

“ I know that when  
I call on someone,  
I am not alone. ”

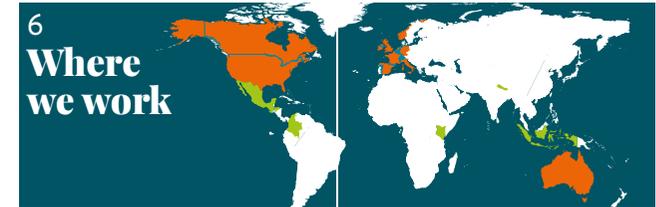
Annual Review 2017



# Contents

## Cover photo

Maria Mutauta from the Mathare Social Justice Centre (MSJC), Kenya



# Dear friends

**A**t PBI, we want to create a better world: a world where human rights are universally upheld, social justice rules and all peoples, and the environment we all depend on, are protected from harm. Supporting human rights defenders – brave activists whose unrelenting quest for justice and equality puts them, and their families and friends, at grave risk – remains at the heart of our work.

In 2017, PBI's community of activists provided effective protection and support to more than one thousand women, men and LGBTI defenders, despite the challenging context and huge risk those working to change the world continued to face. In **Latin America**, volunteers continued our longstanding approach of combining highly visible physical accompaniment on the ground with advocacy with authorities and the international community, reaching **581 defenders**. In East Africa, from our field office in **Kenya** we provided capacity



development, protection, advocacy and networking support to **74 defenders**, while in Asia we provided in-depth human rights training to **27 grass-roots Indonesian defenders** and capacity development, monitoring support and protection to **413 Nepali defenders** via NepalMonitor.org. All our work aims to empower defenders to build self-sustaining, locally-based and owned protection strategies and networks.

In addition to the successes included in these pages, we held our 10th Triennial General Assembly in 2017, bringing activists from across the PBI family together to share learning and collectively agree on the best way forward.

Finally I'm saddened to report that John Carlane, a committed

and longstanding PBI activist who served as president of our International Council until last year, passed away in October. John made an outstanding contribution to PBI and the human rights field more generally and will be remembered for his generosity of spirit and commitment to activism worldwide. I know he would join me in thanking you for reading this report, sharing PBI's vision and supporting our important work.

In peace and friendship,

Fathi

## International Council members in 2017

Fathi Zabaar (president)  
Erika Zarate (vice president)  
Elly Kaas (treasurer)  
Shane Guthrie (secretary)  
Sonia Di Mezza  
Christen Dobson  
Ana Sanchez  
Marianne Bertrand  
Denise Cauchi

“

**PBI is a very important channel for defenders who fight for justice, indigenous peoples and natural resources. PBI accompaniment can strengthen the work of defenders and have an impact on national authorities.**

**LUIS RAMÍREZ**  
Guatemala

”

# 2017 in numbers

PBI is a global movement of activists seeking justice and peace, supporting and standing in solidarity with threatened human rights defenders across the world. Our core aim is to provide protection and support to these brave individuals and organisations strengthening their physical, digital and political security and enhancing their wellbeing. We adapt our approach to both the globally changing context and the various constraints human rights defenders and organisations that support them encounter in different countries.

“

**The physical presence of PBI volunteers by our side means life to us. Because of their presence we're still alive.**

**LOLITA CHÁVEZ**

**K'iche Peoples Council (CPK), Guatemala**

”

**Physical accompaniment, observation and office rounds** provided to 340 women, 336 men and 6 LGBTI **human rights defenders** in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya and Mexico on **917 occasions**.

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

**229 events** brought human rights defenders together with key audiences to strengthen their protection.

We support defenders to strengthen and expand their support networks. Bringing defenders together with each other and with a wide range of relevant institutions, from local to regional to international protection mechanisms, is crucial to this.

**346 capacity development workshops and courses** reached 487 women, 389 men and 49 LGBTI human rights defenders in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico and Nepal.

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

In Indonesia, with partner ELSAM, PBI delivers intensive four-month training programmes for grass-roots human rights defenders. In other countries our work includes delivering digital and physical security workshops, wellbeing training, and Training the Trainer sessions.

“

**PBI offers huge solidarity. They help us to grow by helping us set up meetings with people that it wouldn't be possible for us to contact**

**STEPHEN MWANGI**  
**Kenya**

”



PBI volunteer in the Chamapurro Community, San Juan river, Colombia

Concern for human rights defenders raised in **361 meetings with government, local and regional authorities** and **741 meetings with diplomatic corps, intergovernmental organisations, NGOs and coalitions.**

Advocacy is a crucial element of our protection work. We use our in-depth knowledge of human rights defenders'

situations and established relationships to urge officials in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya and Mexico and internationally to uphold their human rights obligations. We raise concerns, provide recommendations to improve policy and practice and work in partnership to strengthen global action to defend human rights.

**Advocacy tours** enabled **13 women and 13 men human rights defenders** to raise international awareness of and support for their work in Europe and North America.

Read more about advocacy tours on pages 24-25

**328 bulletins, reports, videos, radio and online tools** amplified defenders' voices and exposed the realities and challenges they face. **NepalMonitor** published regular analysis of its data, including reports on gender-based violence trends on its blog. The blog also showcased the work of women human rights defenders (WHRDs) in Nepal and provided in-depth guidance on how to use the platform. In 2017, 46 blogs were posted, with a special focus on monitoring violence during local, provincial and federal elections. Regular features include quarterly trend reports on violence and early warning systems and monthly updates on electoral and political incidents.

Read the NepalMonitor blog here

[nepalmonitor.org/blog](http://nepalmonitor.org/blog)

“

**The authorities become more available and interested when they know we are accompanied by PBI**  
**SILVIA MENDEZ**

**Paso del Norte Human Rights Centre, Mexico**

”



PBI accompanies a protest outside the Public Prosecutor's office against feminicides, Honduras

# Where we work

## 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

**Australia**

**Belgium**

**Canada**

**France**

**Germany**

**Ireland**

**Italy**

**Netherlands**

**Norway**

**Spain**

**Switzerland**

**UK**

**USA**

## COLOMBIA

Twenty one international volunteers accompanied members of 19 organisations and 2 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

Nine international volunteers accompanied members of 10 organisations and 1 individual defender 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

Seven international volunteers accompanied members of 3 organisations and 2 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.

## KENYA

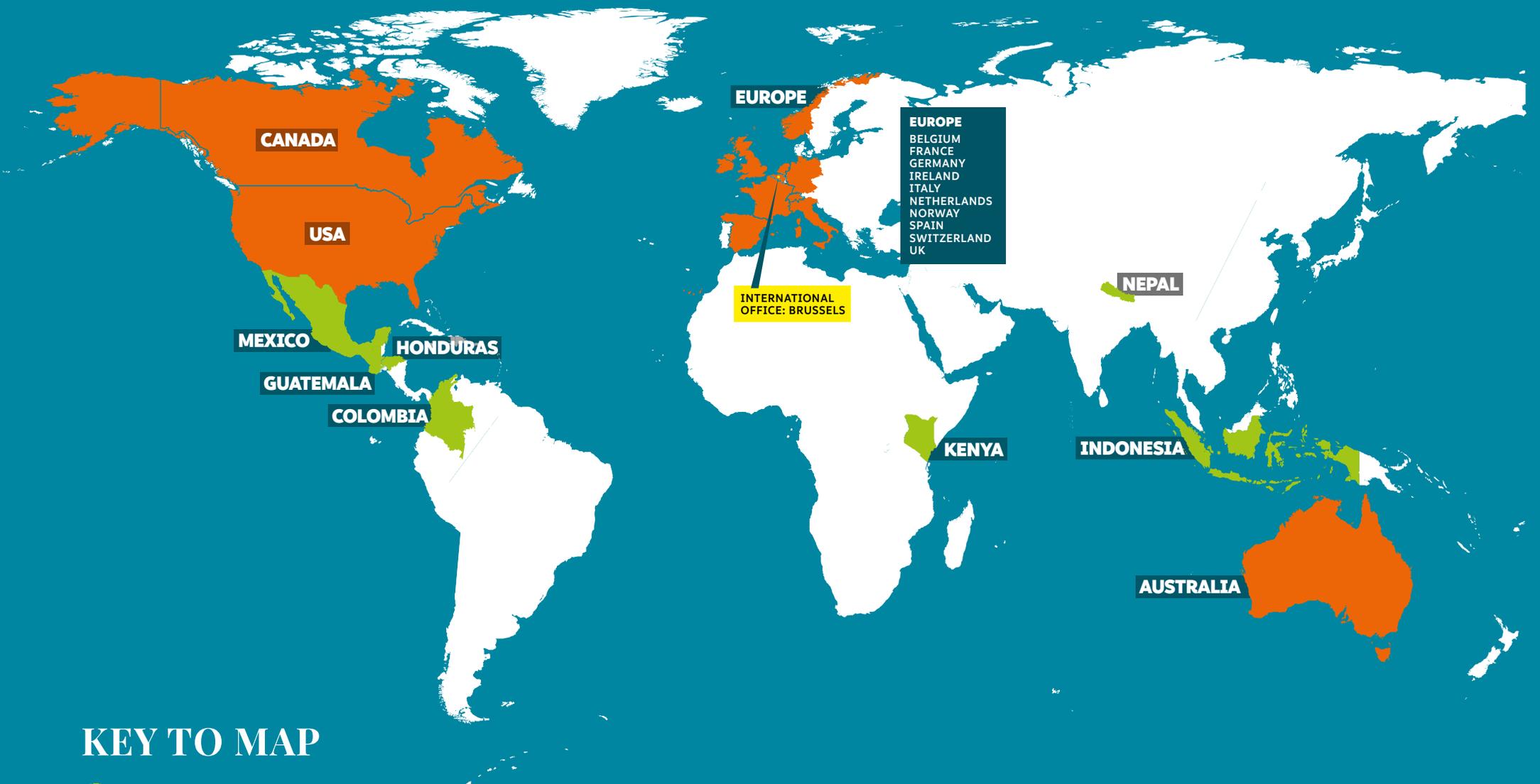
Four international volunteers accompanied members of 2 grassroots organisations and 44 individual defenders in the urban settlements of Nairobi and in the Mt. Kenya region. This included attending court cases, community forums and police stations. The PBI Kenya project is based in Nairobi.

## NEPAL

One international staff and five national staff, based in Kathmandu, worked on NepalMonitor.org, a protection and conflict prevention initiative mapping security and human rights incidents across Nepal.

## MEXICO

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



## KEY TO MAP

- Field Projects
- Country Groups
- International Office

# COLOMBIA

## Fighting impunity: exposing the State

Journalists who expose corruption and seek to establish the truth face risks including intimidation, violence, threats and criminalisation in many of the countries PBI works in. Those who stand to be exposed by their work are invariably powerful and often ruthless. In Colombia PBI has accompanied Claudia Julieta Duque, an investigative journalist who has brought to light corruption scandals and established links between serious human violations and state entities, since 2010. Claudia was spied upon and threatened by the Colombian Department of Security (DAS). She has



“

**PBI plays a vital role in saving the lives of those of us who do not believe in guns, those of us who do work that is frowned upon in this country. It is a guarantee for daily life, I feel very safe when I'm with PBI, they are like my guardian angels. I really feel that daily accompaniment enables me to keep doing my job, I feel much calmer.**

**CLAUDIA JULIETA DUQUE**  
Journalist

”



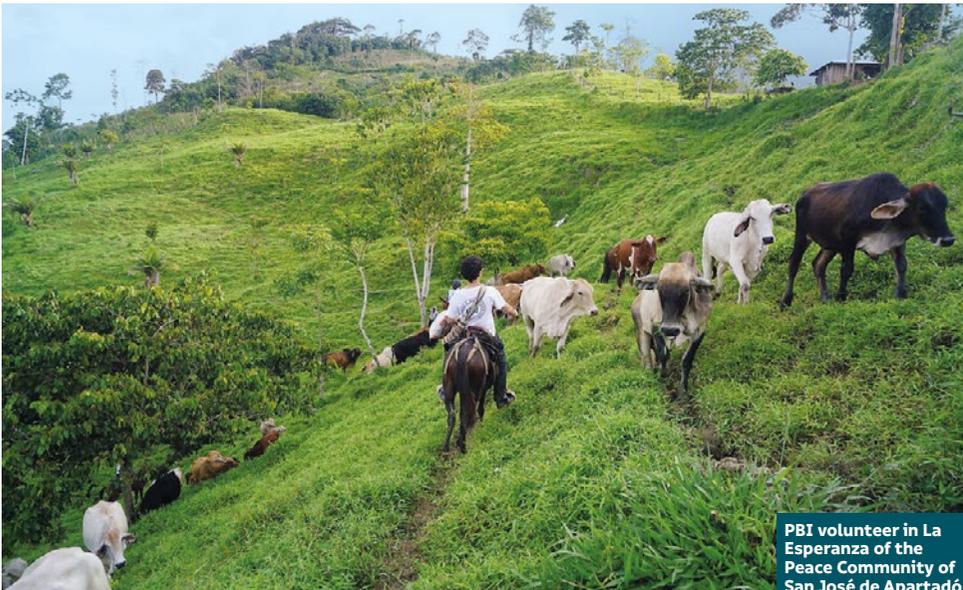
PBI volunteer during an accompaniment in the indigenous Jiw community's temporary settlement, Mapiripán, Meta, Colombia



PBI accompanying NOMADESC during the city strike, Buenaventura



Bladimir Arteaga Guerra and PBI volunteers during the 20th Anniversary of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, Urabá



PBI volunteer in La Esperanza of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó

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**The acts perpetrated against the journalist display the characteristics and elements of crimes against humanity.**

**PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE  
189 OF THE SPECIALISED  
DIRECTORATE AGAINST  
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS,  
OCTOBER 2017**

”

tirelessly investigated these crimes and filed lawsuits against the perpetrators, despite the risks and constant attempts to silence her.

In 2017, in a landmark court case several ex-DAS members were sentenced for Claudia's psychological torture. This was the first trial in Latin America which considered psychological torture as an autonomous offence (ie, not linked to other crimes) and the first based on documents from the intelligence agency that committed the crime.

Throughout 2017, PBI continued to provide physical accompaniment as Claudia carried out her work and at court hearings. We worked hard to raise awareness of the case and encourage diplomats from the EU and other countries to attend sessions. We also worked with the US Department of Homeland Security and human rights networks in the States to promote the deportation of ex-DAS members fugitive there, including Enrique Ariza, former DAS Director who was deported in April. Claudia continues to be an unstoppable force in journalism.

“

**Human rights organisations in Colombia value PBI's protective accompaniment and want it to continue so that the threats and extermination that defenders here are facing are acknowledged. It is very important that PBI remains in Colombia.**

**DAVID RAVELO CRESPO**

”



# GUATEMALA

## Seeking Justice: protecting survivors

Many of the people and organisations PBI works with are fighting impunity: seeking justice for crimes committed where the perpetrators – highly powerful people – have not been prosecuted or punished. Victims are left without effective remedy or compensation for their injuries or loss. They – and society – are denied access to the truth about the violations suffered. Those seeking justice – victims, lawyers, campaigners – face immense risk, and can be particularly vulnerable because their would-be attackers are able to act without fear of punishment.

Among the many PBI supports to gain justice are survivors from Chicoyogüito, a small indigenous village



### Chicoyogüito survivor testimony

Quotes are anonymous for community members' security and as the case is ongoing

“

**We will not back down. We must move forward, even with threats, we must move forward. We must demonstrate that we, the indigenous peoples, are persecuted for our land and for telling the truth. They want to silence us.**

”

“

**Our community receives greater respect with PBI accompaniment. Thank you for always being here with us. It is crucial that the authorities in other countries are aware of what is happening and that you report what our authorities are doing in Guatemala.**

”

“

**We have suffered at the hands of soldiers... We will never forget the truth of what happened to us... We keep this on our lips, in our minds and we must tell this truth. We must prosecute. Above all, we want justice to be done.**

”

PBI observing a ceremony during AVECHAV's assembly, January 2017



“

**PBI accompaniment during the trial was very important because the defence lawyers got very aggressive and PBI presence increased our safety in a climate of great conflict.**

**BDH LAWYERS**

”

in Guatemala. In the 60s soldiers began to arrive in their village. Community members were forced to work for free for the soldiers. The site became a clandestine base for illegal detentions, torture, extrajudicial executions, forced disappearance and rape. In 1968 all those who had not fled were forcibly removed from their homes. They have been displaced ever since.

Chicoyogüito community members (organised as a neighbourhood association, AVECHAV) are taking those responsible for the devastation to court to stand trial for crimes

against humanity. They face significant risk as a result. In 2017, PBI provided accompaniment for the witnesses testifying at the High Court, and during crucial activities including at peaceful protests and marches. We monitored their security situation closely and called on the international community to provide support and protection. The international community showed their interest in the situation of the witnesses during the year, and the community members reported feeling much safer due to PBI's accompaniment.

“

**You are our support, for the advancement of justice and respect towards the community. Thanks to your accompaniment, we are respected a lot more as a community. Thank you for not leaving us alone in our struggle for land and justice, for accompanying us until we get our land back and reach the place we long to be. Thank you for accompanying us. Thank you so much for always being here with us, in every activity. It is vital that authorities from other countries know what happens here in Guatemala, and that you continue providing your reports on what our authorities are doing.**

**MEMBERS OF AVECHAV'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

”

# HONDURAS

## Defending the land: supporting indigenous communities

**W**orldwide almost four people a week were killed defending their land or the environment in 2017, with Latin American countries continuing to be particularly dangerous. In Honduras, those defending the land of indigenous communities from big mining, dam-building and logging projects continued to face extreme risk: five activists were murdered and many more subject to threats and armed attacks (including the daughter of murdered environmentalist Berta Cáceres, just weeks after being named leader of the indigenous rights organisation formerly led by her mother).

“

**We feel safer when PBI accompanies us, especially in more conflictive places**  
**CEHPRODEC**

”

“

**PBI's accompaniment has really helped us. Threats have diminished, the community does not feel alone anymore. Workshops have increased our security and lessened our fear. Our demonstrations in Quimistán were peaceful; I am certain this was due to PBI's advocacy and physical presence. PBI's accompaniment makes us feel safer.**

”



**PBI accompanying CEHPRODEC during the referendum about mining projects**

In 2010 when mining and hydroelectric projects were established on their land without warning or consent, indigenous community leaders established MILPAH (the Independent Lenca Indigenous Movement of La Paz Honduras). MILPAH members have been subject to attacks, death threats, harassment, surveillance, defamation, criminalisation and assassination attempts (including the murder of three MILPAH members in 2015). Armed police have attempted to evict them from their land several times without success. In January 2017, Víctor Vásquez, one of the leaders of the movement, and four others were injured when soldiers fired at them.

The Honduran Centre for the Promotion of Community Development (CEHPRODEC), an organization accompanied by PBI, advises MILPAH on the defence of the rights of the

Lenca people. After a meeting between CEHPRODEC and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (CIDH) in Washington in April 2016 which was facilitated by PBI, CIDH granted precautionary measures in favour of Víctor Vásquez in January 2017. Subsequently, in March, representatives of the Honduras Protection Mechanism visited MILPAH to discuss the implementation of these measures. Measures have included workshops for defenders and local authorities on Convention 169 and the installation of solar panels for phone charging so that the community can communicate. This is one of the very first times the Honduran State has ever implemented collective measures.

PBI accompanying COPINH during a march in memory of Berta Cáceres



PBI accompanying Kevin Ramirez and members of the Association for the Defence of Common Goods of Quimistán, Santa Barbara



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**PBI has been present in all our high-risk activities, like the consultation in La Paz where we expected conflict; PBI’s presence alongside other international organizations helped avoid conflict. PBI played a key role in all these activities.**  
**JOSÉ LUIS**  
**DIRECTOR, CEHPRODEC**  
 ”

# MEXICO

## Defending the earth: protecting environmental defenders

At least fifteen environmental defenders were murdered in Mexico in 2017, and countless others faced threats,

attacks, surveillance, harassment, criminalisation and defamation campaigns. In response, PBI increased protection and advocacy support for environmental defenders in the North and South of Mexico in 2017.

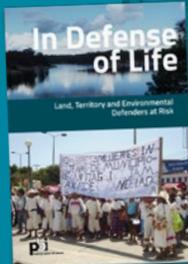
In May PBI helped bring 50 defenders of land, territory and the environment together in Mexico City to collectively share and build protection and security strategies. Participants

published a joint declaration which called on the international community to support their diverse processes of resistance.

In Chihuahua in June, in response to civil society demands, the government signed a “Contingency Plan” which included concrete measures to prevent aggressions and human rights violations and guarantee their non-repetition, with a special focus on the risks and protection measures needed by the communities of the Sierra Tarahumara. PBI contributed to a shadow report to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural (ESC) rights, bringing

PBI accompanying Cristina Auerbach from the Pasta de Conchos Family Organisation, Coahuila

Read the report  
*In Defense of Life:  
Land, Territory  
and Environmental  
Defenders at Risk*



[https://pbi-mexico.org/sites/pbi-mexico.org/files/Defender\\_la\\_Vida%20ENG.pdf](https://pbi-mexico.org/sites/pbi-mexico.org/files/Defender_la_Vida%20ENG.pdf)





@Carlos Guevara-PNGPDH

Participants at a PBI workshop on security for land, territory and environmental defenders, held in Mexico City

the experiences of defenders we accompany to a global audience, and empowering women human rights defenders working on this issue to seek support from key audiences including the UN and national Governments in Europe. In December we launched *In Defense of Life: Land, Territory and Environmental Defenders at Risk*, a report on Mexican Environmental defenders, with a participatory workshop. The event brought environmental defenders from across Mexico together with diplomats and the Office of the High Commissioner in Mexico to share information and highlight their protection needs. For several participants this was the

first opportunity they had had to express their concerns to the international community.

Thanks to their tireless commitment and energy, with PBI's support environmental defenders have achieved notable successes. Pasta de Conchos' work has helped dramatically reduce death rates in Coahuila coalmines and indigenous communities in Guerrero, supported by 'Tlachinollan' Mountain Human Rights Centre, have rejected open-pit mining. We are incredibly proud to support these inspirational individuals, organisations, movements and communities.



**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 in Mexico the chance to wake up alive every day and I feel very grateful for that.**

**CRISTINA AUERBACH**  
Pasta de Conchos  
Family Organisation



**International advocacy is not enough on its own, but it is necessary to draw attention to situations where human rights are violated and where defenders are persecuted. This is where the work of PBI and other organisations is so important. They help us open doors that would otherwise be closed to us**

**MARCOS LEYVA**  
DIRECTOR, EDUCA





“

**We work in four regions in the south of the country where we travel frequently. During our travels, we benefit from PBI's presence. For example, if we accompany communities during protests, as in Buenaventura, PBI accompanies us, NOMADESC, and we accompany the communities. It creates a chain of accompaniment that protects people. We couldn't do that without PBI's accompaniment, as Nomadesc is one of the few organizations in Colombia that did not accept State protection.**

**BERENICE CELEITA**

**NOMADESC, Colombia**

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“

**PBI's accompaniment has helped a lot. Threats have decreased, the community does not feel alone. With the capacity development workshops security has increased and fear has been reduced.**

**KEVIN RAMIREZ**

**Director, Association for the Defence of Common Goods of Quimistán (ASODEBICOQ), Honduras**

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“

**Mathare Social Justice Centre was founded in 2015, and since then we've been engaging with PBI. PBI offers a huge way of solidarity. They help us to grow by helping us set up meetings, with people that wouldn't be possible for us to contact.**

**STEPHEN MWANGI**

**Mathare Social  
Justice Centre (MSJC), Kenya**

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“

**The physical presence of PBI volunteers by our side means life to us. Only because of their presence we are still alive**

**LOLITA CHÁVEZ**

**K'iche Peoples Council (CPK),  
Guatemala**

”



# KENYA

## Stronger together: WHRD Toolkit Organisers

See the  
toolkit here:

<http://www.toolkit-whrd-kenya.org/>

**W**omen Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) often face additional obstacles and threats. In Kenya women are not expected to speak out and challenge the status quo. WHRDs suffer threats, stigma, social rejection and worse, not only because of their human rights work, but also because of their gender. They are denied equal space in public life and are often accused of threatening 'the family', social order or the stability of the state itself. In Nairobi's sprawling and impoverished urban settlements, WHRDs can feel particularly isolated and disempowered.

In 2017 PBI's WHRD Toolkit Organisers Project brought fifteen defenders of women's rights (12 women and 3 men) from Nairobi's

urban settlements together monthly to exchange experiences, network and support one another.

With expert guidance and support from PBI, the group worked together to develop collective strategies to claim their rights and ensure their safety, build support networks and advocate for responses to and prevention of the multiple risks they face.

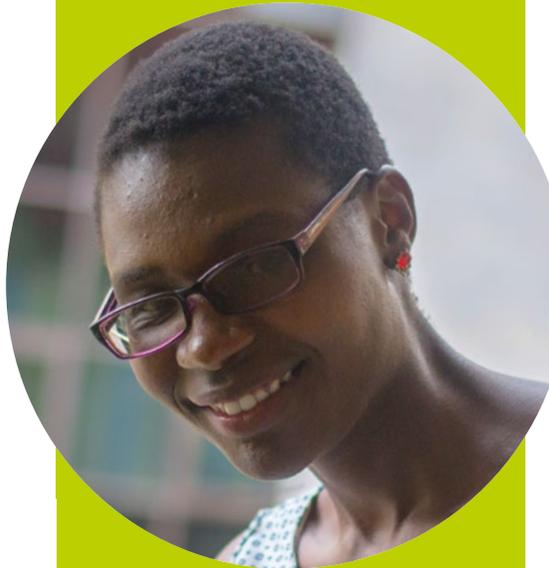
Working on issues including sexual and gender-based violence, female genital mutilation, police brutality and extrajudicial killings, the defenders have become champions of change in their communities.

“  
I know that  
when I call on  
someone, I am  
not alone.

**MARIA MUTAUTA**  
Mathare Social  
Justice Centre

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“

We, the Toolkit Organisers, have ideas and capacities; the WHRD Toolkit provides the platform.

**JUDITH ADHIAMBO OCHIENG**

Langata Legal Aid Centre

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“

Before, women's voices were not heard here. Things are slowly changing. And that's one positive change: women are now more empowered than before. Together, we will hopefully create a community where human rights defenders can speak out, we will create a community where people get justice. Because at the end of the day, that is what we are working for: justice.

**KATE WANGUI**

Kibera Women for Peace and Fairness

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“

I became a human rights activist because I have been oppressed, and I know that there are many more women like me. What I want is to let as many people know about their rights and what it means to be oppressed. The WHRD Toolkit will empower us, but also the people we work with and those we seek justice for, by sharing knowledge on how to act immediately when things happen.

**RAHMA WAKO**

Mathare Social Justice Centre

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“

When women want to become leaders, they are often told by men that they cannot. We are told that we have to follow the traditions. But I say no, we should speak out!

**JACKLINE**

**KWAMBOKA**

St John's Ambulance

”



# INDONESIA

## Breaking down barriers: defending LGBTI rights

**P**BI's Strengthening Capacity Programme was developed with local partner ELSAM (Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy) in response to the extreme risks that human rights defenders face in carrying out their work across Indonesia, particularly in remote and rural areas. In 2017 PBI continued to work to strengthen the capacities of Indonesian defenders in remote areas. Four-month training courses focussed on enhancing grassroots defenders' ability to document human rights abuses, advocate to the Indonesian government and internationally, and build their personal security and protection networks. The course helps defenders grow, develop and expand



Zakura N A Laratmase during his visit to the Netherlands, November 2017

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**PBI and ELSAM's Strengthening Capacity programme has been important for my work to end stigma and discrimination against LGBTI people and those living with HIV/AIDS. In a broader context, it's important for all defenders' shared goals in the respect and upholding of human rights across Indonesia.**

”

their human rights work.

Take Zakura, a community leader in Sorong's small and marginalised transgender community.

Since completing the course, Zakura has shared skills with others in his community, trained as a paralegal with the Indonesia AIDS Network and continues to advocate passionately to end the discrimination and stigma experienced by people living with HIV/AIDS in Sorong. In November Zakura travelled to Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany, raising awareness and eliciting international support. In Brussels he participated in ProtectDefenders.eu's second annual beneficiary meeting

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**I am very grateful to have been chosen to join the ProtectDefenders.eu meeting which continues to expand my abilities and opportunities to further my work as a human rights defender who cares for the right to health access for LGBTI groups and people living with HIV/AIDS in Sorong, West Papua.**

”

alongside representatives from NGOs, Governments and European institutions.

During the course Zakura developed strong relationships with other defenders, opening their eyes to the injustices faced by his community, breaking down barriers and dismantling the prejudices prevalent against sexual minorities and people living with HIV/AIDS in Indonesia. He and fellow transgender activists now regularly share best practice and participate in human rights advocacy alongside defenders who had previously segregated themselves from the LGBTI community.

“

**I hope PBI and ELSAM can continue to provide opportunities for grassroots communities and victims of human rights abuses to participate in the programme.**

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Trainees undertaking social-economic rights research among Jakarta's urban poor



## Identity crisis

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) people experience discrimination, harassment and hostility in many parts of everyday life. In Indonesia, LGBTI rights defenders face additional risks because they challenge entrenched discrimination and accepted norms of behaviour and are targeted by religiously conservative political or militant organisations. The Government's crackdown on LGBTI rights has

further endangered LGBTI people and those who speak out for them. In the light of violent, anti-LGBTI rhetoric from government officials and religious bodies, police raids and physical attacks from religious extremists on LGBTI gatherings and events have increased – and local and state police are systematically denying LGBTI defenders' requests for protection (Attacks on LGBT Rights Defenders escalating in Indonesia, Frontline Defenders December 2017). In this hostile climate, LGBTI defenders may be viewed as different and their work not acknowledged or seen as relevant by the wider Indonesian human rights community just when they need them most.

# NEPAL

## Protecting families: defending LGBTI rights

**O**ur NepalMonitor project, with local partner COCAP, works with and for human rights defenders in Nepal to increase their protection and support their important work in favour of peace and human rights in the country. In 2017 NepalMonitor continued to map human rights and security incidents across Nepal, democratising access to this information and increasing global awareness of the human rights situation in the country. In 2017 4,127 reports were posted on our platform and we published 46 blog entries (up

from 3,089 and 14 in 2016). We also delivered training and capacity building for defenders at 9 workshops and 14 outreach events and linked defenders at risk with organisations providing practical support and advice.

NepalMonitor made a real difference to the lives of human rights defenders and those they seek to support in 2017.

Take Amal\* and Zareen\*, a Pakistani couple.

Amal\* and Zareen\* fled to Nepal to escape persecution for their sexual orientation. They were forced to leave their newborn son who could not be issued papers without a father. The



Indira Ghale presenting scholarships at a school, Nuwakot District

“

**Thank you for our new life! It is the best feeling in the world. The relief which I am feeling right now is something I can't express. Thank you for making this change happen for us and for all your help. Thank you for being human. Thank you for understanding.**

**AMAL\***

”

“

**Thank you so much. We feel very lucky and blessed to have friends like you, thank you for being with us at every step. Thank you so, so much.**

**ZAREEN\***

”

\*Both names have been changed to protect their identities. Messages received following their relocation to Canada in March 2018



The NepalMonitor team during an annual review meeting with COCAP board members

See the monitor here

[nepalmonitor.org/blog](http://nepalmonitor.org/blog)

couple were highly vulnerable and traumatised. Nepal is not a signatory to the UN Convention for Refugees: due to their refugee status neither partner was allowed to work.

NepalMonitor put the couple in direct contact with woman human rights defenders Shyra Karki and Indira Ghale who supported them in finding accommodation, raising funds and advocating with the UNHCR and Nepali authorities despite the risks involved.

NepalMonitor and COCAP worked closely with Shyra and Indira, raising

concerns with the international community and accompanying them to meetings with officials and the police to enhance their security and profile. Thanks to the collective efforts of Shyra, Indira and NepalMonitor/COCAP the couple were able to overcome multiple hurdles and (in March 2018) have just emigrated to Canada: they will shortly be joined by their young son.

# COUNTRY GROUPS

## Making connections: strengthening protection

**PBI organised 18 advocacy tours for 26 defenders in 2017.**

**H**elping activists to make connections is central to our work. Increasing activists' visibility and linking them with others dramatically increases their security as well as increasing international support for their important work. PBI country groups play a crucial role in helping defenders build networks, organising advocacy tours and keeping key audiences – from government officials to high profile lawyers to fellow activists – informed and updated about human rights defenders' experiences around the world.

### Defeating impunity in Nepal

Dipendra Jha, Nepalese lawyer and leader of the Terai Human Rights Defenders Alliance (THRDA), has worked on cases of human rights abuses in Nepal's Terai region since 2007. In 2015 police opened fire on protests over Nepal's new constitution there, killing 56 people. No police officers have been charged, and THRDA discovered the killings were not even being investigated. The Government eventually set up a Commission, but so far (at the time of going to press) no cases have been opened.

In April 2017, PBI arranged for Dipendra Jha to visit the UK and Germany to raise awareness of this alarming situation. In Germany, Dipendra participated in the Nepal dialogue forum. In the UK, he met with the All Party Parliamentary Group on Human Rights, representatives from the Foreign

Office and lawyers. MP Ann Clywd tabled an early day motion raising some of Dipendra's concerns. Coverage of the motion in the Kathmandu Post and Online Khabar urged the Nepal government to amend the constitution to allow for fair representation of the marginalised people of the Terai.

In December Dipendra returned to the UK. PBI arranged very productive meetings with the Foreign Office, parliamentarians, the Bar Human Rights Committee, the Law Society and Amnesty. The Bar Human Rights Committee wrote a letter to the Nepali Government urging them to take action and lots of parliamentary support is planned. Dipendra has just been appointed Attorney General of the Terai.

“

**It is important to understand that we all count; each one of us in the community, the accompanying organisations, PBI volunteers in each country and the people moving through the diplomatic spaces. Everything, even the smallest step, adds up to a driving force.**

**NORMA SUT SANCIR**

**'New Day' Ch'orti' Campesino Central Coordinator (CCCND), Guatemala**

”

## Common ground in Latin America

Bringing defenders from different countries together to share their experiences with each other and international audiences can have a huge impact. As well as supporting individual defenders to develop and expand their support networks, such tours identify, emphasise and seek effective solutions to global patterns of human rights violations.

In March 2017, PBI brought Colombian Berenice Celeita and Guatemalan Marcos Ramirez to Europe to discuss learnings and challenges related to the Peace Agreements in both countries. They visited Belgium, Germany, France,

the Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway, Ireland and Spain meeting with Foreign Ministries, MPs, national networks, Human Rights organizations and the press. In Brussels they met with MEPs, The European Commission (DEVCO), the Belgian Foreign Ministry and participated in a conference organized in partnership with Latin American House.

Based on the tour's success, with partner Collectif Guatemala we organised a further joint advocacy tour in France. This brought Aurelia Arzu (Honduras), Rolando Lopez and Fausto Sanchez

Marcos Ramirez during the joint advocacy tour with Berenice Celeita in France



@Brett.Walsh Photography



Aurelia Arzu, OFRANEH, Honduras, during her interview at Radio RaBe, Bern, Switzerland

(Guatemala) together to highlight business and human rights issues in Central America. Aurelia also visited Switzerland and participated in an event to mark a new Swiss volunteer's departure for Honduras.

In October 2017, we helped defenders from Guatemala, Honduras and Peru to come together in Madrid for two days of round-tables and discussions on strategies to counter the widespread criminalisation of human rights defenders across Latin America. The event enabled defenders

Lolita Chávez, Omar Jerónimo, Norma Sancir (Guatemala), Bertha Oliva (Honduras) and Mirtha Vásquez (Peru) to bring their human rights work and protection concerns to representatives from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the European External Action Service, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, and the Human Rights Institute of Catalonia both during workshops and at separate advocacy meetings.

# COUNTRY GROUPS

—  
**Standing in solidarity: we are all activists**

**P**BI is a global movement of people seeking justice and peace and standing in solidarity with threatened human rights defenders across the world. We aim to raise awareness and encourage positive action not only at the highest levels but right down to the grass roots. We collaborate with a huge range of partners and share information widely. We want everybody to know and care about human rights and take action to promote and defend them. Our country groups are often at the heart of these efforts.

“

**If it wasn't for PBI we'd be in prison. We've almost been sent to prison twice: thanks to PBI this didn't happen**

**UVOC COMMUNITY MEMBER**

**Guatemala**

”



Screening of *Chocolate de Paz*, Hamburg

## Seeing is believing

Nothing has as much impact as the moving image. Film stirs our passions, our outrage. It can create activists. PBI organised film screenings in Germany and Switzerland in 2017. In Switzerland our screening of *Ixcanul* (the first Guatemalan film ever nominated for the Academy Awards shot in Kaqchikel, a Mayan language, with actors from the local indigenous community) attracted over 60 people, many new supporters. In Germany we developed German subtitles and organized seven separate screenings of *Chocolate de Paz* (an acclaimed film about about the PBI-accompanied Peace Community of San José de Apartadó) each attended by 50 – 130 people.



Stephen Mwangi from Mathare Social Justice Centre (MSJC), the Netherlands

See the documentary we made here:

[youtu.be/h2Pt9sOXvDIblog](https://youtu.be/h2Pt9sOXvDIblog)

“

**In Nairobi violence and corruption is part of daily life. You have to be afraid of the police. I want to show that this should not be normal! My advocacy tour in the Netherlands and Brussels gives me the opportunity to give this international visibility and raise awareness.**

**STEPHEN MWANGI**

**Mathare Social Justice Centre (MSJC), Kenya**

”

### Tea and Rights

We take any and every opportunity to talk about human rights and how everybody can be an activist. In 2017 our Human Rights Cafes in the Netherlands went from strength to strength. Our favourite was Stephen Kinuthis Mwangi from the Mathare Social Justice Centre (MSJC) speaking about the challenges faced by human rights defenders in the informal settlements of Mathare, Kenya. He was joined by a PBI volunteer live-streamed from Kenya to give the low-down on what it's really like to volunteer in the field with PBI. It was an interactive, inspirational and entertaining evening. While Stephen was in Europe we also organized advocacy meetings with Government ministers, NGOs and the European Parliament and Commission in Brussels. And a Dutch media outlet made a documentary about him and police violence in Kenya.

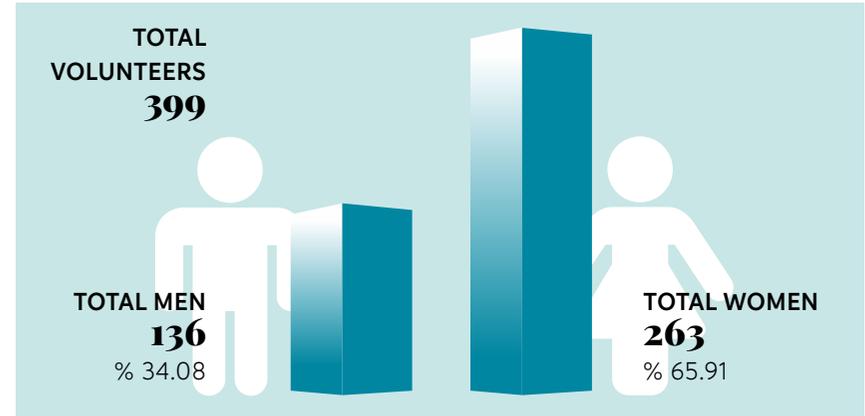
Without hundreds of dedicated individuals and organisations who support us with their time, energy and financial contributions, our human rights work would not be possible.

**Thank you for your ongoing commitment to PBI.**

# Our volunteers

## PBI volunteers' gender

In 2017, PBI was supported by a total of volunteers who worked in our field projects, our country groups and our international office:



## Where do field volunteers come from?

399 volunteers provided support to 13 PBI country groups, 7 projects and our International Office in 2017. From this total, 110 international volunteers provided protection to human rights defenders in the field in 2017.



# Financial Summary

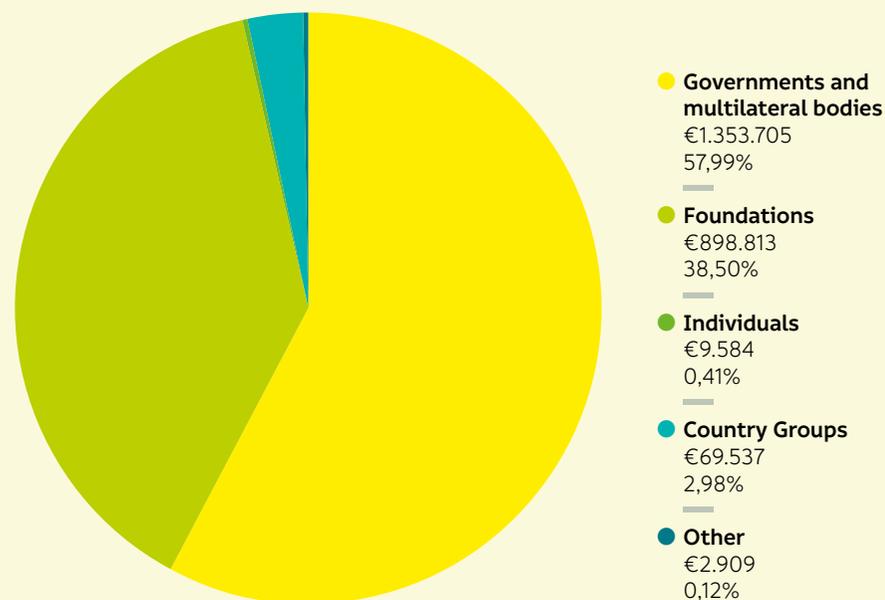
## Who funds PBI?

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 2017\*:  
€ 2,334,548

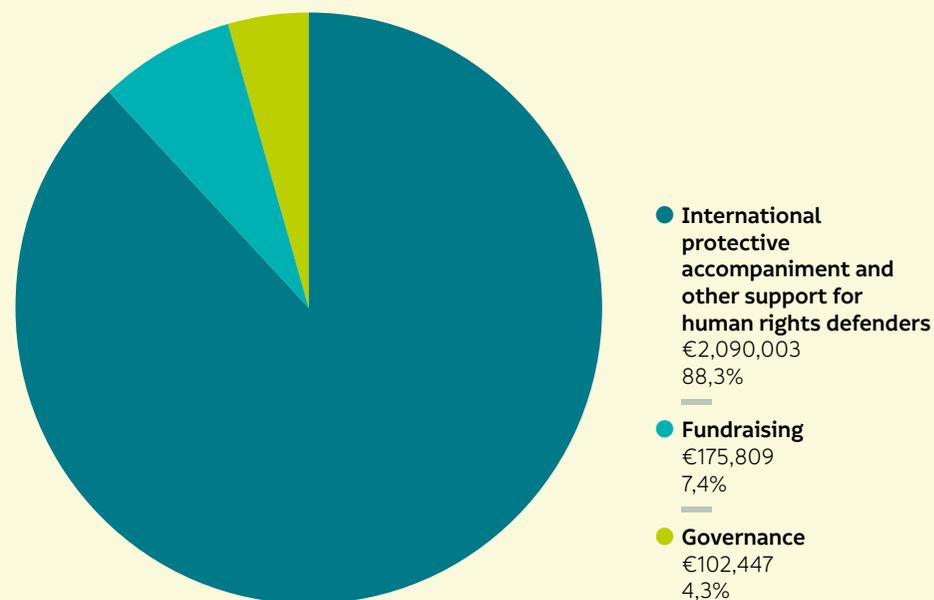


## How we spend your money

From every €1 you give us, we spend 88 cents on our human rights work and 4.5 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 7.5 cents is used to raise the next €1.

Total expenditure in 2017\*:  
€ 2,368,259



\*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 supporters in 2017

**We would like to thank the many organisations and individuals who made generous contributions to our work in 2017, including:**

Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament (ACCD)  
 Agencia Extremeña de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AEXCID)  
 Agencia Vasca de Cooperación para Desarrollo (AVCD)  
 Ajuntament de Barcelona  
 Ayuntamiento de Santander  
 Ayuntamiento de Valladolid  
 Ayuntamiento Donostia – San Sebastián  
 Ayuntamiento Pamplona  
 Barreau de Paris pour les avocats et les particuliers  
 Barreau de Paris Solidarité  
 Basilian Human Development  
 Berti Wicke-Stiftung  
 Brot für die Welt – Bread for the World  
 Canadian Embassy in Costa Rica  
 Chiesa Evangelica Valdese Unione delle Chiese metodiste e valdesi “Otto per Mille”  
 Christian Aid – Irish Aid (IAPF)  
 Christian Aid Charity  
 Civil Peace Service (resources provided by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)  
 Cooperativa Libra – Fondo Lara Groppo

Délégation Genève Ville Solidaire (DGVS)  
 Diputación de Córdoba  
 Diputación de Valladolid  
 Dutch Embassy in Costa Rica  
 Eleanor Rathbone Charitable Trust  
 Embajada de Finlandia en México  
 Embajada de Suiza en México  
 Etat de Genève, Service de la Solidarité Internationale (SSI)  
 European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)  
 Evangelisch-reformierte Kirchgemeinde St Gallen Tablat  
 Fédération Vaudoise de Coopération (FEDEVACO)  
 Ferster Stiftung  
 Fondo Canadá para Iniciativas Locales (FCIL)  
 Fribourg-Solidaire – Fédération fribourgeoise de coopération internationale  
 Generalitat Valenciana. Conselleria de Transparencia, Responsabilidad Social, Participación y Cooperación  
 Gesamtkirchgemeinde Bern und Umgebung (GKG Bern)  
 Gobierno de Cantabria – Dirección General de Juventud y Cooperación al Desarrollo  
 Gobierno de Navarra

Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa), zivik programme (Civil Conflict Resolution)  
 Ilustre Colegio de Abogados del Señorío De Vizcaya (ICASV)  
 Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO)  
 Intermón – Oxfam  
 International Social Service (ISS)  
 Irish Embassy  
 Jenö Stähelin Stiftung  
 Kanton Basel – Stadt  
 MacArthur Foundation  
 Matrix Causes Fund – Matrix Chambers  
 Maya Behn-Eschenburg Stiftung  
 Mensen Met Een Missie  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway  
 COL-16/0017

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands  
 Misereor  
 Non Violence XXI  
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 Oxfam Solidarité  
 Private and individual donations:  
 Rosa Luxemburg Foundation  
 William Payne (private donor)  
 Secours Catholique – Caritas France  
 Smartpeace Foundation  
 Terra 21 Foundation  
 The Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust  
 The Overbook Foundation  
 Trócaire  
 UNIFOR  
 York University

“

**The most important thing for us is to keep on speaking out, being the voices of the silenced and never allow silence to be our master.**

**FAISAL EL BAGIR**

**Sudan**

”

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**When necessary,  
the first number I  
call, the first place  
I seek refuge is PBI.**

**VELIA MURALLES**  
**Guatemala**

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peacebrigadesinternational

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Promoting nonviolence  
and protecting  
human rights since 1981

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