

Speech by Maj. Gen. Madhang Majok Meen, Governor, Gok State-Cueibet

The morning of 15th November 2018 to date has been the most difficult period in the history of Gok State. Since 2015 to early 2018 Gok State has been devastated with intersectional/clan violence and revenge killing but never had any foreigner been killed on our soil.

Late Fr. Victor Luke Odhiambo had witnessed most of these violence and generously offered shelter and food to internally displaced persons here in Cueibet in the very compound where he was brutally killed. Above all, Late Fr. Victor Luke Odhiambo was a major contributor to the development of Gok state in both infrastructural and human resource development. His immense contributions to the development of our State are immeasurable. He is a pioneer of higher education in our state. He spearheaded the project of Mozzolari Teachers Training Institute which is a success and he was continuing to turn it into a big thing. His plans for this institute to be a University were known to us and were much appreciated. That is why we called him a pioneer and an icon of higher education in our State.

We were shocked by his death and the motive of his assailants left many questions unanswered. And this has put our State on the world focus. It's a big shame and a setback on Gok State. Fr. Victor does not deserve to die in agony in the hands of the people he had loved so much and devoted much of his energy to serving them. No! Those criminals with whatever the motive have brought a curse on our land. On behalf of the people of Gok State and on my own, I am apologizing and begging for forgiveness from the family of late Fr. Victor Luke Odhiambo, Jesuits Fathers, Diocese of Rumbek, People of Kenya and Vatican though it is a criminal act by those individuals who took his life and it has put our leadership on weaker position.

I am also calling upon all Christians in Gok State to repent and ask for forgiveness from God on behalf of the people for the killing of God's servant on our land. I would like also to call upon the Diocese of Rumbek together with the family members of Fr. Victor-Luke Odhiambo to immediately open and file a case against the apprehended two suspected murderers as the law requires. I am assuring the family members of the deceased, Diocese of Rumbek and the general public that the other two suspects who are still at large will also be brought to book. It is the only way for us the government, family members, Diocese of Rumbek and all concerned to get satisfactory answers for motives behind the killing of Fr. Victor Luke Odhiambo, and for the justice to prevail.

Lastly, my heartfelt condolences to the family, relatives, and friends, students of Mozzolari Teachers Training Institute, Diocese of Rumbek and Jesuit Fathers in particular for the loss of Fr. Victor Luke Odhiambo.

At this juncture, I would like to plead with the Jesuit Fathers and Diocese of Rumbek to continue pursuing the projects of higher education in Gok State to honour Fr. Victor Luke Odhiambo. I am grateful to everybody who has come to honour and celebrate the life of Fr. Victor-Luke Odhiambo.

May the Almighty God rest his soul in eternal peace.