

Pope begs forgiveness for sexual abuse scandal

REUTERS, Vatican City

Pope Benedict begged forgiveness from God and victims of child sexual abuse by priests yesterday and vowed that the Catholic Church would do everything in its power to ensure that it never happens again.

Benedict made his comments, some of his most specific about the scandal that has swept the Church around the world, during a homily in St Peter's Square to conclude the Roman Catholic

Church's "Year of the Priest" celebrations.

Wearing white and gold vestments as he spoke to some 15,000 priests, Benedict said the year that was to have celebrated the priesthood had been marred because "the sins of priests came to light, particularly the abuse of the little ones."

"We too insistently beg forgiveness from God and from the persons involved, while promising to do everything possible to ensure that such abuse will never occur again," he said.



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Position Announcements

For 46 years and in 145 countries, ACDI/VOCA has empowered people in developing and transitional nations to succeed in the global economy. Based in Washington, D.C., ACDI/VOCA is a nonprofit international development organization that delivers technical and management assistance in agribusiness, financial services, enterprise development, community development and food security in order to promote broad-based economic growth and vibrant civil society. ACDI/VOCA currently has approximately 93 projects in 40 countries and revenues of over \$124 million.

We are currently seeking administrative specialists for long-term positions on a P.L. 480 Title II USAID multi-year assistance program (MYAP) in Bangladesh. The overall goal of the project is to reduce chronic food insecurity and vulnerability of individuals, households and communities to food security shocks. It works to improve agricultural productivity by strengthening cooperatives; improving the productivity and quality of target food crops; awarding grants to rural cooperatives and NGOs to promote post-harvest processing and commercialization of agricultural production.

Senior Commodity Specialist

The Senior Commodity Specialist will direct all ACDI/VOCA commodity monetization activity in Bangladesh; work closely with partners in coordinating and directing the transport, storage and distribution of Title II commodities; supervise and support program staff in commodity shipping, import, stocking, inventory management, delivery/distribution, and sales; ensure proper systems of control and coordination with the field and HQ accounting staff; and ensure that commodity management procedures are properly documented and in line with the requirements of USAID, Government of Bangladesh and ACDI/VOCA.

Qualifications: At least five years of logistics management experience, including warehouse management, preferably with food commodities; strong interpersonal skills; experience in commodity sales and marketing in Bangladesh; experience negotiating with host country governments and on goods clearance issues; and familiarity with food aid programs, particularly USAID Title II programs.

Procurement Officer

The Procurement Officer will provide procurement oversight to the project; solicit bids and requests for pro forma invoices for project procurement at the Chief of Party's request; maintain financial records related to all procurement (bids, pro forma invoices, etc.) based in Bangladesh; monitor compliance with procurement within the budget provided by the Team Leader and Program Staff to effectively manage project procurement and logistics in Bangladesh.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree or equivalent in training and experience; USAID experience preferred; ability to work under tight deadlines with minimal guidance and manage priorities and workflow; strong oral, written and analytical skills and working knowledge of Excel with proficiency in Word; strong analytical, organizational, research and problem-solving skills; good written and spoken English required.

IT Officer

The IT Officer will manage and administer all IT related systems and equipment for the project; monitor and trouble-shoot IT related issues as needed; provide guidance and technical input on any IT related procurements or activities undertaken by the project. **Qualifications:** Bachelor's degree in computer science or equivalent in training and experience; USAID experience preferred; five years of experience in similar posts working w/international NGOs. Good written and spoken English required.

Accountant/Assistant Accountant

The Accountant and Assistant Accountant will maintain, and update proper books of accounts in the manual accounting ledgers, and in the computerized accounting system in use; ensure effective filing of accounting documents; formulate and/or participate in the formulation of the finance and administration manuals.

Qualifications: Minimum requirements include a higher diploma or a university degree in accounting, commerce or financial management and a minimum of seven years (Accountant) or three years (Assistant Accountant) of experience in a similar position with a recognised NGO or international organization (private or public); ability to track numerous budgets and adhere to donor reporting requirements. ACCA, ICMA, CIMA, CPA or other recognized professional certification is preferred. Experience in a computerized environment and a good working knowledge of an accounting package (i.e., Quickbooks) and MS Office packages.

Human Resources Director

The Human Resources Director recruits and hires staff for the Dhaka and Khulna offices; ensures all human resource policies are in line with Bangladesh law and USAID regulations; plans payroll and ensures staff benefits, including leave; and monitors and ensures timesheets are completed in a timely manner.

Qualifications: Bachelor's degree or equivalent in training and experience; USAID experience preferred; ability to work under tight deadlines with minimal guidance and manage priorities and workflow; strong oral, written and analytical skills and working knowledge of Excel with proficiency in Word; strong analytical, organizational, research and problem-solving skills; good written and spoken English required.

Receptionist

The Receptionist will convey a professional company image through in-person and phone interaction; coordinate and maintain office records and inventory; assist and support administrative and technical teams; and organize meetings and workshops.

Qualifications: Minimum 3-5 years of experience in similar posts; ability to multi-task with minimal guidance and manage priorities and workflow; working knowledge in Excel and Word; good written and spoken English required.

Please send CVs to Bangladesh@acdivo.org. No phone calls please. Only finalists will be contacted. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. EOE.



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US missiles kill 15 in northwestern Pakistan

AP, DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan

A volley of US missiles killed 15 alleged militants in an extremist stronghold in northwestern Pakistan yesterday, the second such strike in less than 12 hours, officials said.

The Obama administration regards missile attacks from drone aircraft as a key weapon against al-Qaeda and the Taliban close to the Afghan border. Last month, al-Qaeda's reputed No 3 official, Mustafa al-Yazid, was reported killed in a similar strike in the North Waziristan region.

Six missiles were fired in the attack on a house in a village close to the border, two intelligence officers said. They were not authorized to give their names.

Yousaf Khan, a government administrator in the region's main town of Miran Shah, said 15 alleged militants were killed.

He said officers were still gathering information about the identities of the victims.

Late Thursday, two people were killed in another strike in North Waziristan. Officials did not say whether they were believed to be militants.

Pakistan is under pressure to launch a military offensive in the region, but the army says it is too stretched and committed to other parts of the border region to do so anytime soon.

There have been more than 35 suspected missile strikes this year alone, the highest tempo since the attacks began in earnest in 2008.

The attacks have killed many hundreds of people, most identified by Pakistani officials after the strikes as suspected militants. There have also been many accounts of civilian deaths. Washington does not acknowledge firing the missiles, let alone say who they are killing.

Critics say the attacks may violate international law and amount to extra

judicial killings.

Pakistan's government publicly opposes the strikes to prevent domestic critics from accusing it of conspiring with United States in killing its own citizens. But it is widely believed to provide intelligence assistance for at least some of the strikes.

The drones either take off from bases across the border in Afghanistan or reportedly from secret bases within Pakistan.

Also Friday, gunmen shot and wounded a retired army colonel in the Pakistani capital, police said.

The attackers struck as the former officer was in his car and preparing to leave his Islamabad home.

The motive for the attack was not immediately clear, police spokesman Naeem Iqbal said. However, targeted assaults on military brass have occurred at least three other times in Islamabad over the past year, killing one officer.

2 US troops, 11 Civilians Killed in South Afghan

AP, KABUL, Afghanistan

Two US troops and at least 11 civilians died in violence across southern Afghanistan yesterday, including one attack in which a suicide bomber wearing a burqa blew himself up in a bazaar.

Violence has spiked recently in Afghanistan's volatile south as Taliban insurgents step up attacks ahead of a planned major operation by Nato forces to secure the main city of Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taliban.

Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the US and Nato commander in Afghanistan, said in Brussels yesterday that insurgents have killed 59 Afghans during the past seven days, 54 of them in Kandahar. He told Nato ministers that insurgents also wounded 116, including 94 in Kandahar.

Separately, Nato announced yesterday that it has opened an alternate supply route to Afghanistan via Russia and central Asia -- a critical development that gives the alliance the ability to bypass the previous ambush-prone main routes through Pakistan. Although Russia offered to open its territory to Nato as a whole, negotiations over transit rights between the alliance and central Asian states took several months to complete.

The development is important because it signals Russian willingness to indirectly support the Nato-led mission. Moscow has been warmer to the mission's success in recent years, fearing that a Nato defeat in Afghanistan would cause further problems for Russia.

In Kandahar province yesterday, nine civilians, including four women and three children, were killed and eight other people were wounded when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb in Maiwand district, said Zalmay Ayoubi, a spokesman for the provincial governor. The driver hit the mine when he veered off the road to go around a section that was damaged.

In neighboring Zabul province, a suicide bomber dressed in a burqa detonated



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* Individuals who appeared earlier need not to attend again



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