



Frequently Asked Questions: The KAIROS CIDA Funding Controversy February 23, 2011

1. What does KAIROS think of the doctored documents and calls for Bev Oda's resignation?

Public debate in the Canadian Parliament, in the media and in communities across Canada is very important in seeking transparency and accountability for the decision to cut KAIROS.

The parliamentary process examining the Minister's conduct is underway and should be allowed to follow its course.

KAIROS' immediate concern is the impact on courageous peoples groups working for justice. Programs affected by the decision to cut KAIROS' CIDA program include:

- ♦ a legal clinic for rape victims in the Congo;
- ♦ a study on the ravages of climate change hitting small farmers in Guatemala – floods, mudslides, hurricanes;
- ♦ training for women leaders to promote peace in Colombia, where partners risk their lives protecting human rights;
- ♦ workshops in Sudan to further entrench democracy and to help the churches develop the skills to monitor the use of oil revenues from South Sudan's oil deposits.

2. Why do you think KAIROS was cut?

No single specific reason has ever been given. The government asserts that it makes decisions on the basis of efficiency and effectiveness to ensure that taxpayer money is well spent.

KAIROS, as shown through evaluation of previous CIDA programs, is efficient and effective. The independent consultant hired by CIDA to evaluate KAIROS' program said our work maximizes cost effectiveness; that KAIROS' experience and good judgment have led to success in achieving results; and that our human rights work appears to be excellent.

The appendix to CIDA's funding recommendation (released to the media under Access to Information) shows that government experts on gender, environment, results management and its foreign desks find KAIROS' program effective and supportive of Canadian policies.

For highlights from the thorough evaluation of KAIROS' last CIDA contract, see:
www.kairoscanada.org/fileadmin/fe/files/PDF/cidacuts/CIDAevaluation.pdf

3. Do you feel that KAIROS' 35 year history with CIDA entitles you to continued funding?

KAIROS has no assumption of entitlement. We do assume that our program will be judged in a merit-based review as part of a transparent process.

Our previous programs and our 2009-2013 application did receive such review, and the application was recommended for funding. This recommendation was then rejected by the government.

4. Do you meet the CIDA priorities introduced at the end of September 2009?

These criteria (food security, children and youth, and economic growth) were introduced 7 months after our original application was made. That application was made under the criteria which existed at the time.

In March 2010, KAIROS submitted a new application addressing the new priorities. This is still before CIDA and we hope it will be reviewed on its merits.

5. Is it true, as the government implies in recent briefing notes, that KAIROS uses CIDA money for advocacy?

A recent briefing note to Conservative MPs contains the following two statements:

"Our Government supports funding to deliver aid and tangible results for the people of developing countries, not subsidizing advocacy."

"We stand by Minister Oda and her decision not to provide millions of dollars in advocacy funding to KAIROS."

The implications of these statements are false. KAIROS has spent CIDA funds as it was contracted to do: on overseas grants, monitoring, public education, and administration.

Our program helps fund the work of people's groups in troubled countries to protect land, water and livelihoods and to save lives through human rights work. In the midst of poverty and injustice, peoples' groups are working for positive change. They try to participate in decisions about water, land and peace that affect their lives. KAIROS speaks out on their behalf, as do effective aid groups around the world.

Such work fits within best practices in aid effectiveness outlined by internationally recognized networks such as the Reality of Aid Network:

... development cooperation should be judged on the basis of outcomes on the ground. These outcomes are not just in the delivery of goods or services, or higher income, but in terms of social and economic justice, and the increased capacity of poor and marginalised populations to shape policy and practice. (Reality of Aid Report, 2010, p. 10)

Beyond work that has been funded by CIDA, KAIROS' work is funded by: its member churches and church organizations; religious orders; individual and group donations; foundations; unions; events and interest. Funds received from these other sources are spent on KAIROS domestic justice activities (research, policy development, education and advocacy) and on some global activities not included in CIDA contribution agreements.

In the past, when KAIROS has had an agreement with CIDA, KAIROS member funds contributed to the CIDA "match." These funds are now used to provide small grants to those partners in the Global South that have been affected by the CIDA cut.

For information on how KAIROS funds are spent, please see:

www.kairoscanada.org/fileadmin/fe/files/PDF/cidacuts/CIDAfundingspent.pdf

6. Is KAIROS anti-Semitic? Does it support a boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign against Israel?

No. With our Israeli and Palestinian partners, we have sought ways to work non-violently for peace between communities, including promoting the "two state solution," a pillar of Canadian foreign policy. KAIROS supports an independent and secure Israeli state alongside an independent and secure Palestinian state, and calls for an end to the occupation of Palestinian land. This has been the policy of the United Nations and of Canada for decades.

In 2005, KAIROS along with dozens of other organizations took part in a conference in Toronto examining ways of drawing the Canadian public's attention to the lives of Palestinians living under occupation, and to work for peace. Boycott, sanctions and divestment, among other options, were discussed. KAIROS developed its own policy, independently of others. This policy states that "KAIROS does not recommend a general boycott of Israeli goods for a number of reasons," and that "KAIROS not support any use of sanctions against Israel."

In its input into CIDA's funding recommendation for KAIROS, Canada's Mid-East/North Africa bureau comments that "KAIROS projects in the region are a step in the right direction."

For more information on KAIROS' policy's on Israel and Palestine, read our document, '[KAIROS Works for Peace in Israel and Palestine](#)'.

7. Where does KAIROS go from here?

We carry on, with the hope and courage and passion we learn from partners in the South, many of whom put their lives on the line – or lose their lives – working for justice day by day.

- ♦ The Sudan Council of Churches helps people in Southern Sudan engage in building foundations for lasting peace.

- ♦ The women of the Democratic Republic of the Congo keep working to stop rape as a weapon of war while their organization, Heirs of Justice, continues to train police, and government officials to respect human rights.
- ♦ The women of Colombia walk behind their banner – “We don’t give birth to sons and daughters for them to die in the violence.”

KAIROS stands with these as well as many other partners. We support them with whatever funds we can raise, and we bring forward their voices for change.