

Vatican not worried about possibility U.S. monitored its calls

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Vatican City

The Vatican has no evidence its calls were monitored by the U.S. National Security Agency and, even if they were, "we have no concerns about it," the Vatican spokesman said.

Asked about the possibility that the NSA's electronic eavesdropping program had monitored Vatican calls, Jesuit Fr. Federico Lombardi told reporters Wednesday, "We have no evidence of this."

The spokesman made his comments after the Italian newsweekly *Panorama* announced that its issue going on sale Thursday would include a report that phone calls to and from the Vatican were among the 46 million calls in Italy allegedly monitored between Dec. 10, 2012, and Jan. 8, 2013.

The magazine said it also is possible the eavesdropping continued for months and included calls made on the eve of the conclave that elected Pope Francis in March.

The story was prepared in the midst of growing European coverage and anger over the NSA's alleged call-monitoring program.

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