



Ireland's most senior Catholic cleric tonight faced down calls to resign after revealing that he was at a secret tribunal where **sex abuse victims were made to take an oath of silence.**

Cardinal Sean Brady said that he had attended two meetings in 1975 concerning Father Brendan Smyth, a notorious paedophile, where two of Smyth's victims signed an affidavit promising to discuss their claims only with a specified priest.

The tribunal was held behind closed doors in 1975. Smyth was accused of sexually abusing two 10-year-olds, but the church did not inform the gardai about the allegations at the time. It was only in 1994, after a documentary about Smyth, that **the church admitted it had known about his paedophilia and moved him around Ireland, Britain and the US, where he continued to abuse children**

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