



Burundi
D.R. Congo
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Kenya
Rwanda
Sudan
Tanzania
Uganda

Fellowship of Christian Councils & Churches
in the Great Lakes & the Horn of Africa

FECCLAHA

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Nairobi, 4th December 2009

The Right Honorable Stephen Harper,
Prime Minister of Canada.

Your Excellency,

Re: Appeal for Review and Restoration of Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)'s Funding to KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives

Greetings in the name of almighty God.

The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) presents Your Excellency its warm wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Successful New Year 2010.

Allow me to briefly introduce FECCLAHA and its work. The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) is a regional ecumenical body consisting of churches and church councils in the Great Lakes region and Horn of Africa formally launched in March 1999 and registered in Kenya in February 2001 to provide a platform for members to share perspectives on issues of common concern, particularly with regard to peace building and conflict transformation and to foster strong ecumenical cooperation in taking ownership and responsibility for problems in the region and proactively seek solutions to them.

We have learned with concern the decision of the Canadian government to cut its funding to our ecumenical partner, KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. We write to respectfully urge Your Excellency to review that decision and restore the CIDA funding to KAIROS for its 2009 to 2013 proposal for international development and public engagement on human rights and ecological sustainability.

FECCLAHA cherishes its relationship with KAIROS and in implementing its strategic plan for 2009 to 2013, the organization is partnering with KAIROS in the following interventions:

- Post Conflict Peace Building in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and Kenya;
- Ecumenical Election Assistance Programme for Burundi, Rwanda Ethiopia, Sudan and Tanzania;
- Accompaniment of the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC) in the project on the repatriation of armed groups and refugees from neighbouring countries living in Eastern DRC;

- Deliberations on Gender Based Violence, HIV/AIDS, and Masculinity with church leaders in Burundi, Eastern DRC, Rwanda and Uganda; and
- Regional Ecumenical Advocacy for Natural Resource Governance and Management.

The latter builds on our past engagement in which we investigated the nexus between sexual gender based violence and the illegal exploitation of natural resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Our findings, backed by reports of the United Nations Panel of Experts on the illegal exploitation of natural resources and other forms of wealth of the DRC, point to a war economy that thrives on severe human rights violations on local communities particularly sexual gender based violence including rape of women, men and children.

Your Excellency, a cut in the CIDA funding to KAIROS will put much of our planned interventions in the Great Lakes region that are supported by the ecumenical organization to abeyance. This will translate into continued human rights violations and increased vulnerability of local communities as the efforts of our members (churches and national councils of churches) will be hampered by the lack of resources.

FECCLAHA hopes and respectfully prays that Your Excellency will urgently review the decision and restore the CIDA funding to KAIROS for its 2009 to 2013 proposal for international development and public engagement on human rights and ecological sustainability.

FECCLAHA affirms its commitment to continue working with Your Excellency in the quest for sustainable peace with justice and the resolution of the conflicts in Great Lakes region and Horn of Africa.

FECCLAHA assures Your Excellency of its highest consideration.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Fred Nyabera,
Executive Director.