



# KAIROS TIMES

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## FEATURE PARTNER

**Yolanda Becerra Vega**  
**Colombia**  
 National Director,  
[Popular Women's Organization \(OFP\)](#)



Yolanda Becerra Vega is a well-known human rights defender and leader of the grassroots women's movement in Colombia. She is the national director of the Popular Women's organization (OFP), based in



## WOMEN OF COURAGE

August 15-25, 2010 - Colombia : KAIROS Gathering & Delegation  
Women and People's Summit of the Americas against Militarization

From August 15 - 25, 2010 KAIROS partners and supporters from the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Philippines and Canada will travel to Colombia as part of the 'Women of Courage' delegation. They will visit

Colombian communities that face militarization and daily violence, before participating in the [Women and People's Summit of the America's Against Militarization](#) and a KAIROS sponsored roundtable focused on developing strategies to overcome violence against women in countries of conflict.



Click on the map above to learn more about the delegates, KAIROS' ongoing campaign for gender justice in areas of conflict where women are most vulnerable, and the [Women and People's Summit of the America's Against Militarization](#).

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## **URGENT ACTION: Shooting of Guatemalan community leader opposing Canadian-owned mining project**

Barrancabermeja and founding member of the Social Movement of Women Against the War and for Peace in Colombia. Regionally, she is a member of the network of human rights workers in Magdalena Medio which includes active participation of the Diocese, social movements and unions. She is also a member of the regional social forum.

Internationally, Yolanda has travelled extensively in Latin America, Europe and North America, bringing concrete testimonies of the impacts of human rights violations and the war on women in Colombia and calling for international solidarity and support. She has participated in meetings of the World March of Women and Women in Black. Yolanda has been recognized nationally and internationally for her courageous work in human rights and as a leader of the women's movement. Among other awards, she received the prestigious Per Anger human rights prize from Sweden in 2007 and was nominated as one of the 1,000 women to receive the Nobel Peace prize in the campaign One Thousand Women and One Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.



Theodora Antonia Hernández Cinto.  
Photo: COPAE, Diocese of San Marcos

KAIROS is deeply saddened and shocked to learn of the shooting of Theodora Antonia Hernández Cinto, a community leader, in the municipality of San Miguel Ixtahuacán in Guatemala. Theodora had been actively involved in leading community resistance against large-scale mining in their region, and was shot only two weeks after President Colom suspended GoldCorp's Marlin Mine operations in the region

This news leaves us greatly concerned for the well-being of Naty Atz Sunc, director of KAIROS partner CEIBA and a strong community leader and mining activist, who spoke passionately about the communities that have been resisting foreign-owned mining projects during the KAIROS G20 tour in Canada in June.

**We ask that you take the time to write a letter, announce this action in church, and keep Theodora, Naty and all human rights defenders in Guatemala in your prayers at this difficult time.**

[Click here to go to KAIROS' Urgent Action page for more information and a sample letter >>](#)

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## KAIROS REGIONAL MEETINGS 2010

**KAIROS welcomes you to its annual regional meetings!!**

Whatever your background, join the KAIROS network for a day or two of community and learning. We'll look over the past year and plan for a new year of grassroots action for social justice. We'll explore our annual education for action campaign for 2010-11, focused on Indigenous rights and resource extraction. All are welcome, and don't hesitate to ask for support if registration fees pose any kind of barrier.

**Can you find the  
Popular Feminist  
Organization (OFP)?**



[View map full size](#)

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### IN BRIEF

#### **What will be the fate of Canada's Responsible Mining Bill?**

When the House of Commons returns in September, one of the first things on the agenda will be Bill C-300, a private member's bill designed to establish minimum standards for Canadian mining, oil and gas companies operating in developing countries. But what will be its fate? You may recall that it narrowly passed a second reading vote in April 2009, by a margin of 137-133. KAIROS firmly supports the bill and has been encouraging members of our network to show their support by writing to MPs.

After hearing damning testimony about Canadian mining abuses from witnesses in Canada and from abroad,



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From June 14 to 17, KAIROS undertook a [Climate Justice Tour of Canada](#), with stops in St. John's, Halifax, Fredericton, Victoria, Yellowknife and Regina. Isaiah Kipyegon Toroitich (Program Officer for Policy and Advocacy at Norwegian Church Aid in Kenya), and Naty Atz Sunuc (General Coordinator of CEIBA, the Association for Community Development and Promotion in Guatemala) joined staff and network members on the Eastern tour while Francois Pihatae (Ecumenical Animator on Climate Change for the Pacific Conference of Churches) and Fred Sangris, a Yellowknives Dene member who studies climate impacts on wildlife, joined us in the West and North. Naty and Isaiah then came to Toronto for the G8/G20 Peoples' Summit, and Francois attended and gave a keynote address at the Interfaith Leaders' Summit in Winnipeg.

Participants at the well-attended events had the opportunity to hear first hand about the disproportionate impact of climate change on Southern countries and Canada's North, and to discuss with partners what real solutions to these crises might look like. Suggestions included the adoption of science-based targets and timelines to reduce greenhouse gas

the parliamentary foreign affairs committee was expected to review the bill and consider some amendments earlier this month. Liberal MP John McKay, who introduced the bill last year, was hoping to amend it to make it more palatable for some of his colleagues who appear to be sitting on the fence. However, efforts to amend the bill were thwarted when members who are opposing it filibustered and ran out the clock. It has now left the committee and will return for debate in the House in late September.

The autumn will be a critical moment for Bill C-300. If you speak to your Member of Parliament over the summer, be sure to ask him or her to support the bill and hold Canadian companies to account.

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**'Irregular Migration, Migrant Smuggling and Human Rights: Towards Coherence'**

The new policy brief and report from the International Council on Human Rights discusses the issues and definitions of migration, human trafficking, trends in law enforcement, economic policies and the legal frameworks to protect migrants.



If the leaders of the world had tackled climate change, or implemented a tax on speculation, or mobilized the resources required to end premature maternal death, this might have begun to address the concerns over the immense financial and social costs of these events.

Now is the time to start over, raising the positive, life-saving messages of people and their organizations in Canada and overseas. We call on the media to focus on issues ignored during the G8-20 that may help our country make decisions of hope that build a more just and peaceful global community.

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## **G20 SURRENDERS TO THE MONEY TRADERS**

KAIROS latest Policy Briefing Paper provides an in-depth analysis of the G20 Meetings and Final Statement. The paper examines how the outcome represents a caving in to pressure from the same bond and derivative traders whose irresponsible actions caused the financial crisis in the first place. With its emphasis on deficit reduction the outcome will certainly mean added pressure on the poor and vulnerable to pay for the financial bailout of speculators. The paper concludes with a consideration of the future of both the G8 and G20 Summits and the prospects for important issues like the Financial Transfers Tax.

[Read the full article here >>](#)

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## **THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPUNITY IN THE CONGO: AN INTERVIEW WITH MAURICE NAMWIRA**



In a recent interview with Christian Aid, Maurice Namwira, Executive Secretary of KAIROS partner organization [Héritiers de la Justice](#), speaks about the struggle of human rights defenders for political space and protection in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

With the recent attacks and threats against individuals like Floribert Chebeya and Emmanuel Lubala Mugisho (president of Héritiers de la Justice), Maurice explains how it is “very important to maintain an open dialogue with authorities about their responsibilities to protect and promote human rights and their duty to guarantee universally recognised fundamental freedoms.” And, how it is “vital to invite the political authorities in the DRC to work towards establishing a legal framework which guarantees the rights of all and the welfare of the people.”

[Read the entire interview here:](http://allafrica.com/stories/201007221134.html)  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/201007221134.html>

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## THE GREAT TURNING

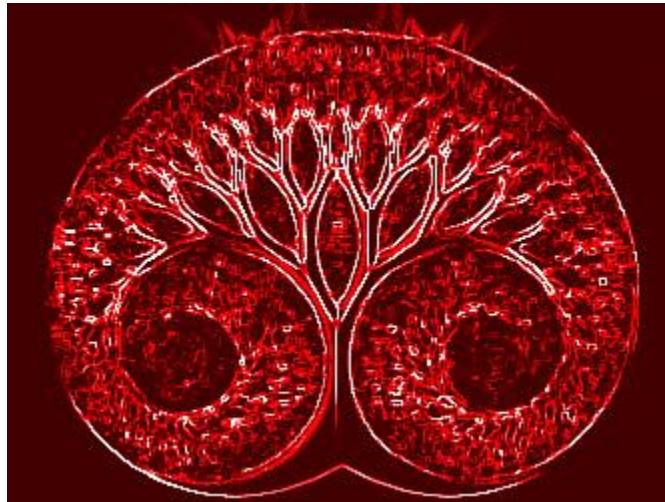
*"E grande virada, die grosse Wandlung, el gran cambio...* Wherever I go, in every group I work with, the Great Turning becomes more rewarding as a conceptual frame. It is a name for the transition from the industrial growth society to a life-sustaining society. It identifies the shift from a self-destroying political economy to one in harmony with Earth and enduring for the future. It unites and includes all the actions being taken to honor and preserve life on

**Earth. It is the essential adventure of our time.."**

**"That's what the Great Turning makes of us: seedlings of the future. How can I falter now, with so many hands and hearts at work, and all generations lending their support?"**

[Read the full article in YES Magazine here >>](#)

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Joanna Macy, Ph.D., a Buddhist teacher and deep ecologist, is widely known for her workshops at the interface between social change and spiritual breakthrough.



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