

Nairobi, 4th December 2009

His Excellency

Mr. Stephen Harper

Prime Minister

Government of Canada

Dear Mr. Harper,

In the last 8 years, our Christian youth Network the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF – Africa Region) which is a global community of Student Christian Movements committed to dialogue, ecumenism, social justice and peace have asked KAIROS Canada to Partner with us and accompany our work whose mission is to empower students in critical thinking and constructive transformation of our world.

Through KAIROS support, we have been able to carry out many trainings and advocacy campaign on Human Rights abuse in Africa. As you may be aware, the situation of Human Rights in some African countries is reported to be poor. Many nations have at least nominally recognized basic human rights for all citizens, though in practice these are not always recognized. Extensive human rights abuses still occur in several parts of Africa. Most of such violations occur for political reasons, often during the electoral process. Arbitrary detentions, intimidation or arrest, torture, summary executions, censorship and denial of the right of the people to choose their own representative are witnessed during the electoral process in some countries in Africa. Human abuse remains a major threat for peace in the continent. In some context, students are the main target, as they constitute the emerging elite. Bans are imposed by the government on students when they are simply writing a petition asking improvement of their conditions in the campuses. These sanctions might include bans on student organizations, police brutality against unarmed student protestors, detention and harassment on campuses, dismissal from studies and the frequent unreasonable and arbitrary closure of secondary schools and universities. During the last 4 years our actions empowering young people and advocating against human rights abuses have borne some fruits but more need to be done.

Abrupt discontinuance of funding will weaken our capacity to implement these programs and therefore, young unemployed people in our context we are working with will continue to be targeted by politicians who will use them to propagate violence, use them as soldiers in conflicts zone, more young women will continue to be abused and trafficked, some will use migration as the ultimate solution to their problem. In addition to that, we will continue to have insecure cities not only for Africans, but also for International staff and visitors.

We please urge you to consider reversing your decision and take our cry seriously.

We want to express our heartfelt thanks for your continued support. Thanks for your understanding and trust.

Yours faithfully

Georgine Kengne Djeutane

Regional Secretary

WSCF – Africa Region