

# The Faces and Impacts of the CIDA Cut to KAIROS Partnerships Program

## Overall Impact:

KAIROS supports 21 ecumenical and civil society organizations in Latin America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. Our four-year program (2009-2013) to CIDA will:

- Reduce human rights violations and strengthen support for upholding human rights;
- Promote environmental sustainability by reducing the impact of climate change and land degradation and;
- Promote women's human rights and gender equality—five of 21 partners in the South are women's organizations.

In total, 121,175 women and 126,000 men from four regions and eight focus countries will benefit from this program.

KAIROS supports partners in countries such as Sudan, the Congo, Indonesia, Colombia and Mexico who face humanitarian crises, egregious human rights violations and political repression. Many of our overseas partners risk their lives for the work they do. KAIROS' accompaniment, advocacy and education work with partners has saved lives.

## Colombia



*This single father and his youngest daughter, displaced by violence in Colombia, were helped by KAIROS-CIDA support of the Popular Feminist Organization's (OFP) integrated community development and human rights program.*

In Colombia, KAIROS supports a grassroots women's human rights organization, Organizacion Femenina Popular (OFP), in Magdalena Medio, a region that has experienced some of the worst human rights abuses in Colombia. The OFP now has a membership of 5000 women and runs 22 women's centres, offering programs that include integrated community development, human rights of women and youth, health and legal services and education.

Cutting KAIROS funding for the 2009-2013 program will have a devastating impact on the services and programs available to the 5000 members of the OFP, particularly women and youth. Concretely, 200 women will not receive human rights training, and another 200, themselves victims of violence, will be denied counselling and psychosocial workshops. Leadership training for 36 women's human rights organizations

(each with 70-100 members) will not take place. The capacity to promote and defend the human rights of women and youth in Colombia, to prevent human rights violations and to save lives will be undermined.

## Congo



*Women of the Democratic Republic of Congo on their way to the polls. With CIDA support, KAIROS staff worked with our partner, Héritiers de la Justice, to monitor voting and ensure more accountable governance for the people of the Congo.*

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), KAIROS supports human rights partner, Héritiers de la Justice, in a country characterized by egregious human rights violations, displacement and repression. The organization's former Executive Secretary, Pascal Kabangu, was recently assassinated in his home, in front of his family—now refugees in Canada—for his defence of human rights. The 2009-2013 program includes human rights promotion and training for national, provincial and local government employees, especially as it relates to violence against women. As well, KAIROS funding would be used to establish a women's legal clinic to address rampant gender-based violence in the DRC. Without KAIROS-CIDA funding, Héritiers de la Justice will have to abandon plans to establish this clinic.

In total, 25,560 women and 17,040 men who benefit from Héritiers de la Justice human rights programs in the Democratic Republic of Congo will be directly impacted by CIDA's decision not to fund KAIROS.

## Indonesia



*Hon. Deepak Obhrai, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Canadian Parliament, attends the opening of KONTRAS Human Rights School for Students (SeHAMA), July 2009.*

In Indonesia, KAIROS supports KONTRAS: The Commission for Disappearances and Victims of Violence. KONTRAS is a highly respected human rights organization working specifically on human rights monitoring, documentation and advocacy. In July 2009, Hon. Deepak Obhrai, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Canadian Parliament, was the guest speaker at the opening of the first-ever human rights school created by KONTRAS. KONTRAS plays a lead role in ensuring the Indonesian government investigates past military abuses and compensates victims (and the families of victims) of human rights violations and military atrocities.

Without KAIROS funding, KONTRAS will lose ground on the human rights achievements made over the years and in the widening democratic space in Indonesia. It will be unable to hold the Indonesian government accountable for national and international human rights covenants. Ten to fifteen thousand people, including victims and their families, affected communities, human rights defenders, church members and supporters, will be directly impacted by this decision.

## **Sudan**



*SCC member women discuss peace prospects in South Sudan.*

In Sudan, KAIROS is working with the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) and its members to mobilize greater action for democratic peace and the full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Sudan; this is essential to ensuring basic humanitarian needs, food security and livelihood needs of women, children and their communities in both South Sudan and Darfur.

Without KAIROS funding the SCC will not be able to adequately pressure parties to implement this peace agreement. In a country with very weak civil society networks, SCC has been an essential voice in negotiating and implementing peace. Cutting of KAIROS funding will jeopardize peace in Sudan. A total of 900 women and 2100 men will be directly impacted by this decision.

## Mexico



*A Tzotzil Indigenous woman listens to a prayer service in Acteal, Chiapas during the KAIROS church leaders delegation to Mexico accompanied by CIEPAC in March 2005.*

In Mexico, KAIROS supports human rights partners, CIEPAC (the Center for Economic and Political Research for Community Action) and Tepeyac Human Rights Centres in Oaxaca and Chiapas, the poorest states in Mexico with a history of repression and human rights violations. The Indigenous communities where KAIROS partners work represent the most vulnerable groups in Mexico, with a poverty index of 4.5 times that of the rest of Mexico.

In Chiapas, KAIROS supports the human rights program of CIEPAC, a program that has strengthened the capacity of Indigenous communities to understand their rights. CIEPAC's workshops and educational programs cover fifty per cent of the municipalities in Chiapas, representing ninety per cent of the municipalities with majority Indigenous populations.

If funding is cut to our partners in Mexico, a total of 1,650 people (780 women and 870 men) will be directly affected. Specifically, 1250 community members will be denied access to human rights workshops; 200 community leaders will be unable to receive training; 25 communities will not receive legal support; and special workshops on human rights for 200 Indigenous women will not take place.