

**Supplemental Submission
To the United Nations Committee Against Torture
In Advance of its Review of the Holy See
During Its 52nd Session**

April 2014

I. Introduction

The Center for Constitutional Rights and Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests submit this supplemental information for the Committee’s consideration in advance of its review of the Holy See during its 52th Session. This information supplements that contained in the shadow report submitted to the committee on 11 April 2014 (“Shadow Report”).¹ Whereas the first submission primarily highlighted the findings of commissions of inquiry and formal investigations, the cases and examples below further demonstrate that the same policies and practices are at work in regions in which the scandals have yet to fully reveal themselves.

This submission highlights examples of egregious cases and evidence of cover-ups occurring in countries in Latin America and Africa. In particular, cases from Brazil, Chile, Honduras, Mexico, Mozambique, and Peru are emblematic and further highlight the urgent need for serious and comprehensive investigations. In particular, the cases below further reveal the global web and scale of priest-shifting and the dimensions and harm to those in the Global South.² They also provide further examples of the blatant refusal of higher-level church officials to cooperate with civil authorities.

Victims and families members in these cases and others often face extreme pressure to remain silent – by church authorities and members of their communities. Some, such as the mother of a boy who was sexually assaulted by a priest in Costa Rica, have described instances where church officials admonished her to be a “good Christian” and not report the offenses to the police.³ When the case was reported she received death threats for “making

¹ Center for Constitutional Rights, *Shadow Report Prepared for the 52nd Session of the UN Committee Against Torture in Connection with its Review of the Holy See*, 14 April 2014, available at http://www.ccrjustice.org/pdf/CCR_SNAP_Shadow_Report_apr2014.pdf.

² The global dimensions of the practice of priest-shifting have been explored in two key investigative pieces. See *Series: Runaway Priests Hiding in Plain Sight*, Dallas Morning News, 20-23 June 2004 and 12 Sept. 2004, available at <http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/spe/2004/runawaypriests/> (“Runaway Priests”) and Alessandra Rizzo, and Bradley Brooks, *Predator Priests Shuffled Around the Globe: Victim: Transfer of Abusive Clerics Was Called ‘the Geographical Cure,’* The Associated Press, 14 Apr. 2010, available at <http://www.documentcloud.org/documents/243770-7-predator-priests-shuffled.html> (“Geographical Cure”).

³ See *Runaway Priests, Cardinal Offered Sanctuary to Admitted Molester: Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Could Be the Next Pope. He Also recently Sheltered an Admitted Child Molester*, Dallas Morning News, 21 June 2004, available at http://www.bishop-accountability.org/news2004_01_06/2004_06_21_Case_CardinalOffered.htm.

the church look bad.”⁴ A grandmother of a young victim in Brazil described the church and members of her own community being angry with her: “It felt like I was excommunicated from my own community. But I wanted them to believe, like I did, in my grandson.”⁵ Peruvian actor Jason Day described the level of aggressive harassment, maligning and insults he received after speaking out about the crisis of sexual violence within the church and calling for more transparency and accountability.⁶ Day pointed in particular to the efforts of the largest Spanish-speaking Catholic news service to discredit him.⁷ He expressed his concern about the effect of such public backlash on people who have gone or are going through situations of serious sexual violence.⁸

II. Church Cover-up, Silencing and Obstruction of Justice in the Global South

A. Brazil

In 2005, a number of scandals involving allegations against priests for sexual violence in Brazil emerged with one newspaper reporting at the time that ten priests had been jailed for sexual abuse of minors and another 40 were missing.⁹ In the notable case of Fr. Tarcisio Tadeu Spricigo, who was convicted in 2003 of sexual abuse of a nine-year-old, it surfaced that he had been accused of sexual offenses against children as early as 1991 and was moved to different parishes at least four times.¹⁰ He reportedly continued to commit such acts at each assignment.¹¹ The bishop who appointed him to the last parish where more allegations of sexual offenses surfaced knew that there were charges of sexual abuse from a previous assignment when he placed him in another position where he had access to more children.¹²

The grandmother of a five-year-old boy who was sexually assaulted by Spricigo described the impact on her grandson and the family:

We let the boy take guitar lessons with him because we thought he was in safe hands with a good person, with a person who speaks the word of God every day in church. I trusted the Father because I have been Catholic all my life, and I never expected that this could have happened. When the kids accost him in the streets they call him “the priests little wife” and he

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ See also, *Sex Crimes and the Vatican*, Panorama, 2006, available at http://colmogorman.com/?page_id=28.

⁶ Jason Day, *I told the Truth (He dicho las verdad, por Jason Day)*, *El Comercio*, 7 Mar. 2014, available at <http://elcomercio.pe/opinion/colaboradores/he-dicho-verdad-jason-day-noticia-1714332>. (in Spanish)

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ See John L. Allen Jr., *Sex Abuse in Brazil: Abuser Priest Provides Checklist for Selecting Victims*, National Catholic Reporter, 11 Nov. 2005, citing *Corriere della Sera* edition of 21 November 2005, available at <http://nationalcatholicreporter.org/update/bn112105.htm>

¹⁰ *Sex Crimes and the Vatican*, supra note 5.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

feels so angry, so angry that he cries and cries. He tells me often that he just wants to die.

[...]

There's such a great sadness inside us. I fear my boy will grow with that sadness in his mind, the boy growing with problems in his mind.¹³

Brazil - Mozambique. In 2009, Clodoveo Piazza, an Italian priest who ran a shelter for homeless children in Brazil was charged with sexually assaulting boys and allowing visiting foreigners to sexually exploit them.¹⁴ Piazza belongs to the Jesuit religious order and the Italian Jesuits issued a comment on their website expressing “solidarity with the brother and father Piazza” and asserting that “the slander against missionaries is becoming an increasingly popular game.”¹⁵ Brazilian police have reportedly sought his arrest. Piazza left Brazil when the scandal emerged and was last reported to be working as a missionary in Maputo, Mozambique.¹⁶

Mozambique - Italy - Portugal. Recently, in March 2014, news broke in Portugal of allegations of serious and ongoing sexual violence and exploitation at a school and orphanage in Mozambique.¹⁷ Whistleblower João Gomes de Oliveira,¹⁸ a teacher placed at the school by a program run through the government of Portugal, came forward with reports concerning sexual abuse and exploitation by two Italian priests that run the institution.¹⁹ Oliveira submitted complaints seeking investigations with the authorities in Mozambique, Portugal and Italy.²⁰ An investigation in Italy is reportedly underway, but the former teacher is urgently concerned about the well-being to children currently housed in the institution.²¹

B. Chile

Father Fernando Karadima has been described as “an unmatched spiritual leader with several bishops and dozens of priests as disciples.”²² He is also the most notorious perpetrator of sexual violence in Chile. As early as the mid-1980s, complaints about Karadima’s “improper conduct” had been relayed to the then-archbishop, Juan Francisco Fresno, who reportedly

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ Geographical Cure, *supra* note 2.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ Ana Dias Cordeiro, *Mozambique: Fathers Investigated for Suspected Abuse Directed Orphanage that Had the Support of Portugal*, Publico, 2 Mar. 2014, available at <http://www.publico.pt/mundo/noticia/mocambique-padres-investigados-por-suspeitas-de-abusos-dirigem-orfanato-e-escola-que-teve-apoio-de-portugal-1626570>. (in Portuguese).

¹⁸ Oliveira is ready and willing to provide the Committee with further information or assist in any way.

¹⁹ *Id.*

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ *Id.*

²² Alexei Barrionuevo and Pascale Bonnefoy, *Handling of Abuse in Chilean Church Questioned*, New York Times, 27 Oct. 2010 available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/10/28/world/americas/28chile.html>.

tore up the complaint letter.²³ A complaint against him of sexual assault reached Cardinal Francisco Javier Errázuriz, then-archbishop of Santiago, in mid-2003. José Murillo, who submitted the complaint, believed that his letter to the cardinal would prompt an investigation. Instead of referring the claims to civil authorities or otherwise opening an investigation, Errázuriz “tried to shame accusers into dropping claims, refused to meet with them or failed to carry out formal investigations.”²⁴ Nearly a decade prior, Murillo confronted Karadima in the presence of a priest who went on to become a bishop, Rev. Andrés Arteaga, and was subsequently sexually assaulted by Karadima.²⁵ As James Hamilton, who was abused by Karadima for more than 15 years, said: “My life has been destroyed.”²⁶

Despite a finding by a church investigation that the accusers’ claims were credible, Cardinal Errázuriz suspended the investigation for three years, and ultimately referred the file to the Vatican for investigation – not civil authorities.²⁷ In 2011, criminal complaints filed by victims were dismissed on statute of limitations grounds applicable to “abuse” claims despite a finding that Karadima had committed the alleged acts.²⁸ That decision was followed by a call to change the law; said Juan Carlos Cruz, who had been assaulted by Karadima at age 16, “I would like to see the law on the statute of limitations regarding sexual abuse changed because the law may say one thing, but the effects of the abuses always remain.”²⁹ The judge also criticized both Cardinal Errázuriz and his successor archbishop Ricardo Ezzati for not acting on the allegations for years.³⁰ Rather than a prison sentence, Karadima was retired to a “life of prayer and penitence” by the Vatican. Notably, the Vatican described this retirement

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ *Id.*

²⁶ *Id.*. A judge later described Hamilton as “annulled, crushed or subjugated by the authority exerted by the offender without any limits, making the victim resign himself to the abuses.” See Simon Romero and Pascale Bonnefoy, *Chilean Judge Drops Abuse Case but Condemns Priest*, New York Times, 14 Nov. 2011 available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/15/world/americas/chilean-judge-drops-abuse-case-but-says-priest-was-guilty.html>.

²⁷ Barrionuevo and Bonnefoy, *supra* note 22.

²⁸ See Romero and Bonnefoy, *supra* note 26.

²⁹ *Id.* Juan Carlos Cruz elaborates on his case, the sexual assault committed by Karadima and the role of the Church in Chile, including during the Pinochet era, in the presentation “Experience in Chile: Violated as a Chile, Protecting Others Now,” Dublin, Ireland, Apr. 2013, available at <http://vimeo.com/65933911>.

³⁰ Romero and Bonnefoy, *supra* note 26. The judge’s decision is available (in Spanish): http://www.lanacion.cl/noticias/site/artic/20111114/asocfile/20111114110512/acr60b_tmp.pdf

While the case against Karadima is the most well-known case in Chile, it is not the only case of sexual violence by members of the Catholic clergy and church officials. For example, in 2002, a number of cases from southern Chile were reported on, but were essentially dismissed by the bishop who told the father of one victim, “we all have human weaknesses” or the priests were sent to neighboring countries to avoid civil or criminal proceedings. See Michael Paulson, *World doesn’t share US view of scandal*, The Boston Globe, 8 Apr. 2002, available at http://www.boston.com/globe/spotlight/abuse/stories/040802_world.htm; *Conferencia Episcopal: Conductas que ha reconocido el Obispo Órdenes “son impropias y graves,”* emol.chile, 9 Oct. 2012 available at <http://www.emol.com/noticias/nacional/2012/10/09/563863/conferencia-episcopal-conductas-que-ha-reconocido-el-obispo-ordenes-son-impropias-y-graves.html>; Pedro Ramirez, *Denuncia enviada al Vaticano por acoso sexual en el seminario de Vaparaíso implica a tres obispos*, CIPER, 28 July 2011 available at <http://ciperchile.cl/2011/07/28/denuncia-enviada-al-vaticano-por-acoso-sexual-en-el-seminario-de-valparaiso-implica-a-tres-obispos/> (in Spanish).

as “in reparation to the victims of his abuse.”³¹ Karadima remains a priest and was recently seen celebrating mass in public.³²

Despite being criticized for failing to act on and covering up allegations of sexual violence by Karadima, and recent claims brought against Ezzati for obstruction of justice in another case,³³ both current and former archbishops of Santiago have received promotions and honors. Pope Francis recently appointed Ricardo Ezzati to the Congregation for Catholic Education,³⁴ after he was promoted to cardinal in February 2014.³⁵ Francisco Javier Errázuriz was appointed by Pope Francis to the select eight-man “Council of Cardinals” formed to reform the Curia, which Honduran Cardinal Rodríguez, discussed more below, coordinates.³⁶

C. Costa Rica→Nicaragua→United States→Mexico→Honduras

The case of Rev. Enrique Vásquez illustrates how church authorities used their global presence as a network to help shield an admitted offender from prosecution. Vásquez was originally working in Costa Rica and admitted to his bishop in the mid-1990’s that he had molested a 10-year-old altar boy, even telling the bishop “I have this problem.”³⁷ Just one day after the state child welfare agency formally charged Vásquez in 1998 with molesting a child, he fled Costa Rica and went to the United States via Nicaragua.³⁸ Church officials in New York and later Connecticut reported receiving letters of good standing from Costa Rica, though the New York archdiocese officials gave mixed messages.³⁹ While acknowledging a letter from the bishop in Costa Rica attesting that Vásquez was in good standing, the archdiocese spokesperson said the priest had been rejected for work in the archdiocese.⁴⁰ This, however, contradicted the report of the pastor supervising Vásquez at the local level who said “we were given the OK” to put the priest to work.⁴¹

³¹ Alexei Barrionuevo and Pascale Bonnefoy, *Chilean Priest Found Guilty of Abusing Minors*, New York Times, 18 Feb. 2011 available at <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/19/world/americas/19chile.html>.

³² See Luis Andres Henao and Nicole Winfield, *Chile: Pedophile Priest Defies Vatican Order*, The Associated Press, 21 Feb. 2014, available at <http://bigstory.ap.org/article/chile-pedophile-priest-defies-vatican-order>.

³³ See *Victima de abusos de sacerdote salesiano se querrela contra Ezzati por supuesto encubrimiento*, biobiochile.cl, 19 Fe. 2014 available at <http://www.biobiochile.cl/2014/02/19/victima-de-abusos-de-sacerdote-salesiano-se-querrela-contra-ezzati-por-supuesto-encubrimiento.shtml> (in Spanish).

³⁴ See Vatican press release, available at <http://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2013/11/30/0795/01791.html>

³⁵ Andrea Gagliarducci, *Cardinal Ricardo Ezzati, a Salesian with a red biretta*, Catholic News Agency, 6 Mar. 2014, available at <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/cardinal-ricardo-ezzati-a-salesian-with-a-red-biretta/>.

³⁶ See, e.g., *Pope appoints panel of cardinals to weigh major reform of Roman Curia*, Catholic World News, 13 Apr. 2013, available at <https://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=17584>.

³⁷ Runaway Priests: Cardinal Rodríguez, *supra* note 3.

³⁸ *Id.*

³⁹ *Id.*

⁴⁰ *Id.*

⁴¹ *Id.*

Meanwhile, back in Costa Rica as of 1998, according to a psychological report, the victim “was suffering from sleeplessness, low self-esteem, depression and recurrent thoughts of death.”⁴² His mother reported that, “[m]y son went from being a kid who was sweet, gentle and sensitive to one who was angry, distant, defeated. One who was closed in on himself and didn’t want any friends.”⁴³

When the Costa Rican prosecutor finally obtained information about Vásquez’ location in the U.S., she alerted U.S. authorities in 2002. Hours after Vásquez was questioned by the FBI, he fled to Mexico.⁴⁴ His Costa Rican bishop acknowledged that he knew Vásquez was in Mexico but did not inform the Costa Rican prosecutor until a year later when she again inquired. By that time in 2003, Vásquez had moved on to Honduras.⁴⁵

At the time of a media investigation into transnational priest shifting, investigative journalists questioned church authorities in Honduras about Vásquez’ presence there. Cardinal Oscar Rodríguez, who handled all clergy personnel decisions in the archdiocese, including priests’ assignments put Vásquez to work in two remote parishes from late 2003 until March 2004.⁴⁶ Vásquez vanished from the area days ahead of police after the case in Costa Rica had been revived.⁴⁷ According to an agent with Interpol, church officials in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, “realized they had a problem, and they got rid of him.”⁴⁸

Cardinal Rodriguez shared the view of Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, former Vatican Secretary of State, who adamantly opposed the reporting by bishops of priests to civil authorities, and Cardinal Castrillon-Hoyos who, with the blessing of Pope John Paul II, instructed against it, as discussed in more detail in Sec. IV(E-F) of the Shadow Report. According to Rodriguez,

For me it would be a tragedy to reduce the role of a pastor to that of a cop. We are totally different, and I’d be prepared to go to jail rather than harm one of my priests. We must not forget that we are pastors, not agents of the FBI or CIA.⁴⁹

Shortly after the investigative news series was published and brought public attention to the Vásquez case, there were reports that someone matching his description had been apprehended in Nicaragua. When contacted by reporters, church officials in Nicaragua said they “didn’t know where Vásquez was, but wouldn’t tell law enforcement officials if they did find him.” According to Nicaraguan Bishop Juan Abelardo Mata, secretary of the Nicaraguan

⁴² *Id.*

⁴³ *Id.*

⁴⁴ *Id.*

⁴⁵ *Id.*

⁴⁶ *Id.*

⁴⁷ *Id.*

⁴⁸ *Id.*

⁴⁹ *Id.*

Bishops Conference, “Our function is not to alert the police. We would alert religious authorities.”⁵⁰

In 2007, after nearly 10 years of fleeing from justice, Vásquez was finally apprehended by Interpol – in Tegucigalpa, the seat of the archdiocese of Honduras.⁵¹ By the time he was arrested at least one of the charges had lapsed due to the time delays.⁵² The mother of the victim asked that Vásquez renounce the prescription of the statute of limitation to “at least give justice to what happened to the child.”⁵³

D. Mexico

One of the more notorious cases revealing papal efforts to protect an offending priest was that of Fr. Marcial Maciel Degollado. Maciel was the founder of a religious order called the Legion of Christ.⁵⁴ He had been accused of sexual assault of at least 20 Legion seminarians.⁵⁵ Documentation of Maciel’s offenses included correspondence from a victim who was a former seminarian to Maciel as early as 1976 and to Pope John Paul II as early as 1989.⁵⁶ A bishop in Rockville Center, New York, sent a letter with the detailed allegations to the Vatican in 1976, 1978 and 1989 through official channels.⁵⁷ Each time, nothing happened.⁵⁸

In the 1980’s Maciel began having children with women to whom he did not disclose his true identity. He had three children in Mexico and three others in Switzerland.⁵⁹ In 2010, one of

⁵⁰ Inside Costa Rica, *Fugitive Priest Vásquez Arrested in Nicaragua*, 14 July 2004, available at <http://www.insidecostarica.com/dailynews/2004/july/14/nac1.htm>.

⁵¹ El Nuevo Diario, *Priest Sought for Sexual Abuse Captured (Capturan a sacerdote buscado por abuso sexual)*, 20 Apr. 2007, available at <http://impreso.elnuevodiario.com.ni/2007/04/20/internacionales/46707> (in Spanish).

⁵² José L. Mendoza, *Preventive Detention Requested for Priest Pederast (Piden prisión preventiva para sacerdote pederasta)*, El Nuevo Diario, 23 Apr. 2007, available at <http://impreso.elnuevodiario.com.ni/2007/04/23/nacionales/46967> (in Spanish).

⁵³ Otto Vargas, *Costa Rica: Mother Asks Priest to Renounce Statute of Limitations (Costa Rica: Madre pide a sacerdote renunciar a prescripción)*, Alliance for Your Rights / Alianza por Tus Derechos, 4 May 2007, available at <http://www.alianzaportusderechos.org/article/costa-rica-madre-pide-a-sacerdote-renunciar-a-pres/> (in Spanish).

⁵⁴ See Jason Berry, *Money Paved the Way for Maciel’s Influence in the Vatican*, National Catholic Reporter, 6 Apr. 2010, available at <http://ncronline.org/news/accountability/money-paved-way-maciels-influence-vatican>.

⁵⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁶ See *Letter of Juan J. Vaca to Marcial Marcel Degollado*, 20 Oct. 1976, available at <http://www.documentcloud.org/documents/243756-6-juan-vaca-letters-to-pope-re-marcial.html> and *Letter of Juan J. Vaca to His Holiness Pope John Paul II*, 28 Oct. 1989, available at <http://www.documentcloud.org/documents/243756-6-juan-vaca-letters-to-pope-re-marcial.html>.

⁵⁷ See Berry, *supra* note 54. See also, Jason Berry, *Vows of Silence: the Abuse of Power in the Papacy of John Paul II*, pp. 1-10, Free Press (2004).

⁵⁸ *Id.*

⁵⁹ Berry, *supra* note 54.

Maciel's sons from Mexico came forward and disclosed that he had endured sexual assaults at the hands of his father.⁶⁰

In 1998, a group of nine of Maciel's seminary victims launched formal charges through the canonical process at the Vatican but the case at the CDF was halted by then-Vatican Secretary of State Angelo Sodano at the order of Pope John Paul II.⁶¹ The CDF inquiry was only re-opened shortly before John Paul II's death when he was incapacitated.⁶² Maciel was eventually ordered to cease public ministry and to lead a life of prayer and penance.⁶³

In March 2012, new documents were published which shed more light on the Vatican's knowledge of Maciel's offenses. *The Will Not to Know* was co-authored by Jose Barba, a former Legionaire who was among those who in 1998 sought Maciel's laicization from the CDF for the sexual assault committed against him and others.⁶⁴ The book included 198 internal Vatican documents which the authors reported confirm that the Holy See knew for decades, through internal investigators, of the allegations against Maciel of "acts of sodomy with boys of the congregation" and that they did nothing.⁶⁵

The knowing refusal and failure of those at the very top, including then-Cardinal Ratzinger as head of the CDF, and Pope John Paul II, to take action against Maciel directly facilitated and enabled the continued rape and sexual assault of even more children and vulnerable adults by Maciel over the years, including the sexual assault of one of his own children.

E. Peru

Peru provides another example where, instead of cooperating with civil authorities to prosecute a priest known to have sexually assaulted young boys, the priest was transferred from country to country. In 1991, Fr. Carlos Peralta was caught with a boy in his bedroom around midnight, and he was reported to the top Salesian official in Peru.⁶⁶ Four years later, after several students report having been abused by Peralta, a church disciplinary board concluded that "unspeakable things have occurred" and that the priest must be kept away from children.⁶⁷ Instead, in 1996 he was transferred to another school in Peru and is alleged

⁶⁰ Jason Berry, *Maciel's Son Details Abuse*, National Catholic Reporter, 20 June 2010, available at http://www.theinvestigativefund.org/investigations/rightsliberties/1335/maciel%E2%80%99s_son_details_abuse/.

⁶¹ See Jo Tuckman, *The Rev. Marcial Maciel*, The Guardian, 28 Apr. 2008, available at <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2008/apr/29/catholicism.mexico>. See also, Jason Berry, *The Pope Could Still Right the Wrongs*, The New York Times, 11 Feb. 2013, available at http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/12/opinion/the-pope-could-still-right-the-wrongs.html?_r=0.

⁶² Tuckman, *supra*.

⁶³ *Id.*

⁶⁴ Alberto Athie, Jose Barba, Fernando González, *La Voluntad de No Saber (The Will Not to Know)*, available at http://www.lavoluntaddenosaber.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=2&Itemid=58. (in Spanish).

⁶⁵ *Id.*

⁶⁶ Runaway Priests, *supra* note 2, *A Long Trail of Trouble*, Dallas Morning News, 20 June 2004, available at http://www.bishop-accountability.org/news/2004_06_20_DMN_ALong.htm.

⁶⁷ *Id.*

to continue “his misconduct.”⁶⁸ In 1997, Peralta was sent to a clergy abuse treatment centre in Argentina; the priest who ran the center advised that priests claim they are at the center for physical health reasons, thereby hiding from parishioners and the public any history of sexually assaulting children.⁶⁹ After the treatment center, Peralta was sent to a parish in Chicago, Illinois, with a “permission-to-work form” signed by top Salesian official in Peru, stating that Fr. Peralta “enjoys a good reputation and has no problem working with minors.”⁷⁰ Within a year, Peralta is again accused of abuse in Chicago and is again sent for “treatment,” this time in Virginia.⁷¹ A lawsuit was filed in Chicago alleging that Peralta molested four boys; the Salesians in the U.S. claim they did not know about Peralta’s past.⁷² While an investigation was ongoing in Chicago, Peralta was transferred to Mexico City and begins work there.⁷³ Chicago police urged the Salesian superior in Peru to return Peralta to the U.S. for questioning, but instead Fr. Peralta remained in Mexico.⁷⁴

III. Conclusion

As set out above and in the Shadow Report, the Holy See’s policies and practices continue to pose risk of and do serious harm to children around the world. While the Holy See would prefer to cast its responsibility for meeting its obligations under the Convention as beginning and ending within the confines of Vatican City State,⁷⁵ the reality is that it has enabled widespread and systemic abuse – and is still doing so – in Catholic institutions and parishes around the world. Moreover, there is still no accountability for those who hold this system in place.

⁶⁸ *Id.*

⁶⁹ *Id.*

⁷⁰ *Id.*

⁷¹ *Id.*

⁷² *Id.*

⁷³ *Id.*

⁷⁴ *Id.*

⁷⁵ Statement of Federico Lombardi, Vatican Spokesperson, Vatican Radio, 16 Apr. 2014, available at http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2014/04/16/vatican_was_not_ordered_to_appear_before_u.n._committee_says_vatican/in2-791459