

Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias
Conselho Latinoamericano de Igrejas
www.claiweb.org

Quito, Ecuador, 3 December 2009
Inglaterra N32-113 y Mariana de Jesús
Quito -Ecuador

Tel: 593 2 250 4377
nilton@claiweb.org

Prime Minister Stephen Harper
Canada

pm@pmo-cpm.gc.ca

The Latin American Council of Churches, CLAI, represents 178 member churches and 12 church-related nongovernmental organisations in 20 countries within Latin America.

CLAI is a partner organisation of KAIROS. The cooperation between CLAI and KAIROS has been excellent and continues to be vitally important for marginalised peoples and their communities in both rural and urban areas.

With KAIROS, in Latin America CLAI has been able to implement, and continues to facilitate, deep reflection and education within church congregations, communities and social movements on poverty, ecological aspects related to poverty, and social exclusion, among other themes, as well as training and the promotion of popular participation in order to overcome situations of poverty and marginalisation.

In the latest proposal for 2009 – 2013, agreed upon between CLAI and KAIROS, the general objectives are to increase the capacity of civil society in the Global South, through:

- The promotion of ecological sustainability and the reduction of the impact of climate change; and
 - The promotion of good governance in furthering adherence to international standards and advancing the protection of human rights in long-term conflicts.
- As you well know, this educational process and popular participation need to be consistently fostered within a long-term time frame.

If financial support of KAIROS to our human development programs should be cut, there will be a number of devastating impacts among the communities served and within the respective Latin American countries where CLAI's member churches, with KAIROS, are involved in programmatic actions with peoples, accompanying their efforts for a better life.

Procuren mantener la unidad que proviene del Espíritu Santo, por medio de la paz que une a todos(as).
Efesios 4.3

In this case, the Canadian government's decision to cut funding to KAIROS will drastically affect our CLAI programs as well as many other church-based and civil organisations in the Region.

We respectfully ask for a review and reversal of the government's decision concerning KAIROS, so that KAIROS and CLAI may continue to work together to foster human development at a global level.

Please receive greetings from CLAI and we pray that God may bless you. Thank you for carefully considering our appeal.

Faithfully yours,

Rev. Nilton Giese
CLAI General Secretary