



CANADIAN CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY
PASTORALE UNIVERSITAIRE CATHOLIQUE DU CANADA

December 8, 2009

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Harper,

It is with great shock that we received the news that CIDA has decided not to approve the 2009-2013 funding proposal submitted by KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives.

Such a decision would end a 35-year history of cooperation between CIDA and KAIROS and its predecessor organizations, and would compromise the work of human rights and ecological integrity in the developing world. At a time when religion is often cited as a source of division, KAIROS is a tremendous example of Christians coming together in unity for the sake of our neighbour, globally and locally, and for the earth.

As Canadian Catholic Campus Ministers serving on over 40 campuses, we are acutely aware of the issues and concerns of the Canadian public, especially the young. Human rights, sustainable development, corporate social responsibility, global citizenship, and care for the earth are high on the list of their priorities. These are Canadian values, and are very evident in the work of KAIROS. Through KAIROS, Canadians can put these values into action.

Through KAIROS, we can respond to Congolese women who are survivors of rape as a weapon of war, to Sudanese men and women crying out for the government to take steps towards peace, to Indonesian families who are victimized by military abuses, and to Colombian sons and daughters seeking to grow up with dignity, free of recruitment by armed groups, kidnappings and assassinations.

This is the great and necessary work that CIDA funding enables all Canadians, through their tax dollars funding KAIROS, to be a part of.

We urge you to reverse your decision, and to restore the long-standing cooperation between CIDA and KAIROS. The lives of many men and women around the world and the future of our earth depend on it.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lori Neale".

Lori Neale
National Coordinator

cc. Honourable Bev Oda, Minister of International Cooperation
Ms. Margaret Biggs, President of CIDA
Ms. Mary Corkery, Executive Director, KAIROS