



UFFIĊĊJU KOMUNIKAZZJONI KURJA VESKOVILI TA' GHAWDEX
Kjarifika [ST/03/2021]
29 ta' Jannar 2021

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Fil-kuntest tal-allegazzjonijiet li qed isiru fil-konfront ta' Dun Joseph Sultana, tqajjem dubju fil-midja dwar jekk id-Djoċesi ta' Ghawdex setgħetx għamlet iktar għall-ħarsien tal-minuri.

Mill-informazzjoni li għandha l-Kurja tad-Djoċesi ta' Ghawdex dwar l-allegazzjonijiet li kienu saru kontra Dun Joseph Sultana fid-Djoċesi ta' Cairns, l-Awstralja, jirrizulta li kif id-Djoċesi ta' Ghawdex saret taf bil-każ:

1. l-Isqof Mario Grech kien ipprojbixxa lil Dun Joseph Sultana milli jkollu xi tip ta' kuntatt mal-minuri, skont il-proċeduri ta' dak iż-żmien;
2. l-Isqof Grech esprima d-disponibbiltà tiegħu li jikkollabora mal-Awtoritajiet kompetenti;
3. filwaqt li afferma li sa dakinhar qatt ma kellu ilmenti ta' dan it-tip dwar Dun Joseph Sultana, l-Isqof Grech kien talab lill-Isqof James Foley ta' Cairns iżommu infurmat dwar il-każ.

L-Isqof Foley kien għadda l-każ ta' Dun Joseph Sultana lill-Kongregazzjoni għad-Duttrina tal-Fidi fil-Vatikan, li f'Mejju 2014 iddikjarat li l-allegazzjonijiet kienu nieqsa minn fundament. Din id-dikjarazzjoni kellha wkoll tittiehed f'kunsiderazzjoni bħalma ttiehdu l-allegazzjonijiet oriġinali.

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In the light of the allegations being made about Rev. Joseph Sultana, doubts were raised by the media on how much the Diocese of Gozo had committed itself in favour of the safeguarding of minors.

From the information the Gozo Diocese has on the allegations that were made against Rev. Joseph Sultana within the Diocese of Cairns, Australia, it results that as soon as the Diocese of Gozo learned about the case:

1. Bishop Mario Grech had prohibited Rev. Joseph Sultana from having any kind of contact with minors, according to the current procedures;
2. Bishop Grech had expressed his readiness to collaborate with the competent Authorities;
3. while affirming that until then he had received no complaints of the sort about Rev. Joseph Sultana, Bishop Grech had asked Bishop James Foley of Cairns to keep him informed about the case.

Bishop Foley had submitted Rev. Joseph Sultana's case to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome, which in May 2014 declared that those allegations were unfounded. This declaration had to be taken into consideration in the same way as the original allegations.