



Annual Report

April 2019 – March 2020

Sponsors:

Lord Brennan QC
Ann Clwyd
Linda Fabiani MSP
Richard Howitt
Simon Hughes
Rev Ed O'Connell
Hugh O'Shaughnessy
Professor William Rowe
Rosemary Thorp CBE
Wendy Tyndale

Founding Sponsor:

Graham Greene

President:

Baroness Jean Coussins

Vice President:

Rosemary Thorp

Coordinator:

Ana Reyes-Hurt

Management Committee

Chair: John Crabtree

Treasurer: Tim Thorp

Secretary: Tom Pegram

Vanessa Baird

John Beauclerk

Judith Condor-Vidal

Nuria Garcia

Adam Kemmis Betty

Martin Scurrah

Natalia Sobrevilla

coordinator@perusupportgroup.org.uk

www.perusupportgroup.org.uk



Contents

Contents	i
Abbreviations.....	ii
Executive Summary.....	iii
The Peruvian context	iii
Influence and media.....	iii
Collaboration	iii
Organisation, Governance and Finance	iii
The Year in Context.....	1
Influencing	3
MPs and Peers	3
Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)	3
European Union and United Nations	3
Peruvian authorities.....	4
Inter-Agency Collaboration	5
Plataforma Europa Perú (PEP)	5
Peru Solidarity Working Group.....	5
Peruvian NGOs	5
Events and Media	7
Events	7
PSG annual conference and AGM	7
Other events	7
Newsletter, Website and Social Media	7
Newsletter	7
Website.....	8
Social Media.....	8
Organisation and Governance	9
Presidency.....	9
Staff	9
Management.....	9
Funding.....	9
Membership.....	9
Future of PSG	9
End of Year Accounts	10
Payments and Receipts FY2019/20.....	11
Balance Sheet FY2019/20.....	11

Abbreviations

Organisations	
CAFOD	Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
CNDDHH	Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos
CIDSE	<International Alliance of Catholic Development Agencies>
DAR	Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
EU	European Union
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
EU-LAT	Red de Incidencia EU-LAT
FEDEPAZ	Federación Ecueménica para la Paz
FP	Fuerza Popular <Peruvian party>
PEP	Plataforma Europa Perú
PHRG	Parliamentary Human Rights Group
PSG	Peru Support Group
SOAS	School of Oriental and African Studies
TC	Tribunal Constitucional
UCL	University College London
UN	United Nations
Acronyms	
AGM	Annual General Meeting
DG	Director General
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
HRD	Human Rights Defender
MEP	Member European Parliament
MP	Member of Parliament
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ODA	Official Development Assistance

Executive Summary

The Peruvian context

The year in Peru has been turbulent with dire relations between the executive and congress; a particular cause of tension was the attempt to reform the procedures for electing members of the Constitutional Tribunal. A crisis point was reached in September when the legislature was dissolved, to be followed by the election of a new one in January.

Throughout the year Peru has been rocked by investigations of corruption following the Lava Joto scandal. Three past presidents have been investigated, culminating in the suicide of García, and seeing Humala in gaol. In addition, Keiko Fujimori, the founder of Fuerza Popular was gaoled.

There was little change in the continuing disputes between communities and mining companies in the mining corridor through Apurímac, Cuzco and Arequipa regions. Downturn in the demand from China of mineral exports saw Peru's growth rate halved to 2%, putting pressure on the government. The Vizcarra government has attempted to reform the mining code, but there has been resistance from mining companies and others.

Conflicts in the Amazon in Peru as well as those in Brazil and other Amazonian countries, have intensified. Conflict occurs wherever there is oil and gas extraction, logging, oil palm estates and alluvial gold mining. Such conflicts arise from flagrant illegal encroachment on land, massive environmental destruction and significant influx of migrants. Human rights of the inhabitants are frequently compromised and the lives of several human rights defenders have been lost. The State presence has been mostly ineffectual.

Finally, at the end of March it was becoming clear that a major crisis with Covid-19 was erupting and an extensive lock-down was ordered. Peru has been praised for this early and hard stance to control the virus.

Influence and media

We continued to develop links with the Parliamentary Human Rights Group (PHRG) and others in parliament. These were, however, curtailed during the run-up to the election at the end of the year, the bedding in of the new government, and finally by the onset of Covid-19. We engage regularly with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Peru desk officer and are in regular contact with embassy staff in Lima.

Our newsletter has appeared each weekend, other than during public holiday periods, and goes out to about 300 people. The information is also available on our newly upgraded website, and through our presence on Facebook (over 1000 followers) and Twitter (nearly 1000 followers).

Collaboration

We continue our collaboration with the Plataforma Europa Perú (PEP). Our Coordinator leads on the work on representations to the EU on support for human rights defenders (HRDs). We are participating in a new network, the Peru Solidarity Working Group, led by the London Mining Network, that monitors activities of mining companies working in Peru and registered in the UK. We work with a number of Peruvian NGOs who support us with information and contacts.

Organisation, Governance and Finance

The management committee has met mostly every other month, usually by Skype but with a few face-to-face meetings including a day-long strategy meeting in Oxford. Ana Reyes-Hurt, our



Coordinator, continues to work flexibly three days a week. We are grateful for the support given by our President Baroness Coussins.

Our financial position appears sound at least to about the end of FY2021/22. The finance report at the end of this document shows a surplus for the year of £8.5k with a balance of £35.7k. We continued having an annual grant from Cafod and this year also received a one-off grant from Lush Foundation. Our members have supported us, some very generously, one exceptionally so: we thank them all: without this support we could not be effective.

The Year in Context

The period under review saw relations between the executive and Congress reach a crisis point with the dissolution of the legislature in September 2019 and the election of a new one in January 2020. President Martín Vizcarra used his constitutional prerogative to dissolve Congress on the basis that the latter had registered a vote of no confidence in the cabinet twice in a five-year presidential term. The first time had been in 2017 when Pedro Pablo Kuczynski was still in office. Vizcarra replaced Kuczynski in March 2018 after the latter had been forced to resign thereby avoiding congressional impeachment.

The dissolution took place after Vizcarra had attached a vote of confidence to government legislation reforming the procedures for electing members of the Constitutional Tribunal (TC), following threats by Congress to use its powers to elect a TC more amenable to its political aims. The conflict took place after months of wrangling in which Congress, dominated by the *fujimorista* Fuerza Popular (FP) party. FP opposed key reforms to the political and judicial systems designed to reduce corruption in public office. In particular, the congressional commission in charge of constitutional affairs, headed by a *fujimorista* stalwart, rejected the reform of the system of parliamentary immunity from prosecution.

Peru had been rocked by the investigations into corruption arising from the so-called Lava Jato scandal by which Odebrecht and other large Brazilian construction companies routinely bribed successive Peruvian presidents and other senior officials to secure lucrative contracts. Their number included Alejandro Toledo (2001-06), Alan García (2006-11), Ollanta Humala (2011-16) and Pedro Pablo Kuczynski (2016-18). In April 2019, García committed suicide as police arrived at his home to arrest him. While Toledo's extradition from the United States was sought, Humala was jailed and Kuczynski placed under house arrest. In addition, FP's founder and leader, Keiko Fujimori, was jailed for allegedly receiving large undisclosed campaign contributions from Odebrecht in 2011 and 2016.

Faced with a downturn in demand from China for its mineral exports, Peru saw its growth rate decline significantly in 2019 to 2%, half the rate of the previous year. In the mining sector a number of longstanding disputes with communities involved sometimes violent conflict in the year under review. Emblematic was that of Tía María in Arequipa region where widespread protests against led to several deaths in July 2019. Farmers in the Tambo valley have long opposed the development of this copper mine by Southern Peru Copper on account of the water it would syphon off from agricultural uses. In Apurímac, the conflict continued over the use by MMG, a Chinese consortium, of road communications to ship mineral to port, aggravating conflict with communities along the so-called 'mining corridor' through Apurímac, Cuzco and Arequipa regions.

The PSG actively supported moves to protect human rights defenders in these and other conflict zones. A leader from Cotobambas in Apurímac, Virginia Pinares, addressed our annual conference in November 2019. The PSG also provided input into the design of better policy as a consequence of its study into projects that have proved less conflictive and the lessons learned from them. In his annual Independence Day speech, Vizcarra announced his intention to reform the country's mining code in a bid to promote more 'sustainable' mining. Local mining companies represented by Mining, Petroleum and Energy Association are understood to oppose changes to the existing code. This dates from the 1990s when then president Alberto Fujimori's liberalising reforms



greatly benefitted private business in the mining sector.

The period under review also witnessed conflicts in the Amazon basin between indigenous organisations and those seeking to profit from exploitation of natural resources in this part of Peru. Many of these arose because of illegal logging and the expansion of the agricultural frontier for crops like palm oil plantations (in Ucayali region). Others were the result of the expansion of mining activities in the Amazon jungle (notably in Madre de Dios). Several conflicts also arose as a consequence of oil spills from the northern Peru oil pipeline in Loreto and Amazonas. Indigenous organisations like Aidesep have been vigorous in defending indigenous interests.

As the year under review ended, in March 2020, the first steps were taken to stem the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. In mid-March, the government announced a drastic lockdown following the first few cases introduced from Italy, Spain and the UK. A strict curfew was announced, schools and universities closed and public transport halted. However, by the end of March, the pandemic was beginning to spread from Lima to the rest of the country, especially to the northern coast and cities like Iquitos in the Amazon jungle.

Influencing

MPs and Peers

The PSG continued to develop strong links with the coordinator of the Parliamentary Human Rights Group (PHRG) who continued to channel relevant news and analysis produced by us to members of the parliamentary group (including a briefing we co-wrote with Cafod on the situation of Human Rights Defenders for the UN Special Rapporteur on HRDs, see below) and also provided us with useful information on parliamentary contacts.

Unfortunately, an event that we planned to hold in Parliament for the visit of human rights defender Virginia Pinares, a community leader from Cotabambas, had to be cancelled due to the prorogation of Parliament and changes of various MPs after the British elections in December 2019. However, we continued to engage with MPs and Peers that show an interest in human rights and Peru, including Baroness Hooper, Baroness Royall and Lord Purvis, all of whom expressed an interest in helping to raise Peru's human rights issues in Parliament when needed.

In January 2020, PSG president, Baroness Coussins, tabled a question to HM Government raising the importance of keeping human rights and sustainable development clauses in the replicated FTA between the UK and Peru, Colombia and Ecuador.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO)

The PSG continues to engage regularly with the FCO Peru Desk Officer, both for routine catch up meetings and during visits by Peruvian partners. We accompanied Virginia Pinares (leader from Cotabambas) and Julia Cuadros, from Cooperaccion, to a meeting at the FCO as part of a number of advocacy and solidarity activities we organised in November 2019. One of the main objectives of this visit was to get a commitment from the UK government to show public support for human rights defenders working on mining issues, and to remind the Peruvian government of the importance of fully implementing the Protocol for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders. After the visit, the FCO Desk Officer committed to monitor more closely cases of judicial harassment against human rights defenders and to continue showing support for the implementation of the Protection Protocol.

Following the adoption of the Protection Protocol for Human Rights Defenders, Baroness Coussins wrote to the head of the Americas department at the FCO to ask that the British government welcome its adoption and monitor its implementation. The letter was also sent to the British embassy in Lima.

The PSG continued to build on an already well-established relationship with the British Embassy in Peru, and are in regular contact with Embassy staff, particularly in relation to human rights defenders and to trade issues.

European Union and United Nations

The PSG continues to make an input into the EU system through its membership of the PEP (see next section on Inter-Agency Collaboration).

In November, the PSG Coordinator travelled to Brussels accompanying HRDs Virginia Pinares and Julia Cuadros for a week-long advocacy trip. The Coordinator also acted as PEP representative (see



below). Meetings were held with representatives of DG-Trade of the European Commission, with the Desk Officer of the European External Action Service and with members of the European Parliament. Human rights defenders Santiago Manuin, an indigenous Awajun defender from the north of the Peruvian Amazonia, and David Velazco, a lawyer from NGO Fedepaz (Federación Ecuánica para la Paz) were also in Brussels to talk about the implications of extractive activities on human rights.

With regards to the United Nations system, the PSG and Cafod submitted a briefing for the attention of the Special Rapporteur Michell Forst, ahead of his visit to Peru in January.

Peruvian authorities

PSG's president, Baroness Coussins, and the PSG's coordinator met with the Peruvian ambassador in the House of Lords in March. There, we renewed our relationship with the Embassy and highlighted PSG's main areas of work and of concern. We committed to maintain regular contact and to send them any relevant information that we would like the Peruvian authorities to be aware of.

Inter-Agency Collaboration

Plataforma Europa Perú (PEP)

The PSG is one of three organisations that coordinates the work of the PEP. As such, we played an important role in shaping PEP's priorities. The PSG Coordinator is the lead PEP person for identifying opportunities for advocacy and media work that are related to HRD issues as well as issues around extractive industries, as well as originating and helping to distribute press communiques through our partners in Peru. In April, the PSG took the lead with preparing and disseminating a press communique about the adoption of the HRD Protection Protocol, which was also signed by CIDSE. In July, the coordinator also raised the situation in Tia Maria and drafted a press release signed by the PEP on the matter. Both were widely circulated in Peru through our Peruvian counterparts.

The PSG Coordinator travelled to Brussels in November 2019 to participate in a series of institutional meetings with EU representatives and attend a parliamentary event organised by the PEP and the EU-LAT coalition, as part of a week-long advocacy trip with human rights defenders Virginia Pinares, leader from Cotabambas, Julia Cuadros, from NGO Cooperaccion, Santiago Manuin, indigenous Awajun defender from the north of the Peruvian Amazonia, and David Velazco, from NGO Fedepaz (Federacion Ecumenica para la Paz). Virginia and Julia had been hosted by the PSG in London the week before (as mentioned above). During the event organised in the European Parliament, attended by MEP Leopoldo Lopez (Spain, People's Party), MEP Miguel Urban (Spain, European United Left) and MEP Garcia del Blanco (Spain, Socialist Workers Party), Peruvian representatives spoke about their experiences in defending their local environment and livelihoods against the consequences of extractive activities.

The Coordinator also attended PEP's Annual General Assembly, held on the 22 November, to coincide with the human rights defenders visit. The AGM was well attended and commitments to continue work on areas of 'expertise' were attained. These included: trade, HRDs, and extractive industries. The PSG Coordinator, alongside 11.11.11 and Justice et Paix, agreed to continue coordinating PEP's work.

Peru Solidarity Working Group

The PSG has also been participating in the newly created 'Peru Solidarity Working Group', led by the London Mining Network, and with the participation of War on Want, Terra Justa (previously the Democracy Centre), Global Justice Now and Cafod. Since its creation in July 2019, the PSG has taking part in regular meetings discussing possible joint work or coordination of events/activities, including possible contributions and monitoring of outcomes of mining companies' AGMs, particularly Anglo American and Glencore.

Members of the Peru Working Group were also instrumental in helping the PSG with the organisation of a public solidarity event that took place in SOAS, University of London, during the visit of HRD Virginia Pinares (see below).

Peruvian NGOs

The PSG is continuing to strengthen its relationship with a number of Peruvian NGOs and academic institutions working on human rights defenders at risk, business and human rights, FPIC,



Indigenous People, and sustainable development. These include: Red Muqui, Cooperaccion, CNDDHH, Derechos Humanos sin Fronteras, Fedepaz, and DAR.

Unfortunately, the PSG coordinator was not able to travel to Peru. She was able, instead, to maintain close contact with civil society in Peru through virtual channels.

Events and Media

Events

PSG annual conference and AGM

The PSG held its annual conference and AGM in November 2019 entitled 'Peru, the State and Human Rights'. where PSG members and other attendees had the opportunity to welcome and listen to our keynote speakers Virginia Pinares and Julia Cuadros, who talked about communities' relationship with companies and the criminalisation of social protests; Julia also reflected on the inadequacy of politics and the continuing penetration of the public sector by corporate interests. The conference also discussed the current political situation and its implications for human rights, in particular, corruption and its impact on human rights. We also had with us Patricia Oliart, from the University of Newcastle, who shared her research and explained the important role played by youth culture in politics today. The day ended with a session from Aldo Soto, of Rainforest UK, who talked about the incredible damage done to the Amazon, and how we are near an environmental 'tipping point'.

The conference was held at the Global Governance Institute (UCL) and attended by approximately 40 people throughout the day.

Other events

As part of Virginia Pinares' visit to London, PSG also organised a series of events. Aside from meeting with the FCO Desk Officer, the delegates had the opportunity to exchange their views and talk about their concerns with a number of London-based civil society organisations, during a round table meeting that the PSG organised with support from Cafod.

The PSG also organised a public solidarity event with the Latin American diaspora, which was held in SOAS, University of London, in November 2019, with the support from the London Mining Network and the Movimiento Jaguar Despierto. On the panel were Paula Serafini of the Argentina Solidarity Group, Professor Natalia Sobrevilla (University of Kent) from the Peru Support Group and, as main speakers, Julia Cuadros and Virginia Pinares. Paula talked about cases of criminalisation in Argentina and of communities' struggle against fracking activities. All those present agreed that solidarity work that can be done in the UK does indeed support the work of human rights defenders in Peru and beyond. This activity provides strength to defenders on the ground and also raises awareness of the struggles people face in Latin America.

Newsletter, Website and Social Media

Newsletter

The PSG has continued to produce thorough weekly analysis and news articles on relevant subjects through our website and newsletter. This year, the PSG also deepened its coverage on land issues and on the Amazon, with the addition of two expert volunteers to the producing team. Towards the end of the financial year, the PSG also went to great efforts to provide good coverage of the impact of Covid-19 in Peru, particularly through grassroots voices. We received many testimonies of the value of our newsletter at this time. We also continued to provide coverage on:

- cases where conflict around the extraction of natural resources continues, as well as reports of detrimental effects on the environment and to human health, prior consultation and conflict

emanating from the lack of civic participation governance issues, including issues of transparency.

- Political coverage: ample analysis of political upheavals in Peru and its implications for human rights, including Vizcarra's strained relationship between the executive and Congress and the dissolution of the legislature in September 2019 and the election of a new one in January 2020.
- Increasing numbers of cases around land and territory and concerns surrounding the ineffective application of consultation processes and agreements. During this period, we deepened our coverage of the Amazon region, over land disputes and Indigenous rights. These include palm oil expansion, infrastructure projects threatening the jungle, land grabbing, etc.
- The situation of human rights defenders, highlighting some key examples of indigenous rights defenders and defenders working on economic, social and cultural rights, mainly in relation to issues around extraction of natural resources. Cases covered include threats and killings of Indigenous human rights defenders as well as ongoing criminalisation of leaders and social protests, such as the ongoing cases in Las Bambas and Espinar.
- Issues of climate change.

The number of subscribers to the newsletter continues on the rise to approximately 300 subscribers. In addition, the newsletter is still distributed more widely through our social media and also forwarded by our subscribers to a wider audience.

Website

The PSG finished completion of its new website which became fully operational towards the end of 2019. We have also been working hard to update information; transfer of files from the old site to the new has been completed. The website is far easier to use, and users are also able to share information with other social media platforms with a click of a button. We have also made it easier for users to donate and for readers to become members.

The website is typically updated weekly at the time the Newsletter goes out. We have about 200 active users a week. About 50% of our users are from the United States, 10% each from Peru and the UK and 3% each from Australia and Canada.

Social Media

The PSG continues to use social media to share our news and analysis and promote events, such as the upcoming annual conference. Social media numbers and engagement continue to increase steadily, with 1,282 followers on Facebook. Number of followers on Twitter have also increased to 873.

Although the growth in social media has not been substantial it does show that the more active the PSG is on social media the more engaged people will be with PSG activities, such as events.

Organisation and Governance

Presidency

Baroness Coussins has continued as our president supporting and advising us during this eventful year. She has indicated that after 8 years, she wishes to retire. We are grateful that Lord John Alderdice has agreed to take over from the next AGM.

Staff

Our Coordinator, Ana Reyes-Hurt, is employed on a part-time basis (21 hours per week).

Management

The PSG Committee meetings are being held regularly. In this period, we had a face-to-face one-day strategy meeting held in Oxford, and we had bi-monthly meetings by Skype.

Funding

Our main source of funds has been a series of annual grants from CAFOD, currently at £7,750 per year.

In the previous FY we had a grant of £42k from the FCO from their ODA programme. This project is now complete though some costs fell in this current year FY2019/20 (see accounts).

In November 2019, the PSG was awarded a grant of £3,000 by the Lush foundation to support the visit of Virginia Pinares and Julia Cuadros to the UK as well as the costs incurred in Brussels.

We have continued to receive support from friends and members. We would particularly like to thank a number of members who have made generous donations of £100/£300 plus one member who has donated of order £20k.

Membership

Following a face-to-face meeting in Oxford, the committee and the coordinator embarked on renewed efforts to recapture lost membership and recruit new supporters. By the end of March, We had about 80 people and organisations who subscribe.

Future of PSG

The funding situation for the PSG has much improved from last year. We are thus safe for FY2020/21 and probably FY2021/22.

End of Year Accounts

The PSG's financial year is from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. The accounts for the year given below are, with a few exceptions that are explained in the notes, prepared on a cash basis, that is receipts and expenditures are recognised when they occur.¹

The accounts show the budget agreed at the beginning of the year and the actual outcome at the end of the year. It will be noted that the budget and outcome are very different.

The PSG has over a number of years been funded by grants from CAFOD (£7,750 this year) and from supporters. CAFOD has supported us through a programme agreed on a three-yearly basis with detailed annual plans, covering activities such as: research; advocacy; publication of news, analysis and reports; and events.

In addition to the Cafod grant, the PSG has also received a contract of total value £3,000 from the Lush Foundation.

Members and other well-wishers have been extremely generous in their support this year. We have received about £1,250 from regular subscriptions. This year we have had generous donations from many, but an extremely large donation from one of our members; the total received was about £25,000.

We would like to express our thanks to all organisations and individuals who have supported us, including those providing pro bono services.

Expenditure was high on fees and travel from costs associated with the ODA contracts the income for which was in the previous year – see last year's report for details of these contracts.

The cash surplus at the end of the year was £8,506.

¹ Thus for example a cheque from a donor might be received in January for work to be done January to July; this receipt would be recognised in January. Expenses would each be recognised as they occur between January and July.

Payments and Receipts FY2019/20

Payments	Budget	Actual
Rent & Insurance	300	282.29
Salary & National Insurance	17,500	18,363.49
Fees		7,939.76
Travel	750	2,021.45
Phone & Fax, Email & Website	600	500.95
Post		47.60
Resources		16.00
Events	100	101.00
Visitors		80.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	19,250	29,352.54

Receipts	Budget	Actual
Grants	7,750	11,450.00
Subscriptions	1,500	1,241.78
Donations	100	25,011.25
Events Income		142.90
Interest		12.98
Other		0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	9,350	37,858.91

Grand Total	-9,900	8,506.37
--------------------	---------------	-----------------

Balance Sheet FY2019/20

	Petty Cash	Santander current	Santander Deposit	Coop	PayPal	Assets ²	Liabilities and deferred income ³	Total
31 March 19	232.41	5,578.83	57.53	29,141.94	0.00	0.00	-7,750.00	27,260.71
31 March 20	264.55	5,307.78	70.51	30,309.07	97.46	0.00	-282.29	35,767.08
Difference	32.14	-271.05	12.98	1,167.13	97.46	0.00	7,467.71	8,506.37

² Cheques or income received but not yet cashed by PSG. Also includes credit provisions.

³ Deferred income and liabilities also includes debit provisions.