



Addressing Recent Media Statements KAIROS Response

January, 2010

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives has received tremendous recent support, many examples of which are available on our website at <http://www.kairoscanada.org/en/who-we-are/cida-funding-cuts/letters-from-supporters/>. However, there have also been false and misleading statements circulating on the web, including in a recent online Globe and Mail article. These require response.

Where does KAIROS work?

Our proposed CIDA program for 2009-2013 would have continued our work with partners in nine countries including Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Philippines, Indonesia, Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador and Colombia as well as West Bank/Gaza. This is in addition to regional programs in the Pacific, Africa and Latin America. We address human rights and ecological justice issues in countries that are identified as priorities for our Member churches and where we have long-standing, effective partnerships that can advise us.

KAIROS Policy on Israel and Palestine

The Member churches and organizations of KAIROS have for many decades supported the state of Israel and its right to security and a just peace. At the same time, we have supported the right of the Palestinian people to an independent, secure and viable state, within the framework of a just peace for Israel/Palestine. Our policy is consistent with the Government of Canada's stated policy which affirms Israel's right to live in peace and supports the creation of an independent, viable Palestinian state. See http://www.international.gc.ca/name-anmo/peace_process-processus_paix/canadian_policy-politique_canadienne.aspx?lang=eng

A number of our churches have been active for decades in Jewish/Christian dialogue and are committed to continuing relationship and dialogue with the Jewish community.

In 2007, the KAIROS Board of Directors, acting as representatives of our Member churches, decided against "advocating sanctions against Israel or a boycott of products from Israel." We do not lead or support a boycott or sanctions campaign. KAIROS Members did agree that divestment from a Canadian corporation invested in Israel, the West Bank or Gaza that is "contributing directly or indirectly to violence, occupation or other human rights abuses in the region" is an action that its Member churches and organizations may choose. However, divestment should be a "last resort" after several stages of corporate engagement from dialogue with senior management to filing shareholder proposals. This is in keeping with KAIROS corporate social responsibility work in other countries where partners are working to counter human rights abuses, including our historic work on Sudan.

Our approach to Israel/Palestine, including our policy and our strategy on economic advocacy measures, has not changed in any way since the CIDA funding decision of November 30, 2009. The policy and strategy continue to be available on our website:

Policy: [Our Continuing Hope for a Just Peace in the Palestinian/Israeli Conflict. KAIROS policy](#), 17 September 2002 (See [A summary of KAIROS' position on Israel-Palestine](#) for a shorter version of this policy.)

Strategy Options: [Economic Advocacy Measures: Options for KAIROS Members for the Promotion of Peace in Palestine and Israel](#) (7 January 2008, PDF format)

The KAIROS Website

In the normal course of our work we make changes to our website which we understand to be a dynamic “document”. With respect to pages related to Israel and Palestine, there have been four changes since early October:

- the retirement in early December, upon her return to Canada, of a blog written by a staff member regarding a monitoring trip to visit partners in Palestine/Israel. Material from travel blogs that is important to our ongoing program and is not time-specific is integrated into our website at a later date.
- the removal of a link in the ‘Resources for education and action’ section because the web page to which it pointed had changed.
- the addition of a proviso “Note that some of these resources are not written by KAIROS and do not necessarily reflect KAIROS policy” to the ‘Resources for education and action’ section because it was clear that some people were confusing KAIROS’ own policy papers with links to material not created by KAIROS. This proviso exists on a number of other KAIROS website pages.
- the addition of a column of material specifically relating to Minister Kenney’s accusation of anti-Semitism, and the CIDA Cuts.

KAIROS Funding

In 2008, KAIROS spent \$1.35 million on overseas grants to partners for international development and an additional \$147,919 for anti-poverty grants in Canada. This represents 36% of the total KAIROS budget. Beyond direct grants to low-income groups in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and in Canada (in 2008), our work includes public engagement on international development, as well as research, policy development, education, and advocacy on global and Canadian justice issues that are identified as priorities by our Member churches.

CIDA funding has been approximately 40% of our funding with the remaining revenue coming directly from our Member churches, individual donations and foundations. CIDA funding has been spent on international development and required public engagement in Canada in accordance with our contribution agreements and as affirmed by positive CIDA evaluation and audit results.