



CHRISTIAN
REFORMED
CHURCH

December 4, 2009

Dear Pastor,

Christian Reformed churches in Canada have been active participants in ecumenical justice work for over 30 years. We have appreciated the leadership provided by KAIROS – Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives – and its precursor organizations for this work in Canada and around the world.

On November 30, KAIROS was unexpectedly informed that their CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) project proposal for 2009-2013 was rejected. This decision puts the work of over 20 Southern partner organizations, representing hundreds of communities and thousands of people, at serious risk. KAIROS supports partners in countries such as Sudan, the Congo, the Philippines, and Colombia who face extreme human rights and humanitarian crises as well as political repression. Many of these overseas partners risk their lives for the work that they do. KAIROS' accompaniment, advocacy and education work with partners has saved lives.

KAIROS submitted this proposal to CIDA in March 2009 and were assured throughout the process that they could expect a favourable outcome. This surprise decision on the grant was communicated to KAIROS in a way that allowed for no contingency planning or clear discussion about the reasons. The CRC in Canada and the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee are concerned about the weakness of communication in this process. To this point we have enjoyed excellent partnership and productive communications with CIDA. We pray that this will continue for CRWRC, that it will be repaired for KAIROS, and that other humanitarian and justice organizations who rely on CIDA's support will be able to continue in their work for justice.

The CRC in Canada and CRWRC are working with KAIROS and elected officials for the reversal of this decision. We ask all CRC communities to pray and work on this issue as well. Contact your MP, Prime Minister Stephen Harper (pm@pm.gc.ca), Bev Oda, Minister of International Cooperation (oda.b@parl.gc.ca), and Margaret Biggs, President of CIDA (info@acdi-cida.gc.ca), to:

- Express grave concern about this decision.
- Ask that CIDA restore its long-standing relationship with KAIROS.
- Emphasize the impact of this decision for global partners and KAIROS' work in Canada.
- Ask them to call on CIDA to reverse this decision.

In peace and justice,

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Director of Canadian Ministries

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