In memoriam

In memory of
Deyanira Mosquera Murillo,
leader of the Nueva Vida Humanitarian Zone in Cacarica, Chocó

“Listen to me Chocó, please listen, you don’t have to be suffering like this”.

On 7 February 2023, PBI Colombia was deeply saddened to receive the news of the passing of Deyanira Mosquera Murillo, celebrated Afro-Colombian leader of the Nueva Vida Humanitarian Zone, in the Cacarica river basin.

Deyanira was one of the founders of CAVIDA following the communities’ displacement to Turbo and, together with her family, she became one of the key figures involved in planning the return to their territories in Cacarica. She represented her community in the demand for guarantees and dignified conditions to allow their return to and permanence in the territory. Accompanied for over 20 years by the Justice and Peace Commission (JyP) and, through them, by PBI Colombia, Deyanira was characterised by her courage and tireless work in the defence of her territory and ethnic rights.

Despite enduring various forced displacements, Deyanira never lost her energy, which she continued to express through her celebration of life, and hope of being able to return to her beloved Cacarica.

Read JyP’s memoriam dedicated to Deyanira here.
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Who are we?

Peace Brigades International is a non-governmental, non-confessional, and independent international organisation that has been carrying out international observation and accompaniment work in Colombia since 1994. Our mission is to protect the work space of those human rights defenders who face attacks due to their work in the defence and promotion of human rights and social justice.

PBI works solely at the request of local organisations and does not seek to replace their initiatives, but rather to support them using an integral protection model, which includes:

- Physical accompaniment and international observation in the field.
- Political advocacy within and outside Colombia.
- Dissemination of information and awareness-raising on the human rights situation.
- Facilitation of workshops to strengthen and reconstruct the Colombian social fabric.

PBI Colombia works from a prevention and protection mandate, with a differential and intersectional approach, placing special attention on the situation of vulnerable groups, including women defenders and peasant, indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities who non-violently resist in their territories.

To do so, PBI carries out a differentiated analysis of the risks faced by these groups so that specific protection mechanisms can be developed adapted to their needs.

Key work areas

- Presence of observers and international accompaniment in the field.
- Dialogue with Colombian civilian and military authorities, the diplomatic community accredited in Colombia, international organisations and different European and US authorities.
- Production and distribution of documents and other materials providing information on the accompanied organisations and their protection needs.
- Support for the reconstruction of social fabric through the provision of self-protection workshops.
Where do we work?
2022: Aspirational territories and territorial reality

2022 saw a sharp increase in serious human rights violations in Colombia and no end to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the territories. According to the International Committee of the Red Cross, there are at least six active armed conflicts in the country that continue to produce serious consequences for the civilian population. In the last year, there has also been a worrying increase in the number of victims of forced displacement, confinement and anti-personnel mines, with a total of 94 massacres recorded in which 300 people were killed.

Six years since the Final Peace Agreements (FPA) were ratified there has been limited progress made in their implementation. Under the government of Iván Duque, only 30% of the FPA’s provisions were implemented, with 37% still registered as being in the minimal implementation phase.

In addition to the lack of significant progress in the implementation of the FPA, 2022 saw an increase in combat operations between the different illegal armed groups that are fighting over the control of rural territories. These territories also continue to suffer severe neglect by the state.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) recorded a 12% increase in the total number of victims of forced displacement, and a 56% increase in the number of victims of confinement compared to data collected the previous year.

On top of the more than 78,150 people who suffered forced displacement, with the departments of Cauca, Chocó, Nariño and Valle del Cauca continuing to be most affected, a further 108,665 people were also victims of confinement.

In this context, Colombia continues to be one of the most dangerous countries in the world for human rights defenders. More than 215 defenders have been killed in 2022, the highest figure since records began to be recorded in 2016.

The first few months of 2022 were marked by a sharp escalation of violence due to the pre-electoral context and an increased presence of armed groups in the territories.

The year began with a massacre recorded every two days, and with the murder of two peasant farmer leaders Teófilo Acuña and Jorge Tarfur, recognised land and environmental defenders from the Magdalena Medio region who were committed to the conservation of the communal wetlands of San Martín.

Several months later, on 28 March, a military operation was carried out by the national army in the rural settlement of El Remanso in the municipality of Puerto Leguizamo in Putumayo, apparently targeting alleged guerrillas belonging to a dissident faction of the FARC.

Colombia continues to be one of the most dangerous countries in the world for human rights defenders. More than 215 defenders have been killed in 2022.
However, according to several testimonies, the people killed in the attack were civilians, a fact that lead to speculation of renewed cases of false positives.

Civil society organizations from the Round-table of Guarantees in the department of Putumayo convoked a Verification Mission whose finding showed that members of the community including indigenous inhabitants and authority figures had been killed in the operation, as well as others injured or disappeared, among them several minors.

The events are evidence of a massacre carried out during an operation led by the national army, which also caused the forced displacement of families and indigenous people from the community, and which clearly violates both international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

On 4 May, Dario Antonio Usúga, alias “Otoniel”, who had been captured in October of the previous year, was extradited in record time to the United States. Usúga had been the top leader of the paramilitary heir group the Gaitan Self-defence Forces of Colombia (AGC) throughout the last decade.

In the following days, the AGC declared an armed strike in several of departments across the country to manifest their rejection of the extradition, causing numerous serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.

The Investigation and Indictment Unit (UIA) of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) documented the deaths of 24 people as a result of the violence perpetrated by the criminal organization during the strike.

The Corporation for Judicial Freedom (CJL), and the Antioquia section of the Coordination Colombia Europe United States (CCEEU), denounced that more than 47 municipalities in Antioquia were affected by the strike and that it provoked several armed confrontations between the AGC and the Colombian armed forces.

The majority of these confrontations took place in populated areas, violating IHL and putting the life and integrity of the civilian population at risk.

On June 28, the Truth Commission presented its Final Report in the Jorge Eliécer Gaitán theatre in Bogotá. The report seeks to shed light on the causes and patterns of the conflict which Colombia has experienced for more than half a century and is the result of more than four years of work by the Commission.

The Commission’s president, Francisco de Roux, presented the ten volumes of the report addressing topics including: violence against women and the LGBT+ community, the impacts of the armed conflict on ethnic peoples and the disputes over their communities’ territories; the experience of the displaced population; and the stories of the children, adolescents and young people who have lived through the conflict. It also includes recommendations related to eight key issues whose implementation will be tracked by a Monitoring and Evaluation Committee for the next seven years.

Another key event of 2022 was the ratification of the Escazi Agreement in Colombia on 10 October following three years of legislative blockade during Iván Duque’s second term in government.

The agreement contains specific provisions on environmental protection and promotes the protection of environmental leaders, providing increased access to environmental information and greater participatory mechanisms for civil society.

The agreement also brings attention to the important role of those who defend human rights in environmental issues and who are often perceived as antagonists to so-called progress.

2022 was also the year of a historic change of the country’s government. The new president, Gustavo Petro, has vowed to introduce significant changes based on social and environmental justice, to transform the country’s security policy, and announced his commitment to the comprehensive implementation of the Peace Agreement.

The new president takes office after four years of governance by Iván Duque, during which, according to 500 Colombian human rights organisations, the country was left with a legacy of “hunger and war”, and suffered systematic human rights violations, the reactivation of the armed conflict, the expansion of paramilitarism and other armed groups, and the expansion of illicit crops.

In this context, the new government has been prioritizing the development of binding regional dialogues, with the intention of creating spaces for citizen participation as a fundamental pillar of the National Development Plan for 2022-2023.

The dialogues seek to address the needs and wants of communities living in rural areas, and have focused on issues such as access to potable drinking water, climate change, security, territorial planning aimed at achieving total peace, and the fight against hunger, among others.

Another cornerstone of the first months of the new government has been the creation of the Law 418 of Total Peace which has established Regions of Peace to allow for dialogue with illegal armed actors who wish to comply with the law. It also provides for the temporary establishment of interim zones which would constitute areas in which all authorities would be present, but which would not be targeted for actions by the Armed Forces during the time-limited dialogue period.

Peace talks between the government and the National Liberation Army (ELN) have been reactivated, and are currently awaiting the commencement of the third round of talks, following the conclusion of the previous round which began in Mexico on 14 February 2023.
In figures

ACCOMPANIMENT, INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION, VISITS TO ORGANISATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Days present alongside human rights defenders
2019: 735 (568+56+111)
2020: 384 (292+8+84)
2021: 602 (468+18+116)
2022: 729 (585+62+82)

Accompaniment requests accepted
2019: 83,20%
2020: 74,86%
2021: 79,93%
2022: 85,14%

Distribution of accompaniment of women and men
2019: Women (32,45%), men (40,07%), Mixto (27,48%)
2020: Women (29,85%), men (50,75%), Mixto (19,40%)
2021: Women (48,84%), men (47,44%), Mixto (3,72%)
2022: Women (31,20%), men (44,60%), Mixto (24,20%)
ARTS - NUMBER OF DAYS OF WORKSHOPS WITH ORGANISATIONS

2019: 64 (participation 68.7% women, 30% men, 1.3% not specified)
2020: 68 (participation 76% women, 24% men)
2021: 40 (participation 85% women, 15% men)
2022: 137 (participation 82% women, 18% men)

ADVOCACY MEETINGS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND INSTITUTIONAL BODIES IN COLOMBIA, EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA

2019: 73
2020: 99
2021: 106
2022: 172
Integral accompaniment in 2022

2022 was marked by the legislative and presidential elections in Colombia, and a renewed interest in the country by the international community in light of the political shift that it was facing.

In spite of the fact that the international community was focusing a lot of its attention on the war in Ukraine, at PBI we continued to insist on the importance of implementing guarantees for the defence of human rights in Colombia.

Particularly urgent is the communities request that we continue to press for the creation of peacemaking spaces that include a territorial-focused approach. In this sense, we welcome the fact that the current government included this demand in the national agenda in the form of its new public policy for Total Peace.

PBI also continued to express concern for the differential impacts of violence on women defenders and the ethnic population, as well as the need to advance laws to regulate the actions of transnational companies operating in Colombian territories.

"We have also raised awareness on crimes against humanity such as forced disappearance which, unfortunately, remain largely in impunity and have not received sufficient attention at an international level. We would like to highlight advances that PBI has made in the implementation of an intersectional and gender-based approach to our advocacy work by increasing the protagonism of women defenders both in their direct participation in meetings, and in our public and private positioning.

This has included women defenders making oral interventions in the United Nations Human Rights Council, in statements to Special Rapporteurs, and by their increased participation in webinars, among other activities.

We also continue to visibilize the differential risks that women defenders face as a result of their gender, and to highlight the peacebuilding actions that they lead.

PBI applies an integral approach to protection, taking the importance of the collective into consideration while understanding and adapting to individual needs and characteristics. Our global vision of protection includes physical, psychosocial and political accompaniment.

Parting from an understanding that the integral protection that PBI provides is just one part of the many self-protection measures organisations implement, we work alongside those that we accompany to develop comprehensive accompaniment strategies that strengthen their existing self-protection capacities and autonomy.

During 2022, PBI had an 85% response capacity to requests for accompaniment, an improvement of 5% compared to 2021. This was largely a result of the arrival of numerous field volunteers which allowed us to regain the capacity of the field teams to that of the years prior to the pandemic.

Of the 390 requests for accompaniment received, PBI was able to provide accompaniment to human rights organisations on 298 separate occasions and has indirectly contributed to the protection of other organisations, social movements and communities in the territories.

In 2022, our area of Support for the Reconstruction of the Social Fabric (ARTS) carried out 38 workshops and gatherings with human rights organisations and collectives. The key themes of the workshops are psychosocial support, self-care strategies and digital security and were designed to include a transversal gender-focused approach. ARTS also actively participated in the reconstruction of PBI internal teams by leading 75 days of internal workshops.

PBI’s ability to provide protection is largely made possible thanks to the support received towards our activities and human rights defence work from the international community."
Our Visibilization team fosters this support through their work which includes activities such as holding meetings with international bodies, members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Colombia, political institutions and governments.

Likewise, PBI raises awareness on issues by sharing information through semi-public publications distributed to our support networks worldwide, and highlighting the work of Colombian organisations on our social networks and blog.

In line with the key thematic areas prioritised by PBI, we would like to emphasise the following achievements from 2022:

**1. Access and Use of Land and Territory**

On 23 March, the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó commemorated 25 years since its foundation 1997. The Peace Community's legacy has been built on the practice of non-violent resistance spanning over 25 years.

During this period 300 of its members have been killed, and the Community has been the victim of more than 1000 attacks including threats, destruction of property, burning of crops, mass displacements, sexual violence, land usurpation, and judicial set-ups.

For the 25th anniversary, PBI organised a visit to Apartadó of representatives from several embassies. We also organised a campaign highlighting milestones from the Community’s history on our various communication channels. Following their visit, a number of the embassies publicly supported and legitimised the Peace Community’s work in defence of land and territory. Since its creation, the Peace Community has built its territorial defence project on the basis of peaceful resistance.

In the course of 2022 we saw advances in the recognition and titling of the Peace Community’s lands, a decades-long process which PBI has accompanied for many years.

In February of 2022, the Land Restitution Unit (URT) declared the restitution process concerning the plots of La Roncona and Santa Isabel “emblematic cases”, recognising the lands as essential to the Community’s project of subsistence and territorial defence.

PBI’s accompaniment of this process, and of that of the legal organisation Dh Colombia, is an ongoing commitment which has sought both to guarantee the continued existence of the Peace Community as an alternative life project, and ensure that it is recognised for its conservation of the environment, peasant farmer culture, the defence of the collective, and for its role in peacebuilding in Colombia.

Both Dh Colombia and the Peace Community have repeatedly expressed the importance of our international presence as it ensures better conduct and increased reception by state officials.

In the department of Putumayo, in the Perla Amazonica Peasant Zone (ZRCPA), the Comission for Justice and Peace (JyP) accompanies the Perla Amazonica Association for Integral Sustainable Development (Adispa) in the defence of their rights, and in their struggles to protect their territory from environmental impacts.

In 2022, PBI has maintained its integral model of accompaniment of Adispa, ensuring the continuity of the association’s activities and security guarantees for their legal representative Jani Silva, who faces regular attacks due to the territorial control imposed by armed groups in the region.

At the start of the year, after a new plan to attack Adispa was revealed, PBI requested monitoring of the situation from United Nations Rapporteurs. As a result, two Special Rapporteurs issued a statement to the Colombian state in which they expressed their concern, and called for state action regarding the case. Several virtual meeting were also held with the U.S. State Department and with offices of U.S. members of Congress where we addressed the ZRCPA’s situation.

PBI has repeatedly highlighted the important role of women in the defence of land and territory, the lack of State prevention and protection mechanisms, and the urgent need for structural measures in the territories affected by disputes between legal and illegal armed groups.

With PBI’s accompaniment, Adispa has strengthened its relationship with civil society organisations such as Amazon Watch, as well as with the diplomatic corps and other international bodies who, thanks to PBI-led initiatives, have visited Putumayo on several occasions during 2022.

PBI’s integral accompaniment has allowed JyP and Adispa to access the security guarantees they need to be able to continue carrying out their work defending their territory in the face of the increasing presence and threat of armed actors and transnational companies.

Among other achievements, we would like to highlight the progress that Adispa has made in a community project involving young people where they have been reforesting areas with native plants and trees in what is an act of territorial resistance and environmental preservation.

PBI also continues to accompany JyP in the Cauca Valley and in the department of Chocó where they work with numerous indigenous and afrodescendent communities.

Throughout 2022, these communities continued to suffer displacements and forced confinement. In addition to the security situation, the humanitarian situation in these territories has been compounded by the affects of climate change and increased deforestation.

In 2022, alongside Dh Colombia, the organisation that legally represents the Community and whose current legal team is notable for the fact that it largely comprises of young women lawyers, PBI has been accompanying this process which seeks to recognise the legitimate use and utilization of these lands by the Peace Community.
Despite this current situation, we were able to carry out a number of accompaniments in the region alongside JyP as they accompanied the communities facing the diverse humanitarian crisis, denouncing the situation and carrying out activities advocating the right to the use and access to land in the region.

2. Business and Human Rights

In its commitment to ensuring that the work spaces of organisations, defenders and communities are protected, PBI has, through its accompaniment of the organisation CREDHOS, indirectly supported environmental leaders who have been the victims of threats as a direct result of their activism work denouncing fracking projects and the other environmental impacts of extractive businesses in the Magdalena Medio region.

In this regard, PBI has publically highlighted the persistent death threats received by these environmental defenders. In light of this difficult context, 62 of the 88 accompaniments carried out by the field team based in Barrancabermeja were accompanying CREDHOS.

The intensification of attacks against environmental defenders was a particular cause for concern in 2022. In the Magdalena Medio in particular, the attacks have targetted women water defenders who are denouncing evident pacts between the oil industry and armed actors in the region.

One such case has been that of the environmental leader Yuli Andrea Velásquez Briceño, president of the Federation of Artisanal, Environmental and Tourist Fishermen of Santander (Fedepesán).

The organisation, which concentrates on the defense of water and the environment, is accompanied indirectly by PBI through its relationship with CREDHOS.

Yuli Velásquez has been the victim of multiple threats and three attempts on her life as a direct result of her work leading the environmental defense of water and denouncing those who harm the water sources.

Among other activities, we have accompanied CREDHOS and Fedepesán on numerous occasions verifying the environmental impacts on the wetlands of San Silvestre and in other work, especially during periods where they faced increased risks due to threats they were receiving.

PBI facilitated several territorial visits by the international community in order to visualize the risk situation faced by the women environmental defenders in the region, after which their risks subsequently reduced.

PBI also organised the visit of an international team of journalists who subsequently published a series of audiovisual materials and articles about the risks that environmental defenders face and the important role of women defenders.

In San Luis de Palenque, in the department of Casanare, eight male and female leaders were prosecuted in 2018 for protesting against the Candian petrol company Frontera Energy, eventually spending more than 500 days in prison.

The multinational had reportedly signed security agreements with the Ministry of Defense just days before, and has worked closely alongside the Prosecutor General’s Office, the same entity which was in charge of advancing the criminal investigations against the prosecuted leaders.

While the male leaders were held in prisons, the female leaders were criminalized under house arrest and therefore assumed a larger leadership role, which they continue to this day.

The case was accompanied by Cospacc and CSPP and PBI has provided both organisations accompaniment in a series of meetings in Casanare.

One of the most impactful events regarding the case in 2022, was the visit of a representative of PBI Canada to Colombia and his organisation of a webinar featuring members of the criminalized community whose wide viewership resulted in the strong positioning of the case in Canada.

According to Cospacc and CSPP, the international accompaniment that the San Luis de Palenque community has received has been crucial in terms of increasing awareness of their case denouncing the Canadian company’s actions.

We also focused a large part of our accompaniment of JyP in 2022 on their work with the organisational processes and rights of the indigenous communities of the Jiguamiandó river basin, in the region of Bajo Atrato, in particular concerning the defense of their territories against the interests of the company Minera...
One of the main achievements of 2022 was the consolidation of our advocacy work with the United Nations Security Council in New York.

Cobre Colombia S.A.S. This extractive megaproject would impact the Urdárs-Jiguamandó Indigenous Reserve and the Jialtuma mountain which is considered sacred territory by the community.

With the accompaniment of PBI, JyP has worked with the communities in various actions where they are demanding the right to prior consultation and consent regarding projects on their lands, as well as the right to a healthy environment.

In collaboration with PBI Switzerland, the other PBI projects and other international organisations, PBI presented oral statements to the 49th, 50th and 51st sessions of the UN Human Rights Council. At the 49th session we emphasised PBI’s position on business and human rights, calling for progress to be made in investigations into the responsibilities of companies and intellectual authors of crimes in areas subject to Free Trade Agreements and mining and oil megaprojects.

In response to the demands of our accompanied organisations, and as a contribution to the global debate on the Due Diligence Law to combat human rights violations committed by companies, we carried out a joint advocacy tour with PBI International and a delegation of human rights defenders from Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. In meetings with parliamentarians and permanent missions, we raised a number of crucial points that should be included in the Due Diligence Law to ensure that defenders, peasant and ethnic communities can continue defending their lands and territories.

In collaboration with PBI Switzerland, the other PBI missions before the United Nations Security Council, a body which we had previously identified as lacking significant presence by Colombian civil society organisations. We hope to continue strengthening this work in the coming years.

Throughout 2022, PBI accompanied different activities on human rights and the Peace Agreement from this perspective.

PBI’s work in this regard represents an important new contribution to advocacy for Colombia before the United Nations Security Council, a body which we had previously identified as lacking significant presence by Colombian civil society organisations. We hope to continue strengthening this work in the coming years.

At the end of the year, the Peace Community met informally with the Minister of Defence, Iván Velásquez, accompanied by the High Commissioner for Peace, Danilo Rueda, and the Director of Human Rights and IHL of the Ministry of Defence, Diana Sánchez Lara. This historic meeting took place 18 years after the Community had broken off relations with the government following the failure of the government to make progress on the numerous complaints made by the community regarding human rights violations.

The Minister attended the meeting without the presence of his armed bodyguards as a mark of respect for the non-violent principles of the Peace Community.

The accompaniment that PBI provided in this space was fundamental to secure the presence of those attending and in ensuring that they were able to participate freely and safely.

We also accompanied CCALP in a meeting with Gilles Bertrand, the Ambassador for the European Union in Colombia. Alongside other women’s rights organisations from Santander, they discussed the challenges facing the department in terms of equality and the promotion of women’s political participation, as well as the importance of strengthening peacebuilding activities in the neighbourhoods most affected by the presence of illicit economies.

Throughout 2022, PBI accompanied different activities involving the Community and its leaders. This support was crucial in strengthening the Community’s capacity to represent its interests and to promote the right to life, to food security and in defence of our communities.
in the cities of Cali and Bogotá monitoring issues surrounding the right to protest in Colombia. The main concern for the accompanied organisations that work on cases of victims of police violence is the prevailing impunity enjoyed by the alleged perpetrators of human rights violations committed in the crackdown on social protest between 2019 and 2021.

To date, for example, there have been no convictions for the more than 3,000 criminal acts reported during the 2021 National Strike. In contrast, organisations and victims who denounce human rights violations by the security forces are subject to serious security and social control by armed groups.

Furthermore, more than 200 young people who were in the front lines in Cali and Bogotá are currently deprived of their liberty for having led the 2021 protest.

PBI provides support and protection to organisations that defend the right to protest and civil society participation in the political space in a number of ways including physically accompanying marches and commemorative events for victims of police violence, providing protection for those participating and raising the visibility of such actions.

For example, we have accompanied actions related to the case of the massacre of 9 September 2020 in the Verbenal neighbourhood in Bogotá, and the Siloé massacre of 3 May 2021 in Cali. We also accompanied several events which focused on specific issues such as sexual violence or ocular injuries caused by the security forces.

Finally, PBI accompanied judicial hearings for various cases involving victims and individuals being prosecuted in the cases of the Paseo del Aguante in Cali and the Portal de las Américas in Bogotá.

PBI accompanied ACVC in the realisation of its fifth eco-camp in the Magdalena Medio.

The training, participation and dialogue space is organised with both a gender-based and youth-focused approach.

During the camp participants addressed various territorial, environmental, human rights, and social control issues. The programme included the defense of the “yellow line”, an environmental protection strategy led by ACVC in the region which demarcates protected woodland areas.

4. Construction of a long-lasting and stable peace

In 2022, JyP maintained its work promoting territorial dialogue and negotiations towards the armed conflict. PBI’s accompaniment in these spaces has enabled the breaking of a vicious cycle where the armed conflict is still present and where communities are subject to territorial and social control by armed groups.

PBI’s presence not only allows JyP to feel more secure in the territories, but also strengthens the legitimacy of JyP’s work in the eyes of all parties involved in the armed conflict, which tend to stigmatise initiatives that strive for peace.

In December, we accompanied JyP and communities that make up the Somos Génesis network in a number of events held as part of the initiative “Buenaventura, Power of Life in Total Peace”.

Among those in attendance were the Vice-President Francia Márquez, President Gustavo Petro, Eamon Gilmore, the European Union’s special envoy for Peace, Danilo Rueda.

It is also important to highlight that PBI has increased its accompaniment of CAHUCOPANA during 2022 in terms of the number of visits to their offices, in activities, meetings and through various advocacy actions. This increase followed the assassination attempt made on the organisation’s legal representative, Carlos Morales, as well as threats made against other leaders, and in the context of a general escalation of the conflict in the region.

Our advocacy team also accompanied CAHUCOPANA in its denunciation of the humanitarian crisis experienced in the communities of Northeast Antioquia by facilitating numerous high-level meetings with Embassies, OHCHR and Government Ministries, as well as meetings with the High Commissioner for Peace, Danilo Rueda.

In June, we also accompanied visits to several rural settlements where the community was invited to attend the second Humanitarian Action which was held in the first days of November with the presence of government representatives and international organisations.

During this action, the communities held dialogues with the High Commissioner for Peace where they highlighted the serious humanitarian situation facing communities in the region.

It is also important to highlight that PBI has increased its accompaniment of CAHUCOPANA in its denunciation of the humanitarian crisis experienced in the communities of Northeast Antioquia by facilitating numerous high-level meetings with Embassies, OHCHR and Government Ministries, as well as meetings with the High Commissioner for Peace, Danilo Rueda.

In July, we also accompanied CREDHOS and ACVC in a rural area in the municipality of Simiti, in the south of Bolívar, where they carried out a verification mission as part of the Magdalena Medio Humanitarian Rountable visiting communities which had been affected by fighting between illegal armed groups.
PBI’s accompaniment helped to ensure safer conditions for the participation of the organisations and led to their being able to access the area to provide support and advice to the affected communities. Both organisations also increased their activities in support of the dialogues for the implementation of the Total Peace policy. In this sense, PBI accompanied CREHOS in an advocacy tour with various embassies and institutions in which they raised awareness on the humanitarian situation in Magdalena Medio and discussed the proposed Humanitarian Awareness on the humanitarian situation in Magdalena Medio and discussed the proposed Humanitarian Agreement that the Roundtable is proposing to the various armed actors present in the territory. As part of these peacebuilding activities, CREHOS held workshops with communities at the end of the year as part of the campaign on IHL. The date marked the 25th anniversary of Operation Genesis, a military offensive led by the Colombian Army’s XVII Brigade, in coordination with the paramilitary group Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (AUC) which was carried out under the pretext of regaining territorial control in the Bajo Atrato region from FARC-EP guerrillas. Held in the Humanitarian Zones of Cacarica, the aim of the Festival was to reconstruct history from the collective memory. By dignifying their experiences, perpetrators and survivors were able to reconcile the significance and impacts of the events on their lives.

In addition to highlighting the importance of activities like this which center victims in the processes to achieve truth, justice and guarantees of non-repetition on our media platforms, PBI also invited the German, Swedish and Norwegian embassies to attend and bear witness to their collective testimonies. On 19 October, the first draft legislation on the comprehensive recognition and protection of the work and rights of women and people searching for victims of enforced disappearance was accepted by the Colombian Congress. This historic achievement, which is the first of its kind in Latin America, has been largely driven by FNEB, an organisation composed mainly of womenSearchers and victims of enforced disappearance who work with women from all over the country including Buenaventura, Putumayo, Bogotá, Meta, Casanare, Montes de María, Vichada and Guaviare. These women have often spent decades denouncing the State’s abandonment in the face of the violence they have suffered in their tireless search for their loved ones in Colombia.

Thanks to PBI’s comprehensive accompaniment, they were able to position the issue on the Colombian national agenda. PBI also echoed FNEB’s call for the urgent protection of womenSearchers in advocacy actions with the international community, which resulted in it receiving strong public support from the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Women, Human Rights Defenders, four parliamentary groups of the European Union and various other political actors. The investigative journalist Claudia Julieta Duque has spent over 25 years reporting on crimes committed during the armed conflict. Her work focusing on forced disappearances, the recruitment of children by legal and illegal armed actors, the links between paramilitary groups and government entities has been key in bringing the truth to light, and fighting against impunity. This role as a human rights defender has also resulted in her facing continued serious persecution up to today. In 2001, together with CCAJAR, she investigated the events surrounding the assassination of journalist Jaime Garzón in 1999, and the involvement of the now-defunct State intelligence agency, Administrative Department of Security (DAS), in this crime. The journalist has continued to suffer continuous threats and intimidation ever since. In a landmark ruling in July this year, the Administrative Court of Cundinamarca condemned the Nation, the Attorney General’s Office and the Ministry of the Interior for the threats, kidnapping and systematic psychological torture of which she was a victim and ordered them to compensate her and her family. Since then, Claudia Julieta Duque’s case has become emblematic of the way in which State counter-intelligence techniques are used as a means of political and social control against human rights defenders, journalists and political opponents in Colombia.

The journalist has often had to halt some of her investigative work during the reactivation of her legal proceedings, as it brought a subsequent deterioration of her security situation. For her, PBI’s constant accompaniment during her hearings has been extremely important both on an emotional level as she continues her fight against institutional silence, and also in terms of being able to highlight the multiple challenges faced by those reveal the truth before the international community.

Social networks also play a role in victimisation in Claudia Julieta’s case, most notably on Twitter where the journalist frequently denounces cases of human rights violations and where the threats she receives as a result of her work are explicitly focused on her gender. 2022 also saw significant progress made in the macro-cases being investigated by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP). Specifically, in the macro-case 004 concerning the regional of Urabá, testimonies were given by some of the main perpetrators of the events that took place in the region, notably regarding the mass displacements suffered by the communities of Bajo Atrato in the 1990s.

The JEP requires those responsible to tell the whole truth about what happened and the motives behind it. Following the testimonies, JyP subsequently carried out a process of sharing the perpetrators accounts with victim communities from the Jiguamiandó, Pedeguita and Mancilla, Cacarica and Curbadá basins. Victims play a central role in these processes within the transitional justice system. As such, JyP facilitated various memory spaces organised by the communities in order to gather comments, inputs and corrections to the versions given by the perpetrators of the displacements.

PBI was present in several of these activities and commends the active participation of the victims in the prosecution process of those responsible, mostly commanders of the National Army and the United Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AUC).
Nevertheless, talking about the actions of illegal armed groups and the army, albeit in the past tense, poses a great risk for the victims who participate in these processes, especially when both of the actors implicated continue to pose security risks to communities in the region.

The accompaniment provided by PBI in these spaces is particularly important to ensure that the victims feel the support of the international community and can freely participate in these activities, which are necessary to continue the fight against impunity and to seek reparation and guarantees of non-repetition, as well as to promote respect for human rights.

Another notable event in 2022 was the emergency accompaniment that PBI provided to JyP during the month of June in the Humanitarian Zones of Cacarica following an operation by the National Police targeting members of the paramilitary group Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (AGC).

The fighting took place very close to the Humanitarian Zones and affected several civilians. JyP carried out a verification of possible human rights violations by collecting testimonies and analysing information, also providing legal support to the communities affected. These actions and the accompaniment of PBI contribute to the fight against impunity and protection of these important areas of work.

Meanwhile, CSPP has continued to accompany the case of Dilan Cruz, an 18 year old high school student who was killed by a member of the Mobile Anti-Riot Squad (ESMAD) during the national strike of 21 November 2019.

PBI primarily accompanied the case through its advocacy work during the first half of the year. We have also accompanied CSPP in a large number of human rights verification and observation commissions that they carried out surrounding the social protests of 2022.

In November we accompanied the organisation in their participation in the National Meeting of Victims of Police Violence.

The event focused on the new government’s reforms, with a particular emphasis on the National Police Reform, and acted as a space for victims to both share their experiences as relatives of and victims of state violence, and to coordinate future actions. The great majority of these cases remain in impunity.

CSPP believes that PBI’s integral accompaniment is crucial in order to obtain greater visibility, protection and the search for guarantees for social protest.

The nature of these gatherings allow us to carry out in-depth activities for several reasons: time (we work for two or three days in a row), coexistence (we sleep and eat together), focus (we concentrate on one topic for several days) and by bringing together people from other territories (to broaden our perspective and gain a better understanding of the situation).
Believing in networks

We travel on buses, taxis, boats and planes, sometimes for hours, sometimes days. After the pandemic the need to see each other and to connect was palpable. Not only had we lost the connection to the networks that sustain us, but also the connection to our sense of purpose and what gives our causes meaning. If 2021 was the year of reconnecting with the meaning and importance of accompanying the human rights movement in Colombia, 2022 has been the year of rebuilding the network that connects us with a much larger collective that is also committed to a different world.

Throughout the year, we invited people from the various organisations that we accompany to participate in spaces designed to help reconstruct the social fabric of the organisations, where they could listen to and share the different realities of their territories and organisations, and work on integral protection mechanisms.

In June, within the framework of the Schools of Memory, a CCAJAR-led initiative, we held a meeting on Psychosocial First Aid (PAP) which was attended by people from the various regional branches of MOVICe (National Movement of Victims of State Crimes), as well as members from MOVICe’s national headquarters and CCAJAR.

In this meeting we discussed the meaning of emotional accompaniment, how we feel accompanied and how we accompany others, and shared basic PAP methods.

We ended the year by holding a conference on Digital Security with the Karisma Foundation and Derechos Digitales where participants reflected on the importance of protecting themselves in the digital realm and shared specific practical protection mechanisms.

In addition to the events organised by PBI, ARTS, together with several accompanied organisations, were invited to two international meetings: a Healing Gathering in Guatemala City, organised by PBI Guatemala together with TZK'AT Red de Sanadoras Ancestrales del Feminismo Comunitario Territorial de Iximulew, which was a valuable space and a unique opportunity to connect with other women defenders accompanied by the different PBI projects; and a meeting on Memory and Psychosocial Accompaniment in Berlin, Germany, led by the Civil Peace Service in which we shared experiences with social society organisations from countries including Cambodia, Nepal, Nicaragua and Uganda.

These spaces helped participants to create a network of people to count on in difficult moments, when we want to talk about our plans, or, more practically, we might need support with the encryption of a document.

The area of Support for the Reconstruction of the Social Fabric organised three national group activities in 2022. We began the year with a Gathering of Women Defenders which focused on self-care as a committed political and feminist response to the different forms of violence faced by women defenders and leaders.

2023 comes with many changes, uncertainties, and challenges, but, if we have learned anything from our participation in these networks, it is that, with mutual care as a foundation, we can continue to build, grow, and adapt to what lies ahead.
The fight for water and life in the Magdalena Medio

Following three years in legislative deadlock by the government of Iván Duque, the Escazú Agreement was finally ratified in Colombia on 10 October 2022. The decision followed persistent demands from numerous Colombian and international civil society organisations, including CREDHOS and PBI. Despite this milestone, Colombia remains the most dangerous country in which to defend the environment.

In regions such as the Magdalena Medio, where PBI accompanies organisations that defend the environment, such as CREDHOS and Fedepesán, attacks against environmental leaders often materialise while they are carrying out their work denouncing the oil industry and its links with armed structures, as well as acts of corruption involving local public officials.

One such case is that of environmental leader Yuli Andrea Velásquez Briceño, president of the Federation of Artisanal Environmental and Tourist Fishermen of the Department of Santander (Fedepesán), an organisation that defends water and the environment, and is accompanied by PBI through CREDHOS.

Yuli Velásquez has suffered numerous attacks for her work alongside the fishing communities protecting the water sources of the oil city of Barrancabermeja, specifically the San Silvestre wetlands which supply fresh water to around 300,000 inhabitants of Magdalena Medio, including the city itself.

Since Fedepesán has been leading the environmental defence of water and denouncing those who harm it, Yuli Velásquez has been the victim of multiple threats and three attempts on her life.

In coordination with CREDHOS, PBI has provided international accompaniment in multiple visits to the San Silvestre wetlands with a view to provide some level of guarantees for Fedepesán’s work verifying and denouncing environmental impacts on water sources.

In addition, PBI has positioned the work and risks faced by fisherwomen leaders at an international level including securing urgent action reports on the situation by Amnesty International. Fedepesán’s work has also been included in internationally reviewed reports by organisations recognised for their work in defence of human rights, such as WOLA, Global Witness, The World and OMCT.
PBI expressed its concern about the situation of CREDHOS and Fedepesán at the 51st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, where the spoke with the Special Rapporteur on Water and Sanitation who had previously met with accompanied organisations and PBI during his visit to Colombia.

They have also been interviewed in media outlets such as the Spanish newspaper El País,[11] which published an article on the organisation as a result of a press visit organised by PBI. Finally, PBI has facilitated the access to international advocacy spaces such as the COP 27[2] where activists from CREDHOS and Fedepesán spoke about the defence of water[12], biodiversity and life.

PBI has made also applied the resources of its extensive support network of national groups in order to raise awareness across borders about the plight of these fisherwomen who are leading the struggle for water and life in the Magdalena Medio region.

In this sense, PBI Canada[13] petitioned the Canadian authorities for information on the investigation of threats against human rights defenders; PBI Germany[14] reported in its national media about the need to accompany the work of women environmental leaders; and PBI[15] also expressed its concern about the situation of CREDHOS and Fedepesán at the 51st session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, where the spoke with the Special Rapporteur[16] on Water and Sanitation who had previously met with accompanied organisations and PBI during his visit to Colombia.

Thanks to the accompaniment of CREDHOS and PBI, it has been possible to reduce the risks for these women defenders despite the attacks on their lives and dignity.

2. It is worth recalling that Yuvelis Natalia Morales and Carolina Agón, Afro-Colombian environmental leaders from the municipality of Puerto Witches (Magdalena Medio), have both been victims repeated threats and attacks against their lives resulting in their forced displacement. These attacks are a direct consequence of the leaders’ anti-fracking efforts and for speaking out against extractivist companies in their defence of their communities’ rights to a healthy environment.
3. As denounced by the coastal and fishing communities, the San Silvestre wetlands, one of Colombia’s natural lungs, are highly contaminated as a result of oil spills, hydrocarbon residues and heavy metals left by extractive industries. This has led to the loss of biodiversity, health problems and serious damage to their main economic and food supply. Yuli has also led allegations of corruption in the management of public resources between the Colombian oil company Ecopetrol, the Regional Autonomous Corporation (CAR) and contractors. According to the fishing communities, these entities have allegedly diverted millions of dollars in funds destined for the environmental recovery and clean-up of the San Silvestre wetlands, yet there have been little visible results or improvements.
4. In January 2021, armed men shot at Yuli’s house, forcing her to move. In May 2022, she and other members of Fedepesán were attacked by armed men while monitoring environmental damage in the San Silvestre swamp. On 5 July, the environmental leader suffered a further assassination attempt that left her bodyguard from the National Protection Unit injured; this attack took place just a few days after Fedepesán, accompanied by CREDHOS and PBI, carried out verifications of environmental damage in the swamp, where oil spills were found. A few weeks later, on 25 July, three armed men forced their way into the house of Ludmila Gutiérrez, a fisherwoman and leader of Fedepesán, where she was held and threatened in front of her eight-year-old son. Only two months ago, Yuli was once again threatened in a pamphlet issued by the paramilitary group Autodefensas Gaitanistas de Colombia (AGC). These attacks occur in a context in which CREDHOS has warned about the intensification of the presence of the AGC, the National Liberation Army (ELN) and post-Farc groups, in the midst of a high military presence.
5. PBI USA: PBI-Colombia accompanies CREDHOS and FEDEPESAN at mobilization in defense of the environment and water, 13 July, 2022.
7. WOLA: Insecurity Rising in Ethnic Communities Throughout Colombia, 28 February, 2022.
10. OMCT: Colombia: Amenazas de muerte contra las organizaciones Credhos, FEDEPESAN y Aquavel, 14 April, 2021.
12. PBI Colombia: Tweet, 5 December, 2022.
The Women Searchers Building Peace

For decades there have been stories of women, grandmothers, mothers, companions and daughters who have walked all over the country following leads, rumours and sometimes just the voice of their hearts in search of their disappeared loved ones. Being a woman searcher in Colombia is not an easy task. Women searchers have historically been victims of sexual violence, forced exile, kidnapping, persecution, threats and extortion, and essentially rendered invisible by those who disappeared their relatives, by the Colombian authorities, and even by society.

The Nydia Erika Bautista Foundation (FNEB) is an organisation composed mainly of women relatives of victims, which has led the legal representation and accompaniment of victims of enforced disappearance and sexual violence in Colombia.

It is no secret that the perseverance of these women has been more efficient in many cases than the actions of State institutions in the search for the some 200,000 disappeared victims in the country. In fact, in 95% of the cases it is women who actively search for their disappeared relatives, and virtually all of the enforced disappearances remain unpunished.

FNEB involves the relatives of disappeared persons in all its activities, placing the voice of the victims at the centre of their work. PBI has walked alongside FNEB, providing integral accompaniment in many of its actions which have included sit-ins to demand that the victims be heard, their participation in mapping activities with the Unit for the Search for Disappeared Persons (UBPD), press conferences and international advocacy tours.

FNEB, accompanied by PBI, has fought to reverse the re-victimisation and lack of protection faced by the families of disappeared persons.

Their work, supported by PBI’s comprehensive accompaniment, has resulted in the issue being placed on the Colombian national agenda and a Draft Law recognising and protecting the work and rights of women and people searching for victims of enforced disappearance being adopted by the Colombian Congress on 19 October, the first of its kind in Latin America.

PBI also echoed FNEB’s call for urgent actions regarding the protection of women seekers among the international community, receiving strong public support from the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Women Human Rights Defenders, four parliamentary groups of the European Union and other political actors.

The promise of finally being recognised through this law that will be debated in the Congress of the Republic in 2023 is of utmost importance for all the women seekers from territories such as Buenaventura, Putumayo, Bogotá, Meta, Casanare, Montes de María, Vichada and Guaviare. There is also a strong demand from FNEB to include this law in the Total Peace project, and to name women peace seekers as peace builders.

1. PBI Colombia: “Nydia Erika Bautista” Foundation.
2. According to the Truth Commission, between 1985 and 2016 there are around 121,768 people who have been forcibly disappeared in Colombia. Difficulties in reporting and access to justice mean that the total number of victims is much larger than is actually recorded. Using statistical models, which analyse the potential under-reporting, the project estimates that the universe of victims of enforced disappearance in Colombia could be as high as 210,000 victims.
3. According to a study conducted by the Nydia Erika Bautista Foundation (FNEB) the searchers consist of: mothers (59%), followed by or accompanied by the wives or sentimental partners of the victims (14%), and daughters and fathers (4% respectively).
5. PBI Colombia, Tweet, 28 November, 2022.
From territorial peace to total peace

Two years ago, a network of Colombian ethnic-territorial and peasant communities sent their first public letter to the then president Iván Duque requesting a Global Humanitarian Agreement, a reaction to the increasing pattern of territorial control by armed actors.

Since then, the more than 180 ethnic-territorial processes that form part of the Somos Génesis Network, accompanied by the Justice and Peace Commission (JyP) and, through them, PBI, have consistently called for initiatives aimed at achieving a Global Territorial Peace including a ceasefire to hostilities and new peace dialogues with the multiple armed actors present in their territories.

Thanks to the tireless work of the Somos Génesis Network, and the political accompaniment of PBI which has been key to bringing their proposals to the attention of the international community, the proposals have been successfully included in the national agenda.

In mid-2022, Gustavo Petro’s new government approved the Total Peace Plan, which fundamentally coincides with the proposals of the Somos Génesis Network and JyP. Moreover, Danilo Rueda, the former coordinator of JyP who had worked together with Somos Génesis in the construction and promotion of peace for decades, was appointed as High Commissioner for Peace in the new government. In recognition of its peacebuilding work, PBI nominated the Somos Génesis Network for the National Human Rights Prize, awarded by Diakonia and Act Iglesia Sueca, with the support of the Swedish Ambassador to Colombia, for which it was awarded the award for Best Collective Process in 2022.

The communities that make up the Somos Génesis Network live in some of the areas most affected by the armed conflict and socio-political violence, including the region of Bajo Atrato in the department of Chocó.

PBI’s accompaniment in the region has been crucial in ensuring that many communities living in the midst of the actions of the Gaitanista Self-Defence Forces of Colombia (AGC), a high military presence and in the absence of effective protection guarantees, have been able to carry out their community activities towards total territorial peace in this region.

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PBI’s accompaniment has helped to highlight the different proposals of the Somos Genesis Network before the international community. As a result, 30 members of the Spanish Parliament called on the Colombian government to promote the Global Humanitarian Agreement and the implementation of protection measures for the communities, and more than 500 organisations and human rights defenders, 23 country representatives and the United Nations signed a statement supporting the call for a global ceasefire.
Human Resources

In 2022, PBI held in-person training and selection encounters for field volunteers for the first time post-pandemic. The previous year’s encounters had been held virtually and had allowed us to recruit volunteers to cover the three team offices across the country, maintaining an average of 18 brigadistas in the field.

We maintained an average of 20 active field volunteers throughout 2022 from the following countries: Mexico, Portugal, Germany, Spain, France, Austria, Brazil, Nicaragua, Norway, Austria, Ireland, Italy and Switzerland.

In-person training and selection encounters

In 2022, PBI held two training and selection encounters in Valladolid, Spain. We received 86 volunteer applications (79% women and 21% men), which were then processed and selected individuals began the different phases of the recruitment process (interview, a self-training process, and lastly, attending a training and selection event in Spain).

Training and selection encounters

- January 2022: 20 participants (5 men and 15 women).
- August 2022: 15 participants (3 men and 12 women).

Of the 35 participants, 31 were finally selected. They have been joining the project in Colombia over the course of 2022 and 2023, gradually replacing those who leave the project at the end of their volunteering periods.

Incorporation of new volunteers in 2022:

- 7 in April (5 women and 2 men)
- 4 in June (3 women and 1 man)
- 5 in October (5 women)

The new field volunteers joining the project from the 2022 intake come from: Mexico, Portugal, Germany, Spain, France, Austria, Brazil, Nicaragua, Norway, Austria and Switzerland. Of them, 81% are women, and 19% men.

At the end of 2022 we were in the preliminary stages of reviewing applications and conducting interviews for the next selection encounter which would be held in March 2023.

Ongoing training

With the gradual return to normality, the project was able to stabilise the implementation of our ongoing training plan, working towards rebuilding elements of organisational culture, operations and internal capacity building that had been damaged during the pandemic.

Support Team

The structure of the Support Team remained consistent throughout 2022, albeit there were 3 changes in personnel within the our Finance Area (1 finance coordinator and 2 fundraisers), and two in the Area for the Reconstruction of the Social Fabric.

We continue to employ two lawyers as external legal advisors assisting us in legal, administrative and criminal matters.

Our Colombian staff members continue to be the most stable group within the organisation and as there were no changes in personnel during the year: 3 people in the administration and accounting office (2 women and 1 man), and 4 who provide domestic and logistical support in the home-offices (4 women).

Psychosocial accompaniment

We also maintained and developed our internal psychosocial accompaniment work plan, which links our field team coordination and human resources with our Area of Reconstruction of the Social Fabric to care for and accompany PBI’s volunteers.

In this sense, we continued to carry out internal psychological accompaniment both on an individual and team basis, through offering regular group sessions and monitoring the situation of individual team members.

Regarding the collective psychosocial accompaniment offered to the project’s members by external organisations, CAPS facilitated training spaces in the initial orientations of the arrival of new brigadistas which focused on strengthening training in preventive health care methods. We also held group sessions for our project teams at different times of the year with SANACCIÓN, a new partner organisation with which we established a connection this year. At the same time, our continued relationship with COPSICO allowed us to offer support for more individualised accompaniment.

PBI also continues to count on the support of the European Association of Gestalt Therapy (EAGT) where team members are able to access external, confidential counselling and support.

Through this set of individual and group actions, we focus on individual and collective care that allows us to maintain a healthy equilibrium, helping us to mitigate risks and strengthen our organisation.

The Support Team closing 2022 consists of 13 people distributed over different areas of work, of which 7 are men and 6 are women. Countries of origin: Ireland, USA, Chile, Venezuela, Spain, Germany, France and Italy.
P eace Brigades International (PBI) is an international non-governmental organisation that has maintained a permanent team of international observer-accompaniers in Colombia since 1994. PBI has Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the United Nations' central forum for coordinating economic and social activities of the institutions and specialised agencies that make up the United Nations system. This recognition strengthens PBI’s role with the UN, in particular our ability to raise the issues of human rights defenders and to strengthen their protection measures.

Given that PBI’s headquarters are based overseas, that 100% of its income comes from international sources, and that there are no specific accounting standards for this type of organisation, the accounting of its economic operations has been treated in the same way as that of non-profit organisations in general.

PBI Colombia’s accounting standards comply with the guidelines of the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in Colombia; its operations comply with the rules contained in Law 1314 and its regulatory decrees 2420 and 2496 of 2015 – IFRS for SMEs.

The accounts of the Project have been audited by the firm CIP Auditores Ltda.

E xchange Difference

The financial statements of PBI Colombia are valued in Colombian pesos (currency in which economic, financial and equity operations are recorded in Colombia), at the end of each accounting period, and are presented in dollars (currency in which income and expenses incurred in the United States are recorded) and in euros (for income and expenses incurred in the Eurozone).

Revenues and expenses are accounted for in the currency in which they are incurred. The monetisation of income in the account “Donations to be received” and the recording of accounts receivable or advances and the justifications for these in currencies other than the peso and in different months give rise to the use of the account “Exchange difference”. These entries are made in the income statement.

The figures and results presented below correspond to the 2021 period and reflect the financial situation of the Peace Brigades International (PBI) Colombia Project.

In this regard, the resources transferred by international agencies for the development of the project within Colombia are accounted for as income, and the expenses derived from the activities corresponding to the institutional mandate are accounted for as expenses.

At present, there are no investments or accounts that generate interest that can be considered as income from national sources, which is subject to income tax. The organisation recognises as expenses costs those generated in relation to the accrual and association of income, which are always regulated by the general budget.

F inancial Statements at the Closing of the Annual Accounts

At year-end 2021, 31 December, the accounts show a surplus for the year of €17,457. Total (operating) income amounted to €702,756 and (operating) expenses amounted to €708,536.

Other non-operating income includes an exchange rate differential of €23,749, plus income from Recoveries and Discounts of €2,788, giving a total income of €729,300.

At year-end 2022, 31 December, due to an over-execution of the initially agreed budget, the result of both contextual changes and the needs of human rights organisations, as well as lower than expected donor income, PBI Colombia decided to use part of its reserves (€165,063) in order to bring the accounts to a year-end balance of €0 (Zero).

Total operational income amounted to €905,136 (€740,194 plus the reserve of €165,063) and operational expenses amounted to €899,350. Due to the exchange rate differential in favour, additional non-operational income of €10,575 was earned, representing a total income of €915,711, as well as non-operational expenses of €16,410, bringing total expenses to €915,880.
**Expenses COP 2022 Euro**

**Colombian staff** 71,957 €
**Representatives in USA / EUROPE** 68,010 €
**Field Volunteers** 151,437 €
**Specialist Volunteers** 173,321 €
**Capacity Building and Training of PBI Personnel** 31,212 €
**Housing and Food Volunteers** 104,733 €
**Operating Expenses** 24,006 €
**Physical accompaniment: materials, transport and daily expenses** 67,734 €
**Media accompaniment: publications, website and social media** 21,636 €
**Political accompaniment: advocacy activities and tours** 24,056 €
**Psychosocial accompaniment and capacity building of defenders** 54,682 €
**Governance at Project level** 47,317 €
**Governance at PBI International level** 59,368 €

**Total Expenses** 899,470 €

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**Operational Income**

**Governmental income by country**
- **Germany** 590,647 €
- **Spain** 85,865 €
- **Norway** 338,371 €
- **Netherlands** 0 €

**Income: foundations, trade unions, churches etc. by country**
- **Germany** 57,895 €
- **Switzerland** 5,919 €
- **Netherlands** 51,976 €

**National groups and individual donors income** 61,518 €
**Multilateral income** 30,133 €
**Economic reserves (COP)** 165,063 €

**Total Operational Income** 905,256 €

**6.80%**
Donors

PBI COLOMBIA IS A PROJECT MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO:

Peace Brigades International is an international NGO that protects the action space of people and organisations that defend human rights, and communities that are threatened because of their work in defence of the most fundamental rights. It has maintained a team carrying out international accompaniment in Colombia since 1994.