

## **Supreme court of Italy rules radio transmitter causes cancer**

The Supreme Court of Italy ruled February 24, 2011 that the Vatican Radio has caused cancer in people living within 12 km (7 ½ miles) of the transmission towers.

The radio station uses twelve powerful radio transmitters<sup>(1)</sup> to reach Catholic listeners worldwide.

The court based its ruling on an epidemiological study<sup>(2)</sup> which showed an elevated risk of leukemia within 10 kilometers of the transmitters. For children living within 2 kilometers (1.3 miles), the risk was six times the norm.

The ruling directed the Vatican to pay compensation to the victims of cancer in the area around the transmitters.

### **Footnotes**

- (1) The Vatican Radio uses nine short wave transmitters (4,005 – 21,850 KHz) and three AM radio transmitters (527 – 1611 KHz). The strongest of the transmitters has a transmission power of 600,000 watts.
- (2) Adult and childhood Leukemia near a High-Power Radio Station in Rome, P. Michelozzi et al., American Journal of Epidemiology, Vol 155, No 2, 2002, 1096-1103.

*Adapted from the 2011/1 issue of Ljusglimten, a quarterly publication of the Swedish EHS organization, and the epidemiological study in footnote 2.*