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Accompaniment of CEHPRODEC during the mobilization of the National Coalition of Environmental Organizations and Networks-CONROA in protest of the International Mining Conference in Tegucigalpa, Honduras July 8, 2015

Violence, Impunity in Honduras

Since PBI's first visit to Honduras in May 2011, we have observed an increase in violence, particularly towards human rights defenders, women human rights defender ((W)HRDs), and community leaders working to prevent new projects in the country aimed at exploiting natural resources. Following the coup d'état, the Honduran Congress passed the General Water Law that allows the country's water resources to be granted under concession to third parties. In October 2011, 47 concessions were granted under this Law without prior consultation with affected communities, thereby resulting in a broad sector of affected communities rejecting the new projects and concessions. PBI accompanied CEHPRODEC, the Honduran Center for the Promotion of Community Development (Centro Hondureño de Promoción al Desarrollo Comunitario) during a mass protest (pictured above) in the capital Tegucigalpa against the international mining conference that took place July 7-11, 2015 and was viewed by many human rights defenders of the land and environment as an auctioning off of communal lands that belonged to the people. The protest was organized also to bring attention to the human rights abuses committed by international corporations in their territories. Due to their opposition to the construction of hydroelectric and mining projects in their territories, members of the Independent Lenca Indigenous Movement of la Paz, Honduras (Movimiento Independiente Indígena Lenca de La Paz Honduras - MILPAH) have suffered defamation, criminalization, prosecution, and violence. PBI-accompanied CEHPRODEC provides support to MILPAH in legal cases involving violations of rights to water, land, and territory.

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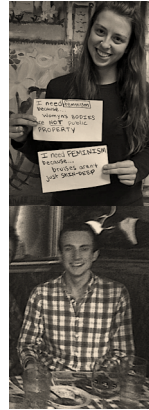
Updates from PBI-USA

Volunteer Orientation held October 17th in the D.C.; plans for spring training underway



Volunteer Orientation is a time for potential field volunteers, or even PBI supporters seeking a deeper understanding of PBI's work, to learn more about PBI's approach to protective accompaniment, an introduction to the defenders we accompany and the human rights context in each country, as well as offering valuable insight into the application process, life as a volunteer, and life after PBI. The spring orientation will tentatively be held March 5 and 6, 2016, location TBD. To register and learn more, visit <http://tinyurl.com/orientationweekend>.

PBI has two new volunteers headed into the field this fall from the U.S. Lena Weber from Washington State joined the team in Honduras in September and Eric Oliver from New Hampshire will join the Mexico team in January 2016. Before departing for Honduras, Lena shared these thoughts: "The resilience of the human rights defenders PBI works with in Honduras is incredibly inspirational, as many of these defenders continue with their work despite having faced severe repression for decades. I believe there are many lessons to be learned that can be applied to human rights organizing in the United States, as well, and I am very much looking forward to learning from the groups and individuals PBI accompanies." We look forward to learning the lessons both Lena and Eric will bring back from their time in the field. Our best wishes to you both! Visit pbiousa.org for ways you can directly support their fieldwork.



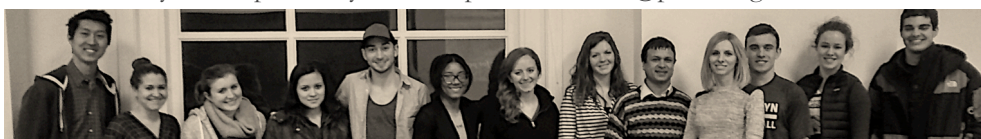
In Fall 2014, PBI-USA hired our first advocacy fellow, Mariel Ortega, to support the advocacy objectives of our field teams. After a year of tremendous work, Mariel wrapped up her final month in the position in September. Mariel has been an invaluable team member during her one-year placement with PBI-USA and will be missed tremendously after her fellowship ends this fall. Thanks to Mariel for all of her great work and good luck in your future endeavors and continued work in human rights!

Lawyers' Committee recruiting new members; Preparing for observation mission

The PBI-USA Lawyers' Committee on Human Rights, formed in 2010, is recruiting new members. The Committee is currently focused on Mexico and members are in the process of planning an observation mission to the state of Coahuila in the north of the country to focus on the issue of disappearances. PBI Mexico opened the team in the north in late 2013 where PBI supports defenders working to end violations of the rights of migrant persons, disappearances, feminicides, among other violations. To learn more about the Lawyers' Committee or express an interest in joining, email lawyersadvisorycommittee@pbiousa.org or call 202-232-0142.

PBI volunteers speak about the work of PBI with students at Georgetown University

Earlier this year, former PBI field volunteer, Tracy Baumgardt, and formerly accompanied-Nepali human rights attorney and journalist, Jit Man Basnet, (4th & 5th from the right in the photo below) spoke to a class at Georgetown University about PBI and human rights in Nepal. Jit Man was arrested by the Nepalese army in 2004 and held for almost nine months in a Kathmandu army barracks where he was repeatedly tortured. He and his family are currently living in exile in the U.S. Jit Man is an amazing human rights advocate and journalist still looking for employment in the human rights field in the U.S. Please send any leads and we will share them with him. Also, if you are in Washington, DC, Knoxville, TN, Durham, NC, or any city where our volunteers live (listed to the right), and would like to schedule a presentation about PBI's work on your campus or in your town, please email info@pbiousa.org.



About PBI-USA

Peace Brigades International-USA

PBI was founded in 1981 with the mandate to create space for peace and protect human rights. PBI has a horizontal, international structure with an international office in London, multiple international committees, seven field projects, and over a dozen country groups, including PBI-USA. The work of PBI-USA is made possible through the efforts of a small staff and a host of dedicated interns and volunteers, including PBI-USA's National Lawyers' Committee on Human Rights and PBI-USA's Board of Directors (called our National Coordinating Committee-see below).

Staff and Interns:

Amelia Parker, Executive Director

Marcia Solomon, Human Rights Intern

Michelle Vu, Human Rights Intern

Dr. Alexander Parks, Administrative Intern

National Coordinating Committee (NCC):

Faith Garlington, Chicago, IL

Alex Hildebrand, San Francisco, CA

Dr. Matt Messier, Burlington, VE

Andrew Miller, Washington, DC

Emily Nelson, Spokane, WA

Dr. Janet Powers, Gettysburg, PA

Lawyers' Committee for Human Rights:

David Baluarte, *Asst. Clinical Prof. and Dir., Immigrant Rights Clinic, Washington and Lee Univ. School of Law*

Kay Bridger-Riley, *Bridger-Riley & Assoc.*

Peter Henner, *Law Office of Peter Henner*

Sital Kalantry, *Clinical Prof. of Law, Cornell Univ. Law School*

Angie McCarthy, *Women and Law Program, American University Washington College of Law*

Jennifer Moore, *Prof. of Law, Univ. of New Mexico School of Law*

Margaret Satterthwaite, *Prof. of Law and Dir., Global Justice Clinic, NYU School of Law*

If you would like to make a contribution to support the work of PBI:

Go to www.pbiousa.org and click on the "Donate Now" button or;

Call our office and make a credit card donation by phone (202-232-0142) or;

Cut out the donation form on pg. 8 and mail it with a check or credit card #: to:

PBI-USA
P.O. Box 75880
Washington, DC 20013

Thank you for standing with us alongside threatened human rights defenders.

As we gear up for this fall's visits by human rights defenders, we reflect back ...

PBI hosted an advocacy speaking tour for human rights defender Berenice Celeita in June 2015. Berenice (pictured right) is a human rights defender and forensic anthropologist in Colombia who founded the Association for Investigation and Social Action (NOMADESC). PBI has accompanied Berenice since 1999 and NOMADESC since 2011. NOMADESC is a Colombian human rights organization that advises and accompanies social organizations and unions as well as civic, women's, indigenous, Afro-descendent, and peasant farmer organizations.



During the advocacy tour, Berenice shared her story at an intimate gathering organized by PBI-USA (pictured left) after spending days speaking with government and legislative officials and the wider public in both the U.S. and Canada about civil society perspectives on the country's peace talks, concerns about continued human rights violations and violence against Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities, human rights impacts of free trade agreements, and extremely high levels of impunity for human rights violations in the country. Shortly after the tour, Amnesty International issued an urgent alert regarding surveillance Berenice experienced upon her return home. Read more about the situation for human rights defenders in the port city of Buenaventura in the Valle de Cauca, where Berenice works, as well as the Inter-Church Commission for Justice and Peace (CIJP also referred to as Justicia y Paz), on page 4.



Each spring and fall, we look forward to supporting PBI-accompanied defenders who travel to Washington, DC for the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights sessions and hearings. In March 2015, PBI-USA staff met with Michael Chamberlain (left), of the Fray Juan de Larios Diocesan Center for Human Rights in Saltillo, during his advocacy visit to Washington, DC to lay the foundation for a trip by the Lawyers' Committee to northern Mexico. Last October, PBI-USA hosted an advocacy speaking tour for defenders Don Alvaro with the Peaceful Resistance de la Puya, in Guatemala, who are protesting a U.S.-owned gold mine moving into their community, and Neftali Reyes Mendez with Educa in Oaxaca, Mexico, which supports indigenous communities struggling for land rights. Both met with officials at the State Department, White House, members of Congress and others, totaling over 20 meetings, including a public talk at American University. During the tour, PBI-USA executive director, Amelia Parker, and former field volunteer, Stephen Bradford, accompanied Don Alvaro to Central Appalachia to meet with communities also threatened by mining and other extraction processes. Driving to Breaks, Virginia, the group met with land and environmental rights leaders Vickie Terry and Carol Judy with the Clearfork Community Institute (CCI) in Eagan, Tennessee, Marley Green with the Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards (SAMS) in Wise County, Virginia, and representatives of the Hands Off Appalachia Campaign, including east Tennessee-based organizer and documentarian William Isom II, who organized and hosted the convening. Stephen provided simultaneous interpretation as Don Alvaro and the community representatives shared their stories of struggle and triumph. Pictured above, Vickie and Carol present Don Alvaro with the Beehive Collective map entitled *Mesoamérica Resiste*. Through speaking tours, (W)HRDs are able to raise international awareness about, and support for, their important work. The tours also empower defenders to develop and build relationships with key allies ranging from government officials to grassroots activists and gain much needed political, moral, and financial support.



PBI Visioning Workshop Planned for November 2015 in Italy | Recap of 2014 PBI General Assembly Held in Spain

PBI-USA will participate in PBI's visioning workshop planned for November 2015 in Italy to lay the groundwork for our next global strategic plan (2018-2023). The strategic planning process is organized by PBI's Strategic Development Committee (SDC), which is seeking new members. If you have experience with PBI or with other non-profit strategic planning processes and would like to support this process, send an email of interest to info@pbiousa.org. The SDC oversees the strategic direction of PBI on behalf of the International Council, monitors the development and implementation of organizational strategy, and facilitates debates on key strategic issues.

Last November, PBI-USA's executive director, Amelia Parker, joined around 60 delegates representing various parts of PBI in Cordoba, Spain for PBI's highest decision-making body, the General Assembly (pictured in the photo banner above). At the GA, PBI entities voted through delegated consensus to: approve the mandates and strategic plans of all PBI projects and country groups (including approving PBI Ireland's petition to become a country group), create the position of an international fundraiser based in Spain, appoint new members to the International Council, and adjust project and country group contributions (a small % of each entity's income goes towards shared administrative costs such as the international office and committee expenses). The next General Assembly will take place in 2017.



PBI Colombia

In Colombia, threats against leaders of land restitution claims, human rights violations caused by business interests, and concerns over high levels of impunity are some of the main issues raised by PBI in its recent advocacy. PBI has also been monitoring the country's ongoing peace talks.

On September 23, 2015, Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos and FARC leader Rodrigo Londoño, alias "Timochenko," announced an historic agreement on a framework for transitional justice. The agreement unlocked months of stalemate in the peace talks between the Colombian government and the FARC and paves the way for the signing of a final peace accord to end over 50 years of FARC guerrilla insurgency in Colombia. Both parties announced they will sign the final accord by March 23, 2016 and Timochenko affirmed that the FARC will lay down its weapons 60 days later. The agreement creates a "Special Jurisdiction for Peace" to address crimes committed as part of the war, including provisions for alternative sentencing and amnesty. The parties still need to work out certain terms before signing and then once signed, the hardest work begins. Colombians must endorse the accord through a mechanism yet to be determined such as a referendum. A truth and reconciliation commission is to be formed. Extensive, costly processes for developing and implementing new laws, regulations, and structures necessitated by the accord and needed to establish the new transitional justice system must be initiated. The signing of the peace accord with the FARC does not mean full peace in Colombia however. Although victims and human rights organizations have publicly welcomed the agreement, they also express concern that additional reforms must be put into place to ensure further human rights abuses do not continue with impunity, including violence committed by criminal gangs and others that are not a part of the current peace negotiations.

Despite the peace talks, violence has continued at high rates throughout the country. In response to widespread violence in Buenaventura, including displacement, disappearances, killings, torture, and dismemberment, on April 13, 2014, dozens of families, with the support of the Inter-Church Justice and Peace Commission (CIJP) and with accompaniment by PBI, created a humanitarian space in Puente Nayero Street in the Playita neighborhood, one of the most violent areas in the city. With the creation of the space, the community hopes to protect its civilian residents by prohibiting the entry of illegal armed groups. In 2014, PBI provided psychosocial support to 19 defenders in the community. Sadly, CIJP reported in July that two teens were killed just outside of the space.

According to reports, on the evening of July 19, two young boys both 15-years-old, stepped outside the gates of the Humanitarian Zone to run an errand. Members of an illegal armed group attempted to kidnap one of the young boys but he managed to escape their grasp, but was shot in the back as he ran away. The other teenager was fatally stabbed as he tried to help his friend escape. The murders occurred just 150 meters from where Marines were stationed, according to CIJP's reports.

Following the murders, the father of one of the teens received death threats from neo paramilitary groups for speaking out against the forced recruitment of young men into their illegal arms groups and child prostitution rings. The death threats promised to "go above the heads of the gringos" if necessary, referring to the national and international organizations that accompany the Humanitarian Space. In addition, unauthorized individuals have attempted to enter the house of the teen's family members. Given this situation, the family has fled Buenaventura, with the accompaniment of PBI.

Just outside of Buenaventura along the Naya River, CIJP has accompanied Afro-Colombian members of the small community El Crucero since 2010. Similar to the Afro-Colombian communities in the Uraba region, communities along the Naya River have been fighting for years to return to their land and maintain legal title. Pictured above left, Isabelino, better known as Chavelo, is a community leader and historian in Naya who holds memory workshops in different communities, telling the Naya River history since their ancestors arrived as "children of slaves" 334 years ago. "If we lose our memory, we lose our territory," Chavelo teaches.

The people of El Crucero have faced major threats to their territory. In April 2001, they were displaced by a military incursion called the Naya massacre that affected at least 15 communities in the region, resulting in more than 3,000 displaced persons and over 100 murders. The surviving victims have publicly stated that the operation was encouraged by sectors interested in opening up the region to mining. The people of El Crucero returned but were once again displaced between 2010 and 2011 when military units set fire to ranches in the community, burning their produce. For over a year, community members did not dare go and cultivate their land. To survive, they looked for work in the nearby port city of Buenaventura. In 2015, people once again decided to return, and together with CIJP, they are looking for a long-term solution.



PBI also remains concerned about the (W)HRDs pictured left who have recently experienced monitoring and threats due to their legitimate work (l-r): Berenice Celeita, also on pg. 3, for her brave work on behalf of union workers, Afro-Colombians, and indigenous populations threatened by business interests; Claudia Julieta Duque who continues to receive threats due to her work as an investigative journalist; attorney Jorge Molano, who represents Berenice and others in the so-called Operation Dragon case, an alleged assassination plot uncovered in 2004 that sought to kill her and a number of other human and labor rights activists in the city of Cali near Buenaventura. Jorge also serves as attorney in multiple other emblematic cases in the country; and Andrea Torres Bautista who has received threats of sexual violence and death for her continued support of families of the disappeared. Visit pbicolombia.org to learn more about these brave defenders and watch a short documentary film about the humanitarian space in La Playita in Spanish with English subtitles.

(Continued from page 1)

Throughout the visits PBI made to indigenous Lenca communities living in the cities of San Jose and Santa Elena in 2014, we learned many are facing lawsuits, intimidation, and threats because of their opposition to the imposition of hydroelectric dams in their territories. In 2015, Global Witness declared Honduras the most dangerous country in the world for environmental and land activists.

Pictured right, PBI accompanied CEHPRODEC during a funeral procession for Juan Francisco Martinez, a member of MILPAH killed on January 4, 2015. The death of Juan Francisco Martinez was no accident. According to CEPHRODEC, the family of Juan Francisco has been under threat since August 2014 for their support of Lenca communities in the town of Santa Elena, La Paz. In fact, another indigenous resident of Santa Elena was brutally murdered during the first week of May 2015 as well. In Santa Elena the Los Encinos SA hydroelectric project was installed on legally-registered common lands that had been occupied for more than five years by the indigenous Lenca people. The indigenous councils took action to recover the land as established in the Agrarian Reform Law. They oppose the project because they were neither informed nor consulted about it. In particular, they express serious concerns about violations of their rights to food and access to water, as well as harassment and criminalization against members of the communities and their families. In San José, hydroelectric projects have affected five municipalities in La Paz, where lands declared to be private and protected because they provide water to a number of municipalities were fraudulently granted to businessmen. Civil society asked the municipal authority to conduct a consultation in compliance with ILO Convention 169; however, the company installed itself without this consultation ever taking place. In 2011, members of the affected communities filed complaints with the Office of the Prosecutor for Ethnic Groups and the Prosecutor for Anticorruption, alleging procedural violations in relation to the implementation of the project. CEHPRODEC is monitoring these complaints, which remain unresolved to date. PBI has accompanied CEHPRODEC and their efforts to support MILPAH members since May 2014. Visit pbi-honduras.org to learn more and watch PBI's new documentary *Land of Corn* for more on the MILPAH and their struggle.



In 2014, (W)HRDs in Guatemala were the targets of more violence since the PBI Guatemala project reopened in 2002 while 2015 has been a year of major developments in the fight against impunity in the country. After months of mass protests in Guatemala following corruption allegations, both Guatemala's ex-Vice-President, Roxana Baldetti, and ex-President, Otto Pérez Molina, resigned and are currently facing charges of fraud, racketeering, and bribery. At the end of August 2015, we learned that proceedings will continue against former dictator Efraín Ríos Montt and then-head of military intelligence Mauricio Rodríguez Sánchez after a court ruled that a joint retrial could proceed despite Montt's poor mental fitness (which has delayed the trial) and the trial has now been ordered to commence on January 11, 2016 behind closed doors.

Despite the weaknesses in the Guatemalan government currently, a PBI-accompanied group was able to celebrate a victory this year. PBI has accompanied the Verapaz Union of Peasant Organizations (UVOC) since 2005, after serious threats and intimidation against some of its members. UVOC is an indigenous and peasant organization that focuses its efforts on the protection and promotion of access to land for the rural population in the departments of Alta and Baja Verapaz in Guatemala. Within the framework of our accompaniment of the UVOC, for the past ten years, we have also followed the case of the Primavera farmstead that addresses the problem of “mozos colonos,” a type of permanent worker that serves the “patron” (landowner) and maintains certain ownership rights to the land.

The community of La Primavera, in the municipality of San Cristóbal, is made up of 400 families of Maya Pocomchí, which for more than 100 years have inhabited the estate. The majority of the families that live in the Primavera are “mozos colonos” because in La Primavera, the owners refused to pay these workers salaries and benefits during their work relationship. This led to a “stake in the ownership” (a type of in-kind payment) in a portion of the land owned by the patrón, where the worker has the right to live with his family among other rights. The companies Maderas Filiz Díaz S.A. and Eco-Tierra have claimed joint ownership of La Primavera since 2011, resulting in a strong criminalization campaign against the members of La Primavera, including over 48 arrests warrants issued for aggravated trespass despite the fact that most of those accused were in fact born in the territory they have been accused of trespassing on.

On July 23, 2015, after a multi-year process and much hard work, families of La Primavera community were granted official titles of ownership to the community. A week later, PBI volunteers joined the UVOC and the members of La Primavera at a celebration pictured above. PBI welcomes the good news for La Primavera but remains concerned that the work of (W)HRDs will meet increasing threats in the coming year particularly for social activists demanding justice, an end to impunity, access to land, and defending territory and national resources, as well as the rights of indigenous peoples. To learn more about PBI's accompaniment of the UVOC and La Primavera community, visit pbi-guatemala.org and watch PBI's new documentary *Land of Corn*.





PBI volunteers accompany human rights defenders in Mexico working on forceful disappearances, impunity, indigenous rights, and environmental protection. PBI-Mexico's coordination office is in Mexico City where our volunteers provide accompaniment in addition to our teams in Oaxaca, Guerrero, and in the northern states of Chihuahua and Coahuila.

In Oaxaca, PBI, through its accompaniment of the Integral Defense Committee of Human Rights "Gobixha" (Código DH), has observed the escalating tensions and consequently the increased risk for (W)HRDs and community leaders in the context of wind farm construction. Despite having precautionary measures from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) since July 2007, the aggressions against the members of Código-DH and their family members have not ceased. For this reason, PBI continues to provide international accompaniment.

The construction of wind farms in Oaxaca began in 1994 with a pilot project jointly funded by the Mexican Government and the World Bank. Because of the geographic characteristics, strong gusts of wind come through the region and as a result, there is great potential for generating wind energy. The Isthmus of Tehuantepec, in the south of Oaxaca, is a narrow stretch of land between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and is part of the regions included in the Meso American Project (previously known as Plan Puebla Panama) for development and economic integration of Mexico with Central America. More than half the population in the region is indigenous, mostly Zapotec and Huave ethnicities.

The vast majority of energy harnessed from wind farms in Oaxaca does not enter Mexico's national energy grid, nor is it made available to the CFE (Federal Electricity Commission). Instead, wind energy is owned by private companies, or consortiums of companies, who sell it to third parties. In 2012, of the 14 wind farms operating in Oaxaca, the CFE was involved in four such projects, with the others being run by private companies, including U.S. company Clipper. Therefore, the energy is privatized both in how it is harnessed, as well as the profits made when it is sold, with no real benefits for the community.

Under the terms of the Kyoto Protocol, the concept of emissions trading was formalized, introducing a new commodity on to the international market known as carbon credits. Wind energy companies based in Oaxaca earn credits for producing green energy, which they may sell on the international market to other companies or governments at huge profits. The local population does not benefit in any way from the trading of carbon credits.

While wind energy is recognized globally as a cleaner, more environmentally friendly alternative to fossil fuels, in the case of Oaxaca, the development of wind farms has been linked to a significant increase in human rights violations including threats, intimidation, surveillance, acts of aggression, shootings, and killings.

(W)HRDs in San Dionisio del Mar and Álvaro Obregón have suffered various attacks and threats for their activism in the defense of their lands and territories. PBI is monitoring the security situation and the granting of the right to consultation through its accompaniment of Código-DH.

PBI views (W)HRDs as essential actors in promoting environmental and social justice and highlighting the importance of respecting human rights norms in the context of large-scale economic projects. They have in-depth knowledge of the local context and play a key role in capacity building with the local population. Without their support, communities become even more vulnerable to human rights abuses. Therefore, PBI considers it a matter of urgency that adequate security and protection measures are put in place to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of (W)HRDs and community leaders working in the context of wind farms in Oaxaca. Visit pbi-mexico.org to learn more and watch PBI's recently produced documentary entitled *Land of Corn* for more about the work of Código-DH in the context of wind farms.



The situation for human rights defenders working on the issue of forced disappearances continues to be a matter of urgency in Mexico as well. Over 2014 and 2015, PBI observed the strong mobilization and great solidarity of Mexican civil society in response to the serious violations committed in the case of Ayotzinapa (where 43 students were disappeared in the state of Guerrero), but it also witnessed the exhaustion and psychosocial effects derived from the current context of violence, terror, and impunity.

In September 2015, a panel of experts rejected the Mexican government's findings in the case of Ayotzinapa and extended their mandate in the country—a decision supported by PBI and other human rights organizations. The panel found no evidence that the students' bodies were burned and disposed of and urged that authorities should continue searching for the missing students. PBI accompanied a public demonstration in Mexico City on August 26th where the parents of the missing students have maintained their demand that the search continue and the students be found alive. Days later, parents of the missing students met with Commissioners of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights at the Ecole Normale Raul Isidro Burgos Rural School (pictured above). Photo courtesy of Centro Prodh.

PBI will continue to accompany and provide psychosocial support to (W)HRDs working on the issue of enforced disappearances both in Guerrero and in the north, where PBI-USA's lawyers' committee is planning an observation mission to document disappearances in the north of the country in October 2015 and Spring 2016.



Nepal Monitor Project

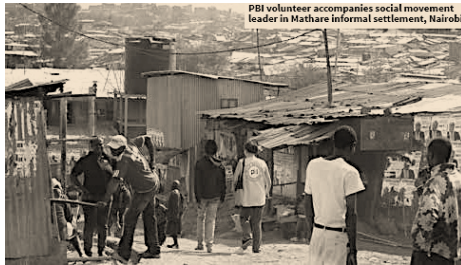
PBI worked in collaboration with a coalition of 43 Nepali human rights organizations, the Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP), to maintain and develop NepalMonitor, an online and SMS platform for sharing information about human rights and security incidents across the country. NepalMonitor mapped 1,772 incidents in 2014, enabling national and international organizations to better respond to human rights violations and improving the safety of human rights defenders. The tool proved invaluable following the earthquake on April 24, 2015 as people throughout the country struggled to coordinate needs and ensure the most rural and vulnerable parts of the country are receiving assistance. PBI staff and NepalMonitor supported Kathmandu Living Labs's efforts to map the response and recovery to the disaster through the website QuakeMap.org. PBI will continue to support NepalMonitor and human rights defenders in Nepal.

Photo of Neil Homing with PBI (far right) in the situation room at Quakemap.org following the earthquake in Kathmandu, Nepal

PBI Kenya

Despite challenges posed by the restrictive climate for NGOs in the country, the newly launched PBI Kenya project made important progress throughout 2014 and in the first months of 2015.

Volunteers physically accompanied and supported defenders primarily in the Nairobi slum of Mathare. PBI also conducted visits to and outreach with human rights defenders in the country's restive West (the site of most of the post-election violence that began in December 2007, in which over 1,100 people were killed, hundreds of thousands displaced, and from which the country is still recovering).



In December 2014, the government passed the Security Laws (Amendments) Act, which the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and Kenyan Human Rights Commission (KHRC) assert “contains several provisions which violate...international human rights” norms, including rights to freedom of assembly, association, and expression. Later that month, FIDH and KHRC reported the assault and arrest of eight human rights defenders during peaceful protests outside of Parliament against the Act. Notably, certain provisions of the security law have since been ruled unconstitutional after legal challenges were launched.

PBI will continue to support a safe environment in which human rights defenders in Kenya can work free from threats, harassment, and attacks in accordance with the rights safeguarded in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders.

PBI Indonesia

From 2000 to 2011, PBI worked in Indonesia with teams in West Timor, Aceh, Jakarta, and Papua implementing a strategy of protective accompaniment. This was eventually halted due to political changes and the evolving needs of Indonesian human rights defenders.

Since then, PBI has done extensive research and consultations to see how we could continue supporting defenders in remote areas, recognizing the strengths of our support networks, our peace work training experience, and the trust built through long term relationships with local organizations. This led to the formation of a project to train at-risk human rights defenders from isolated regions, working together with the Jakarta-based NGO ELSAM (Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy). This project will bring groups of defenders to Jakarta for four-month intensive trainings, followed by three months of supported field research.

The first group of defenders began the training program in Jakarta in late January 2015 and the second round of training is currently underway. The defenders come from varied backgrounds in journalism, domestic violence support work, and Church-based community organizing. As the project progresses it will work towards building a mutual support and protection network among the training cohorts.





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Thank you for your gifts in honor of PBI-USA's founding years. In November 1995, PBI volunteer Dan Clark filed the legal papers to incorporate PBI-USA as an official country group of PBI registered in the U.S. This administrative process helped create space for future generations to continue the work of supporting field teams working to protect threatened human rights defenders around the world. We've raised \$21,498 of our \$50,000 goal. If you haven't already, please consider giving a special 20-years-of-incorporation gift in honor of those who dedicated hours, days, and years of time before and after incorporation to build the U.S. country group of PBI. A portion of the funds raised will go in a rainy day fund. Also, we will be sharing stories and reflections from a few of those early volunteers in upcoming publications so stay tuned.



Yes, I would like to support PBI-USA and stand in solidarity with human rights defenders with a donation of

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$150 \$250 \$500

Other: \$ _____

My check is enclosed. (Please make check payable to **PBI-USA**)

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 Your gift is a critical part of our work to protect human rights defenders.*