

**DOMINICANS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE
(With ECOSOC SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS
at the United Nations)**

**Rev. Philippe LeBlanc, OP
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at the UN (1996-2006)**

December 4, 2009

Hon. Stephen Harper
Parliament of Canada
Ottawa, Ontario
CANADA

Dear Prime Minister Harper

I am presently at the United Nations Council on Human Rights attending the Sixth Session of the Universal Periodic Review examining the human rights records of various countries and it is with dismay and great disappointment that I learned of the Canadian Government's decision to bring to an end to CIDA funding for KAIROS Canada.

As a long-standing committee member of KAIROS, I can assure you that KAIROS is seen as a sign of Canadians coming together in their country to assist in meeting the needs of the poorest and disadvantaged through the work and its programs of KAIROS and its partners, with the assistance of CIDA funding.

KAIROS funding remains important to our brothers and sisters in other regions and they are well aware that some of their KAIROS projects are funded by CIDA and they often express deep gratitude to Canada not only to the ecumenical community that funds KAIROS but also to the Government of Canada.

The decision to cut CIDA funding to KAIROS in the year before the G8 meets in Canada is another example of the Canadian government failing its citizens who give high priority to the developing world, one more failure of Canada to live up to its obligation to help meet the Millenium Development Goals (MDG's).

I strongly urge the Canadian government and CIDA to live up to its humanitarian objectives and to rescind the decision to cut funding to KAIROS. This will be seen as another blemish on our traditional reputation in this field and we will again be castigated by the international community especially by the United Nations for not living up to our long-standing tradition of helping our neighbors. Our tarnished reputation continues to lose its luster and all Canadians are diminished in the process.

Sincerely yours,

(IN CANADA)
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