

Peace Brigades International (PBI)

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Organization's mandate/goals:

Peace Brigades International (PBI) is a unique grassroots organization exploring and implementing nonviolent approaches to peacekeeping in areas of violent conflict and repression, offering unarmed protective accompaniment to individuals, organizations and communities threatened by violence and human rights abuses. PBI is supported by country groups around the world. Founded in Canada in 1981, Peace Brigades sent its first peace team to Guatemala in 1983. Peace Brigades currently works in Colombia, Mexico, Indonesia and Chiapas (Mexico) through a joint project with SIPAZ. PBI's nonpartisan efforts are supported by a global network of foundations and individuals. PBI teams have protected the growth of civil society in El Salvador, Guatemala, Sri Lanka, Native communities in North America, Haiti, and the Balkans.

Areas of expertise relevant to 2001 UN Conference on Small Arms:

Security -- *Security sector / Peace keeping*

Peace Brigades International provides nonviolent international peacekeeping in areas of violent conflict and repression, offering unarmed protective accompaniment to individuals, organizations, and communities threatened with violence and human rights abuses. In extreme, life-threatening situations, the Emergency Response Network (ERN) of Peace Brigades International provides a vital backup to the regular accompaniment work. When a person or persons whom PBI volunteers accompany are threatened, captured, imprisoned or "disappeared", immediate international pressure in the form of faxes, E-mails and letters to the appropriate authorities can have a significant deterrent effect.