

DECLARATION OF  
ALBERTO MANUEL ATHIE GALLO  
in the case of  
JOAQUIN AGUILAR-MENDEZ  
vs.  
CARDINAL ROGER MAHONY ET AL

I, ALBERTO MANUEL ATHIE GALLO, declare that:

I am over the age of 18. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and would testify thereto if called to do so.

1. I was born in Mexico D.F. on June 9, 1954. I was a priest in the Archdiocese of Mexico for 20 years of my life. I withdrew from the priesthood and presented my irrevocable resignation before Pope John Paul II, because for 6 years I tried to have Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera and Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, then Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, listen to me regarding the crime of sexual abuse and other forms of manipulation that Father Marcial Maciel (Mexican priest and founder of the Legion of Christ) committed against Juan Manuel Fernández Amenábar when he was under age. Juan Manuel was a disciple of Fr. Maciel from an early age and was later ordained a Legion of Christ priest and later became Rector of the University of Anáhuac in Mexico City. Not only did both prelates ignore me, but then Cardinal Rivera withdrew all my faculties of service that I provided to the Mexican Episcopate and then obligated me to accept an assignment that would force me to leave Mexico for Chicago for a year, as a sabbatical. While I was in the United States the news media started reporting that many children had been abused sexually by priests and so I decided to reveal to the media what had happened to me and I renounced all my faculties in 2003.
2. My educational studies include: Masters degree in moral theology with specialty in Social Sciences from the Gregorian University of Rome; a PhD in philosophy from the University of Saint Tomas in Rome; Specialized studies in Ethnic Minorities and Social-Cultures from CTU in Chicago; and Certifications in Intensive Cultivations in Murcia, Spain and in Oregon, US.
3. Currently, I am the Founder and Social Vice President of FinComún, Common Financial Products, INC., a Financial Lending Company that provides loans and services to nearly 130,000 low-income clients in the poorest zones of the metropolitan region (Mexico City) and in other states of the Mexican Republic. I am President of a civic organization named Civic Initiative for the Promotion of the Culture of Dialogue. I am also a member of the Civic Guidance Counsel of the SNDIF.
4. I am also the representative of Mexico and Central America for Caritas International; consultant for Caritas International; Consultant of the CELAM and the Episcopate of the United States; Professor at the ITEPAL, Colombia;

member of the international committee for the prevention and aid to people with HIV-SIDS in Latin America; cofounder of the civic organization Foundation Juan Diego, focused on the importance in business, community and non-profits.

5. The purpose of this affidavit is to discuss three areas of concern: a) the significance of the word "*chamaco*", b) the power and image of the Catholic Church in Mexico and, c) how is justice perceived in Mexico.
6. The word "*chamaco*." The word "*chamaco*" signifies "kid": someone who is under age in Mexico and other countries of Latin America. It suffices to consult the Dictionary of the Spanish Tongue and popular reference. A "*chamaco*" is never a young adult between 18 and 30 years of age.

There are 3 (three) words in our culture that are related:

- A. "*Escuincle*": boy
- B. "*Chamaco*": a person under age, older than a boy and younger than a young man
- C. "*Muchacho*": a youth up to age 21

7. Power and Image of the Catholic Church in Mexico. The Catholic Church in Mexico is seen as a powerful institution in two ways:
  - a. **Cultural:** the influence of the Catholic culture, of the Institution and of the priests, bishops and cardinals is key within families, for making decisions. There is strong reverential respect for them that also creates conflict of values in the families. There is also influence in the ways that ecclesiastical authorities are related with governmental authorities and courts where it is understood that they (the ecclesiastical authorities) can stop processes against them or even to revert charges against them to those that criminally denounce a clergyman.
  - b. **Institutional:** the ecclesiastical institution is very powerful and the cardinals, bishops and priests have influence in many economic decisions, political representatives, in the media: all to control certain actions against them or the institution. The way the information regarding the case of Fr. Marcial Maciel is indicative of how they maintain this control. A lot can be expanded in this respect.
8. How is Justice perceived in Mexico. Justice in Mexico is seen as mechanisms that can be corrupted if one has influences or money and those delinquents that have influence or money can be protected. The impunity of many criminals is constant in our history. The protection that the judicial authorities provide the Church and its ministers is common knowledge as something that operates almost permanently.
9. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 20 day of September, 2007 in MEXICO CITY, MEXICO.

ALBERTO MANUEL ATHIÉ GALLO