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Associazione Svizzera dei Liberi Pensatori

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The Freethinkers Association of Switzerland files charges against Bishop Morerod for assisting offenders

The Freethinkers Association of Switzerland has filed charges against Bishop Morerod for assisting offenders under Article 305 of the Swiss Criminal Code. According to the media, Bishop Morerod was informed in 2011 by a victim support organisation about the sexual assaults of a Catholic priest under his authority.

In our opinion, the offence of assisting an offender has been committed, provided that it can be confirmed that this transfer of files actually took place in 2011.

With the criminal charges filed, the Freethinkers want to make sure that the investigating authorities take action and seriously examine whether Morerod was at fault. It can no longer be the case that the Church behaves like a state within a state and protects suspected perpetrators from the access of the executive authorities.

The internal investigation of the diocese «concerning the failure to disclose information, lack of judgment and disappearance of documents» is not sufficient. In connection with the systematic cover-up of cases of abuse in the ranks of the Roman Catholic Church, it has been shown time and time again that the Church's own control mechanisms are missing or failing, and that therefore the rule of law must become active.

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