

Annual Review 2016

peacebrigadesinternational

Promoting nonviolence
and protecting
human rights since 1981



Dear friend

If this is your first encounter with Peace Brigades International, thank you very much for taking the time to find out about our work. If you are an old friend, thank you for continuing to share our journey. As you will see from this report, 2016 has been a very busy year. However, none of our work would have been possible without the support we receive from individuals and organisations around the world. Consequently, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed either directly or indirectly to our efforts in support of human rights and positive peace in these challenging times.

In 2016, we worked with more than 600¹ inspirational women and men who have risked their lives to defend the rights of others in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico and Nepal. These brave human rights defenders are at the heart of everything we

do. In our 35th year, we have strengthened and expanded our efforts in response to defenders' needs on the ground in all seven project countries. Examples of this work include the following:

In Colombia we began accompanying DiPaz's work monitoring the decommissioning process following the historic peace agreement. As part of our intensive training programme in Indonesia, we delivered our first Train the Trainers workshops to train Papuan Defenders in providing security and protection to fellow activists. In Kenya, we launched an online protection toolkit for grassroots Women Human Rights Defenders, and facilitated human rights training for Public Prosecutors. In Nepal, together with our local implementing partner, we more than doubled the subscriber base for Nepal Monitor, the country's only online data base providing comprehensive mapping of security incidents and reports. We also

delivered a wide range of security-related training across the country.

Finally, the PBI family was deeply saddened by the murders of Berta Cáceres and Nelson Noé García². Their deaths illustrate only too clearly the extreme risks faced by defenders, and the ongoing need for PBI's protective presence around the world.

On behalf of PBI I thank you again for your support and kind attention. Our work continues because of you.

In peace,



John S. Carlarne
PBI President

¹ Numbers include all the members of the organisations PBI works with, who benefit from physical accompaniment, workshops and trainings, speaking tours advocacy meetings and other protection measures.

² PBI began accompanying remaining COPINH members to increase their security following these brutal assassinations

Peace Brigades International (PBI) envisions a world in which people address conflicts non-violently, where human rights are universally upheld and social justice and intercultural respect 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 and repression. We work at the request of human rights defenders and in response to their needs. We believe that lasting transformation of conflicts cannot come from outside, but must be based on the capacities and desires of local people. We avoid imposing, interfering or getting directly involved with the work of the organisations we accompany. Our work ranges from protective accompaniment and capacity building to bridge building and policy advocacy. Our work is effective because we take an integrated approach, combining presence on the ground alongside human rights defenders with an extensive network of international support.



PBI volunteers accompany CEHPRODEC during a march in Dulce Nombre de Culmi, Honduras, August 2016

Cover photo

PBI volunteer with a member of the displaced Rarámuri community in Samalayuca, Juan Luz Gabino Abelín Palma, Mexico, October 2016

The following people served on PBI's International Council in 2016:

John Carlarne (President), Erika Zarate (Vice-President), Ellen Kaas (Treasurer), Shane Guthrie (Secretary), Marianne Bertrand, Denise Cauchi, Carla Clarke, Stephen Darvill, Christen Dobson, Isabella Flisi, Sonia di Mezza, Ana Sanchez, Fathi Zabaar

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What we do

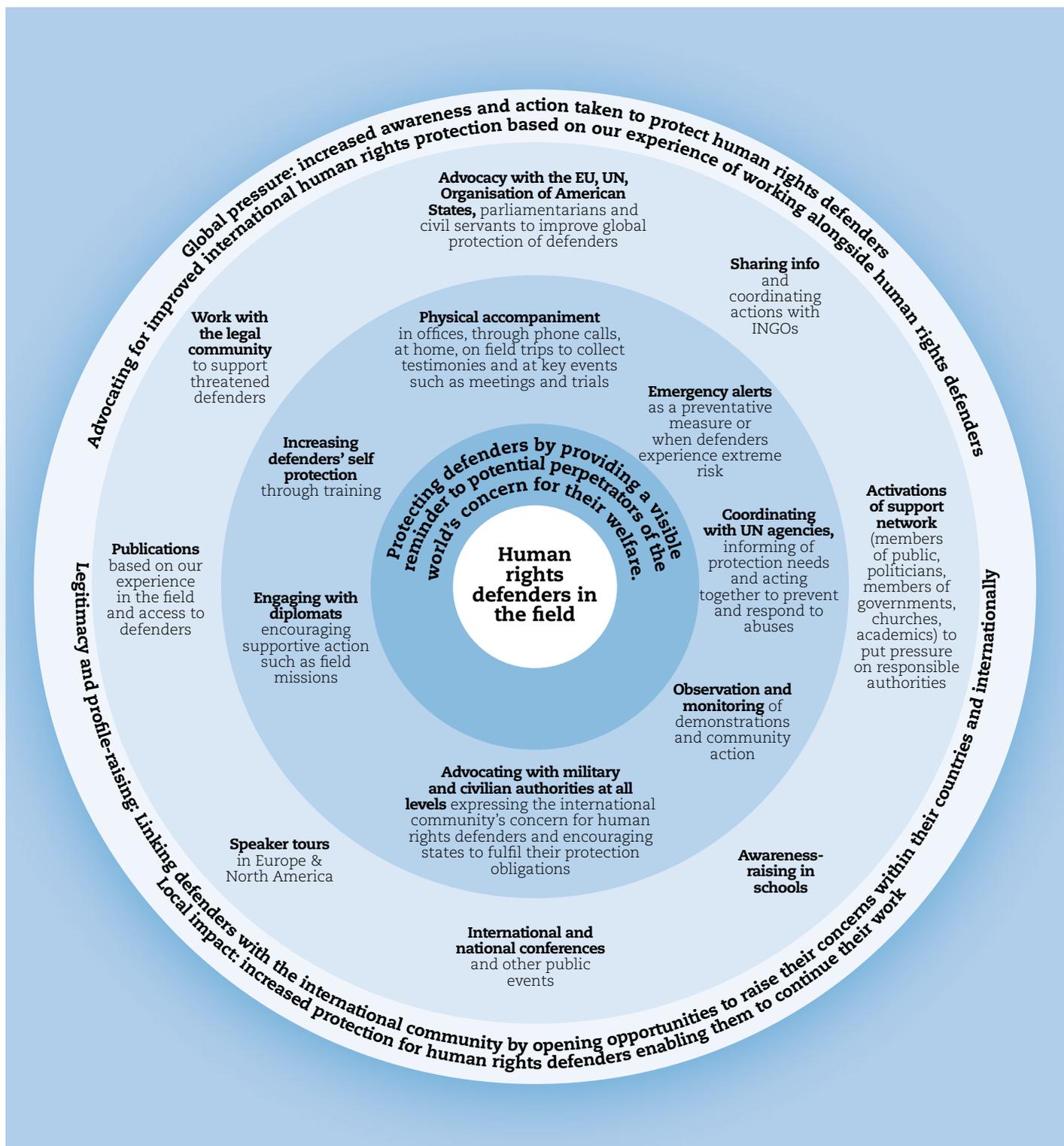
Human rights defenders – courageous people who stand up for the rights and dignity of others because they believe in peace and justice for all – are at the heart of what we do.

We provide protection, support and

recognition to human rights defenders who work in areas of conflict and repression, at their request. We help them 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 human rights accountability. Our volunteers send a powerful message that the world is watching and prepared to act.



2016 in numbers

In 2016, PBI provided protection and support to 343 women and 306 men human rights defenders³ from 65 organisations. Between them, these organisations helped 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 armed forces.

We provided physical accompaniment to human rights defenders on 928 occasions. We visited and met with accompanied organisations and individuals 723 times, providing moral support and practical advice ranging from checking on defenders’ wellbeing to helping with responses to specific security

incidents. We made hundreds of phone calls to check on defenders’ whereabouts and safety.

We ran or hosted 122 workshops attended by over one thousand men and women human rights defenders, providing security and advocacy training and helping defenders to cope with constant stress and psychological pressure.

PHYSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

Bunge la Mwananchi, Kenya

PBI supported several of the most prominent and active members of Bunge La Mwananchi (People’s Parliament), a grass-roots social movement promoting social equality and participatory democracy that works to secure political accountability and social justice in Nairobi’s urban settlements where police brutality and forced evictions are commonplace. As a result, they face threats, harassment, intimidation, defamation and violence. In response to their requests, PBI provided accompaniment to Bunge La Mwananchi members 14 times in 2016. This included accompanying Kibowen⁴ to the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNHCR) and the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) for Kenya, in order to secure legal support for a case related to corruption and police brutality. Several days later following submission of a witness statement in the local police station and after his lawyer had left, he was illegally detained. PBI was able to trigger a response from higher ranks of the police force to secure his unconditional release



PBI volunteers with human rights defenders, Mathare

within hours. We also accompanied six defenders protesting the unlawful arrest of eight community members who were detained for peacefully protesting the rape of a young girl by a local police officer: despite the victim reporting the crime to the police and undergoing a medical

examination the officer had not been detained. PBI’s presence, and support from the KNHCR and the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders, helped ensure the police officer was finally formally arrested and charged and the protesters released.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Honduras

In 2016 PBI Honduras delivered 15 training workshops to 101 women and 91 men from 35 organisations, supporting Honduran defenders to develop and improve all aspects of their security. We worked in partnership with Fundación Acceso, a Costa Rican NGO specialising in providing security support and training across Central America, and the International Platform against Impunity (PICI) to ensure training sessions were relevant, comprehensive and effective. We delivered in-depth protection and security training to six organisations over several sessions. Areas covered included: physical security; secure information sharing and communications; legal and political protection strategies; mental



PBI Honduras delivers a workshop to the LGBTI Association Arcoiris, April 2016

health and wellbeing. Gender was a cross-cutting consideration of our work. As a result, all six organisations developed security plans, implemented additional security measures and established formal security committees, ensuring

security is fully taken into consideration during their important day-to-day work. Feedback from defenders with regards to our security training has been overwhelmingly positive, and we plan to expand this work in 2017.

We expressed our concern for human rights defenders in 268 meetings with government, local and regional authorities, urging officials to uphold their human rights obligations in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya and Mexico. Country groups also championed defenders in 104 meetings with government representatives in Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the UK.

We produced over 110³ publications, videos and radio appeals amplifying defenders' voices and exposing the realities and challenges they face to public and official audiences. We also sent detailed information on the human rights situation on the ground in areas where we work to members of our support network each month. Our unique access to information, rigorous analysis and objectivity are key to the effectiveness of our integrated protection and advocacy.

We activated our emergency support networks 10 times in response to the most pressing and serious issues faced by defenders we accompany.

We attended 764 meetings with diplomatic corps, intergovernmental organisations including the UN and a range of local, national and international NGOs and coalitions to raise concerns about the safety of human rights defenders, provide information on the effectiveness of protective and preventative measures, propose ways in which policy and practice can be improved and work strategically with others to strengthen global civil societal action around human rights defenders.

We organised speaker tours for 9 women and 11 men human rights defenders, enabling them to travel across Europe and North America to raise international awareness of, and support for, their work. These tours empowered defenders to develop relationships with key allies, from parliamentarians to grassroots activists, and gain invaluable political, moral and financial support.

³ Which includes cis, trans, and gender non-conforming individuals. Each time we refer to men and women human rights defenders, we are including the full gender spectrum of those we accompany. PBI's guiding principles and work include supporting gender non-conforming, gender queer, and trans individuals and groups.

⁴ Name has been changed for security reasons

⁵ This number includes publications, videos and radio appeals produced by Field Projects and Country Groups

EMERGENCY ACTIVATION

Human Rights Law Firm, Guatemala (BDH)

The Human Rights Law Firm (BDH) is an internationally renowned law firm whose lawyers put their lives at risk by representing victims in many emblematic cases of human rights violations in Guatemala. BDH lawyers have won landmark decisions, improving access to justice for many more victims of past and current human rights abuses. In 2016 several high profile trials began, bringing with them a serious increase in threats and intimidation and leading PBI to activate its emergency support network in April. We distributed detailed information to a wide audience of local, national and international concerned parties, specifically

requesting that the international community raise their safety concerns with the Guatemalan Government and observe trials. Subsequently concerns were directly raised in individual states' high level bilateral discussions with the Guatemalan Government on at least four occasions as well as at the G13 meeting in July. BDH lawyers also took part in high level meetings with diplomats including the EU Special Representative for Human Rights. BDH lawyers and witnesses in the trials reported feeling more supported and safer as a result of PBI's emergency activation. Six embassies, the EU delegation and the OHCHR sent observers on many different occasions. PBI will continue to monitor the situation closely and react accordingly as the trials continue into 2017.



Christina Auerbach and Esmeralda Saldaña outside the United Nations Office, Geneva, November 2016

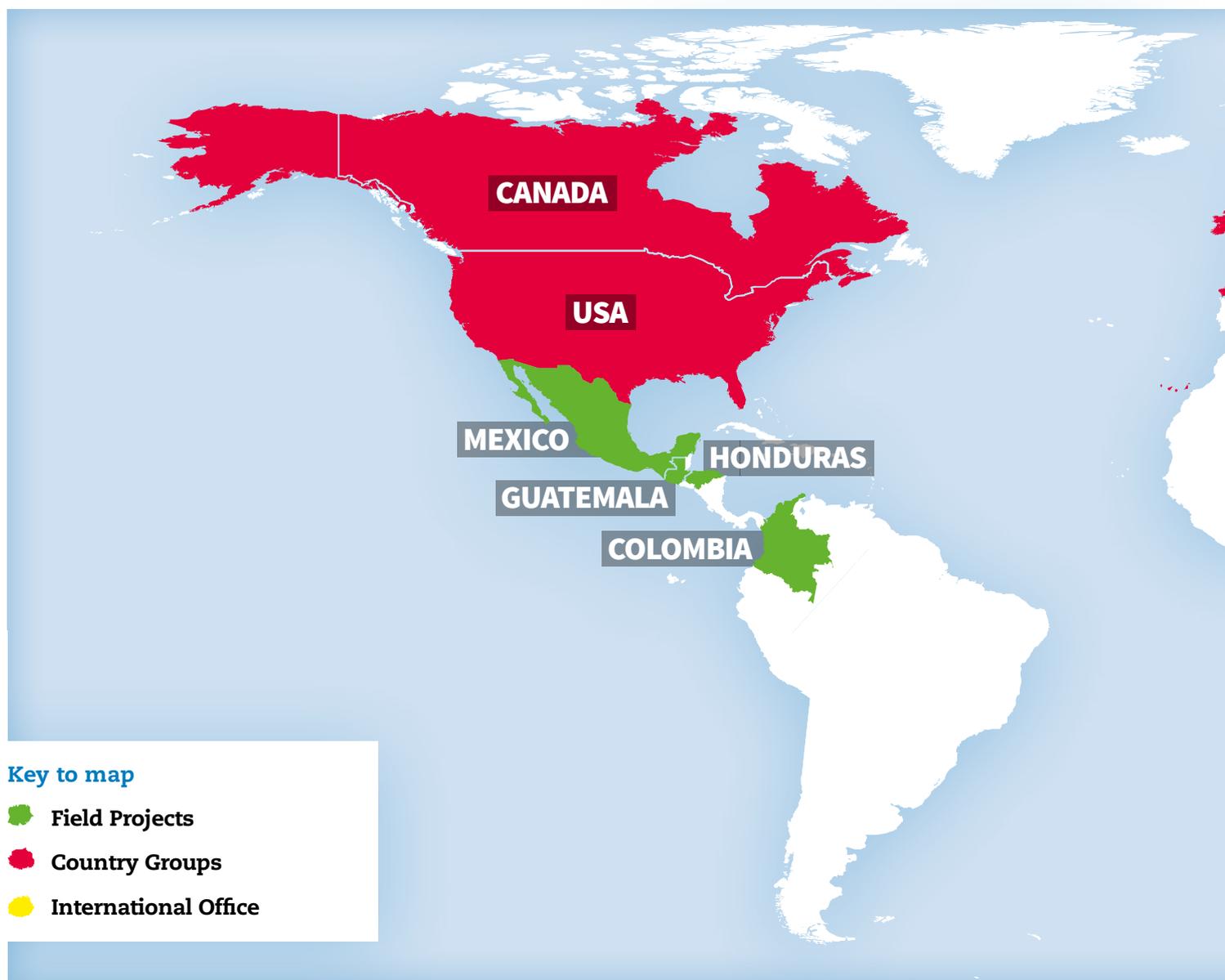
SPEAKER TOUR

Christina Auerbach and Esmeralda Saldaña, Organización Familia Pasta de Conchos, Mexico

In November and December, PBI enabled Mexican human rights defenders Christina Auerbach and Esmeralda Saldaña to visit six European countries, raising awareness of their dangerous work promoting economic, social and cultural rights in the coal mining region of Coahuila, Mexico. The defenders spoke at six public events, took part in press and radio interviews and were filmed for a short documentary released in January 2017. They attended the 5th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva, and participated in numerous meetings with Foreign Affairs Ministries, MPs, lawyers' groups and EU, UN and

civil society representatives in Belgium, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the UK. The speaker tour shone a spotlight on Pasta de Conchos' crucial work holding politicians and powerful mining companies to account, and enabled the sharing of important lessons from the progress the organisation has made despite regular threats and intimidation. Pasta de Conchos developed new links with organisations including the ILO and strengthened relationships with embassies in Mexico - since returning to Mexico in December they have met with embassy representatives from all six countries, including the Deputy Head of Mission of the Irish Embassy in Mexico. The tour increased international support for their ongoing struggle to improve the working and living conditions of miners and their communities.

Where we work



Key to map

- Field Projects
- Country Groups
- International Office

Colombia

Twenty five international volunteers accompanied members of 23 organisations and 3 individual defenders working on a range of issues such as human rights violations due to economic interests and enforced disappearances. Volunteers are based in Bogotá, Barrancabermeja and Apartadó.

Guatemala

Ten international volunteers accompanied members of 13 organisations and 2 individual defenders working on the environment and land rights, impunity and globalisation. Volunteers are based in Guatemala City and travel to other areas of the country.

Honduras

Six international volunteers accompanied members of 4 organisations and 3 individual defenders working on business and human rights, land rights, indigenous rights, freedom of expression, support for victims, women's rights and LGBTI rights. Volunteers are based in Tegucigalpa.

Indonesia

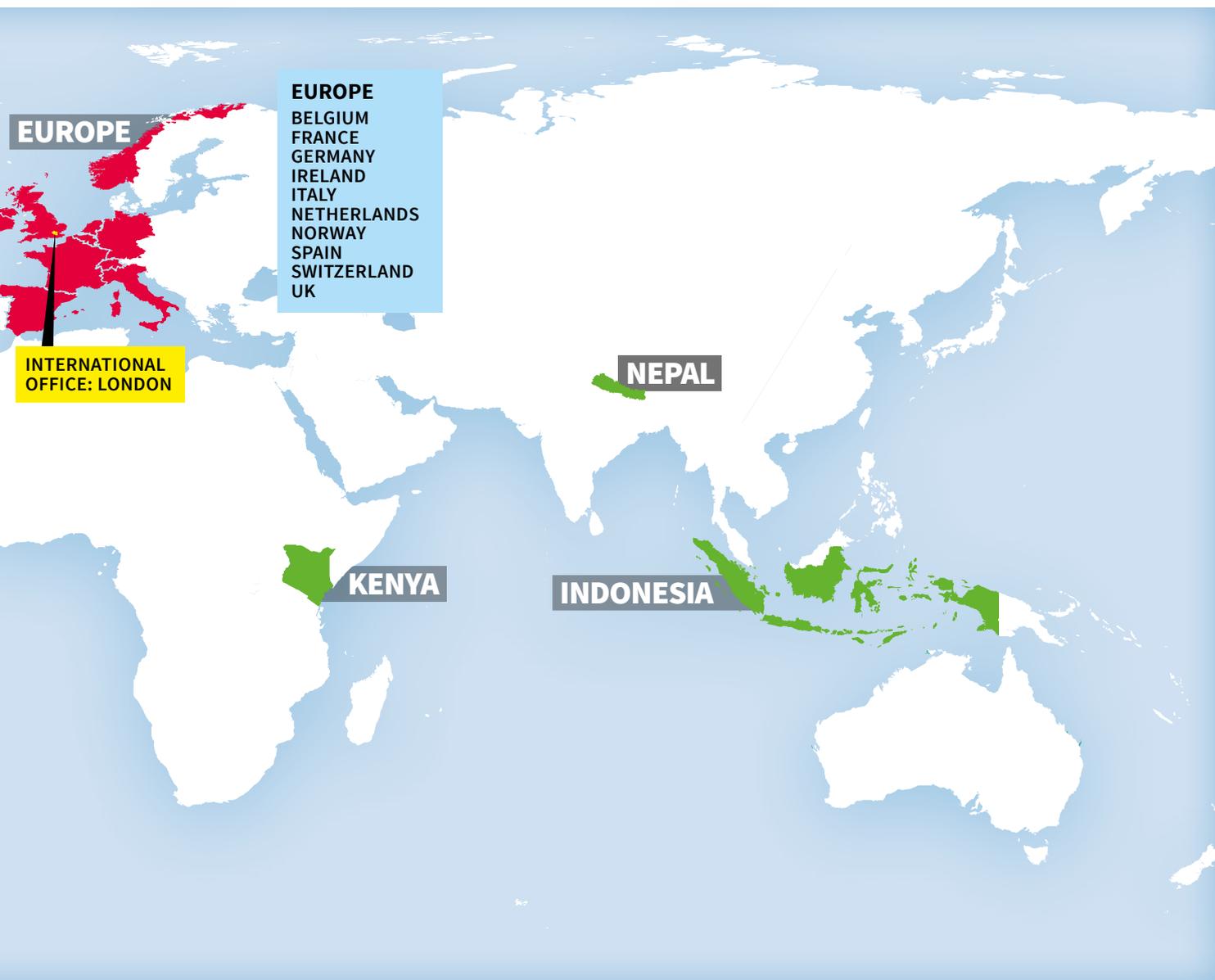
Two international members of staff worked on PBI's project in partnership with the Indonesian human rights organisation ELSAM. Eighteen Papuan defenders were supported through intensive, four-month training programmes in Jakarta in 2016.

Kenya

Four international volunteers accompanied members of 6 grassroots organisations in the urban settlements of Nairobi and in the Mt. Kenya region. These included attending court cases, community forums and police stations. PBI Kenya also provided capacity building, advocacy and support for vulnerable groups of HRDs, including (but not limited to) Women HRDs, Exiled HRDs, Grassroots HRDs and land rights activists. Volunteers are based in Nairobi.

Mexico

Ten international volunteers accompanied members of 14 organisations working on disappearance, impunity, women's rights, indigenous rights and



EUROPE
 BELGIUM
 FRANCE
 GERMANY
 IRELAND
 ITALY
 NETHERLANDS
 NORWAY
 SPAIN
 SWITZERLAND
 UK

INTERNATIONAL OFFICE: LONDON

NEPAL

KENYA

INDONESIA

environmental protection. Volunteers are based in two field teams in the north and south of Mexico, covering the states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Oaxaca and Guerrero with a coordination office in Mexico City.

Nepal
 One international staff member, based in Kathmandu, worked on NepalMonitor.org, a protection and conflict prevention initiative mapping security and human rights incidents across Nepal. In 2016, Nepal Monitor mapped 3,086 security and human rights incidents.

Volunteer numbers included here are the average number of volunteers serving in each field programme at any one time.

PBI Country Groups

Without country groups, PBI would be unable to offer international protective accompaniment to human rights defenders and would have limited global support or impact. Country Groups work to raise the profile of and build support networks for human rights defenders at risk. Through their strong links with government officials, parliamentarians, legal bodies and others, they amplify the voices of human rights defenders at a global level, and ensure the international community is responding effectively to their needs. They also recruit and train field volunteers, raise awareness about human rights abuses and fundraise for field projects.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Belgium | Netherlands |
| Canada | Norway |
| France | Spain |
| Germany | Switzerland |
| Ireland | UK |
| Italy | USA |

Advocacy highlights

In 2016, PBI worked in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico and Nepal – countries where human rights defenders face intimidation, harassment, persecution, arrest, enforced disappearance,

torture and death for their beliefs and actions. Just as crucially, we used detailed and accurate information from defenders on the ground to raise awareness and mobilise action amongst the international commu-

nity, contributing towards making the world a safer place for human rights defenders.

These pages illustrate just some of the highlights of our advocacy and awareness-raising work this year.

Defending Social, Economic and Cultural Rights (ESCR)

Defending ESCR is extremely dangerous: almost half the 281 human rights defenders murdered in 2016 were working to defend land, indigenous and environmental rights. Much of PBI's advocacy work in 2016 focused on improving protection for ESCR defenders.

PBI co-organised a panel event on ESCR defenders' protection needs at the Human Rights Council, with defenders on the panel alongside Michel Forst, Special Rapporteur on the situation of Defenders and Navi Pillay, Former UN Commissioner for Human Rights. We used information, gathered via our close links with defenders on the ground, to provide verified facts and figures as well as key recommendations for both Norway's Human Rights Council resolution on ESCR defenders (adopted on March 24th 2016) and Michel Forst's October report to the UN General Assembly.

PBI's in-depth briefing on the situation of ESCR defenders for the UN ESCR Committee's Honduras review informed their subsequent recommendations. The Committee's October statement on ESCR defenders, which PBI lobbied for alongside many other civil society organisations, provided important, formal recognition of the specific dangers that ESCR defenders face in many countries.

Our report "I think therefore I resist" – coordinated by PBI Spanish State and PBI Catalunya with the support of the Honduras, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico projects, and the participation of PBI UK – documenting environmental defenders' experiences



Amanda Caal and Feliciano Macario from CONAVIGUA at a march for clean water, Guatemala City, April 2016

"PBI offers the possibility to stay alive. Sometimes I feel death is getting close and is breathing down my neck, as they say inside the mines. PBI gives me and other human rights defenders the chance to wake up alive every day and I feel very grateful for that."

Cristina Auerbach
Mexico

Source: Pasta de Conchos: The struggle for justice
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LrP9GItSo>

and promoting effective protection strategies in Latin America, was distributed widely in Spanish, Basque, Catalan and English. We put protection mechanisms firmly on the agenda of a European Parliament Subcommittee on Human Rights hearing on ESCR defenders in the context of European investments, with Father Alberto Franco (CJIP, Colombia) testifying. We hosted defenders from Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico at the 5th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva, co-organising a session on protection solutions attended by government representatives from the Americas and Europe and facilitating defenders' meetings with representatives from the UN, the ILO and individual governments.

35 years of defending human rights defenders

PBI marked 35 years of defending human rights defenders in 2016 with celebrations in several countries. PBI Netherlands' event featured talks from human rights defenders participating in Utrecht's Shelter City alongside Andrew de Sousa from PBI Indonesia and a film screening of PBI's 2015 documentary *Land of Corn*. PBI Switzerland held a photo exhibition in Lausanne and a celebration event in Basel attended by accompanied human rights defenders from

Guatemala and Mexico and many former field volunteers. PBI Germany arranged an "alternative boat tour" through Hamburg, with information about Human Rights and PBI's work at each port, a talk by PBI Germany founders Heinke Wendt and Werner Huffer and live music. PBI UK produced "Invisible Mandelas", a video about the courage of Defenders, held two screenings and organised a conference "Building Enabling Environments for Human Rights Defenders" attended by over 150 people, where the Special Rapporteur Michel Forst was a keynote speaker.



Photo Exhibition, Lausanne Switzerland, December 2016

Strengthening defenders' support networks

PBI arranged speaker tours for 20 defenders in 2016, including Kenyan defender Gacheke Gachihi, coordinator of the Mathare Social Justice Centre and member of Bunge la Mwananchi. Gacheke visited the UK, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Ireland, raising awareness of the dangerous environment human rights defenders face in Kenya with a wide range of audiences and expanding his support

“International tours tell the powers that be that this struggle is not local. It is global. A human rights activist in Kenya is seen as a dissident, a troublesome person, someone with no fixed abode, unemployable. So this kind of opportunity humanises us. It restores the dignity to us and it gives us hope to continue struggling.”

Gacheke Gachihi
Irish Times April 2016



Gacheke Gachihi outside the United Nations Office, Geneva, April 2016

network. During the tour, Gacheke met with key governmental representatives, politicians and lawyers. He also raised concerns about police brutality, extrajudicial killings and criminalisation with various UN human rights bodies, including the Kenya Desk at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation

of Human Rights Defenders and the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions. He participated in meetings and seminars with NGOs and civil society organisations, political foundations and funders, forming important new connections in the process. Gacheke also spoke at various public events and was interviewed by the *Irish Times*.

Building grassroots support for human rights

PBI country groups play an essential role in advocacy at all levels, supporting PBI's global advocacy and speaker tours. In addition, PBI volunteers and staff in all 12 country groups worked hard to raise awareness about human rights and the work of defenders in their countries through a vast array of human rights related activities – from PBI Germany's puppet theatre and educational workshops reaching over 5,500 people in 2016 to PBI Switzerland's first ever crowd funding campaign.

We are committed to working in partnership with others who share our commitment to the defence of human rights. For all our country groups and perhaps even more so for our smallest, such partnerships can produce an impact far greater than the sum of their parts. Volunteer-run country groups co-organised a highly successful seminar on Mining and Human Rights in Mexico (PBI Belgium), joined the “In difesa di” campaign (PBI Italy) and coordinated a fruitful exchange between people working on human rights and the peace process in Northern Ireland and Colombian defenders (PBI Ireland). PBI Norway organised 5 partnership events including a panel event at the Human Rights/Human Wrongs film



PBI Germany puppet theatre workshop, Hamburg, Germany, June 2016.

Karin Gerdas (Lenort Kulturkapelle)

festival and a traditional torch light procession in Oslo to honour the peace process in Colombia. PBI France organised 4 seminars in partnership with other NGOs including Amnesty, ACAT and Caritas France. PBI Spanish State co-organised international seminars in Barcelona and Madrid to create and extend support networks for women defenders from conflict zones, while PBI Netherlands' participation in Utrecht's Shelter City helped raise the profile of defenders from across the world from

Uganda to Russia. Finally, PBI UK organised three public events on the Colombian peace process and challenges for land rights defenders.

PBI USA organised a workshop with Mexican defenders on legal strategies to address disappearances in Mexico with over 30 practitioners from Mexico and the U.S., including the Saltillo Migrant Shelter, the Fray Juan de Larios Human Rights Center, Fundación para la Justicia, CEJIL, LAWG, WOLA, Amnesty USA, and others.

FOCUS ON Field Projects

In 2016, PBI worked with human rights defenders in Latin America (Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico), Africa

(Kenya) and Asia (Nepal and Indonesia). These pages provide a snapshot of the complex challenges and risks defenders

faced, and how PBI was able to support them in their work.

KENYA

In 2016, PBI Kenya engaged with grassroots human rights defenders and social justice organisations in the urban settlements of Nairobi (Mathare, Kariobangi, Kamukunji, Mukuru, Kibera), as well as with two community groups in the Mt. Kenya region. Activities carried out included regular solidarity/networking meetings with grassroots defenders (e.g. during forums), risk analysis sessions, physical accompaniments to police stations and attendance at court hearings. In addition, PBI Kenya successfully facilitated opportunities for grassroots defenders to engage with representatives of established NGOs, state institutions as well as the international community in Kenya and abroad, to increase and strengthen their support networks. In August, PBI Kenya facilitated a meeting between the Senior Human Rights Adviser of the Office of the High Commission of Human Rights (OHCHR) and our partner Mathare Social Justice Centre (MSJC) at their office in Mathare.

Throughout the year, PBI Kenya received and responded to several requests for support from defenders from South-Sudan, Ethiopia and Burundi, who have fled to Kenya. In order to assess

the immediate protection needs and overcome the challenges that the exiled defenders face, PBI Kenya initiated a needs assessment in August 2016, made possible by funding from the Civil Peace Service programme from the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Innovation: In 2016 PBI Kenya developed an online Toolkit for Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) in the urban settlements of Nairobi, in a consultative process with the women defenders themselves. The development of the Toolkit was funded by the Evan Cornish Foundation. On 25 November 2016, PBI Kenya launched the protection toolkit with support from the Delegation of the European Union to Kenya, whose representative Andrew Barnard also gave the keynote speech. Women human rights defenders face a unique set of security challenges on top of those already encountered by other grassroots defenders. The toolkit (<http://www.toolkit-whrd-kenya.org/>) offers resources as well as recommendations to help address the specific challenges that grassroots women defenders face, such as a lack of awareness of existing support programmes for them and lack of solidarity networks. In 2017 PBI Kenya will focus on the dissemination of

“Risks cannot be eliminated from human rights work. The way forward is to provide protection and support to [W]HRDs to enable them to continue their important work.”

Women Human Rights Defenders from the Urban Settlements in Nairobi

the toolkit in Nairobi’s urban settlements.

The launch was held at Redeemed Church in the Mathare settlement of Nairobi and was attended by many women defenders, as well as national authorities and the international community.

Centre stage was given to three courageous women defenders to talk about their experiences in the settlements. Anastasia Wakonyo from Mukuru, Ruth Mumbi from Mathare and Lydia Kemuma from Kibera gave valuable insights into their daily work and struggle as defenders and community activists. Their powerful and often personal accounts stressed the detrimental psycho-social effects that their work can have on their well-being and hence on their security.

Three Women Human Rights Defenders speak at the Launch of the WHRD Toolkit on November 25, 2016. L-R Anastasia Wakonyo from Mukuru, Ruth Mumbi from Mathare, and Lydia Kemuma from Kibera



MEXICO

Faced with the human rights crisis in Mexico⁶ and the escalating risk it poses for human rights defenders, PBI expanded and intensified its accompaniment to civil society organisations in 2016. To respond to an increased risk for defenders of land, territory and the environment in northern Mexico, PBI carried out a series of temporary accompaniments and provided security advice to member organisations of the Network in Defence of Indigenous Territories of the Sierra Tarahumara who work with communities in the context of the installation of large-scale economic projects. At the national level, PBI provided accompaniment to the Focus Group on Business and Human Rights in Mexico in the process of developing the National Action Plan (NAP) for the adoption of the UN Guiding Principles. In Oaxaca, PBI observed a consultation workshop with communities and human rights organisations to develop a diagnosis that would serve as the baseline for the NAP.

In its report following a recent visit to Mexico, the United Nations Committee Against Forced Disappearance characterised disappearances in Mexico as "widespread", and the lack of its categorization as a crime as concerning. In the framework of the accompaniment provided to organisations working on the issue of disappearance in the country, in November, PBI Mexico organised a meeting between members of the National Campaign against Forced Disappearance and the Movement for Our Disappeared in Mexico (made up of more than 110 organisations and relatives' groups from

COLOMBIA

The socio-political context of Colombia was marked by the Peace Accords, finally signed on 1 December⁷, but neither the negotiations nor the signature brought peace to the social leaders or human rights organisations and individuals, who suffered numerous murders and assaults. Therefore, PBI Colombia activated its support network three times throughout the year as a result of these events.

In 2016, PBI Colombia implemented a new international observation tool, within the framework of the peace process, accompanying the DiPaz platform, the civil society watchdog tasked with verifying FARC's bilateral cease-fire and decommissioning process in the Urabá area.



PBI volunteer with Maria Rosalinda Guadalajara, a leader of the displaced Raramuri community, Ciudad Juárez, October 2016

across the country) and representatives of the diplomatic corps in Mexico. During the meeting, the organisations presented a document that lists the minimum requirements that should be included in the General Law against Disappearance and urged the international community to become involved in ensuring the adoption of an adequate law, in accordance with international standards.

Innovation:

Through its security training program, PBI Mexico provides workshops to Defenders to develop self-protection strategies that allow them to maintain or expand their areas of action, and thus, continue to carry out their work despite the adverse context. With the objective of expanding our range of action and contributing to the consolidation of

Achievement:

During the first half of 2016, PBI has worked with the European Union and Intermón Oxfam in Colombia to organise the first field visit within the human rights framework of the Special Envoy, Eamon Gilmore, to the Urabá region. The visit was held in July, with the participation of the Special Envoy, the Ambassador of the EU Delegation in Colombia, its political and cooperation section, the Embassy of Sweden, France and Spain, as well as the Spanish Cooperation Agency.

Innovation:

PBI Colombia produced a cartoon and a comic that were very well received among the accompanied organisations, defenders and the country groups. Both had a great impact as innovative tools explaining PBI's work in Colombia and beyond. With very

expertise within Mexican civil society itself, in 2016 PBI co-facilitated a training of trainers program in collaboration with local civil society organisations. Participants learned about new tools that will enable them to prepare, facilitate and follow up on integral security workshops, either within their own organisations or to groups or communities with whom they work. In 2017, two additional modules, on the Psychosocial Approach and Advocacy, are planned. This will contribute to expanding the network of trainers on security, so that protection strategies can be developed and implemented in territories where PBI does not currently have a field presence.

⁶ "Situación de derechos humanos en México", Inter-American Commission of Human Rights, 31 December 2015

positive ratings and comments, coming from different parts of the world, the animated video "What does PBI Colombia do?" translated into five languages, summarises in three minutes what the deterrence generated by international accompaniment is. The Spanish version exceeds 2,900 visits.

On the other hand, at the end of 2016, PBI Colombia published "Dandelions – The journey of accompaniment", a comic that narrates the story of PBI in Colombia. The six chapters reflect the various emblematic accompaniments carried out in different parts of the country over more than 22 years of PBI presence in Colombia. The comic was reviewed in various newspapers in eight countries in Latin America and Europe.

⁷ El Espectador: The Court approves the "fast track" to implement the Peace Agreement, 13 December 2016

FOCUS ON Field Projects

HONDURAS

2016 was a landmark year for the Honduras Project. Due to a number of significant political events in Honduras, the project was forced to adapt in order to meet the external challenges. This was possible thanks to the collective efforts of staff and volunteers, and the commitment of the defenders.

The lamentable murder of renowned environmental activist Berta Cáceres in March intensified the work of PBI in Honduras, which had to expand its team in the field, accompanying nine defenders, and its office staff, with the aim of supporting a larger number of human rights organisations.

Our accompaniments and international observations to various organisations at risk carried out during 2016 have strengthened the work of defenders on issues such as women's rights, economic, social and cultural

rights, sexual diversity or those related to freedom of expression. Also, our actions – reports, alerts, bulletins, briefings – have served to highlight the importance of such issues as the right of communities to be consulted in a prior, free and informed manner in the context of megaprojects or national and international protection mechanisms for the defenders.

In an attempt to reach a greater number of defenders, in 2016 we consolidated our umbrella accompaniment tool, which means not only accompanying organisations that previously submitted a request, but also those with which our accompanied defenders work.

Lastly, we introduced new areas of work, such as a series of successful workshops of integral protection with a focus on gender.

Achievement: CEHPRODEC was the first organisation that PBI accompanied in Honduras almost since the

project began operating in 2013. The organisation, that advocates for the right to food and ESCR, offers advice to indigenous and peasant populations in the context of territorial defence.

We focused our accompaniment initially on the physical presence, and since 2014 have accompanied CEHPRODEC members on approximately 70 occasions. In addition, in 2016 we prepared an advocacy tour for one member to travel to the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and the United States. This increased the visibility of the organisation and strengthened relations with representatives of the European Parliament, the UN, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, as well as lawyers willing to offer their support on the issue of criminalization of social protest. The speaking tour resulted in an invitation to the United States, where the NGO met with the UN Special Rapporteur on Defenders, Michel Forst.

GUATEMALA

In 2016, the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Peace Accords in Guatemala was commemorated. PBI organised a Public Forum focused on the participation of civil society in democratic Guatemala, and on the situation of defenders. These people continue to be in a high risk situation. Although in 2016 the overall number of attacks has decreased, violence has deepened and a return to the mechanisms of terror and social control has been apparent. In addition, 2016 was the first year of the government of Jimmy Morales, who has shown the will to keep intact the economic model based on the exploitation of natural assets – the basis of most of the conflict in the country, deepening the processes of militarisation of territories. PBI has intensified its accompaniment to organisations that are in the departments of the East and North West (Quiché), where the greatest processes of militarisation linked to the installation of economic projects have taken place. To this end, PBI has facilitated the participation of defenders of the Council of Communities of Cunén and of the Coordinator of Central Campesina Ch'orti' Nuevo Día in two advocacy tours in Europe, enabling them to make visible the situation of human rights violations in departments away from the capital and with little international presence. This helped representatives of the international community visiting these departments showing their interest

Observation of the Central Campesina Ch'orti' Nuevo Día assembly in Matatzano, Chiquimula, 26 October 2016



in the situation of defenders and deterring further attacks. People who defend human rights linked to the defence of the environment, nature, natural assets, water and access to land have remained the most affected in Guatemala. 2016 saw important advances in the legal processes that several communities have decided to undertake to defend their territories and natural assets. This is the case of the Peaceful Resistance of the Communities of San José del Golfo and San Pedro Ayampuc, accompanied by PBI since 2012, in front of the installation of a mining project. Through their peaceful struggle, the communities achieved the issuance

of judicial sentences that suspended operations of the mining project. Despite this victory, at the end of 2016 the mine was still open, so concerns continue about the lack of respect for the judgment by the company and the Ministry of Energy and Mines, as well as possible situations of violence towards the local communities. In addition, PBI contributed to increasing the self-protection capacities of more than 100 defenders (80% women) from rural areas, through the provision of training spaces focused on the healing processes of women defenders, prevention and response to defamation and criminalization practices and IT security.

INDONESIA

In 2016 PBI Indonesia continued to work in partnership with ELSAM (Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy) to train a further 2 cohorts of Human Rights Defenders. By the end of the year, a total of 29 Defenders have completed four months of intensive training covering a wide range of skills to improve their safety and effectiveness in carrying out human rights research and advocacy in rural areas. This includes theoretical and practical training in security and protection methods, human rights law, field investigation techniques and advocacy skills. In October we held our first Training-of-Trainers, consolidating skills among our training alumni and building their capacity to spread the training materials further in their own communities and networks. The course booklet developed around this Training-of-Trainers will be made publicly available in Indonesia in 2017, with an English version also planned for international distribution. Our 2016 trainings continued to bring in new organisations to our network, and in 2017 we will expand participation from at-risk defenders from more regions in both Eastern and Western Indonesia, particularly those working on land and natural resource conflicts. In 2016 we also contributed to international discourse on human rights defenders, presenting at a meeting in the Netherlands, organised by IUCN Netherlands, regarding the safety of environmental defenders in Latin America, Africa and Asia, having an

NEPAL

The daily upload and mapping of reports related to Human Rights and Security incidents in Nepal remained at the core of COCAP | NepalMonitor.org's operation in 2016. In 2016, 3086 reports were mapped - of those, 459 related to general Human Rights, 1867 to the category security, 982 to Gender based Violence and 37 to threats to defenders. Over the same period, NepalMonitor's subscriber base grew steadily from around 900 to more than 2200 over the course of the year, mostly due to increased outreach with Defenders outside Kathmandu.

In 2016, NepalMonitor also strengthened its activities in other fields such as outreach, protection and capacity building for Human Rights Defenders. In addition, NepalMonitor.org was able to expand its networks and reach through collaborations with a number of other initiatives. In partnership with TRIAL International,



Training workshop on the importance of networking among human rights defenders, Jakarta 2016

alumni of our training to present on the risks facing Indonesian youth defenders in Brussels, and arranging meetings between the diplomatic community and a UN Special Rapporteur with trainees from three cohorts in our Basic Course for Human Rights Defenders.

Achievement:

After over a year of work, the first publication of research projects was completed through ELSAM in a book, *Pembela HAM Menulis* (soon to be published in English as well). For most defenders contributing to this work, it is the first time they have written anything for publication and the first time the specific problems in their communities have been analysed for a larger public audience through a human rights framework. The initial reception to this book has

NepalMonitor co-organised 5 regional-level trainings for journalists and defenders on the topics of Reporting on Human Rights Issues and the UN System, and Sexual Violence as a crime under International Law. NepalMonitor also continued its collaboration with Saferworld and its local partners in the Capacities for Peace project publishing, Quarterly Conflict Early Warning, Early Response reports on its NepalMonitor.org/blog. These reports were collated with contributions from (W)HRD organisations of all 5 regions of Nepal. Representatives of NepalMonitor also participated in two advocacy events in Kathmandu and Brussels organised by Saferworld. Additionally, NepalMonitor organised a 2-day regional workshop on Human Rights Monitoring Cycle with Defenders from 17 districts across the Tarai in May, 2 regional trainings on Security in the field for Defenders in the Mid and Farwest of Nepal in November and a national-level training on Data security

“We have to say thank you, this program has really helped our organisation... we see the impact on Mina’s [a participant in the training] creativity. She has very high motivation now as well which you can see in the office.”

Father Anselmus Amo
January 2016

been overwhelmingly positive, even leading to the work being nominated for an international human rights award, and the online version has been downloaded more than the average ELSAM publication.

for Defenders in December. This was besides the regular outreach program with defenders in districts outside Kathmandu. Through the visit of two AidData Fellows in summer, the team was able to strengthen its data-visualization skills and learned how to produce GIS maps based on the NepalMonitor dataset.

Innovation:

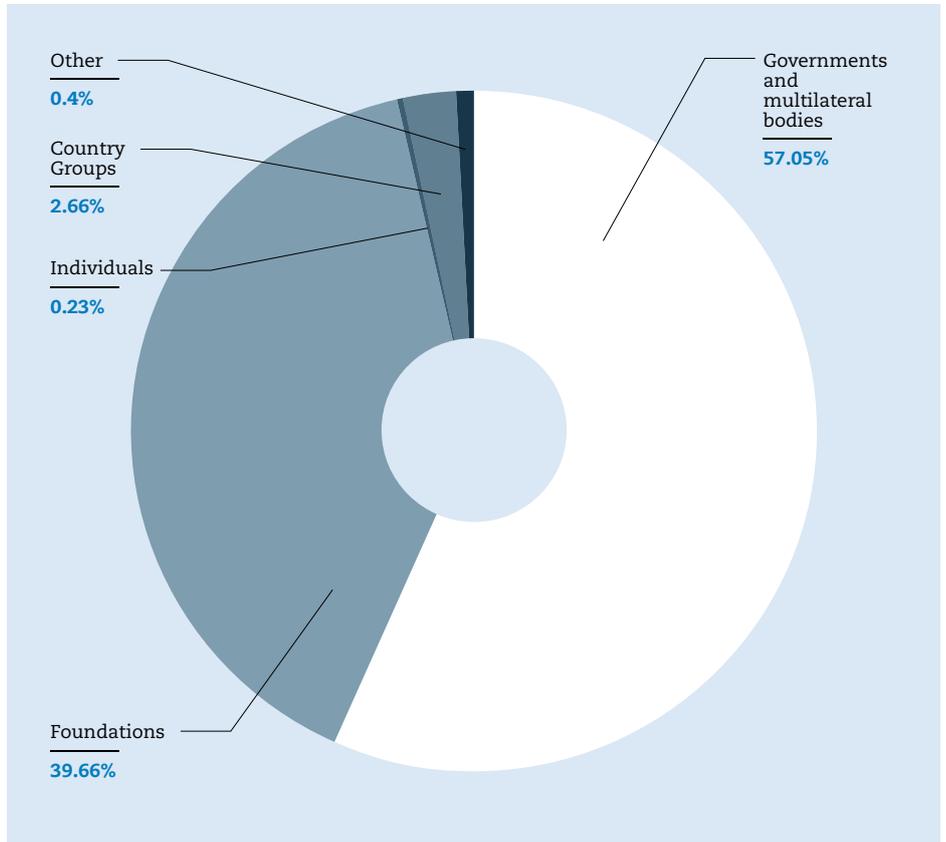
Regular Mapping of Human Rights and Security Incidents continued in 2016. To improve even more the quality of our data and its use for longterm trend analysis on violence in Asia, in August 2016, NepalMonitor.org in cooperation with The Asia Foundation has started a Peace Monitoring Pilot. The Pilot extended the sources used for incidents reporting to include the police website and district-level newspapers for 10 sample districts initially and to institutionalize a more robust coding allowing for quantitative analysis of the Nepalmonitor data-set.

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.

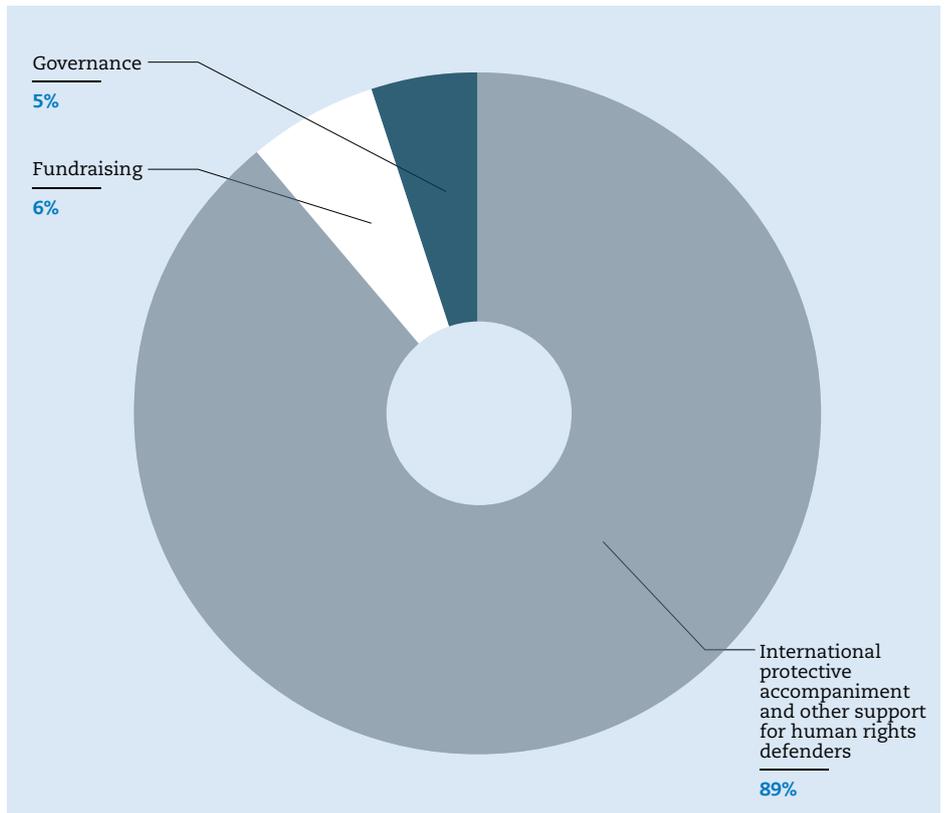
Total income in 2016*: € 2,272,000



How we spend your money

From every €1 you give us, we spend 89 cents on our human rights work and 5 cents on ensuring best practice in organisational governance is followed in line with PBI's principles of non-hierarchy and consensus decision-making. The remaining 6 cents is used to raise the next €1.

Total expenditure in 2016*: € 2,360,000



*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.



peacebrigadesinternational

Promoting nonviolence and
protecting human rights since 1981
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