



Prot. CAJ.: ARCHBP. N. 0001/021

Sunday: May 2, 2021

Statement to the Catholic Diocese of Rumbek: the Priests, religious Priests and Sisters and the faithful.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, like you I have been both shocked and saddened by the events of last Monday. The attack on Bishop-elect Christian Carlasarre was a callous act of violence and was carried out with complete disregard for human life.

When Bishop-elect Christian arrived in Rumbek just a little over two weeks ago, he addressed the people in the Cathedral of the Holy Family. He spoke of a vision for his episcopate that was rooted in peace and unity. Drawing from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians, he said that, "We are all one with Christ and we try to do it as a Church from different countries, nations, and languages, that we are all one in Christ."

In spite of the challenges that we have faced this week, we have also witnessed remarkable solidarity. The morning after Fr. Christian was attacked, hundreds of people came to CUAMM Hospital, Rumbek to show their support, including parishioners, religious and clergy, and the Governor of Lakes State, Makur Kulang Liei and his cabinet. During the week, our President, Salva Kiir Mayardit, added his voice to a call of for peace and justice. Such violence is designed to create division and mistrust. We cannot allow this to happen to our Church.

With regard to the attack itself, National Security is already following a number of definite lines of inquiry. The Catholic Diocese of Rumbek is cooperating fully with their efforts. Several people have been detained and are being questioned. The investigation is still at the early stages, but we are confident justice will be served.

I ask you to continue praying for Bishop-elect Christian, that he may have a speedy recovery. He has told us that he looks forward to returning to you in Rumbek and that he is holding you all in his prayers. In the meantime, Fr. Andrea Osman, along with some priests, religious sisters, and laity will ensure the important work of the Diocese continues.

We pray also for ourselves, that the events of this week strengthen our resolve to work for peace and reconciliation. In our Gospel today Jesus reminds us that, "*I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty, for cut off from me you can do nothing.*" Let us root ourselves in Christ, standing not just against fear and violence, but growing towards a renewed unity where we are one with Christ and with one another.

God bless,



+Stephen Ameyu Martin Mulla
Metropolitan Archbishop of Juba