various other reasons. As a result, visits by defenders have slowed but they do continue. Read more about our advocacy work on page 5.

PBI-USA is also working to strengthen our collaboration with other PBI teams in the "global north." Over the past year, PBI Canada began developing a framework to extend PBI's protective accompaniment into a "Northern" territory. Using the name Turtle Island, team Canada seeks to explore ways that they, as well as the U.S., might explore providing international accompaniment to threatened human rights defenders in our countries. At our National Gathering, we voted to explore this work with Canada and formed an internal Turtle Island working group. If you would like to participate in these discussions, email amelia@pbiousa.org to join the team!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

When you join PBI's mailing list, you become a part of our governance structure, the National Assembly. We value your contribution to our work. Thank you for being a part of the PBI network!

Wishing you and yours a peaceful and prosperous New Year!

With gratitude,
The PBI-USA Team

TOGETHER, WE RISE!

PEACE BRIGADES INTERNATIONAL USA

ADVOCACY & DEFENDER SUPPORT



SOUNDING THE ALARM ON THE ONGOING HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS IN NICARAGUA

In 2018, Nicaragua experienced a human rights crisis that has continued since the administration of President Daniel Ortega and his wife Co-President Rosario Murillo launched a violent crackdown initially against demonstrators who took to the streets in April 2018 to protest the administration's proposed reforms to social security but eventually the repression targeted all dissidents, ethnic minorities, LGBTQI+, and Indigenous communities. The crackdown has resulted in hundreds of deaths and disappearances, thousands of injuries and arrests, and a continuing crisis that has forced many Nicaraguans into exile only to face continued targeting and threats from the Nicaraguan government.

Although the social security reforms were withdrawn, the protests continued against the government's moves to consolidate its power and silence dissidents, even those who have fled the country. Exiled Nicaraguans face arbitrary stripping of their citizenship, their entry into Nicaragua banned, their ability to renew passports rescinded, their civil records deleted, their academic or professional titles revoked, and their properties and pensions confiscated. They also face surveillance, digital harassment, extraterritorial murders, and threats to their relatives in Nicaragua.

In the framework of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly, Colectivo 46/2, a coalition of Nicaraguan, regional, and international organizations including PBI, co-organized a side event to bring attention to the continuing repression in Nicaragua to give a voice to victims and affected communities and to strengthen avenues for international protection and accountability.

Pictured at the top, Claudia Vargas, widow of retired Nicaraguan Army major & vocal critic of state repression Roberto Samcam, recounts the details of his assassination in Costa Rica while living in exile. Below, Salvador Lulio Marengo with the Human Rights Collective Nicaragua Nunca Más speaks to the urgency of the crisis. UN representatives, Leonardo S.C. Castilho and James Turpin, pictured with PBI-USA Executive Director Amelia Parker, shed light on the international community's role in holding Nicaragua accountable. Below, Amelia and Claudia (right) are pictured with Alexandra Salazar with the Association for Legal Defense, Registration, and Memory for Nicaragua who spoke on the abuses suffered by Indigenous political prisoners in Nicaragua.



Over the past year, PBI has directly protected 3,900+ human rights defenders and helped safeguard another 307,000 people in high-risk regions. From Colombia's environmental rights defenders to Kenya's women human rights defenders toolkit organizers to the exiled defenders of Nicaragua, ordinary people are doing extraordinary things — and we are proud to stand beside them.

PBI TEAM UPDATES



COLOMBIA 1994-NOW

As one of PBI's oldest teams reached its 30th year, PBI brought together over 60 defenders from all over Colombia in October 2024 to reflect on human rights issues, celebrate shared achievements since the team's founding in 1994, and discuss future challenges. Commissioned artwork (above) marked the occasion.

The day began with a discussion about the current situation for human rights defense at the Open Society Foundation offices in Bogotá. In the evening, everyone gathered again at the Casa Mutuo for a toast. Speakers included PBI Colombia team members, members of the diplomatic corps, and current and previously accompanied individuals.

The night ended with a celebration of all PBI has achieved in Colombia after 30 years of international accompaniment.

"Thanks to PBI, I never went into exile," said Alirio Uribe at the celebration, who is now a member of the Bogotá House of Representatives.

Get more updates at pbicolombia.org.

NICARAGUA 1983, 2020-NOW

On February 27, 2025, Nicaragua announced its withdrawal from the UN Human Rights Council. The withdrawal came shortly after the UN Group of Human Rights Experts on Nicaragua (GHREN) released a report that named officials for alleged crimes against humanity. Nicaragua also stopped participating in the Universal Periodic Review process and other international organizations and processes.

The expert members of the Group of Human Rights Experts were appointed by the President of the Human Rights Council to gather data on alleged human rights violations, collect unbiased information, and provide independent analysis of the human rights situation in Nicaragua.

Formed in 2022, the Group of Experts for the first time presented its findings to the General Assembly on October 30, 2025. Later in the day, they held a press conference to call on the international community to hold Nicaragua accountable for serious human rights violations and international crimes.

At the press conference, Reed Brody (pictured below), a member of the Group, reported that "the state and the ruling Sandinista party have virtually fused into a unified machine of repression, operating a wide intelligence network, surveilling the population and selecting the targets for violation of rights."

Brody continued, "Our reports have identified 54 officials responsible for grave human rights violations, abuses, and crimes. In addition, Nicaragua's large-scale use of the arbitrary deprivation of nationality as a mechanism of targeted political repression is a manifest violation of the UN Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, and we are urging states to bring Nicaragua before the International Court of Justice for that violation."

PBI continues to provide accompaniment to exiled Nicaraguan defenders in Costa Rica. To learn more about Team Nicaragua, visit pbi-nicaragua.org.





NEPAL 2006-2013, 2014-NOW

Geopolitical dynamics in Nepal pose a serious threat to human rights defenders and non-profit organizations in the region. Women human rights defenders (WHRDs) are at particular risk, with 81% experiencing psychosocial violence and 73% reporting threats, intimidation, or harassment.

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

Among the groups supported by PBI in Nepal who participated in the workshop is Mahuri Home, a grassroots organization protecting the rights of marginalized and minority communities in Nepal. In collaboration with PBI, the team promotes evidence-based advocacy, builds the capacity of human rights defenders, and has created vital platforms such as the Minority Rights Protection Forum. They also promote gender-responsive policies and mobilize champions to monitor and report human rights violations. PBI began our ongoing accompaniment of Mahuri Home in 2024. for more updates from PBI Nepal, follow their [Linked In page](#).

HONDURAS 2013-NOW



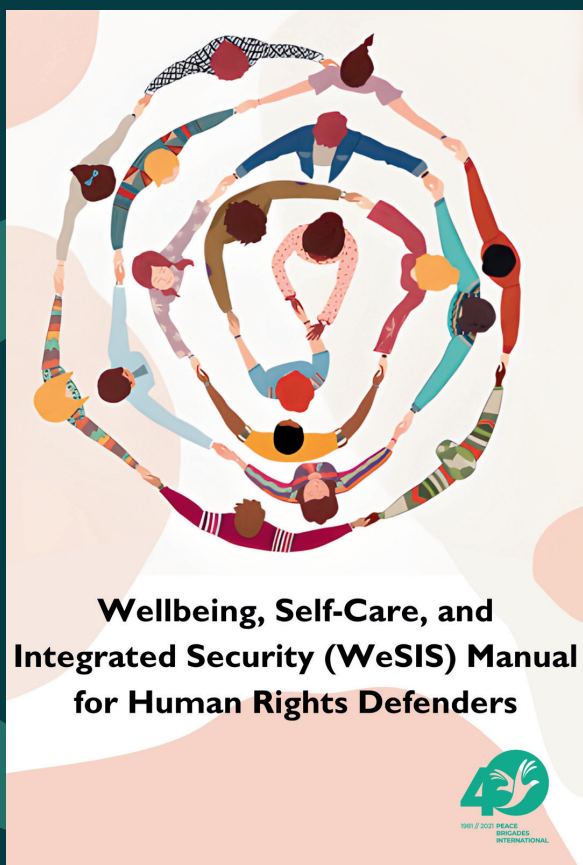
The Santa Barbara Department is a region in Honduras that has long been a target for extractive activities with local groups identifying 75 different new business projects in 2023 alone, including 45 mining projects, 27 hydroelectric projects, 2 thermal generation plants, and 1 solar panel project.. Despite a legal ban against “secret” mining concessions, many companies proceed without proper public consultation or regard for environmental and social impact.

The Association in Defense of the Common Goods of Quimistan-ASODEBICOQ (pictured above) was founded in 2013 to defend the region’s land and territory. In April 2024, PBI reported that at a regional assembly, the group raised concerns about solutions proposed to address community needs. PBI applauds ASODEBICOQ’s advocacy and work ensuring that various micro-watersheds in Quimistan have been designated as protected areas in recent years. PBI has accompanied ASODEBICOQ since 2018. To learn more about the Honduras team, visit pbi-honduras.org.

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

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

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



KENYA 2013-NOW

In Kilifi County, Kenya, Patricia Loko Mutua (pictured above) stands as a symbol of resilience. She played a key role in securing a landmark 10-year prison sentence in 2024, in a case involving the prolonged sexual abuse of a 12-year-old girl. In a country where impunity for sexual violence is widespread, the 10-year sentence marked a rare and powerful victory - creating a judicial precedent, hope, and momentum. A survivor herself, Patricia channels her experience into grassroots activism - supporting women and girls, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and challenging harmful gender norms. She ensured the survivor in the case received counseling, safe shelter, and protection from media exposure, while personally guiding the family through the justice system. Her work is courageous and high-risk, and Patricia implements a security strategy to avoid retaliation. Her work with various groups has rescued many women from sexual violence and child marriages.

Patricia is a member of PBI Kenya's Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) Toolkit Organizers' Network, which launched in 2016 to connect and strengthen the work of WHRDs. Grassroots activists were already doing vital work to combat violence against women and girls but were under-resourced, unsupported, and under attack. The network created a trusted space for solidarity, peer learning, and collective action - enabling women defenders to share strategies, create community-based support systems, build their capacity, manage security risks, document threats, and seek redress for violations. What began with 15 women in Nairobi has now expanded to Kilifi County and beyond, growing into a powerful movement of local trainers and leaders who are driving change from the ground up. Through this network, defenders like Patricia have gained contacts, skills, credibility, and the strength of collective support. PBI supports WHRDs across the world who, like Patricia, create real change in their communities and seminal results in the courts in favor of gender justice and women's rights. For more updates from PBI's team in Kenya, visit pbi-kenya.org.



GUATEMALA

1983-1999, 2003-NOW

2024 was the first year of Guatemalan President Bernardo Arévalo's new administration, a presidency that may not have been possible without Guatemalan civil society, led by Indigenous peoples, defending democracy. His first year in office has been unfortunately defined by his complex relationship with his Attorney General as well as with other highly controversial figures in the justice system, all of whom are included on the U.S. List of Corrupt and Undemocratic Actors (the Engel List).

Guatemala's attorney general replaced or transferred 14 prosecutors out of the Human Rights Prosecutor's Office who litigated transitional justice cases and named a new head of office whom she trusts in a year in which the courts suspended the second Ixil Genocide trial in its final stage after 99 hearings, denying justice to families who have waited 40 years, and in which an appeals court annulled the ruling in the CREOMPAZ case, including precautionary measures against the accused military officials. Both rulings are being appealed.

With regard to land tenure, one of Arévalo's first acts was to sign an unprecedented Agrarian Agreement intended to resolve the country's agrarian conflicts. Although initially it was the source of great hope, the slow and lukewarm results achieved so far have frustrated affected communities who continue to see their right to land access violated.

In Alta and Baja Verapaz, where PBI accompanies the Verapaz Union of Peasant Organizations (UVOC) and the Campesino Committee of the Highlands-Verapaces Region (CCDA), there are 68 eviction orders. PBI-USA staff visited this region in 2018. Another community facing threats to their land are the Maya Ch'orti. PBI began accompanying the Maya Ch'orti' Indigenous Council of Olopa in 2021. In 2012, Guatemala granted American Minerals S. A. a 25-year licence to mine the Maya Ch'orti' region without first consulting its Indigenous communities. The Council has been fighting for their people's rights, spiritual recovery, and environmental protection ever since.

Over 1,000 agrarian conflicts exist in Guatemala, largely on Indigenous lands. In the absence of legislation on Indigenous peoples' territories and a comprehensive land registry, and in the context of a co-opted justice system, experts note that the most common way to resolve these conflicts is for the strongest party, i.e. corporate actors and large landholders, to impose their will on rural and Indigenous communities. Visit pbi-guatemala.org for more from our team in Guatemala.

MEXICO
1994, 1999-NOW

In 2024, Mexico experienced an historic election with Claudia Sheinbaum becoming the country's first female president, a step forward for women's political representation that sparked hopes for change across Mexico. Yet, concerns remain over the administration's weakening of civic institutions, the centralization of power, the militarization of public security, the continuation of the Fourth Transformation project, and the lack of transparency surrounding extractive megaprojects.

Against this backdrop, 2024 was a year of consolidation and strategic restructuring to strengthen our capacity in Mexico to respond and act. A major milestone was opening a headquarters in Cuernavaca, Morelos, centralizing our regional teams into one operational hub. From here, mobile teams now provide accompaniment in Michoacán, Morelos, Puebla, Sonora, Oaxaca, and Chihuahua, improving response times, team security, and direct engagement with defenders. We also consolidated our presence in Sonora, closing the exploratory phase and initiating field accompaniment. This vast state, pictured below, with extreme climate conditions, significant populations of Indigenous peoples, and limited international presence, is central to PBI's thematic focus on land defense and the fight against disappearances. To learn more, visit pbi-mexico.org.



PBI THEN & NOW: A 45 YEAR EVOLUTION

Reflecting on PBI'S work as a new global strategic plan takes effect

For more than 40 years, PBI has been working for a more peaceful and just world in which human rights are universally upheld and the environment protected. We strongly believe that local and community-based approaches are crucial in realizing this vision, so we stand resolutely alongside the human rights and environmental defenders (HRDs) who courageously stand up for our common future, even in some of the most repressive and conflict-torn contexts.

When HRDs are safe and empowered, they can catalyze positive change in their communities and for our planet. That is why PBI continues to place the protection and support of HRDs at the center of our work. PBI, the only organization to provide holistic protective accompaniment to threatened human rights and environmental defenders across multiple regions, first pioneered the strategy in 1981. While not all of our teams implement this approach in its traditional form, it remains a distinguishing feature of PBI's work and will continue to be implemented where local HRDs deem it to be effective.

What began as a small and mighty group of dedicated peace activists gathered on Grindstone Island in Canada in the fall of 1981 has grown into a global organization with teams in 20 countries supported by a broad international network of organizations and individuals committed to the fundamental principles upon which PBI was founded while adapting and evolving our proven methodologies to respond to both longstanding and emerging challenges. Over the past year, PBI provided protection to 3,900 HRDs and over 300,000 individuals and the requests for support continue to come in. In response, PBI has expanded to Cameroon and strengthened our presence in Southeast Asia by adding a new regional team. 2026 will mark our 45th year of providing protective accompaniment and begin year 2 of our new 6-year global strategic plan (2025-2030), in which we commit to continue expanding our protection, to help strengthen global movements, and to improve our internal processes.

The distinguishing feature of PBI's protection is our diverse teams of international volunteers working in conflict zones and complicated contexts around the world, wearing the distinctive PBI vest, who have been trained to provide expert protection to threatened HRDs. They back this presence with outreach and lobbying, with PBI being one of the only organizations to advocate at all levels - from the soldier at a local checkpoint to UN leaders.

Since PBI's beginnings, we have worked to identify and shift power dynamics, using intentional strategies to navigate the cultural, social, and economic effects of colonialism and neocolonialism. From consensus-based decision-making to prioritizing and centering historically marginalized groups in our work, PBI uses de-colonial approaches both in our internal processes and our external activities. However, we recognize that within our holistic protection work we use existing and emerging power dynamics in order to influence the behavior of those seeking to attack human rights defenders, with the objective of helping keep defenders safe enough today to change the world of tomorrow. PBI continues to struggle with these truths in our de-colonial working group and this work remains a priority of new our global strategic plan.



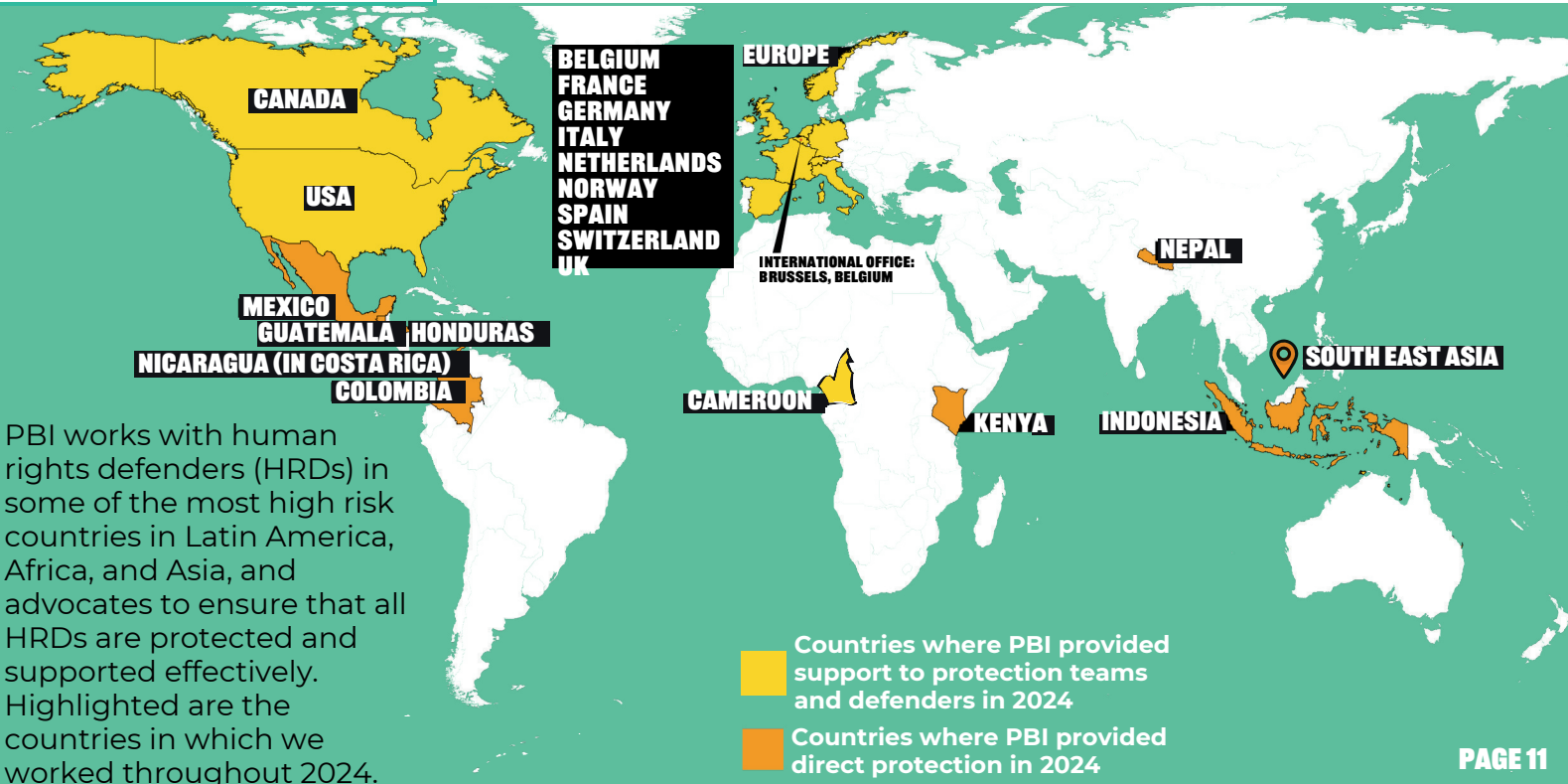
Allowing space to question our long-held strategies through our global strategic planning process not only allows for growth but for an opportunity to recognize why certain principles or strategies remain an important aspect of our protection work while others are in need of a new approach, such as relying largely on volunteers from the "global north." Unlike in the early days of PBI, currently one in three PBI volunteers come from countries in the global majority. On the next page, we outline the goals and indicators included in our global strategic plan. Download the full plan at pbiousa.org/publications.

	EXPANDING PROTECTION & PREVENTING THREATS	STRENGTHENING GLOBAL MOVEMENTS	SHARING OUR RESOURCES
	Defenders expand their protection networks, with future threats prevented following actions based on PBI's analysis.	Defenders are increasingly interconnected and benefit from mutual learning and support, collective protection, and joint strategic activities.	A broader range of human rights defenders will benefit from PBI's tools and interventions.
STRATEGIC INDICATORS	Broadening our regional reach	Fostering exchange and mutual learning	Systemizing methodologies, tools, and learning
	Expanding the protection ecosystem	An international support network of HRDs	Enriching the strategies and tactics of HRDs
	Finding and using new leverage points	Defender-led advocacy	Ensuring fast and effective protection responses

INTERNAL GOALS

	STRENGTHENING INTERNAL DECISION-MAKING	FOSTERING EFFICIENCY	STRENGTHENING CARE
	PBI has increased its capacity to deliver on its mandate and ensure that internal systems support a dual focus on process and outcomes.	The consolidation of key operational areas enables PBI to work more efficiently and effectively and build organizational support.	PBI provides a supportive environment where people can grow and thrive, and where the impact of our work can be sustained for the long-term.
STRATEGIC INDICATORS	Our commitment to horizontality	Human and financial resourcing	Prioritizing “care” across PBI
	Stronger internal decision-making	Building a coherent and unified brand	A person-centered approach to development
	Identifying and leveraging new opportunities	Strengthening internal systems and processes	Building a caring, respectful, and inclusive culture

WHERE WE WORK





MAKING SPACE FOR PEACE @ 45

In 2026, Peace Brigades International will mark our 45th year of providing protective accompaniment to threatened human rights and environmental defenders around the world.

At the heart of all we do, the human rights and environmental defenders we accompany are ordinary people taking extraordinary action — voluntarily, professionally, individually, or collectively — to protect human rights and the environment.



**Peace Brigades
International**
United States

PBI-USA
P.O. Box 75880
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Your support is a critical part of our work. When you give to PBI, you stand in solidarity with thousands of human rights and environmental defenders and movements working across 8 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.



If you can, please give generously by scanning this QR code or go to pbiusa.org to donate today!