

Annual report 2025

PBI Guatemala



BRIGADAS INTERNACIONALES DE PAZ
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ACOMPANAMIENTO INTERNACIONAL



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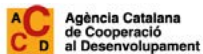
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Content

Who are we and what we do	4
Current Context	6
Who we accompany	14
Peaceful Resistance of the Poqomam People of Chinautla	16
New accompaniment for Carlos Choc	19
Advocacy and communications	22
Capacity building	26
PBI Guatemala volunteers	28
PBI in numbers	30
Members of PBI Guatemala	31
Financial report	32

Who we are



Peace Brigades International (PBI) is a non-governmental organization with over 40 years of experience in international accompaniment. PBI has been present in Guatemala since 1983 (with a break between 1993 and 2003) protecting space for people, organizations and collectives that promote human rights in a nonviolent manner and suffer repression for their work. PBI works only at the request of local organizations.

Our mandate

We seek to contribute to create the necessary conditions for defenders, organizations and communities to continue their work aimed at increasing respect, observance and protection of human rights and strengthening the rule of law in Guatemala.

Our principles

We work under the principles of:

nonviolence · non-partisanship · non-intervention

with a horizontal organizational structure and by consensus.

What we do

Our vision of international accompaniment is global and flexible in nature, responding to the actions and needs of social organizations who request our accompaniment. Our areas of work in global accompaniment aim to weave an effective protection network which is responsive to the evolving context.



Physical accompaniment



Political accompaniment & advocacy



Publications



Strengthening capacities

Presence of international observers

PBI has a team of volunteers in Guatemala who accompany threatened or at-risk human rights defenders, provide presence at offices of threatened organizations, visit rural communities, and carry out international observation.

Interlocution with authorities, advocacy and lobbying

PBI volunteers maintain continuously contact with Guatemalan civil authorities and with international entities like the United Nations and embassies, to make them actors in our accompaniment and protection work, as well as make them aware of concerns about areas where we work and ask for their support. Through the Advocacy Coordinator in

Europe and PBI's Country Groups we keep up-to-date multilateral institutions, the governments of 13 European countries, North American and Oceania on the situation of Guatemalan defenders.

Publications

We produce and distribute information on the human rights situation in Guatemala, based on public information sources and our direct observation.

Strengthening capacities

We continuously train the PBI international observer team and facilitate spaces for interchange and training on security and protections for Guatemalan defenders, with the support of existing local resources.

Current Context



Presentation of the Public Policy for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Guatemala 2025–2035 at the National Palace of Culture, 13.11.2025.

In 2025, the lack of judicial independence remained one of the greatest challenges in the country, as Human Rights Watch noted in a report published early this year.

This situation undermines the rule of law and threatens human rights protections. The causes are systemic and linked to “the judicial selection process, including non-transparent nomination procedures, political meddling, and undue influence from corrupt actors.”

[The United Nations Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers](#), Margaret Satterthwaite, visited the country from May 12 to 23 at the invitation of the government. After meeting with different sectors to hear their views, she concluded that the Attorney General of the Public Prosecutor’s Office (MP), Consuelo Porras—who has been sanctioned by more than 40 states—criminalizes “those who have sought to end impunity and corruption, defend human rights, or speak out against abuses of power.” According to Satterthwaite, “criminalization operates through a set of identifiable actions involving the MP, members of the judiciary, and often certain private actors.” The Special Rapporteur stated that, “The instrumental use of criminal law by the MP appears to amount to a systematic, intentional and severe deprivation of fundamental human rights targeted at specific groups.” “Among the groups she mentioned are independent judges, prosecutors, and lawyers, journalists, indigenous authorities, peasant leaders, student leaders, and members of the Nomination Commissions.” “Criminal charges have been filed against more than 60 justice operators and defense or human rights lawyers,” who are people involved in the fight against corruption and impunity.

Well-known cases include that of José Rubén Zamora, former editor-in-chief of *elPeriódico*; former prosecutors Virginia Laparra, Paola Pimentel, and Stuardo Campo; attorney Eduardo Masaya; attorney Claudia González; attorney and former representative of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), Ramón Cadena; former congressman and Campesino Committee of the Highlands (CCDA) founder and leader, Leocadio Juracán; Deputy Minister of Development Luís Pacheco, who, along with the also-imprisoned Héctor Chaclán, was part of the leadership of the 48 Cantones of Totonicapán in the protests against the attempted technical coup against President-elect Bernardo Arévalo during the second half of 2023. This last case of criminalization and unjust imprisonment of the two leaders has been condemned not only by broad sectors of Guatemalan and international civil society, but also by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, [Volker Turk](#), and by the European Union (EU). Nonetheless, the criminalization of indigenous leaders has continued, and on August 28, another leader of those protests, Esteban Toc Tzay—who served as deputy mayor of Sololá from 2022 to 2023—was arrested, at the request of the MP.

This lack of judicial independence also affects cases related to human rights violations committed during the Internal Armed Conflict (IAC). At a public hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), civil society organizations submitted information on persistent obstacles faced in the Guatemalan justice system, highlighting how corruption and impunity negatively affect victims of grave violations committed during the IAC. In response, the [IACHR](#) acknowledged the lack of significant progress in implementing previous recommendations, stressing the urgent need for concrete measures to improve access to justice and reduce impunity.

Serious obstacles are preventing landmark cases, including the Ixil Genocide case, Creompaz, Military Diary, and others, from moving forward. In the [Ixil Genocide case](#) specifically, on June 24, the Constitutional Court (CC) ruled in favor of former General Benedicto Lucas García and ordered that the trial against him be started over from the beginning. This decision overturned all the proceedings that had taken place over 99 hearings, during which the court heard 150 testimonies from survivors, experts, and specialists, as well as documentary evidence related to massacres and human rights violations committed against the Ixil people during the IAC.

Nonetheless, there has also been some good news in the area of transitional justice. In the Achí Women's case, three former civil defense patrolmen were convicted of crimes against humanity in the form of sexual violence. After decades of struggle and suffering, these brave women succeeded in securing justice and thus “honoring the memory and struggle of those who are no longer with us,” referring to their comrades who have passed away. In September, the Gerardi case was reopened when High Risk Court D indicted Darío Morales García, a former specialist with the now-defunct Presidential General Staff (EMP), finding that there was sufficient evidence against him to warrant an oral and public trial on charges of accessory to extrajudicial execution

and perjury. In November, Nicolás Orrego y Orrego, a former military commissioner and former mayor of El Chol (Baja Verapaz), was indicted for murder and crimes against humanity in connection with the Rancho Bejuco massacre. PBI followed up on most of these cases through its accompaniment of the Human Rights Legal Office (BDH), the Association for Justice and Reconciliation (AJR), and the Association of Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared of Guatemala (FAMDEGUA), as well as through international observation.

In terms of the recovery of historical memory and reparations for crimes committed during the IAC, it is important to note that on December 12, President Bernardo Arévalo offered a public apology on behalf of the State of Guatemala to the families of Agapito Pérez Lucas, Nicolás Mateo, Macario Pú Chivalán, and Luis Ruiz Luis, who were detained and disappeared in 1989. They were members of the *Runujel Junam* Council of Ethnic Communities (CERJ) who opposed the forced recruitment that the army was carrying out at that time and did important work to organize and inform communities about human rights issues. CERJ was accompanied by PBI Guatemala in the 1980s and 1990s. We observed this act of reparation, which took place more than 25 years after the events.

Observation of a ceremony in front of the Supreme Court of Justice to mark International Human Rights Day, 10.12.2026.





Public appeal for forgiveness to the Runujel Junam Council of Ethnic Communities (CERJ) regarding the disappearance of four of its members, 21.12.2025.

Moving beyond transitional justice, yet still part of the broader effort to combat impunity, another noteworthy development is that a verdict was finally handed down this year in the Hogar “Seguro” case, following an eight-year legal process. A fire broke out at this state-run home for children and youth—where the state assumed custody of minors in vulnerable circumstances—claiming the lives of 43 girls and adolescents and leaving another 13 seriously injured. The judge found six of the seven accused officials guilty, sentencing them to prison terms ranging from 6 to 25 years. This ruling is a significant milestone in the struggle for accountability in cases of abuse against children and teenagers in Guatemala. The ruling also puts an end to a trial marked by delays, threats, and revictimization of the victims and their families. PBI has observed the hearings and accompanied the victims’ lawyers throughout the entire process.

This brings us to another of the central issues facing Guatemala: **unequal land distribution**. This is an enduring and unresolved problem that profoundly affects indigenous and peasant communities, some of which are members of organizations accompanied by PBI. Indeed, this issue has been identified as one of the structural causes of the internal armed conflict that ravaged the country for 36 years (1960–1996). Therefore, addressing it was one of the commitments made in the Peace Accords.

The Arévalo administration took on the challenge of establishing agencies and mechanisms to resolve these conflicts peacefully through dialogue, since the previous administration had shut down the Secretariat of Agrarian Affairs (SAA), which had been responsible for this task until its closure. Subsequently, and until June 2025, the body responsible for addressing agrarian conflicts was the Private Secretariat of the Presidency (SPP), with whom the Peasant Council signed an agreement in February 2024. However, while



Observation of a hearing in the Mujeres Achí case, 28.02.2025.

dialogue spaces have been established, many peasant organizations believe that the most urgent issues are not being addressed. They have spoken out to the government, condemning evictions and the failure to comply with national and international standards. PBI's accompaniment to the Campesino Committee of the Highlands (CCDA) – Las Verapaces and the Verapaz Union of Peasant Organizations (UVOC) has focused on supporting communities that have faced emergencies due to evictions, as well as raising awareness of this issue internationally, in particular with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, in light of his visit to Guatemala in July 2025 (for more information, see the Advocacy section).

The creation of the Presidential Commission for Conflict Resolution (COPRECON) was announced in June 2025. Reporting to the Office of the President, the commission will be temporarily responsible, over a four-year period, for advising and coordinating interagency efforts among executive agencies to achieve the peaceful resolution of different types of conflicts. However, an operational entity responsible for providing spaces for dialogue in particular conflicts, promoting solutions, and monitoring their implementation has yet to be defined or established.

One notable development is that, on February 20, President Bernardo Arévalo formalized the [return of the communal lands of Acul](#) to the public municipal lands of Nebaj, Quiché. This action came after more than four decades of struggle by the Ixil people to recover their ancestral territories, which were expropriated in 1983 during the IAC. This expropriation was part of the counterinsurgency strategy implemented during the de facto government of Efraín Ríos Montt to establish what became known as “model villages.” This had dire consequences for the community, including forced displacement and the fragmentation of its social fabric. In 2020, the CC of Guatemala ruled in favor of the Acul community, ordering the restitution of the lands. However, implementation of this ruling has faced delays due to a lack of political will on the part of previous administrations.

Defense of territory remains a risky challenge for human rights defenders, most of whom are indigenous farmers. According to Global Witness's report [Roots of Resistance](#), published this year, Guatemala had the second highest number of murders of environmental and territorial

defenders worldwide in 2024, behind only Colombia. There is no systematic data available for 2025 yet, but all signs point to a continuation of this negative trend.

Mining in Izabal is a glaring example. Over the past six months, 54 communities in Livingston took to the streets to protest against 10 mining licenses granted in the Sierra Santa Cruz, a nature reserve located between Izabal and Alta Verapaz. The communities claimed that mining operations would harm the water sources that provide water to the people of Livingston. The protests lasted several days and were suppressed by riot police, who, on the night of June 18, seriously injured the son of a journalist who was covering the demonstrations by shooting him in the face. Finally, on July 31, authorities from Guatemala's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN) officially announced the cancellation of these ten licenses. PBI began closely monitoring this situation when it started accompanying

community journalist Carlos Ernesto Choc in April 2025. Choc reports on and raises awareness about these communities' needs, the human rights violations they face, and their struggles.

These communities' concerns about water—which are shared by countless communities throughout Guatemala—are entirely legitimate and rooted in reality, given that the country is facing a severe water crisis because of pollution, deforestation, and mismanagement of this vital resource. Despite being a country with abundant water sources, a lack of regulation and the pollution of rivers and lakes have jeopardized many communities' access to drinking water. And mining, agribusiness, and uncontrolled urban growth are the very things that have intensified pressure on water resources, which primarily affects the country's most vulnerable populations.

Other notable cases include the Xinka community in Casillas, which has developed projects to protect water sources, or the women's groups on Lake Atitlán who have organized cleanup days to reduce pollution.

Observation of the march condemning the genocide in Gaza, 05.10.2025.





Observation of the sentencing hearing in the Hogar "Seguro" case, 12.08.2025.

These actions stand in stark contrast to the inaction of many state authorities and companies, which shirk their responsibility for the environmental damage being caused—damage that affects both the quality and quantity of water available to people. Sustainable natural resource management and effective legislation are essential requirements for preventing social conflicts and ensuring equitable access to water. Thus, the [debate over a Water Law in Guatemala](#) remains key to defining the future of the country's environmental and social stability.

Despite the high risk faced by those who defend the land and the environment, the Guatemalan Congress has not yet ratified the Escazú Agreement. This agreement “stands out as the first in the world to contain specific provisions on environmental human rights defenders.” “It seeks to guarantee access to information, public participation, access to justice in environmental matters, and protection for environmental defenders in Latin America and the Caribbean.”

And finally, despite the enormous challenges faced by human rights defenders, we would like to highlight **some significant achievements** made by peasant and indigenous communities that are either currently accompanied or have been accompanied in the past by PBI.

The indigenous Maya Poqomam community of Santa Cruz Chinautla [won a court injunction against the Chinautla Municipal Council](#). The injunction requires the municipality to take responsibility for the pollution caused by illegal landfills and to implement an ecological restoration plan.

In December, following a six-year legal process, ten members of the Maya Ch'orti' Indigenous Council of Olopa were acquitted. The charges of alleged illegal detention were brought in response to their peaceful defense of the territory against the extractive operations of the Los Manantiales Quarry company, which have

caused serious damage to the environment and the health of the local population.

Also in December, the State's Attorney's Office (PGN) announced the [International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes \(ICSID\)'s decision in favor of the State of Guatemala](#) in an arbitration case initiated in 2018 by Daniel W. Kappes and the company Kappes, Cassidy & Associates (KCA), owners of the Progreso VII Derivada mining project, located in the municipalities of San José del Golfo and San Pedro Ayampuc. The U.S. company filed a claim against the State of Guatemala following an order, issued by the country's highest courts, suspending its operations. The company was seeking \$499 million in damages for alleged losses. After a seven-year process, “the arbitral tribunal concluded that Guatemala did not violate its international obligations to protect investment, recognizing that the suspension of the project was in response to internal judicial decisions and a real social conflict, not arbitrarily caused by the State.” The Peaceful Resistance of La Puya, which has been accompanied for years by PBI Guatemala in its peaceful struggle against this project, welcomed this ruling with satisfaction.

In November, the [Public Policy on Human Rights Defenders](#) was ratified and presented. Its approval had been pending since the 2014 ruling by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (IACtHR). It is important to emphasize the significant role played by different sectors of Guatemalan civil society in this process; without their indispensable work, the policy would not have been possible. This policy seeks to address a historical pattern of attacks against human rights defenders: murders, criminalization, harassment, and hate speech directed at those who defend human rights in Guatemala. Implementation will be led by the Ministry of the Interior (MinGob) and the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (COPADEH), which will serve as the technical secretariat of the Coordinating Council.

Who we accompany

PBI accompanies organizations and social processes in Guatemala that are peacefully struggling to combat impunity, advocating for equitable access to land and defending their territory and the environment.

In 2025, we provided comprehensive accompaniment to a total of 10 organizations or social processes, a human rights law firm, a family seeking justice in the case of the forced disappearance of their daughter during the IAC, and a community journalist who reports on and raises awareness about the needs, human rights violations, and struggles of communities in opposition to extractive projects carried out without consultation. We accompanied a total of 324 people (156 women and 168 men).

We received 18 new requests for accompaniment: 12 for comprehensive accompaniment and six for ad hoc accompaniment. We accepted four of these requests: two comprehensive accompaniments—one for Q'eqchi' community journalist Carlos Ernesto Choc, which began in April, and another for members

of the Political Council of the National Network for the Defense of Food Sovereignty (REDSAG), which began in September. The other two were ad hoc accompaniments: one for the H.I.J.O.S. association during the "Free Palestine" march, and another for the Ecumenical Christian Council of Guatemala (CECG) when it filed a complaint with the Public Prosecutor's Office regarding a break-in and theft of documents at its headquarters.

The remaining requests were rejected either because the volunteer team did not have sufficient human resources or because the requests did not fit with PBI Guatemala's thematic focus.

We stopped accompaniment for three organizations in 2025: TZK'AT—Network of Ancestral Healers of Territorial Community Feminism from Iximulew; Retalhuleu Community Council (CCR); and Campesino Committee of the Highlands (CCDA)—Las Verapaces. In the last case, accompaniment has been shifted to individual accompaniment for Lesbia Artola and Imelda Teyul, Maya Q'eqchi' women defenders of land and territory, who previously received accompaniment as coordinators of the CCDA - Las Verapaces.

-  **Unión Verapacense de Organizaciones Campesinas (UVOC)**
-  **Comité Campesino del Altiplano (CCDA) - Las Verapaces**
-  **TZK'AT - Red de Sanadoras Ancestrales del Feminismo Comunitario Territorial desde Iximulew**
-  **Bufete Jurídico de Derechos Humanos de Guatemala (BDH)**
-  **Asociación para la Justicia y la Reconciliación (AJR)**
-  **H.I.J.O.S. (acompañamiento puntual)**
-  **Consejo Ecueménico Cristiano de Guatemala (CECG) (acompañamiento puntual)**

-  **Resistencia Pacífica del Pueblo Poqomam en Chinautla**
-  **Asociación Familiares de Detenidos y Desaparecidos de Guatemala (FAMDEGUA)**
-  **Familiares de Luz Leticia Hernández**
-  **Consejo Indígena Maya Ch'orti' de Olopa**
-  **Comunidad Indígena de San Francisco Quezaltepeque**
-  **Carlos Ernesto Choc, periodista Q'eqchi'**
-  **Integrantes del Consejo Político de la Red Nacional por la Defensa de la Soberanía Alimentaria (REDSAG)**
-  **Consejo de Comunidades de Retalhuleu (CCR)**



We provided continuous support for other human rights defense processes through observations, telephone follow-up and information dissemination, with a particular focus on women human rights defenders in high-risk situations.

Peaceful Resistance of the Poqomam People of Chinautla

PBI Guatemala has accompanied the Peaceful Resistance of the Poqomam People in Chinautla since 2018, due to the attacks and criminalization efforts that its members have experienced and continue to endure. The most serious incident they have faced was the April 2024 murder of one of the Resistance leaders' sons.

The Resistance is made up of indigenous leaders from seven cantons in the municipality of Chinautla, Community Development Councils (COCODES), and other groups such as the Association of Women Potters, youth associations, and Catholic and Evangelical churches in the Chinautla La Vieja municipality. Their struggle stems from the severe social and environmental impact suffered in this region due to large-scale sand extraction using heavy machinery. Sand extraction began in 1995 and is carried out by the companies *Areneras La Primavera*, *El Pino*, *San Fernando*, *La Prensa*, *El Zapote*, and *Piedrinera San Luis*. This is compounded by the pollution of the Chinautla, Las Vacas, and Tzajá rivers, caused by the garbage dump in Zone 3 of Guatemala City.

Some of the negative effects that these activities have had on the local population (about 2,000 people) include: ground movements (caused by heavy machinery), which have caused cracks in their homes; respiratory problems for those living near the road, due to the dust kicked up by vehicles transporting sand; a decline in the quality of the clay in the area, a raw material used in handcrafted goods, the main economic activity of these communities; a shortage of clean water; and gastrointestinal and skin diseases.

"When the authorities see the PBI vest, they treat us with more respect as Indigenous women. They know we're not alone and that Indigenous authorities have international support. PBI's presence helps reinforce the credibility of our struggle and makes us feel good; we feel safer when people see PBI around town and know that they are aware of the communities' struggle. In our view, PBI has helped reduce security incidents. The weekly calls even help to deter threats, because when we are with other people, they hear the call and know that we have accompaniment. PBI's accompaniment also helped us recognize the importance of our voices as women to demand what is rightfully ours. Before, we were ashamed."

Women members of the **Peaceful Resistance of the Poqomam People in Chinautla**

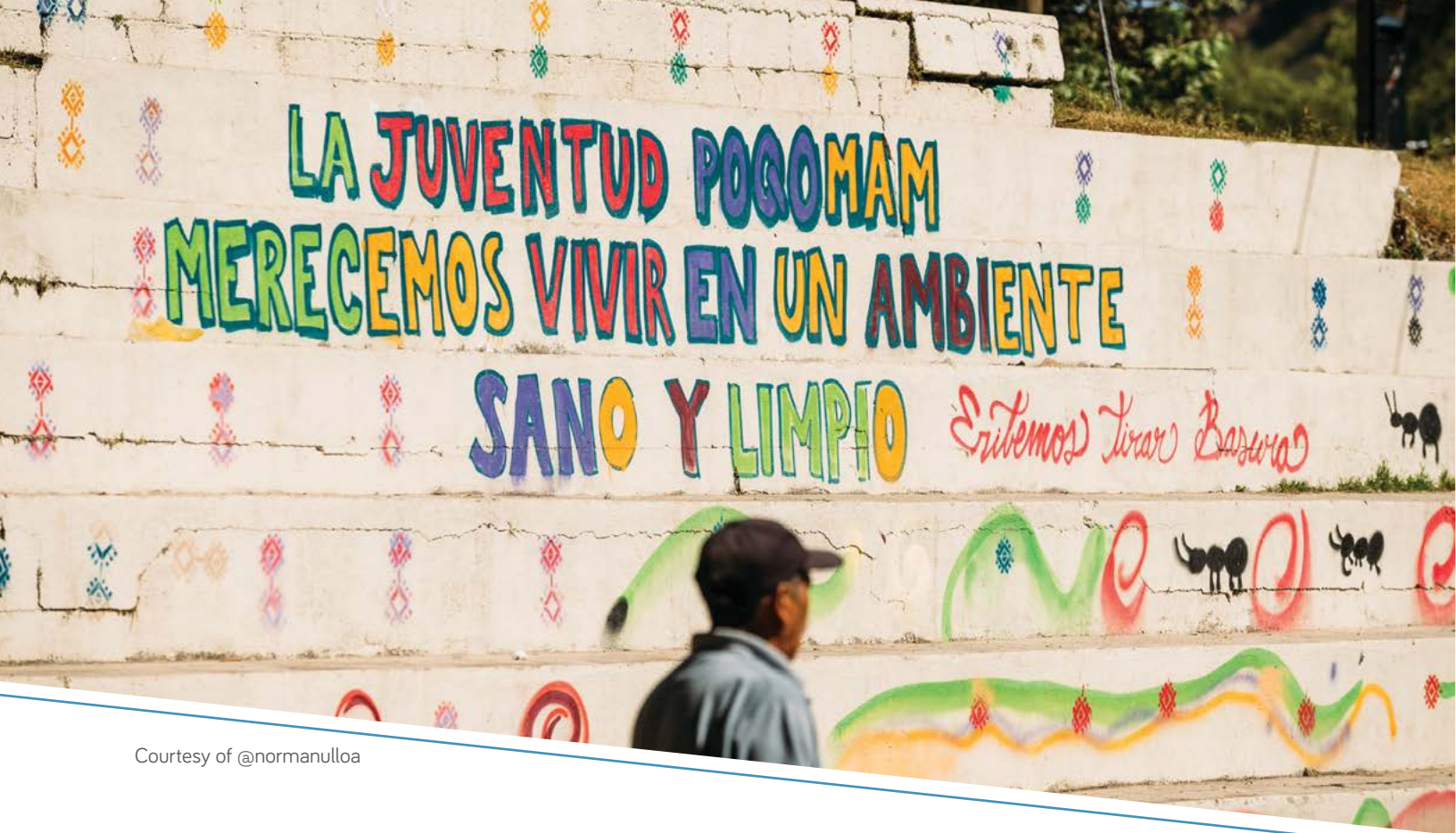
This situation led the Resistance to assert its right to consultation on active sand mining projects in their territory and to demand that the authorities take action to halt the different operations that cause the aforementioned negative impacts.

One tool the Resistance has used to advance its struggle has been strategic litigation. In the first half of 2024, with legal counsel from the Indigenous Peoples' Law Firm and the Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA), they exercised their right to petition the municipality of Chinautla, requesting that the municipality take the measures necessary to close the illegal dumps polluting the rivers and implement an ecological restoration plan. Faced with the administration's lack of response, the Ancestral Authorities filed for an injunction in October 2024, requesting that illegal dumps be closed, the ecosystem restored, and the rivers protected. In July of this year, a civil court ordered the municipality to take action to curb river and soil pollution. This ruling sets a precedent by requiring a municipality to respond to a community's right to petition on environmental matters. The ruling requires the municipality of Chinautla to assume its responsibility for environmental management, address the damage to the Chinautla, Tzajjá, and Las Vacas rivers, close illegal garbage dumps, and develop a technical and scientific plan for short-, medium-, and long-term

responses. The implementation of this resolution will be dealt with in a dialogue process between the parties.

In addition, the first steps have been taken to implement another ruling in favor of the Resistance. In 2021, the Constitutional Court (CC) recognized the Poqomam people's right to water. However, to date, no state institution had taken steps to comply with the ruling. During the second half of 2025, technical working groups were established to address this right, which has thus far been denied to the people of Chinautla. These groups include the Indigenous Authorities and Mayors of Chinautla and their legal advisors, the municipality of Chinautla, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Energy and Mines, and the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman (PDH), among others. Roadmaps have been established on how to address the multiple causes of river pollution and how to resolve the issue of access to water for the people of Chinautla. The meetings are held on a monthly basis, and PBI accompanies the members of the Resistance to these meetings.





Courtesy of @normanulloa

“Thanks to the support PBI provided for us to participate in a tour in 2023, we expanded our network of contacts with organizations in Spain and received support from a Spanish researcher who visited Chinautla and conducted an environmental assessment of the municipality, which has been extremely valuable to us. Overall, PBI has made a significant contribution to strengthening relationships and commitments with other international organizations. For example, the IACHR visited us to discuss our case.”

Efraín Vásquez, indigenous authority of the Peaceful Resistance of the Poqomam People in Chinautla

With regard to our advocacy work in Europe on the Peaceful Resistance case, we have drawn attention to the slowness in complying with the court ruling regarding water. We have also emphasized the need to focus attention on the security situation of the human rights defenders in Chinautla, pointing out the vulnerable situation in which they live, exposed to defamation from actors linked to the sand mining companies and neglected by local authorities despite the various risks they face.

“Thanks to PBI’s support, our relationship with certain authorities has improved. With the PNC, for example, we no longer feel the same fear we did during Giammattei’s time, when we felt like we were being watched. Now, we even coordinate with them on security matters”.

Efraín Vásquez, indigenous authority of the Peaceful Resistance of the Poqomam People in Chinautla

New accompaniment for Carlos Choc

In April 2025, we began accompanying Carlos Ernesto Choc, an independent Maya Q'eqchi' journalist, environmentalist, and human rights defender. Choc conducts his investigative and reporting work in his homeland, the municipality of El Estor, located in the department of Izabal.

His career highlights include participation in the *Green Blood* and *Mining Secrets* projects, journalistic investigations that revealed the environmental damage caused by the nickel company Solway Investment Group, which operates the largest mine in Central America. His work on these projects was published in various European media outlets, as well as in the Guatemalan media outlet *Prensa Comunitaria*.

Carlos has been criminalized and prosecuted for his journalistic work, which he has used to report on human rights violations against the Q'eqchi' population and environmental pollution caused by the Fenix mine, which operates in El Estor. Furthermore, his home was raided, and he was subjected to surveillance and harassment by the mining company, in collusion with Guatemalan authorities under previous administrations.





Criminal prosecution began against him in August 2017, after he covered a peaceful protest held by fishermen, during which one of the demonstrators was killed. Mine personnel filed complaints against Choc, which resulted in two court cases that ultimately concluded in January 2024 with his acquittal on all charges. Choc and his family have been victims of assassination attempts and raids by different state actors.

We first came into contact with Carlos in 2023, when we arranged for him to travel to Europe so he could share his struggle for the right to information—and the obstacles the Guatemalan government was placing in his way—with United Nations (UN) rapporteurs in Geneva and a

number of EU institutions. This brought him into contact with various actors in the international community who accompanied him online during the final phase of his criminalization proceedings. Finally, having regained the ability to move freely, he was able to take advantage of a fellowship for at-risk human rights defenders, which allowed him to live abroad for six months and build new alliances.

Upon returning to Guatemala, he went back to El Estor and resumed his work. He returned to providing media coverage, through his Facebook page *#PeriodismoComunitario Aj Ral Ch'och'*, on a variety of situations in the Izabal

department, including: communities living under the threat of eviction or that have already been evicted; cases of criminalization against people defending their lands and territories; the situation at the Fenix mine, which, while currently inactive, is expected to reopen soon due to the growing demand for rare earth minerals, which are found in Q'eqchi' territory.

"I am very pleased with PBI's accompaniment. I feel that my safety has improved since I started receiving accompaniment, with no new incidents and less defamation on social media. I believe this is precisely because I have lowered my profile on the ground, while PBI's advocacy around my case has increased, leading to actors like the French and British embassies publicly showing their support for me."

Carlos Choc

We provide comprehensive accompaniment to Carlos, which includes a variety of actions. Some highlights include monthly visits to El Estor, during which we take the opportunity to introduce ourselves and meet with local authorities (the governor and mayor's offices, indigenous mayors, the Human Rights Ombudsman, and the National Police), to whom we express our concern about his safety. During these visits, we also meet with the communities where Carlos carries out his journalistic work. As part of our advocacy efforts, we have facilitated meetings between Carlos and embassies based in Guatemala, as well as those visiting the country. In our engagement with the international community, we have raised awareness about the journalist's situation among the diplomatic corps in Guatemala, as well as among

other stakeholders in Brussels and Geneva, detailing his struggle and prosecution and warning of the risks he faces, as well as those faced by the communities he accompanies, especially due to the impending reopening of the mine.

At the end of the year, Carlos and Gabriela Muñoz, a researcher at the Observatory on Extractive Industries (OIE), traveled—with PBI's support—to the United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights, held in Geneva. There, they participated in a panel discussion where they outlined the context of the Fenix mine in El Estor and the impacts of the mine's operations on the local people. As part of this tour, Carlos also visited Brussels, Berlin, and Paris, and met with various representatives of the international community. During these meetings, he highlighted the risks to freedom of expression in contexts such as Izabal, where powerful economic interests are at play. He also took the opportunity to strengthen relationships established during the first tour organized by PBI three years earlier, gave several interviews, and participated in a variety of public events. Through these activities, Carlos has built a strong network of support and assistance that can be called upon in potential emergency situations.

"Since PBI began engaging in dialogue with the municipality of El Estor, they have become more open to talking with me and more open to my work, and the threats I was receiving have decreased. I also feel that PBI's engagement with the authorities in the department of Izabal has helped legitimize my work in their eyes; they are now beginning to recognize me as a journalist rather than a troublemaker."

Carlos Choc

Advocacy and communication



Advocacy

Throughout 2025, concerns about criminalization, defamation, and intimidation against accompanied people, communities, and organizations defending their access to land, as well as the many evictions of entire communities carried out in violation of international standards, led us to prioritize efforts to promote protection mechanisms.

In our advocacy work with the international community, PBI Guatemala has been working to raise awareness of the critical situation faced by peasant and indigenous communities for years. In this regard, we have engaged in several interactions with the Office of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, successfully securing a visit from the Special Rapporteur to the country in July 2025.

During his visit, the Special Rapporteur met with several of the organizations, communities, and individuals accompanied by PBI (UVOC, CCDA, Chinautla, Carlos Choc). He received first-hand information about failed attempts to find negotiated solutions to agrarian conflicts, as well as about judicial and extrajudicial evictions carried out by private armed groups. He met with threatened

human rights defenders, evicted communities, and communities facing the constant risk of eviction, despite ongoing dialogues with the government. He observed various forms of violations of the rights of communities and those defending the right to housing. He emphasized the violence of the evictions, involving the presence of massive police forces, as well as hired private security in cases of extrajudicial evictions. He also noted that homes, crops, and the property of the people evicted were burned. Furthermore, he spoke of “a clear pattern of criminalization and intimidation against those who attempt to protest or report these forced evictions,” pointing to the persecution and detention of many community leaders and human rights defenders.

In his recommendations at the conclusion of his visit, the Special Rapporteur emphasized that these actions violate international law and undermine the rule of law. He therefore called for an urgent moratorium on evictions until adequate legal protection can be guaranteed “and an end to the widespread practice of forced, violent, and inhumane evictions, as well as criminalization, particularly of indigenous peoples and peasant communities.” He also condemned the excessive concentration of land ownership in Guatemala (“[only 3% of individuals owns their home, and 2.5% control nearly two-thirds of agricultural land](#)”), the exclusion of women from land tenure, and the inadequate housing conditions of a large portion of the population, proposing the implementation of various measures, such as historical reparations, to address the effects of colonialism and territorial dispossession. Furthermore, he called for the release of those accused and arrested for the alleged crimes of “trespass” and “aggravated trespass.” He also proposed significant solutions to concerns PBI Guatemala raised in its advocacy work.¹

In follow-up to his initial conclusions and recommendations, PBI Guatemala provided input on human rights defenders and evictions for an informational brief prepared jointly with other international NGOs and submitted to the

¹ <https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/2128234/2025-07-25-eom-guatemala-sr-housing-en.pdf>

[Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(CERD\)](#), which assessed the situation in Guatemala in November 2025. We participated in this session and, in prior meetings with the committee members, asked them to question the State on how it intends to prevent evictions and how it proposes to end prosecution and defamation against human rights defenders.

After hearing the State's responses, in its concluding observations, CERD echoed the call for a moratorium and highlighted its concern regarding "the use of criminal charges of trespassing, aggravated trespassing, and trespassing on protected areas, which result in convictions and detention of Indigenous Peoples living in those territories"² and called for the country to "review legislation on trespass and aggravated trespass (...) to prevent the misuse of criminal proceedings to criminalize Indigenous Peoples."³

During their tour with PBI, two accompanied people from the Maya Ch'orti' Indigenous Council of Olopa – Norma Sancir and Carmelita Canan – successfully raised awareness, before the CERD and in other bilateral meetings with United Nations (UN) special mechanisms, of the criminalization of members of their organization due to their opposition to a local mine that operates without a proper environmental impact assessment and without the free, prior, and informed consent of the Ch'orti' people.

"In Geneva, at the CERD, we were able to participate in working groups and share the situation of the Maya Ch'orti' people. I was able to present the ruling [in my case], and it was important for them to hear about the Olopa case, because Olopa is a territory that is almost always overlooked. If the working group were ever to visit Olopa, it would be a great achievement, but just being able to speak about the case was important".

Norma Sancir, Kaqchikel community journalist

Furthermore, as a result of two tours across Europe, human rights defenders were able to raise awareness of the risks faced by journalists and communications professionals in Guatemala due to their reporting work.

Kaqchikel journalist Norma Sancir asked the CERD and other UN special mechanisms to inquire about the implementation of the ruling in her case, which reminds the State of its obligation to protect the journalists because of her status as a woman and an indigenous person and because she engages in community-based communications; the ruling also orders the creation of a National Program for the Protection of Journalists.

In Brussels, we have continued our ongoing work to inform Members of the European Parliament, permanent representations, and members of the European External Action Service about the security situation facing human rights defenders and, in particular, the organizations we accompany. We have succeeded in raising awareness and drawing international attention to the specific circumstances of the people we accompany, through social media posts and published articles. Together with other international NGOs, we advocate for the expansion of restrictions by the European Union against Guatemalan people engaged in anti-democratic activities, and we seek to encourage the establishment of a mechanism to monitor and observe the selection processes for magistrates to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE), the Constitutional Court (CC), and the Office of the Attorney General. Restoring an ethical and professional justice system, as well as ending impunity and the abuse of the criminal justice system, is of paramount importance for the safety of human rights defenders. In this context, we welcome the [creation of an expert mission](#) to monitor these selection processes, as well as the [expansion of sanctions](#) against individuals linked to defamation and attacks against human rights defenders.

Communication

Communication is another key pillar of the comprehensive accompaniment that PBI Guatemala provides. Through our biannual bulletins, *boletines populares* (popular bulletins), monthly information packages about our work, and podcast, we raise awareness about the human rights situation in the country and the struggles of the organizations, communities, and individuals we accompany.

2 CERD, point 34.

3 CERD, point 35 d.

In the **53rd issue of our biannual bulletin**, we featured the following articles:

- ✔ **“The 40th Anniversary of GAM, an Inspiration in the Struggle for Human Rights in Guatemala,”** which discusses the tireless 40-year search by families—primarily women—for their detained and disappeared loved ones. In 1984, these women founded the Mutual Support Group (GAM) with the goal of demanding that the government return their loved ones alive. The article traces GAM’s evolution: its public activism, which exposed the broken promises made by political authorities both before and after the signing of the peace accords; its crucial role in facilitating exhumations from clandestine cemeteries; and its participation as joint plaintiffs in legal proceedings against perpetrators of human rights violations committed during the IAC. GAM was the first organization accompanied by PBI; indeed, the concept of international accompaniment originated with them. Recently, GAM has recovered its historical archives, processed them, and opened them to the public.
- ✔ **“The Struggle for the Right to Water on the Southern Coast: ‘Water is Life, Not a Commodity.’”** This article discusses various cases of water scarcity caused by sugarcane monoculture on the southern coast. The sugar agribusiness diverts rivers, reduces groundwater levels, and causes damage to the environment (cutting down trees, aerial chemical fertilization, and crop burning during the sugar harvest) and people’s health. Meanwhile, nearby communities struggle to survive by growing food in their family gardens and relying on remittances from relatives who have emigrated.



- ✔ **News About Our Work. “A New Historic Sentence in the Maya Achí Women’s Case: Perpetrators Convicted of Crimes Against Humanity Committed in the Form of Sexual Violence.”** PBI Guatemala accompanied several of the hearings in this historic case, where the Maya Achí women and their lawyers once again proved that sexual violence was used as a weapon of war.

The **54th issue of our biannual bulletin** focused on the following topics:

- ✔ **“Transitional Justice in Guatemala: Setbacks and Uncertainties.”** In this article, we compiled the views and opinions of different actors regarding the setbacks in the struggle against impunity for war crimes committed during the IAC. This struggle achieved its first successes in the late 1990s, as well as in the 2010s, with attorneys general and heads of the Public Prosecutor’s Office who were committed to justice. These successes provoked a backlash and an alliance between anti-democratic forces, which has led to a very worrisome erosion of justice, calling into question the rule of law in Guatemala. Four court cases illustrate these setbacks.
- ✔ **“Criminalization of Ancestral Authorities in Guatemala: The Case of Rigoberto Juárez and Ermitaño López.”** Just as this issue was going to print, we received news that the CC had upheld the conviction of the two community leaders and territorial defenders from northern Huehuetenango. The article also addresses the lack of recognition for the ways in which the Indigenous Peoples of Guatemala organize.
- ✔ In *News About Our Work*: we introduced our **“New Accompaniment for Carlos Ernesto Choc, Maya Q’eqchi’ Journalist.”** Choc has endured two criminalization and prosecution processes, as well as numerous threats and attacks, due to his investigative work on abuses at the Fenix mine in El Estor, Izabal.

We dedicated the **17th issue of the Popular Bulletin** to community radio stations as a source of information and a force for change in community life. We also presented the content of the IACHR’s ruling in favor of four Guatemalan community radio stations, as well as the challenges involved in implementing it.



The **18th issue of the Popular Bulletin** shares experiences and advice on the protection of groups, organizations, and communities facing threats for defending their rights. It aims to strengthen the peaceful acts of resistance and struggle carried out by human rights defenders in the pursuit of a life of justice, dignity, and joy for all people.

“The translation of the popular bulletin on healing into Q’eqchi’ has been a very important contribution to the Network, because it allows us to continue deepening our accompaniment of indigenous women in communities across the Q’eqchi’ territory.”

Lorena Cabnal, member of TZ’KAT Network of Ancestral Healers of Territorial Community Feminism from Iximulew

This year, we translated the **Popular Bulletin No. 15** into Q’eqchi’, which addresses the quest for justice for the crimes committed at the former military outpost now known as CREOMPAZ, and the recovery of historical memory regarding those terrible events.



You can access all these programs and publications on our web page: <https://pbi-guatemala.org/es/multimedia/>

This year, we also released several episodes of our **ACÉRCATE** podcast dedicated to past and present-day struggles. The topics covered included: the Nuevo Horizonte community and cooperative in Petén; the Agrarian Agreement between the Peasants’ Council and the government; the National Police Historical Archive, 20 years after its discovery (2 episodes); the search for truth and justice in the case of the forced disappearance of Luz Leticia Hernández Agustín; and the work of the Association for Justice and Reconciliation in promoting justice and historical memory.



We also collaborated once again with PBI Spain to facilitate the participation of Rossi Ix Jab Morales Cael, a Poqomchi Maya leader of the youth wing of the Verapaz Union of Peasant Organizations (UVOC), in the “Voices of the Earth: Women Defenders of the Land and Human Rights in Latin America” segment of the *Carne Cruda* podcast. The episode “Guatemala: Indigenous Youth Against Colonialism,” which featured Rossi Ix Jab Morales Cael, was released on April 30, 2025.



Supporting capacity building

Another area of PBI Guatemala's work is building capacity among the organizations, communities, and individuals we accompany, as well as with others who share our principles, mandate, and thematic focuses. Through this work, we aim to help them maintain and expand their scope of action.

In 2025, we organized 12 events for 220 participants from more than 30 organizations or social movements in Guatemala (154 women and 66 men).

Five of the seven security workshops we organized were geared towards social organizations working on issues of memory and truth, historical clarification, and strategic litigation related to human rights violations committed during the IAC. Participants included survivors, victims' family members of victims, and professionals who provide physical, legal, psychosocial, and communications accompaniment to those individuals. In total, there were 64 participants (25 women and 39 men) from 15 organizations. We decided to hold these

workshops because of the setbacks in the search for justice for victims and their families in cases of serious human rights violations committed during the IAC. This situation undermines the already weakened and co-opted justice system and exacerbates the security risks for all those involved in the fight against impunity for crimes of the past. In light of this situation, and at the request of the organizations we accompany in their struggles to combat impunity and promote historical memory, we felt it was necessary to create spaces like these, where participants could network and share information about what is happening across different regions.

"The information we receive in the workshops helps me in many areas of my life. These spaces have also allowed me to meet more people and expand my network. It's inspiring to hear about others' struggles, see how they face challenges, and stay in touch after the workshops to support one another".

Mirtala Hernández, sister of Luz Leticia Hernández, who was disappeared, and a participant in security workshops focused on actors struggling against impunity

The workshops were led by Juan Francisco Soto, who has accompanied these struggles for decades. The methodology involved applying techniques used to develop collective protection measures.

“We have participated in PBI’s security workshops for organizations struggling against impunity. We have worked on strategies for self-protection and contextual analysis. We found them useful and enjoyed them. It’s helpful to connect with other groups that PBI accompanies, because we learn that there are many of us fighting for the same cause and that we can come together and understand each other’s concerns. It has become a kind of ‘roundtable of partners’ from which to weave and spin actions”.

José Silvio Tay and Maria Romelia Bolaj Dias, members of the Association for Justice and Reconciliation, AJR board

We facilitated a digital security workshop in the capital and invited 15 people (5 women and 10 men) from different parts of the country: Petén, the Ixil region, Chimaltenango, and Guatemala City. The workshop was led by digital security expert Pablo Zavala, who explained the security risks posed by the use of electronic devices and social media. He shared tools to help reduce these risks and improve self-defense against digital threats. The team from the Unit for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders of Guatemala (UDEFEUGUA) conducted a workshop on gender-based security for 35 participants (23 women and 12 men) from the Maya Ch’orti’ Indigenous Council of Olopa and the Indigenous Community of San Francisco Quezaltepeque. Focusing on the Ch’orti’ region allowed for a risk analysis grounded in the shared context between the two groups, enabling the identification of specific protection and security measures, as well as strengthening the ties between the two organizations. As we have done each year since 2011, we organized healing gatherings to strengthen the emotional and spiritual well-being of women human rights defenders

in the face of the threats and risks they face. These gatherings also provide an opportunity for the women to build networks with one another. This year, we organized four such gatherings, which took place in Playa Grande (Ixacán, Quiché), Nuevo Horizonte (Petén), San Lucas Tolimán (Sololá), and Chamelco (Alta Verapaz). They were facilitated by Tzk’at, the Network of Ancestral Healers of Territorial Community Feminism from Iximulew. A total of 101 women defenders from various organizations and collectives participated, some of whom are accompanied by PBI Guatemala and others who are not.

“Through the healing gatherings, we have built a relationship with the healers and also with women from Cobán. We have open communication, and they continue to accompany us through recipes and remedies. This relationship has helped us a great deal”.

Poqomam women defenders from the Peaceful Resistance of the Poqomam People in Chinautla

“PBI provides accompaniment both in rural areas and in the capital. The Network of Healers asks for blessings for PBI because, thanks to the organization’s work, it has been possible to bring various protection strategies to human rights defenders engaged in resistance throughout the country. Healing is part of that and offers a path that allows us to continue fighting for human rights, for land and territory, for memory and justice”.

Lorena Cabnal, member of TZK’AT

Furthermore, in collaboration with PBI Colombia, we organized a virtual meeting this year between organizations from both Guatemala and Colombia. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss international mechanisms related to transitional justice, reparations, and memory. It was facilitated by Guatemalan expert Juan Francisco Soto, and five human rights defenders from organizations working on these issues participated.

PBI Guatemala volunteers

15
accompaniers

8
nationalities

At PBI Guatemala, we have several volunteer opportunities:

- ✓ The field team
- ✓ The project committee
- ✓ The training team

In 2025, a total of 15 accompaniers—12 women and 3 men—from 8 different countries served on the field team: Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Spain, France, Italy, Hungary, and Mexico.



My Experience as a PBI Guatemala Volunteer

For one year of my life, Guatemala took me in and was my home. The *Plaza de la Constitución* and San Sebastián Park—the site in Guatemala City where Monsignor Gerardi was assassinated in 1998 for standing up against the silence surrounding the armed conflict and defending its victims—were my neighbors. The former is the center of political and religious power and the epicenter of public life and the country’s main civic activities; the latter is a place of remembrance and of honoring the lives of those who persevered in the cause of “Guatemala, never again,” aspiring to bring an end to human rights violations, ensure their recognition, and secure reparations, as

suggested by the report of the Interdiocesan Project “Recovery of Historical Memory (REHMI).” My daily life in the capital was undoubtedly imbued with the intensity that resonates from history unfolding and the air of hope for a better country.

Although I lived in the heart and center of the country, I was able to travel to other departments such as Petén, Chiquimula, Alta Verapaz, Baja Verapaz, and Retalhuleu, accompanying human rights defenders and organizing meetings with different institutions to advocate for the effective protection of their lives and territories. Among them are *mestizo*, peasant, and indigenous women who, concerned with maintaining dignified living conditions, have dedicated themselves to defending their territory against extractivism and monoculture plantations and to persevering in their struggle for access to their

ancestral lands, which are being usurped or expropriated by landowners. I also accompanied truth-seekers who struggle against impunity in the face of a justice system co-opted by illegitimate actors associated with elites and driven by personal interests, rather than the unrestricted duty to guarantee rights impartially while prioritizing the common good.

As part of the field team, we usually introduce ourselves as “brigadistas” or, more clearly, as international observers. At first, I, like many others, found it hard to understand what that is, how it’s done, and what purpose it serves. But as the days and meetings went by, I came to understand that PBI’s mandate and mission is to protect human rights defenders through a visible presence and to act as a deterrent against violence. In other words, what we do is implement a security model through accompaniment, which means “being there” directly with the people, in the spaces where they live—the very spaces they are fighting for and want to protect. Even this *being there* requires a close relationship with both national and international political institutions, scheduling meetings with multilateral organizations, diplomatic staff, and public officials to report on conflict situations.

From a more personal perspective, living in a community with the team in the field was one of the things that allowed me to get to know myself better and confront different realities. Sharing housing and an office with people from other countries—like Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, Germany, Spain, Italy, and France—created an enriching environment in which to learn about coexistence, to reach consensus on possible ways of living together, to develop strategies for assertive communication and conflict resolution, and to recognize the life experiences that each person has built up in their own context and through which they contribute to PBI’s Guatemala project. Intercultural dialogue—not only with the Maya, Xinka, Garifuna, and mestizo communities of Guatemala, but also with people from other countries—allowed me to delve deeper into the importance of diversity and pluralism.



PBI’s slogan is “Making space for peace,” and that is what motivated me to embark on this experience, because I believe in nonviolent practices and in local processes that strive to preserve and strengthen democracy. Hence the importance for me of also embracing PBI’s principle of non-interference, since in my role as a foreigner, my perspective shifts regarding how the rule of law should be advanced. Initiatives must stem from community-led efforts and context-specific reflections and be supported by organizations, like PBI, that are aligned with this purpose.

In addition, I am leaving Guatemala with friendships, new insights, changes in perspective, a renewed commitment to dedicating my life to the common good, an appreciation for the work of so many dedicated people, and the inspiration to continue on my path toward contributing to a more just, equitable, and peaceful society.

Sebastián Aguirre Orozco
Volunteer from April 2024 to March 2025

PBI in numbers



Physical Presence

- 112 • Accompaniment to organizations and social entities (including physical and virtual accompaniment)
- 90 • Meeting with accompanied organization and social entities (including physical and virtual meetings)
- 36 • Meeting with other Guatemalan organizations
- 33 • Observation of events organized by Guatemalan civil society



Strengthening Local Capacity

We facilitated **12 workshops for 220 participants from more than 30 organizations** and social movements from Guatemala (154 women and 66 men).

12 workshops

- 1 • Workshop on digital security
- 1 • Security workshop in the territory of Maya Ch'orti human rights defenders
- 5 • Security workshops for organizations working in transitional justice, reparation and memory
- 1 • Webinar to exchange on international mechanisms of transitional justice between organizations in Guatemala and Colombia
- 4 • Meetings on healing for women human rights defenders

 **220** participants



Advocacy

- 54 • Meetings with Guatemalan authorities at the state, department, and local levels
- 50 • Meetings with diplomatic corps, embassies and OHCHR in Guatemala
- 44 • Meetings with Foreign Ministries and International Entities in Europa
- 6 • Human rights defenders advocacy tours to Europe and USA



Publications

- 12 • Monthly Information Package
- 2 • Bi-annual Bulletins
- 3 • Popular Bulletins
- 1 • Annual Report
- 6 • Virtual Programs ACÉRCATE





PBI Guatemala members

Volunteer team in the field:

Anna Morales Mateu (Spain), Ana Gabriela Ascarrunz Ponce (Bolivia), Sebastián Aguirre Orozco (Colombia), David Félix Azemar (Spain), Giulia Pochini (Italy), Maria Alemany (Spain), Beatriz Pérez Ruiz (Spain), Júlía García Grané (Spain), María Fernanda Candela Figueroa (Mexico), Sheron Ribeiro da Silva (Brazil), Ambroise Lavigne (France), Nelli Horváth (Hungary), Ericka Stephania López Mota (Mexico), Nataly Navarro (Mexico), María Moreno Hurtado (Spain).

Project Committee:

Maike Holderer (Germany), Erika Martínez (Spain), Diana Cabra Delgado (Colombia), Marisol Robles Ruelas (Mexico), Amaya de Miguel Vallés (Spain), Amparo Terrón Salvador (Spain), Sebastián Aguirre Orozco (Colombia), and Montserrat García Blas (Spain).

Training Team

Daniel Jiménez (Spain), Diana Cabra (Colombia), Karen Vinasco (Colombia), Katharina Ochsendorf (Germany), Lorna Ni Shuilleabhain (Ireland), Marina García (Spain).

Coordination Office:

Amaya de Miguel Vallés (coordinator), Kerstin Reemtsma (European representative), Paola Sarti (fundraiser), Silvia Weber (communications), Ana Fernández Rodríguez (financial oversight), Cristina Ortega Martínez (field support), Martín Gómez Gallego and Patricia Göthe (volunteer training coordinator).

External Consultants:

Evangelina Scarfe (Australia) and Fermín Rodrigo (Spain).

Financial report

During 2025 PBI Guatemala has maintained a situation of financial stability that has made it possible to carry out the all the planned activities. However, a monthly average number of international volunteers lower than initially planned, has made that expenditure in 2025 has been reduced by something more than 8% of the budget. Consequently, revenues have decreased in the same proportion, adapting the finalist multiannual funds and its execution schedule to the new circumstance. The final result shows a positive balance of 1,120 euros.

The number and variety of donors supporting PBI's work in Guatemala has remained practically unchanged over the last three years, due to the existence of several Multi-year financing, We thank all donors for their financial support, which allows us to continue providing accompaniment and international protection to those who risk their lives to defend human rights in Guatemala.



PBI GUATEMALA EXPENSES 2024		EUR
Volunteer training and orientation	8.723	2%
Physical presence, interlocution and advocacy in Guatemala	121.665	25%
Training for defenders in Guatemala	117.419	24%
Formación a personas defensoras en Guatemala	27.249	6%
Coordination and strategic planning	55.703	11%
Fundraising, administration and finances	93.599	19%
Audit and evaluation	5.539	1%
Coordination and strategic planning at PBI global level	39.094	8%
Non operational expenses	20.258	4%
TOTAL EXPENSES	489.249	
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN INCOME AND EXPENSES	1.121	

* All expenses and income presented in this report are in euros and are in the process of being externally audited

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2025

EUR

CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	534.194
Commercial Debtors and Other Accounts Receivable	
Donations and y outstanding agreements	15.177
Accounts receivable PBI International Secretariat	-42.222
Health insurance reimbursements receivable	0
Down payments and advances	1.032
Deposits	1.419
Total Commercial Debtors and Other Accounts Receivable	-24.594
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	509.600
NONCURRENT ASSETS	
Property, Plant and Equipment	
Computer and communication equipment	0
Furnishings and fixtures	0
Accumulated depreciation	0
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	0
TOTAL ASSETS	509.600
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Commercial creditors and other accounts payable	
Accounts payable to third party	9.055
Accounts payable to staff and volunteers	0
Accounts payable to PBI International Secretariat	0
Accounts payable to other PBI entities	1.318
Total Commercial creditors and other accounts payable	10.373
Provisions	
Staff and volunteer benefits	3.029
Other Provisions	2.920
Total Provisions	5.949
Current tax liability	7.446
Other non-financial liabilities (Restricted funds to be executed)	188.963
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	212.731
NONCURRENT LIABILITIES	
Provision for Contingencies	129.941
TOTAL NONCURRENT LIABILITIES	129.941
EQUITY	
Funds free to execute, starting balance	165.807
Difference between Income and Expenses	1.121
TOTAL EQUITY	166.928
TOTAL LIABILITY AND EQUITY	509.600

Funds received in PBI bank accounts from Donors		370,451
European Union	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)	28,800
Germany	Misereor	26,300
Germany	Civil Peace Service (Ziviler Friedensdienst)	52,876
Norway	Embassy of Norway in Mexico	85,150
Spain	Generalitat valenciana	36,477
Spain	Fondo Cantabria Cooperera	40,174
Spain	Agencia Vasca de Cooperación para el Desarrollo	13,600
Spain	Diputación de Córdoba	13,186
United Kingdom	Ford Foundation	8,132
Ireland	Irish Aid	30,600
Belgium	PBI Belgium	1,475
Italy	PBI Italy	1,800
Switzerland	PBI Switzerland	31,881
Revenues by error already counted in 2024 / Donations receivable at year-end 2024 cancelled in 2025		-200
Germany	Misereor	-200
Revenues received in 2024 still to be executed in 2026		-364
Spain	Fondo Cantabria Cooperera	-364
Revenues received in 2025 still to be executed in 2026		-188,599
Spain	Generalitat valenciana	-10,756
Spain	Fondo Cantabria Cooperera	-40,174
Spain	Diputación de Córdoba	-13,186
Norway	Embassy of Norway in Mexico	-61,020
European Union	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)	-19,948
European Union	UE CA Emergency	-7,075
Ireland	Irish Aid	-29,626
Germany	Misereor	-6,813
Revenues received in 2024 still to be executed in 2025		302,588
Spain	Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament (ACCD)	60,670
Spain	Generalitat valenciana	14,226
Spain	Fondo Cantabria Cooperera	50,639
Spain	Diputación de Córdoba	9,200
Norway	Embassy of Norway in Mexico	51,424
Ireland	Irish Aid	27,000
United Kingdom	Ford Foundation	8,403
European Union	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)	1,092
European Union	UE CA Emergency	79,933
Funds for activities implemented in 2025 that still awaiting end of year payment		4,642
Spain	Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament (ACCD)	4,642
Other income		1,853
Private Donors		1,406
Income from own activities		250
Interests		197
TOTAL GENERAL INCOME		490,370



pbi Guatemala

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