News 18 November 2026 | English article

Today: Catholic Bishops Warn Christians Under Threat in Sudan as War Destroys Churches

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

KEY SPIRITUAL TAKEAWAY

"Therefore, no person in the Sudan should be persecuted, coerced or discriminated against because of religious belief,"

(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 Catholic bishops of Sudan and South Sudan have warned that Christians face growing threats as the war between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces destroys churches, schools and hospitals. The warning came in a communiqué issued at the end of the bishops' 52nd Annual Plenary Assembly in Torit, held from 7 to 13 November 2026 under the theme of peace, democracy and hope.

The bishops did not soften the language. They condemned the war and its devastating humanitarian consequences, pointing to the widespread destruction of homes, schools, places of worship, health facilities and critical infrastructure. And they named the danger to believers directly: they expressed particular concern over threats facing Christian communities, clergy, religious men and women, and Church institutions in areas controlled by either warring faction.

The statement was signed by Cardinal Stephen Ameyu Martin Mulla, President of the Sudan and South Sudan Catholic Bishops' Conference and Metropolitan Archbishop of Juba. The bishops' words carry weight because they speak from inside the suffering. Their churches are among the buildings being hit, and their priests and nuns are among the people at risk.

One sentence in the communiqué stands out as a line in the sand. "Therefore, no person in the Sudan should be persecuted, coerced or discriminated against because of religious belief," the bishops said. It is a simple claim - that faith should never be a reason to harm someone - and in a country at war, it is also a brave one.

The bishops also raised the alarm over looming food shortages, calling for urgent action to strengthen food security. They urged governments, humanitarian agencies and development partners to step up food assistance, support agricultural production and invest in measures that would keep families fed through the months ahead.

Sudan Bishops Torit Plenary November 2026: Elections, Peace And Food

The communiqué reached beyond the war itself. The bishops urged political leaders in both Sudan and South Sudan to prioritise peace, constitutional order, democratic accountability and human dignity. They warned against political exclusion, violence and governance practices that could undermine stability.

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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