

COLOMBIAN CARAVANA 2010

A series of monthly briefings are being run by the Colombian Caravana to enable delegates to familiarise themselves with the Colombian context and issues relating to lawyer's work in Colombia will be held at 6pm on the last Thursday of each month at the offices of Bishop & Sewell (46 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3DP) and have been awarded CPD Accreditation.

The dates and topics are:

- 27 May: Peace Brigades International: Protection of human rights defenders
- 24 June: UN Mission, EU Mission and the International Bar Association in Colombia
- 29 July: FCO and ABColombia: current context briefing

All are welcome so please forward this on to any colleagues that may wish to attend.

The next talk will be held on **Thursday 27th May** and we are delighted to welcome two speakers to the event:

Protective Accompaniment of Colombian Human Rights Lawyers

Rob Hawke will give an overview of the work of Peace Brigades International in Colombia. PBI seeks to promote human rights and protect human rights defenders at risk of political violence. The talk will focus on the challenges faced by Colombian human rights lawyers, and the role of international accompaniment in safeguarding their work.

Rob Hawke is the Advocacy Officer for PBI UK section. He recently returned from working as a field volunteer with PBI's Colombia Project giving protective accompaniment to local human rights defenders in the Magdalena Medio region.

A Legal Update from Colombia

Bridget Petherbridge, of QEB Hollis Whiteman chambers, visited Colombia in February/March 2010 and will be talking about her observations of the DAS Trials and their development. She will also speak about visits to Palo Quemado (the criminal court in Bogota), UN projects focused on the judicial system, the current "scandal" affecting the Fiscalia and the challenge of the change to an oral, adversarial system across the board.

Bridget Petherbridge is a tenant at QEB Hollis Whiteman Chambers. She both prosecutes and defends cases in the Crown Courts as a led and leading junior and also has considerable experience in regulatory tribunals and inquests. She has been involved in a number of leading cases including the Bloody Sunday Inquiry, Rigby & Bailey the first criminal prosecution conducted by the FSA and "Operation Holbein", the largest SFO prosecution to date. She has also worked on a pro bono basis on cases brought before the ECtHR by Memorial, a Russian NGO, in conjunction with EHRAC in London. Bridget is an advocacy trainer with Grays Inn and plans to take a team of trainers from the Advocacy Training Council to Colombia in the near future.

To attend any of these seminars, please contact the Caravana Co-ordinator, Nikki Evans, on colombian.caravana@googlemail.com.