

PEACE  
BRIGADES  
INTERNATIONAL

# Annual Review 2022



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“  
I feel safer  
because  
of PBI

GRACE PAPA

KENYAN HRD

”

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# Introduction

As 2022 drew to a close and the world took stock of the shifts in geopolitics and global narratives, we at PBI took on a similar exercise, identifying our own achievements and those of the defenders we work with. We are proud to have actively supported communities resisting powerful economic and political forces so that they may remain steadfast in their resistance against oppression; that women defenders constructively resist patriarchal

systems in order to build a better society for all; and that those fighting to defend our shared natural resources can protect the environment despite the risk they face.

Behind every social justice achievement lies a human rights defender (HRD); their families and communities, and all those who support their work. PBI has over

PBI accompanies members of the Peaceful Resistance of Cahabón, Guatemala, August 2022



“

**PBI’s approach is simple and effective. Our support means activists, lawyers, journalists and other HRDs can get on with changing the world**

**LAURA GRACE**

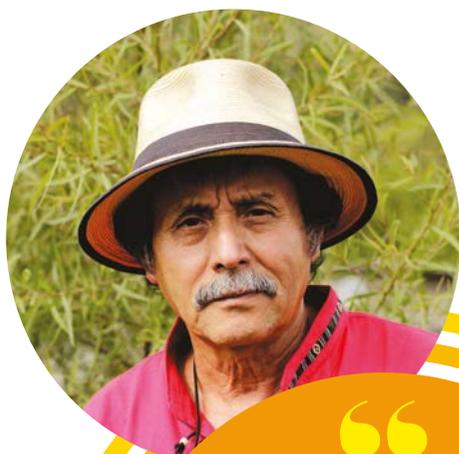
PBI UK

”

40 years of experience working in the field, side by side with defenders on the human rights frontlines across the world, pushing back against repression and speaking out for those whose rights are systematically violated.

Human rights defenders are at the heart of everything we do in PBI. Our focus is human. We build relationships and weave fabrics of trust, solidarity and support that allow defenders to recharge themselves in a network of unwavering sustenance so they can continue to focus on the most pressing issues of our times.

In 2022 PBI identified two major global challenges that have affected defenders in every context we work in; the militarisation of public security and the lack of recognition of HRDs as key actors in the global social justice context, including environmental protection, gender justice and holding powerful actors to account.



“

**I am very grateful for PBI’s work, even more so now that PBI is practically the only international organisation that continues to be present in our territories**

**CARLOS MORALES**

GUATEMALAN HRD, UVOC

”

National Meeting of Women Human Rights Defenders organized by PBI, La Vega, Colombia, February 2022



**Who are HRDs?**

At PBI we support all those who, individually or with others, act to protect human rights. These are individuals who denounce injustice in their communities, groups of people who organise to shed light on abuse or corruption, and whole communities who stand up against economic interests that threaten the wellbeing of our shared environment.

“

**I’m sure that I’m alive thanks to PBI’s accompaniment**

**BERENICE CELEITA**

COLOMBIAN HRD, NOMADESC

”



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### PBI's unique approach in the face of increased repression

The militarisation of public security, increasing repression and the shrinking of space for civil society are trends that have gained momentum in recent years and require civil society to develop creative strategies to overcome them. A clear example of this trend in 2022 was Mexico which came under international scrutiny

for introducing a militarised police force, the National Guard, into a range of activities contravening guidelines from the Interamerican Court which state that the military should only intervene in extraordinary circumstances. In a context of extreme violence with 82 killings and 11 femicides per day in 2022, civil society organisations and international institutions are concerned that the increase in military presence in Mexico seriously threatens the protection of human rights.

Human Rights Watch warned of autocratic tendencies throughout 2022 with the rise of surveillance and severe repression damaging democracies throughout the world. These tendencies coupled with the militarisation of public security can be appreciated across the world as activism is met with repression.

Within this context, activism remains fundamental. Despite the risk, individuals, organisations and communities continue to push back against these trends, holding governments to account and ensuring that the voice of the most vulnerable and of those most affected by repressive measures are heard. This work is dangerous as it calls out corruption and impunity, threatening the status quo including powerful interests keen on maintaining their status. For this reason we must find ways to protect these people that go beyond the often insufficient infrastructure of the state. This is where PBI comes in.

Our unique model has evolved since it was first pioneered in 1981, but what makes PBI unique remains the same. It's the diverse teams of international volunteers in conflict zones and complicated contexts around the world, wearing the distinctive PBI vest, who are trained to protect threatened HRDs. They back this presence with outreach and lobbying, with PBI one of the only organisations to advocate at all levels – from the soldier at a local checkpoint to UN leaders. These activities help create the security, policy and political environments in which HRDs can carry out their work.



“  
**PBI's accompaniment has been an important tool for us. We feel protected, as though we have a green guardian angel by our side**

**ALEJANDRO TORRE  
 XOCOLATL**

MEXICAN HRD

”



PBI observes the LGBTI+ Pride March in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, July 2022

### Recognising the role of HRDs

Amnesty International highlighted the important progress made on environmental justice throughout 2022, with the passage of a resolution at the UN General Assembly in July recognizing the right to a healthy environment. The news followed a similar resolution passed by the UN Human Rights Council at the end of 2021. However, we have remained disappointed by the lack of recognition of the vital role that environmental defenders play in the protection of our planet in international fora such as the COP climate summit. Without a clear strategy of how to protect those who defend our rivers, forests and our shared environment, it is hard to see how we will be able to take the necessary steps towards climate justice.

### Yuli Andrea Velásquez Briceño, Fedepesán, Colombia

Yuli is an environmental defender who works with fishing communities in conservation efforts in the marshes near Barrancabermeja, in the Magdalena Medio region of Colombia. Yuli promotes environmental auditing and management plans to ensure these bodies of water are kept clean and communities who make their living through fishing can continue to do so. She is exposed to serious risks for speaking out about environmental damages caused by national and multinational oil companies and for calling out corruption in the management of public resources that should have been destined to environmental protection.

Since January 2021, Yuli has suffered three attempts on her life and multiple threats. The last attack was perpetrated on July 5th 2022, leaving her bodyguard injured, days after verifying environmental impacts in the San Silvestre swamp.

See [page 23](#) for further information about Yuli's fundamental work defending human rights and the environment and PBI's support that enables her to continue.

“  
PBI is part of my second family. They are a voice of encouragement and confidence so that we as leaders can continue here in the territory defending our right to life, to food security and defending these communities

YULI VELÁSQUEZ



Edu León,  
July 2022

Press conference with Bernardo Caal Xol after his release from prison, March 2022



### Bernardo Caal Xol, Guatemala

Bernardo Caal Xol, Maya Q'eqchi' defender and member of the Peaceful Resistance of Cahabón is an example of the increased criminalisation defenders have experienced in Guatemala and other parts of the world. In 2015, the Resistance was formed when 38 communities organised to defend their territory against the implementation of the hydroelectric project OXEC S.A. Bernardo represented the communities in legal actions

denouncing the lack of consultation and the destruction of nature and sacred sites this project had caused.

The high courts ruled in favor of the communities while a campaign of defamation and criminalisation was launched against Bernardo. Days before the final ruling was published, an arrest warrant was issued against him. In January 2018 he was arrested and in November of the same year sentenced to 7 years and 4 months in prison.

See [pages 21-22](#) for further details of Bernardo's liberation in 2022.

PBI supports a range of environmental defenders from different countries with protection and security strategies which they can integrate into their activism to ensure their safety. We help shed light on the gross injustices many criminalised defenders face due to unjust power dynamics.

Despite our disappointment in governments and international institutions when it comes to necessary advances in social justice, PBI remains constantly in awe of the individuals, communities and organisations that find sources of motivation despite the challenges the world is facing. They use their anger at the injustice they often face as fuel for their resistance, calling on collective power and momentum to bring about change.

PBI remains convinced that international solidarity can protect defenders and will continue to stand by their sides, offering emotional as well as technical support, as they continue to defend human rights.

Within this report of our activities and impact in 2022, we feature examples of our strategic action to support HRDs including pushing for proactive policy in different parts of the world, moral support to incarcerated defenders in Guatemala, international advocacy to support environmental defenders in Colombia and women defenders in Kenya, as well as other examples of our holistic approach to accompaniment in action in Indonesia and other contexts.



**PBI has positioned the voice of territorial communities, organisations defending human rights and victims of serious crimes in political and legal scenarios of great scope, generating an international focus on the protection of their life and integrity**

**NORWEGIAN EMBASSY**

COLOMBIA, 2022



# Words from the International Council

The International Secretariat is made up of the International Council, the International Operations Council and the International Office. Together, they are responsible for overseeing PBI's global administration, coordination, finance, fundraising, organizational development and communications.

The highest decision-making body of PBI is the General Assembly (GA), which meets every three years, takes key strategic decisions and appoints the International Council (IC), which acts as PBI's International Board. Between General Assemblies, a key international decision-making body of PBI is the International Council (IC), made up of the following independent board members:

## Chris Abbott

Chris Abbott is the founder and CEO of Open Briefing which provides holistic security support and resources to empower people and communities to agitate and advocate without fear of attacks and reprisals. Previously, he was the deputy director of the Oxford Research Group and an honorary research fellow in the Centre for Governance and International Affairs at the University of Bristol and in the Department of Peace Studies and International Development at the University of Bradford.



## Mary Kiai

Mary is a partnership, business development, program, and grants management specialist with over 20 years' experience working with Government, NGOs and INGOs. Extensive experience in business development, grants acquisition and partnership management in both development and humanitarian contexts. Member of the Project Management Institute & the Association of Professional Fundraisers. She holds a bachelor's degree in international relations and master's in development communication



### **Oscar Gómez Córdoba**

Oscar is a psychologist, social researcher and human rights activist with extensive experience in providing psychosocial accompaniment to victims of socio-political violence. He has carried out this work in Colombia and Latin America, leading community-based organisations to defend human rights and advocate for victims' rights to truth, justice and reparation.



### **Shane Guthrie**

Shane has worked and volunteered in peace and human rights for 35 years. He was a field volunteer in PBI's Indonesia Project from 1999 to 2002. He has since supported PBI in logistics, training, and human resources management in Kenya and in its international governance. He currently works in community development for people with disability. Shane has a Master of Development Studies, focused on human rights protection.



### **Lien Pham**

Dr Lien Pham is a Sydney-based independent researcher with over 40 publications in education and rights-based development, political participation in non-democracies, diaspora and postcolonialism. She is currently serving as Director of Research and Evaluation at Thrive Networks/East Meets West Foundation delivering a portfolio of projects and studies in climate change adaptation in Southeast Asia.



### **Anil Pant**

Anil is a freelance consultant based in Nepal. He has extensive experience in governance, organisational development, human rights campaigning, conflict management and human-rights based development programming. From 2012 and 2018, he served as the Director of Amnesty International's Movement Support Program and from 2009 to 2012 as the Director of Global Campaigns Program in London, United Kingdom. Prior to that, Anil served as the Head of Governance of ActionAid International in Johannesburg, South Africa.



### Marc Bontemps

Marc is a commercial engineer who worked as auditor for PwC Belgium and was lecturer of Cost Accounting at Brussels University. He fulfilled different management functions in development NGO's such as Oxfam Belgium, Ecolife and Forum Ethibel/Vigeo. In 2010, he co-founded NewB, the new sustainable, ethical cooperative bank in Belgium. In addition to being on PBI's International Council, Marc is also a member of the Finance and Audit Committee.



### Lubna Sayed Qadri

Lubna was born and raised in Kashmir, a conflict zone in India, and has always been associated with human rights work. She is an SDG Advisor with Thinking Philanthropy, a UK-based organisation that supports charities globally to find funding partners. Previously, Lubna worked as a Global Program Director of the PVBLIC Foundation and led the SDG Data Alliance, a global multilateral project. She has worked as the National Campaign Coordinator of the Wada Na Todo Abhiyan, which reviews domestic and international commitments of the Government.



### Fathi Zabaar

Fathi Zabaar is a Tunisian jurist and human rights advocate. He is a Program Director with the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. Fathi has been running programs at global and regional levels notably in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and West Africa in the fields of human rights and transitional justice. He works with community based organisations providing training and technical assistance on advocacy, strategy and conflict resolution.



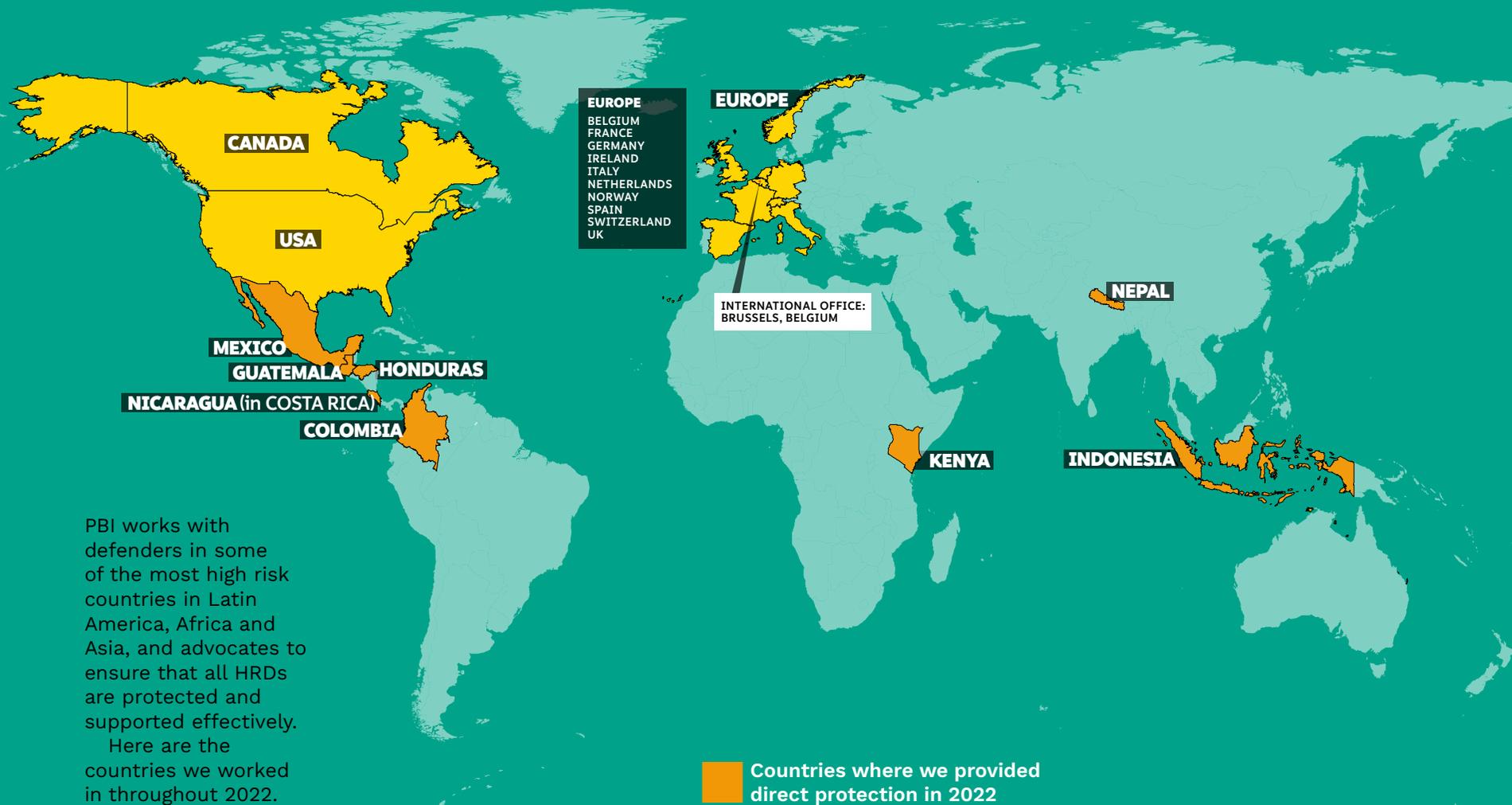
**PBI's work is vital to grassroots activists on the front lines of the most important struggles of our times: protecting democracy, combating the climate crisis and fighting for gender justice**

**SIERRA SCHRAFF-THOMAS**

EX-PBI INTERNATIONAL  
COORDINATOR



# Where we worked in 2022



PBI works with defenders in some of the most high risk countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia, and advocates to ensure that all HRDs are protected and supported effectively.

Here are the countries we worked in throughout 2022.

**BELGIUM**

Our International Office is based in Brussels, where we liaise with allied organisations and institutions in order to streamline efforts to protect defenders. This office is a coordination hub of the organisation, playing a key role in administration and governance.

**CANADA**

We visited PBI accompanied defenders in Colombia who have seen their communities impacted by Canadian oil and gas corporations, organised webinars to amplify the voices of PBI accompanied defenders, organised another two webinars to help recruit field volunteers, and shared daily updates about PBI accompanied struggles on social media.

**COLOMBIA**

We accompanied 298 activities of HRDs and offered 38 workshops to organisations on topics such as digital security and internal strengthening. Our advocacy team created new inroads with stakeholders, both nationally with ministers in Colombia’s newly elected government, and internationally in the UN Security Council. We also published [five video interviews with women HRDs](#).

**FRANCE**

Throughout 2022 we worked on maintaining inter-association links and strengthened our advocacy strategies and networks with elected representatives and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs. We have diversified our advocacy techniques by organising online tours for HRDs from different parts of the world.

**GERMANY**

We developed the podcast series “Making Space for Dialogue” for the audience to listen to the HRDs voices and perspectives. The first five episodes give space to women HRDs from Nicaragua, Kenya, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico. The latest episode is about environmental destruction and land grabbing by transnational corporations in Honduras. More episodes are in the making ([Podcastreihe “Making Space for Dialogue” | PBI Germany](#)).

**GUATEMALA**

Our accompaniment reached 802 communities who are supported by the organisations and individuals that PBI supports directly. Our work in 2022 was focused on those defending their land and territory against the imposition of extractive projects, and indigenous peoples’ struggles for self-determination and the protection of their rights. We also accompanied lawyers that fight against impunity for multiple crimes committed by state agents during the 36-year war in the country.



“  
**PBI’s accompaniment is for life; for a life in dignity for victims, to guarantee their rights, which the state fails to provide. In addition, it is a recognition by the international community of the work of victims**  
 ”

**LAURA**

COLOMBIAN HRD, FNEB



Yanette Bautista, director of FNEB in Villavicencio, Meta, at a workshop with relatives of victims of enforced disappearance, June 2022

### HONDURAS

34 international volunteers accompanied 271 HRDs whose work reached over 32,000 people in the country. The majority of defenders we supported work on land and territory, business and human rights issues, and LGBTQI+ rights.

### INDONESIA

Thanks to the trust built over the years between PBI and grassroots HRDs, and to strong relationships fostered with national civil society as well as the international community, we are in a position to play a key role of support to the HRDs. In 2022 one of our important added values was to bring together players who would not necessarily have the space to meet and exchange.

### ITALY

In 2022, PBI Italy continued to promote the important work of HRDs by organising seminars on nonviolent conflict transformation, screenings of the documentary ‘La sangre de la tierra’, which recounts the struggle in defense of the environment by communities accompanied by PBI, and keeping contacts with the ‘In Difesa di’ network (active in Italy in support of human rights defenders).

### KENYA

PBI contributed to the safety and security of HRDs by providing psychosocial support, risk analysis trainings and joint advocacy, specifically taking into account the general elections in August of the year. We focused on supporting HRD networks, working for peaceful elections, social justice and women’s rights.

**MEXICO**

20 volunteers from 13 countries accompanied defenders across 3 states, specifically those defending their land and territories against the imposition of extractive projects and the threat that continued militarisation of the country implies. We supported the design of a holistic public policy that protects HRDs and goes further than the proposed law that should be approved in 2023.

**THE NETHERLANDS**

PBI worked with HRDs from all over the world through advocacy tours and the Shelter City program. Through the involvement of youth in our public events such as film screenings, masterclasses and lectures, we set out to create a new generation of peacebuilders.

**NICARAGUA (in Costa Rica)**

During 2022, we accompanied 3 organisations, exiled in Costa Rica due to political repression in Nicaragua. We accompanied organisations of women, rural workers, indigenous peoples and afro-descendants of the Caribbean Coast. We supported them in organisational strengthening to sustain the social fabric that has been dismantled in their country and in international advocacy actions to denounce human rights violations.

**NORWAY**

One of our main activities in 2022 was receiving representatives from our accompanied organisations to Norway and helping them create awareness about their work and strengthen their support networks. These visits can be seen as one way of connecting with Norwegian civil society and showing the public who the HRDs are.

**SPAIN**

In 2022, PBI Spanish State received the Gernika Prize for Peace and Reconciliation for our international peacebuilding work. We also worked closely with the Catalan Business and Human Rights Centre and collaborated with Carne Cruda in the production of radio episodes highlighting the work of defenders of land and territory that we accompany in different parts of the world.

**SWITZERLAND**

In July 2022, PBI organised a big 40th anniversary birthday party in Switzerland. It was an inspiring and emotional day to listen to their different experiences in 40 years of commitment to peace and human rights. We have permanente representation in Geneva in order to advocate for the defenders we accompany in the United Nations.

**UK**

In 2022 we updated our strategy, and mobilised resources and action from lawyers, NGOs, academics, Parliament and the Government to enhance defenders' impact and help keep them safe. We got resources to PBI's field projects for holistic protective accompaniment, and gained policy commitments from legislators in regards to business and human rights.

**USA**

PBI has permanent representation in Washington DC where we advocate with Senators, Congressmen and women and other actors, ensuring that they have up to date information about the situation of HRDs across the world and can push for policies that ensure their protection.



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# 2022 in numbers

In response to the outlined context, in 2022 PBI accompanied **1,874 individuals**, **53 organisations** and **822 communities** across the world.

We gave **262 workshops** in holistic security, peacebuilding, conflict

resolution, psychosocial support and self-care, gender, solidarity-based action, intersectionality, amongst other topics to **2,084 people**.

Through the defenders that we supported through our holistic

accompaniment, including physical presence, capacity building, advocacy and communications activities and psychosocial support, our work throughout 2022 reached over **200,000 people** across the world.



Ninfa Cruz, COSPACC talks with PBI at the National Meeting of Women Human Rights Defenders, organised by PBI, February 2022





**I feel privileged to be accompanied by PBI. Their accompaniment has practically become a part of me. I want to give this message of gratitude to PBI after ten years of accompaniment**

**EDGAR PÉREZ**

GUATEMALAN HRD



# PBI's impact across the world in 2022

## Strategic action for Mexico

In light of a dramatic increase in attacks and smears against HRDs in Mexico, PBI implemented a multi-pronged strategy of international action to support local activists. With our field teams spreading their presence to new regions where violence against HRDs continues to threaten their important work, PBI UK's Director also travelled to the country to discuss what more could be done.

Mexican defender Diana Villalobos visited London and Spain for a range of activities, including a film screening of the documentary Cruz, which highlights the enforced displacements in the Sierra Tarahumara. She briefed UK Members of Parliament who subsequently travelled to Mexico and raised human rights issues, including the need for better protection of defenders, with their Mexican counterparts and the Executive.

The UK Ambassador travelled to Diana's region, Chihuahua, to meet with local NGOs and government officials.



Lupita, Mexican defender from ASMAC with PBI, November 2022

“

Many HRDs did not know the importance of mental and physical health. Currently, we have team building sessions and are looking after our health. This was because of the training we received by PBI on psychosocial support

”

**KENYAN HRD**

SOCIAL JUSTICE CENTRE

He has since published an op-ed in a national paper recognising the work of HRDs and expressing concern for their safety in light of an assassination attempt against environmental lawyer Juan Carlos Solis, member of the FPDTA-MPT, also accompanied by PBI.

With the protective accompaniment of PBI, Diana continues to support indigenous communities in the defence of their land and climate-crucial forests, and Juan Carlos is successfully documenting corruption and representing several communities in their demands for justice following the imposition of destructive extractive industries.



Marcelina Barranco (FPDTA) on speakers tour at the UN in Geneva, Switzerland, November 2022

**Marcelina Barranco,**  
**Mexican HRD, FPDTA-MPT**

At the end of 2022, Marcelina Barranco, colleague of Juan Carlos from the FPDTA-MPT, participated in an advocacy tour to Spain, France, Germany, Switzerland and Belgium to denounce the impacts of the monopolisation of water sources by the company Bonafont and industrial parks in the state of Puebla, Mexico. This work has stalled the building of the industrial parks, giving the impacted communities time to organise and to

ensure their voices of resistance are heard.

Public events and press releases in the European media as well as meetings with a range of authorities in the five countries contributed to raising awareness of pollution of rivers by transnational, affecting the territories of the communities. The contacts made during this tour have allowed Marcelina to continue with her important work defending human rights in Mexico, safe in the knowledge that the international community will help mitigate the risks she faces.

“  
PBI’s accompaniment has been important to connect us with international support networks that we wouldn’t have access to or capacity to manage ourselves  
DIANA VILLALOBOS  
MEXICAN DEFENDER, CONTEC  
”

# Freedom for Bernardo Caal Xol, Guatemala

On March 24th 2022, PBI received a call announcing the release of Bernardo Caal Xol, indigenous HRD who has dedicated his life to protecting his territory and defending his community.

During his imprisonment, PBI was an important moral support through regular visits, which according to him meant an important protection inside the prison.



PBI accompanies Bernardo Caal at the press conference following his release, March 2022

“  
**Today I am obtaining my freedom, it is a clear defeat and triumph over criminalisation, perhaps they hoped that with this imprisonment they would defeat the struggle for the defense of the territories, but no**  
”  
**BERNARDO CAAL XOL**

“  
**With PBI by your side, one does not feel forgotten**  
”  
**BERNARDO CAAL XOL**

PBI made sure he could participate in the documentary La Sangre de la Tierra (The Blood of the Earth) in order to broadcast his voice outside of prison.

Since his imprisonment, PBI has continuously provided information about his situation to the diplomatic corps in

Guatemala, inviting them to observe his hearings; state political actors; the United Nations; human rights organizations and civil society outside of Guatemala.



“  
I am grateful for the accompaniment that PBI has given me to the prison in Guatemala City for the urgent steps to be taken for the release of Bernardo Caal. I would have felt very exposed had PBI not been there to accompany me

**JUANITA PEREZ**

**BUFETE JURÍDICO DE DERECHOS HUMANOS BDH,  
BERNARDO CAAL'S LAWYERS IN GUATEMALA**

”

## Protecting environmental defenders in Colombia

Throughout 2022, we have maintained a constant international presence alongside Credhos in the San Silvestre swamp, Barrancabermeja, Colombia, to support the work of Fedepesán in verifying and denouncing environmental impacts on water sources. In addition, PBI has positioned the important work and risks faced by HRDs working to defend water at the international level, including urgent actions published by [Amnesty International](#).

This advocacy effort has led to Fedepesán being included in international reports that recognise for their work in defense of human rights, such as: The Washington Office on Latin America ([WOLA](#)), [Global Witness](#), and The World Organisation Against Torture ([OMCT](#)); in addition to media outlets such as [El País](#), thanks to the visit that PBI organised of a team of journalists to Barrancabermeja. Finally, PBI has ensured that the voice of Fedepesán can resonate in international advocacy spaces such as the last COP where activists from Credhos and Fedepesán spoke about the defense of water, biodiversity and life.

In Canada, PBI requested information from the Canadian authorities about the investigation of threats to HRDs in the Magdalena Medio region, whilst in the UK, PBI encouraged media reports about the need to accompany the work of environmental leaders.

Andrea Torres participating in an interview with Radio Latinoamerica, together with the Norwegian Human Rights Foundation, Norway, November 2022



At the 51st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, PBI expressed concern about the situation of Credhos and Fedepesán and they spoke with the Special Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation who, during his visit to Colombia, met with both organisations and PBI. Through these actions, PBI has managed to reduce the risks for environmental defenders in the Magdalena Medio, despite the attacks on their lives and dignity.



Credits: Edu León, July 2022

# Strengthening coalitions that demand respect for human rights

The Missing Voices coalition uses data-driven advocacy campaigns to contribute to the prevention of extrajudicial executions and enforced disappearances in Kenya. In collaboration with the coalition, in 2022, PBI supported the celebration of International Human Rights Day in Mombasa and supported the publication of a short film and a number of video clips about human rights, international agreements and the role of art in the Coalition's campaigns. In the clips, the international community expressed the importance of the work of HRDs and Missing Voices. PBI contributes to coalitions such as this in different parts of

the world, ensuring the information they generate is received and acted upon by key international actors.

In 2022, Missing Voices organised on the ground community events, trainings for journalists and HRDs and webinars. The documenting of police killings and enforced disappearances by human rights in the network have made Missing Voices a significant source of information on police violence for the national and international press, as well as the international community.

With many other actors, including the Police Reforms Working Group – Kenya, Missing Voices has been pushing for more accountability of the police; and

the newly elected Kenyan president Ruto included in his manifesto his commitment to establish a Special Tribunal for Gross Human Rights Violations and Enforced Disappearances and ratify and domesticate the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances. This is a first step towards more accountability for human rights violations by police and security actors.

Their work has directly contributed to the 30% reduction in police killings and a 38% reduction in disappearance in Kenya, news that Missing Voices welcomes this “positive trend”, indicating that they “look forward to a Kenya without police violence”.

“

**A message of support to HRDs and to their organisations is also a message of solidarity. So an important message today on Human Rights Day to HRDs here in Kenya and worldwide is: you're not alone**

**SWISS DEPUTY AMBASSADOR TO KENYA**

DECEMBER 2022

”



The photobook 'HRDs in Action' was distributed in 2022 in all Social Justice Centres and among government actors and support network, Kenya, September 2022

## Proactive policy to protect defenders



Reynaldo Domínguez and José Bó meeting the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, November 2022

In addition to galvanising human resources and financial support for PBI's field work – and international solidarity and political action for the defenders PBI accompanies – some of PBI's international offices also campaign alongside defenders for policy change so that governments and

businesses respect rights and protect defenders proactively.

In the UK, PBI's policy advocacy really accelerated in 2022. As part of the Corporate Justice Coalition (CJC), we have made the case for a Business, Human Rights and Environment Act,

“  
**PBI gives relevance to what is being done and establishes bridges with the different national and international authorities that facilitate the defence of human rights**  
”  
**OSCAR RAMÍREZ**  
COLOMBIAN HRD, FCSP

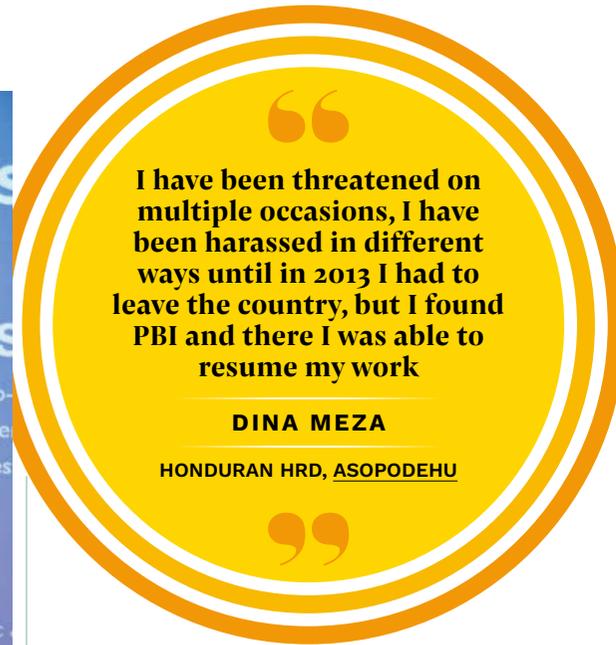
which would hold UK corporations to account when they fail to prevent human rights abuses and environmental harms in their global supply chains. Around a third of the defenders PBI supports are standing up to harms caused by business projects, and proper international regulations are urgently needed to stem the root causes of risk their communities face.

Venezuelan HRD, Neyls, at the PBI film screening 'Punished for Protesting: how family members seek justice', The Netherlands, November 2022



We've advocated in Parliament together with defenders from across Latin America, co-produced briefing papers, and fed grassroots perspectives into discussions on the proposed law's provisions. In response to CJC advocacy, 39 investors representing £3.9 trillion have joined tens of household brands in calling for the Act, hundreds of thousands of citizens have signed a petition calling for the regulation, and more and more Members of Parliament are speaking out in favour of a law.

2022 also saw PBI engaging with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) to push for consistent, proactive and effective implementation of UK policy on human rights defenders. By briefing high level diplomats prior to deployment, and engaging FCDO and embassy staff on specific cases and trends, we have helped ensure effective UK action across regions, while continuing to advocate for a more holistic, properly funded UK policy



to defend civic space globally.

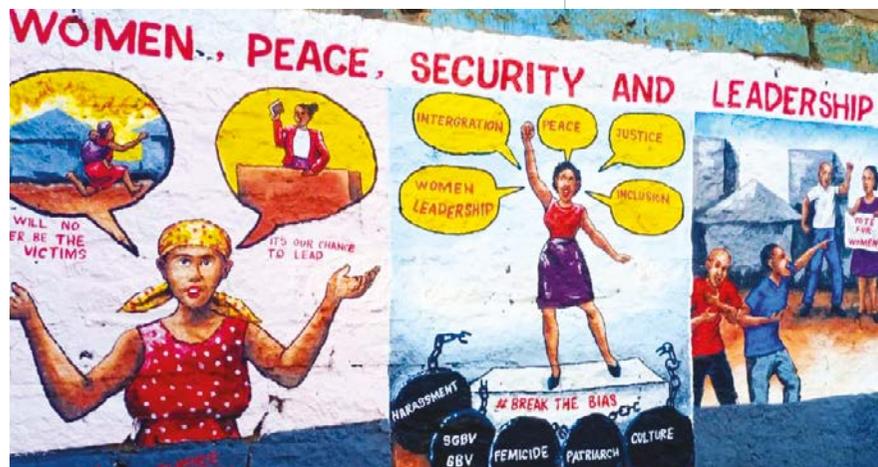
PBI recognises that effective human rights defence has to start at home, which is why we have joined coalitions to push back against the rollback of rights in the UK – defending the Human Rights Act and opposing restrictions on the right to protest.



# International action to support women defenders in Kenya

Violence against women in Kenya spiked in the time of the pandemic in 2020, and to-date, lack of proper prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence is a challenge. Access to medical treatment, psychosocial care, protection and financial assistance remain a problem for the survivors of gender-based violence, and even though Kenya has demonstrated an effort through developing policies and programs geared towards addressing sexual and gender-based violence, their implementation is very slow.

In response to this context, PBI supported the WHRD Toolkit Organisers throughout 2022, a network of HRDs who defend women and girls' rights in the urban settlements in Nairobi, initiated by PBI in 2016. In October



Mural on women, peace and security for International Women's Day, made in Kibera with community and Kibera HRDs, Kenya, March 2022

2022, PBI organised an international advocacy tour to Spain, Switzerland and France with Jecinter Agunja. She participated in 24 activities with press, educational institutions, government actors and fellow HRDs and solidarity organisations. Since beginning the network, the Toolkit Organisers have gained recognition for their human rights work and confidence in supporting survivors of gender-based violence, and their level or risk has reduced. In 2022, they reached 3000 people directly through dialogues and peace murals.



**Jecinter Agunja,  
WHRD toolkit organizers network,  
Kenya**

My name is Jecinter Agunja, born and bred in Mathare, the second largest informal settlement in Nairobi Kenya. My desire to see a world where human rights are respected inspired me to become an HRD, and later I joined the WHRD Toolkit Organisers network in 2016. As part of the network, I was very excited when I was proposed to represent them in an advocacy tour to Switzerland, France and Spain in October 2022. I was in the company of Florence Mwikali from PBI.

This tour gave me the opportunity to provide and share useful information that will be used to hold our governments accountable. I was excited to contribute to the report on human security of women and girls in the context of poverty and inequality. I feel I represented the issues of the women and girls in my community well. My network expanded as a result of the tour. I have added to my contacts people who are very resourceful to my activism work. For instance, I connected with an organisation that provides protection of WHRDs and so I can reach out if in need of protection. I visited two foreign ministries, which opened opportunities for further collaboration with their representatives in my country.

I received a lot of visibility during that period which I feel has increased the confidence and trust that my community

has about my work. It contributed to recognition and legitimisation of my work and my fellow HRDs. With the exposure and the experience, my organisation the Coalition for Grassroots Human Rights Defenders - Kenya, selected me to represent them in an international meeting in South Africa to speak about women's reproductive health.



# Holistic security training in Indonesia

In 2022, we co-organised a holistic security training for HRDs supporting communities displaced by land grabbing and armed conflict in the eastern end of the Indonesian archipelago, and throughout the year continued to support their efforts to build their safety and advocacy networks. This was one of the 15 security trainings we organised, attended by 271 Indonesian defenders.

This specific training included arranging for one of the participants to complete a 10-week international course on peace and conflict work. The HRD is active in the local youth movement advocating

for peace and social justice. Our training helped strengthen cooperation between her movement and the rural communities displaced by land grabbing and armed conflict. During this course, she expanded her knowledge on topics such as conflict analysis and transformation, self-care, or discussions on power and identity, while also building international connections with other course participants.

While preparing for the course, she took part in a delegation to Jakarta of civil society and religious leaders organised with other training participants. The delegation raised awareness about the humanitarian emergency affecting displaced communities in the eastern end of the archipelago due to investment projects and operations conducted by security forces.

PBI arranged for this delegation to brief the diplomatic community. It is very important to inform the foreign actors who can have influence on the Indonesian authorities so that they can push them to address human rights violations. The delegates also met with the national human rights commission and with the national commission on violence against women. National media covered the work done by this delegation, resulting in improvements in the humanitarian assistance given to the displaced communities.

Security training, Indonesia, March 2022



**Rut Blas López,**  
**Red de Mujeres Pinoleras,**  
**Nicaragua**

In December 2022, Rut, member of the organisation Red de Mujeres Pinoleras, accompanied by PBI, went on an advocacy tour to Germany and Switzerland. She had the opportunity to meet with decision makers in both countries and discuss the human rights situation in Nicaragua and the living conditions of refugees in Costa Rica. She was also able to meet with representatives of civil society organisations in Germany and expand the support network of her organisation.

# Continuous support of environmental defenders in Honduras



PBI visits the La Lempira cooperative in Bajo Aguán, next to the community of Guapinol, Honduras, September 2022

The Guapinol case has received international outcry due to the extreme violence against defenders of the Guapinol river, including the killing of two defenders in January 2023. PBI is just one of many international organisations who remain committed to ensuring that defenders passing through times of extreme difficulty are never left alone.

The defense of the river by the Guapinol community began in 2013. In 2014, the

company Inversiones Los Pinares began operating an iron oxide mine on the outskirts of the community. In August 2018, the community set up a peaceful camp to defend the river. In October of the same year, the police and army evicted the camp. The pre-trial detention of eight of the defenders, finalists for the Sakharov Prize in 2020, was qualified as arbitrary detention by the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.



PBI Honduras has accompanied the criminalisation of defenders from the Guapinol community in their defense of the river and forests since 2019 with regular visits to the area and advocacy at national and international levels. As a result of this joint effort with other social and institutional actors, their release was achieved in early 2022.

Unfortunately, with the release of the 8 defenders at the beginning of 2022, the

PBI accompanies the Guapinol community on a visit to the Guapinol River, Honduras, August 2022



problems of water and environmental contamination and the climate of threats and harassment towards the defenders have not been solved. The company continues to operate in the area despite multiple complaints filed by the community. In light of this situation, we have reinforced our physical presence in the community and our national and international advocacy work on the case.

In 2022, 16 physical accompaniments were carried out, including observations of court hearings. We also made two

visits to the prisons where the 8 defenders were detained while awaiting trial. In the second half of the year, a delegation of Spanish journalists visited the community, as well as a delegation made up of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Protection International. Thanks to PBI's support, the Guapinol community has presented its case to the Enlace Group, a group of European embassies that monitor the situation of people at risk in Honduras.

### Reynaldo Domínguez Ramos, Honduras

Coordinator of the local committee of the Guapinol community, as well as a member of the Municipal Committee in Defense of the Common and Public Goods of Tocoa, Reynaldo has been criminalised for his work as a defender.

Reynaldo participated in an advocacy tour coordinated by PBI in Europe in November 2022. He had the opportunity to meet with political authorities and social organisations in London, Oslo, Brussels, Berlin, Hamburg, Paris and Madrid. Since then Reynaldo, his family and his community have received expressions of solidarity, affection and political support from these international actors with whom he met during the tour, especially with the increase in aggressions against the community at the beginning of 2023.



**CARNE CRUDA.ES**  
**VOCES DE LA TIERRA**

DEFENDER EL TERRITORIO EN MESOAMÉRICA CON REYNALDO DOMINGUEZ,  
 MARCELINA BARRANCO, JOSÉ BO; LAS PERIODISTAS M<sup>A</sup> ANGELES FERNÁNDEZ, SORAYA CONSTANTE;  
 BRIGADAS INTERNACIONALES DE PAZ  
**Y LA MÚSICA DE RUISEÑORA**

CON LA COLABORACIÓN DE:  Brigadas Internacionales de Paz  AEXCID  
 ORGANIZACIÓN CIVIL SANTA DE TERESITAS



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ANNUAL  
 REVIEW 2022



**When we were in a very critical situation monitoring and documenting cases and litigating on behalf of victims, PBI accompanied us. We were not sure whether we would return home safely from the field. In those periods, PBI accompanied us and some of the victims we were working with. They also helped amplify the issues that we were working on**

**MANDIRA SCHARMA**

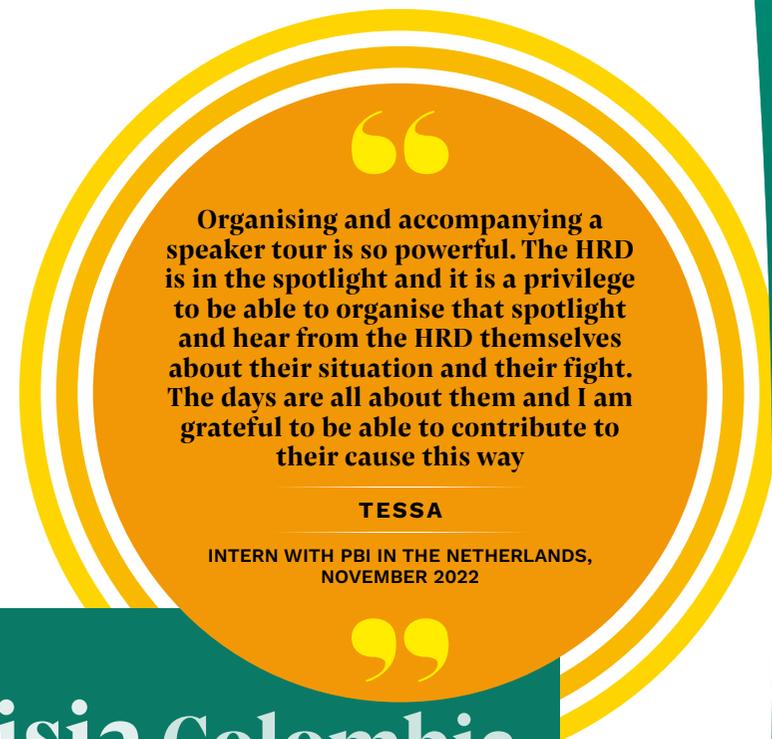
**NEPAL**



# PBI family

Our work would not be possible without the dedication of committed people who stand in solidarity with HRDs in situations of risk throughout the world. In 2022, 339 people, 75% of whom were women, from 33 countries passed through PBI as staff

members and volunteers. We are hugely grateful for their time, skills and above all the huge compassion and solidarity they pour into their work. PBI is an example of the power of international solidarity and its huge importance globally in times of crisis.



“  
Organising and accompanying a speaker tour is so powerful. The HRD is in the spotlight and it is a privilege to be able to organise that spotlight and hear from the HRD themselves about their situation and their fight. The days are all about them and I am grateful to be able to contribute to their cause this way

TESSA

INTERN WITH PBI IN THE NETHERLANDS,  
NOVEMBER 2022

In 2022, people from the following countries formed part of our movement:



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“

**The PBI volunteers protect my life much more than bodyguards... I completely trust this accompaniment... For many years, I have been able to lead my life in security thanks to PBI**

**CLAUDIA JULIETA DUQUE**

**COLOMBIAN HRD**

”

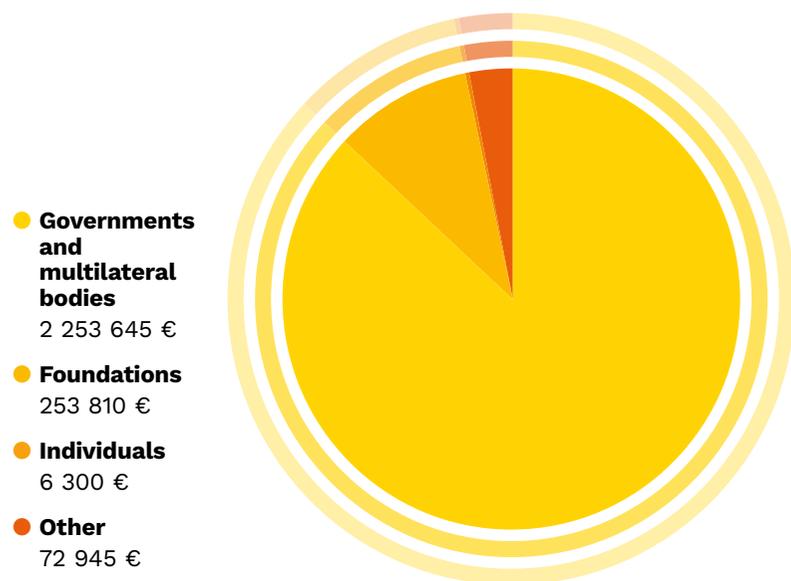


# Financial Summary

We would like to thank the many organisations and individuals who made generous contributions to our work throughout the year.

## Who funds PBI?

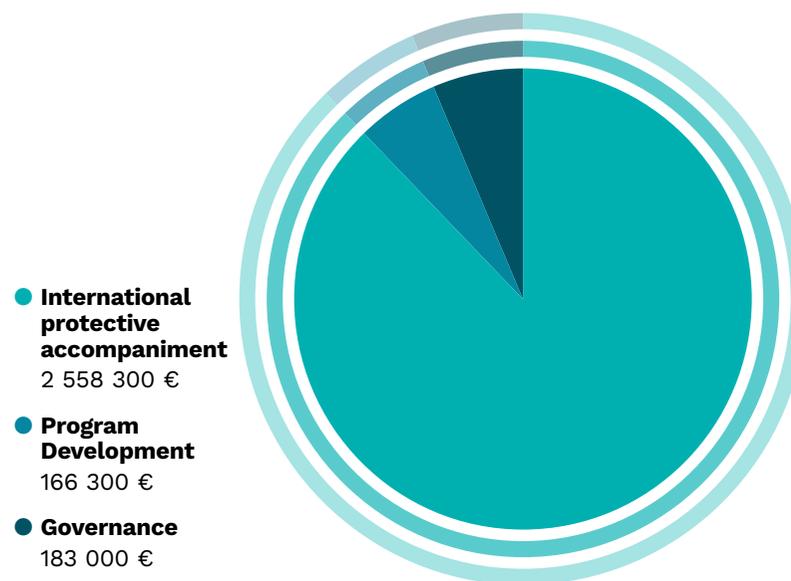
In order to protect human rights defenders, we rely on the dedication of our committed network of partners. See in detail below.



**Total income in 2022\***  
**2 586 700 €**

## How we spend our money

From every €1 you give us we spend 88 cents protecting defenders, 6 cents on ensuring best practice in organisational governance and another 6 cents to keep up to date with Defenders needs by developing new programs.



**Total expenditure in 2022\***  
**2,907,571 €**

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

# Donors

Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament (ACCD)

Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional al Desarrollo (Aecid)

Agencia Extremeña de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AEXCID)

Agencia Suiza para el Desarrollo y la Cooperación (COSUDE)

Agencia Vasca de Cooperación al Desarrollo (AVCD)

Aktionsgemeinschaft Dienst für den Frieden (AGDF)

Ayuntamiento de Alicante

Ayuntamiento de Barcelona

Ayuntamiento de Madrid

Ayuntamiento de Pamplona

Ayuntamiento de San Sebastián / Donostiako Udala

Ayuntamiento de Santander

Ayuntamiento de Valladolid

Barreau de Paris

Bilboko Udala / Ayuntamiento de Bilbao

BINGO! Die Umwelt Lotterie

Bischöfliches Hilfswerk MISEREOR e.V.

Brot für die Welt

Bundesministerium für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (BMZ)

Canton de Genève

Christian Aid

Civil Peace Service – CPS

Cooperativa Libra

Deutsche Postcode Lotterie

Diputación de Barcelona (DIBA)

Diputación de Córdoba

Diputación de Valladolid

Gobierno de Navarra

Gobierno Vasco / Eusko Jaularitza

Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands in Costa Rica

Embajada de Noruega en México – Norges ambassade i Mexico

Engagement Global – Förderprogramm Entwicklungspolitische Bildung

Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (EKD)

Fair Share Foundation

Fedevaco

Fondation Smartpeace

Fondo Canadá para Iniciativas Locales – Embajada de Canadá para Costa Rica, Nicaragua y Honduras

Fribourg-Solidaire

Garapenerako Lankidetzaren Euskal Agentzia / Agencia Vasca de Cooperación para el Desarrollo

Gemeente Utrecht

Generalitat Valenciana

German Federal Foreign Office

Gesamtkirchgemeinde Bern und Umgebung

Gezamenlijke religieuzen in Nederland via KNR – Projecten in Nederland (KNR PIN)

Gobierno de Cantabria

Gobierno de Navarra

Haëlla Stichting

Hartstra Stichting

Huisman Vredesfonds

Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa), Funding Programme zivik

Iruñeko Udala / Ayuntamiento de Pamplona

Katholischer Fonds – Kooperation eine Welt

Kirchgemeinde Saanen-Gsteig

Kirchgemeinde St. Gallen-Tablat

Kirchgemeinde Wallisellen

Kirchlicher Entwicklungsdienst (KED)

LUSH Charity Pot

MAE Noruega – Utenriksdepartementet Seksjon for

Fred og Forsoning

Mairie de Paris

Maya Behn-Eschenburg Stiftung

Ministère de l'éducation nationale et de la jeunesse français

Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación, Gobierno de España

Misereor

Non Violence XXI

Pan para el Mundo – Brot für die Welt

Protect Defenders – EIDHR

Samuel Rogers Memorial Trust

Service de la Solidarité International

Stiftung Umverteilen + Landeszentrale für politische Bildung Hamburg

Trocaire

Unifor

Unión Europea (European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights)

Vfonds

Ville de Genève

Ziviler Friedensdienst (ZFD)





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and protecting  
human rights  
since 1981

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