**Brief History of Ruwe Holy Ghost Church**

The Ruwe Holy Ghost Church emerged from the **Roho religion**, an independent African Christian movement among the Luo people in Western Kenya. This movement traces its origins to the early 20th century and developed as a distinct entity, breaking away from established mainstream missions.

**Key Figures and Early Events:**

* **Alfayo Odongo Mango** served as a central prophet and leader of the Roho movement. He was a charismatic figure who engaged with both religious and political matters, advocating for his followers.
* **Lawi Obonyo Ongwek**, Mango's nephew, was a significant figure within the movement, known for performing baptisms and working miracles.
* **Elijah Oloo**, an ex-army sergeant, was symbolically installed as the **"King of the Black"** (also known as "Kingi of the Joroho") on January 16, 1934, at Alfayo Odongo Mango's home in Musanda. This marked an effort by the Roho leadership to establish a new administrative and spiritual structure.

**The Musanda Massacre and Martyrdom:**

The history of the church is tragically marked by the **Musanda massacre**, which occurred on January 20, 1934. During this event, Alfayo Odongo Mango and eight other prominent Roho adherents were killed. These martyrs included Lawi Obonyo Ongwek, Joel Owino, Persila Adongo, Zadok Aol, Isaka Obayo, Salome Omondi, Musa Muga, Turfosa Aloo, and Dorsila Kinyou. The killings were perpetrated by **Wanga warriors**, often referred to as "Jokawango" by the Luo, stemming from escalating tensions between the Roho followers and the Wanga community. The events of this period, particularly January 20th and 21st, 1934, were a culmination of various conflicts, including a notable confrontation involving Roho women soldiers.

**Succession and Sacred Language:**

* Following the martyrdom of Alfayo Odongo Mango, **Barnaba Waluoho Ojoro** succeeded him as the leader of the Roho group, serving as Bishop from 1934 until 1980.
* The **"Dho Roho" language** was revealed to **Paulo Rang'ienga Ojoro** when Barnaba Waluoho Ojoro was the Arch-Bishop. This occurred after Alfayo Odongo, Lawi Obonyo, and seven other Christian founders had been martyred by the "Jokawango" on January 20th and 21st, 1934.

**Archdeacon Walter Edwin Owen's Connection:**

Archdeacon Walter Edwin Owen, a prominent missionary from the Church Missionary Society (CMS) in Western Kenya, was acquainted with Alfayo Odongo Mango. Their relationship was strained due to Mango's independent religious activities, such as performing baptisms without missionary sanction. Owen's writings provide valuable context on the broader missionary efforts and colonial dynamics in Kenya during that era, though they do not delve into the specifics of the "Dho Roho" language revelation or the intricate spiritual practices of the Roho church.

The Ruwe Holy Ghost Church, therefore, stands as a significant indigenous African church with a rich history rooted in spiritual independence and marked by profound sacrifice.