

Catholic officials blast government interference with Argentine radio

By Kenneth D. MacHarg

Buenos Aires, Argentina--Roman Catholic church officials have charged that government authorities are interfering with their radio broadcasts because of programs reflecting social doctrine and viewpoints on human rights.

Monsignor Jorge Novak, Bishop of Quilmes, said his diocese's FM Vida radio station has been "totally jammed" by FM Libertador operating on the same frequency in a nearby town.

In 1991, a presidential decree arbitrarily gave the bishop's station's 98.2 MHz frequency to the government's new FM Rosada station and relegated the church's preaching to 91.9 MHz, which has now been taken over by the more powerful FM Libertador.

In complaints to official governmental frequency allocation agencies, Fr. Novak denounced "the way we have been trampled underfoot by allowing another station with a much stronger signal to broadcast with impunity on our frequency, putting the very existence of Radio Vida in grave danger."

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