

**A PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS:
RESTORE FUNDING TO KAIROS**

We, the undersigned citizens of Canada, draw the attention of the House of Commons to the following:

WHEREAS, KAIROS is a Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives group, a faith based organization that promotes sustainable development, human rights and peace through education, advocacy and cooperative programs linking more than 21 organizations in Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, Africa;

WHEREAS, the programs delivered by KAIROS benefit hundreds of thousands of people in marginalized communities who are facing humanitarian crises as well as political oppression, and who urgently need these services and funding;

WHEREAS, KAIROS recently received notice from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) that \$7 million in funding has been denied, despite a funding relation with CIDA of more than 35 years with KAIROS and its predecessor coalitions.

WHEREAS, this decision cuts funding to many projects including: a legal clinic to assist women who are victims of the ongoing violence in the Congo, African youth organizations, a women's organization protecting against human rights abuses in Colombia, grassroots local support to peace and human rights work, women in Israel and Palestinian Territories who work as partners for peace in the Middle East, and various environmental initiatives;

WHEREAS, the decision severely impairs the capacity of this respected ecumenical organization to improve the lives of millions of people living in poverty and conflict around the world thereby hurting all communities helped by these progressive projects;

THEREFORE, your petitioners call on the Government of Canada to immediately restore its funding relationship with KAIROS and fund KAIROS overseas program for the period from 2010 to 2013.

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Please return (postage-free) to:

Bill Siksay, MP
Burnaby-Douglas
124 Confederation Building
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6