

Bukavu
December 3rd 2009

The Hon. Bev Oda
Minister of International Cooperation
Government of Canada

Re: The rejection by CIDA of the financing of our partner KAIROS

Honourable Minister,

We come to be unpleasantly surprised to learn of the break in collaboration between CIDA and our partner KAIROS, and the halt in financing of its activities whereas, during every step in the application process, all the chances of continuation of co-operation were assured.

Conscious of the support brought by the Canadian Government to our organization at the time of difficult moments like the assassination of our Executive Secretary, Pascal Kabungulu, as well as the financial support of CIDA via KAIROS to support our programmes for the promotion and defense of human rights, support for marginalized women, victims of rape and sexual violence, and the formation of better public officials, we feel obliged to express to you our deep concern about the rupture of this long partnership and collaboration between CIDA and KAIROS.

This decision, which falls like a blow from a sword to our hearts, is likely to gravely hurt the great work of the promotion of human rights that we have achieved with KAIROS since 2006 in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Indeed, the support obtained from KAIROS has allowed us to help the victims of rape and of sexual violence as well as support capacity-building on human rights and the principles of democracy among our soldiers, police officers, security agents, tax collectors, territorial administrators, judges, local authorities, etc, through the organization of interpretive days on good governance and transparency through which we manage an exchange with authorities on different questions concerning public life.

This decision will surely effect the results reached so far and carry a blow to the further expectations of our population.

At the time of our visit, in June 2009 to the offices of CIDA with KAIROS, we explained the work of our organization enabled through the agreement CIDA has with our partner KAIROS. Following the hope which these exchanges raised, we developed plans aimed at launching a legal clinic meant to reinforce the capacities of female victims of sexual violence in asserting their rights.

We are convinced that the rejection of the partnership and the financing of KAIROS will inevitably influence negatively this great work in favour of the women and public agents to the DRC.

For these reasons, taking into consideration reasons raised above, we request from you, Honourable Madame Minister, to agree to reconsider CIDA's decision to halt the relationship and to rebuild the partnership which has enabled KAIROS to carry out innumerable actions in favour of justice in various parts of the world including the DRC.

In all devotion

Maurice Bahati Masheka ga Namwira

Executive Secretary
Héritiers de la justice