



Canadian Ecumenical  
Justice Initiatives /  
Initiatives œcuméniques  
canadiennes pour  
la justice

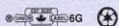
**Members**

The Anglican Church of Canada  
Canadian Catholic Organization for  
Development and Peace  
Canadian Conference of  
Catholic Bishops  
Canadian Religious Conference  
Christian Reformed Church in  
North America (Canada Corporation)  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in Canada  
Mennonite Central Committee  
Canada  
The Presbyterian Church in Canada  
The Primate's World Relief and  
Development Fund  
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)  
The United Church of Canada

**Membres**

Assemblée annuelle canadienne  
de la Société religieuse des Amis  
Conférence des évêques  
catholiques du Canada  
Comité Central Mennonite Canada  
Conférence religieuse canadienne  
Développement et Paix  
L'Église anglicane du Canada  
Église Évangélique Luthérienne  
au Canada  
L'Église presbytérienne au Canada  
L'Église réformée chrétienne en  
Amérique du Nord  
(Société canadienne)  
L'Église Unie du Canada  
Le fonds du Primat pour le secours  
et le développement mondial

310 Dupont Street, Suite 200  
Toronto Ontario  
Canada M5R 1V9  
tel: 416.463.5312  
toll-free: 1.877.403.8933  
fax: 416.463.5569  
www.kairoscanada.org



23 January 2014

Señor Juan Manuel Santos  
Presidente de la República  
Palacio de Nariño  
Carrera 8 No.7-26, Bogotá, Colombia  
Fax: 011-57 1 596 0631

Dear President Santos:

KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives is eleven churches and religious organizations working together in faithful action for ecological justice and human rights. KAIROS has a long history of monitoring the human rights situation in Colombia, and has supported and accompanied the human rights work of the National Indigenous Organization (ONIC) for over ten years. Over this time, we have organized visits of ONIC representatives to Canada.

KAIROS is extremely concerned about the safety of Embera Chamí Indigenous leader, Flaminio Onogama Gutiérrez, from South West Colombia. Flaminio was in Canada in 2010 as part of a KAIROS sponsored tour. According to reports from highly respected human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, we understand that Flaminio's life is in danger and that he is currently in hiding after the bodies of two family members were found stabbed to death and with signs of torture.

It is KAIROS' understanding that on December 30 and 31 unidentified armed gunmen belonging to paramilitary forces operating in the area entered the Indigenous community of La Esperanza looking for Flaminio Onogama Gutiérrez and approached his two nephews, Berlain Saigama Gutiérrez and Jhon Braulio Saigama, who are also Embera Chamí leaders living in La Esperanza in the municipality of El Dovio, department of Valle del Cauca. On January 1 these men were stabbed to death.

Flaminio Onogama and the Indigenous community of La Esperanza have opposed the arrival of paramilitaries planning to cultivate drugs on their lands, as well as the arrival of powerful coal, copper and gold mining interests in the area. The paramilitary continue to search for and to threaten Flaminio Onogama.

While in Canada in 2010, Flaminio spoke about the human rights crisis facing Indigenous peoples in Colombia, and ONIC's Palabra dulce, aire de vida' (Sweet words, breath of life) campaign to end the ongoing threats against Indigenous peoples in Colombia. He met with many Canadian including parliamentarians, Indigenous leaders and churches groups.

... /2

KAIROS is gravely concerned about the vulnerable situation of Flaminio Onogama Gutiérrez and other members of the Embera Chamí community of La Esperanza. We ask that you take appropriate measures to guarantee the safety of those under threat. As well, KAIROS would like to see a full and impartial investigation by the civilian justice system into the killing of Berlain Saigama Gutiérrez and Jhon Braulio Saigama, for the results to be made public, and for those responsible to be brought to justice.

KAIROS will continue to monitor and inform our members and networks of this situation. We look forward to your prompt response to this urgent matter.

Yours sincerely,



Jennifer Henry  
Executive Director  
KAIROS

Cc His Excellency Nicolás Lloreda Ricaurte, Ambassador for Colombia  
Honourable John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
His Excellency Tim Martin, Canadian Ambassador to Colombia  
National *Indigenous Organization of Colombia (ONIC)*