



*The President*

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Date: 16/07/2011

### **Message of Condolence**

I have learnt with profound sadness and sorrow of the unfortunate passing away of the Rt. Rev Bishop Caesar Mazzolari of the Catholic Diocese of Rumbek, Lakes State. I received the news of his regrettable death on the same morning of July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Rt. Rev Bishop Mazzolari belongs to the congregation of the Comboni Missionaries, the pioneers and builders of the Catholic faith in the Sudan. He first came to the Sudan in the 1980s as a missionary and because of the recognition of his good work he was appointed a Provincial Superior of the Comboni Missionaries until he was nominated as Apostolic Administrator of Rumbek Diocese in the 1990s. He was subsequently confirmed and ordained as Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Rumbek in the year 1999 until his demise.

I had the privilege of knowing the late Bishop Mazzolari personally, particularly during the days of the liberation struggle. He dedicated his life to serving the Catholic Church in the Sudan and he will be remembered for his heroic commitment to the struggle of the people of Southern Sudan for freedom, equality, justice and human dignity. During the dark days of the Liberation Movement following the split in 1991, he was always instrumental in trying to mediate and reconcile the antagonistic parties. He will be remembered as a



man of deep faith, humility and sincerity who served the people of Rumbek with great commitment. It is unfortunate that Bishop Mazzolari departed us just a few days after the Declaration of independence of the Republic of South Sudan, to which he personally contributed immensely. Through the good work he has done amongst us, Bishop Mazzolari will be remembered forever.

On behalf of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), the people and Government of the Republic of South Sudan as well as on my own behalf, I sincerely convey our heartfelt condolences to the immediate family of Bishop Mazzolari who offered their son for priesthood, the people of Brescia in Italy, the Comboni Missionaries, the faithful of Rumbek Diocese, the people of Lakes State as well as the people of Greater Bahr El Ghazal, the Catholic Church at large and indeed to the people of this new nation.

As people of faith, let us join our hearts and minds in prayers that God the Almighty may rest his soul in eternal peace!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kiir', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

**Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit,  
President of the Republic of South Sudan,  
JUBA, SOUTHERN SUDAN**