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Vatican police 'break up gay orgy' at home of one of Pope Francis' advisors

The flat belonged to the Holy Office - which is in charge of tackling sexual abuse amongst the clergy



BY STEPHEN WHITE,

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Vatican police 'break up gay orgy at home of one of Pope Francis' advisors (Image: AFP)

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Vatican police have broken up a gay orgy at the home of the secretary to one of **Pope Francis**'s key advisers, it has been claimed.

The flat belonged to the **Vatican**'s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, or Holy Office, which is in charge of tackling sexual abuse amongst the clergy.

Reports in Italy claim the occupant of the apartment is the secretary to Cardinal Francesco Coccopalmerio - a key aide to the 80-year-old Pope.

Coccopalmerio heads the Pontifical Council for Legislative texts and was said to have once recommended his secretary for a promotion to bishop.

The claims about the police raid last month were made in the Italian newspaper Il Fatto Quotidiano.

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Pope Francis (Image: Getty)

The flat involved is a short distance from the Vatican itself.

According to the paper, neighbours became suspicious before complaining about irregular behaviour of those coming and going at the flat.

When police showed up, they reportedly found drugs and a group of men engaged in sexual activity.

It is the latest scandal to hit the Vatican and comes after its finance chief Cardinal George Pell was charged with historical sexual offences.

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The flat involved is a short distance from the Vatican itself (Image: ANSA)

Pell has protested his innocence and said he was looking forward to having his day in court after a two-year investigation.

Police have not revealed details of the charges against the 76-year-old, citing the need to preserve the 'integrity of the judicial process'.

Pell, appointed to clean up the Vatican's murky finances, has taken a leave of absence to defend himself against the sex abuse charges in Australia.

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Finance chief Cardinal George Pell was charged with historical sexual offences earlier this year (Image: Getty Images Europe)

In March the Vatican was hit with a wave of lurid accusations of misbehaving priests across Italy with scandals involving orgies, prostitution and porn videos.

The claims were embarrassing to the Vatican, which under Pope Francis has attempted to demand high standards of the clergy.

Francis has tried to clamp down on unethical behaviour ever since being made Pope in 2013 and has often spoken out against the pitfalls of 'temptation'.

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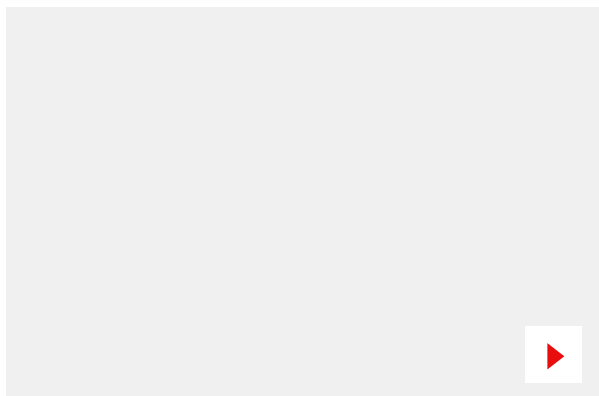
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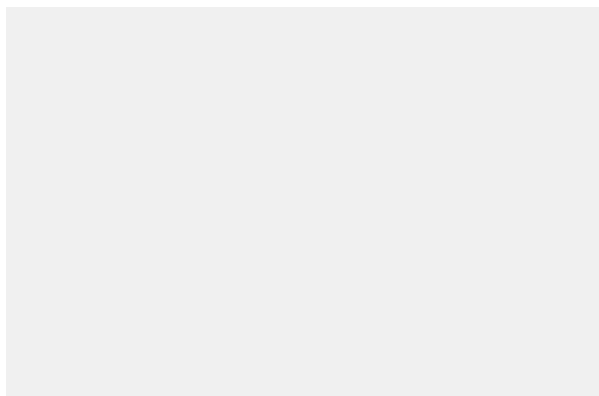
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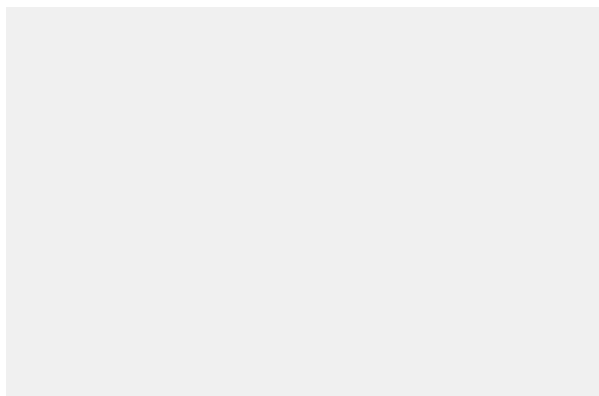
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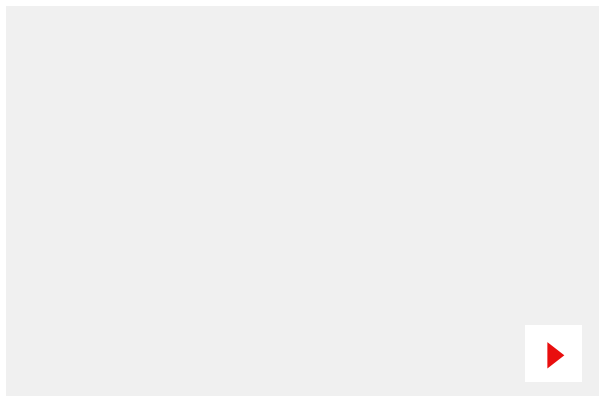
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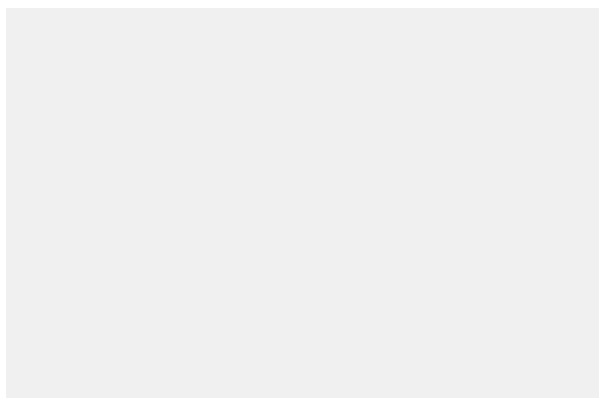
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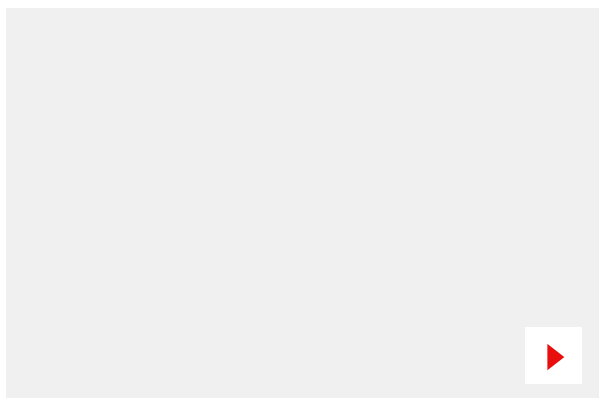
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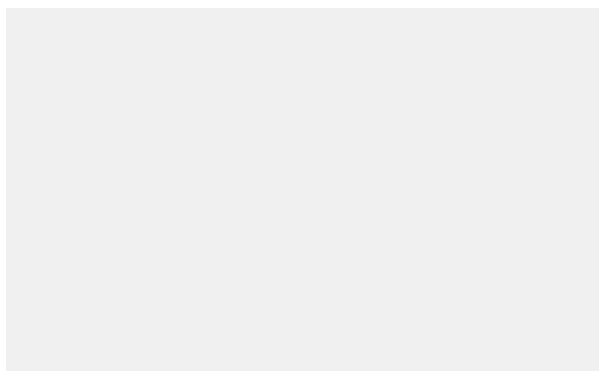
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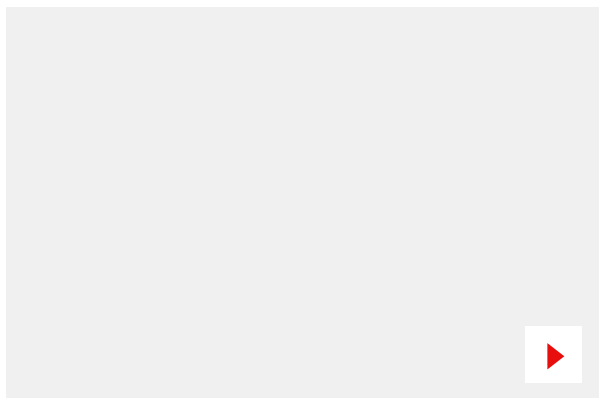
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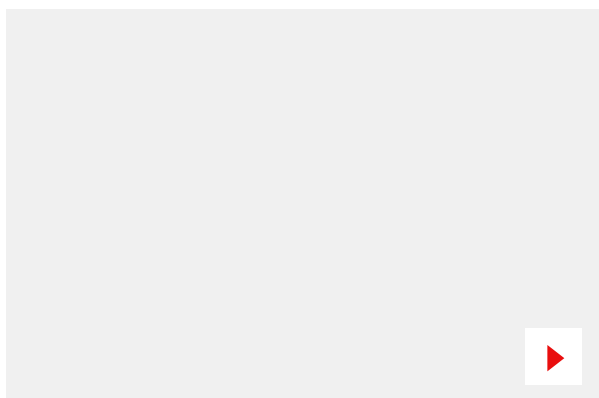
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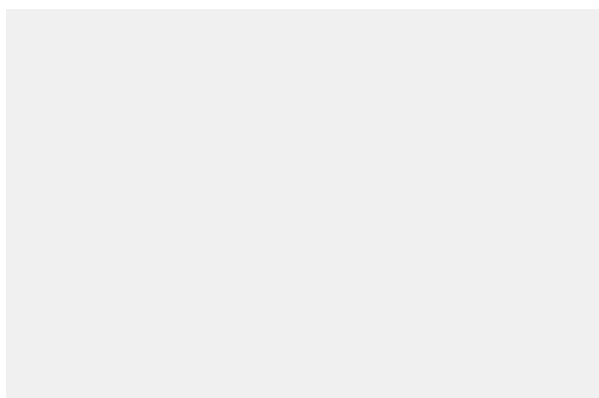
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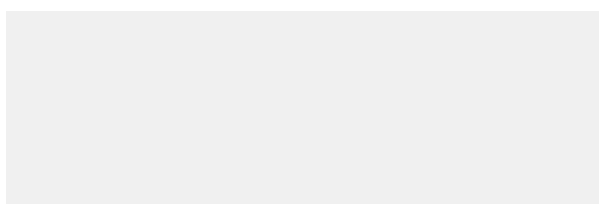
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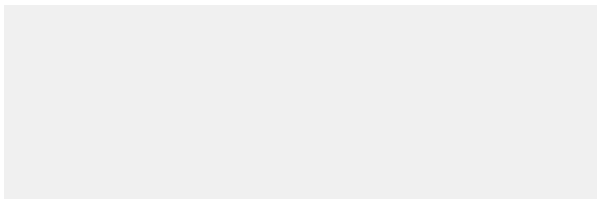
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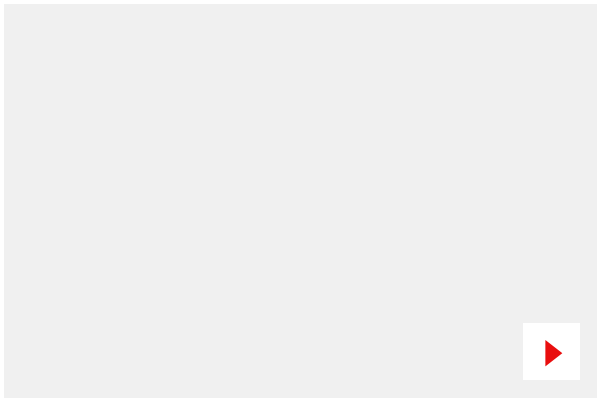
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