



Peace Brigades International

Annual Report 1997



Introduction

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Peace Brigades International (PBI) is an international non governmental organisation working for the non-violent transformation of conflicts. Our work is based on the principles of non-violence, non-partisanship and a belief that a lasting end to violent conflict cannot be imposed from outside but must be based on the capacity and will of local people. We believe that the creative use of non-violent methods adapted to the local political, social and cultural context can help to break cycles of violence and make space for a positive peace. Through our country groups, international structures and projects we put our principles into practice through protective accompaniment, peace education, objective analysis of conflicts, dissemination of information, public relations and building and activating support networks. Since 1981 we have worked on projects in Colombia, Sri Lanka, Central America, Haiti and North America and we currently participate in joint projects in the Balkans and the Chiapas region of Mexico.

Dear Friends,

Throughout its history, PBI has grown and developed, responding to the changing nature of conflict in different parts of the world. At our heart lies a commitment to exploring how active non-violence can confront and transform violent conflict. At first, this meant developing the concept of protective accompaniment to counter state violence. More recently, we have expanded our capacity to respond to different kinds of violence through implementing projects that challenge civil and inter-community conflict through peace education and research.

In light of these changes, PBI is developing a new strategic vision. Last year saw the launch of a Long Term Strategy process, and this crucial work will continue in 1998 as we prepare for our Triennial General Assembly. Another exciting development in 1997 was the groundwork for the establishment of a European Co-ordination Office in Brussels. This will enable us both to publicise our work and establish funding partnerships within the European Union. We look forward to the furthering of this important initiative in 1998.

PBI's work has never been so important. At a time when the complexity of international conflict is increasing, PBI's position of non-partisanship puts us in a strong position to be able to respond appropriately. Our reputation means that we are still receiving far more requests than our human and financial resources can cope with.

We are grateful for the partnership of our funders, whose commitment to our work is unstinting, and we look forward to a new strategic plan that will allow us to respond more quickly and effectively to future requests.

In Peace



Anne Harrison
PBI International Council

Members of the PBI
International Council in 1997:
Luis Enrique Eguren
(Colombia Project)
Anne Harrison
(North America Project)
Rusa Jeremic
(North America Regional
Representative)
Luisa Palmer
(Central America Project)
Matthias Richter
(European Regional
Representative)
Juergen Stoerk
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Peace Brigades International Projects 1997

Central America Project

Project began: 1983

Project areas: Guatemala, El Salvador, Chiapas region of Mexico
1997 volunteers: 21

Emergency Response Network Activations: 2

PBI Central America Project,
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The work of the Central America Project (CAP) in 1997 focused on activities supportive of the peace processes in Guatemala, El Salvador and in the Chiapas region of Mexico. In Guatemala the work involved accompaniment of people threatened because of their work on understanding the past or promoting the structural changes outlined in the 1996 Peace Accords. Much work went into maintaining channels of communication with parties involved in the present transition phase. Visits to El Salvador provided an international presence in response to requests from Salvadorans concerned about threats to the peace process. As a member of the SIPAZ (International Service for Peace) coalition promoting peace in Chiapas, the CAP participated in the SIPAZ steering committee, and shared experiences gained through work on its own projects. The Project produced and distributed the monthly *Boletín Latinoamericano*, and weekly updates on events relating to the peace processes.

Balkan Peace Team International Coalition

Project began: 1993

Project areas: Zagreb, Split, Belgrade, Krajina, Kosovo/a

Balkan Peace Team, Ringstrasse 9a,
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This joint project involving eleven organisations, supports civil society organisations in the former Yugoslavia by providing moral support, networking, disseminating independent information and accompanying local human rights activists in areas of tension. It has recently started to respond to requests to facilitate dialogue between Serbians and Albanians in Kosovo/a. PBI contributes funds, disseminates publicity, participates in training volunteers, and has a representative on the co-ordinating committee.

Sri Lanka Project

Project began: 1989

Project area: Colombo and environs, Batticaloa, Trincomalee
1997 volunteers: 9

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The project maintained an international presence with human rights and peace groups, observing trials including some for rape and murder. It undertook protective accompaniment with a range of different groups, including women activists without identity cards. Information gathering and dissemination were improved through better use of situation reports and the website. Other activities included networking and building links between religious and labour groups, political parties, the diplomatic community and local and international NGOs.

North America Project

Project began: 1991

Project areas: First Nation American Indian communities in Canada and USA

1997 volunteers: 6
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Work focused on building trust between indigenous and non-native communities and authorities, and documentation of the indigenous experience of unjust, unrepresentative social and political structures. One team spent three months documenting the Chippewas of Saugeen in Ontario, Canada, as they reclaimed sovereignty over traditional fishing grounds. Another team spent two weeks in north-eastern Arizona exploring a decades-long land dispute involving Dine (Navajo), Hopi and various non-native interests. Recent efforts have been directed towards rebuilding the funding and volunteer base of the Project.

Exhumation of victims of extrajudicial killings, Guatemala
pic: FAMDEGUA



Peace Brigades International Projects 1997

Protective accompaniment: a case study from Colombia

Protective accompaniment –

pioneered by PBI – is a way of providing support for human rights defenders who live in fear of threats, abduction and other forms of violence and intimidation. Our volunteers accompany threatened individuals and organisations in their homes, work places and at public events.

To be effective, protective accompaniment depends on a network of contacts nationally and internationally who will take action against the perpetrators of violence. PBI teams in the countries keep communication channels open to government authorities, the military and national and international NGOs while PBI country groups in eleven countries organise an Emergency Response Network and links with parliamentarians, church leaders and leading personalities.

Accompaniment is a protective umbrella. Perpetrators of human rights abuses operate covertly, using tactics of psychological and physical violence that they seek to conceal from the international community because of the potential political and economic repercussions. The presence of international witnesses reduces the space for violent intimidation and ensures that any abuses will be communicated to the outside world, thereby altering the dynamics of threatening situations in favour of potential victims.

PBI Colombia Project

Project began: 1994
Project area: Bogotá, Magdalena Medio, Medellín, Popayán, Urabá (Project Exploration), Caldas
1997 volunteers: 17
Emergency Response Network Activations: 4
PBI Colombia Project
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The Colombia Project provides protective accompaniment to human rights NGOs and institutions, including more than 50 human rights defenders in at least five different areas of the country.

It undertakes extensive networking with government officials, officers in the security forces, the diplomatic corps, the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights Office in Colombia, international and local NGOs to exchange information, share concerns, and carry out lobbying work. The Project also produces external information which is distributed to several hundred recipients in more than 15 countries. In addition, the Colombia Project training group organises workshops for Colombia human rights defenders and community leaders, on war-related psycho-social trauma and reconstruction of social structures affected by violence.

The past three years have seen a steady worsening of armed conflict and human rights abuses in Colombia. The PBI Colombia Project has provided protective accompaniment to a growing number of human rights organisations and defenders. The following case study illustrates how the activation of support networks – including PBI's Emergency Response Network – complements the protective accompaniment being carried out by PBI Teams. It clearly shows how a PBI presence prevented the abduction and possible killing of a human rights defender.

Long-running threats against Mario Calixto, President of the Sabana de Torres Human Rights Committee, worsened after it published a report entitled *The Violence Continues*. The PBI Colombia Team had provided Mario with sporadic protective accompaniment for two years, but due to the increasing risk, started an intensive, sometimes round the clock accompaniment.

In addition, the team raised its concerns at meetings with Colombian government officials, the security forces and the diplomatic corps. This was all part of a strategy to alert the perpetrators of violence to the 'accompaniment umbrella' around Mario Calixto.

Despite these efforts, on December 23 last year two armed men forced their way into his house, threatening all present and indicating that they wanted to 'have a chat' with Mario Calixto. Faced with this situation, the two PBI volunteers identified themselves while Mario took advantage of the moment to flee out of the back of the house. The two men held both volunteers at gun point and continued making verbal threats. Finally, the volunteers, together with the rest of the family, managed to convince the men to leave the house.

Due to the high risk involved, the team immediately informed the emergency contacts in the project office and committee, who subsequently activated the Support Network including the Emergency Response Network.

Within an hour, the Colombian authorities received phone calls from PBI bodies around the world, embassies and the United Nations High Commission Human Rights Office in Colombia. This rapid reaction forced the Colombian authorities and security forces to take action.

After staying with the Calixto family in Sabana de Torres for two days, PBI Colombia accompanied the entire family to another region until they sorted out their lives as displaced people. PBI has maintained close contact with the family and continues to accompany them when they need to travel to different parts of the country.

Many Colombian and international NGOs protested against this attack on Mario Calixto. PBI Colombia held a series of meetings with Colombian government officials to transmit the concern expressed for the safety of Mario Calixto and the PBI volunteers in a letter signed by more than 60 parliamentarians, international NGOs and other personalities from eight countries.

Peace Brigades International Projects 1997

Peace education: Conflict transformation in Haiti



Conflict transformation training
pic: Simon Ashmore

There is a vacuum in Haitian society as a result of ongoing impunity and dysfunctional or absent state institutions. This includes the justice system. Civil society has been left with the task of organising itself to cope with the violence and injustice of daily life. In this context the need identified by the organisations of civil society is not so much for protective accompaniment but for support in developing methods and tools for dealing with conflicts by non-violent means. In response to requests peace education has become the focus of PBI's work.

Facilitating workshops requires a high level of sensitivity and an understanding of the language, culture and society which is why the Team works in close collaboration with Haitian trainers. A key aspect of PBI's approach is that it is participatory, and promotes input from both participants and trainers. Because Haiti's education system relies heavily on learning by rote this approach of learning by doing has raised much interest. A member of a local conflict resolution committee in a small rural community commented: "As a result of the workshops we have greatly expanded our ways of dealing with conflict within our community so that people negotiate conflicts instead of picking up the machetes."

In 1996, PBI organised the first 'training for trainers' which helped establish a nucleus of Haitian trainers for participatory workshops and non-violent conflict transformation. This was followed up with monthly meetings to facilitate an ongoing exchange between the PBI Team and the Haitian trainers. This interchange of ideas also helped to ensure that the tools of conflict transformation are adapted to Haitian reality and needs.

In 1997 the programme was expanded to become a main focus of the Team's work. A preliminary series of eight one day workshops enabled 62 participants from 38 organisations to gain experiences in participatory techniques as well as basic understanding of the nature of conflicts. Some participants went on to take part in two nine-day 'training for trainers' workshops. One took place in the capital and the other in the north in order to maximise accessibility. The Team hired a trainer from the Peace University of Namur, Belgium and two experienced Haitian trainers. The sessions were residential which contributed to an intense and positive dynamic. A wide range of methods was used. Group exercises focused on active listening, communication, co-operation and decision making while games promoted an atmosphere of trust and openness. Discussions touched on the nature of conflict, the meaning of participation, how we take responsibility for our decisions and how we react to power and authority. Over the final three days the participants organised workshops, which enabled them to put into practice what they had learnt. Sometimes emotions ran high, as participants felt elated by discoveries or working towards a common goal. At other times discussions brought out painful truths about internal or external conflicts.

The workshops successfully achieved one of their key goals, that of strengthening the Haitian trainers group which continues to meet monthly. In addition there are plans to establish another trainers' group in the North. The workshops illustrate how the PBI Haiti project has worked alongside Haitian civil society organisations to adapt the tools of non-violent conflict transformation to local needs and reality.

PBI Haiti Project

Project began: 1995

Project area: Island wide

1997 volunteers: 8

PBI Haiti Project

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PBI Country Groups

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he field work of protective accompaniment and peace education is complemented by projects and country groups working together in networking and the dissemination of information internationally. In 1997 PBI groups in eleven countries in Europe and North America undertook the following:

- **Recruitment and training of volunteers.** All country groups organised trainings to introduce people to the principles of PBI's vision of conflict transformation and the way in which these principles are implemented in the work of the Teams. In addition, country groups worked with projects to recruit, select and prepare volunteers to work on PBI Teams.
- **Fund-raising.** Country groups are involved in a wide variety of fund-raising initiatives to provide funds for projects, PBI international structures and their own infrastructure. In 1997, PBI Country Groups raised US\$668,678 for PBI Projects and international structures.
- **Fund-raising events** included collections at meetings, fund-raising meals, sponsored events, the sale of merchandise. These activities serve to raise awareness of PBI's work at the same time as bringing in funds.
- **Donations** from individuals and organisations. PBI USA put particular emphasis on fund-raising through mail shots and telephone fund-raising.
- **Institutional fund-raising.** All country groups undertook fund-raising through grants from trusts, peace organisations, development NGOs and local government. PBI Sweden and Switzerland also secured funding through government international development departments.
- **Outreach work** is particularly important to strengthen the membership/supporter base and encourage involvement in all PBI activities. A vital part of outreach work is the co-ordination of speaker tours by volunteers who have returned from the Teams and therefore have first hand experience of PBI field work. This provides an element of

immediacy in communicating PBI's work through public talks and media interviews. In 1997 PBI country groups in France, Germany, Spain, Italy and USA all organised speaker tours with volunteers who had returned from PBI Teams in Haiti, Guatemala and Colombia. PBI USA also organised a PBI Day on 11 October, the birthday of Gandhi.

■ **Networking and Public Relations with other NGOs,** in particular human rights NGOs, church groups, parliamentarians and prominent public figures. This work raised the profile of PBI and adds the international deterrence element to the 'accompaniment umbrella'. An important initiative in raising PBI's profile at European level was a press conference in the European Parliament. PBI groups in Germany, Spain, and Switzerland have placed particular emphasis on building support networks for the Projects. Another important aspect is ensuring a PBI input into national, regional and international seminars and conferences on issues relating to conflict transformation.

■ **Dissemination of Information.** Monthly information about the work of the projects is available through the international project bulletin while most country groups also produce bulletins with news from the projects and their own work. In addition PBI USA and PBI Britain took responsibility for the distribution of 'Unarmed Bodyguards' in North America and Europe which was used very effectively by many country groups to promote the work of PBI. See page 8 for further information.

■ **Emergency Response Network.** All PBI country groups take responsibility for building, maintaining and activating the ERN. The ERN was activated six times in 1997 in life threatening situations when human rights defenders, accompanied by PBI Teams, were persecuted or threatened. Immediate international pressure in the form of letters and faxes serves to alert perpetrators of violence to the risk of international repercussions should they persist with human rights abuses.

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Peace Brigades International Financial Report 1997

Statement of Activity for the Year Ended 31 December 1997 (US dollars)

<i>Income</i>	1997	1996
Through Country Groups:		
Aotearoa/New Zealand	2,500	0
Belgium	9,053	21,405
Britain	54,692	64,979
Canada	23,642	62,444
France	2,154	12,266
Germany	147,863	108,473
Italy	3,534	5,143
Netherlands	37,813	42,779
Spain	85,380	101,119
Sweden	97,531	83,221
Switzerland	130,404	147,797
United States	74,112	51,241
	668,678	700,867
Other International Income	63,731	39,258
Total Income	732,409	740,125
<i>Expenditure</i>		
Projects:		
Central America	119,535	139,935
Sri Lanka	125,049	120,936
North America	17,084	22,998
Colombia	256,371	263,784
Haiti	81,732	93,683
Balkan Peace Team	0	6,110
	599,771	647,446
International Secretariat	87,023	75,231
Total Expenditure	686,794	722,677
Excess Income/Expenditure	45,615	17,448
Currency Adjustment	(10,094)	605
Fund Balance 1 January	349,237	331,184
Fund Balance 31 December	384,758	349,237

Balance Sheet – December 1997

Assets	1997	1996
Bank and Cash	315,676	274,467
Accounts Receivable	123,819	106,734
Fixed Assets	8,890	9,125
Total Assets	448,385	390,326
Liabilities and Fund Balance		
Accounts Payable	35,819	31,727
Deferred Income	27,808	9,362
	63,627	41,089
Fund Balance	384,758	349,237
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	448,385	390,326

Full accounts are available from PBI International Office, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX, UK

Peace Brigades International Publications

- PBI produces a monthly International Project Bulletin in English available from: PBI USA, 2642 College Ave, Berkeley CA 94704, USA. Email: pbiusa@igc.apc.org

- A specialist Latin America Bulletin in Spanish covering PBI projects in Central America and Colombia is available from: Boletín Latinamericano, 192 Spadina Ave, Toronto, Ontario, ONT M5T 2C2, Canada. Email: pbi@web.net

Subscriptions to each bulletin cost US\$25 per year + \$5/\$10 p&cp (North America/Overseas)

- Other project specific information is available from project offices.

- Country groups produce a variety of materials in their own languages. See page 6 for contact details.

- **PBI on the World Wide Web**
For further information visit our Web Site on: <http://www.igc.apc.org/pbi/index.html>

- *Unarmed Bodyguards: International Accompaniment for the Protection of Human Rights* by Liam Mahony and Luis Enrique Eguren published by Kumarian Press 1997

A study of the way in which protective accompaniment works and how it has been successfully implemented in Guatemala, Sri Lanka, El Salvador and Colombia by PBI. Available from PBI offices in Britain and USA – see page 6 for contact details.

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hanks!

Peace Brigades International would like to thank all those who have supported us in the past year with time, energy and financial resources.

Major Donors

Institutional

Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture, Amnesty International-Netherlands, Anonymous Congregation, Ayuntamiento de Valladolid, Ayuntamiento de Vitoria-Gasteiz, Basilian Fathers of Toronto, Broederlijk Delen, Campagna di Obiezione alle Spese Militari, Canadian Friends Service Committee, Caritas, Catholic Church of Pieterlen, Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD), Christian Aid, Danish Peace Foundation, Diakonia Sweden, Diakonisches Werk -Germany, Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Dominicanen Albertinum, Donor Advised Fund of the Tides Foundation, Evangelischer Kirchenbund Schweiz, Federation of Migros Cooperatives, Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) Switzerland, FNV Internationale Zaken, Fondation Daniele Mitterand "France-Liberté", Fons Catala de Cooperacio, Goepfingger Weltladen, Initiativen Eine Welt e. V., HEKS, Helvetas, Il Carcafcucio, IFR Lateinamerika Komitee, Lausanne City Council, Louisa Alternative Fund, Morningside Monthly Meeting, Mugarik Gabe-Sodepaz de Nafarroa (funds from Parliament of Navarra), New England War Tax Resistance, Oecuménique des Eglises, Oekumenischer Initiativkreis "Eine Welt" e.V., Organization of English Catholic Teachers Association, Peacefund Canada, Programa por la Paz, Protestant Churches of Berne-Jura, Oberrieden, Schaffhausen, Schlieren, Winterthur, Zürich, Provinciaal Franciscanen, Provinciaal Ursulinen, Provinzialaat Karmeliten, Samuel Rogers Memorial Trust, Swedish International Development Agency, Sisters of St. Joseph, London, SOH, Solidaridad Netherlands, St. Kongregatie FIC, Swiss Government, The Compton Foundation, The John Merck Fund, The Shoemaker Fund, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, Wallisellen City Council, World Council of Churches

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