

Annual Report



2010



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Cover : ▲
Anonymous
demonstrator
showing a
portrait of
killed defender
Floribert
Chebeya.
Credits : Benoit
Van Maele

Security
management
training in
a remote
peasants
community in
Colombia ▼



FOREWORD

“ Building midterm capacity is key to reverse the existing trend of mere emergency response and to come forward with a more structured preventive approach of security management and protection of defenders. ”

In the 2nd year, PI and partners could already prove the effectiveness of the new approach of protection of human rights defenders (HRD) on the ground.

Indeed, in 2010, 7 Protection Desks (PDs) had been established in Guatemala (covering Central America), Colombia, Mexico, Uganda and Kenya (covering 10 countries in East and Horn of Africa), DR Congo, and in Asia (based in Thailand, working also on Indonesia, Nepal and Pakistan). 5 PDs are in-house teams hosted by local partners UDEFEGUA, EHAHRDP, ACUDDEH and PAS. PI runs 2 PDs alone (Bukavu/DRC and Bangkok/Asia). 2 new Protection Desks have been opened in Kenya and Mexico City.

The same year, the 7 Protection Desks and PI Research and Training Unit delivered 123 security and protection trainings for 2398 HRD in 19 countries (special attention was given to defenders most at risk: LGBTI defenders, women and young defenders, indigenous peasant community leaders working in remote areas, victims and witnesses).

The project continued to investigate and provide new tools for all stakeholders interested in HRD protection. We published the volume II of the Study *“Protection of human rights defenders: Best practices and lessons learnt, “Operational aspects of defender’s protection”*.

The 7 Protection Desks provided in the 20-priority countries advice to 600 HRD and their organisations on a daily basis on both, **immediate emergency support** when HRD were being under attack, and through midterm capacity building. The second is of

importance to reverse the existing trend of mere emergency response and to come forward with a **more structured preventive approach** of security management and protection. Protection action by PDs included:

On an international level, PI and local partners **promoted new instances and mechanisms** for protection and liaised for this purpose closely with local HRD networks, governments, EU-& UN-Missions, regional HR instances and UN Special Rapporteurs. With regard to EU Guidelines, PI and local partners provided technical advice to EU Delegations on Local implementation strategies.

The one-stop website www.protection-line.org continued to provide valuable information, reports and news on defenders. A new PI website, “Focus”, has been launched as a global observatory on national policies on defenders’ protection (focus.protection-line.org), filling in the existing gap on information on national instances, legislations and mechanisms for protection.

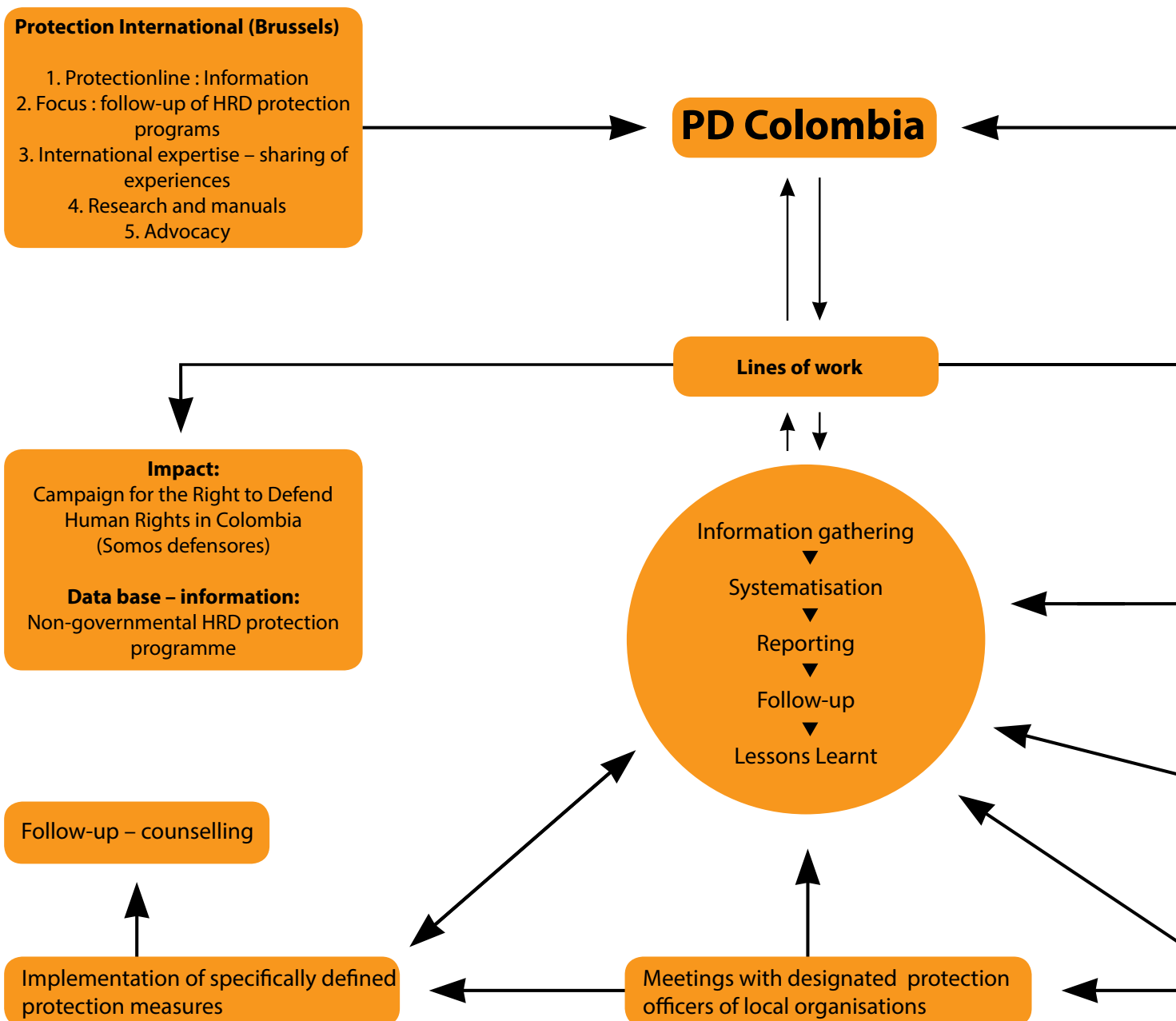
Seminars, targeted advocacy, press releases & special announcements have been made both on emblematic HRD cases and on HRDs under risk.

A total of 15 new video clips were produced, covering diverse aspects such as HRD and new media. All videos have been used by our Video Advocacy unit to raise public awareness on HRD situations. Videos are accessible in particular on protection-line.org, Vimeo and YouTube.

The team of Protection International

THE WAY WE WORK IN COLOMBIA

“ In our relationships with grassroots peace initiatives, a three-step consultation process, from national, to regional and to local level, allows for a gradual and increasingly detailed approach to protection, tailored to the needs of local communities. ”



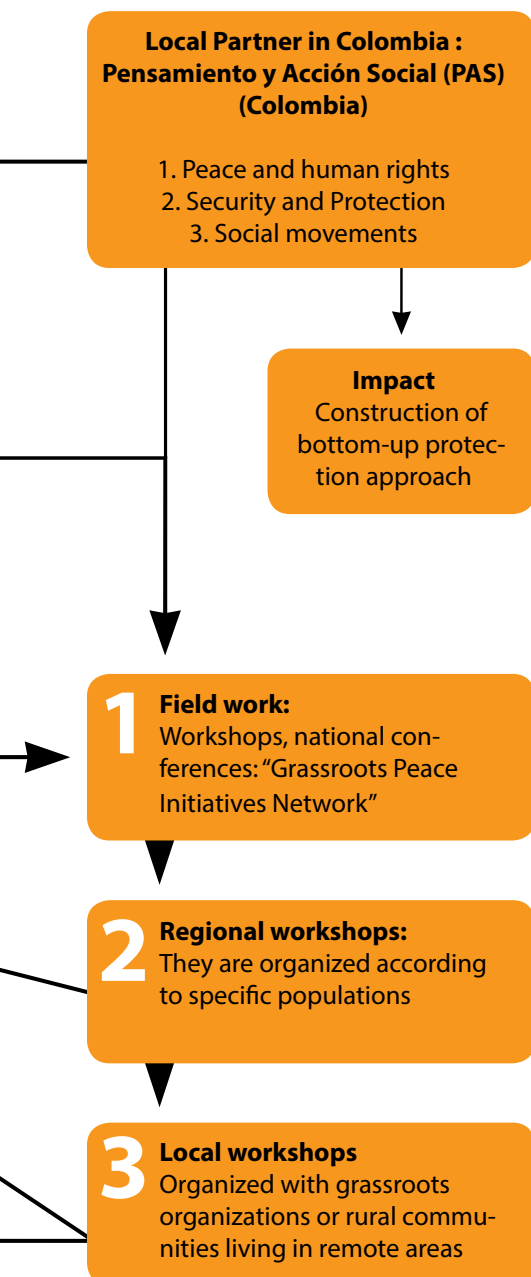
The Protection Desk Colombia (PD-Col) is a joint project of Protection International (PI) and its local partner Pensamiento y Acción Social (PAS). Created in March 2009, it aims to provide training and counselling on and monitoring of protection and secu-

rity to grassroots communities in remote rural and semi-rural areas.

Throughout 2010 PD-Col strived to consolidate its work with communities sharing some specific characteristics: their resistance to get involved in the country's internal armed conflict, the recognition of peace as a collective human right, and the defence of their territorial, economic, social, cultural and political rights as cornerstones in the building of long-lasting peace.

PD-Col field work begins with meetings with the Grassroots Peace Initiatives Network (Red de Iniciativas de Paz desde la Base) at a national level. Set up by PAS in 2004, the network coordinates activities of 33 local and regional organisations of peasants, women, and indigenous and Afro-Colombian people. It is followed by the carrying out of regional workshops, which are aimed at exchanging experiences regarding security incidents and the adoption of protective measures in a specific geographic area. The process ends with a series of local workshops that are reinforced by meetings with each of the designated protection officers or teams within the local organisations and communities. This final step includes the detailed analysis of security incidents, risk assessments, prioritization of threats, definition of specific self-protection measures and the adoption of monitoring mechanisms by each organisation and community.

This three-stage consultation process, from national to regional to local, allows for a gradual and increasingly detailed approach to protection and security issues are addressed. Moreover, the contents and topics are tailored to the specific conditions of the region, as well as the needs of the local organisations and communities. PD-Col carries out regular visits to the field (at least three visits per year) to monitor the progress in the adoption of security measures, and the evolution of risks and threats.



GUATEMALA SETTING UP PROTECTION NETWORKS

Protection international (PI) and its partner organisation, Unidad de Protección a Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos de Guatemala (UDEFEHUGUA), jointly established the Aj Noj Protection Desk Guatemala, which aims at contributing to the protection of highly vulnerable HRDs in Guatemala and neighbouring countries.

In Guatemala, Aj Noj has focused on ways to constantly improve its risk analysis and security planning capacities for human rights defenders (HRDs) under threat. With this task in mind, between 2008 and 2009, Aj Noj undertook research necessary to design a methodology that could bridge several significant gaps in the protection and security of HRDs.

The effort bore its fruit in 2010 with the

“ Thanks to the protection network developed in 2010 in San Miguel Ixtahuacan, safety incidents involving environmentalist defenders of the indigenous local community have been significantly reduced. ”

development of the teaching material and guide *Cuidándonos* (“Taking Care of Ourselves”). This guide has been used by our field teams to improve the protection of HRDs who live and work in rural and semi-urban areas. In order to adapt our trainings to the local conditions of communities living in remote areas, Aj Noj held workshops in Maya language. Moreover, PI replicated this innovative experience in other countries of Central America and in Mexico.

Another new development from Aj Noj is the setting up of *redes de protección* (“Protection Networks”) in rural communities at risk. These networks help HRDs to manage their own security as well as their community’s. In addition, the network favours regular dialogue with local NGOs and international



▲ Peasants from Senahú, a municipality of Alta Verapaz, displaying a banner reclaiming their rights to their lands.

accompaniment. On the other hand, the Protection Networks allow our Protection Desk to analyse security incidents, strengthen protection measures and coordinate joint actions when necessary.

One example of the successful implementation of protection networks in 2010 is the network of San Miguel Ixtahuacan, department of San Marcos. There, environmentalist defenders of the local indigenous community have faced a serious conflict with mining and other resource extraction activities. Thanks to the network, safety incidents involving HRDs have been significantly reduced.

Moreover, the protection network methodology has proved to be flexible as it has been successfully implemented in different conditions and contexts. The Protection Desk-Guatemala helped a group of young HRDs establish a protection net-

work in some of the most violent neighbourhoods of Guatemala City, where they constantly face unfair stigmatisation of security forces in their crackdown against criminal gangs.

PI has made an effort to share the lessons learnt from these experiences to neighbouring countries: Besides Mexico, where PI opened a Protection Desk with a local partner in 2010, in El Salvador, PI worked with rural community leaders of San Isidro, Cabañas, who resist an open pit mining project that has wreaked havoc on community life.

Our teams also visited Honduras, where the risks for defenders have increased following the military coup in mid-2009. With a local partner organisation, PI plans to establish a Protection Desk in Tegucigalpa from 2011.

MEXICO

DEFENDING DEFENDERS IN THE WAR AGAINST DRUGS

Building on the experience gained by Aj Noj Protection Desk-Guatemala in working with rural communities in Mexico, Protection International and our Mexican partner organisation, Acción Urgente para Defensores de Derechos Humanos (ACUDDEH), established the Protection Desk-Mexico in 2010. The Protection Desk responds to the growing demand of Mexican HRDs in risk assessment and capacity building in security and protection.

Additionally, ACUDDEH attended consultations, along with other Mexican HRDs, on a draft (negotiated with the Government of Mexico) to produce a national policy to protect HRDs at risk and delivered security

“ In 2010, Protection Desk Mexico provided security trainings, set up a database to register security incidents, promoted and advised on the protection mechanism for journalists and human rights defenders. ”

and protection trainings as well. ACUDDEH is a member of the human rights network *Red Todos los Derechos para Todos*.

This local network has already had some experience in providing risk assessments and follow-up to threatened individuals and civil society organisations (CSOs). PI, PD-Guatemala and ACUDDEH agreed in 2010 to set up an antenna of Protection Desk-Guatemala (regional) in Mexico D.F., called “Protection Desk-Mexico” to respond to the growing demand of Mexican HRD in risk assessment and capacity building in security and protection.

By end of 2010, PD-Mexico had worked on 3 main areas: providing security train-

ings to HRD (which will be done in 2011 by ACUDDEH), set up a database to register security incidents and report on trends, continue to advise the public and alternative civil society based Protection Mechanism for journalists/HRD and assist to the Hearings of the Interamerican HR Commission on the topic of national protection mechanisms, advocacy on EU Guidelines/ local implementation strategy. It has also supported activities to civil society based and public national protection mechanism for defenders and journalists:

For example, 7 meetings were held to provide recommendations and lessons learnt from Latin American context with regard to the Mexican governments' Mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders and journalists.

In this dangerous and complex context, Aj Noj Protection Desk-Guatemala has delivered in 2009 (with the support of Zivik) some security trainings and advises to Mexican human rights organisations and communities in the Federal state of Oaxaca (South Mexico). In the timeframe between September and December 2010

PD-Mexico engaged in in the following activities:

1. Security trainings, risk assessments and advise for up to 30 organisations in various Federal states of Mexico. Requests have been received from women organisations, indigenous communities, etc.

2. Advocacy with duty bearers (authorities) and key stakeholders (UN-Mission, EU-Delegation, OAS, Embassies) with regard to the new protection mechanisms / instances to be set up by Mexican government in the next months.

PD-M jointly with the other Latin American Protection Desks and PI would like to engage in bilateral meetings, participate in public and non-public working meetings, and organize a semi-public event to provide recommendations and lessons learnt based on the experience of other Latin American countries (see PI Study on National legislations and policies).

1.000 copies of the Spanish version of the new PI Protection Manual were printed and therefore available for further security trainings in Mexico.

Picture of Betty Cariño (right), Mexican defender and one of Aj Noj-Protection Desk Guatemala officer. On April, 27, 2010, Bety was killed in a paramilitary attack (observer Jyri Jaakola was killed too) in Oaxaca, Mexico, as she was on her way to San Juan Copala with a peaceful solidarity campaign. ▼



EAST & HORN OF AFRICA

Protection Desk Uganda (PD-U) is a joint project of Protection International and East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP) based in Kampala. Set up in late 2008 and fully operational since 2009, the Desk covers the entire region of the East and Horn of Africa, now comprising eleven countries: Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia (together with Somaliland), South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

With PI and EHAHRDP having similar core objectives of improving the security and protection of HRDs and engaging with stakeholders to fulfill their obligations

“ From the advocacy against the Ugandan anti-homosexuality bill to the launch of a new protection desk in Kenya to the support to South Sudanese defenders and journalists before the referendum on independence, Protection Desk Uganda has intensively developed its activities within the whole sub-region. ”

in creating safe working environments for HRDs, this partnership is characterized by a complementarity approach. PD-U focus lies on working with human rights defenders on improving their security management on individual and organizational level. Many a times this is done through comprehensive trainings and follow-up but also takes the form of risk assessments and advisory services to HRDs at risk. PD-U works closely with EHAHRDP's protection programme focusing on emergency intervention and supports initiatives in other areas such as advocacy to increase the security and protection of HRDs.

1 UGANDA

In 2010, PD-U has continued to work closely with the defenders of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) rights particularly in the light of the pending Anti-Homosexuality Bill in Uganda that threatened to introduce extreme punishments for homosexual conduct as well as any acts that could be considered as aiding and abetting or “advocating for homosexuality”.

While working with individual defenders of SOGI rights and their organizations in developing security strategies in responding to an increasingly hostile environment where threats mainly emanate from a misinformed and hostile public, PD-U also worked closely with the Civil Society Coalition for Human Rights and Constitutional Law that for the first time in Uganda brings together

The struggle against the anti-homosexuality bill

er mainstream human rights organizations and those defending SOGI rights to prevent the passing of the Bill and advocate for the recognition of sexual rights as human rights. September 2010 witnessed a publication by the Uganda tabloid newspaper Rolling Stone run by a student of mass communication that featured an article in which it called for homosexuals to be hanged with pictures and defaming information on leading defenders of SOGI rights.

Three of them decided to file a case against the paper, attracting considerable media attention. PD-U engaged with defenders and other stakeholders in developing a security strategy around the increased visibility of individual defenders and members of the LGBTI community to mitigate

related risks and developed protocols for the attendance of court hearings bearing in mind potential press coverage and presence of the public as well as known anti-gay activists. The hearings went well and all security incidents were handled with the case final-

ly decided in favour of the activists in early 2011. However, this was shortly followed by the murder of David Kato in January 2011 and the questions around a connection between the murder and his activities remain unanswered.



▲ After years of struggle for the rights of LGBTI people in Uganda, David Kato, advocacy officer for Sexual Minorities Uganda (SMUG) was murdered in January 2011.

WORKING ON A LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Working closely with PI's partner organization EHAHRDP on improving the available protection mechanisms for HRDs, PD-U was strongly involved in discussions with EU member state missions in Uganda around the development of Local Implementation Strategies for the EU Guidelines on HRDs.

With general elections scheduled for February 2011 and a trend of increased intimidation and legal restrictions infringing on fundamental human rights, EU member state missions recognized the importance of a strategy that would spell out their concrete commitment to the protection of HRDs in light of the existing environment. Several meetings were held and a draft LIS

document submitted to the EU delegation constituting a starting point for the EU's internal consultation on the process. While the LIS were not officially adopted in 2010, a HRD focal group was already set up among the missions to respond more effectively to defenders' needs.

A consultative event with defenders in December sought to increase not only HRDs' visibility but also to exemplify the EU's support to their work by providing space to share experiences and outlining their challenges with particular focus to the run-up of the elections and the legislative onslaught attempting to curtail basic rights.

SOUTH-SUDAN

Challenges for defenders before the secession

With Sudan and the impending secession of Southern Sudan, human rights defenders both in the North and South have faced challenges in the execution of their work.

While defenders from the North are met with intimidation including arrest, torture and surveillance mainly for their involvement around the indictment of Sudanese President Al Bashir by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for war crimes, defenders in Southern Sudan had to cope with challenges to freedom of expression related to the referendum scheduled for January 2011 that is to determine over South Sudan's independence.

Criticism of the government dominated by the South Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) armed forces or pointing out challenges related to a potential independence of South Sudan have seen journalists and other human rights defenders equally intimidated. Protection Desk Uganda has worked with different organizations on improving their security management

in the prevailing context. Notable was the decision of organizations in the North not to develop written security plans based on a high level of infiltration as a means of the National Internal Security Service (NISS) of the Khartoum Government to gather information on their operations.

They rather resorted to agree on security measures among a trusted group of staff and a regular reevaluation of their individual security situation. PD-U also worked closely with Sudanese HRDs who decided to have their organization based in Uganda due to the unmanageable risk within their home country.

Discussion with them focused around the safety of their monitors on the ground in Sudan and safe modes of information exchange that reduced the risks especially for those still working within Sudan. The presence of Sudanese security personnel had to also be included in their strategizing around security.

Members of the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement (SPLM) arrive at the rally in Juba, as South Sudan prepares for its independence. ▼



BURUNDI

While the work with defenders of SOGI rights was one of the main focuses of PD-U's work throughout the year, the Desk has also been working closely with the local partner East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project in supporting national human rights defenders coalitions in different countries of the sub-region.

While it is envisaged that the coalitions take on proactive role in advocating for and protecting rights of HRDs on national level, it is understood that this requires the ability to understand the working context of human rights defenders and existing risks to develop joint strategies to mitigate those. However, with most of the national coalitions being in their formative stages, e.g. in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Tanzania, PD-U has planned to engage

Working with a national defenders coalition

more closely with them on their approach to security management and protection at a later stage again.

In Burundi, where a national coalition was formed in February 2010, PD-U shared tools on security management with coalition members. Later in the year, jointly with the partner EHAHRDP, PD-U organized a combined training on trial observation for members of the campaign "*Justice for Ernest Manirumva*" and provided space for drafting a security strategy around their work on the campaign that had seen many of them being threatened and intimidated and aimed at reducing the risks associated with the campaign as well as actively involving stakeholders in their protection.



▲ Demonstrators are asking for justice in the Ernest Manirumva case. Until now, Burundian authorities have failed to establish the truth behind the assassination of the anti-corruption human rights defender, in April 2009.

4 KENYA

Protection Desk Kenya (PD-K), an antenna of the sub-regional Protection Desk Uganda and again run in partnership with the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, was officially launched in September 2010 after requests from key stakeholders to expand the work of PD-U in light of the high level of risks faced by Kenyan human rights defenders as a result of the post-election violence and subsequent involvement of the International Criminal Court.

While key stakeholders and civil society showed great commitment to the protection of HRDs, the absence of effective protection mechanisms and adherence of duty-bearer stakeholders to their international obligations made apparent the importance of strengthening defenders' capacity to develop security strategies tailored to reduce their individual risk profiles shaped by their work and the political environment.

Victims and witnesses

In 2010, PD-K focused on working with defenders engaged in work of documenting human rights abuses during the post-election violence 2008 and work with victims and witnesses. It has further sought close collaboration with the existing National Coalition of HRDs in Kenya to ensure that the complementarity of both entities' work is fully exploited.

PD-K was also involved in protection programmes with defenders working on the following issues: sexual minority rights, access to justice, struggle against corruption and extrajudicial killings. PD-K helped the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya, which operates a safe house for emergency response to defenders of sexual orientation and gender identity rights (SOGI), assess the risk related to its operations and enhance

Opening of a new Protection Desk

the security of protected defenders. PD-K partnered with Legal Resources Foundation (LRF), a national NGO working on access to justice, which has an extensive network of paralegals across the country.

PD-K trained community paralegals working in informal settlements and prison paralegals who offer legal aid to prisoners while monitoring human rights situation in the prisons. These paralegals often work in their individual capacity and are often the immediate contact between victims and perpetrators, which exposes them to risk.

Working in the Rift Valley

In light of the increasing extra judicial killings in the aftermath of the post election violence, PD-K worked with Independent Medico-Legal Unit (IMLU), a national anti torture organisation which was highly involved in documenting these killings. The security training was timely, given IMLU's high visibility in exposing violations by powerful state agents.

PD-K also worked with defenders based in the Rift valley region, which was one of the hotspots of the post election violence. HRDs working in Rift valley faced high risk due to their involvement in documenting violations which took place during and after the disputed 2007/2008 general election that led to a period of violence which claimed 1,200 lives and displaced over 300,000 persons most of them from the Rift Valley region. PD-K worked with Good Samaritan International (GSI), an NGO that has been monitoring the violations during this period and consequently faced various security related challenges.

PD-K has also engaged with European Union diplomatic missions and made suggestions on how to effectively implement the EU Guidelines on HRDs.

DR CONGO PROTECTING IN A CHALLENGING CONTEXT

“ Freedom of speech is still undermined. The press has suffered many restrictions and journalists are often prosecuted and therefore, they cannot work freely. ”

Protection International (PI) is involved in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since 2004 and has a permanent office in Bukavu, South Kivu since March 2010. PI works with Civil Society (CS) provincial and national networks. Currently in DRC, the freedom of speech is still fragile and the defenders of this fundamental right are often stigmatized.

PI fights against impunity, analyzes the various stakeholders involved, then identify abuses that may occur against human rights.

This approach allows PI to provide security training to human rights defenders if it is necessary. Moreover, PI has contributed to the trial observation for the murder of Floribert Chebeya.

In 2010, the security and humanitarian situations in DRC were still fragile, even though some improvements from a human rights point of view have been noticed. However, the civilian population was still subjected to grave human rights violations, perpetrated by the regular army (FARDC) and both national and international armed groups, especially in the East of the country. In this context, the task of HRDs appeared to be increasingly difficult and dangerous, particularly in the Kivus.

In 2010, PI followed about 60 protection cases. Many HRDs have been victims of threats, assaults and kidnappings. For example, the Chairman of Civil Society in Masisi (North Kivu), Mr. Sylvester Bwira, was abducted and tortured by FARDC members



Credits : Benoit Van Maele

▲ Trial on the assassination of Floribert Chebeya and Fidele Bazana in Kinshasa.

in August 2010. In September 2010, the Golden Misabiko, chairman of the African Association for the Defense of Human Rights in the Province of Katanga (ASADHO / Katanga), was sentenced in absentia to 12 months imprisonment for “*spreading false rumors likely to alarm the people against the authorities*”. He was arrested after the publication of a report denouncing the complicity of state officials in the illegal operation of a uranium mine in Shinkolobwe.

Deteriorating conditions for journalists

Freedom of speech is still undermined. Indeed, the press has suffered many restrictions and journalists are often prosecuted and therefore they cannot work freely. For example, in August 2010, Reporters sans Frontières (RSF) and its partner organization in DRC, Journalistes en Danger (JED), wrote an open letter to President Joseph Kabila to protest against the deterioration of the journalists’ working conditions in DRC.

The Minister of Information Lambert Mende responded in a statement wherein he claimed that the analysis of these organizations did not reflect the reality on the field. This declaration has been aired for two days on the RTNC channel news (RTNC is the national radio television channel). Clearly, this type of process seeks to discredit the human rights organizations and to stigmatize the HRDs.

Currently, several murders of journalists, especially those of Serge Maheshe, Didace Namujimbo and Bruno Koko Cirambiza remain unpunished. It is clear that investigations and trials following the killing of HRDs are often flawed and do not meet international standards and therefore hinder the establishment of the truth about these cases. PI DRC assisted its Congolese partners in many initiatives including advocacy on the imperative principles of fair trial (independent and impartial judiciary, respect for national and international standards, effective reforms of criminal codes and military justice).

KEY EVENTS 2010

- 1. The FARDC conducted operations against the Lord's Resistance Army in the Eastern Province, and against the Allied Democratic Forces / National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (AFD / NALU) in North Kivu, which resulted in the displacement of civilians.**
- 2. Between July 30 and August 2, 2010, over 300 men, women and children were raped during a series of attacks against villages in Walikale (North Kivu) by a coalition of FDLR, Mayi Mayi and FARDC deserters. One of the alleged leaders, Lieutenant-Colonel Mayele (Mai Mai Cheka) was arrested.**
- 3. In March 2010, the DRC President Joseph Kabila announced that MONUC should leave the country by June 2011. Following talks with the Congolese government, the mission was renamed MONUSCO from 1 July 2010 and its mandate was extended until June 2011.**

Namujimbo and Chebeya’s trials

PI also observed the trial of the alleged murderers of Radio Okapi journalist Didace Namujimbo, who was killed in Bukavu (South Kivu) on November 21, 2008. On May 4, 2010, the Bukavu military tribunal sentenced to death two soldiers and a civilian for the murder of Namujimbo. PI noted, however, several shortcomings that constitute violations of the right to a fair trial. This situation is characterized by an evident lack of political will which fosters a climate of impunity paving the way for further abuse.

The murders of the internationally recognized president of the Human Rights NGO The Voice of the Voiceless (VSV), Floribert Chebeya, and his driver Fidel Bazana, served as a sad and poignant reminder of the dangers faced by Congolese defenders. During the trial proceedings relating to the death of “Chebeya and Bazana”, PI has contributed to strengthen the security of the civil parties to minimize the risks they may face. A first trial began before the Military Court in Kinshasa / Gombe in November 12, 2010. Suspect number one, the General of Police, John Numbi, was discarded. He appeared as a witness.

ASIA

2010 saw the start of a permanent presence in Asia with the establishment of an office in Thailand from where activities to be conducted in Indonesia and Nepal were coordinated. PI started working in Asia in 2005 when trainings were conducted in the South of Thailand and then in 2006 in Nepal, where the Protection Desk Nepal, a pilot project was established in 2007, when PI still functioned under the banner of the PBI Brussels European Office.

In Indonesia, trainings were conducted in 2007 and 2008. A lack of meaningful improvement, and in some cases deterioration, of the security situation of HRDs in these countries, as well as the independence of the PD-N, made PI decide to approach future work in Asia from a more regional perspective. Given its geographical position and status as a hub in South East Asia, Bangkok made for a logical choice, from which to coordinate future work in Asia. A significant amount of work was done on In-

“ From 2005, and our first trainings in South Thailand to 2010, PI has decided to approach future work in Asia from a more regional perspective, with Bangkok as a logical choice to coordinate our action. ”

onesia where the new Asia Representative, who started in February 2010, was involved in consultations with the EU Delegation to revise the Local Implementation Strategy of the EU Guidelines for HRDs.

The existing LIS was weak and its existence unknown to most HRDs. Renewed vigour of the EU Delegation to include HRDs in its approach to human rights can be partly explained by the EU-Indonesia comprehensive partnership agreement, signed in late 2009.

The main aim of the partnership is a free trade agreement but it includes a human rights dialogue, the first of which took place in June 2010. Whilst PI welcomed the fact that the EU held several consultation meetings with HRDs and shared with them the outcome of the first dialogue, we regret that the LIS has not been shared with the defenders, which renders it much less effective.

1 THAILAND

In Thailand preparations were carried out for the setting-up of the coordination office and contacts with the existing network, including that in the three Southernmost provinces were reinforced.

The year 2010 has been a vehement year in Thai politics. The centre of Bangkok was the stage of the violent crackdown of the red shirt demonstrations in April and May, which led to the death of 91 people. A number of HRDs have tried to push for the perpetrators of the killings, many of which

Focus on impunity and freedom of expression

are alleged to be committed by the military, to be held accountable. The worsening political crisis has been accompanied by an increase in the suppression of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, with a record number of websites, blogs, radio stations and TV channels being blocked or shut down by the Royal Thai Government. PI has supported some HRDs working for freedom of expression and against impunity, through advocacy with the EU and its member states, in both Thailand and Brussels.

INDONESIA

In Indonesia, PI further carried out extensive networking with various stakeholders to assess the situation of HRDs across the archipelago. PI identified as particularly vulnerable defenders working on the rights of religious and sexual minorities, corruption, journalists (often when reporting on corruption cases), defenders in West Papua and those protecting land rights of farmers and local communities against minerals extraction and expansion of palm oil and pulp and paper plantations.

In July 2010, Tama S Lankung, activist with ICW (Indonesia Corruption Watch) was beaten and stabbed around 4 am, while driving home with his friend on a motorbike after watching a World Cup match. Tama was one of the main researchers on corruption within the highest echelons of the police.

Before this attack several attempts to intimidate the magazine publishing the outcomes of the research had already been made, first by buying up the entire edition and then by throwing two Molotov cocktails at the magazine's office. The attack on Tama came two days later and even though it sparked public outrage and a response from the President to find the perpetrators, no one was arrested. Cooperation between ICW and PI was stepped up after the attack and coordination was started to conduct trainings with ICW and their network in the country.

One of the most vulnerable groups in Indonesia are defenders of SOGI (sexual orientation and gender identity) rights. In March, the regional ILGA-Asia conference was attacked by conservative militant Islamic groups in Surabaya (Eastern Java) and in September, the annual Q! Film Festival, which focuses on LGBTI and gender issues, suffered a similar fate in Jakarta where the festival has been held since 2002.

SOGI defenders among the most vulnerable

Attacks on LGBTI groups, but also on religious minorities, have become more frequent in the predominantly Muslim nation, and even though they are generally carried out by vigilant groups with religious agendas, law enforcement has been lax or absent and political response often tacitly supportive of these violent actions rather than denouncing them.

The Indonesian NGO Arus Pelangi, one of the main advocates for equal rights for LGBT persons, in cooperation with PI, has taken the initiative to translate the PI Protection Manual for LGBTI Defenders into Indonesian and used it in a training they organised, which was also attended by the PI Asia Representative, in October.

Poster of the Q! Film Festival 2010, focused on LGBTI and gender issues





Autonomy of the Protection Desk

Step by step the coordination between Protection International (PI) and the Protection Desk Nepal has enabled it to be independent. That is why since 2010, PI's work in Nepal was scaled down in order to rethink PI's strategy and assess how its work could be complimentary to existing efforts for the protection of Human Rights Defenders.

The autonomy of this Protection Desk is a positive conclusion of the action of PI in Nepal because its work is exactly to allow a local appropriation particularly in security

training for the HRDs. Moreover, PI took part in a visit of the EU Working Group on HRDs to the Far Western Region, one of the country's most isolated areas, in April, to become more familiar with the challenges faced by HRDs and WHRDs there and increase their visibility in the eye of duty bearer stakeholders. Other preparations for future work in Nepal, were also carried out throughout the year.

VIDEO ADVOCACY LIVING LIKE A TREE

“ *We witnessed the pressures and threats against trade unions representatives while they were just doing their job : defending workers who had been made redundant. Moreover, bad working conditions in shipyards cause a high level of fatal accidents at work.* ”

In November 2009, the Turkish public sector trade union Kesk launched a call for solidarity to bring international observers to the trial of 22 of its delegates and members in Izmir. At this time, PI proposed to KESK not only to assist to the trial (trial observation for cases related to human rights defenders is part of PI's mandate) but also to shoot a report on the judiciary harassments endured by trade unionists throughout the country, just like many Turkish human rights defenders and investigative reporters. Nowadays, defenders are still considered as enemies of the State. Past human rights violations, such as the 1st May 1977 Taksim Square massacres or the Sivas and Kahramanaras¹ massacres, remain unpunished.

Besides the observation of this trial, which didn't meet the international fair trial standards, according to the International

Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), which was present besides its Turkish members, PI also met the dockers trade union Limter-Is, affiliated to DISK (Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey). We witnessed the pressures and threats against trade unions representatives while they were just doing their job : defending workers who had been made redundant. Moreover, bad working conditions in shipyards cause a high level of fatal accidents at work.

This 26-minute documentary, entitled « *Living like a tree* », in reference to the text of Turkish poet Nazim Hikmet², who was posthumously rehabilitated in 2009, has been launched during a press conference at the International Trade Union House, in Brussels, in concert with the European Trade Union Confederation, the International Trade Union Confederation, the European



Federation of Journalists, Amnesty International UK and FIDH. Erol Önderoglu, editor-in-chief of Bianet, an independent information website based in Istanbul was invited by PI to witness and confirmed the tendency for Turkish authorities to criminalize the activities carried out by journalists and defenders around sensitive topics. Invited again by DISK, the PI team attended the demonstrations³ organized by the different trade union movements on May, 1st, 2010. More than 200 000 demonstrators gathered on Taksim square for the first since the last three decades.

The documentary, which was announced through a mailing campaign to more than 2000 recipients in Turkey, was screened at the « *Labour Film Festival* », in more than 15 Turkish cities between May and December 2010. The PI video team took part to the official launch of the festival on May 2, and the the documentary was screened at the Centre Culturel Français, on May 5.

The movie advocated for the urgent adoption of a protection policy for human rights defenders in Turkey, both by the Turkish authorities and the Member states of the European Union. Since 2008, PI had been working with KESK, DISK and several

other Human Rights organizations (both international and local) on a proposition for a local strategy for the protection of human rights defenders aimed at the European Union. Moreover, PI repeatedly called for a clearer commitment to the protection of defenders from the EU.

The EU eventually adopted in December 2010 a document on the implementation of a protection policy in Turkey.

▲
PI Video Team
filming an
interview in
Turkey for
Living Like a
Tree.

FOOTNOTES

1. 36 people lost their lives during the 1st May 1977 demonstration, under circumstances which have yet to be explained : the perpetrators have never been identified but suspicions pointed toward far-right activists supported by the intelligence services. On July, 2, 1993, 37 people – 33 of whom were Alevi intellectuals – have been killed in Sivas, a city in the centre of the country, by radical islamists. Police forces did not intervene. In 1978, 111 people – most of them were Alevi progressists, were murdered in Kahramanmaraş. According to several sources, the massacre was organized by the General Intelligence Services (MIT) and Alparslan Türkeş, leader of the extreme-rightwing Turkish party.
2. Sentenced in 1938 to 28 years and 4 months imprisonment for his « Anti-nazi and anti-Francoist activities », Nazim Hikmet spent 12 years in jail and was stripped in 1952 of his Turkish nationality for accusations of « marxism ».
3. Re-authorized since 2009, after having been banned by the martial law in 1980.

VIDEO ADVOCACY

PORTRAIT OF A PROTECTION DESK

At the end of 2010, PI video team travelled to Uganda to shoot a portrait of the Protection Desk, a project of PI in partnership with the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP).

The team was providing security trainings and counseling to journalists at risk. They also followed the security plans of LGBTI activists struggling against the infamous anti-homosexuality bill introduced on October 14, 2009 in Uganda's parliament by David Bahati MP.

The proposed law included provisions to punish those alleged to be lesbian, gay

“ When you try to train people from the media, for example, to have them pay more attention to their security and develop their security measures, it's really important to involve the management in the process, in order to drive widespread adoption from the media houses. ”
Stephen Githuku, PI Protection Officer in Kampala.

or bisexual and transgender (LGBT) with life imprisonment or the death penalty and would criminalize the legitimate work of national and international activists and organizations working for the defense and promotion of human rights in Uganda.

WATCH IT ON THE WEB

The two documentaries presented in this report, *Living Like a Tree* and *Protection Desk Uganda : a Portrait* are freely available to watch on our Vimeo account (www.vimeo.com/protectionint) and on our website (www.protectioninternational.org). You will find on these two platforms more than 100 short video interviews of defenders or people supporting them and six documentaries.

RESEARCH & TRAINING

SUPPORT AND ANALYSIS

“ In 2010, PI Research and Training unit worked on a national protection policy in Mexico, delivered advice on training methodology in Colombia and Guatemala and provided international organisations with security trainings. ”

Applied research and consultation

PIs' main areas of applied research to support other PI units have been:

1. Consultation with our Mexican partner ACUDEH and the NGO network “*Todos los derechos para todos*” on a draft to develop a national policy to protect human rights defenders at risk. The draft will be negotiated with the Government of Mexico in 2011.

2. Consultation and advice to Protection Desks Guatemala and Colombia on training methodology for rural human rights defenders, social organisations and communities.

Trainings to other organisations

PI has provided consultancy and protection and security training to international organisations which face security risks due to their work. In all cases the work of these organisations is linked to the work of human rights defenders in several areas: Child Protection Unit of MONUSCO, DR Congo; Minority Rights Group, Great Britain.

Direct research

PI continued working on the Witness and Victims Protection study initiated in 2009 (release date : 2012).

FINANCIAL REPORT

Year ended 31 December 2010

The report on the Annual Accounts for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2010 of the A.I.S.B.L. Protection International.

All figures are provided in Euros.

Balance 31/12/2010

	31/12/2010	31/12/2009
ASSETS		
Fixed Assets	23408.52	8138.97
Equipment and furniture	23408.52	8138.97
Current Assets	158445.88	158912.11
Amount receivable	92125.10	128166.43
Current investments and cash at bank	66320.78	30745.68
TOTAL ASSETS	181854.40	167051.08
LIABILITIES		
Funds of the association	79246.31	78982.86
Accumulated profits	79246.31	78982.86
Debts	102608.09	88068.22
Suppliers	29507.47	23391.17
Taxes, remunerations and social security	132115.56	58177.05
Deferred income	0	6500.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	181854.40	167051.08
Results	Year 2010	Year 2009
I. OPERATING INCOME AND CHARGES		
Operating Income		
Sales manuals and DVD's	20.00	3638.17
Provision of services	12576.11	6311.09
Donations	619.04	54.56
Grants	1326403.26	945501.56
Other operating income	30055.55	2729.83
Total operating income	1369673.96	958235.21
Operating Charges		
Services and other goods	-652214.22	-458375.03
Remunerations and social security	-702134.29	-444678.05
Depreciations	-12891.90	-5006.49
Other operating charges	-11116.04	-373.16
Total operating charges	-1378356.45	-908432.73
Operating result	-8682.49	49802.50
II. FINANCIAL INCOME AND CHARGES		
Financial income	4.586.98	2487.68
Financial charges	-10175.35	-1794.03
Profit before tax	-14279.86	50496.15
III. EXCEPTIONAL INCOME AND CHARGES		
Exceptional income	21955.96	0.00
Exceptional charges	-7.421.65	0.00
Profit for the year	263.45	50496.15
Profit for the fiscal year to be allocated	263.45	43526.53
Profit brought forward from previous year	78982.86	35456.33
PROFIT TO BE CARRIED FORWARD	79246.31	78982.86

Auditors Opinion:

In our opinion the financial statements ended December 31, 2010 present fairly the assets, liabilities, financial position and results of the AISBL. Without prejudice to formal aspects of minor importance, the accounts are kept in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements applicable in Belgium.

Braine le Comte, 17 December, 2012.

Patricia VANOSBEECK
Expert-Comptable IEC

Thank you

We would like to thank all individuals, groups and institutions who have supported our work in 2009 and 2010. We would especially like to thank :

Amnesty international,
Dutch section
Diakonisches Werk / Bread for the World Germany
EHAHRDP
EIDHR
Embassy Finland Nairobi
Embassy Netherlands Kinshasa
Fondation Hirondelle
Foreign Affairs Ministry Belgium
Federal Foreign Office Germany/ifa e.V. (Zivik)
Foreign Affairs Ministry Norway
Norwegian LGBT Association
SIDA
The fund for global human rights Washington
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