VISION
We aspire to a world in which fundamental human rights and freedoms are respected by all, whilst being protected and fulfilled by those responsible.

MISSION
Our contribution to that world is to ensure that everyone who defends human rights can do so without fear of threats or attacks.

OUR APPROACH
We support human rights defenders to protect themselves through a comprehensive approach, which is applied in all contexts where we work. This approach is founded on three pillars:

CAPACITY BUILDING
Empowering defenders to manage their protection themselves.

DUTY BEARERS/ PUBLIC POLICIES
Promote the fulfillment by authorities of their responsibility to protect.

STAKEHOLDERS
Engaging other individuals and institutions with a positive stake in the protection of human rights defenders to do more or better, and those with a negative stake to respect the rights of HRDs.

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Global Security Management Support
DEAR FRIENDS,

I am delighted to share with you Protection International’s ANNUAL REPORT 2016. This report captures a few of the highlights of a busy year for us and the achievements that were possible thanks to our team and network of diverse partners.

At a time of political uncertainty and populism, the protection of human rights defenders tackling political transitions, land and environmental issues and LGTBIQ rights has become a necessity for turning human rights standards into reality. This is also a vital political project for Protection International and our work together with our partners reflects that commitment.

2016 was a year of challenges and change. We worked hard to remain steadfast in our support to human rights defenders at risk. Our many initiatives included tailor-made support and sustained collaboration with diverse groups of defenders, which has allowed us to achieve a number of significant milestones.

They range from community exchanges in Colombia and Guatemala to the development of guidelines on IT security for defenders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Our efforts in advancing for sound public policies for the protection of human rights defenders included interaction with the UN special procedures as well as with existing national protection mechanisms. In contexts where such mechanisms are not available, we provided technical advice to defenders seeking to influence local legal and political agenda. In October 2016 the first PI country group saw the light, created by volunteers in Spain.

Thanks to the commitment of our funders and the dynamism of our partners, Protection International continues to grow and has proved to be a resilient organisation at times of internal changes. For this reason Protection International’s management and Board have committed to pay special attention to organisational and professional development. We believe that creating a culture of solidarity and respect for diversity are crucial if we are to meet the current challenges. Thus this year, while carrying out a restructuring of our international office to better reflect our governance structure, we also paid attention to re-invigorate our local partnerships.

As the world becomes more polarised and fragmented, it is more important than ever to support positive change-makers and build resilience of the human rights movement. Strong cooperation and solidarity with local partners and defenders has been Protection International’s trademark from the outset and will continue to be our main strategy to ensure that everyone has the right to defend human rights and fundamental freedoms without fear of threats or attack.

Sincerely,
Liliana De Marco Coenen

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ALICE NAH, CHAIR
Alice Nah is a Lecturer at the Centre for Applied Human Rights at the University of York, UK. Alice conducts research on the security and protection of human rights defenders at risk, and on asylum and migration in Asia. She also leads an international research project that examines how human rights defenders navigate risks, manage security, and receive protection support in Colombia, Mexico, Egypt, Kenya, and Indonesia.

PATRICK DECOODT, TREASURER
Patrick Decoodt has a Masters in Law and Economics with a special degree in Corporate Finance. Patrick has been an independent consultant for various SME’s including cultural organisations, social enterprises and non-profit organisations. His main area of focus has been transition management.

YULIA SUGANDI, SECRETARY
Yulia Sugandi works as Senior Fellow of the Department of Community Development and Communication Sciences at the Faculty of Human Ecology in Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia. Putting theory into action, Yulia has carried out professional engagements with the Asia Europe Foundation, Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, Peace Brigades International, UNDP Papua, Misereor, Kurve Wustrow, etc.

LIESBETH MONDEN, MEMBER
Liesbeth Monden is a lawyer at the Brussels Bar Association, with expertise in immigration law. She is also a Board member of Memisa Belgium, a nonprofit organisation focused on improving basic health care worldwide.

LILIANA DE MARCO COENEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Liliana De Marco Coenen is the Executive Director of PI, and together with PI global management team she is responsible for the strategic direction of the organisation and the implementation of its mandate. Liliana has 20 years of experience in human rights practise and advocacy including working with defenders in the global South and post-conflict countries. She holds an LLM in human rights law from the University of Essex, UK.

In the first half of 2016 Protection International’s (PI) first President of the Board, Luis Enrique Eguren (Quique), and Treasurer, Flora Petrucci, stepped down after almost 10 years. Enrique deserves major credit for the solid reputation for excellence and innovation of PI’s work; while Flora has witnessed PI’s activities expand exponentially over the years and helped us deal with growing pains. They both remain affiliated with Protection International as members of our General Assembly, together with Board member Champa Patel, who also finished her term in December 2016.

We were proud to see the exiting Board members appoint Alice Nah as Chair of the Board and reconfirmed Yulia Sugandi’s mandate as Secretary of the Board. Alice and Yulia bring a wealth of knowledge on the protection of human rights defenders at risk and dedication to PI. In 2016 the General Assembly also elected to the Board Patrick Decoodt and Liesbeth Monden. Patrick and Liesbeth have sound knowledge of management of non-profit organisations and a genuine commitment to human rights.

A change of leadership also followed within the management team with Liliana De Marco Coenen taking over from Gorik Ooms, Protection International’s first Executive Director in June 2016.
Protection International (PI) has accompanied 45 indigenous and local communities in 6 countries, 101 civil society organisations (working on human rights, LGBTIQ, land grabbing and environmental issues mainly) from 15 countries, another 51 organisations through our online course and trained 2259 community activists and human right defenders directly. Protection International has also set up its first country group of volunteers in Navarra, Spain.

In 2016,
From 19 April to 5 May 2016 a delegation of four Indigenous Lenca members of the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH) visited five European countries to denounce the murder of Indigenous and human rights COPINH leader Berta Cáceres, call on the Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO) and Finn Fund to withdraw from the Agua Zarca Dam, and experience fighting for human rights in Honduras.

Following the rally, the group had an audience with the Subcommittee on Human Rights (DROI) and the European Union – Latin America and Caribbean (EU-LAC) delegation at the European Parliament where Berta’s daughter had the opportunity to speak to the members of the Parliament (MEP). The European Parliament DROI Chair, MEP Elena Valenciano, held a special hearing with other land rights defenders attended by a large number of MEPs.

In the evening, civil society gathered human rights defenders from Honduras and Liberia to share their experiences defending human rights, indigenous communities and the environment. The evening provided space to jointly reflect on the role that activists and NGOs in Brussels can play to support these struggles.

THE IMPACT
• Finnish development banks, financers of the Agua Zarca Dam, have withdrawn from the project.
• Media coverage from The Guardian, Deutsche Welle and Dutch and German National media.
• The Human Rights and Democracy Network (HRDN) featured the case of Berta Cáceres in the “stand4HRDs” campaign.
• The European Union committed to support an independent commission to investigate the murder of Berta Cáceres.

RALLY AGAINST THE MURDERS OF HRDS IN HONDURAS

From 19 April to 5 May 2016 a delegation of four Indigenous Lenca members of the Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH) visited five European countries to denounce the murder of Indigenous and human rights COPINH leader Berta Cáceres, call on the Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO) and Finn Fund to withdraw from the Agua Zarca Dam, and call on the European Union to suspend funding to Honduras until the criminalisation and murders of environmental and human rights defenders cease.

The group engaged with policy makers and NGOs, joined national protests and talked to media and the general public about the defence of human rights, repression and impunity in Honduras.

Protection International (PI) hosted members of COPINH during their visit to Brussels on 20 April. Together with more than 10 other NGOs, PI joined in a colorful action in front of the Honduran embassy to remember recently murdered members of COPINH, Berta Cáceres and Nelson Noel García. Berta’s daughter shared her testimony and experience fighting for human rights in Honduras.

In the evening, civil society gathered human rights defenders from Honduras and Liberia to share their experiences defending human rights, indigenous communities and the environment. The evening provided space to jointly reflect on the role that activists and NGOs in Brussels can play to support these struggles.
Protection International (PI) works with women human rights defenders (WHRDs) in different land grabbing and environmental cases in Colombia, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

In the interest of sharing experiences and knowledge among WHRDs who protect economic, social and cultural rights, PI facilitated a community exchange in Latin America in October 2016. The aim was to share well-being practices and improve protection for WHRDs, their families and their territory.

WHRDs from Colombia visited the network of women of Victoria in Santa Marta community in El Salvador where Honduran women defenders belonging to Civic Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH) also joined the activities.

Following this exchange, the Colombian defenders then travelled to Guatemala to meet with women defenders from Santa Rosa community and La Puya who take part in the resistance movement fighting against illegal mining projects.

Protection International’s teams from Guatemala and Colombia shared lessons learned on collective protection and exchanged effective tools used in the cases they support. The main achievements were learning about common strengths and weaknesses endured in similar cases, analysing risks and threats that WHRDs face in their regions, and fruitful discussions on protection strategies and tools for WHRDs and rural defenders.

“...The aim was to share well-being practices and improve protection for WHRDs, their families and their territory.”
INFLUENCING THE THAILAND UN HUMAN RIGHTS REVIEW

In the lead up to Thailand’s 2nd Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the United Nations Human Rights Council, Protection International (PI) submitted a shadow report jointly with Front Line Defenders to denounce the risks, intimidations and threats faced by Thai human rights defenders (HRDs).

To pave the way for the report, PI held several meetings in Thailand with diplomats to encourage UN member states to include questions and recommendations on the situation and protection of human rights defenders in Thailand. In Geneva, a series of events focusing on HRDs were organised with the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (UNOHCHR), the diplomatic permanent missions of Norway, Finland and USA and the UN Special Rapporteurs for human rights defenders and the Environment.

During the review, 103 States made 249 recommendations of which Thailand accepted 181. Eight States issued specific recommendations on the situation of HRDs, six of which were accepted by Thailand. UN member States appreciated PI’s recommendations and expertise to highlight the situation of HRDs in the country.

In Thailand, speaking out against environmental and agricultural policies has become increasingly dangerous for community activists and environmental defenders. They often face harassment, criminalisation, arbitrary detention, disappearance and violence including the killing of community leaders.

In 2016, as a tribute to the long lasting memory and outstanding courage of human rights defenders (HRDs) in Thailand, Protection International (PI) organised a photo exhibition to raise awareness and ask for justice in the recent cases of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances of Thai environmental HRDs.

This photo exhibition, “For Those Who Died Trying” presented 35 photos of HRDs who have been murdered or disappeared for defending human rights in Thailand. The photographs were taken by British Bangkok-based photographer Luke Duggleby, at the exact place, when possible, where each HRD was killed or last seen.

For Those Who Died Trying received overwhelming feedback and support. Our proudest outputs are:

• Advocating to have the cases investigated and prosecuted gave families of the victims access to information, public exposure, hope and support.
• The Thai media reported to an unprecedented extent in Thailand on the comprehensive recommendations on the cases of killing and enforced disappearance, even encouraging the media to further investigate some of the stories.
• International media like The Guardian, BBC and The New York Times reported about the situation of HRDs.
• Partnering with university departments allowed the exploration of innovative ways to get involved with HRDs. Such things included practical internships and research studies on land rights and natural resources.
• The shelved case of Somchai Neelapaijit was reopened and received a broad call for the continuation of the investigation.
• Advocating for action on the legislative level in codifying these acts as crimes and strengthening forensic investigations in human rights cases.

The exhibition has also toured outside of Thailand, including being displayed in front of the United Nations (UN) Building Palais des Nations on May 2016 in Geneva on the occasion of Thailand review by the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR), before heading to the European Parliament in Brussels, and then onto several other European cities.

“FOR THOSE WHO DIED TRYING” PHOTO EXHIBITION TOUR IN THAILAND

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The resistance movement of La Puya successfully aided the closing of the illegal El Tambor mine in Guatemala which had been menacing the lives and livelihood of the community. It took an emblematic case of community resistance, sustained advocacy, outreach and legal support.

La Puya resistance movement was created on March 2012 with neighbors from San Jose El Golfo and San Pedro Ayampuc in order to denounce the illegal opening of a gold mine owned by the Reno-based engineering firm Kappes, Cassidy & Associates. To show their concerns, La Puya’s resistance movement maintained a peaceful, 24-hour blockade at the entrance to the mine. Protection International’s (PI) team in Guatemala supported the movement since its inception by sharing mechanisms of collective protection and helping the community to avoid several evictions and threats.

The community-based defenders were concerned about the health and environmental impacts of the mine. They claimed their right to consultation — as required under national and international law.

As such, even though the Guatemalan Supreme Court’s ruled in their favour on 22 February 2016, the mine continued operating. In addition, several leaders were threatened with criminalisation.

PDCOL helped El Guayabo human rights defenders (HRDs) to devise urgent response protocols in case of illegal searches by authorities and a two-pronged counterstrategy based on legal action and political support.

In response to the actions taken, the prosecuting attorney asked the judge to grant the full release of three of the four accused community leaders. The efforts of PDCOL persuaded political and judicial authorities that El Guayabo leaders were not criminals but peaceful citizens determined to stand up and fight for the rights of their community and land.

PDCOL’s efforts helped expose that the criminal charges against the leaders have been part of a broader strategy of the plaintiff to keep the illegally grabbed land away from a community that is in a poor, remote and isolated territory.
IN DECEMBER 2016, PI’s Research and Training unit released the guide "10 good security practises for human rights defenders" providing physical and digital security tips to HRDs. Human rights defenders and civil society organisations praised the guide as a user friendly tool to improve their digital security in their daily activities.

“Unsung” by Anette Brolenius

VOICES OF DEFENDERS IN DRC

Protection International (PI) launched the campaign “Voices of Defenders in DRC” to denounce the shrinking space for human rights defenders (HRDs) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) who struggle in a context of rising political unrest. Defenders face violence, intimidation and harassment on a daily basis.

PI has been working in partnership with the Congolese civil society and other international stakeholders in DRC since 2004. Having been instrumental in the promulgation of the edict on the protection of HRDs and journalists in South Kivu in 2016, PI strongly advocates for the establishment of better legislation regarding HRDs.

Voices of Defenders in DRC continued into 2017 with PI’s support of Anette Brolenius’ photo exhibition “Unsung”. The exhibition was displayed at the Rotterdam photo festival in February 2017. The project looked to recognize the tireless fight of Congolese HRDs, 2014 Sakharov prize laureate Dr. Denis Mukwege and the Panzi hospital staff in Buvakú, South Kivu who put themselves at risk everyday in order to protect the rights of others.

PI has been working with the Foundation Panzi created by Dr. Mukwege to support victims of sexual violence in Eastern Congo since 2011. PI has also been jointly working with Dr. Mukwege to initiate and support the development of Defenders networks (platform for mutual support) especially in rural and remote areas.

PI has been constantly supporting the capacity building of Panzi Hospital staff, youth organisations and civil society organisations in terms of security and protection management through risk analysis and training.

In February 2017, The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Michel Forst, made an informal visit to DRC upon invitation by Protection International.

The UN Special Rapporteur met with various representatives of local organisations, HRDs, journalists, and women HRDs to hear their stories, voicing their fears and reporting on the intimidations and threats they have been subjected to. He praised the efforts made towards the promulgation of the provincial edict for HRDs in South Kivu and highlighted the comparatively low number of incidents during the latest demonstrations.

IT CAPACITY BUILDING

By Claus Goettfert

As Information Technology (IT) Officer at Protection International, one of my duties is to ensure a secure and working IT environment for our Protection Desks around the world. In our digital fast-paced world, in view of our often sensitive work and limited local infrastructure, maintaining IT security is a challenge.

This is for example the case in many countries where Protection International works and where many partners instead of laptops or computers, immediately adopted smartphones and tablets to stay connected with friends and family, but also to work.

My support to our teams in the field in 2016 focused on:

• Improving security of data-at-rest, that is encrypting stored data on computers.
• Showing good practices, for instance keeping operating systems up to date and not installing software from unknown sources.
• Improving security of data connections to websites, emails, etc. We also discussed concerns about security of mobile devices. For example, why Signal or WhatsApp data is relatively secured while a normal phone call or text message are not secured and how to ensure anonymity when connecting with a service provider were also amply discussed.

IT security is never a one-stop shop where you are good to go only with one piece of software. Rather, it is a process to stay vigilant, adopt good practises and master secured technologies. Only doing this increases our IT security so we can continue our work in a secure IT working environment.
Laws criminalising LGBTIQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer) identity in Kenya generate social exclusion and various forms of violence. It is reported throughout the country that the Kenyan LGBTIQ community is continuously discriminated, stigmatised and subjected to threats and violence because of their sexual orientation.

Since its creation in 2010, Protection International Kenya has continuously supported LGBTIQ organisations. Due to the high volume of requests, the Protection International (PI) team in Kenya has increased the pool of trainers for Kenyan LGBTIQ defenders to 4 and worked with them to improve their skills while training other LGBTIQ organisations in the country.

The team trained over 250 LGBTIQ human rights defenders (HRDs) in 2016. About 215 of those HRDs were from the organisation of Persons Marginalized and Aggrieved (PEMA) Kenya and their partner organisations working on sexual and gender minority groups.

Results include increased security awareness, a successful building of a team of “trainers of trainers” (TOTs) and the introduction of security capacity building to members of the movement.

PI’s engagement created a huge impact: the PEMA members reduced security incidents and continue to mainstream security planning in all their activities.

The yearlong re-engagement with PI was very enlightening and beneficial to our work. The additional step they took to jointly fundraise to strengthen our TOTs went above and beyond the usual organisations as it also gave each organisation skills on developing their organisational security plans. We are earnestly looking for additional funds to further the process of finalising with the partner organisations and the TOTs.

— PEMA-Kenya

Protection International Kenya supported the emerging Mozambique human rights defenders (HRDs) movement in 2016 to build their awareness on protection and security management. Capacity building sessions were organised with 20 HRDs. The objectives were to help defenders understand the concepts of vulnerabilities and capacities in security to aid in their risk assessments and to give an in-depth understanding of how to respond to threats. The training showed defenders the prevention of possible direct aggression as well as how to carry out counter surveillance and the importance of implementing digital security to improve security management.

One of the key outcomes was the initiative to form a National platform of HRDs, supported by the Open Society Initiative for Southern Africa (OSISA) that will help in the protection of HRDs in the country by:

- Influencing legislation for HRDs in the country.
- Setting a code of conduct for HRDs to harmonise their actions.
- Organising forums for capacity building.
- Monitoring the situation of HRDs in the country.

SUPPORTING THE EMERGING MOZAMBIQUE HRDS MOVEMENT
In Indonesia rural communities are facing exploitation of their natural resources by large corporations, as well as for development’s projects and infrastructure. As such, human rights defenders (HRDs) often face threats and intimidation in their attempts to defend their communities.

Protection International’s (PI) team in Indonesia adapted one of PI’s security manuals into a context that worked more specifically for HRDs in the region. The team started by researching how the communities protect themselves when facing threats. They also organised workshops to get feedback from community representatives and NGOs Security Focal Persons to ensure the draft manual fits their needs.

In 2016 Protection International (PI) engaged and supported new partners focusing on a wide array of human rights issues. Among those, environmental rights activists from West Africa, sexual rights defenders and organisations from Uganda and Kenya that support the protection and promotion of human rights through public litigation, legal aid services and advocacy for policy and legislative change.

PI worked together to develop organisational plans that consistently integrate security in their daily work. This meant jointly developing basic information on security measures for smart phones used for human rights monitoring work and field work guidelines. These were the instances when staff felt most exposed to violence and access to their sensitive information was more vulnerable to be forced.

PI’s support focused first on raising awareness on security among staff to then move towards an organisational consensus. By doing this, everyone committed to actively take part in assessing risks and assume specific responsibilities in mitigating them. Working with such a diverse range of organisations on their specific needs, allowed PI Senior Advisors to further develop and diversify their facilitation skills and methodologic approaches.
FINANCIAL REPORT

Year ended 31 December 2016 in Euros.

### BALANCE

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<th>ASSET</th>
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<td>Fixed assets</td>
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<td>Equipment and furniture</td>
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<td>Funds of the association</td>
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<td>Social liability fund</td>
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<td>Debts</td>
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<td>Suppliers</td>
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<td>Taxes, remunerations and social security</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
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### RESULTS

I. OPERATING INCOME AND CHARGES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Income</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E-learning</td>
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<td>Donations</td>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Other operating income</td>
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<td>Total operating income</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Charges</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Services and other goods</td>
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<tr>
<td>Remunerations and social security</td>
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<td>Deprecations</td>
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<td>Other operating charges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total operating charges</td>
<td>2,110,231</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**OPERATING RESULTS**

112,077

II. FINANCIAL INCOME AND CHARGES

| Financial income      | 18,247     |
| Financial charges     | 10,327     |
| Profit before tax     | 119,957    |

III. EXCEPTIONAL INCOME AND CHARGES

| Exceptional income   |            |
| Exceptional charges  | 10,441     |

**PROFIT FOR THE YEAR**

109,556

Profit for the fiscal year to be allocated 109,556
Profit brought forward from previous year 287,534
**PROFIT TO BE CARRIED FORWARD**

397,090

AUDITORS OPINION

In our view, the annual accounts closed 31 December 2016 provide a faithful reflection of the assets, financial situation and results of the international non-profit association. Without prejudice to formal aspects of minor importance, the accounts are kept in accordance with the legal and regulatory provisions applicable in Belgium.

Braine le Comte, 28 August 2017

Patricia VANOSBEECK
Chartered Accountant, Vanosbeeck S.P.R.L.