



ECONOMIC JUSTICE NETWORK of FOCCISA

Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa

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(Registered in RSA as a Non-profit Organisation (NPO 057-177) & Public Benefit Organisation (PBO 930-028-984))

10 December 2009

The Minister of International Co-operation
Government of Canada

Dear Honorable Bev Oda

DECISION TO CUT FUNDING OF KAIROS CANADA

It was with shock that we heard of the decision of CIDA to cut the funding of Kairos (Canada) and to terminate a longstanding relationship with your development partner.

We are a partner of KAIROS, Canada and was hoping to receive support for our work on Extractive Industries and Ecological Debt. The lack of financial support from Kairos will constraint our ability to implement this programme and to support communities who are heavily affected by mining activities.

Mining activities affect the environmental condition of communities by contaminating drinking water, causing pollution and further endangering the lives of these communities. Your support to KAIROS and indirectly to us would have enabled us to build the capacity of these communities to engage with mining corporations and addressed the corporate social responsibility of these companies.

In a speech at the Munk Centre for International Studies on 20 May 2009 you said "Clearly, foreign aid is going to be part of the solution to the impact of the economic crisis in the developing world. And I can assure you that Canada will keep doing its share to help those in need." Honorable Minister I can assure you by cutting the funding of KAIROS you are definitely not helping those in need. The track record of Kairos speaks for itself and their support assist those in need.

We are working in 11 countries of the Southern African region and many times the Church are the only effective development agency that support those at the margins of society. I call on you to reconsider your decision and act on your resolve to help those in need. For Southern Africa you can best do that by reinstating the support and approving the funding proposal of Kairos Canada.

I trust you will look beyond Canada and do what is best for Africa and Canada so that we may achieve the millienium development goals.

Yours sincerely



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