



Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

302-393 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 3H6 Canada. www.elcic.ca

Toll free: 1.888.786.6707, Phone: 204.984.9150, Fax: 204.984.9185

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

December 4, 2009

e-mail to pm@pm.gc.ca
Fax: 613-941-6900

RE: Cancellation of CIDA funding to KAIROS

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I am writing to express my profound disappointment that CIDA has decided not to renew its long-standing relationship with KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. This decision to cut funding will have a devastating impact on KAIROS' overseas partners and the thousands of marginalized people in local communities they support. I urge you to do everything in your power to reverse this decision.

KAIROS is a church-based non-governmental organization that represents seven of Canada's largest denominations, including my church—the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), and works on a range of social justice issues, including human rights in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

The proposal submitted by KAIROS 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. This decision terminates a 35-year history of cooperation between CIDA and KAIROS and its predecessor organizations, and compromises the work of human rights and ecological integrity in the developing world. This decision also negatively affects the ability of Canadians to develop skills and knowledge in the exercise of their global citizenship.

KAIROS supports partners who face extreme human rights and humanitarian crises as well as political repression. Many of KAIROS' overseas partners risk their lives for the work that they do. KAIROS' accompaniment, advocacy and education work with partners has saved lives.

ELCIC
December 4, 2009
Page 2

I urge you to consider the ramifications of this decision and call on CIDA to reverse this decision.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan C. Johnson", with a small cross symbol to the left.

The Rev. Susan C. Johnson
National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

cc The Hon. Michael Ignatief, Leader of the Opposition
 The Hon. Gilles Duceppe, Le chef du Bloc Québécois
 The Hon. Jack Layton, Leader of the New Democratic Party
 Ms. Mary Corkery, Executive Director of KAIROS
 ELCIC National Church Council