

Google search for Vatican directed to 'paedophile site'

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This picture taken from a terrace in Rome shows a view of Saint Peter's Basilica at The Vatican (R-back) and the Italian presidential palace, The Quirinale. An Internet search for the Vatican through Google threw up a link to a website called www.pedofilo.com, the Italian word for paedophile, on Saturday.

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The link, among the first options offered by the search, apparently surfaced early Saturday, Italian news agency ANSA reported, adding that it connected to an apparently empty site.

A spokesman for Google Italy, Simona Panseri, told ANSA it was not clear if this was a result of hacking.

"I cannot confirm if it is an attack because I have not had any more precise information from the US engineers to understand the nature of the problem," he told the agency.

The [Vatican](#) is battling allegations of abuse by paedophile priests and allegations of high-level cover-ups in several European countries, after similar scandals swept Australia and the United States in 2004.

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