

Crackdown serves to warn Catholic media

Art Babych/CNS

OTTAWA — The recent crackdown on the Cuban press was a warning to Catholic media there, said the watchdog group Reporters Without Borders.

Catholic media were not targeted when the Cuban government began the roundup of journalists in March, but the blow to press freedom was a warning to them to temper their coverage of events in Cuba, the group said.

The arrests of 75 people — including 26 independent journalists — “were undoubtedly meant to serve as a reminder that, under the constitution, the state has a monopoly of news in Cuba and only the government press is permitted,” the international organization said June 25.

Those arrested were sentenced to prison terms of up to 28 years, despite pleas from the leaders of Catholic religious communities in Canada and concerns expressed by the Canadian government.

The Canadian Religious Conference called for a boycott on travel to Cuba, stating that “a culture of fear” has dominated Cuba since the crackdown began.

Reporters Without Borders, which defends imprisoned journalists and press freedom throughout the world, said the arrests have made Cuba “the world’s biggest prison for members of the press.”

According to a dozen foreign journalists who have lived and worked in Cuba, authorities use restrictive visa policies, forbidden topics, constant police surveillance, psychological harassment, official summonses and deportation to control the news that reaches the outside world, the watchdog group said.

The organization released a report stating that only one Catholic publication on the communist island criticized the Cuban regime openly; others feared being shut down or jeopardizing already strained relations between church and state.

The Catholic Church is allowed to publish about a dozen independent magazines, but the content must be authorized or pre-censored, said the report.

Judge won't reopen case



Norma McCorvey

DALLAS (CNS) — A federal court in Dallas declined June 19 to reopen the historic 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision *Roe v. Wade* which legalized abortion, despite a request by the former plaintiff known as “Jane

Roe” — Norma McCorvey.

McCorvey had filed a “motion for relief from judgment” June 17 seeking to have the court reopen the abortion decision and to begin an in-depth study on the effects of abortion on women.

In his ruling, U.S. District Judge David Godbey said federal law allows petitions to the court to reopen cases in extraordinary circumstances but such petitions must be filed weeks or months after a decision is handed down.

McCorvey will likely ask the court to reconsider its ruling, according to Allan Parker, McCorvey's attorney and CEO and founder of Texas Justice Foundation, a pro-life legal group.

He said McCorvey's case before the federal court was misunderstood because it is not about “newly discovered evidence” but is “a case of changed factual conditions and



Martin Leuders/CNS

March for Life demonstrators arrive at the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington Jan. 22, protesting the court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision. A federal court in Dallas has declined to reopen the case.

law.”

The change in the law is legislation called the “Baby Moses” Act, adopted in 1999 in Texas and later in other states, which allows states to assume responsibility for unwanted children. Parker noted that a determining factor in the *Roe v. Wade* decision was the burden on women to raise unwanted children, a factor which he said no longer exists in states that passed the legislation.

Parker said the Supreme Court in 1973 did not have enough evidence about the impact of abortion on women's physical and emotional health. But the 5,400 pages of affidavits he presented to the court June 17 included seven new studies, conducted over the past two years and published in medical journals, that link abortions to increased rates of suicide, substance abuse and clinical depression.

Pope names Boston archbishop

Nancy O'Brien/CNS

WASHINGTON — Less than nine months after taking over the scandal-battered Diocese of Palm Beach, Fla., Bishop Sean Patrick O'Malley was named the archbishop of Boston by Pope John Paul II.

Named his successor in Palm Beach was Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito, 53, of Ogdensburg, N.Y.

The pope also named Auxiliary Bishop Thomas G. Wenski, 52, of Miami as coadjutor bishop of Orlando, Fla. As coadjutor, Bishop Wenski has the automatic right of succession upon the death or retirement of Bishop Norbert M. Dorsey of Orlando.

The appointments were announced July 1 in Washington by Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Archbishop O'Malley, 59, succeeds Cardinal Bernard F. Law, who resigned last December after a year of growing scandal over his handling of priests who sexually abused children. In Palm Beach, he headed

a diocese whose last two bishops resigned amid allegations of sexual misconduct.

Auxiliary Bishop Richard G. Lennon of Boston has been apostolic administrator of the archdiocese since Cardinal Law resigned.

As head of the Boston Archdiocese, Archbishop O'Malley is likely to be named a cardinal by Pope John Paul in the next consistory.

The appointment is not the first time that Pope John Paul has moved a U.S. bishop into a key post after a short tenure in another diocese. The late Cardinal John J. O'Connor was named archbishop of New York just seven months after his installation in 1983 as bishop of Scranton, Pa.

Boston will be the fourth U.S. diocese to have been headed by Archbishop O'Malley, who has also lived and worked in several other places around the United States.

A Capuchin friar since 1965 and a priest since 1970, he was named coadjutor bishop of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, in 1984 and became head of the diocese the following

year. He was bishop of Fall River, Mass., from 1992 to 2002 and bishop of Palm Beach since Oct. 19. He speaks six languages.

Earlier this year Bishop O'Malley was principal celebrant and homilist at the Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington on the morning of the annual Jan. 22 March for Life.

Currently chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Consecrated Life and a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Shrines and the committees on Marriage and Family Life and on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Archbishop O'Malley also has chaired the Committee on Missions.

He chairs Region XIV of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, which includes Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina.

He also has been a member of the board of directors of Catholic Relief Services and the Association for the Development of the Catholic University of Portugal.