



Organización
Femenina Popular

Colombia, November 30, 2009

Señora
MINISTRA DE COOPERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL
Canadá

Greetings from the Popular Women's Organization.

We are sending the following letter to communicate our concern. We have presented a request for support from KAIROS; this project is part of KAIROS' program for which funding has been delayed. This situation is of great concern to us, because the accompaniment and financial support from KAIROS is fundamental to the lives of the women with whom we work.

As you know we work in regions (in Colombia) where armed conflict has resulted in the denial of women's basic rights. The economic support from you (KAIROS and CIDA) permits us to implement programs which include legal and health services, community kitchens, and other humanitarian assistance that have saved many lives and given possibilities and opportunities to hundreds of women, mothers, wives, daughters, sisters and entire families.

We have hope that you and especially the Minister of International Cooperation as a woman, will appreciate our needs and our energy and will support us to continue and strengthen this work so that we as women can act as subjects in the construction of our rights and so that our sons and daughters grow up without being recruited by armed groups, kidnapped or assassinated, so that they have the right to a dignified life.

In other words we struggle so that our sons and daughters and women have the right to dignity and life through our organization, capacity building and community programs. For us this delay in funding is very grave and any further disruption in funding would be extremely serious for all the reasons we have already mentioned. Furthermore, it would be a way of killing our hope which is the only thing that they have not yet been able to kill here in Colombia.

An embrace from all the women of the OFP and we hope we wait for good news, so that we can continue to dream and to dream with KAIROS and with CIDA.

Atentamente,

Yolanda Becerra Vega
Directora Nacional
ORGANIZACIÓN FEMENINA POPULAR

Copy: Stephanie Machel, Chief of Staff; Jean Luc Benoit, Chief of Communications; Michael Baley, Director of Parliamentary Affairs; Jessica Fletcher, Press Secretary; Stephen Harper, Prime Minister; Minister Bev Oda.