

Foreword

Dear Colleagues and supporters

This document represents more than 20 years of experience in the field of protection for human rights defenders – since much of our members’ experience originates from former involvement with Peace Brigades International (PBI) and other international organizations. At the end of 2007, the former European Office of PBI became an independent association called Protection International. This Annual Report for 2008, our first, is an exciting development for us.

Protection International aims to contribute to ensuring fulfilment of national and international obligations for the protection of human rights defenders – people who, individually or together with others, take action to promote or protect human rights. The ‘UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders’ stresses that the state is primarily responsible for protecting human rights defenders. It also acknowledges “the valuable work of individuals, groups and associations in contributing to the effective elimination of all violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms”.

Over the last few years, general awareness has increased about the enormous risks human rights defenders face in their work. The risk is clear when defenders work in hostile situations - such as armed conflict situations or when a country’s laws penalise people engaged in human rights work. Defenders are even at risk when the law fully sanctions the activities of individuals working to protect human rights, but fails to punish those who threaten or attack defenders.

These challenges require human rights defenders to incorporate comprehensive and dynamic protection and security strategies into their work. Giving defenders well-meant advice is not enough. Better security management and better protection strategies among defenders, and among those intending to protect them, is key. At the same time we must not forget that defenders are normal people undertaking dangerous work. As a result, defenders’ strategies for dealing with risk are often ineffective. Defenders may be knowledgeable in their field of expertise, but less able to deal with death threats, hit squads attacks and bombings. Fear and work overload are real obstacles to maintaining security and self-protection for both individuals and organizations.

The main risk for defenders is that threats often materialise into actual attacks. Aggressors have the will, the means and the impunity to put threats into action. The best tool for protecting defenders is political action to ensure that governments and civil society put pressure on, and act against, those who threaten, harass and kill defenders. Our assistance does not detract from the responsibility of all governments to protect human rights defenders. Our role is not to replace governments in this role, but instead to advise defenders on improving their security by following tried-and-tested procedures.

Many NGOs and institutions already work on human rights and defenders issues, and Protection International aims to complement them. Our areas of activity range from protection and security capacity building, to protection research (including advocacy and video-advocacy for the protection of defenders), the publication of manuals, running the website www.protectionline.org and other activities. An important and recent development has been the setting-up of Protection Desks - which are protection projects, run in partnership with defenders networks or organizations. In 2008, the Protection Desk Nepal Project was established and the Protection Desks Uganda and Guatemala have recently been set up, in conjunction with local partners. We aim to set up further Protection Desks in Colombia, Thailand and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) among others.

We are grateful to all the governments, institutions and individuals that have supported the work of Protection International in 2008 and made it possible to operate in so many different situations throughout the world. We are especially grateful to the defenders, with whom we work in our day-to-day activities: we learn from their example every day, and it is to them that we dedicate all our efforts.

With hope for the future

Luis Enrique Eguren

Protection International - **Board President**

The Protectionline website: networking to improve defenders' protection

Protectionline is a project developed by Protection International and made by, with the assistance of, and for human rights defenders. This one-stop website collects together indispensable documents about protection and security, for use by human rights defenders, in their own specific contexts, all over the world. As a measure of its usefulness, the 2008 average for the number of visits, was 670 per day. In December 2008, the website achieved 25,238 visits.

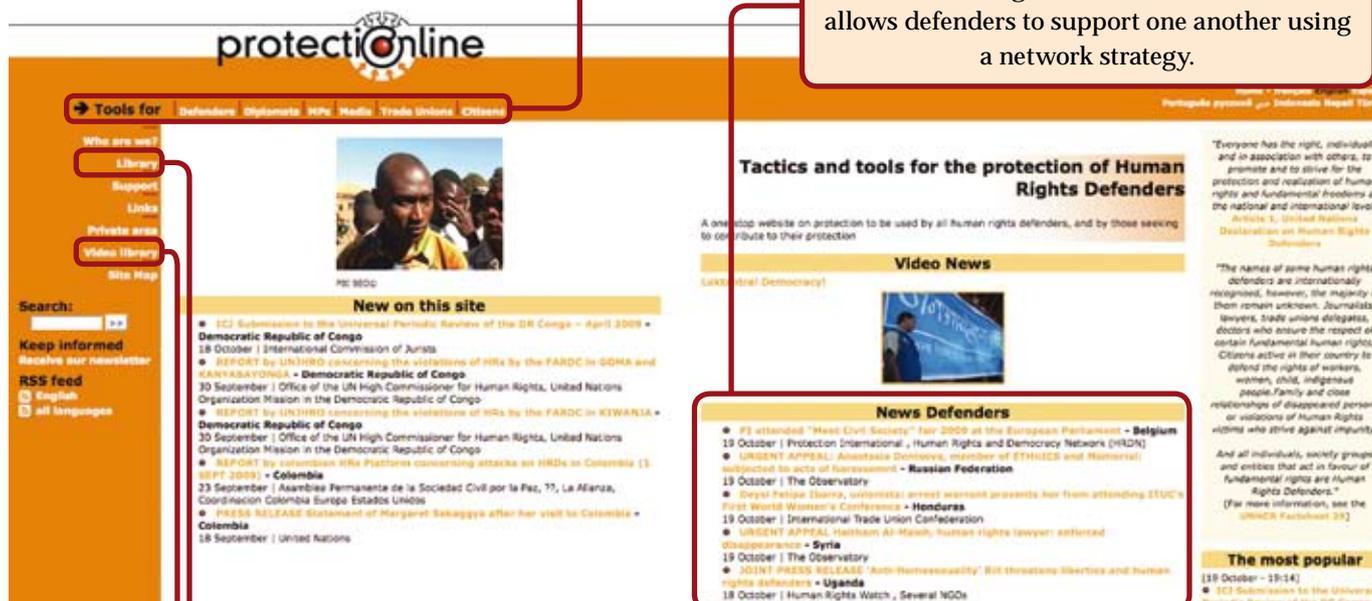
The majority of the content of the website is presented in English, French and Spanish, with specific contributions in an appropriate language that might be Arabic, Indonesian, Nepali, Portuguese, Russian or Turkish. Protectionline receives input from local and international organisations that are involved in security and protection issues. It is also constantly updated with news about Protection International's publications, advocacy-videos and manuals, as well as any other publications relevant to the subject.

For all kinds of defenders and civil society actors

Defenders are identified above all by what they do and it is through a description of their actions that the term can best be explained. On the site, in addition to general tools for defenders and civil society actors, there are documents related to the main agents who make a difference for protection.

Urgent Appeals

When human rights defenders are in danger, they can bring about a rapid response by publishing an alert on the **News Defenders** section of the website. This mechanism informs stakeholders what is going on in the field and challenges them to react. Moreover, it allows defenders to support one another using a network strategy.



Videos

Protection International's videos are available in the Protectionline **Video Library**. This resource brings together interviews with defenders, short video news stories and extracts from PI's documentaries. The material serves PI's advocacy agenda in two ways: as a tool to inform and call targeted stakeholders to action, but also to influence public opinion.

Library

Protectionline's **Library** contains 2,281 documents - all of which are available to download. This includes the complete content of the 2nd edition of the *New Protection Manual for Human Rights Defenders*.

Capacity building and training

Sharing protection issues

Experience in the field of protection and the security of human rights defenders, teaches us the importance of promoting the exchange of information on this subject, so that strategies used by defenders can be further developed or improved by themselves. The more their own security is developed, the better the protection of others is improved.

Training is based on the *New Protection Manual for Human Rights Defenders* and is given in two parts. The first part aims to introduce the risk assessment tools and security plans. The second part, given some months later, focuses on dealing with the problems faced during the preparation of the local organisation's security plan.

From 2004 to 2008, more than of 1,700 defenders have participated in PI's capacity building and security workshops, in many countries such as Kenya, Ukraine, Sri Lanka, Colombia, Brazil and Uganda. Here are some examples of the 28 training sessions given during 2008.

Southern Thailand Working in conflict situations

The opposition between the Thai central government and the Muslim insurgency has created the possibility for all kinds of human rights violations to be committed in the south of the country. Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) have been seen by the state as sympathisers with the separatists, so they are disqualified as a civil society movement and do not receive protection. This, together with weak international support and the fear of retaliation from conservative Islamic groups, makes it difficult for defenders to criticise the insurgency, and even to carry out normal activities, such as work with women's organisations.

Three groups had a particular need for training: defenders from the south and Bangkok, students who work with vulnerable populations living with the ongoing conflict, and women and young human rights defenders. At the end of one of the training programmes, a participant in the programme for young HRDs stated: "I've learned about the rights I am entitled to, working as an HRD, the problems that we face and how we can create security - we need to truly understand security procedures".

Nepal Tools for Asian LGBTI* defenders

Training given by Shaun Kirven and Protection Desk Nepal

The LGBTI training in Asia was the first of its kind for this group and happened almost by chance. The LLH (the Norwegian LGBT Association) was holding a regional meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal, with several representatives from LGBTI organisations from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India and Nepal attending. There was an opportunity to test ideas from the forthcoming *Manual for LGBTI Defenders*, and the organizers and participants accepted the challenge.

Even if they were not expecting to participate in a training programme, the 20 participants found the three days of training extremely useful, mostly since they learned about their rights and how protection instruments could reduce threats. Most of them left with a sense of pride - identifying themselves as defenders.

Since then, organisations from Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka have been asking for Protection International's training. Moreover, in March 2009, LGBT training will be held in Nairobi, Kenya, in partnership with Protection Desk Uganda. The final version of the *Protection Manual for LGBTI Defenders* will be published by Protection International in 2009. Information can be found on: www.protectioninternational.org

* Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex

Security training

Training given by Marie Caraj

In April 2008, PI concluded a three-year programme of security training in the DRC. Since 2004, we have provided 13 cycles of training in eight regions for 450 members of 185 civil society groups. Training took place in Kikwit, Kindu, Kinshasa, Lubumbashi, Matadi, Mbandaka and Uvira, amongst others.

Participants gave accounts of the risks they face, and the attacks they suffer at the hands of armed groups, because of their work. This may be because they defend women's rights, care about child protection or run reintegration programmes for child soldiers, or because they provide legal aid or humanitarian assistance to victims of the ongoing conflict.

Six months after the initial training, a follow-up workshop offered the opportunity to examine specific problems, such as whether protocols were in place to prevent attacks, and if staff performance had improved. PI itself learnt lessons, as a result of this programme, including the need for a more permanent support structure, to enable local networks and organisations to integrate security planning into daily work. This led PI to propose the establishment of a *Protection Desk* in DRC, as soon as possible, because a local team of Protection Officers would be able to facilitate such support for a wide range of organisations.

Researching the world's good practices to build defenders' protection policies

Operational guidelines for the protection of defenders, and models developed by defender organizations, are very useful as a reference for those struggling to implement legislation and policy in their own countries. During 2007 and 2008, the Research and Training Unit of PI conducted a multi-disciplinary study covering the legal, political and operational aspects of protecting defenders.

PI researchers gathered together written materials (such as laws and protocols) and held interviews with a large number of government officials,

defenders and representatives of international organisations in Uganda, Kenya, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Indonesia, Nepal, and Thailand, as well as some European countries. As a result of the research, PI was able to compile reports detailing lessons learnt and to draw some conclusions about best practices for setting up operational guidelines and structures to protect defenders.

According to Maria Martin, one of the PI researchers, the most difficult

task was "to systematize, select and summarize the most relevant materials, because we gathered a lot of information". Another difficulty has been knowing how to present those complex projects and initiatives in a straightforward and user-friendly format.

In 2009, PI is going to publish the outcome of this inquiry, in a document entitled *Protecting human rights defenders: lessons learnt and best practices*, which will appear in two volumes: *Defenders units, legislation and State policies* and *Operational proceedings*.

Democratic Republic of Congo The dangers associated with being a journalist

Radio Okapi is a joint project between Fondation Hironnelle and the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in the DRC. The station is one of the most listened-to in the country and one of the few to deliver credible information. Because of this work, its staff are exposed to danger. In less than two years, two journalists working for Okapi-Bukavu were murdered: Serge Maheshe in June 2007, and Didace

Namujimbo in November 2008. In PI's video about Pascal Kabungulu Kibembi and defenders in South Kivu, called *The weapons of impunity*, (made in 2006), Serge Maheshe testifies about the uncertain situation of journalists and defenders. (The interview with Serge Maheshe can be found in the video section of www.protectionline.org)

Training was urgently organized in December, after Namujimbo's death,

because of an atmosphere of insecurity and despondency. The experience was an opportunity to talk about the suffering and psychosocial impact of the murder of their colleagues and conscientiously, to build a security plan. For the first time during PI training, the UN security staff also participated. The experience was so successful that it might be extended to all Okapi's staff.

Security rules Human rights defender or a nation's traitor?

Written in collaboration with Tshivis T. Tshivuadi, secretary-general of JED

Responding to the murders and the increase in aggression and threats against journalists, JED (Journalists in Danger) has written some security rules for use during periods of tension or in hostile environments. This advice about "What one should and shouldn't do", is based on lessons from PI's *New Protection Manual*. Published in poster format and distributed at media offices, this advice could be life-saving for journalists and human rights activists. Especially since the established powers appear to have declared war against some NGOs accusing them of being agents to destabilise the government, while their local contacts are treated as the "nation's traitors".

Driven to practice their profession in conditions marked by insecurity and

impunity, journalists and HRDs must master essential security rules, and always be mindful of "danger", without sinking into paranoia.

At seminars for media professionals, given to raise awareness about security procedures, JED emphasises the following points:

- Never minimise a threat, no matter what the circumstances, and notify the authorities and human rights organisations
- Avoid being out late at night or frequenting unsafe places
- Be in permanent communication with a circle of family, friends and work colleagues and avoid routine
- Display solidarity and come to a colleague's aid.



Conference on security, DR Congo

Journalist in Danger (JED) is an NGO which defends and promotes freedom of expression in the DR Congo. For more information, visit www.jed-afrique.org.

Protection desks

The best answer to needs in the field

The Protection Desks are based on an innovative approach to the protection and security of human rights defenders developed by Protection International. With more than 20 years of practical and theoretical experience in this field, PI members understand that ongoing and local follow-up is required for tools to continuously be appropriated and improved by defenders in their work and personal life.

In this way, Protection Desks (PDs) are completely integrated into Protection International's "Global Programme for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders". They facilitate access to training for a larger number of local defenders and make it possible to measure levels of security for individuals in danger. Furthermore, PDs carry out advocacy from a local perspective, that takes into account specific cases; helps create and reinforce legal frameworks, establishes the rightfulness of defending human rights; and facilitates contact between local organisations, helping them share tools and build a worldwide network.

The Protection Desks are hosted by a local partner, supported by a Protection International expatriate and local staff. After identifying a local need to construct one, and if there is no existing human rights defender organization that can be built upon, PI will build its own desk, by training local defenders and NGOs, enabling them to build up a network and run the Protection Desk by themselves.

Uganda The most recent Protection Desk

By Nora Rehmer, coordinator PDU



PDU will cover 10 countries in the East and Horn of Africa region from Kampala

In September 2008, Protection International launched another Protection Desk covering 10 countries in the East and Horn of Africa. Named Protection Desk-Uganda

(PDU), since it is based in Kampala, PDU is a joint project with a strong local partner – the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project, with whom working relations have existed since 2006. The partner is the secretariat of a network of human rights defender organisations from across the region and was chosen for its links and important work in seeking to ensure the protection of human rights defenders through capacity building, advocacy and protection work.

Despite international declarations and promises by governments to respect their rights, human rights defenders in the East and Horn of Africa continue to face intimidation, persecution, and defamation, as well as arbitrary arrest and physical mistreatment. And this merely because of the legitimate work they do to protect the rights of others and

to end impunity for perpetrators.

PDU will, amongst other things, provide security management training to defenders and security advisory services for those at risk, thereby strengthening their capacities and complementing EHAHRDP's work towards ensuring the respect of HRDs' rights. The two entities also share equipment and facilities, to ensure the best possible utilisation of resources.

The main challenges of this project have proven to be the application of security management skills by human rights defenders trained by PDU, the lack of resources to ensure follow-up of activities and the clear mapping of each partner's areas of engagement. Cooperation is initially planned for three years, after which a revision will take place to suit all stakeholders' needs and to best serve defenders in the region.

Nepal Regional Consultations on EU Guidelines

Protection Desk Nepal (PD-N) has been working on training, advocacy actions, and individual security plans for defenders in danger. However, the most important activity of PD-N during 2008 was to organize, along with Protection International (PI), the regional consultations on protection mechanisms for human rights defenders in Nepal. The consultations are based on the Local Implementation Strategy, which adapts the European Union (EU) Guidelines to the national context. The objectives of this project were to capitalize on the actions that have been taken to protect Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) and to present their suggestions to three of the main stakeholders acting on this subject in Nepal: the National Human Rights Commission, the EU and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR-Nepal).

This collaborative process took place over several months and involved more than 500 defenders and stakeholders, who worked together for the protection of mainstream defenders and specific target groups, such as victims, LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex) individuals, women and young defenders. The conclusions reached were the result of a broad consensus built between several defenders and the stakeholders.

The *Regional Consultations on Protection Mechanisms for Human Rights Defenders in Nepal* will be published in English and Nepali. This project is, perhaps, a good example showing how NGOs and European Union Missions can work together to ensure defenders' protection. Of course, it was just the beginning of a long process: the real



Observers from human rights organisation, INSEC, during a popular protest in Nepal

goal will be to turn recommendations in practical action.



Guatemala Fighting organized crime's threats

In December 2008, Aj Noj - Protection Desk Guatemala (which had itself only been launched in September of that year), organized the reflection journeys "Protegiéndonos ante las amenazas de siglo XXI" ("Protecting ourselves from the 21st Century's threats").

The event, was realized in conjunction with the local partner, Unidad de Protección a Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos de Guatemala - UDEFEGUA. The seminar was a collective analysis of the reality in the field: from February to October 2008 there were 180 acts of aggression against human rights defenders in Guatemala, which means 29.4% more than in the first year of the previous government, in 2004. One reason identified for this increase is the growth in activity of organized crime.

Any action that promotes human rights can cause head-on collisions with narco-traffickers, individuals or groups linked to people trafficking.

Moreover, former army personnel and elements of the government security structure, which became private companies after the peace agreements, are also responsible for grave human rights violations. During the meeting, the situation of defenders facing these actors was analysed and protection and security strategies for dealing with these threats was discussed.

Conclusions were based on their own local experiences, along with international examples – such as those of Colombian defenders. Besides this, the participants established a connection between threats suffered by defenders associated with the megaprojects handled by the government and economic elites. They also devised strategies for remote, rural areas, and created an Immediate Alert Network, with the objective of helping defenders and communities who find themselves in great danger.



Middle: Memorial blanket dedicated to those murdered or disappeared during the genocide in Guatemala

Above: Protest about land dispute-related violence, Nueva Linda, Guatemala

The publication of the interventions and recommendations to all stakeholders will be published soon, and can be ordered from Protection International.

Advocacy activities

Preventing violence against defenders

By Bernard Verschuere, outreach & advocacy officer

Advocacy is a core activity for Protection International (PI). It aims to anticipate and to prevent violence, abuses and harassment against Human Rights Defenders (HRDs). How is this achieved? By raising awareness of the risks that defenders incur in their daily lives and promoting legal tools that work in favour of their protection. The intention is to fight against impunity and improve the conditions HRDs work in, through efficient protection mechanisms and adequate legislation at local, national and international level. The first level of advocacy concerns the dissemination and exchange of information on protection among HRDs and with the main stakeholders. Urgent appeals, follow-up on the cases of defenders in danger, or suffering arbitrary detention, and trial observation, are examples of how advocacy activities can be developed, on the local and international level.

PI's video-advocacy work is an important tool in addressing the challenges and requirements of this activity. It gives a voice to defenders through short videos that can be accessed via the *Protectionline* website. Filmed documentaries and video clips about individual HRD cases, in which HRDs explain their working conditions, provides them with a wider audience for their message and has a greater impact on important stakeholders.

In 2008, one of Protection International's most important cases of involvement was the observation of proceedings in the trial of the alleged murderers of Serge Maheshe, the Congolese journalist murdered at Bukavu, South Kivu, in June 2007. A report gathering together the legal findings of the trial observation, as well as recommendations for the most important stakeholders, will be published in 2009.

More recent productions are also promoted and distributed in the video section of www.protectionline.org, including *The weapons of impunity*, about the human rights defender Pascal Kabungulu, also murdered in South Kivu; and *Exiled from inside*, about Internally Displaced Persons in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The latter DVD was exhibited at the Bukavu Festival, in the DRC, in September 2008.

Advocacy on European Union Guidelines



Nepalese Local Implementation Strategy is highlighted as a case of best practice

The work of Protection International is very much focused on ensuring that the implementation of *European Union Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders (HRDs)* is high on the agenda of Brussels-based institutions, such

as the EU Council and Commission. Riina Kionka, Personal Representative for Human Rights, appointed by Javier Solana, and her office, continue to be important allies in the development of Local Implementation Strategies (LIS) and in ensuring targeted actions during emergencies. PI provided country briefings on LIS to the EU-NGO-Forum held in Paris during December 2008. Moreover, PI Advocacy Officers and Protection Desks collaborated with EU Missions on LIS in Nepal, Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi.

Diplomatic missions are putting into practice several activities listed in the *Guidelines* and offering significant support to HRDs, such as attending trials or publishing joint statements on defenders' cases. Nepal was highlighted as a case of best practice, since a comprehensive and public LIS has been developed: the fact that

defenders participate directly in a joint EU Human Rights Working Group has led to new synergies and improved coordination of protection mechanisms. One-off conferences to promote the *EU Guidelines*, such as the one held in Thailand in November 2008, have also been valued as having a positive impact on the security these defenders expect to have.

However, defenders have stated that actions could be better targeted and that a number of EU Missions are unaware of the existence of the *EU Guidelines*. Where LIS have been drafted, yet are kept confidential, defenders find it difficult to be involved in any evaluation or strategy development.

PI continues to promote the *EU Guidelines on HRDs* through its publications and capacity-building activities and its advocacy work with governments worldwide and EU Missions in those countries.

New EU Instrument supports defenders

In its *Political Strategy, 2007-10*, the European Union expressed its determination to support Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) against repression and the arbitrary exercise of power, especially in emergency situations. The EU has become aware of the need to expand its activities beyond the promotion of HRDs and to strengthen national and international human rights protection mechanisms. This realisation is partially the result of consultations held with FIDH/OMCT, FrontLine and Protection International, facilitated by DG-Relex and AIDCO, for the drafting of the new *EU Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)*. In 2008, as part of the objective "Support to HRDs", for the first time the EU provided financial assistance to 11 organisations working in areas covered by the EU Guidelines on HRDs.

More information at: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/human-rights/human-rights-defenders_en.htm



Displaced family in Bujumbura, Burundi

of Congo alone, there were estimated to be 1.3 million displaced people, according to International Crisis Group (ICG). PI's documentary, *Exiled from Inside*, about the displaced in DRC, is a testimony to this sad, unchanging situation. In July 2008, PI published the results of the seminar: *Protecting the human rights of Internally Displaced Persons and promoting their organisational processes*.

Experiences on Internally Displaced People's protection

The UN's High Commissioner for Refugees (HCR) estimates that there are between 25 and 30 million Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in the world. They have fled their homes and left behind all aspects of their old lives, but are not legally classified as 'refugees' because they have not fled abroad. In 2005, PBI Europe (which would later become *Protection International*) and PBI Luxembourg, promoted a conference to discuss

protection in the field for IDPs. IDP representatives and Human Rights associations from Chechnya, Colombia, Georgia, Nepal, Philippines, Sudan and Uganda discussed how to go about protecting displaced people, in all phases of displacement, and how to coordinate organisational processes.

In 2008, those issues were shown to be as relevant as ever: by the end of March, in eastern Democratic Republic

Democratic Republic of Congo Trial observation

In 2008, PI participated in observing the trial of the presumed murderers of Serge Maheshe, a journalist killed in Bukavu (June 2007). Sophie Roudil, the lawyer responsible for PI's African and Turkish programmes, describes this experience. *The complete text can be found at: www.protectionline.org*

Why choose to observe the Maheshe trial?
Taking into account the general state of impunity in DRC, especially with regard to violations against HRDs, including journalists, it was necessary to carry out advocacy work there, in order to ensure that trials exist, that they are fair, and to avoid any interference intended to hide the truth. Trial observation and monitoring are a key part of this advocacy. For reasons of security, it was also necessary to accompany local observers (NGOs) and journalists covering the case. This trial, held under the jurisdiction of the military, was extremely sensitive.

Was the trial observation not well received by local institutions?

No. The judge and the prosecutor said

that NGOs had carried out a campaign to denigrate military justice. Observers were even threatened with legal proceedings for "contempt of court". In fact, the Court didn't want to change some of its practices and conform to certain norms of a fair trial. Observers also received anonymous threats.

What were the main outcomes of the Maheshe case observation?

The outcome was mixed. The protection strategies which were developed allowed PI and the other observers to continue their work throughout the trial, despite threats. Concerning the trial itself, unfortunately, the truth has yet to fully emerge. One important and positive aspect was that two civilians, who were initially sentenced



PI was represented amongst the observers at the Maheshe trials, South Kivu, DRC

to death, despite the lack of serious charges, were finally acquitted by the Court. It will now be necessary to monitor the appeals, made by two other civilians sentenced to death, before the Supreme jurisdictions.

Protection International AISBL - Financial Report

Year ended 31 December 2007

Report on the Annual Accounts for the fiscal year ended 31 December 2007 of the A.I.S.B.L Protection International. With the modification of its statutes published on 18 December 2007 by Moniteur Belge (Belgium official journal), the former European Office of Peace Brigades International became Protection International. All figures are provided in Euros.

Balance 31/12/2007

| | 31/12/2007 | 31/12/2006 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Fixed Assets | 5,889.91 | 5,149.23 |
| Equipment & furniture | 5,889.91 | 5,149.23 |
| Current Assets | 254,767.71 | 394,831.31 |
| Amounts receivable | 253,878.16 | 394,831.31 |
| Current investments and cash at bank | 889.55 | |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 260,657.62 | 399,980.54 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Funds of the Association | 25,456.33 | 17,005.68 |
| Accumulated profits | 25,456.33 | 17,005.68 |
| Debts | 235,201.29 | 382,974.86 |
| Credit institutions < 1 year | 15,004.96 | |
| Suppliers | 16,579.23 | |
| Taxes, remunerations and social security debts | 10,617.10 | |
| Deferred income | 193,000.00 | |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 260,657.62 | 399,980.54 |

Results

| | Year 2007 | Year 2006 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| I. OPERATING INCOME AND CHARGES | | |
| Operating Income | | |
| Sales manuals and DVD's | 1,291.80 | 134.00 |
| Donations | 909.52 | 1,519.52 |
| Grants | 484,606.51 | 379,401.19 |
| Other operating income | 305.04 | 1,645.88 |
| Total Operating Income | 487,112.87 | 382,700.59 |
| Operating Charges | | |
| Services and other goods | -252,157.81 | -198,896.96 |
| Remunerations and social security costs | -224,813.40 | -183,235.86 |
| Depreciations | -1,942.32 | -1,107.80 |
| Other operating charges | | -179.10 |
| Total Operating Charges | -478,913.53 | -383,419.72 |
| OPERATING RESULT | 8,199.34 | -719.13 |
| II. FINANCIAL INCOME AND CHARGES | | |
| Financial income | 1,723.33 | 1,968.68 |
| Financial charges | -1,472.02 | -752.90 |
| FINANCIAL RESULT | 251.31 | 1,215.78 |
| PROFIT TO BE CARRIED FORWARD | 8,450.65 | 496.65 |

Auditors Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements ended 31 December 2007 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.

Brain le Comte, 13th June, 2008

Eric GAILLY

Expert-comptable
Conseil Fiscal

Thank you

We would like to thank all individuals, groups and institutions who have supported our work in 2007. We would especially like to thank:

Amnesty International
International Secretariat

Danida

Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst

Federal Foreign Office Germany/
Zivik

Federal Ministry for Cooperation and
Development BMZ Germany

Ministry Foreign Affairs Belgium

Misereor

peace brigades international (pbi)
International Secretariat

pbi Belgium

pbi Germany

pbi Switzerland

UK Embassy Nepal

Private Donations.

Nepal Testimony

I am happy to be with you at this great moment after emerging from the jaws of death. I am a human rights lawyer and journalist by profession, working as secretary-general of the Lawyers' Forum for Human Rights in Nepal, an organisation which fights impunity. I am also a victim of, and witness to, human rights violations conducted by the Royal Nepalese Army (RNA) and the Maoists.

On the 4th February 2004, I was arrested and kept in secret, in RNA custody for 258 days. During this time, I was tortured several times, to silence my voice for justice and human rights, despite the fact that no formal charges were brought against me. I have written a book telling this story. Even though publication might

result in death threats against me, I hope it will contribute, even if a little, toward pressure to conduct further investigations, to reveal the truth about, and prosecute those responsible for, this state-sanctioned violence.

It is true that if defenders themselves do not feel safe, we cannot expect them to be able to save the lives of others. Their security is one of the major challenges of today. Defenders are working in an atmosphere of violent conflict, 90% of them receive threats, and their family members are forcibly displaced from their homes.

In Nepal, it is a great challenge to curb human rights violations and social injustice. The government is giving amnesty to all abusers and impunity is being institutionalized.



Jit Man Basnet with, to his right, the Personal Representative on Human Rights in the EU Council Secretariat, Riina Kionka

No tribunal or prosecution has yet commenced against the violators and they are still in their jobs and are in positions of power.

Extracts from a speech by Jit Man Basnet, author of '258 Dark Days', given while he was in Europe, in November 2008.

Guatemala Testimony

I have always been a human rights activist. Working for human rights is not easy and persecution has always occurred. In the eighties, activists were persecuted for the simple reason that they talked about justice. For many, just mentioning human rights is a crime and we know that cannot be right and just. As a result of our experiences, we always say that we are "peace victims", because, even if peace agreements were signed, we continued to suffer, and this is happening in a post-war situation, as a consequence of the eighties. At this moment, terrible things are still happening and even in this village there is so much violence.

Three days ago they have killed a boy. Who cares about this? Nobody! In our case, these things are taking place in a rural area, so who can we relate our

pain to? There is nobody. The Public Prosecutor is not present here, and anyway, people don't have the money to pay a lawyer, so impunity remains. This is not the situation we want. We want peace to exist, and we want Guatemala to change.

By virtue of our being indigenous people, we are effectively ignored and abandoned. Our rights to education, housing, health - they have never been realised. So it has become necessary to organize ourselves again, to address everything that is happening. I am saying "again" because our people have been fighting these injustices since the eighties. When the peace agreements were signed, we all thought that everything would change, and for the better. It's sad to say that it didn't.



Burial of persons unknown, in the village of Lacema, Guatemala

Testimony of a women Human Rights Defender, from a village in Quiché department, Guatemala.

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Cover image
Security training in Uvira, DR Congo.

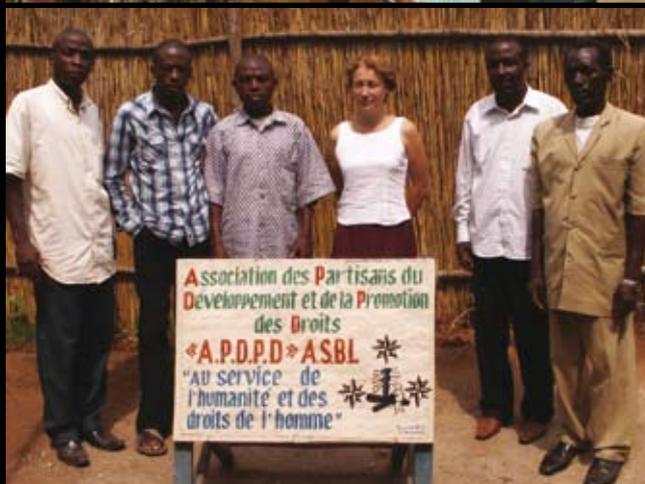
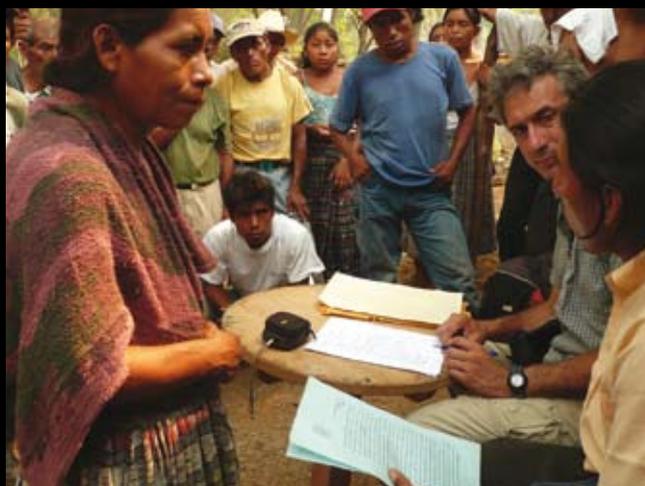
Back cover imagery
Defenders working in Alta Verapaz, Guatemala; Protection Desk Nepal's training team prepares a workshop; Local partners in Uvira, DR Congo; Defenders from CONIC (Coordinadora Nacional Indígena y Campesina).

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The staff of PI and its Protection Desks.
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