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## CANADIAN VOICE OF WOMEN FOR PEACE

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Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada [pm@pmo-cpm.gc.ca](mailto:pm@pmo-cpm.gc.ca)  
Bev Oda  
Minister for International Cooperation [Oda.b@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Oda.b@parl.gc.ca)  
December 13, 2009

### **Re: CIDA funding refusal of KAIROS partnership agreement (2009-2013)**

Dear Prime Minister Harper and Minister Oda,

We are writing to express our deepest concern regarding the withholding of CIDA program funding to KAIROS for 2009 to 2013.

KAIROS provides programs that promote the human rights values that are expressed in Canadian foreign policy. KAIROS' 21 partner organizations in the developing world bring hope to endangered communities and extend the good-will of the Canadian people around the world. This is people-to-people peacebuilding at its best. The loss of this funding will be devastating to partner organizations involved in very difficult and important work in very stressful, and often dangerous circumstances. These organizations deserve support from Canadians, and this is work that members of the Voice of Women for Peace, from across Canada, do support. We are particularly concerned about the impact on women in the affected communities.

The current work of KAIROS honours government's priorities which are clear in the *Official Development Assistance Accountability Act* requiring Canadian aid to be consistent with international human rights standards. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Indonesia, Colombia, and Sudan, for example, KAIROS partners with organizations such as the Sudan Council of Churches and supports grassroots human rights workers who widen democratic space by protecting the lives of the threatened.

The 2009-2013 proposal was developed within two priority sectors of CIDA: promoting good governance (human rights) and advancing ecological sustainability (reducing the impact of climate change and addressing land degradation). It was approved at every level of CIDA before being declined on November 30.

It is impossible to believe that such work does not fit CIDA'S current priorities. This is a decision that defies explanation. We are writing to urge your government to immediately restore this funding to KAIROS.

Sincerely,

Lyn Adamson  
Co-Chair