

# Afghanistan welcomes post-Taliban government

By HUGH DOUGHERTY

AS the hunt for Osama bin Laden continues, Afghanistan's first post-Taliban government was sworn in yesterday, amid tight security.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani, an elderly professor and poet, handed control to Hamid Karzai, a 44-year-old Pashtun tribal leader.

It is hoped this will be the first peaceful transition of power in a decade. The inauguration took place at the Interior Ministry in the heart of the capital, Kabul.

Some 2,000 tribal leaders and foreign diplomats attended the ceremony which started with Koran recitations and the Afghan national anthem.

A drum roll sounded as Rabbani arrived and walked on a red carpet past an honour guard of smartly dressed Afghan soldiers.

Behind the podium was a giant portrait of Ahmed Shah Masood, the legendary guerrilla leader who led the battle against Soviet occupation in the 1980s and was assassinated by a suicide bomb on September 9.

However, the ceremony was overshadowed by reports that US warplanes had destroyed a convoy of tribal leaders travelling to



HUNTED: bin Laden.

the inauguration.

The Pentagon denied the claims, made by Afghan officials, insisting the attack near the eastern town of Khost targeted top members of the al Qaeda network and Taliban leaders.

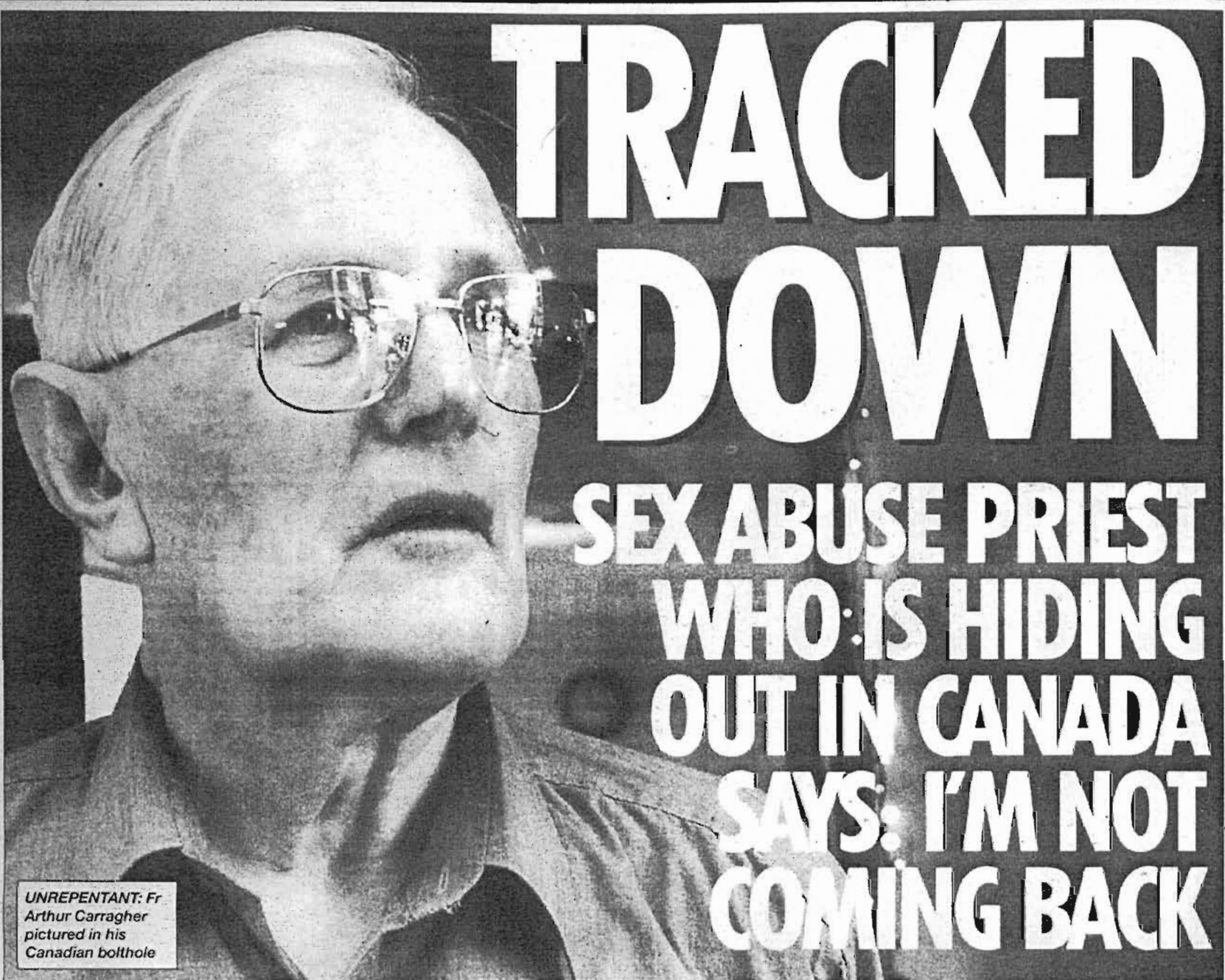
General Tommy Franks, the US commander of the coalition forces attended the inauguration, pledging to continue the search for fugitive members of al Qaeda.

"I think up to this point, our campaign has been a success, but we still have a lot of work to do," he said.

The 30-member interim government, which includes representatives of several Afghan factions, faces the task of rebuilding the war-ravaged country where thousands are close to starvation.

Meanwhile, an inch-by-inch search of a cargo ship, by anti-terrorist officers, was continuing off the Isle of Wight today following a tip-off that the vessel was carrying "terrorist material".

The MV Nisha, intercepted yesterday morning in international waters, was today still moored half a mile off shore at Sandown Bay, Isle of Wight, where she was brought late last night.



UNREPENTANT: Fr Arthur Carragher pictured in his Canadian bolthole

# TRACKED DOWN

## SEX ABUSE PRIEST WHO IS HIDING OUT IN CANADA SAYS: I'M NOT COMING BACK

**THE Sunday World has tracked down an elderly priest who is wanted by Gardai for a string of child sex crimes.**

This is Father Arthur Carragher (79) who has been hiding from Irish justice in a home for retired clergymen in Toronto, Canada.

The Director of Public Prosecutions in Dublin has recommended that the former missionary face seven charges of sexually abusing two relatives when they were young boys.

Amazingly the runaway priest actually admitted the offences this week when the Sunday World caught up with him but said he has no intention of coming home to face the law.

And when we put the sex abuse allegations to the pervert cleric he told us: "Yes they are all true. I know the charges are serious but I'm not able to go back. I'm not well, I'm just not well."

Carragher who is originally from Northern Ireland, sexually abused two young brothers - the children of Carragher's relatives - at their Dublin home over a four year period in the 1960s when they were aged between eight and 15.

### Silence

The allegations first came to light when one of the brothers decided to break his silence about the appalling abuse which blighted his childhood and adult life.

"What happened to me at Carragher's hands was always in my mind. The anger had been growing and growing inside me and I was taking it out on my wife. It destroyed my life," Pat (not his real name) told the Sunday World.

"Carragher was and is a cowardly slime bag. If he and his church stand for anything he should come back and face up to what he did.

"And if he doesn't come home he should be forced to do so by the Church because after all

**EXCLUSIVE**  
By Crime Correspondent PAUL WILLIAMS

they claim to have a policy of forcing offending clerics to face up to their responsibilities.

"At the moment they are hiding this man even though he has admitted the abuse to the Sunday World, added Pat who now lives in Italy.

"When I decided to talk about the abuse my family convinced me to go to the Gardai.

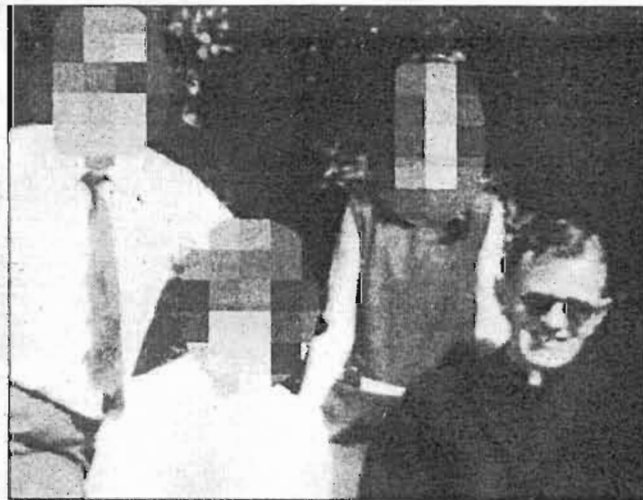
"The detectives were brilliant and they conducted an in-depth investigation, checking out every detail of what I and my brother told them," he explained.

That investigation, which began in early 1999 was headed by Detective Sergeant John Ward of Cabinteely station.

His inquiries led him to Laval House, a residence for retired clerics next door to a Catholic high school for boys in suburban Toronto.

But Carragher refused to co-operate with the Garda investigation and, through his lawyer, claimed

**'I was looking for sympathy and I thought I had found it with those two young men.'**



FAMILY: Fr Carragher with the parents of the two boys he abused.

he was dying from cancer.

He also implied that he might come back voluntarily but that proved to be a ruse.

In the meantime the DPP recommended that Carragher be arrested and charged with seven counts of sex abuse - five counts relate to Pat and the remainder his brother.

Unfortunately no extradition treaty exists between Canada and Ireland but following the events of September 11 it is expected a treaty will be signed between the two countries.

Fr. Carragher is a member of the Spiritans a 300-year-old Catholic order founded in Europe. He has

lived in Toronto for the past three years.

Fr Carragher's lawyer, Scott Fenton, says his client has no intention of facing the music.

"As far as I'm concerned the matter is dormant having regard to Fr. Carragher's age and very poor medical condition. I'm not aware of any effort to move anything forward. The allegations are ancient and beyond historic," Fenton told us.

Carragher returned to Ireland in the late 1950s after serving 20 years as a missionary in Nigeria.

"I was extending the church, making arrangements to open schools and educate the young people. Their parents, many of whom were pagans, were encouraged to attend church. I was encouraging them to send their children for a Christian education," the cleric claimed this week.

And then the pervert tried to explain his abuse of the two youngsters in Dublin.

He claimed that he was forced to flee Nigeria when war broke out and said he was very "distressed" when he arrived in Dublin penniless with only the clothes on his back. He claimed he had malaria and was "upset".

His voice shaking, he told the Sunday World: "I was looking for sympathy, and I thought I had found sympathy with those two young men... I was upset and uprooted from the place where I had been working for 20 years."

He regularly visited Pat's home where he was welcomed by their parents and slept in the same room as the two innocent brothers.

### Sickening

At every possible opportunity, when the parents' backs were turned, Carragher molested them.

He forced them to indulge in sickening acts of oral sex saying that this was "sexual education". He told Pat and his brother, "this is what it feels like to be a man."

Carragher unbelievably claimed that he had only abused these two boys although he had access to children throughout his clerical career.

This week Pat said he was glad that at least Carragher had been exposed to the world.

"It would be much better if he could be brought back to face justice but I fear that this evil abuser will die before any extradition treaty is put through.

"I do not believe that me and my brother were the only ones he abused. He was working in schools in Dublin and on the missions where people probably didn't know any better," said Pat.

Fr Carragher, the sick paedophile who is still in hiding today, says he has not yet "asked" his victims for forgiveness.

"Not yet. I'll think about it. I suppose I will come to do that...I'll ask them for forgiveness."