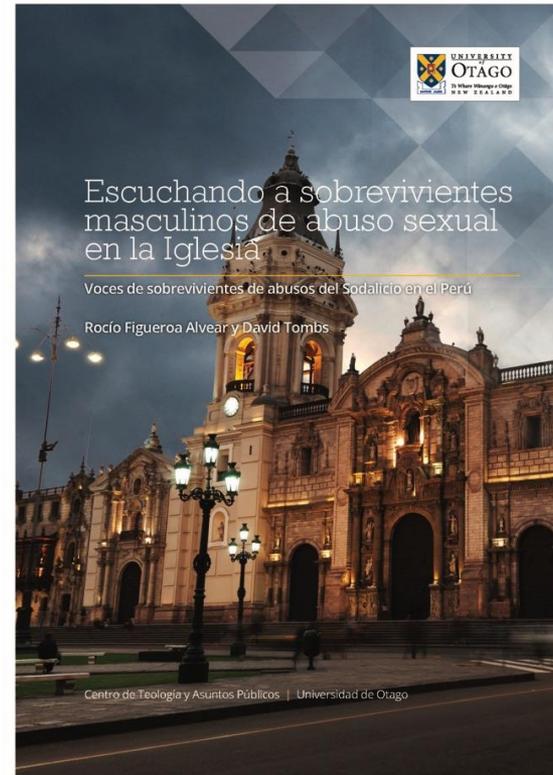
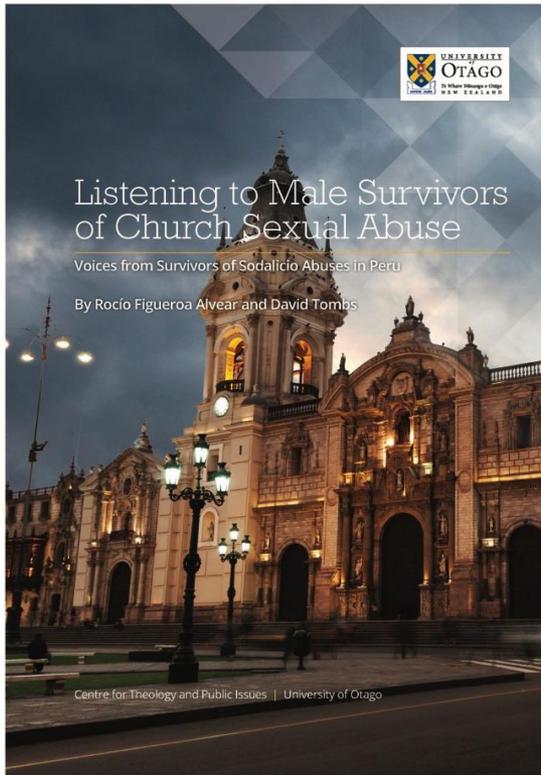


Listening to Male Survivors of Church Sexual Abuse

Voices from Survivors
of Sodalicio Abuses in Peru

Rocío Figueroa Alvear and David Tombs

2016 Report



www.otago.ac.nz/ctpi/projects or
<https://independent.academia.edu/FigueroaRocio>

Researcher

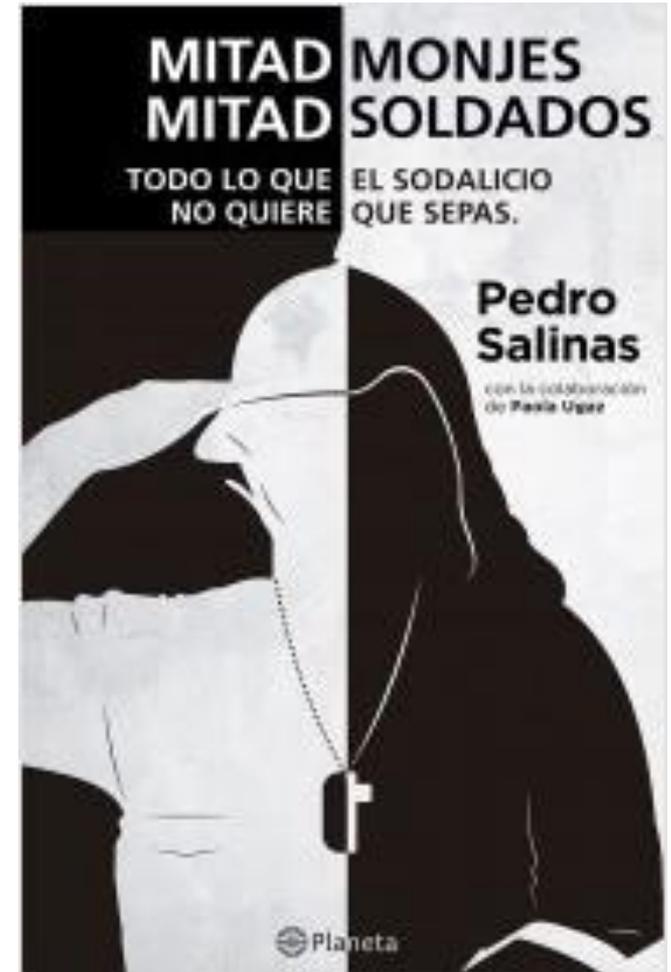


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Interviews

The project interviewed 8 adult survivors who had been abused when they were teenagers/young men by leaders in Sodalicio .

Six of the interviewees features in the book by the journalist Pedro Salinas (2015).



Findings

In the interview, we asked: *Did the abuse have any impact on your religious faith and your sense of God?* **Tomás** answered:

“Catastrophic. When I understood that I was cheated, I lost my faith. Now I have left God on stand-by. It is too much for me to handle. (...) At the beginning, I abandoned the faith. (...) Now when I pass near a church and I see the Blessed Sacrament I feel God. He has not left me. But now my relationship with God is on an orange light, on stand-by. It gives me too much pain and sadness to feel that he abandoned me and just to ponder the possibility that he failed me is unbearable”.

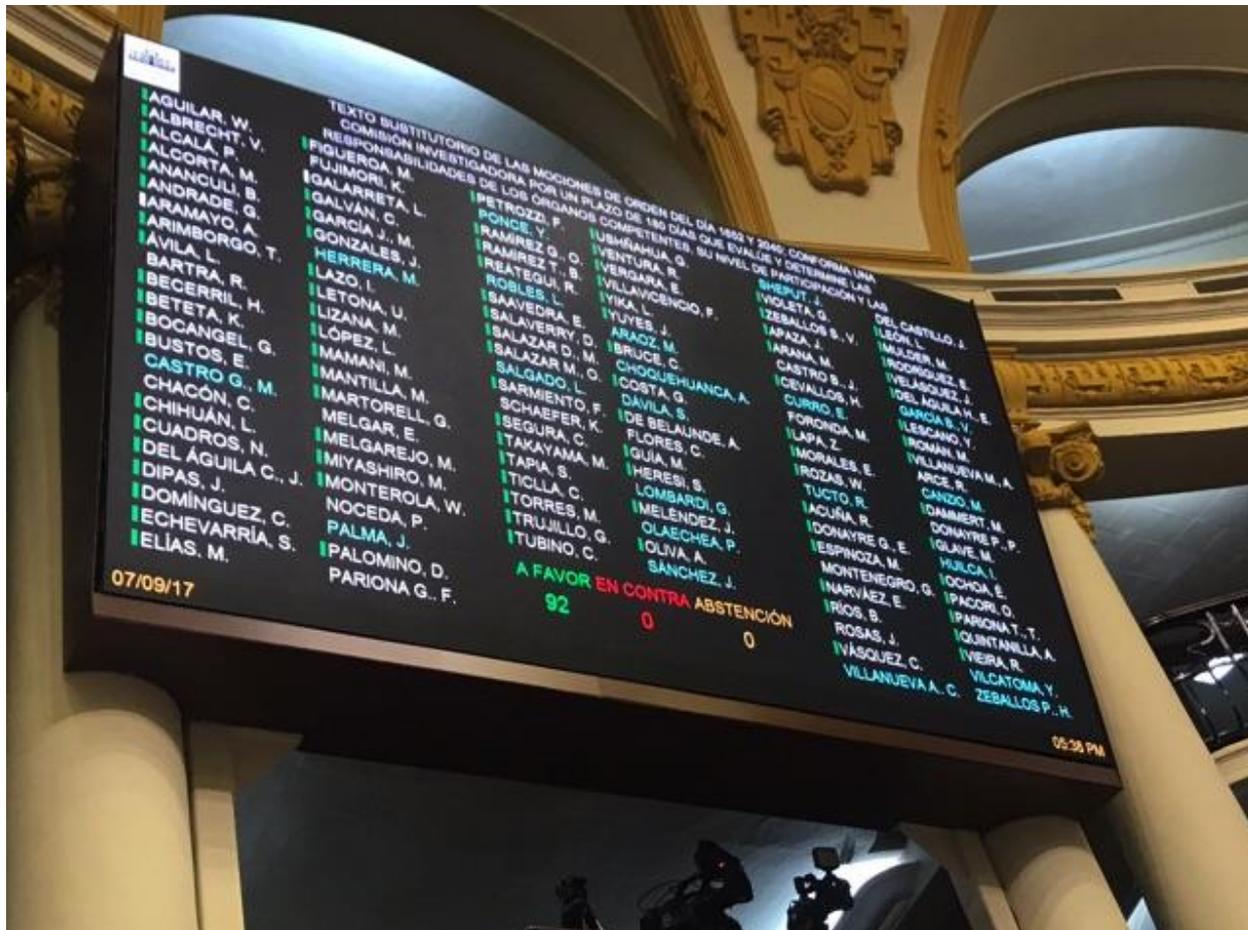
Significance

Spiritual impacts of sexual abuse.

Santiago:

Sexual abuse destroys the most inner part of yourself. (...) If someone rapes you it is totally different. (...) I think that our case is the worst thing that they can do”.

Latest news



Congress vote in favour of investigation of institutions accused of sexual abuse. Unanimous vote (92-0) 6 September 2017

Thank you

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Timeline

2000: Jose Enrique Escardó Steck a former sodalite publishes a series of columns in the Peruvian magazine “People”, in which he denounces the psychological and physical abuse that he has suffered during the years he lived in Sodalicio’s communities (Pighi, 2016).

2007: In October, the police find the sodalite Daniel Murguia Ward in a hotel taking photos of a naked 11 year old boy. Murguía Ward was very close to Figari, the founder of the organization. Two days after the arrest, Sodalicio announces that Daniel Murguia is expelled. Sodalicio affirmed: ‘this situation was unknown to us. We consider it completely unacceptable, and it has surprised and painfully hurt our entire community’. After the hotel episode, Murguía is jailed in Peru for a year and a half (Pighi, 2016).

Timeline

2010 A former candidate for sainthood within Sodalicio, Germán Doig, the number two in the organization who died in 2001, is accused of the rape and sexual abuse of minors. A decade later, in 2010, after the allegations against him became public, Sodalicio authorities state that his candidacy for beatification is cancelled.

2011: Three former members accuse Figari of sexual abuse against them, when they were young. They present their accusations to the Peruvian Church tribunal and the Vatican.

October 2015: Pedro Salinas, a journalist and a former sodalite, in collaboration with another journalist Paola Ugaz, publishes the book “*Mitad monjes, mitad soldados*” (Half monks, half soldiers). It contains thirty cases of psychological, physical and sexual abuse attributed to Figari dating back to the 1970s-80s.

Timeline

19th October 2015: Sodalicio publish a statement in response to Salinas' book two days later a further signed by Superior General Alessandro Moroni, which recognizes that the first statement was "insufficient". Sodalicio reiterate its condemnation of the facts and admits that Salinas' book has "credible" evidence. The statement also notes that although Figari has denied the allegations, he is not responding to the moral obligation of providing public statements. According to Sodalicio, since 2010, Figari lives a life of retirement in Italy. However, according to immigration data Figari travels regularly to Peru ('Sodalicio: Cronologia del caso', 2015).

23rd October 2015: The Ecclesiastical Court of Lima, release a statement affirming that they have no competence or jurisdiction to resolve complaints against Sodalicio and Figari, as this institution depends directly on the Vatican. Regarding the complaint of "inaction" Lima's Cardinal Cipriani answers that he had sent the allegations to Rome ('Sodalicio: Cronologia del caso', 2015).

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27th October 2015: Radio RPP releases a letter, which reveals that the Vatican has been investigating Sodalicio since April 2015 regarding allegations of rape against Luis Fernando Figari. The Vatican appoints Bishop Fortunato Pablo Urcey, bishop of Chota, as an apostolic visitor who conducts dialogues with some of the Sodalicio communities and reports back to the Vatican (‘Sodalicio: Cronologia del caso’, 2015).

26 November 2015: The authorities of Sodalicio confirm the creation of a Commission to investigate the allegations of sexual abuse against the founder of their organization, Luis Fernando Figari, and other members. The aim of this working group is to "provide the maximum possible assistance to victims" and then proceed to determine whether civil or canonical justice is needed.

Timeline

14th January 2016: Luis Fernando Figari Rodrigo breaks his silence through a private letter distributed to some members of Sodalicio in which he declares himself innocent of the charges. In it, he states that there were ‘accusations, misinformation and mistreatment’. However, he recognizes that in the 40 years he led Sodalicio, he made what he called "serious errors, failures and indiscretions".

5th April 2016: The movement publicly states that their founder Luis Fernando Figari is now a *persona non grata*. Through a video posted on YouTube, Alessandro Moroni, the General superior of Sodalicio, apologizes to the victims and announces a reform of the movement. He also announces the desire to totally separate from Figari, who has lived a life of retirement in Italy since 2010. In this regard, he asks the Vatican to end ‘his unsustainable retreat at our facilities’ but Figari continues to deny the accusations.

Timeline

- **January 2017:** Sodalicio offered over \$2 million to 66 victims for counselling and getting into
- work. The Superior General said: “For us, the main responsibility lies not with the Vatican, nor with the Public Ministry. The primary responsibility for repairing the damage is ours.”
- However, the General Attorney in Peru has halted the investigation in the case which created a public
- furore and press coverage.
- **September 2017:** Congress vote unanimously (92-0) to conduct investigations of institutions accused of sexual abuse, including Sodalicio, and have 120 days to do this.