

Detentions worry Argentine bishops

BUENOS AIRES, Mon: Argentine bishops have expressed anxiety at the loss of civil rights by a number of priests and teachers accused of having left-wing connections.

In a reference to a raid last Monday on a Buenos Aires church and a school, following which four Roman Catholic priests were detained, the permanent commission of the Argentine Episcopate said that Catholic schools were going through a difficult period.

Teachers, seminarians and priests had been deprived of their civil rights without being charged and without any known reason.

20 DETAINED

Church sources estimate that about 20 priests are detained in Argentina for alleged links with left-wing guerillas. Four priests have been expelled from the country since the army took power last March, including Father Patrick Rice, of Ireland, who has been flown to London.

The raid on Monday, by over 100 troops and policemen backed by armoured cars, on a parish church and school run by the Order of