

The number one Argentina Church, suspected of collaborating with the dictatorship

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Cardinal Primate of Argentina,
Archbishop Jorge Bergoglio. | Efe

The 'number 1' of the Catholic Church in Argentina, **Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio**, 73, has been identified as a collaborator of the "dirty war" of the military dictatorship (1976-1983) because two priests allegedly betrayed his subordinates in the Jesuit of Jesuits.

The complaint comes from survivors of the 'dirty war' and so the Archbishop of Buenos Aires has had to declare Monday as **a witness in the trial of 18 former repressors of ESMA**, extermination center of the Navy, where some 5,000 people were killed in the gloomy **'death flights'**.

Although the prelate would seek the benefit of state in writing, citing his status as head of the Catholic Church, the judges enforced the law forced him to **declare verbally** and submit questions. The hearing took place in the Archdiocese and was closed to the press and public.

Under the dictatorship, Bergoglio was the provincial of the Jesuits in Argentina and removed from that position in May 1976, the religious license (equal to expulsion) the priests **Francisco Jalics and Orlando Yorio**, two subordinates in the Society of Jesus had made the call 'option for the poor'.

Yorio Jalics and preached in the 'slum' of the neighborhood Bajo Flores, with **catechists of El Salvador** -Jesuit church while Bergoglio sympathized with the group 'Iron Guard', the right wing of Peronism, as writer and journalist Horacio Verbitsky.

Days after losing the protection of the Society of Jesus, a group repressive ESMA Jalics kidnapped and Yorio, plus several catechists who went to the **extermination center dungeons** and tortured. The priests, according Verbitsky, always suspected that Bergoglio had betrayed.

Of that group kidnapped and tortured, the catechist **Monica Mignone** still missing. His father, Emilio Mignone, humanitarian organization founded Center for Legal and Social Studies (CELS). In his 1986 book "Church and dictatorship", Mignone Bergoglio mentioned as one of "the sheep herders who gave their enemy without defending them or rescue them."

In the torture center "an interrogator with overt theological knowledge Yorio told that they knew was not a guerrilla but whose work in slum joined the poor and it was subversive."

Dictatorship freed in return for the Bishops received the Chief of Staff, General Roberto Viola, and Economy Minister Jose Martinez de Hoz. "One day before the visit to the Episcopate, Yorio and Jalics were **drugged and deposited** by a helicopter in a Cañuelas bathed, "the investigator said.

Soon after, they traveled to the Vatican and never returned to live in Argentina. Yorio Jalics died years ago and continues to live in Germany.

For its part, continued to rise in Bergoglio **hierarchy** and in 2005 to compete as possible 'papable' in the conclave of cardinals at the Vatican, finally proclaimed Joseph Ratzinger.

(Translated from Spanish.)

<http://www.elmundo.es/america/2010/11/08/argentina/1289232137.html>