



peace brigades international  
Deutscher Zweig e. V.

Bahrenfelder Str. 79 | D-22765 Hamburg  
Fon +49 (0) 40-3 80 69 03 | Fax +49 (0) 40-3 86 94 17  
info@pbi-deutschland.de  
www.pbi-deutschland.de

11<sup>th</sup> September, 2008

### Delegation to Colombia 10.-18.2.2009

Dear Sirs and Madams,

we would like to invite you to a delegation to Colombia from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2009 which will be organized in cooperation with the organization Movement of Victims of State Crimes (Movimiento de Víctimas de Crímenes de Estado – MOVICE). The focus of this delegation will be the visit of conflict regions where the civilian population, despite of the process of demobilization the paramilitary units, still suffers from impacts of the armed conflict regarding the control of the land, natural resources and narcotraffic. Human rights violations in these regions still remain exempt from punishment. The delegation follows the objective to experience these difficulties more detailed by an exchange with local human rights organizations in the affected regions and to encourage the groups of victims as well as to support the networks between the Colombian and the international representatives.

The trip will last for one week and concentrate on the conflict regions Urabá del Bajo Atrato, Catatumbo, Montería (Cordobá) and Buenaventura (Valle de Cauca). These conflict areas represent examples of a Colombian reality which lacks awareness by the international community, but needs more concern according to its dimension of violations of human rights.

Because of the time frame, the visiting delegation will be divided into two groups.

#### Agenda (provisional):

1 <sup>st</sup> Day	
Bogotá	Arrival in Bogotá <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● introduction of the participants</li> <li>● objective of the journey, agenda, background</li> <li>● exchange between the delegation participants, MOVICE and HIJOS por la Memoria y contra la Impunidad (sons and daughters for remembrance and against impunity)</li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup> Day	
Splitting up in two groups	<b>Group A: Urabá del Bajo Atrato</b> The region is characterized by a high biodiversity and its richness of natural resources like gold, oil, copper and phosphates. Urabá, bordering Panamá, has a long history of conflict, which is predominated by the matter of controlling the land. At time being huge landlots in Urubá, especially at the basin of the Curbaradó, are getting replanted with the African oil plant. One part of these cultivated areas belongs to the community of the municipal council of Curbaradó. This council is predominantly composed of afrocolombian peasants,

	<p>who since 2006 are returning to the region after their violent expulsion and re-claiming their legally adjudicated land. The peasants and the interchurcal commission Justicia y Paz, which is accompanying the process, are exposed to constant and serious harassments. Due to that reason, the interamerican court of human rights adjudicated some protective measures for the communities of displaced persons at the Curbaradó. While visiting this area, the center of attention are the indigenous and afrocolombian communities, which are resisting the illegal seizure of their land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visit in coordination with the Interchurcal commission Justicia y Paz (CIJP) as well as further regional embers of MOVICE</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Group B: Catatumbo</b></p> <p>The region alongside the Catatumbo river at the border to Venezuela equally provides a high degree of biodiversity as well as natural resources like gold, different kinds of wood, high-quality coal and oil. In that area also koka is getting planted. The battle of the illegally armed actors regarding the control of its cultivation and trading has caused and still causes massive violence and violent expulsion, which dimension is ranked first on national scale. During the past years, despite of the armed actors still being present, the persons once displaced have begun to return in motion to establish a new base of life and build up some community projects. However, the civilian population of this region still suffers from the impacts of spraying the koka plants as well as the impacts of the armed conflict and regarding the control of koka-planting and natural resources. Just as in the region of Urabá, the exchange with the affected indigenous and afrocolombian communities and learning about their alternative concept regarding the conflict are the focus of interest during the visit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visit in coordination with the collective of lawyers Luis Carlos Pérez as well as other regional members of MOVICE</li> </ul>
5 <sup>th</sup> Day	
Bogotá	Return to Bogotá
6 <sup>th</sup> Day	
Splitting up in two groups	<p>The visit of the cities Montería and Buenaventura concerns some cases of human right violations, which so far are exempt from punishment and not getting enough attention by the international community.</p> <p><b>Group A: Montería (capital city of the department Córdoba)</b></p> <p>According to a report of the international labour organization ILO from June 2007, members of the national labour union for members of the university suffer from intimidation and harassment by the president of the University Córdoba and paramilitary groups. According to this report, the existence and acting of paramilitary units, which declare the unionists as a military target and therefore violate human rights as well as the freedom of the unions, are being yet denounced. Thus for the delegation it is planned to have a meeting in the university with professors and students as well as representatives of the organizations of the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Visit in coordination with the foundation Manuel Cepeda Vargas</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Group B: Buenaventura (department Valle de Cauca)</b></p> <p>In Buenaventura, the most important harbour of the Colombian pacific coast, there is a huge concentration of both the different armed actors and some criminal groups, which is due to narcotrafficism. For the regional population, of which 52.70% live in poverty, according to the statistical data of the administration, the armed conflict between 2000 and 2005 led to an expulsion of 31.090 persons. Therefore, Buenaventura presents the highest rate of internally displaced persons in the department Valle de Cauca and is ranked number four at national level. In Buenaventura, the center of attention is the visit of the dock-</p>

	land area of the afrocolombian community and the exchange with regional organizations of MOVICE.
7 <sup>th</sup> Day	
Bogotá	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Dialogue with state representatives</li> <li>● Analysis of the experiences</li> </ul>
8 <sup>th</sup> Day	
Bogotá	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Exchange with Colombian journalists</li> <li>● public event in coordination with HIJOS and foundation Manuel Cepeda Vargas</li> </ul>

- **Travel details:** 10.-18.2.2009
- **Costs:** The participants pay the costs for the international flight. pbi bears the expenses for accommodation, food and transport within Colombia.
- **Number of participants:** 8-10 participants (representatives of NGOs, lawyers, journalists, possibly assemblymen et al.)
- **Language:** Since translation will be provided, Spanish language skills are not necessarily required
- **Preparation:** Previous to the start of the delegation along with the travel information the participants will get more background information on the pbi Colombia project, MOVICE and the intended discussion partners as well as about the Colombian conflict, impunity and the victim rights.

We would be very glad if you participated in our delegation. Please feel free to contact us for any further information needed.

Astrid Hake  
 Coordination  
 pbi – Deutscher Zweig e.V.  
 Bahrenfelder Str. 79  
 22765 Hamburg  
[astrid.hake@pbi-deutschland.de](mailto:astrid.hake@pbi-deutschland.de)  
 Tel. +49-(0)40-380 69 03

With kind regards,

Astrid Hake  
 Coordination