



STOLEN BABIES OF SPAIN STOLEN CHILDREN OF THE UNITED STATES

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Spain's stolen babies

- **How many?** More than 900 cases are being investigated, but new cases are still coming to light – lawyers say the total could reach 300,000
- **How long?** Over a period of 40-50 years, beginning under Franco, up to the 1990s
- **Who benefited?** Initially the Fascists by bringing up the children of their enemies – later children were taken from parents judged to be morally or economically deficient and placed with approved Catholic, often childless, families
- **Why did it take so long to expose?** The Church and medical profession are highly respected, and Spanish law does not require the biological mother's name on the birth certificate

Spain's stolen babies and the families who lived a lie

By Katya Adler, BBC News, Spain

Manoli Pagador recalls her first-born child being taken away.

Spanish society has been shaken by allegations of the theft and trafficking of thousands of babies by nuns, priests, and doctors, which started under Franco and continued up to the 1990s.

I first met Manoli Pagador in Getafe, in a working-class suburb of Madrid. She was attending a meeting for people affected by the scandal Spaniards call “*niños robados*” – stolen children.

She has three daughters and lots of grandchildren, but she has

never got over the loss of her first-born – a son – nearly 40 years ago. She had come to think she was crazy for believing he was alive, instead of dead and buried as hospital doctors had told her. “Now,” she said, gripping my hand tightly. “Look around the room at the oth-

er women here. All like me. The same background. The same experience. I'm not mad and my family finally believes me."

In 1971 Manoli, who was 23 at the time and not long married, gave birth to what she was told was a healthy baby boy, but he was immediately taken away for what were called routine tests.

Nine interminable hours passed. "Then, a nun, who was also a nurse, coldly informed me that my baby had died," she says. They would not let her have her son's body, nor would they tell her when the funeral would be.

Did she not think to question the hospital staff? "Doctors, nuns?" she says, almost in horror. "I couldn't accuse them of lying. This was Franco's Spain. A dictatorship. Even now we Spaniards tend not to question authority."

The scale of the baby trafficking was unknown until this year, when two men – Antonio Barroso and Juan Luis Moreno, childhood friends from a seaside town near Barcelona – discovered that they had been bought from a nun. Their parents weren't their real parents, and their life had been built on a lie. Juan Luis Moreno discovered the truth when the man he had been brought to call "father" was on his deathbed. Antonio Barroso and Juan Luis Moreno took their story to the papers – and opened the floodgates. "He said, 'I bought you from a priest in Zaragoza'. He said that Antonio had been bought as well."

The pair were hurt and angry. They say they felt like two dogs that had been bought at a pet shop.

An adoption lawyer they turned to for advice said he came across cases like theirs all the time.

The pair went to the press and suddenly the story was everywhere. Mothers began to come forward across Spain with disturbingly similar stories.

'Approved families'

After months of requests from the BBC, the Spanish government finally put forward Angel Nunez from the justice ministry to talk to me about Spain's stolen children. Asked if babies were stolen, Mr. Nunez replied: "Without a doubt."

"How many?" I asked.

"I don't dare to come up with figures," he answered carefully. "But from the volume of official investigations I dare to say there were many."

Lawyers believe that up to 300,000 babies were taken. The practice of removing children from parents deemed "undesirable" and placing them with "approved" families, began in the 1930s under the dictator General Francisco Franco.

At that time, the motivation may have been ideological. But years later, it seemed to change – babies began to be taken from parents considered morally – or economically – deficient. It became a money-spinner, too. The scandal is closely linked to the Catholic Church, which under Franco assumed a prominent role in Spain's social services including hospitals, schools and children's homes.

Nuns and priests compiled waiting lists of would-be adoptive parents, while doctors were said to

have lied to mothers about the fate of their children.

The name of one doctor, Dr. Eduardo Vela, has come up in a number of victim investigations. In 1981, Civil Registry sources indicate that 70% of births at Dr Vela's San Ramon clinic in Madrid were registered as "mother unknown". This was legal under Spanish law, and was meant to protect the anonymity of unmarried mothers. It is alleged that this was also widely used to cover up baby theft and trafficking.

Dr. Vela stands accused of telling women their babies had died when they had not and handing over those newborn children to other couples for cash. A Spanish magazine published photographs of a dead baby kept in a freezer at the San Ramon clinic, supposedly to show mothers that their child had died.

He refused to give the BBC an interview. But, by coincidence, I had recently given birth at a clinic he founded, so I was able to book an appointment with him. We met at his private practice in his home in Madrid. The man painted as a monster in the Spanish media was old and smiley, but his smile soon disappeared when I confessed to being a journalist.

Dr. Vela grabbed a metal crucifix which had been standing on



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his desk. He moved towards me brandishing it in my face. "Do you know what this is, Katya?" he said. "I have always acted in his name. Always for the good of the children and to protect the mothers. Enough." Dr. Vela insists he always acted within the law.

Empty graves

After Franco's death in 1975, the major political parties agreed an amnesty to help smooth the transition to democracy. But this amnesty law has never been repealed, so attempts to investigate Spain's baby trafficking as a national crime against humanity have been rejected by the country's judiciary and resisted by its politicians.

"Thirty-five years have passed since the death of the dictator... Evidently, we still have problems from the past. Social problems and personal or even cultural problems and the policy of this government has been trying to solve them," says the justice ministry's Angel Nunez.

The Spanish government's refusal to set up a national inquiry into the scandal has frustrated affected families, who in many cases are carrying out their own investigations, as best they can.

Babies' graves have been dug up across the country for DNA-testing. Some have revealed nothing but a pile of stones, while others have contained adult remains.

Spaniards have flocked to clinics to take DNA tests in the hope of reuniting their families.

The first few matches have now been made between so-called stolen children and their biological mothers. But there could poten-

tially have already been so many more. Data protection laws prohibit DNA banks from sharing or cross-referencing data and the Spanish government has yet to fulfil its promise to set up a national DNA database.

Manoli Pagador is still tortured by the events of 40 years ago. She told me she has been taking medication ever since.

"You can't just say to yourself, I have to forget it and that's it. It's not something you forget, it's with you for the rest of your life."

This is what the Vatican/US Government is doing here in America. They have stolen our children under the banner of false accusations against our pastor, Tony Alamo. The jury in Tony Alamo's trial said, "He's NOT GUILTY! But can we still convict him?"

Those women who falsely testified against Pastor Alamo were sent to a professional deprogramming organization by the Catholic FBI called "Wellspring," formerly called the Cult Awareness Network. Wellspring was paid \$5,000.00 per person by the Catholic FBI and DHS to threaten them and their families and offer them presents, parties, and many other gratuities for their false testimony.

The Catholic Department of Human Services (Child Protective Services) is the Vatican/UN/US government's strong arm for taking of children and forcefully selling them into corrupting adoptive families. Their ads appear throughout the media every day to solicit persons willing

to adopt those they have stolen. These result in sales of babies and children that they have stolen from innocent parents for about \$40,000.00 each.

We would love to have our children back in the homes of their natural Christian parents, and demand that the false accusations against Pastor Alamo be **DROPPED IMMEDIATELY!!! AND THEN HE MUST BE SET FREE FROM THE 175 YEAR PRISON SENTENCE!!!**

The government is committing **HATE** crimes against Christians and getting by with it. They are forbidding Bibles in schools, Bible reading in public schools, prayers at graduations and other public events, forbidding the mention of **GOD**, the Bible, or Jesus in the courts. These are all hate crimes!!!

Christians who oppose homosexuality, oppose pornography, oppose teaching such immorality in schools, the Quran, Sharia law, Judaic practices in schools and in public, are being accused of, and prosecuted for, **HATE** crimes.

Christians must turn this around on them and instead accuse those **HATE** criminals who are committing true hate crimes, who seek to stop Christians from being Christians, from prayer, and from using their Bibles in schools, courts, and at public events. Stop overlooking these hate crimes against Christians. **STOP** allowing judges to refuse to let **GOD**, the Bible, and His laws into their courts. Those are all **HATE** crimes against the **LORD** Himself, and against all of Christianity.

The LORD JESUS said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of GOD" (John 3:3). To become born again of the SPIRIT of GOD, say this prayer:

My LORD and my GOD, have mercy upon my soul, a sinner.¹ I believe that JESUS CHRIST is the SON of the living GOD.² I believe that HE died on the cross and shed HIS precious blood for the forgiveness of all my former sins.³ I believe that GOD raised JESUS from the dead by the power of the HOLY SPIRIT,⁴ and that HE sits on the right hand of GOD at this moment, hearing my confession of sin and this prayer.⁵ I open up the door of my heart, and I invite YOU into my heart, LORD JESUS.⁶ Wash all of my filthy sins away in the precious blood that YOU shed in my place on the cross at Calvary.⁷ YOU will not turn me away, LORD JESUS; YOU will for-

give my sins and save my soul. I know because YOUR WORD, the Bible, says so.⁸ YOUR WORD says that YOU will turn no one away, and that includes me.⁹ Therefore, I know that YOU have heard me, and I know that YOU have answered me, and I know that I am saved.¹⁰ And I thank YOU, LORD JESUS, for saving my soul, and I will show my thankfulness by doing as YOU command and sin no more.¹¹

You've just completed the first step in a series of five steps which are necessary to receive salvation. Your second step is to deny yourself and take up your cross daily and follow JESUS for the purpose of mortifying your flesh, that is, for putting to death your own will, your soulful self, and the world with all of its lusts. All these must be baptized into the watery death of CHRIST.

Step three is your resurrection from the satanic life of Adam unto the sinless life of CHRIST. Step four is your ascension into a position of authority to reign for GOD with CHRIST on earth, and the fifth step is to reign for GOD in CHRIST on earth to the end for the purpose of bringing about the kingdom of Heaven on earth. You must learn the WORD of GOD, submit yourselves one to another, and do what the WORD says so that the church and the world may see evidence of your submission to GOD'S Word, HIS order, and HIS authority in and by you.

Praise the LORD. May GOD bless and reward you abundantly.

Yours in the wonderful name of JESUS,

Pastor Tony Alamo

Tony Alamo is probably the greatest patriot this country has ever known.

1 Psa. 51:5, Rom. 3:10-12, 23 **2** Matt. 26:63-64, 27:54, Luke 1:30-33, John 9:35-37, Rom. 1:3-4 **3** Acts 4:12, 20:28, Rom. 3:25, 1 John 1:7, Rev. 5:9 **4** Psa. 16:9-10, Matt. 28:5-7, Mark 16:9, 12, 14, John 2:19, 21, 10:17-18, 11:25, Acts 2:24, 3:15, Rom. 8:11, 1 Cor. 15:3-7 **5** Luke 22:69, Acts 2:25-36, Heb. 10:12-13 **6** 1 Cor. 3:16, Rev. 3:20 **7** Eph. 2:13-22, Heb. 9:22, 13:12, 20-21, 1 John 1:7, Rev. 1:5, 7:14 **8** Matt. 26:28, Acts 2:21, 4:12, Eph. 1:7, Col. 1:14 **9** Matt. 21:22, John 6:35, 37-40, Rom. 10:13 **10** Heb. 11:6 **11** John 5:14, 8:11, Rom. 6:4, 1 Cor. 15:10, Rev. 7:14, 22:14

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