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Will Carless and Alex Leff | July 28, 2014 17:31 Updated July 28, 2014 19:41

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Reports: The Vatican fires a priest in Paraguay accused of molesting US seminarians

A church has reportedly dismissed Carlos Urrutigoity, following a recent GlobalPost investigation into accusations that the priest sexually abused young men in Minnesota and Pennsylvania.

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The Vatican has ordered a diocese in eastern Paraguay to dismiss a priest accused of sexually abusing young men in the [United States](#) and has restricted the powers of the bishop who hired him, according to local news reports.

The Ciudad del Este diocese's [reported firing](#) of Argentine priest Carlos Urrutigoity followed a recent [investigative report by GlobalPost](#) into his rise to a powerful position in the [South American](#) city, despite a string of molestation allegations against him.

The reporting, and local media coverage that followed, unleashed a flood of controversy over the priest's continued work in the church — where he'd been promoted to the No. 2 post of vicar general.

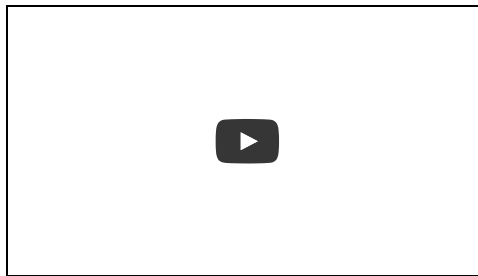
According to legal documents reviewed by GlobalPost, seminarians in Minnesota and Pennsylvania made allegations against Urrutigoity that included his touching one young man's genitals and asking another to insert anal suppositories in front of him. Clergy members from Switzerland to Scranton have issued warnings that the Argentine priest is "dangerous" and "a serious threat to young people."

Urrutigoity has denied the allegations and was never criminally charged. But US activists have campaigned for him to be punished. That movement has gained fierce voices in Paraguay — and it appears to have gotten an answer from the pope.

Ciudad del Este Bishop Rogelio Livieres Plano said Urrutigoity had been [dismissed](#) as vicar general in early July by request of the Vatican's representative, Apostolic Nuncio Antonio



Priest Carlos Urrutigoity conducts Mass during Easter holy week in Paraguay's Ciudad del Este. (La Vanguardia/Courtesy)



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Ariotti, Paraguay's Vanguardia newspaper reported Saturday.

In mid-July, [Pope Francis sent a delegation](#) to check up on the Ciudad del Este church, a visit that the city's bishop said was unrelated to the scandal. Bishop Livieres has publicly defended Urrutigoity from what he claims is slanderous persecution.

But Francis' delegates took action against the bishop, too.

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“At the seminary of Ciudad del Este [the bishop] is going to be suspended for a time from ordaining priests or deacons,” Cardinal Santos Abril y Castello told a news conference Saturday, [according to Agence France-Presse](#).

Javier Miranda, a former volunteer at the diocese who has led a campaign against Urrutigoity and Livieres, said he was delighted with the news that Urrutigoity has been removed.

He said he was waiting to see if the Vatican will take more action against the bishop.

“He has to go,” Miranda said of Livieres in a phone interview from Ciudad del Este. “He has lost his ministry ... the church needs to find a way to solve all of these scandals.”

Some activists want to see tougher measures by the Vatican.

“Any time a predator is exposed or suspended, it's positive,” said David Clohessy, director of the St. Louis-based Survivor's Network of those Abused by Priests, or SNAP. “But, the real issue is always the enablers. We think the pope needs to punish every high-ranking church official who had anything to do with father Carlos' continued access to kids.”

That goes for the Ciudad del Este bishop, too, Clohessy added.

“Bishops who endanger kids should be fired, plain and simple,” he said.

Read GlobalPost's exclusive: [After US sex abuse scandals, an accused priest rises again in Paraguay](#)

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/americas/140728/vatican-removes-priest-paraguay>

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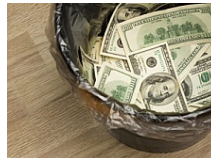
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Judy Block-Jones 2 days ago

It takes a lot of courage to speak up and take action about being sexually abused. This is not an easy thing to do, but it is extremely rare that a child predator has only one victim. Some have many. Child predators need to be kept far away from kids forever. It's never too late to come forward about being sexually abused. So let's hope that anyone who may have knowledge or may have been harmed by Carlos Urrutigoity, will find the courage to speak up, get help, and contact law enforcement, no matter when it happened. Your silence only hurts, and by speaking up there is a chance for healing, exposing the truth, and therefore protecting others
Judy Jones, SNAP Midwest Associate Director, USA, 636-433-2511, SNAPJudy@gmail.com
SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests

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