

# KAIROS in Action

Jan-March 2010

## Building an Inclusive Movement



Since CIDA defunding of KAIROS was announced on November 30, KAIROS supporters have visited over 100 Members of Parliament to inform them about KAIROS and the impact of CIDA cuts to our

global partners. Staff continue to respond to many information requests on KAIROS – from supporters, the media, parliamentarians, and from the general public – both through individual responses and by developing materials for the website. Many new friends of KAIROS have come forward out of this crisis, and we are actively supporting their ongoing participation through communication, including invitations to events, such as the fall regional meetings. We are also working towards a September launch of our “companions and communities” affiliation program.

With **Social Media** platforms like Facebook and Twitter now surpassing e-mail in use, and with Facebook alone accounting for more content than websites, KAIROS has been increasing its focus in these areas. About 600 people joined the KAIROS Facebook page between January and April (over 1,600 total) with the page gradually becoming a hub of activity for those interested in KAIROS and our issues. There are fewer KAIROS Twitter ‘followers’ (165), but they are also increasingly steadily. KAIROS now publicizes almost all of its activities via both Facebook and Twitter, generally directing traffic to specific web page resources. To support staff development, we have implemented in-house training, and have begun work on a social media and photo policy to ensure awareness and security.

The KAIROS **website** continues to be strengthened, a process made easier by a recent migration to a new host. A new **promotion** strategy, includes an updated website resources section and new events

*Jan-April 2010, KAIROS Program*

## Faithful Action for Justice

### Up Next!

#### G8/G20 Tour

From June 14-17, KAIROS will itinerate four Southern and Indigenous partners to six cities (Victoria, Yellowknife, Regina, St. John's, Halifax, Fredericton) to share with Canadians the real impacts of climate change on their daily lives and to discuss what a just solution to the climate crisis could look like. Those who are most affected by climate change have no place at the decision-making table. This "Global Town Hall" will be an opportunity for substantive dialogue about real solutions.

Partners for this part of the trip will be:

Francois Pihaatae from Tahiti, the Ecumenical Animator on Climate Change for the Pacific Council of Churches.

Fred Sangris of the Akaitcho Dene, whose research focuses on the impacts of climate change on wildlife, especially caribou.

Isaiah Kipyegon Toroitich, Program Officer for Policy and Advocacy (Climate and Economic Justice) at Norwegian Church Aid in Kenya.

Naty Atz Sunc, General Coordinator of CEIBA, the Association for Community Development and Promotion in Guatemala

For more information see the website

([www.kairoscanada.org](http://www.kairoscanada.org)) or contact Sara Stratton at [sstratton@kairoscanada.org](mailto:sstratton@kairoscanada.org)

#### KAIROS 2010 Regional Meetings

Atlantic region: September 24-26 at the Tatamagouche Centre, Tatamagouche Nova Scotia. Contact Barton Cutten, [bcutten@gmail.com](mailto:bcutten@gmail.com)

BC-Yukon: October 1-3 at Sorrento Retreat Centre, Sorrento BC. Contact Susan Draper: [graceful@shaw.ca](mailto:graceful@shaw.ca)

Great Lakes-St Lawrence: October 1-3 at Mount Mary retreat centre, Ancaster ON. Contact Tom Sagar, [glsIKAIROS@gmail.com](mailto:glsIKAIROS@gmail.com)

Cambrian-Agassiz: October 16 outside Winnipeg. Contact Fletcher Stewart, [fletch1@mymts.net](mailto:fletch1@mymts.net)

Prairies North: Edmonton, dates TBA. Contact Don Dale: [doncdale@yahoo.com](mailto:doncdale@yahoo.com)

calendar showcasing activities happening across the country. Monthly *Kairos Times* mailings, as well as 'Urgent Actions', show exceptional 'Open' rates and 'click-throughs' to the website.

KAIROS is at work on a very brief promotional **video** oriented to delivery on the web. KAIROS' YouTube channel continues to gradually grow, and KAIROS' use of on-line video, both its own as well as those of other organizations, has proven to be effective.

We are also in the process of purchasing a new **database** that will better assist in movement building, fundraising and targeted advocacy.

**Media** interest in KAIROS continued to be high during this quarter in the aftermath of the CIDA funding cuts. CBC national radio and television news and current affairs – the only major news organization to not cover the story in December – finally broke its silence late January with reports on The House, The National and on hourly newscasts. Radio Canada profiled KAIROS as part of a major documentary last month, parts of which were carried by French stations across the country. KAIROS was also well covered in the *Globe and Mail* with positive articles in the paper and online editions.

Coverage in traditional and online media has been overwhelmingly positive. While coverage has dropped off since late January, media still consistently highlight KAIROS in stories about silencing dissent. Special attention has been paid to media monitoring and we are engaging a media monitoring service in order to enhance our capacity.



### Human Rights in Canada

Working with KAIROS Vancouver and local migrant and community organizations, KAIROS is organizing

### Dignity and Rights



a workshop on **Human Rights and Migrant Workers** in Vancouver, June 5-6, with a possible additional workshop in Victoria. Focusing on dignity and the spirit of human rights, the goal of the workshops is to engage migrant, faith and community advocates in a participatory process to develop a rights-based approach for joint action. Through this process, KAIROS engages with participants in a group formation which will provide cohesion and preparedness for joint human rights advocacy.

A similar approach is being employed in **Indigenous rights** training, with pilot workshops in Ottawa and Fredericton planned for May. KAIROS Indigenous Rights resources continue to be in great demand, with staff animating the "Blanket Exercise" with more than 12 church groups and schools in this quarter. More training workshops are proposed for the fall.

KAIROS responded with a statement of cautious optimism to the federal government's throne speech commitment to consider endorsing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In March, KAIROS staff accompanied three **Lubicon** teenagers, who travelled to New York to meet with UN human rights committee members for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN human rights ruling on Canada's treatment of the Lubicon.

In April, KAIROS hosted a public event on Right Relations in Winnipeg to correspond with a visit of members of the KAIROS Indigenous Rights network. Ahead, KAIROS is working to increase our participation in **Sisters in Spirit**—a national initiative to end violence against Aboriginal women. We are also working on developing the KAIROS public engagement campaign for the fall with a focus on Indigenous rights and oil extraction.

### International Human Rights

KAIROS plays a leadership role (alongside *Amnesty International* and *Rights and Democracy*) in the Canadian International Human Rights Network (CIHRN), a network of NGOs and other groups that engage with the Canadian government on human rights. On April 29<sup>th</sup> CIHRN's dialogue with the government included re-establishing broader consultations between civil society and DFAIT, remanding the UN's Independent Expert on Sudan, follow-up on the Goldstone Report related to the conflict in Gaza, and addressing issues of women in

conflict. The next meeting between the CIHRN and DFAIT is in August.

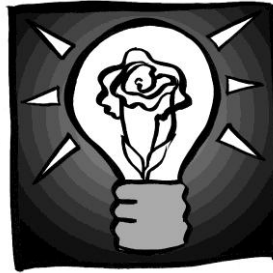
KAIROS has continued to raise concerns of partners in **Colombia** regarding the human rights impacts of the Canada Colombia Free Trade Agreement (CCFTA) and to call for an independent human rights impact assessment before the deal is implemented.

We have begun the planning and organizing of the **Women of Courage** delegation to Colombia, August 15-25. The delegation seeks to bring partners from the Philippines, Congo and Israel/Palestine, Canadian Indigenous and migrant justice partners to Colombia to participate in an International gathering on women and militarization organized by KAIROS partner, the Popular Women's Organization (OFP). The delegation aims to strengthen our work with partners on women, human rights, violence and impunity as well as highlight the courageous work of women human rights defenders and protagonists for peace.

With *Women of Courage* in mind, KAIROS joined the Gender and Peacebuilding group at The Canadian Peacebuilding Network. On March 29-30<sup>th</sup>, we met with 40 agencies and individuals to begin to map out a strategy for encouraging Canada to begin implementing several UN Resolutions (1325 and 1820) related to peacebuilding, conflict, and women.

On **Israel-Palestine**, KAIROS has focused its work on education. Three pilot "Just Peace 101: Palestine-Israel" workshops were held in Port Moody BC, North Vancouver BC, and Agincourt ON, and in total included 80 people. Both BC workshops included people from the Jewish and Muslim community as well as church members and young adults. A planning workshop for activists was also held in Vernon, BC and drew 12 people from four communities as church and wider community members tried to discern where to take their community educational work. The workshop process and content will be evaluated and shared with the Middle East Working Group and with church educators and Middle East specialists who gathered in March to help shape the pilot workshops. Broader promotion of this program begins with the KAIROS bulletin insert supporting the World Council of Churches' World Week for Peace in Palestine-Israel in May.

KAIROS issued an urgent action in response to the killings of environmental and community activists in **El Salvador** and also responded to the recent killing of Bety Carinos, **Mexican** human rights defender and member of the Mexican Network on Mining. We also continue to monitor the situation in **Sudan** and **Philippines** related to elections, and the situation in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** related to changes in peacekeeping.



## Sustainability: Promoting Energy Justice

### Resource Extraction

Private members' bills survive when Parliament is prorogued, so Bill C-300 on corporate accountability in the mining, oil and gas industries will return to the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs committee in late May for further hearings. KAIROS continues to support the bill and is working with others in the Canadian Network on Corporate Accountability (CNCA) to build widespread support for this bill at the grassroots level.

In parallel with this advocacy effort, KAIROS continues to engage in constructive conversations with the Government of Canada on its very weak Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy:

- On February 16, KAIROS met with the CSR Counsellor for the Extractive Sector, a newly created position under the Minister of International Trade that promotes responsible mining practices and has some narrow investigative powers.
- On March 25, KAIROS took part in a dialogue session in Vancouver hosted by Natural Resources Canada about promoting transparency of resource royalties and taxes in resource-rich countries.
- On April 23, KAIROS participated in a workshop in Ottawa to help establish a multi-stakeholder CSR Centre of Excellence that will act as a clearinghouse for information on international CSR in the extractive industries.

## Climate Justice

Bill C-311, *The Climate Change Accountability Act* was introduced into the House by Bruce Hyer of the NDP in early 2009. After delays and uncertainties it finally passed the last reading on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 by a vote of 149-136 with support from all the opposition parties. Bill C-311 calls for a medium-term target to reduce Canadian greenhouse gas emissions to 25% below 1990 levels by 2020 and a long term target to bring emissions down to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050. The goals are consistent with the Kyoto process and the bill has provisions that will hold the Canadian government accountable for meeting these targets. It also provides authority for the government to make regulations in order to be successful and sets penalties for those who contravene regulations passed under the Act. KAIROS, as part of a network of civil society organizations within Climate Action Network (CAN), has been advocating for passage of this piece of legislation and we have cause for great celebration! The next step is to ensure that it passes the Senate and we will continue to work within CAN to achieve this final step in the legislative process.

## Robin Hood Tax Petition Launched

KAIROS together with other civil society organization has launched an online petition campaign to persuade leaders of the G20 to endorse a Financial Transactions Tax (FTT) – also known as a Robin Hood Tax (RHT) - at their summit in June in Toronto. An FTT is a tiny tax at a rate of just 0.05% on financial transactions that could raise around \$650 billion a year to fight climate change and poverty at home and abroad.

In late April, the International Monetary Fund issued a report acknowledging that an FTT is indeed feasible. However, the IMF did not endorse an FTT preferring instead a levy on bank balances or a tax on bank profits and bankers excessive remuneration packages. Nevertheless, the FTT remains in play having been endorsed by government leaders from France, Germany, the United Kingdom, Japan and key advisors to President Obama. Of the G8 countries only Canada is opposed, hence the importance of our Canadian campaign.



In February KAIROS began a photo campaign, encouraging our great supporters across the country to show the world how they “stand with KAIROS”.

## CIDA Update

In this period, KAIROS staff worked to prepare a reapplication to CIDA for 2010-2014. Following Board direction, the proposal includes partners from Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and is framed around new CIDA priorities of food security and children and youth. Should this proposal be successful, KAIROS is committed to funding Middle East partnerships from our core budget. We await feedback from CIDA on our proposal. We are also working actively on our CIDA report for 2006-2009.

## Eleven Canadian churches and church related organizations working together for justice and peace.



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