

Jose Maria Bakovic
Cochabamba, Bolivia
September 4, 2013

Your Holiness
Pope Francis
Vatican City

Re: Intercession before Evo Morales

Dear Francisco:

I dare to call you by the name you adopted since, at the World Youth Day, you encouraged us who pretend to be Catholics to follow you as friends. I write this letter to you with the hope that in the scheduled meeting you have with President Morales you ask him to stop the judicial torture to which he has subjected me from the day he swore in as President on January 22, 2006. That first day he condemned me under the principle of “presumption of guilt”. The physical torture and the concentration camps of the past have been replaced by a vicious judicial harassment that includes more than 70 open cases against me.

Servile prosecutors and judges obeying Morales’ commands made me the first political prisoner of his administration, in March 2006, and detained me a second time in August 2007. Both illegal incarcerations coincided with irregular awards of road projects to the same company. My calls for condemnation from jail forced the Government to derogate both supreme decrees. Today, I face a third order of arrest for a project being executed by the same company.

An intriguing coincidence is that this is the same company that was awarded the Isiboro – Secure road. A road that intended to plow through an indigenous protected park called TIPNIS and to consequently increase the terrain for illegal coca plantations in the same region where Evo is the teamster leader for the coca planters. I also fought against this illegal award in line with what your predecessors -the Jesuit Missions- did 300 years ago, in the oriental part of my country, protecting the indigenous population against the enslaving mercenaries who had allied with local looters.

Ironically, this calvary has given meaning to my life. Today, I live passionately the Eucharist, the readings at mass seem to be written for me and my sufferings are miniscule next to those of Christ. I presume to be giving him a hand to alleviate the weight of his cross same as Simon of Cyrene did. I could keep supporting this calvary but I cannot ask the same from my wife, who underwent heart surgery and is also 75 years old, or from my children and grandchildren who suffer more than I given the uncertainty under which they live and given the impotence of not being able to help me. In the darkest moments of my calvary I beg “let this chalice pass” and I ask “Father, why did you abandon me?”

My professional life has been of great fulfillment with more than 50 years of experience including 30 with the World Bank, as staff and as consultant, in countries in four continents including your country. In line with the parable of the talents, which my good mother taught me and according to the philosophy of the Loyola school that I helped found in Cochabamba, I wanted to give back to my country what it had given to me. I accepted to lead the National Road Directorate (SNC) in an institutionalized scheme, without party politics, and we built in 4 years more roads than in the previous 46. We survived four governments in a period of great convulsion (2001-2005) and with Morales we reached the fifth. But my fight against the corruption inherited from my predecessors gained me many enemies; the powerful members of

construction mafias that profited in the past from the construction of roads. They never forgave me. They came back with the indigenous government with the appointment of my successor, an ex-manager, who handed in my head on a silver plate, contriving the judicial persecution to which I am being subjected to in order to gain favors from this administration.

Evo will tell you that my cases are in the hands of the justice system and that he cannot do anything. I must tell you that there is no judge in Bolivia that will dare to go against his orders. A few brave ones presented their resignation before carrying on with his ordered injustice. Those that remain are subservient and, without understanding anything about road works, they dictate the sentences that he orders to then get promoted to higher positions. When you visit Bolivia in 2014, as it has been announced, I will be able to describe with more detail this form of political control through the judicial system.

The politicians being persecuted will plead for help as a group; I do it alone because I am no politician or candidate to any post. I have no party. I don't belong to any union or fraternity that could support me and hence I reach to you as head of my Holy Mother, the Church.

Had I become a Jesuit as I aspired when young, I would say good bye to you with the AMDG, and as congregant with "To Jesus through Mary". Today I salute you as one of your loyal friends in Christ.

Jose Maria Bakovic

P.S. There is a chain of incredible coincidences which I cannot resist to share with you. When I found out your personal information on the day of your election as Pope, I realized that you were born the same day as I was, on December 17, two years earlier, and that my third name is Francisco and that we share the same acronym (JMB).