



## ***Italian court revives criminal charges against Vatican Radio executives***

Rome, May. 14, 2008 (CWNews.com) - A criminal case against the top executives of Vatican Radio, charging them with environmental pollution, has been revived by Italy's top court.

The Court of Cassation re-opened the case against Cardinal Roberto Tucci and Father Pasquale Borgomeo, the former chairman and former director, respectively, of Vatican Radio. The two prelates were found guilty in 2005 of violating Italy's tough standards for emission of electromagnetic waves, but that conviction was reversed on appeal in June 2007.

The Court of Cassation has not yet explained its rationale for reviving the case, nor has any date been set for trial.

The legal battle began in 2001, when local authorities in the area of Santa Maria in Galeria, on the outskirts of Rome, charged that electromagnetic impulses from the main Vatican Radio broadcasting antenna there were causing an elevated incidence of leukemia in the neighborhood. Although authorities could not demonstrate any scientific link between the disease and the radio transmissions, prosecutors charged that Vatican Radio was exceeding the legal limits for electromagnetic emissions.

In their defense, Vatican Radio officials pointed out that their broadcasts adhered to the more liberal limits on electromagnetic emissions set by the European community.

In 2001, Vatican officials and Italian authorities established a joint commission to set new standards for the radio broadcasts. In 2005, Italian authorities confirmed that Vatican Radio was now broadcasting at acceptable levels under the terms set by that commission, and the dispute was thus resolved.

After their original conviction in 2005 the two clerics had been given suspended sentences, in an apparent recognition that Vatican Radio was working with Italian authorities to resolve the dispute over the radio broadcast.