



PEACES BRIGADES
INTERNACIONAL
MEXICO PROJECT



Annual Report 2011

PBI Mexico March 2012



Contents

- 3 New protection strategies
- 4 The struggle against drug trafficking and defending rights
- 5 Evaluation of more than 10 years' work in Guerrero
- 6 Oaxaca: A year of change?
- 7 Advocacy at every level
- 8 Opening spaces through the international Support Network
- 9 Two routes towards a Protection Mechanism
- 10 The Security and Protection Training Programme
- 11 PBI raises awareness of threats and attacks
- 12 After 18 months in Mexico
- 13 Team members and activities
- 14 Income
- 15 Expenditure

PBI Mexico donors in 2011

Basilian Human Development Fund (Canada)
Biskaia Lawyers Bar (Spain)
British Embassy in Mexico
Canadian Embassy in Mexico – Canada Fund
Catalan Agency for Development and Cooperation (Spain)
Civil Service for Peace
(Cooperation and Development Ministry of Germany)
Diakonia (Germany)
Foreign Affairs Ministry of France
French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement)
(France)
Fund for Nonviolence (United States)
Law Society (United Kingdom)
Misereor (Germany)
Non Violence XXI (France)
Overbrook Foundation (United States)
Santander Municipality (Spain)
Sigrid Rausing Trust (United Kingdom)
Valladolid Municipality (Spain)
Valladolid Provincial Council (Spain)
Zivik (Germany)
PBI Country Groups
(Germany, United Kingdom, Belgium, Switzerland, Italy, Canada)



PBI volunteers in Petatlán (Guerrero) during an accompaniment with the OMESP © PBI Mexico 2011



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New protection strategies

In 2011 Peace Brigades International (PBI) celebrated its 30th anniversary. Among the events held to commemorate this anniversary, two international conferences were organised in Germany and Switzerland. Civil society representatives and human rights defenders from many different countries, including Father Francisco Wilfrido Mayrén Peláez (Father Uvi) and Valentina Rosendo Cantú from Mexico met with European authorities and human rights experts to examine the conditions in which they are currently living and working.

Looking back 30 years, many of the conventions, declarations and international instruments promoted by the United Nations (UN) to protect specific rights did not yet exist, but now recognise and protect the work done by human rights defenders. Back then, the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and the European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders had not been adopted. It was only in 2011 that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) created a Rapporteurship on the situation of human rights defenders.

Within this process, PBI has witnessed the recognition of the figure of the human rights defender and of their importance in promoting democratic processes aiming to create fairer societies by the international community. At the same time, PBI has observed that human rights defenders in many countries face situations of high risk and great vulnerability. Those responsible for abuses against human rights defenders are not brought to justice and crimes are left in impunity.

In 2011 risks facing human rights defenders and social activists in Mexico increased, reflecting high levels of violence in society and 'the war on drug trafficking'. Statistics of murders, disappearances and people affected by the conflict continued to increase, with more than 12,000 deaths in 2011 alone¹. Numerous international organisations and intergovernmental bodies condemned the rise in violence against those who defend human rights in Mexico. On the 21st December, the European Union (EU) Delegation in Mexico issued a statement condemning the attack, kidnapping and murder of several human rights defenders in little over two weeks².



Cristina Hardaga and Valentina Rosendo Cantú (centre) at the 17th Tlachinollan's anniversary celebrations (Guerrero) © PBI Mexico

During her visit to Mexico in July 2011, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay highlighted her concerns about the widespread harassment, threats, unfair jailing and murder of human rights defenders and journalists³. The Mexican president Felipe Calderón issued a presidential decree to announce the creation of a protection mechanism for human rights defenders; the content and means of operation of this mechanism are still to be defined.

To respond to this lack of security and protection for human rights defenders, the Mexico Project reinforced its work in this area during 2011. PBI also strengthened its advocacy work in the country and internationally to encourage the creation of governmental and non-governmental protection mechanisms. PBI has also supported civil society protection initiatives and asked the Mexican authorities to take civil society's demands into account.

In October 2011 PBI's International Gene-

ral Assembly was held, at which the strategic plan for the next three years was defined. The Mexico Project also developed its strategic plan for the 2012-2014 period, based on an evaluation of the work carried out in the 10 previous years, especially in the state of Guerrero.

PBI Mexico is currently considering starting operations in other regions of the country and aims to have more flexibility to respond more rapidly to the accompaniment requests received. In 2012, the project will continue its current accompaniments, providing a wide range of support ranging from physical accompaniment, publications, and security workshops to network building and advocacy work both in Mexico and internationally.

1. Ejecutómetro 2011, Grupo [Reforma](#), and [Base de datos por fallecimientos por presunta rivalidad delincriminal](#), Federal Attorney General's Office, January 2012.

2. [Declaración local de la Unión Europea sobre recientes ataques, secuestros y asesinatos de defensores y defensoras de derechos humanos en México](#), European Union Delegation in Mexico, 21st December 2011.

3. [Opening statement: Press Conference by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, Mexico City, Mexico, 8th July 2011.](#)

The struggle against drug trafficking and defending rights

The environment for human rights defenders in Mexico over the last six years has been heavily marked by the 'war on drug trafficking'. The violence has claimed the lives of more than 12,000 people between January and September 2011⁴. Alongside increased military and police presence on the streets, a rise in human rights abuses such as torture, disappearances, arbitrary detentions and illegal executions, has also been recorded⁵.

During 2011 the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) received more than 20,000 complaints and recorded 10,392 alleged human rights violations⁶. The rights which have been most frequently abused are the rights to legal safeguards, legality, integrity, personal security, freedom, property and possession. The Mexican institutions which received the highest number of complaints were the armed forces and police: the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Public Security and the Navy⁷.

The Centro Nacional de Comunicación Social (CENCOS) recorded 69 cases of attacks on human rights defenders during 2011. The states where most attacks occurred were Oaxaca, Chiapas and Guerrero⁸. According to the magazine *Contralínea*, since the start of President Calderón's administration, more than 63 human rights defenders and social activists have been killed, including 6 people in 2011. One of them was Quetzalcóatl Lejía Herrera, president of the Centro de Estudios y Proyectos para el Desarrollo Humano Integral (Ceprodehi), an organization dedicated to defending the rights of sexual minorities in Guerrero⁹.

The most vulnerable groups in Mexico include women, human rights defenders and journalists, who are subject to sexual attacks, threats against their families, slander and exclusion. According to the *2010-11 Assessment of the Conditions and Risks facing them in their Work*, more than 90% of the women human rights defenders consulted had suffered some kind of violence or obstacle due to their work. Between October 2010 and November 2011, 9 women human rights defenders

and 5 female journalists lost their lives¹⁰.

On the 14th July, the Mexican Supreme Court (SCJN) judges found that the sentence handed down by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights in the Radilla Pacheco case should be enforced¹¹. The

and Inés Fernández Ortega asked the military justice authorities to remit their cases to the civil authorities, in this case the Federal District Attorney's Office (PGR)¹².

Although the federal government and the new administrations in both Guerrero and Oaxaca publicly support human rights, a lack of compliance with international legislation has been noted in the conduct of the security forces. This is evidenced by the killing of two students from the Escuela Normal de Ayotzinapa, shot during a protest in Chilpancingo, Guerrero in December 2011. Federal, state, municipal and investigative police were involved in the response to the protest. The National Human Rights Commission's preliminary report, based on an assessment made by the Commission, highlights serious violations of international law, including use of excessive force, torture and illegal executions¹³.

Despite serious human rights violations, the government continues to opt for a military response to the country's problems of violence. Looking forward to the federal elections in 2012, it will be essential for presidential candidates to take the protection of human rights and of those that defend them into account in their electoral programmes, as their work is a fundamental basis for the country's democratic development.



Day of the Dead offering in the AFADEM office at the time of excavations © PBI Mexico

resolution marks a historic precedent for how Mexican authorities interpret and take decisions about issues key for human rights, in particular because the sentence prohibits the application of military justice in cases that involve civilians. Based on this decision, Valentina Rosendo Cantú

4. [Base de datos por fallecimientos por presunta rivalidad delincuencia](#), Federal Attorney General's Office, January 2012.

5. [Neither Rights Nor Security: Killings, Torture, and Disappearances in Mexico's 'War on Drugs'](#), Human Rights Watch, 9th November 2011.

6. ["Se reciben más de 1,700 quejas al mes"](#), Mexican National Human Rights Commission, 21st December 2011.

7. ["Proteger Labor de Defensores de Derechos"](#), Mexican National Human Rights Commission, 22nd December 2011.

8. ["Defensores y defensoras de derechos humanos en México y la búsqueda de justicia"](#), CENCOS, 26th December 2011.

9. ["63 defensores de derechos humanos asesinados"](#), *Contralínea Magazine*, No. 262, 4th December 2011.

10. [Defensoras de Derechos Humanos en México: Diagnóstico 2010-2011 sobre las condiciones y riesgos que enfrentan en el ejercicio de su trabajo](#), Just Associates (JASS), Consorcio para el Diálogo Parlamentario y la Equidad Oaxaca, A.C. and Red Mesa de Mujeres de Ciudad Juárez, A.C., January 2012.

11. ["Obligatoria, la sentencia de la CIDH sobre caso Radilla: ministra Sánchez"](#), *La Jornada Newspaper*, 14th July 2011, p. 3.

12. ["PGJM remite al fuero civil investigaciones de los casos de Inés Fernández y Valentina Rosendo"](#) (Press release), Human Rights Centre Tlachinollan, 16th August 2011.

13. ["CNDH: graves violaciones en caso Ayotzinapa"](#), *El Universal Newspaper*, 9th January 2012.

Evaluation of more than 10 years' work in Guerrero

At the start of the year, after celebrating 11 years of work in Guerrero, PBI started a process of evaluating its permanent presence in the state in order to reflect on its achievements and impact. During 2010 several accompanied organisations achieved important successes such as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights sentences in the Radilla Pacheco case (at the end of 2009), the sentences in the cases of Valentina and Inés, the granting of appeals against arrest warrants for 5 members of the OPIM, the release of Raúl Hernández, as well as the acquittal of David Valtierra of Radio Ñomndaa. PBI México also observed the need to develop new strategies in response to the changes in the national socio-political context and to accompaniment requests from other states.

In June, at the end of the evaluation process, the project decided to start a new phase of work in Guerrero. Although problems related to human rights abuses in the state are structural and the obstacles facing human rights defenders and organisations have not disappeared, PBI views the impact of the paradigmatic cases positively. In addition, the evaluation showed that there has been a transfer of skills in accessing dialogue with authorities, the diplomatic corps and the international community, in risk analysis and developing security plans, in raising awareness through publications and trips abroad. PBI will continue to accompany human rights defenders from Guerrero in 2012, strengthening communications strategies and transferring skills in advocacy and security analysis.

Tlachinollan Human Rights Center and the Civil Monitor of the Police and Security Forces in the Montaña Region (MOCIPOL)

In June Tlachinollan reopened its office in Ayutla de los Libres, closed since 2009 due to the lack of security in the region. PBI accompanied the organisation at the office reopening, alongside authorities and members of the diplomatic corps in Mexico¹⁴.

On the 7th December MOCIPOL published the report entitled *Desde la mirada ciudadana* which documents 353 cases of police abuse in the Montaña region of Guerrero state and classifies the most common types of human rights abuse: arbitrary detention (183 cases), extortion

(124), delays in bringing cases before the competent authorities (100), undue or excessive fines (55), cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment (53) and unlawful entry (29)¹⁵.

Organization of Women Ecologists of the Sierra de Petatlán (OMESP)

Since May, the OMESSP's work has been virtually blocked by a wave of violence in the Sierra de Petatlán region, which has caused the displacement of more than 80 families from the zone¹⁶. The climate of fear in the region prevents the OMESSP's outreach workers from travelling around communities in the Sierra. Despite the violence, at the beginning of December the OMESSP held a workshop on seed recovery which was well attended and received the support of organisations from Mexico City and from the State government.

Organization of the Indigenous Me'Phaa People (OPIM)

The OPIM has been unable to carry out its work in Ayutla because of conflicts related to the elections for the El Camalote community commissioner. During 2011 members of the community suffered threats and physical attacks which have not been properly investigated and punished¹⁷. In addition, the elected commissioner, a member of the OPIM, has not been able to take office¹⁸.

In March, the working groups for the implementation of the Inter-American Court's sentences in the cases of Inés Fernández Ortega and Valentina Rosendo Cantú began. Both women are represented by Tlachinollan and the OPIM. PBI was present during two of the working group sessions, in Chilpancingo and in Mexico City¹⁹.

To comply with the sentences, on the 15th December, a public acknowledgement of the State's responsibility in the case of rape and torture of Valentina Rosendo Cantú by members of the Mexican

army in 2002. During the event Valentina thanked several organisations, including PBI, for their accompaniment and support²⁰.

Tita Radilla, the Association of Relatives of the Detained Disappeared, and Victims of Human Rights Abuses in Mexico (AFADEM)

In October, PBI accompanied Tita Radilla,



Tita Radilla (AFADEM) during the excavations searching for the remains of their family members disappeared during the Dirty War © PBI Mexico

vice-president of AFADEM, during the scans made before and after the excavations carried out to look for the mortal remains of her father, Rosendo Radilla Pacheco. The excavations are one of the measures included in the Inter-American Court's sentence in the case of his disappearance in 1974²¹. The excavations did not deliver the expected results, but they were carried out correctly and with participation from family members, which had not occurred previously.

Cerezo Committee (Mexico City)

The project accompanied Committee members during their 10th anniversary celebrations at the end of August 2011²². Despite benefitting from precautionary measures granted by the IACHR, a little more than a month later, several Committee members received death threats by email²³. PBI asked the relevant authorities to give them effective protection.

14. 'Cuando La Montaña se viste de esperanza', Tlachinollan, 20th June 2011.

15. 'Mocipol report on cases of HR violations committed by security forces in La Montaña de Guerrero', PBI Mexico News, 8th December 2011.

16. 'Más de 100 habitantes de la sierra huyen de la violencia', La Jornada de Guerrero Newspaper, 14th May 2011.

17. 'Más ataques y hostigamientos contra integrantes de la OPIM', PBI Mexico News, 14th September 2011.

18. 'Toma comuna grupo que no acepta derrota', La Jornada de Guerrero, 3rd February 2012.

19. 'Federal Government installs working groups to comply with the Inter American Court sentences in the cases of Inés and Valentina', PBI Mexico News, 21st March 2011.

20. 'Video Acto de Reconocimiento Valentina Rosendo Cantú', Tlachinollan, 15th December 2011.

21. 'The third stage of excavations in the search for the remains of Rosendo Radilla starts', PBI Mexico News, 4th November 2011.

22. 'The Cerezo Committee celebrates its 10th anniversary', PBI Mexico News, 25th August 2011.

23. 'Amenaza de muerte a los defensores de derechos humanos del Comité Cerezo, ACUDEH y a sus familias' (Urgent Action), Cerezo Committee and Acción Urgente para Defensores de Derechos Humanos (ACUDEH), 9th November 2011.

Oaxaca: A year of change?

After 80 years of PRI government, 2011 in Oaxaca was marked by the arrival of the new State government headed by Gabino Cué Monteagudo, leader of the Unidos por la Paz y el Progreso alliance which includes a wide coalition of political parties including the Partido Acción Nacional, Partido de la Revolución Democrática, Convergencia and Partido del Trabajo. The new government has shown willingness to collaborate with civil society, but there is still dissatisfaction due to continued impunity, a lack of implementation of new policies and growing exploitation of natural resources such as the construction of wind farms²⁴ or mining projects²⁵.

Committee for the Integral Defence of Human Rights Gobixha (Codigo-DH)

Alba Cruz, who received threats over the phone in January 2011²⁶, sums up the year by highlighting the lack of a clear policy on human rights. Due to her high level of risk, the Codigo-DH lawyer is the beneficiary of precautionary measures from the IACHR; the correct implementation of these measures has been one of the main issues raised in meetings with local and federal authorities.

During 2011, Codigo-DH opened an office in San Pedro Amuzgos in the region of Oaxaca which borders Guerrero. This zone suffers from a lack of services and a large part of its population belongs to indigenous groups. Through education and legal support, Codigo-DH aim to contribute to recognition and respect for human rights in the region. PBI has begun to accompany members of Codigo-DH to the region.

Bartolomé Carrasco Briseño Regional Human Rights Centre (Barca-DH)

Barca-DH's work had a special focus on training communities affected by mega-projects in the Sierra Sur region, including people affected by a mining project in the community of Santa Maria Zaniza²⁷, Barca-DH also began to provide legal advice to the victims in the case of 10 disappearances in Pochutla (Oaxaca) in the state of Tamaulipas. The family members have received precautionary measures from the IACHR²⁸.

There has been no progress made in finding those responsible for the attack on Father Martin in 2010, which was related to his work in the community of San José del Progreso, a town also affected by a mining project²⁹. Father Uvi and Minerva Nora Lázaro Martínez, members of Barca-DH, visited Europe in 2011 with support from PBI to strengthen their support network abroad as well as to raise awareness of their work and the risks they face.



Maurilio Reyes and María de la Luz Martínez (CEDHAPI) accompanied by a PBI volunteer at a meeting on IACHR precautionary measures in Santo Domingo Ixcatlán (Oaxaca) © PBI Mexico

Father Alejandro Solalinde, Director of the Hermanos en el Camino migrant shelter

Father Solalinde has spoken out about the situation of migrants several times during 2011, and not without reprisals. In July his bodyguards, who are part of the precautionary measures he was granted by the IACHR, were arrested in the state of Puebla³⁰. In December he was accused of neglect by a Guatemalan immigrant detained by the National Migration Institute (INM). As the claim was unfounded, it was withdrawn³¹. PBI has expressed its concern

about these events to both local and federal authorities.

Centre for Human Rights and Legal Advice for Indigenous Peoples (CEDHAPI)

This organisation located in the Mixteca region complained about a lack of implementation of the precautionary mea-

asures granted in two of their cases: the land conflict between the communities of Zimatlán and Nopalera, where violence continues and killings persist³², and in the community of Santo Domingo Ixcatlán, where 177 people benefit from precautionary measures from the IACHR³³. PBI Mexico attended a meeting held in September to negotiate these measures as an observer and in December met with local authorities, including the mayor, to explain PBI's accompaniment of CEDHAPI.

24. 'Opposition to wind energy projects in Oaxaca face attacks', PBI Mexico News, 8th November 2011.

25. For more information on this issue, read [Undermining the Land – The defence of community rights and the environment in Mexico](#), PBI Mexico Bulletin No. 31, November 2011.

26. 'Fresh threats to Alba Cruz, human rights lawyer', PBI Mexico News, 15th January 2011.

27. 'IV Regional Forum of the Sierra Sur: The environmental consequences of megaprojects and the water issue', PBI Mexico News, 22nd July 2011.

28. 'La Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos emitió medidas cautelares a favor de 10 integrantes de la Sociedad Cooperativa Eco-turística 'Zapotengo Pacheco' de Pochutla' (Press release) Barca-dh, 5th December 2011.

29. 'One year of impunity of the assault and criminalization against the Priest Martín Octavio García Ortiz', PBI Mexico News, 21st June 2011.

30. 'Father Solalinde detained as pro-migrant caravan arrives in Puebla', PBI Mexico News, 2nd August 2011.

31. 'Concern expressed regarding complaint against Father Alejandro Solalinde', PBI Mexico News, 14th December 2011.

32. 'Balacera mortal', Noticias Newspaper (Oaxaca), 8th February 2011.

33. 'Incumple Cué recomendaciones de derechos humanos: Cedhapi', Milenio, 17th August 2011.

Advocacy at every level

In 2011, the Mexican government acknowledged the risk situation for human rights defenders and in December, President Calderón included in his Human Rights Plan several of PBI's priorities: improved services for victims of violence, full compliance with IACHR sentences, the end of military jurisdiction and protection of human rights activists³⁴. In 2012 PBI Mexico will work to ensure that there are improvements in the protection of human rights defenders' work.

State and federal government

Among the meetings held with federal authorities, as well as maintaining contact with the Ministry of the Interior's Human Rights Unit, to encourage more effective implementation of protection measures for the human rights defenders accompanied by PBI, project representatives also met with the Public Security Secretary and the Under-Secretary for Legal Issues and Human Rights from the Ministry of the Interior (Segob).

In the states, the governors of Guerrero and Oaxaca publicly committed to supporting PBI's work and to prioritising human rights in their agendas³⁵. The project also took advantage of a visit to Chihuahua to communicate the international concern about the security of human rights defenders in the state.

Implementation of the IACHR sentences

PBI advocated throughout 2011 for the full implementation of the IACHR sentences in the cases of Rosendo Radilla, Valentina Rosendo Cantú and Inés Fernández Ortega. These sentences include a request for a change in the Mexican justice system and in military courts, which are currently the body responsible for judging soldiers accused of human rights violations against civilians. The Supreme Court's resolution in July 2011 was a crucial step in this direction³⁶. A positive response to the sentences could have a profound impact on human rights in the current context of violence in Mexico.

After the act of recognition of the Mexican state's responsibility in the Radilla case in November, which was not attended by family members of the disappeared or Tita Radilla³⁷, PBI Mexico began a campaign

to request that the rest of the sentences be implemented in consensus with the victims. In December, the act of recognition for Valentina Rosendo Cantú was held under these circumstances and Valentina thanked PBI for their support in her speech. The act of recognition for Inés Fernández Ortega has not yet been held.

Protection mechanism

In 2011, PBI was particularly active in meeting with members of parliament and politicians from Guerrero and Oaxaca, as well as with members of the Public Security Commission of the Senate and other key legislators at the federal level to support the approval of the law which will regulate the protection mechanism for human rights defenders and journalists requested by Mexican civil society organisations.

Diplomatic corps

PBI Mexico was a reference point for the diplomatic corps. The project facilitated embassy visits to the regions and to the offices of human rights defenders³⁸. PBI also participated in numerous meetings and events with staff from the diplomatic corps and civil servants from foreign governments, including the President of Germany and the European External Action Service Director for the Americas. An event was organised with women human rights defenders at the Spanish embassy as well as meetings between human rights defenders and members of the European Parliament Human Rights Commission. Father Francisco Wilfredo Mayrén Peláez (Barca-DH) and Blanca Velázquez (Workers' Support Centre, CAT) made visits accompanied by PBI to the



Abel Barrera invites Raúl Hernández, former political prisoner, to the table of honour at the reopening ceremony of Tlachinollan's offices in Ayutla de los Libres (Guerrero) © PBI Mexico

French, Swiss and German embassies to follow up on their trips to Europe³⁹. PBI Mexico also gave support to ensure the presence of 8 embassies in Ayutla during the reopening of Tlachinollan's office, closed since 2009 due to threats and attacks against its staff⁴⁰.

Trips to México

PBI participated and collaborated in visits made to Mexico by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay⁴¹ and the IACHR's Special Rapporteur for Mexico, Rodrigo Escobar Gil. PBI also contributed thematic information for an audience held at the IACHR on human rights defenders in the Americas.

PBI Mexico also organised the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales's (BHRC) visit to Mexico in September 2011. The delegation of lawyers met with civil society organisations and authorities in Mexico City and in the states of Oaxaca and Guerrero to follow up on the visit made in 2009⁴².

34. 'Anuncia Calderón medidas de respeto a derechos humanos', Proceso Magazine, 9th August 2011.

35. 'Respaldado el gobierno todo esfuerzo para proteger los derechos humanos de los querreñenses: AAR', Guerrero government (Official website), 16th January 2012.

36. 'Military accused to be tried in civilian courts', PBI Mexico News, 21st July 2011.

37. 'Estado mexicano pierde oportunidad histórica de reconocer a las víctimas de la "guerra sucia"', (Press release), Comisión Mexicana en Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos, A.C. (CMDPDH), 16th November 2011.

38. 'Working group from the EU visits Chilpancingo (Guerrero)', PBI Mexico News, 10th August 2011.

39. 'Defensores de los Derechos Humanos visitan la Embajada Alemana', Embassy of Germany in Mexico, December 2011.

40. 'Cuando La Montaña se viste de esperanza', Tlachinollan, 20th June 2011.

41. 'United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Visits Mexico', PBI Mexico News, 11th July 2011.

42. 'Bar Human Rights Committee representatives to visit Mexico next week', PBI Mexico News, 17th September 2011.

Opening spaces through the international Support Network

Aiming to broaden international support networks for Mexican human rights defenders, PBI Mexico organised 8 visits abroad for human rights defenders in coordination with PBI country groups in Europe and North America.



Father Uvi making a speech during the PBI conference on environmental degradation and land rights in London © Emma Marshall (PBI UK)

Consolidation of support in Europe

PBI Mexico representatives visited 14 European countries in 2011 where they raised the awareness of governments, politicians, media, students, lawyers and NGOs about the human rights situation in Mexico. This work was enhanced by networking with Coordinación Alemana por los Derechos Humanos en México, CIFCA, the Copenhagen Initiative for Central America and lawyers' associations like the UK's Alliance for Lawyers at Risk and the Spanish Bar Association.

In March, the MEP Satu Hassi, in conjunction with the Coordinación Alemana and PBI, held an event titled 'Mexican Human Rights Defenders Demand Protection' at the European Parliament in Brussels. Abel Barrera, director of Tlachinollan and a long-term beneficiary of accompaniment from PBI; Bárbara Italia Méndez Moreno, victim of the Atenco events and Jaqueline Sáenz Andujo, lawyer from the Miguel Agustín Pro Juárez Human Rights Centre (Centro Prodh) reflected on the context of violence and militarisation in which they work and on the role of EU ins-

titutions in support and strengthening of their security in this context⁴³. This event led to parliamentary questions about how the EU Guidelines are implemented to protect human rights defenders in Mexico. The EU institutions committed to meeting with and consulting Mexican organisations on these issues.

PBI gave careful follow up to these commitments in its dialogue with EU authorities. The first of these meetings in Mexico was held in December 2011, with PBI participating as an observer.

Ensuring compliance with the IACHR sentences

Valentina Rosendo Cantú, alongside Tlachinollan lawyer Santiago Aguirre, travelled to France, Germany, Spain and the UK in May and June 2011⁴⁴. During the trip, which

was coordinated by PBI, Amnesty International and Tlachinollan, they requested that pressure be kept up to make sure that the sentence handed down by the IACHR in October 2010 is implemented in its totality. In London, PBI and the Institute for Study of the Americas at the University of London organised a conference about the sentence's implementation with participation from legal experts and lawyers.

PBI and the Alliance for Lawyers at Risk awarded a prize to Tita Radilla on the 21st November, recognising more than 30 years of struggle for human rights in Mexico and for justice in the case of her father Rosendo Radilla⁴⁵.

The mechanism in the United States of America

To support the creation of a protection mechanism for human rights defenders and raise the awareness of politicians in the USA about the risk situation in Mexico, re-

presentatives from PBI Mexico travelled twice to the USA in 2011, in March and December. They met with representatives from the State Department, Senators and members of Congress in the US government as well as IACHR staff.

Trips by human rights defenders from Oaxaca

PBI invited Father Solalinde, director of the Hermanos en el Camino migrant shelter to meetings with authorities and representatives of the Catholic church in Italy to ask for their support for his work with migrant populations in Mexico.

Nora Minerva Martínez Lázaro, and Father Uvi from Barca-DH travelled to Spain, Switzerland, Germany and the UK. The human rights violations suffered during the repression of protests in Oaxaca in 2006 and 2007, as well as the attacks and threats received by human rights defenders, particularly those who take on economic interests related to mining projects, were just some of the issues discussed.

Defending labour rights in Puebla: a risky business

PBI helped strengthen the support network of the CAT, an organisation that promotes labour rights in the states of Puebla and Tlaxcala. Its coordinator, Blanca Velázquez, was invited to Spain, France and Germany to explain the serious abuses of labour rights that they have documented and the attacks on their members that suspended their work for several months in 2011. Unions from these countries have followed the labour rights situation in Mexico and the risks of the Centre's members with interest and published information on these issues⁴⁶.

43. 'Exponen situación en México de DH de defensoras, defensores y periodistas en el Parlamento Europeo', Centro Prodh, 29th March 2011.

44. 'Valentina Rosendo Cantú denuncia impunidad castrense en Europa' (Press release), AI Mexico, Tlachinollan and PBI, CENCOS, 26th May 2011.

45. 'Peace Brigades International awards Tita Radilla', PBI Mexico News, 23rd November 2011.

46. 'Blanca Velázquez, CAT, visits Europe to present human rights violations faced by workers in Mexico', PBI Mexico News, 1st December 2011.

Two routes towards a Protection Mechanism

While the latest report by the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights Office in Mexico (OHCHR) recorded 37 new attacks between September 2009 and October 2010⁴⁷, in 2011 69 cases of attacks on human rights defenders were reported⁴⁸. Human rights defenders continue to suffer high levels of murders, disappearances, harassment, vigilance, threats, attacks and criminalization.

The current response from the Mexican state is not adequate, for example beneficiaries of protection measures granted by the National and State Human Rights Commissions or by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights claim not to have been consulted about the implementation of these measures and also think that the measures have not been correctly adapted to their sociocultural settings or to their actual risk situation⁴⁹.

Dialogue between civil society and the Ministry of the Interior

To overcome the structural deficiencies that make human rights defenders vulnerable to risk, in 2011 members of the Civil Society Organisation Group (CSO Group) continued to work on a governmental protection mechanism⁵⁰. PBI has participated in this process since 2010 and worked constantly both nationally and internationally to support the initiative.

The Mexico Project advised on the proposal put together by the CSO Group for a mechanism. PBI also advocated with state and non-governmental stakeholders, in Mexico and abroad, for the Mexican government to create a mechanism which incorporates the CSO Group's proposal and involves human rights defenders not only in the design of the mechanism, but also in its implementation.

In addition to publishing a special bulletin and a briefing on this topic, PBI attended meetings between the government and civil society organisations and supported the organisation of national meetings of human rights defenders to compile inputs for the proposal written by CSO Group. The process gained new impetus in May and since then PBI has participated in each of the 5 meetings held with representatives from the Ministry of the Interior. In the same month PBI supported the organisation of a meeting with 52 repre-

sentatives from federal and state bodies about the mechanism.

After months of campaigning by Mexican organisations and PBI, President Calderón signed a decree in July 2011 under the watchful eye of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, which committed the Ministry of the

The legislative initiative

In parallel to this dialogue with the Ministry, in 2011 members of the CSO Group promoted a bill for a protection mechanism for human rights defenders and journalists in the Senate. In October, PBI, with Amnesty International and other organisations, has worked to gain support



Carla Cavarretta (PBI Mexico) accompanies the CSO Group in a meeting with technical advisers from the Senate. To her right: Javier Joloy (CMDPDH) and José René Paz (Centro Prodh) © Senado de la República

Interior to developing and coordinating a protection mechanism. The constant dialogue between the Ministry and the CSO Group has not always led to the results hoped for by civil society, especially as regards the insertion of minimum standards into the mechanism's guidelines and protocols so that it meets the needs and guarantees an improvement in protection measures⁵¹. PBI has communicated information on these efforts led by Mexican civil society to its support network abroad to gain support from the international community for this important initiative.

in the Senate for the CSO Group. Civil society representatives have since been working continuously with advisers from several different political parties on the bill to ensure that it reflects their requirements. Representatives from PBI have been present at 80% of the 16 meetings held.

This bill is complementary to the negotiation process with the Executive and would allow coordination between federal entities and ensure that the mechanism remained operational even in the case of political changes.

47. 'Actualización 2010: Informe sobre la situación de las y los defensores de derechos humanos en México 2010', United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Office in Mexico –update of the 2009 report 'Defender los derechos humanos: entre el compromiso y el riesgo. Informe sobre la situación de las y los defensores de derechos humanos en México', October 2009–, November 2010.

48. Centro Nacional de Comunicación Social A.C.

49. "'Mexican State completely failing its obligation to protect journalists and human rights defenders', NGOs', PBI Mexico News, 19th March 2011.

50. See PBI Mexico's 2010 Annual Report, April 2010.

51. All of the documentation about the minimum standards proposed by Mexican civil society and the process of building a governmental protection mechanism for human rights defenders and journalists is available in [Mecanismo gubernamental de protección](#) by ACCUDEH.

The Security and Protection Training Programme

The federal government's proposal to modify the National Security Law made more than two years ago, discussed in the Senate and in Chamber of Deputies, was one of the great debates of 2011. The controversy is about the abuse of civil liberties and giving the army responsibility for policing⁵², which would be incompatible with the constitutional human rights reform approved in June 2011. This revised law will also be the main pillar of security policy in the war on organised crime.

Since its beginnings, PBI has delivered security workshops to the organisations and individuals accompanied by the project. Today the security training programme is an important reference for Mexican human rights defenders at serious risk. The programme allows the organisations to refine their security procedures and improve their risk assessment skills as well as their knowledge of strategies and protocols to respond better to the risks inherent to their work.

During the first half of 2011, as part of the security and protection programme, PBI organised two workshops, one in the north and another in the south of the country, on the topic of risk analysis and evaluation for human rights defenders. These workshops were delivered in collaboration with the OHCHR in Mexico, Protection International (PI), and the Red Nacional de Organismos Civiles de Derechos Humanos Todos los Derechos para Todos y Todas (Red TdTT). As part of the programme PBI included an innovative element, active participation in a meeting of around 50 politicians from various different states to introduce them to risk assessment and evaluation for human rights defenders.

In the second half of the year, due to an increase in requests for training, PBI Mexico multiplied its efforts and included another

8 organisations in the programme. It also widened the geographical focus of the security and protection training programme to states outside the project's usual operational area of Guerrero, Oaxaca and Mexico City. In Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua,

understanding and being able to use the tools explained in the trainings to effectively analyse their level of risk and make an assessment of their organisation's situation. However, according to the organisations and defenders, the most important



David Valtierra (left) y Doña Porfiria (centre), members of Radio Ñomndaa. After an audience at the High Court of Justice in Guerrero, they demand an impartial revision of the appeal on the sentence condemning several of their members © PBI Mexico

two workshops were held in response to requests received from the north of Mexico. As well as the joint workshop with the OHCHR, the Centro Prodh asked PBI Mexico to facilitate a security workshop with various different organisations from Ciudad Juárez as part of a training programme run with the Iberoamerican University on human rights. All of this work was possible thanks to an increase in donor support for this area and an internal strategic prioritisation of security training.

As a result of the security and training programme, PBI Mexico trained more than 150 Mexican human rights defenders from a wide range of backgrounds. According to the workshop evaluations, more than 80% emphasised the importance of

outcome was to raise awareness among human rights defenders of their own security and protection.

52. '[Archivan Ley de Seguridad Nacional](#)', El Universal, 23rd November 2011.

PBI raises awareness of threats and attacks

During 2011, PBI focused its publications work on highlighting the risk situation facing human rights defenders, publicising cases of threats, attacks and criminalisation of the people accompanied by PBI because of their work. Mexican civil society initiatives to establish a protection mechanism, the consequences of natural resource exploitation, the effects of a lack of access to justice and impunity, as well as the implementation of IACHR sentences and other protection mechanisms granted by the Inter-American Court and Commission were some of the most relevant human rights issues in Mexico covered by PBI in its publications.

PBI Mexico bulletins

PBI Mexico improved the quality of its bulletins during 2011 with two new issues in April and in November. The first *–How Many More?–* focuses on explaining the need for a protection mechanism for human rights defenders in Mexico. PBI has accompanied this civil society initiative since 2010 and it is at the centre of the project's advocacy work.

The second bulletin, titled *Undermining the Land: Defence of community rights and the environment in Mexico* describes Mexican organizational initiatives in favour of community and environmental rights which challenge mineral resource extraction projects. The articles emphasise the work carried out by the organisations that work on these issues, some of which are accompanied by PBI, and the risks that their work causes. It also includes an interview with the Oaxaca State Secretary for Indigenous Issues. Both publications were sent to PBI's distribution list and contacts, printed copies were distributed at events and given to the authorities that PBI Mexico met within 2011. Extracts from several publications were reproduced in the online version of Mexican magazines like *emeequis*⁵³.

Between August and December a special publication on women human rights defenders was produced. This publication includes interviews with 10 women with a wealth of experience in human rights work. They talk about the risks they face, their achievements and challenges. The publication will be launched in 2012.

Interviews

The PBI Mexico Project published four interviews and reports in 2011. In January, an interview with the Flor y Canto Indigenous Rights Centre's legal coordinator was published, about PBI's short accompaniment of the observation mission titled 'Water is life, protect its existence' held the previous year. PBI interviewed Agnieszka Raczynska, Executive Secretary of the Red TdTT, about the proposed protection mechanism. Three months later PBI made a special report on Santo Domingo Ixcatlán after three years of impunity in the triple murder case that took place in the community. Finally, in August, PBI Mexico published an interview to support the launch of the Cerezo Committee's new project named *Viento de libertad*.

Information Pack and Focos de Interés

PBI Mexico kicked off 2011 with the aim of continuing to inform its support network and improving communications quality. With the new *Information Pack*, a monthly email publication, PBI disseminated information about the human rights situation and the most relevant events in Mexico.

Between January and December 2011, the Project produced *Focos de Interés* every two months. It is a more detailed look at attacks against human rights defenders in Mexico, especially those accompanied by PBI. It was distributed electronically to the project's support network and used during advocacy meetings abroad, particularly with the diplomatic corps, international organisations, the UN system and other interested parties from the political scene in Europe and North America.

Webpage

Throughout 2011 new efforts were made to increase the frequency of updates to PBI Mexico's web page. The number of news items has increased so that new information appears each week. The project's latest publications, photographs and other updated materials have been



PBI volunteer interviews Celsa Valdovinos, Coordinator of the OMESP © Prometeo Lucero

added to the home page, as well as a sidebar to highlight the latest reports, national and international, on human rights in Mexico.

Contacts with the press

PBI Mexico received requests from European and American journalists who contacted PBI in order to interview the accompanied organisations on 7 occasions in 2011. Several media outlets published articles on Minerva Nora Martínez (BarcaDH) and Valentina Rosendo Cantú during their visit to Spain, including the Spanish daily newspaper *El País*⁵⁴. Blanca Velázquez, during her European tour, also talked to the press about her experiences and the support she receives from PBI⁵⁵.

53. 'Wirikuta: el lugar donde nace el Sol. Entrevista con Tunuary Chávez', emeequis Magazine, 5th December 2011.

54. "'Vivo escondida y los militares que me violaron siguen libres'. Tres activistas mexicanas denuncian la impunidad que se vive en el país', 3rd June 2011.

55. 'No despierten a México bronco', Otramérica, 19th November 2011

After 18 months in Mexico

Patricia García, returned volunteer with PBI Mexico's Guerrero Team and member of PBI Spain

After more than a year in Mexico, I feel that I'm no longer just Spanish. 18 months out of my 39 years have been Mexican, so in some way, I think that I've gained some Mexican experiences.

And what did I learn? To start with, I was a member of the Mexico Project, which

their lives on the line for their dream.

Through accompaniment, PBI is an international witness of this strong commitment and accompanies processes of change through these fighters, both indigenous and mixed-race. And through this mutual accompaniment, I fell in love with Mexico, with this different Mexico, the one that they are building.

After more than 30 years of struggle,

I had a job to do when I got there. 'You have to tell people in your country about what's happening in Mexico!' And that's what I did. I joined the PBI group in Madrid, which is part of the Spanish country group and has been active for 25 years.

With the country group, I've been able to continue my work in Mexico: I met with the Spanish Bar Association to talk about the situation of human rights defenders in Mexico and Guatemala. I've supported

the organisation of a cine forum alongside Amnesty International during the Mexican human rights defender Father Solalinde's visit and with the Instituto de Estudios Políticos para América Latina y África I supported a tour by Mexican human rights defenders Nora Minerva Martínez, Gabriela Morales and Valentina Rosendo Cantú.

I've also participated in meetings with the Foreign Ministry's Human Rights Office to tell them about the current situation in Mexico and I requested a meeting with the cross-party parliamentary group on human rights issues to convey concerns and requests by human rights defenders and explain how they are harassed.

And I've also helped out with lots of the group's other tasks: meetings with all of the Spanish

parliamentary groups, awareness raising workshops in universities, dissemination of the projects using audiovisual materials, weekly work meetings, building networks to position human rights on the political agenda...

The list is long and after 18 months the work is not over. I think it's essential for returned volunteers to join their country groups to feed them with their experiences and learning, because without the support of country groups, the projects don't make sense.

Out of sight is not always out of mind, as PBI is a channel that keeps me in contact with Mexico while I'm in Spain. My commitment continues...



Patricia García (top left) during the recording of a video for PBI Spain © PBI EE

was an incredible life experience. 18 months full of emotion, of sharing moments with people who never tire of fighting for justice, of intense non-stop work, of emergencies, of farewells and welcomes, of consensus, of accompaniments, of trips in taxis, trucks and buses. 18 months in which I learned about an enormous complex country with many conflicts, where the relations between different political groups are drawn with shaky lines, where silence is a underlying protection measure.

In Mexico I learned about human rights from the best: Otilia, Cuauhtémoc, Andrea, Tita, Valentina, Inés, Alejandra, Clemencia, Antonio, Francisco, Héctor, Alejandro, Celsa, David and José. They're tireless activists, 'human rights warriors', who dream of a different Mexico and put

Tita Radilla's search for justice for the disappearance of her father Rosendo Radilla, has ended with an international court holding the Mexican state responsible for his disappearance. The same court also found the Mexican state responsible for not responding to the accusations made by Valentina Rosendo Cantú and Inés Fernández and not ensuring that justice was done in their cases in over eight years. This international body has said to the Mexican state: 'Yes, both women are telling the truth and you must give reparations for the damage done'. I was lucky enough to witness these achievements by the human rights defenders accompanied by the project.

But as the song goes, every good thing comes to an end, and the end of my time with PBI also came. I had to go home, but

PBI Mexico team members in 2011

Mexico Project Coordinator

Lisa Maracani (Italy)
Maik Müller (Germany)

European Representative

Susana Nistal (Spain)

Finance Manager

David Ávila (Portugal)

Grant Manager

Caroline Hay (Scotland)
Jamie Wick (USA)

MEXICO CITY TEAM:

Public Relations Coordinator

Michael Tamblyn (Australia and UK)
Ben Leather (UK)

Field Team Coordinator

Marianne Bertrand (France)
Sierra Schraff-Thomas (USA)

Security Programme Coordinator

Carla Cavarretta (Italy)

Publications and Communications Coordinator

Graciela Martínez (Spain)

Administration and Accounting

Ana Carolina Bustamante (Mexico)
Lilia Díaz (Mexico)

GUERRERO TEAM:

Sierra Schraff-Thomas (USA), Benoit de Montaigu (France), Michael Schlegel (Germany), Mirjam Muis (Netherlands), Emilie de Wolf (Belgium), Patricia Garcia (Spain), Ivi Oliveira (Brazil), Lisa Pattison (UK), Rubens da Silva (Portugal), Clara Arroyave (Colombia)

OAXACA TEAM:

Graciela Martínez (Spain), Judith Huber (Switzerland), Peter Eckersley (Australia), Rocío Carneros (Spain),

Alexia Ghyoot (Belgium), Delphine Verheyde (France), Stefan Zimmer (Germany), Cecilia Mondì (Italy), Daniel Cloney (Ireland), Emilie de Wolf (Belgium), Tobias Wallusch (Germany)

TRAINING COMMITTEE:

Karim Jah (Germany), Maik Müller (Germany), Silvia Carballo (Spain), Sandra Camacho (Catalonia)

STRATEGIC COMMITTEE:

Karim Jah (Germany), Marielle Tonossi (Switzerland), Sandra Caluori (Switzerland), Sandra Froidevaux (Switzerland), William Payne (Canada)

PBI Mexico activities in 2011

PHYSICAL PRESENCE		
ORGANIZATIONS AND HRDS ACCOMPANIED BY PBI	ACCOMPANIMENTS	MEETINGS
Cerezo Committee	10	10
Association of Relatives of the Detained Disappeared, and Victims of Human Rights Abuses in Mexico (AFADDEM)	6	2
Organization of Women Ecologists of the Sierra de Petatlán (OMESP)	5	3
Tlachinollan Human Rights Center	11	3
Organization of the Indigenous Me'Phaa People (OPIM)	12	5
Civil Monitor of the Police and Security Forces in the Montaña Region (MOCIPOL)	7	1
Valentina Rosendo Cantú	2	1
Committee for the Integral Defence of Human Rights Gobixha (Codigo-DH)	30	23
Centre for Human Rights and Legal Advice for Indigenous Peoples (CEDHAPI)	16	4
Father Alejandro Solalinde, Director of the Hermanos en el Camino migrant shelter	11	5
Bartolomé Carrasco Briseño Regional Human Rights Centre (Barca-DH)	18	21
State, national and international NGOs	-	113
TOTAL	128	191
ADVOCACY		
MEETINGS WITH AUTHORITIES		MEETINGS
Mexican municipal and state-level authorities (Guerrero)	-	16
Mexican municipal and state-level authorities (Oaxaca)	-	42
Mexican federal authorities	-	38
Diplomatic corps and embassies	-	52
TOTAL	-	148
PUBLICATIONS	ENGLISH	SPANISH
Bulletins	2	2
Interviews	4	4
Information Pack	10	10
Focos de interés	6	6
News (website)	70	62
TOTAL	92	84
SPEAKING TOURS	SPEAKING TOURS	BENEFICIARIES
Speaking tours EU	6	8
SECURITY AND PROTECTION TRAINING		
WORKSHOPS	WORKSHOPS	BENEFICIARIES
	18	150

2011 Financial Report

The Mexico Project has made efforts to consolidate its finances in 2010 and 2011, aiming to adapt to the current difficult climate related to the global financial crisis. In 2011 the project has been able to increase support from several donors and gain new ones, which are key to ensure the continuity of work in Mexico, and have even allowed for new areas of work to be developed.

For this reason, there is significant overspending on some budget lines. Support for specific activities such as publications or the Security Training Programme have meant that more time and resources could be dedicated to these areas of work.

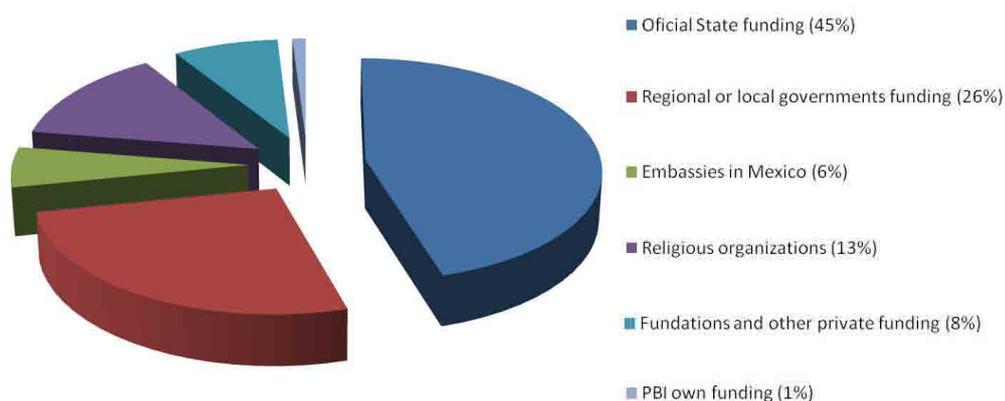
In 2011 a surplus of more than 25,000 USD (provisional figure) has been achieved, which will be put aside as a funds reserve for the difficult year to come, and also to comply with PBI's international office's financial regulations, which stipulate that projects must hold a minimum reserve that will cover three months' operational costs. With this in mind, the project has identified fundraising and fund diversification as priorities for 2012.

The financial data in this report is provisional and will be subject to audit. All of the income and expenditure is given in USD.

PBI Mexico income in 2011

DONORS	Income USD
GERMANY	233,502
Diakonia	32,013
Misereor	16,143
Civil Peace Service	84,492
ZIVIK	100,854
UNITED KINGDOM	7,639
Law Society	5,496
Sigrid Rausing Trust	2,143
SPAIN	108,445
Valladolid Municipality	15,663
Santander Municipality	35,764
Catalan Agency for Development and Cooperation (ACCD)	48,873
Biskaia Lawyers Bar	8,145
FRANCE	33,533
Foreign Affairs Ministry of France	27,320
Non Violence XXI	6,213
OTHER FUNDING	
Fund for Nonviolence	15,000
Basilian Fathers Human Development Fund	4,628
Amnesty International Sweden	-
Fund for Nonviolence	15,000
Basilian Fathers Human Development Fund	4,628
Amnesty International Sweden	-
Canadian Embassy in Mexico – Canada Fund	6,653
British Embassy in Mexico	20,455
PBI Netherlands	1,067
PBI Belgium	1,000
PBI Switzerland	30,685
PBI Italy	2,846
Bank interests	350
Other programmes	2,245
Personal donation	1,756
TOTAL INCOME	469,804

Graphic: Income



PBI Mexico expenditure in 2011

BUDGET LINES		Budget USD	Expenditure USD
FIELD PRESENCE	Guerrero Team	68,264	63,980
	Oaxaca Team	62,570	65,634
	Security workshops	2,293	14,341
	Volunteers selection and training	10,816	16,177
STRATEGIC PRESENCE	Team and Public Relations Coordination in Mexico DF	80,042	87,344
OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY	European representation	41,008	36,183
	Publications	4,737	14,192
	HRDs speaking tours	4,411	4,135
GENERAL COORDINATION AND STRATEGY	Project Coordination Office	58,274	51,686
	Project Committee meetings	17,115	9,161
FUNDRAISING, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION	Fundraising and Finance	24,660	20,949
	Administration	8,837	13,992
GOVERNANCE	Governance and International PBI Coordination	31,544	-
OTHERS	Project Audit and Global Audit	4,890	5,883
	Project Evaluation	5,302	5,903
	General Assembly	2,103	2,019
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		426,867	443,124



PBI Mexico is not responsible for the statements and opinions of others in this publication.

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

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Backpage photo: : PBI volunteer accompanies Elena Tapia (Codigo-DH) in San Pedro Amuzgos (Oaxaca) © PBI Mexico

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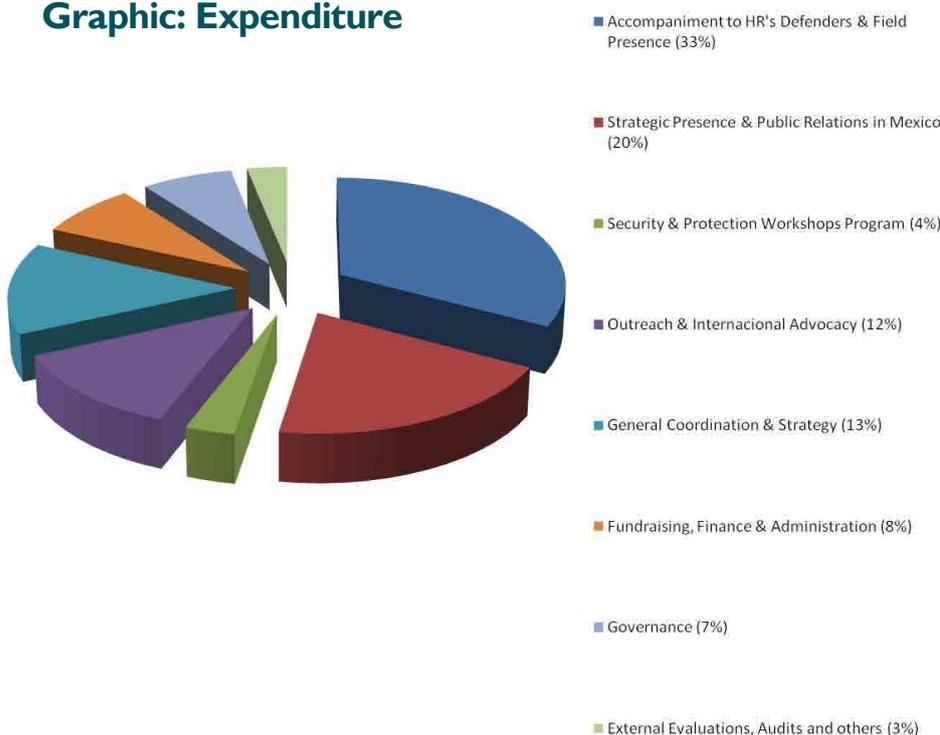
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Graphic: Expenditure





Peace Brigades International (PBI) is a nongovernmental organization with 30 years of experience in international accompaniment and has been present in Mexico since 1999. International accompaniment is a conflict transformation tool and PBI's goal is to protect the political space for people and organizations that promote human rights in a non-violent manner and who suffer repression for their legitimate work.

PBI only works at the request of local organizations and does not replace efforts by Mexican human rights defenders to promote respect for human rights. Rather, it merely seeks to support their initiatives by standing next to them.

PBI regularly visits conflict areas, distributes information, and dialogues with civil and military authorities, as well as with human rights organizations and other civil society actors in Mexico. To promote international attention to the Mexican situation, and to help create the necessary conditions for human rights defenders to continue with their work, PBI also maintains a dialogue with the international community and international organizations such as the United Nations, disseminates information, and generates support from abroad in order to ensure the safety of Mexican defenders.

More information about PBI's work in Mexico can be found on our web site: www.pbi-mexico.org



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PROMOTING NON-VIOLENCE AND
PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS SINCE 1981

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