Annual Report

April 2024– March 2025

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coordinator@perusupportgroup.org.uk

www.perusupportgroup.org.uk


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Abbreviations

Organisations	
AI	Amnesty International
APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
APCI	Agencia Peruana de Cooperación Internacional
APPG	All-Party Parliamentary Group
CAFOD	Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
DAR	Derecho, Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
EU	European Union
EU-LAT	Advocacy Network, European Union and Latin America
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
FPP	Forest Peoples Programme
LMN	London Mining Network
MEP	Member of European Parliament
PEP	Plataforma Europa Perú
PHRG	Parliamentary Human Rights Group
PSG	Peru Support Group
UCL	University College London
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
Acronyms	
AGM	Annual General Meeting
FPIC	Free Prior Informed Consent
GDP	Gross Domestic Producy
HRD	Human Rights Defender
MEP	Member of European Parliament
MP	Member of (UK) Parliament
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
Q&A	Questions and Answers

Executive Summary

The year in context

The year saw a further dwindling in popular support for the Boluarte administration. During the year, Congress moved to protect Boluarte from further attempts at impeachment and from judicial enquiries into alleged wrongdoing. The increasingly authoritarian bearing of both president and Congress led to growing international criticism. The government's failure to stem a rise in criminal violence over the year to March 2025 brought further criticism of Boluarte's record in government.

In the mining industry, the Boluarte administration sought to provide further incentives to foreign investment by further eliminating regulatory controls. However, this failed to produce much by way of new investment. The expansion of illegal mining, along with other illicit activities in the Amazon region including deforestation and coca cultivation, led to a growing number of lengthy conflicts with indigenous peoples.

The pick-up in GDP in 2024 (3.3% as against a 0.6% contraction in 2023), proved insufficient to provide a strong boost to employment or to reduce levels of poverty.

Influencing

In the first semester, we developed a short briefing for parliamentarians on the threats to democratic institutions. A number of Written Question were raised and answered.

This year, we have been in regular contact with the chair of the Human Rights Parliamentary Group (PHRG) and the APPG on Latin America as well as with the coordinator of the human rights parliamentary group..

With Lord Alderdice, we held a meeting on 12 November, as part of the activities the PSG organised with AI to host a Peruvian delegation.

The PSG Coordinator held two online meetings with British Embassy staff, where we discussed civil society's concerns regarding the proposed changes by the APCI to the law on international cooperation. We also met with the new policy lead at the British Embassy and had a number of interactions with Ambassador Gavin Cook on the same issue.

Collaboration

The Coordinator wrote the chapter on Peru for the 'Report on the state of civic space in Latin America', officially launched in March during a session in the European Parliament of the EU-Central America group.

PSG also contributed to a briefing completed ahead a meeting with the European External Action Service Desk Officer.

The PSG officially joined the EU-LAT Network in December 2023 and attended its AGM in December, in Brussels. The Coordinator also took the role of co-coordinator of the Peru working group, along with 11.11.11 and Oxfam Peru. As part of this group, the PSG contributed to the drafting of letters to MEPs and European institutions.

The Coordinator: attended the AngloAmerican AGM and raised questions concerning mining activities in Quellaveco; participated in a public event organised by the LMN; raised questions on behalf of Espinar communities affected by Glencore's operations in the province, at this year's

Glencore AGM in Zug.

PSG also helped to re-build connections between our partners DHSF and the London Mining Network, and Leigh Day. With LMN, we are seeking advice and contacts for a possible legal case in Switzerland.

Events

The PSG's in-person annual conference and associated seminar took place at UCL on 30 November. 'Peru on the Ropes?' had an attendance of approximately 40 people. It included a session on Energy Transition.

We organised one online seminar during this semester: Water for life – and equality, which took place on 12 June 2024. We organised two webinars as part of a series of seminars on the climate crisis and its effect on human rights. One was on Deforestation and the other on Water.

The PSG and co-director Stephanie Boyd worked to secure a screening of the film Karuara – people of the river on 12 April. A Q&A followed the screening.

Media

PSG activity was quoted by the New Internationalists, talking about the recent damaging changes to the forestry law. We were also quoted by partner organisations Cooperaccion and London Mining Network, during our interventions at the Glencore and AngloAmerican AGMs respectively.

Prior to a visit to London for two family members of victims of lethal state repression that took place during the 2022-23 protests in Ayacucho and Puno, PSG worked with Amnesty International Regional Office to promote the visit in the media and distributed the press release issued by AI with our media contacts.

The PSG continued producing its well-established weekly newsletter, covering topics affecting human rights and environmental issues. It is well received by our readers, maintaining a healthy number of newsletter subscribers, with a total of about 450 as of the end of March 2025.

The PSG website continues to be updated with the weekly content of the newsletters. The level of engagement in our social media has been good, and steady throughout, most notably during the highs of Peru's crisis, and during the HRD visit.

Organisation, Governance and Finance

The PSG appreciates the continuing support of its President, Lord Alderdice.

Ana Reyes-Hurt continued as Coordinator but after ten years leaves at the end of April 2025. A replacement is being sought.

The committee, chaired by John Crabtree, met regularly on Zoom.

Cafod continued to fund us for our core activities. Amnesty International contributed to some visitor costs.

Subscriptions and donations were stable during the year. We thank all our funders; without them we could not continue our advocacy work.

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The Year in Context

The year saw a further dwindling in popular support for the Boluarte administration. By the end of the period, barely 3% of those consulted by pollsters approved of her performance. In part, this was due to her subservience to an equally unpopular Congress, dominated by a trio of far-right parties: Fuerza Popular, Renovación Popular and Avanza País. But Boluarte was also the target of widespread criticism for he own alleged misdemeanours, including the scandal over how she acquired costly Rolex watches on her fairly modest salary, how she connived in the flight from justice of Vladimir Cerrón (the former governor of Junín), and over her part in the use of public funds to try to establish her own political party, using her brother to this end.

During the year, Congress moved to protect Boluarte from further attempts at impeachment and from judicial enquiries into alleged wrongdoing. The majority in Congress also sought to pass legislation designed to enhance its own powers at the expense of both the executive and judicial branches, while seeking to limit civic space through a law designed to neuter NGOs. With presidential and parliamentary elections due in 2026, it also sought to curb the powers of the electoral authorities and facilitate the re-election of existing members.

The increasingly authoritarian bearing of both president and Congress led to growing international criticism. The Biden administration in Washington was particularly critical of what it regarded as democratic backsliding. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights repeatedly criticised Peru, especially on moves designed to undermine the independence of the judiciary. In response, far-right parties threatened to remove Peru from its jurisdiction. Peru was also the target of international human rights agencies over its failure to respond to violations of rights, notably the government's failure to take any responsibility for the extra-judicial killings that had taken place in southern Peru at the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023.

The government's failure to stem a rise in criminal violence over the year to March 2025 brought further criticism of Boluarte's record in government. In November 2024, coinciding with Peru's hosting of the APEC summit, there were widespread protests over the failure to deter a wave of extortion-related assassinations across the country, especially in Lima. The use of 'states of emergency' to quell violence failed to have positive effects while leading to the increased militarisation of affected areas and consequent eclipse of civil rights.

In the mining industry, the Boluarte administration sought to provide additional incentives to foreign investment by further eliminating regulatory controls. However, this failed to produce much by way of new investment. Over the year, the government persistently promised to push ahead with the Southern Copper's controversial Tía María project in Arequipa region, but by the end of March there were still no signs of it being initiated. Local groups of farmers remained resolutely opposed. The government faced criticism over its handling of the formalisation of informal miners, but the Reinfo scheme (the mechanism used) remained in place.

The expansion of illegal mining, along with other illicit activities in the Amazon region including deforestation and coca cultivation, led to a growing number of lengthy conflicts with indigenous peoples. The failure of government to provide adequate protection or services to indigenous peoples led to moves by these to look for territorial autonomy. The expansion of illegal gold mining, linked to criminal mafias, led to killings in the district of Pataz, La Libertad region, but the government's declaration of states of emergency in La Libertad made little impact.

Despite a pick-up in GDP in 2024 (3.3% as against a 0.6% contraction in 2023), this proved

insufficient to provide a strong boost to employment or to reduce levels of poverty. The Index of Social Progress, published at the end of the period under review, shows how Peru's international standing has declined on a number of different welfare indicators.

Influencing

MPs and Peers

This year, we have been in regular contact with Fabian Hamilton's office (chair of the Human Rights Parliamentary Group (PHRG) and the APPG on Latin America) as well as with the coordinator of the human rights parliamentary group. We continue to have a good relationship with the PHRG coordinator, Nicole Piche, whom we meet about twice a year – our last meeting was in November, which coincided with a AI/PSG visit in November 2024.

It should be noted that the elections and change of UK government curtailed our ability to do much in the first semester. The APPGs took longer to form and the one on Peru was discontinued. We spent the first semester collecting information about the newly established parliament and coming up with a list of MPs and peers who we know, or think could have an interest in Peru and/or human rights issues.

A number of Written Question were raised and answered:

- By Alex Sobel – on protection for indigenous leaders,
- By Alex Sobel – on palm plantation and narcotics production,
- By Fabian Hamilton – on protection and support to families of the Kichwa community of Santa Rosillo,
- By Sarah Champion – on the government's assessment about the potential impact on civil society of the APCI law.

In the first semester, we developed a short briefing for parliamentarians on the threats to democratic institutions, in particular, the judiciary. We also raised concerns over the attempts to reform the law on international cooperation, which are likely to debilitate NGOs and threaten their ability to do their work.

During the visit co-hosted with AI, we received a good response from Baroness Chapman, the minister for Latin America at the FCDO, who committed to raise the issue of impunity and the lack of progress in the investigations into the killings of protesters during the events of 2022 – 2023 during their bilateral talks with the Peruvian government.

With Lord Alderdice, we planned to hold 1-3 parliamentary events a year to draw attention to Peru's main concerns and gather more enthusiasm for possible advocacy action. The first of such meetings took place on 12 November, as part of the activities the PSG organised with AI to host Peruvian human rights defenders Yovana Mendoza Huarancca, vice-president of the Ayacucho Victims Association, and Mario Iquita Chambi, representative of the Juliaca Victims Association. They were in the UK to increase international pressure in the search for justice for those who were killed or seriously injured, and for their families, during the repression of protests in Peru between December 2022 and March 2023. We held an event in Parliament chaired by PSG president Lord Alderdice; among the attendees was the minister with responsibility for Latin America at the Foreign and Development Office, Baroness Chapman. She thanked Yovanna and Mario for their testimonies, their strength and their bravery in sharing their stories. Also in attendance were Lord Mountevans and Baroness Coussins.

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office

The PSG Coordinator held two online meetings with British Embassy staff in June, where we

discussed civil society's concerns regarding the proposed changes to the law on international cooperation. We also met with the new policy lead at the British Embassy during a meeting held at the FCDO with the (now former) Peru Desk Officer in November, accompanying Peruvian defenders (see above). At that meeting, we invited her to our annual conference, which she attended. She expressed her gratitude and said the day had been a good introductory session on human rights for her, before her move to Lima.

In June, we shared with Ambassador Gavin Cook a letter that we sent, as members of the EU-LAT network, to the EU and its member states, on the recent threat to changes to the APCI law on international cooperation. Ambassador Cook responded promptly.

In March, we wrote a letter with Cafod, Size of Wales and the FPP, addressed to Ambassador Gavin Cook, on the approval by Congress of the APCI Law, stating our concerns about its ramifications to the state of civil society in Peru. The same letter was also forwarded by Lord Alderdice, and he received an immediate response from Gavin Cook, detailing the Embassy's efforts in advising on the implementation of the law.

We are currently awaiting confirmation of a follow up meeting with the Embassy to discuss strategies.

European Union and United Nations

As part of the Peru working group of the EU-LAT Network, the PSG contributed to the drafting of the following letters:

- Letter from MEPs to Josep Borrell on the political situation in Peru (April 2024)
- Letter addressed to European institutions and European member states on the suggested legislative changes to the APCI (international cooperation) law.
- The latest, a letter in March urging EU institutions to reject the approval of the APCI law.

PSG also contributed to a briefing completed ahead of a meeting with the European External Action Service Desk Officer.

The Coordinator wrote the chapter on Peru for the Report on the state of civic space in Latin America, officially launched in March during a session in the European Parliament of the EU-Central America group. The EU-LAT is now planning a launch of the report in Peru in June, to coincide with a Parliamentary visit from the Andean group of the European parliament to Lima.

The Coordinator also took on the role of co-coordinator of the Peru working group, along with 11.11.11 and Oxfam Peru – this means suggesting agenda priorities, calling meetings, etc.

The Coordinator attended the EU-LAT AGM in December, in Brussels.

Peruvian Embassy

The Coordinator met with the then newly appointed policy officer of the Peruvian Embassy to introduce ourselves, talk about our work and our priorities. A meeting with the Peruvian Ambassador and Lord Alderdice is still pending.

Inter-Agency Collaboration

EU-LAT Network

The PSG officially joined the EU-LAT Network in December 2023. The Coordinator attended the EU-LAT AGM in December, in Brussels. The next face-to-face AGM meeting is due to take place 3-4 June 2025.

The Coordinator also took on the role of co-coordinator of the Peru working group, along with 11.11.11 and Oxfam Peru. As part of this group, the PSG contributed to activities noted above in the section 'European Union and United Nations'.

Peru Solidarity Mining Working Group

In April, the Coordinator attended the AngloAmerican AGM and raised questions concerning mining activities in Quellaveco. The Coordinator also participated in a public event organised by the LMN, as part of a visit by a Chilean human rights defender who came to talk about experiences of living near AngloAmerican mine in Chile.

On 29 May, at this year's Glencore AGM in Zug, the Coordinator raised questions on behalf of Espinar communities affected by Glencore's operations in the province. This was the first time that community concerns were raised at Glencore's AGM. The responses we received were shared with our partners in Cooperaccion, who have used this information for follow up actions.

In Switzerland, PSG was part of a wider delegation attending the AGM, including delegates from Colombia, DRC and South Africa.

PSG also helped to re-build connections between our partners DHSF and the London Mining Network, and Leigh Day. With LMN, we sought advice and contacts for a possible legal case in Switzerland – on the impact of mining activities on the health of communities.

Peruvian NGOs

We have continued to work alongside our Peruvian partners DHSF and Cooperaccion on the situation in Espinar, building connections between our partners in Peru and key stakeholders in the UK, including the London Mining Network, and internationally.

We have also been working with Red Muqui and TerraJusta in relation to the case of the Quellaveco mine. Our Peruvian partners have been working on a report about the Quellaveco mine's impact on the communities, mainly in relation to water. Towards the end of the financial year, talks centred around their participation at the next AngloAmerican AGM, to take place in London on 30 April. A representative from Red Muqui and a member of a community from Moquegua travelled to London and attended a series of events, including a public event held in UCL.

We also began discussions about PSG's participation at Glencore's 2025 AGM, to be held in Zug on 28 May, with the London Mining Network and Cooperaccion.

PSG held a couple of meetings with our Peruvian partners, RedGe, the organisation that works on monitoring the impact of trade agreements on human rights and the environment in Peru. We are still trying to coordinate an advocacy strategy on trade, but it has been difficult as partners are still focusing their work on the EU and the US trade agreements.

Events and Media

Events

Annual conference

Our in-person annual conference, 'Peru on the Ropes?' had an attendance of approximately 40 people at the UCL Education Institute in London on 30 November. Politics, organised crime, poverty and energy transition came under the spotlight. There were contributions from experts, activists and academics, including: IDL Director Carlos Rivera, Carlos Monge, keynote speaker, anthropologist and historian associated with DESCO, and Daniela Soberon, the environmental lawyer from the Universidad del Pacifico.

Online Events

We organised two webinars as part of a series on the climate crisis and its effect on human rights. One was on Deforestation and the other on Water. The deforestation topic, in particular the increased threats to the Amazonia forest caused by modifications to the Forestry Law, was highlighted in a news feature in the New Internationalist: Peru's 'Anti-Forest Law' Rewards Crime and Screws the Planet.

The second seminar discussed the issue of water: Water for life – and equality, taking place on 12 June. We had 50 participants online, which is the minimum expected number we had hoped for. The panel discussed the wider challenges related to water access and quality and explained some of the work being done to monitor water quality in urban areas. They also spoke about strategies that indigenous communities are using to gain legal recognition of a river's rights.

Our webinars are also available for viewers who would like to access our content at any time in the future, with our online library collection.

The third in the series of seminars, on Energy Transition, took place face-to-face as part of our Annual Conference (see above).

Other Events

Between January and March, the Coordinator worked alongside PSG committee member and co-producer and co-director Stephanie Boyd to secure a screening of the film Karuara – people of the river at the Garden Cinema, in Covent Garden on 12 April. The film explores the deep – and magical – relationship that indigenous Kukama women have with their river. Their pioneering campaign to win Peru's Marañon River intrinsic rights as a 'living being' – in face of corporate extractivism and cultural genocide – was eventually successful. We liaised with Gabriel Salazar, from Forum Solidaridad Peru, and Peter Leys (social anthropologist) for a visit to London to participate in a Q&A after the screening, where we hope to count with the presence of Kukama Woman leader Emilsen Flores.

Media

Articles in the media

We were quoted in an article that appeared in the New Internationalist, talking about the recent damaging changes to the forestry law. We were also quoted by partner organisations Cooperaccion and London Mining Network, during our interventions at the Glencore and AngloAmerican AGMs respectively.

Prior to a visit to London for two family members of victims of lethal state repression that took

place during the 2022-23 protests in Ayacucho and Puno, we worked with the Amnesty International Regional Office to promote the visit in the media and distributed the press release issued by AI to our media contacts. PSG was quoted in AI's press release: "Victims of lethal state repression commence international delegation, taking their voices to leaders in Europe".

Newsletter

The PSG continued to produce its well-established weekly newsletter, covering topics affecting human rights and environmental issues, including:

- Articles covering the ongoing political crisis and the continuing threat to democratic institutions and civic space, through legislative initiatives and enacted laws.
- Continued coverage on what is relevant in the Amazonia, including issues regarding land rights, indigenous peoples, FPIC, environmental defenders and threats, etc.
- Issues relevant to mining, including illegal mining and its relationship with criminality and land invasions, and the continued attempts to promote foreign investment in the mining sector.
- Cases of threats and intimidation against HRDs, including judicial harassment.
- Increased coverage of climate-related issues, including energy transition.

Our newsletter continued to be well received by our readers, maintaining a healthy number of about 450 as of the end of March 2025.

Website and social media

The PSG website continues to be updated with the weekly content of the newsletters.

The level of engagement in our social media has been good, and steady throughout, most notably during the highs of Peru's crisis, and during the HRD visit.

Organisation and Governance

Presidency

This year was Lord Alderdice's fourth year as President of the PSG and we continued to strengthen alliances with peers and MPs, and the British and Peruvian Embassies, through his interactions.

Coordinator

Our Coordinator, Ana Reyes-Hurt, has been employed on a part-time basis (21 hours per week), for the last ten years and plays a vital role in building and maintaining contacts and flows of information. She will reduce her time at the end of March and will leave at the end of June 2025 but join the management committee. The search for a new Coordinator on 14 hours per week is in progress.

Management

The PSG Committee meetings are held regularly. In this period, we have had regular virtual meetings by Zoom.

Funding

CAFOD has continued their generous support for the work of the PSG, this year to a total funding of £20,000. We also received a grant from Amnesty International.

We thank our supporters who have given about £3,100 over the year through their subscriptions and donations. It would be useful if we could increase this item of our income.

Membership

Of the 400 or so who receive the newsletter about 70 make a donation/subscription. A number of the donations are substantial.

End of Year Accounts

The PSG's financial year is from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. The accounts for the year, given below, are, with a few exceptions 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 significantly different.

The PSG has over a number of years been funded by grants from CAFOD (£20,000 this year). 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. PSG received £582 from Amnesty International to cover costs of visitors coming from Peru. We have received about £3,100 from donations and subscriptions.

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

The deficit for the year was £5,536, with a balance at the end of the year of £6,872. Cafod have indicated that it will make the PSG a reduced grant for FY2026/27. Next year the Coordinator role will reduce to two days per week from three days per week. Taking into account an estimate of the grant from Cafod, the usual levels of subscriptions and donations, and the reduced level of expenditure on the salary of the Coordinator, the PSG should get through FY2025/26 satisfactorily.

[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.

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Payments and Receipts FY2024/25

	Budget	Actual	Notes
PAYMENTS			
Rent & Insurance	300	430.40	
Salary, Pension, Tax and NIC	24,500	24,186.14	
Salary and overtime Peru trip	300		No Peru trip
Fees	0	430.47	Fee for EU-LAT membership
T&S local for Coord	150	37.56	
T&S non-local for Coord (EU)	500	1,171.80	Extra Brussels trip and also to Switzerland for Glencore AGM
T&S Visitors	0	1,410.15	
Direct costs Peru trip	2,200		No Peru trip
Phone, Fax & e-mail	600	951.88	
Printing and copying	0	13.47	
Materials	0	59.99	
Miscellaneous	0	22.80	
Events	450	500.00	
Total Payments	**29,000**	**29,214.66**	
RECEIPTS			
Grants			
- CAFOD	20,000	20,000.00	
- Amnesty International		581.89	
Subscriptions & Donations	4,500	3,055.56	
Miscellaneous	0	40.00	
Interest	0	0.68	
Total Receipts	**24,500**	**23,678.13**	
GRAND TOTAL	**-4,500**	**-5,536.53**	

Balance Sheet FY2024/25

	Petty Cash	Santander Current	Santander Deposit	Coop	PayPal	Assets[2]	Liabilities and Deferred Income[3]	Total
1 Apr 24	103.06	8,380.38	71.24	2,249.60	1,604.20	0.00	0.00	**12,408.48**
31 Mar 25	103.06	6,360.30	71.92	336.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	**6,871.95**
Difference	0.00	-2,020.08	0.68	-1,912.93	-1,604.20	0.00	0.00	**-5,536.53**

[2] Cheques or income received but not yet cashed by PSG. Also includes credit provisions.
[3] Deferred income and liabilities also includes debit provisions.