

Bruni accuses Pope of 'damaging' Africa

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French First Lady Carla Bruni has come down heavily on Pope Benedict, accusing him of "damaging" countries in Africa with his stance on birth control.

The Pontiff sparked controversy in March while on an Africa tour by saying the AIDS pandemic "can't be resolved with the distribution of condoms; on the contrary, there is the risk of increasing the problem".

Now, in an interview to a popular women's magazine, Bruni has said that the Vatican's teachings left her feeling "profoundly secular" and she has allowed her Catholic faith to lapse because of Pope's approach to contraception in Africa.

"I was born Catholic, I was baptised, but in my life I feel profoundly secular. I find that the controversy coming from the Pope's message -- albeit distorted by the media -- is very damaging. In Africa, it's often Church people who look after sick people. It's astonishing to see the difference between the theory and the reality. I think the Church should evolve on this issue."

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/Bruni-acuses-Pope-of---damaging---Africa/462460>