

Catholics in Holland urge Papal statement

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From Our Correspondent
The Hague, July 16

Six Dutch Roman Catholic Cabinet ministers, a former Prime Minister and 18 other prominent Roman Catholics have signed an open letter to Cardinal Maurice Roy, president of the Papal Commission for Justice and Peace, asking why the Vatican has not yet publicly protested against the events in Mozambique.

The letter also requests that the Pope make a public statement on the subject.

Among the signatories are leading theologians, politicians and journalists and several priests, including Mgr Kuipers, the vicar of the Haarlem diocese, Mgr Munsters, vicar of the Utrecht arch-diocese, Dr A. de Veijer, provincial of the Capuchin Fathers in the Netherlands, and Father B. van Amelsfoort, provincial of the White Fathers in the Netherlands.

The letter states that silence, even if intended to protect those missionaries who are still working in the Portuguese territories, can no longer be maintained in the face of the available evidence.

The Vatican's silence, considering its influence in Portugal and its territories, could easily be interpreted as a condonation of the injustices which have recently been revealed, the letter adds.

Our Geneva Correspondent writes: The World Council of Churches said today that it supports the Swedish proposal for an immediate United Nations investigation into the alleged massacre

An official said that while the council had no independent confirmation of the massacre reports, it did not find them surprising, as massacres were in line with general Portuguese policy in the country's African territories.
