News 25 November 2026 | English article

South Sudan Priest Jacob Yong Den Joh Yong Murdered in Birmingham Six Months After Finding Refuge in Britain

A true story of faith under pressure. Read the first half below, then continue online.

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"The Rev Jacob Yong Den Joh Yong, a 37-year-old South Sudanese priest, was stabbed to death at his home in Birmingham on Thursday 5 November 2026"

(Transliterated from the original Hindi.)

They had gathered only to pray. When prayer itself becomes the target, faith is proved not by words but by staying.

The Story - Part One

The Rev Jacob Yong Den Joh Yong, a 37-year-old South Sudanese priest, was stabbed to death at his home in Birmingham on Thursday 5 November 2026. Police were called to the house on Selsey Road in the Edgbaston area at about 8.30Pm, and he was pronounced dead at the scene. A 28-year-old man, Muner Yahya, has been charged with his murder.

He had survived a civil war. He had lived through years in refugee camps. He had crossed continents to find safety in Britain, where he was granted five years of asylum, and about six months after arriving he was killed in the city that was supposed to be his refuge.

That is the fact Birmingham's Christians cannot stop turning over. A man who escaped the dangers of his own country, who carried his faith through displacement and camps, died violently in a quiet residential street in England, in the first months of a new life he had barely begun.

Jacob was ordained in the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. He arrived in the United Kingdom earlier in 2026 and began attending Holy Trinity Church in West Bromwich in September, only weeks before his death. The church had very recently identified him as a potential minister to the South Sudanese Dinka community in the area.

On Sunday 28 September, just over a month before he died, he stood outside Holy Trinity for a photograph with Bishop Daniel Abot, Rachel Jinna and the vicar, Pastor Neil Robbie. He is smiling in the picture, in his clerical collar, a cross at his chest. It is the image his church is now sharing as it mourns him.

His hopes for Britain were simple and pastoral. He wanted to establish regular Christian gatherings for members of the South Sudanese community, people far from home who needed worship in their own language and fellowship with their own people. He had started that work, and the church believed in it enough to put him forward as its minister.

The attack occured on the night he died, when police were called to the property on Selsey Road at about 8.30Pm. Officers found him stabbed, and he was pronounced dead at the scene. West Midlands Police opened a homicide investigation, and Muner Yahya, 28, was charged with murder overnight, remanded in custody, and appeared before Birmingham magistrates on 11 November.

The Turning Point - What Happens Next

The story reaches a life-changing moment that changes everything -- and what seemed like the end is only the middle. Two reports disagree on the numbers, and one question is left unanswered: will the CCTV footage ever come out? Read the full story to find out what happens next.

PERSONAL REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When gathering to pray carries a real cost, what keeps a community coming together anyway -- and what would keep you coming?

2. The pastor's sister shielded him with her own body and fainted under the blows. What does costly, self-giving love look like in your own family or church?

3. When justice is delayed and a complaint is withdrawn under threat, how do believers hold on to truth without giving in to fear -- or to hatred?

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