



MiningWatch Canada

Mines Alerte

*Suite 508, 250 City Centre Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1R 6K7
tel. (613) 569-3439 — fax: (613) 569-5138 — info@miningwatch.ca — www.miningwatch.ca*

Honourable Beverly Oda
Minister of International Cooperation
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Fax: (613) 992-2794

December 10, 2009

Re: Funding cut to KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives

Dear Minister Oda:

MiningWatch Canada is a pan-Canadian initiative supported by environmental, social justice, Aboriginal and labour organisations from across the country. It addresses the urgent need for a co-ordinated public interest response to the threats to public health, water and air quality, fish and wildlife habitat and community interests posed by irresponsible mineral policies and practices in Canada and around the world.

MiningWatch knows KAIROS for its deeply committed and respectful development, peace and social justice work with partner organizations in developing countries in many parts of the world for over 35 years. KAIROS unites diverse Christian denominations, creating a single, credible voice for human rights and ecological sustainability. It works in partnership with the poor and marginalized, supporting their struggles and effectively communicating their concerns. KAIROS raises awareness regarding social justice issues within the Christian community and the broader Canadian public. The highly respected work of KAIROS is grounded in independent research and analysis, undertaken in long-standing partnership with civil society partners in the global South..

KAIROS has never flinched from exercising its democratic duty to speak out about Canadian policies that it perceives as having negative impact on its southern partners. KAIROS is explicitly non-partisan. When necessary, KAIROS has been critical of Canadian policies no matter which party was governing. But only now, under this government, is KAIROS being made to pay for exercising its democratic right and obligation.

According to its web site, CIDA's Partnership Programs focus on supporting north-south partnerships, to promote capacity-building of local civil society that can then work locally to attain poverty reduction and sustainable development. Canadian partners funded by Partnership Branch also play an important role in terms of public engagement of Canadians at large.

It's difficult to identify a Canadian civil society organization that more fully satisfies this description than KAIROS.

Your decision to end funding for KAIROS ends a 35-year relationship of constructive collaboration between CIDA, KAIROS and its predecessor organizations. I strongly urge you to reverse this decision. The loss of CIDA funding would have a devastating effect on the many groups in the developing world who are working to promote human rights and environmental sustainability.

Yours truly,



Catherine Coumans, Ph.D.
On behalf of the management team,
MiningWatch Canada

Copy: Prime Minister Stephen Harper
Minister Lawrence Cannon