

# PBI Netherlands

## Strategy 2019-2023

Welcome to PBI Netherlands, part of the international Peace Brigades Network. We are a volunteer organization with a mission to create space for peace.

Every day, human right defenders throughout the world are threatened, criminalised or even killed. To help them to continue their important work, PBI offers non-violent physical protection, providing human right defenders with visibility and inclusion in our worldwide network. We connect with governments and NGO's and, by hosting short stays in The Netherlands, offer a refuge from the harassments human rights defenders face every day. Last but not least, we provide human right defenders a voice in the Netherlands, the ability to tell their stories and those of the people whose rights they protect.

You can help and pledge your support to these special people and make space for peace by visiting our events and media or donate some time, money or involve your network.

To give you an idea about our vision and plans for the near future, we welcome you to read this short version of our strategic plan 2019-2023. If you want to react or connect, please do.

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Chair of the board  
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# peacebrigadesinternational

making space for peace

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## What we see

Throughout the world, a majority of people do not fully enjoy freedom, civil liberties and political rights. Though civil society is blooming globally and the Sustainable Development Goals promise further improvements, we note some worrisome counterforces:

- ❖ The number of human right defenders and journalists killed because of what they do and say is ever increasing
- ❖ Pressure from authorities and private interest to curtail basic freedoms is increasing
- ❖ Military conflicts increasingly affect civilians, with the number of refugees and internally displaced people at an all-time high of 68 million in 2017
- ❖ Climate change starts to affect many countries and leads to hunger and displacement
- ❖ In Europe the lack of openness and fear for other cultures affects freedom and human rights, also in The Netherlands

## What we believe

Local human rights defenders are instrumental to improve local situations. However, they are fragile when working in isolation. Linking them to an international network in a very visible way, for example by physical accompaniment and through advocacy, makes them stronger and more difficult to ignore or attack.

*"In my case, the accompaniment of PBI provides more safety than the Colombian government offers."* - DANIEL PRADO



### PBI's Themes

For the coming years we focus on protecting human rights defenders in the fields of:

- ❖ Environmental and Land rights
- ❖ Free press
- ❖ Woman's rights
- ❖ Business and Human rights

# What we do

The mandate of PBI Netherlands is to create space for peace and to protect human rights by:

- ❖ providing temporary shelter for human right defenders in the Netherlands
- ❖ raising public awareness for the work of human right defenders by organising speaker tours and film screenings and engage through publications and social media
- ❖ recruiting and training volunteers for PBI's field offices
- ❖ contributing to national and international support networks for activists that need protection through public relations and advocacy work, observing and reporting
- ❖ engaging with Dutch stakeholders involved in peace and human rights work, to share and develop knowledge
- ❖ raising funds for PBI's work in field countries and the Netherlands.

## Shelter City

Partnering with the Utrecht municipality and Justice & Peace we offer temporary shelter to human right defenders through the Shelter City project. During his or her stay we set up meetings with Dutch NGOs and government to enhance their network. To share their stories and engage with an interested crowd, we organise human right café meetings in the city.

PBI has been involved in the project since 2015 and will continue to be in the following years.

# Our goals for 2019-2023

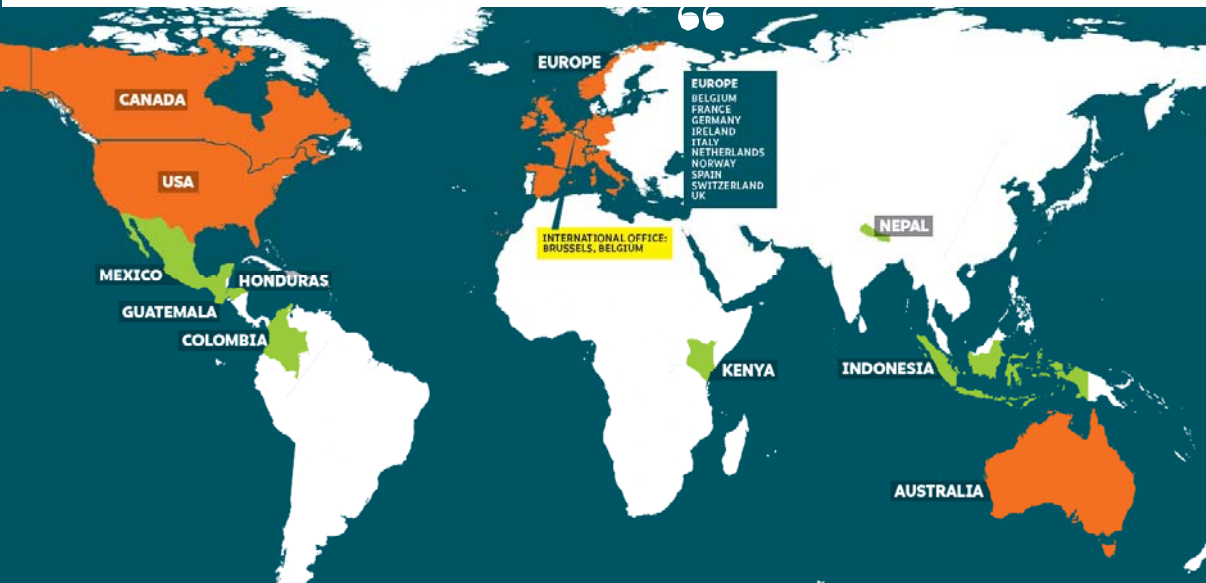
PBI is a volunteer organization. In the Netherlands we work with a small paid staff of 1.0 fte. This staff coordinates our knowledgeable and enthusiastic teams of country specialists and communications/event organisers.

In the past years we have been successful in providing shelter, hosting events and liaising with relevant parties. Also, we were instrumental in securing a large grant from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for PBI's Mexico, Colombia and Guatemala field projects. We published and disseminated a toolkit on the protection of woman human right defenders (WHRD's), and undertook a study and organised a symposium on the situation of WHRD's in Egypt, Sudan and other MENA countries.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to grow our organisation as we had planned, thereby not being able to structurally grow in our activities. We feel that, since governmental policies in the Netherlands fully acknowledge that speaking-out and influencing policies is a key strategy to promote sustainable change, the impact of PBI NL could and should be greater. That is why our strategy for the coming years (2019-2023) is to continue our current activities, while also

- ❖ Look for alliances where we complement the work of other organizations and networks
- ❖ Build on relations with former volunteers to facilitate and encourage them to stay active for PBI in other ways
- ❖ Next to students and young professionals engage other types of volunteers, such as retired professionals or specialists for specific tasks, especially in the field of communications and fundraising
- ❖ Where relevant seek to recruit more non-Dutch nationals, for example other EU nationals or foreigners (legally) residing in the Netherlands
- ❖ Grow in number and engagement of donors by enhancing our visibility, share more stories and be smarter in combining events with fundraising

*PBI Netherlands is part of the international Peace Brigades network*



*Do you also think people worldwide should be able to stand up for their rights without fear for themselves or their families?*

*Then join us as a volunteer or donor! Learn more on [www.peacebrigades.nl](http://www.peacebrigades.nl).*