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SUDAN NEWS-FEED

August 11, 2005

SUDAN NEWS-FEED For Thursday, August 11, 2005

**Compiled as a service by the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy, Khartoum, Sudan.
The Sudan News-Feed attempts to present a summary covering the spectrum of Sudanese
press and international reporting about Sudan.**

**This report summarizes and covers the news but does not necessarily reflect the views of
the U.S. Government.**

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Department of State Travel Warnings, are encouraged to register with the U.S. Embassy
through the State Department's travel registration website,
<https://travelregistration.state.gov>. The direct link for immediate registration:
<https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/home.asp>. Travel and security information
concerning Sudan can also be obtained from this website. Americans without Internet
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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Crawford, Texas)

For Immediate Release

August 4, 2005

President George W. Bush today announced the designation of a
Presidential Delegation to Juba, Sudan to attend the funeral of
First Vice President Garang on August 6, 2005.

The Honorable Andrew S. Natsios, Administrator of the United
States Agency for International Development, will lead the
delegation.

Members of the Presidential Delegation are:

The Honorable Donald M. Payne, U.S. Representative

The Honorable John Limbert, U.S. Charge d'Affaires to Sudan

The Honorable Constance Berry Newman, Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs

The Honorable Roger P. Winter, Special Representative of the Deputy Secretary of State for Sudan

Top Headlines from the Sudanese Press

The following are top headlines from the Sudanese press on August 11, 2005:

******NOTE: "The Juba Post" (independent English-language weekly) resumed publication today(August 11), after being suspended allegedly for not being able to pay the National Press Council's license fee (approximately \$10,000).**

"The Juba Post"--Independent English-language Weekly newspaper

- Salva Kiir New Vice President of Sudan
- Hundreds of Northern Traders Leave Juba
- Police Arrests Riot Suspects
- Rebecca Garang Might Join Politics
- Editorial: Implementation of CPA Depends on Tolerance
- Worst Attacks Ruins Economy in Juba
- Garang's Death Leaves Many People Uncertain
- Ambororo, Dinka Bor Remain in Rokon Area
- Over 700 Displaced Remain in Torit Town
- SSDF Says Will Support Salva Kiir
- Salva Kiir: A Survivor With Diplomatic Skills
- The Differences Between John Garang and Salva Kir
- Juba Pays Its Respect to John Garang
- SPLM and UN Give Conflicting Messages to IDPs
- Soba Residents Remain Calm Throughout Riots
- People Go Hungry As Shops Remain Shut
- Schools In Abu Shouk Still Not Functioning
- Egyptian Troops in Darfur
- NATO Support for Darfur
- Ethiopia Elections Results Disputed

"Khartoum Monitor"-- independent with pro-Southern Sudan orientation daily English-language newspaper

- Salva Takes Oath Today, Pleads for Calm
- Museveni Threatens Newspapers Over Garang Conspiracy Theories
- Ugandan Embassy Issues Press Release Refuting Reports of Finding Unknown Corpse in Garang's Plane Wreckage

- The Sudan-After Garang
- Khartoum Tense As UN Supports Garang Probe
- Sudanese Bring Tears, Not Rage to Funeral
- Sudan Trek Diary IX: Sickness
- Editorial: Speculations Not Facts
- Commentary (by senior editor): In Defense of Justice
- Commentary (regular columnist): Salva Kiir: Try It Out
- Commentary (regular columnist): Building From Scratch
- Commentary (outside contributor): Who Killed Dr. Garang?
- Commentary (outside contributor): A Call for Tolerance for the Sake of Our Great Nation
- Commentary (outside contributor): Appeal For Unity Among All Sudanese And Particularly the Southerners After the Death of Dr. Garang

“Sudan Vision”-- pro-GOS daily English-language newspaper
<http://www.sudanvisiondaily.com>

- First VP Vows to Continue the Peace Path With the Same Vision
- Darfur Rebels Demand Postponement for Abuja Talks
- U.S. Embassy Press Release: Signing of Agreement With Sudan Radio and Television Corporation
- Committee to Probe Recent Riots Began Its Work
- Sudan’s New Leader ‘His Own Man’
- Arab Authority for Agricultural Investment and Development Generalizes Zero-Tillage Farming Technology After its Success in Agadi
- Mama Rebecca Eulogizes Her Husband as Biblical Moses
- Editorial: Attempts Back-Fired
- Commentary (regular columnist): Extra Corpse Curtain –Raiser to Garang’s Plane Crash Probe
- Commentary (regular columnist): Our Vehicle Has No Return Gears
- Commentary (regular columnist): Time for Work
- Commentary (regular columnist): UN Debate on Group of Four Security Council Reform

“Al-Ayaam”-- independent daily Arabic-language newspaper
<http://www.alayaam.net>

- Abuja Talks Postponed for An Indefinite Date
- Salva Kiir: We Are Committed to Realize the Peace Agreement
- UN Express Willingness to Hold Investigation Regarding VP Garang Plane Crash
- Pronk Anticipates Delay in Implementation of Peace Agreement
- American Report Explains Reasons Behind VP Garang Airplane Crash
- Ugandan Embassy in Khartoum Refutes Reports on Finding of Unknown Corpse in Garang’s Plane Wreckage
- Nafie Welcomes Defection of NC Members Supporting Secession
- Cabinet Holds Exceptional Session to Welcome New VP Salva Kiir Next Saturday

- Special Court in Darfur Press Charges Against Members of the Armed Forces Involved in War Crimes
- Editorial: Darfur Crisis and Foreign Intervention
- Commentary (by senior editor): Rumors

“Al-Adwaa”-- independent daily Arabic-language newspaper

- Salva Kiir Arrives Khartoum And Swears in As Vice President Today
- Museveni Threatens Newspapers Over Garang Conspiracy Theories
- UN: Postponement of Abuja Talks Following Request from SLA
- Minister of Defense: We Will Compensate All Those Affected in Recent Riots
- Editorial: The Role of Sudanese Press

“Alwatan ”-- independent daily Arabic-language newspaper

alwataan@myway.com

- Salva Kiir Arrives Khartoum And Swears in As Vice President Today
- NDA and GOS Postpone Negotiations Over Power Sharing for Next Week
- Cabinet Holds Exceptional Session to Welcome New VP Salva Kiir Next Saturday
- Editorial: Role of Churches in Promoting Peaceful Coexistence
- Commentary (regular columnist): Northerners in Juba and the Return to the North

“Al-Anbaa” -- the Government-owned daily Arabic-language newspaper

www.alanbaa.info

- Al-Bashir: Peace Will Never Stop
- Salva Kiir Swears in as Vice President Today
- Al-Bashir Meets Salva Kiir
- Sudanese Lawyers Union Forms Committee to Defend Sudanese Detainees in the U.K.
- National Congress Welcomes VP Salva Kiir

“Al-Rai Al-Aam” -- pro-GOS daily Arabic-language newspaper

<http://www.rayaam.net>

- Kiir: We Will Continue the Road to Peace
- Salva Kiir Swears in As Vice President Today
- UN Refers to 17 Corpses in VP Garang Plane Crash
- Cabinet Holds Exceptional Session to Welcome New VP Salva Kiir
- Ugandan Embassy in Khartoum Refutes Reports on Finding of Unknown Corpse in Garang’s Plane
- Museveni Threatens Newspapers Over Garang Conspiracy Theories
- Kampla Invites Salva Kiir to Visit
- ICG Calls for Protecting Peace Agreement
- UN Announces Postponement of Abuja Talks
- Commentary (regular columnist): Study Group on Death of Dr. Garang

- Commentary (regular columnist): Special Envoys to Sudan
- Commentary (regular columnist): Northerners in the SPLA

“Al-Sahafa”-- pro-GOS but increasingly independent daily Arabic-language newspaper
<http://www.alsahafa.info/news>

- Salva: I Came Back to Khartoum After 22 Years to Implement the CPA
- Salva Takes Oath Today, Pleads for Calm
- Committee to Assess Damage of Monday Riots Receives Citizens
- UN and SPLA Call for Enlarging Investigation Committee
- UN Affirms to Washington the GOS And the SPLA’s Commitment to Naivasha Agreement
- Commentary (regular columnist): Salva, Take Care
- Commentary (regular columnist): Democracy for Us and for the Others Who Call for Secession

“Al-Hayat” -- pro-GOS daily Arabic-language newspaper
<http://www.alhayatsdn.com>

- Salva Takes Oath Today, Pleads for Calm
- UN: There Was 17 Corpses in the Wreckage of VP Garang’s Plane
- UN Announces Postponement of Abuja Talks
- Cabinet Holds Exceptional Session to Welcome New VP Salva Kiir

“Al-Khartoum” - pro-Democratic Unionist Party daily Arabic-language newspaper

- Salva Arrives Khartoum Today and Swears in As Vice President
- Police Accuses Certain Parties of Organizing Riots Last Monday
- UN Commends Progress Made in Implementation of CPA
- Editorial: Abyei: The Hot Dossier

“Alwan”-- pro -Popular Congress Party daily Arabic-language newspaper

- Salva Addresses the Sudanese Public Today
- Tanzania Hosts Summit on Darfur
- Riots Fact Finding Mission Begin Investigations
- Commentary (regular columnist): Ugandan Involvement in Death of VP Garang

“Al-Wifaq” --pro-GOS, anti Western daily Arabic-language newspaper

- Wali of Khartoum Refutes Reports on Sending of His Family outside of Khartoum During Rioting Events
- Salva Kiir Arrives in Khartoum
- Street Ali Abdel Lattif is Still Closed (St. outside U.S. Embassy)

The following articles from the Sudanese and international press are included in full in the attachment below.

BBC

KIIR POISED TO BECOME SUDAN'S VP

August 11, 2005

SUNA

Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit Expresses Pleasure Over Arriving In Khartoum

August 11, 2005

AFP

US Lawmaker To Visit Sudan, Ethiopia

August 11, 2005

Xinhua

Uganda Mourns Victims In Garang Helicopter Crash

August 11, 2005

The Los Angeles Times

Severed by War, a Mother and Son Share a Moment Beyond Emotion

Anok Mangong had long believed her boys were dead. Years later, she is proved wrong.

By Edmund Sanders

August 11, 2005

Reuters

South Sudanese Leader Salva Kiir Appeals for Calm and Affirms Commitment to Peace

By Opheera McDoom

August 10, 2005

Reuters

Garang Death Breeds African Conspiracy Theories

By Daniel Wallis

August 10, 2005

Reuters

Sudan's Darfur Talks In Nigeria Delayed - U.N.

August 10, 2005

Reuters

U.N. Says 17 Bodies Recovered At Garang Crash Site

By Opheera McDoom

August 10, 2005

Reuters

Nigeria Sends 700 More Troops To Sudan's Darfur

August 10, 2005

The Washington Post

**In Sudan, Sitting in One Prison to Escape Another
Women Commit Adultery, Serve Time To Obtain Divorces**

By Emily Wax

August 10, 2005

The Associated Press

Ex-Rebel to Replace Fallen Sudan Commander

By Tanalee Smith

August 10, 2005

Xinhua

Darfur Peace Talks To Resume On Aug. 24

August 10, 2005

The Voice of America

Southern Sudanese Leader Arrives in Capital to Become Vice President

August 10, 2005

The Christian Science Monitor

Sudan Hits The Pause Button

August 10, 2005

Other websites for Sudan News:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Archive/2005/May/12-676357.html?chanlid=washfile>

<http://www.state.gov>

<http://allafrica.com>

<http://www.Sudanmirror.com>

Sudan Radio Service

<http://www.Sudanradio.org>

<http://Sudan.net>

<http://www.Sudantribune.com>

<http://smcSudan.net>

Civilian Protection Monitoring Team website

<http://www.cpmtSudan.org>

IRIN News (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs--SUDAN page)

http://www.irinnews.org/frontpage.asp?SelectRegion=East_Africa&SelectCountry=Sudan

UN News Centre (SUDAN page)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=88&Body=Sudan&Body1>

Relief Web (SUDAN page):

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc108?OpenForm&emid=ACOS-636PJQ&rc=1>

Alertnet (SUDAN page)

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/emergency/246397.htm>

Humanitarian Information Center for Darfur:

<http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/darfur/default>

Al Bab: Khartoum Handbook and Diary

<http://www.coreSudan.com>

Refugees International:

<http://www.refugeesinternational.org>

NATO

<http://www.nato.int/>

U.S. European Command

<http://www.eucom.mil/english/index.asp>

KIIR POISED TO BECOME SUDAN'S VP

BBC

August 11, 2005

Salva Kiir, who took over as southern Sudan's leader following the death of John Garang, is due to be sworn in as Sudan's vice-president on Thursday.

The swearing-in ceremony will take place in the capital, Khartoum.

Mr Kiir will succeed former rebel leader Mr Garang, who died three weeks after becoming vice-president as part of a deal to end decades of conflict.

Despite his death in a helicopter crash on 30 July, both sides have vowed to press ahead with the peace process.

Secessionist

Mr Garang's long-time deputy arrived in Khartoum on the eve of the ceremony, where he met the Sudanese president.

Omar al-Bashir pledged to co-operate fully with Mr Kiir in implementing peace, the official Suna news agency reported.

Mr Kiir said that he would complete what his predecessor had begun.

"Despite the fact that we have lost our hero... we will continue with the same vision... and we will implement the comprehensive peace agreement," he said.

Mr Kiir also appealed for calm.

The former Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) leader's death last month sparked riots that left over 100 dead.

The violence prompted fears that the peace process may be threatened.

The BBC's Jonah Fisher in Khartoum says there are questions about whether Mr Kiir shares the same commitment to Sudanese unity as Mr Garang.

Mr Kiir is regarded as a secessionist.

The civil war pitted the Muslim north against Christians and animists in the south, leaving some 1.5m people dead.

A peace agreement in January ended 21 years of conflict. Mr Garang became vice-president in a new government of national unity.

Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit Expresses Pleasure Over Arriving In Khartoum

SUNA

August 11, 2005

Khartoum, Aug. 10 (SUNA)- First Vice President and President of the Government of Southern Sudan Lt. Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit has expressed pleasure over arriving in Khartoum after 21 years. In a statement upon arrival at Khartoum Airport Wednesday afternoon, Lt. Gen. Mayardit affirmed the determination of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) to continue the peace march on the same steps of late Dr. John Garang for reaching permanent peace and stability in the country. He called on the southerners to remain calm.

US Lawmaker To Visit Sudan, Ethiopia

AFP

August 11, 2005

WASHINGTON, Aug 10 (AFP) — A US lawmaker with a history of pushing for human rights will visit Sudan and Ethiopia next week to discuss regional stability as well as the future of democracy in East Africa, his office announced.

Republican Representative Chris Smith, who chairs the House International Relations Committee's panel on Africa and human rights, will arrive in Ethiopia on Sunday, his spokesman, Brad Dayspring, said in a statement.

The August 14-21 visit comes as Sudanese vice president and former rebel leader John Garang's death in a July 30 helicopter crash has sparked unrest in Khartoum and worries about a peace deal ending Sudan's 21-year civil war.

In Sudan, Smith plans to meet with President Omar al-Beshir as well as Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Movement to discuss efforts to implement the comprehensive peace agreement, which was signed in January.

"The only way forward is to ensure that his (Garang's) efforts to secure peace, stability and justice in the region are continued," the lawmaker said in the statement from his office.

Smith will also visit refugee camps in Sudan's troubled Darfur region to determine whether supplies are reaching the people for whom they are intended and whether attacks on refugees have subsided, his office said.

And he will also meet with Christian and Muslim leaders to discuss easing racial and ethnic tensions and will visit a non-governmental organization devote to battling human trafficking.

In Ethiopia, Smith will meet with Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and Foreign Minister Seyum Mesfin to discuss that country's boundary dispute with Eritrea and will discuss the disputed May 15 elections with local officials.

He will also meet with African Union officials to discuss peacekeeping efforts — such as the AU effort in Darfur — and future AU roles on the continent, and hopes to talk to Ethiopian Christian and Muslim leaders about ways to ease religious tensions, his office said.

Uganda Mourns Victims In Garang Helicopter Crash

Xinhua

August 11, 2005

KAMPALA, Aug. 10 (Xinhua) -- Uganda on Wednesday held a national mourning ceremony for the late Sudanese first vice president John Garang and 13 Ugandans and Sudanese that perished in a helicopter crash on July 30 in southern Sudan.

Before addressing mourners at the Kololo Airstrip in east Kampala and the country as a whole, President Yoweri Museveni laid wreaths before the portraits of the late Garang and other Sudanese who died with him as well as on the caskets of the seven Ugandans whose bodies were brought back from Sudan on Tuesday.

Museveni expressed deep condolences to the bereaved families of both the Sudanese and Ugandan victims of the plane crash.

He told the nation that a multi-national team of experts from the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA), Uganda, Kenya, Russia where the plane was manufactured and the United States are already carrying out investigations.

He said he was optimistic that the team would soon get to the bottom of the matter as to why the helicopter crashed.

Museveni hailed the role played by Garang and the SPLA in their struggle to liberate their people and support to Uganda against the rebel groups.

On fears that the death of Garang would derail the fight against the Kony's Lord's Resistance Army rebels, Museveni said there was no hope for Kony, adding that efforts to flush him out of southern Sudan will go on with the new SPLA leadership now headed by Salva Kiir.

The bodies of the seven Ugandans are expected to be buried on Thursday in their respective home areas.

Severed by War, a Mother and Son Share a Moment Beyond Emotion
Anok Mangong had long believed her boys were dead. Years later, she is proved wrong.
[The Los Angeles Times](#)

By Edmund Sanders

August 11, 2005

NAIROBI, Kenya — A mother's instincts tell her she will always know her child, even if they have been separated for years. Anok Mangong knows the truth isn't so simple.

Eighteen years ago, Arab marauders attacked Mangong's tribal village in southern Sudan, scattering her terrified family into the bush. Seven days later, Mangong crept back to her hut to

find her husband's decomposing body and no sign of her youngest boys, Benson, 7, and Alepho, 5.

She eventually found her five other children. But the two boys never returned.

"My sons are dead," she told herself.

Mangong's family is one of hundreds of thousands torn apart by Sudan's two-decade civil war, which pitted Arab northerners against black southerners in a struggle over power, land and oil. Under a peace deal signed early this year, the nation is attempting to reunite. Thousands of southern refugees are flooding back to homes they fled years ago.

But Mangong long ago gave up hope of finding her boys. She thought of them often in the beginning, but over time their small faces began to fade from her mind. "I even lost my memories of them," she said.

She could scarcely afford to dwell on the tragedy. She had five children to raise. In accordance with Dinka tribal custom, Mangong was "inherited" by her brother-in-law, who took her as a wife and fathered another son.

Over the months and years, their village, Juol, suffered repeated attacks. Their home was burned down, but they rebuilt. Surviving the war and keeping the family fed were their main concerns.

Then health problems began to plague Mangong, who doesn't know her age but probably is about 50. She suffered bouts of typhoid and malaria. She couldn't keep food down and experienced severe pain from intestinal parasites. Doctors were hard to find in southern Sudan, hospitals even rarer.

Help arrived one day from a stranger who approached the family and offered to fly Mangong to Kenya for treatment. But the biggest surprise was who was behind the mysterious assistance: her long-lost sons.

Confused, Mangong traveled to Nairobi in April, where she was met by Peter Amoi, who told her he was a friend of the now grown boys. They were living in San Diego, and a family friend had recently reconnected them with a relative living in Uganda. The man told them their mother was still alive, but ill.

She gratefully accepted the medical treatment but refused to believe her sons were alive. Peter showed her a picture of Benson to convince her.

"Who is this?" she asked. Blaming her aging eyes, she apologized and said she didn't recognize the young man.

When Peter brought her a cell phone so she could speak with her sons, now 25 and 23, she broke into tears, but still she insisted that there must be some mistake. She continued to mourn her boys.

Thousands of miles away, Benson and Alepho had no doubt they had finally found their mother.

The two weren't home when the attackers came that day in 1987. Benson was staying at his older sister's home, and Alepho was tending goats.

Benson escaped in nothing but a pair of underpants, joining a line of thousands of panicked young Dinka refugees who walked for three months to reach camps in Ethiopia.

In 1991, a regime change in Ethiopia forced all of the youths, who became known as the "Lost Boys," to flee back to Sudan. Hundreds died along the way of disease, starvation and attacks by wild animals. Some drowned trying to cross thunderous rivers or were eaten by crocodiles. Ethiopian soldiers followed close behind, sometimes shooting at the refugees to ensure their prompt expulsion.

Back in Sudan, the youngsters faced more horrors. Many were forced to join southern militia groups and become child soldiers. Others crammed into refugee camps, where diseases such as river blindness, malaria and tuberculosis were rampant.

Benson, by then 12, struggled through it alone, motivated by the hope that one day he would find his family. He ended up in eastern Sudan, where he was reunited with some older relatives, including a half-brother. One day, the half-brother visited Benson's hut, complaining about a strange young newcomer who had latched on to him that day and wouldn't stop following him.

"It was Alepho," Benson recalled. "We couldn't believe it."

Chased away by fighting yet again, the reunited brothers moved to a disease-ridden refugee camp in northern Kenya. Later, they were among the few permitted to resettle in the United States in 2001.

Today Benson does data-entry work for a waste management company and Alepho is a file clerk at a healthcare firm. The brothers, who share an apartment in San Diego, recently released a book about their experiences, "They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky."

In Nairobi, Mangong remained unconvinced.

"I haven't accepted it," she said last month as she sat on a small mattress in a tiny, tin-roofed apartment that Benson pays for.

"Maybe if I could see him and touch him, I would know," she said. "But my heart isn't telling me one way or another."

Benson decided he had to make the trip to Kenya to see the mother he hadn't been with since he was a little boy. After the long flight from California last month, he immediately headed to the Nairobi slum where she was staying.

Peter answered the door and greeted Benson warmly. Mangong stood tentatively in the hallway. "Who is it?" she asked.

Benson said he instantly recognized his mother. Her tall frame. The two lines of decorative scarring across the forehead, a Dinka tradition. The broad smile revealing a wide gap between buck teeth.

"It's me, Mama, Atheen," he replied, using his Dinka name.

"Is that you?" she said. She searched his eyes for a moment, and then realized she saw her own eyes staring back. She reached for him. "That's you," she said. "That's my son."

Benson melted into his mother's arms. "It was the moment of a lifetime," he said. "It was something beyond emotion. My whole body was warm."

In the days before Benson returned to California, mother and son tried to catch up on lost years — and hold close the memory of their reunion.

"He has changed," Mangong said with a laugh, recalling the 7-year-old she knew who was always eager to tend the goats and cows and handle chores normally reserved for an older child.

"He's grown into such a strong man," said Mangong, who hopes to visit her sons in the U.S. once her health improves. "And now he's brought the family back together again. I know he will take care of me."

She still can't believe she has her boy back.

"How did he manage to stay alive all those years?" she wondered. "How did he find his brother?"

Benson has many questions too. About his siblings. About his father and how he died.

"But I don't want to talk about the sad things yet," he said. "I want us to enjoy this happy time first."

South Sudanese Leader Salva Kiir Appeals for Calm and Affirms Commitment to Peace

Reuters

By Opheera McDoom

August 10, 2005

KHARTOUM, Aug 10(Reuters) - South Sudanese leader Salva Kiir appealed for calm and affirmed his commitment to a peace deal as he arrived in Khartoum on Wednesday to be sworn in as first vice president after his predecessor, John Garang, died in a helicopter crash.

The streets of the capital were lined with soldiers and tanks as Kiir arrived from southern Sudan to be greeted and embraced by Second Vice President Ali Osman Mohamed Taha. He saluted his old arch enemy, Defence Minister Bakri Hassan Saleh.

Security has been tight in Khartoum since the worst riots in decades, sparked by news last week of Garang's death. As many as 111 people died in the violence and more than 300 were wounded.

Hundreds of security personnel at the airport checked those awaiting Kiir's arrival amid unprecedented security. Kiir stepped off the state-owned Sudan Airways plane carrying a wooden walking stick and wearing a beige suit and his trademark wide-brimmed hat.

Kiir is expected to be sworn in as first vice president in a subdued ceremony on Thursday, in stark contrast to the euphoric celebrations when Garang was sworn in on July 9.

"Despite the fact that we have lost our hero the man who brought peace -- Dr. Garang -- we will continue with the same vision with the same objective and we will implement the comprehensive peace agreement which he signed last January," Kiir said on his arrival.

He urged the people of Sudan to remain calm and not to resort to the violence which engulfed the capital and many southern towns last week.

Garang, head of the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), signed a peace deal in January to end Africa's longest civil war.

The mainly animist and Christian south fought a bitter war, complicated by oil, ethnicity and ideology, for more than two decades against the Islamist northern government. An estimated 2 million people died, mostly from hunger and disease.

Kiir, the last surviving founding member of the SPLM, led the military wing of the movement.

He will not be as well-acquainted with the details of the peace deal but some analysts say that will force him to involve other SPLM members in talks to form the new government, a positive step forwards from Garang's tight grip on decision making.

The agreement envisages a new coalition government, wealth and power sharing, and a referendum for the south on secession from the north within six years.

The new government was due to be announced on Aug. 9, but SPLM official Abdel Aziz al-Helwa said the new deadline for forming the coalition government would be within two to three weeks of Kiir taking office.

NO WELCOME SIGNS

There were no welcome signs Kiir, nor crowds to meet him in Khartoum. When Garang arrived a month ago, the city came to a standstill as more than a million jubilant Sudanese crowded the main square to greet him. The streets were filled with placards and pictures welcoming him back to the capital.

Garang was killed in a helicopter crash near an SPLM stronghold in the south just three weeks after taking office. The death has been seen as a setback to the implementation of the peace deal, although his deputy Salva Kiir was quickly appointed to replace him.

"The key to implementing the peace deal John Garang negotiated is for the SPLM to hold together," John Prendergast of the International Crisis Group said in a report. "If the movement unravels, the peace agreement will as well."

A joint commission has been formed to investigate the cause of Garang's crash, which had originally been put down to bad weather.

SPLM spokesman Samson Kwaje said the commission was independent, including the SPLM, the government of Sudan, Uganda and Kenya, as well as the United Nations, Britain and the United States.

President Omar Hassan al-Bashir had appointed southern and former vice president Abel Alier as head of the commission, but Kwaje said the SPLM wanted all the members of the commission to meet and elect their own chairman.

Garang Death Breeds African Conspiracy Theories

Reuters

By Daniel Wallis

August 10, 2005

NAIROBI, Aug 10 (Reuters) - The death of Sudanese Vice-President John Garang in a Ugandan helicopter crash has spawned a host of bizarre conspiracy theories in east Africa -- ranging from sabotage to Rwandan hijackers sneaking on board.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, whose helicopter Garang had been using, is particularly incensed by reports in Kampala that have gone into overdrive following the July 30 shock death of his friend and talismanic former southern rebel chief.

Garang waged a 21-year war against Sudan's northern Islamist government. But just months after signing a peace deal, his body was found in the wreckage of the aircraft after it plummeted into the remote mountains on the border with northeast Uganda.

The chopper crashed during a storm, and Garang's supporters have said they do not suspect foul play.

Leading the charge with a frenzy of claims surrounding his death is Uganda's Red Pepper newspaper, a popular tabloid that mixes political rumours with lots of female flesh.

First it claimed, without giving any evidence, that the chopper was sabotaged in a failed bid to kill Museveni.

Then on Monday it suggested spies from neighbouring Rwanda had sneaked on board and shot Garang twice in the head before the crash -- drawing an angry response from the government.

"The Red Pepper's extra heads, persons, bullet wounds etc are simply a figment of their speculative reporting and should be ignored," Ugandan Defence Minister Amama Mbabazi said this week as the bodies of the Ugandan crew were flown home.

"No people unknown to the pilots, engineer or security officers sneaked stealthily or otherwise onto the chopper."

Officially, 14 people died including Garang. But rumours of a mystery "15th corpse" have been fuelled by the apparently disintegrated state of the bodies found by rescuers.

Mbabazi said false and insensitive reporting could damage regional peace and security efforts. But it is not only the salacious Red Pepper that has attracted government criticism.

Uganda's independent Daily Monitor implied that Museveni had lent his friend a defective helicopter. It quoted sources as saying Museveni had opted not to use his helicopter for a trip to Rwanda in June because it had technical problems.

"CRIMINAL RUMOURS"

Museveni's office pointed out that the chopper had been undergoing a \$1.4 million refurbishment in Belarus at the time.

"It is criminal for anyone to say that," raged senior presidential adviser John Nagenda about the report.

Last week Museveni ordered his information minister to correct another Monitor story that said Sudan was holding the bodies of the Ugandan crew until its investigation was over.

At prayers for the dead Ugandans on Wednesday, Museveni vowed to close newspapers he said were "vultures" meddling in security issues with their speculations about Garang.

He highlighted the Red Pepper.

"I thought those were confused young boys busy with naked girls," he told the crowds. "If they have gone from there to regional security, they must stop, or we will stop them."

Media reports in Sudan, where news of Garang's death triggered riots that killed at least 130 people, have been more restrained -- not least because two newspapers were suspended for a day over their coverage of the street violence.

One of the most inflammatory -- that government-aligned militia leader Paulino Matiep had also been killed -- fuelled the north-south bloodshed. He later appeared on TV.

"This and additional false claims that other southern leaders had died sparked widespread panic," the International Crisis Group think-tank said in a report.

Eager to allay fears about the mechanical condition of his helicopter, Museveni drove almost 1,000 km (620 miles) to Yei in southern Sudan on Friday to pay last respects by Garang's coffin and assure mourners the chopper had been in good shape.

But he was criticised by the Sudanese government for suggesting "an external factor" may have caused the crash.

A spokesman said they were "pretty sure" it was an accident due to bad weather, and hoped all parties, especially Uganda, would stop issuing statements that were not based on facts.

Sudan's Darfur Talks In Nigeria Delayed - U.N.

Reuters

August 10, 2005

KHARTOUM, Aug 10 (Reuters) - Talks between the Sudanese government and rebel groups from the western Darfur region have been postponed from later this month at the request of one rebel group, the United Nations said on Wednesday.

U.N. spokeswoman Radhia Achouri told reporters in Khartoum that no new date had been set for the talks that were due to resume in the Nigerian capital of Abuja on Aug. 24. But she said the delay was not expected to last longer than two months.

She said the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), one of Darfur's two main rebel groups that took up arms against the government in 2003, had requested the delay to sort out its internal affairs. She did not give details.

"The actual Abuja talks ... have been postponed at the request of the SLM that says that it is not ready yet for the talks. Apparently they have some issues to sort out within the SLM itself so they made this request," she said.

The SLM's leadership has quarrelled at previous rounds of talks in Abuja.

Achouri said Salim Ahmed Salim, chief mediator of the team from the African Union which is sponsoring the talks, decided to hold consultations between all the parties in Tanzania before the next talks to agree on an agenda.

She said the talks in Tanzania would probably take place around the end of August and were expected to last three days.

In July, Salim said Darfur's warring parties had laid the foundations for peace but said the rebels needed to close ranks before the next round to make a full settlement possible.

The government and two main rebel movements signed a declaration of principles in July, which Salim said helped address some of the root causes of the conflict.

The Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), the SLM's armed wing, and smaller rebel group the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) took up arms in early 2003 accusing the government of discrimination and neglect.

They say Khartoum responded by backing Arab militias to drive non-Arabs from their villages.

The conflict has killed tens of thousands of people and driven more than two million into refugee camps.

U.N. Says 17 Bodies Recovered At Garang Crash Site

Reuters

By Opheera McDoom

August 10, 2005

KHARTOUM, Aug 10 (Reuters) - The United Nations said on Wednesday 17 bodies had been recovered from the site of a helicopter crash that killed southern Sudanese leader John Garang, although Uganda has said only 14 were on board its chopper.

Garang died when the Ugandan presidential helicopter he was travelling in went down in bad weather on July 30, three weeks after he was made Sudan's first vice president under a peace deal ending a 21-year north-south civil war.

The reason for the discrepancy was not immediately clear, although a member of the southern Sudanese leadership council had earlier also said 17 bodies had been recovered.

"The figures that we have, and these are the last figures I saw, we are talking about 17," U.N. spokeswoman Radhia Achouri told reporters in Khartoum.

Khartoum has previously said six of Garang's companions and a crew of seven also died in the crash near the Sudan-Uganda border.

A joint commission between the government and Garang's Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) was formed this week to investigate the causes of the crash and officials have said they welcome any input from the U.N. or other international experts.

The commission, headed by SPLM official and former Vice President Abel Alier, is to offer a preliminary report within four weeks of starting work.

Achouri said a U.N. team was deployed near the crash site ready to assist, but she added the final composition of the investigation team had not yet been confirmed.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has said he could not rule out the possibility that the crash was not an accident.

Both the Sudanese government and SPLM officials have played down any possibility of foul play.

News of Garang's death sparked the worst riots in the Sudanese capital for decades, killing 111 people and injuring more than 300. The violence has polarised Khartoum's large southern and northern communities.

Garang signed a peace deal in January to end Africa's longest civil war in Sudan's south, and became first vice president on July 9.

The peace deal envisages a new coalition government, wealth and power sharing, and a southern referendum on secession from the north within six years.

Nigeria Sends 700 More Troops To Sudan's Darfur

Reuters

August 10, 2005

LAGOS, Aug 10 (Reuters) - Nigeria will airlift about 700 soldiers to Sudan's Darfur region this week to strengthen an African Union force monitoring a ceasefire, a military spokesman said on Wednesday.

Nigeria and Rwanda are the largest contributors to the African force, which is meant to grow from 3,000 now to more than 7,000 by October and has contributed to a drastic reduction in violence against civilians.

Tens of thousands have been killed and more than 2 million driven from their homes during a rebellion in Darfur now in its third year.

"We are sending three battalions there. One battalion went last month, the second is leaving tomorrow and the last one will be there by October," said Brigadier-General Ganiyu Adewale, a Defense Ministry spokesman.

Each battalion, numbering about 700 troops, will relieve smaller numbers of troops already in Darfur, he added. By October, Nigeria hopes to have 2,000 troops in Darfur, while Rwanda is contributing a similar number.

The soldiers have helped curb violence against civilians in the vast desert region the size of France. The African Union wants to increase their numbers further to 12,000 by June next year, with an expanded mandate to keep the peace. At the moment, they are permitted to monitor the ceasefire, report violations and protect civilians in imminent danger.

Talks between the government and Darfur rebels that had been due to resume next week in Nigeria were postponed for up to two months on Wednesday.

**In Sudan, Sitting in One Prison to Escape Another
Women Commit Adultery, Serve Time To Obtain Divorces**

The Washington Post

By Emily Wax

August 10, 2005

RUMBEK, Sudan -- Crouched in a dank prison ward, Ding Maker admits she broke the law by committing adultery. But she didn't do it for love, she says. Like many women in jail for infidelity in Sudan, she did it because she wanted a divorce. For three months, she has been sitting in a cell with 12 other women, hoping to shame her husband into repaying her dowry and leaving her.

"He abused and beat me, never paying for my food or taking care of our sick children," Maker said, adjusting her shiny green shirt over her swelling belly. She is pregnant from the affair, but not worried about it.

"I had no other way to get divorced," she said. "I was his second wife and he wasn't caring for me. I don't mind staying here. I will just wait."

In patriarchal southern Sudan, as in much of Africa, only men have the right to file for divorce. The one legal loophole for Sudanese women is to commit adultery, a crime that is instant grounds for divorce. But even then, most husbands refuse to agree to one because they don't want to ask their relatives to return the dowry -- in Maker's case, 90 cows -- they have received from the bride's family and distributed as gifts.

All of this, however, could change. Southern Sudan, now at peace after two decades of civil war with the north, is drawing up a new constitution and attempting to craft a modern penal code. With international donors reluctant to aid an entity that jails women for adultery or elopement, its new leaders are reviewing traditional rules regarding marriage, dowry and divorce.

But many women have started defying the rules on their own, in part because they became more independent from men during the civil war, and in part because the political liberation of the region has brought new ideas and influences into a tightly controlled tribal society.

Virtually all 24 women in Rumbek prison's female ward are there because they defied customary family laws. More than half have been charged with adultery; the rest have been jailed for eloping or failing to follow traditional marriage rules.

"With peace and talk of change, adultery and requests for divorce are more frequent than they were ever before," said Chief Justice Ambrose Riny Thiik of South Sudan's Superior Court. "In fact, we're all surprised it's happening already."

But Thiik, 62, wonders if citizens will accept such drastic changes. In Sudanese society, "the couple may not be in love at all," he said. "These are arranged marriages to create an economic network of family relations. If we change these rules, our entire society could change."

According to Akur Ajuoi, a lawyer who works with UNICEF, the push to reject these traditions has been a byproduct of the 21-year war between the Arab-dominated north and the African

south. With their husbands away fighting for long periods, women learned to manage their own farms and cattle herds.

"Now that their husbands are back, they want more rights," Ajuoi said. "There is also a lot of influence from the outside. Times are changing and women are getting enlightened. As much as we want to say that traditions are nice and are going to stay, we should leave the harmful ones behind."

Ajuoi is an example of the new outside influences. A war refugee, she was educated in Kenya and South Africa, both more modern countries where women can obtain a divorce in the courts.

Ex-Rebel to Replace Fallen Sudan Commander

The Associated Press

By Tanalee Smith

August 10, 2005

KHARTOUM, Sudan -- Salva Kiir Mayardit arrived in the Sudan's capital Wednesday to step into Sudan's No. 2 leadership post, the vacancy left by the death of his commander and partner in the southern rebel movement that is now committed to peace.

Vice President Ali Osman Mohammed Taha received the smiling, bearded Kiir, who then shook hands with many in the line and embraced some. This was believed to be the first time Kiir has come to the capital since he and the late John Garang de Mabior began their rebellion against the northern government in 1983.

Kiir was named leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement after Garang's July 30 death in a helicopter crash. He will be sworn in as first vice president and president of southern Sudan on Thursday.

"Despite the fact that we have lost our hero, the man who brought peace, Dr. John Garang, we will continue with the same vision, with the same objectives and we will implement the comprehensive peace agreement which he signed last January," Kiir said in brief comments at the airport.

"I'm appealing to all the people of Sudan, and the people from south Sudan in particular, to remain calm and not to repeat all that happened a few days ago," Kiir said.

Deadly riots broke out in Khartoum and other cities after Garang's death, which some blamed on the government. Both the government and the SPLM have said the crash was an accident, and have set up a joint committee to investigate, with international assistance.

Kiir, a popular career military man with little political experience, inherits the challenge of following the dynamic Garang in implementing that agreement, which brought an end to 21 years of civil war. It granted the south rights to its natural wealth _ oil _ and reserved the nation's second-highest political office for the leader of the SPLM.

Darfur Peace Talks To Resume On Aug. 24

Xinhua

August 10, 2005

KHARTOUM, Aug. 9 (Xinhua) -- The peace talks on Sudan's troubled Darfur region will resume in Nigerian capital Abuja on Aug. 24, a Sudanese official said on Tuesday.

Majzoub al-Khalifa, head of the Sudanese government's delegation to the Abuja talks, said African Union (AU) mediator Salim Ahmed Salim had informed the Sudanese government of the date for resumption.

Khalifa reaffirmed his government's commitment to the new round of talks, which he hopes will help solve the Darfur conflict and realize peace.

He also said he will lead the government's delegation to a meeting requested by the AU in Tanzania on Aug. 15-17 to prepare for the Abuja peace talks.

The Sudanese government and Darfur rebel groups ended the previous round of talks successfully on July 5 and signed a peace deal.

Southern Sudanese Leader Arrives in Capital to Become Vice President

The Voice of America

August 10, 2005

The leader of southern Sudan, Salva Kiir Mayardit, has arrived in the capital, Khartoum, to take his place in the national unity government following the death of his predecessor, John Garang.

Mr. Salva Kiir waved to the crowds as he stepped down from his airplane Wednesday, to greet supporters and government officials.

He is expected to be sworn in as first vice president on Thursday, filling the vacancy left by Mr. Garang.

Mr. Garang was vice president for only three weeks when he died in a helicopter crash on July 30.

Mr. Salva Kiir was Mr. Garang's longtime deputy in the southern rebel movement. He has promised to implement the peace agreement his predecessor signed this year.

The deal ended 21 years of civil war between southern rebels and the government in Khartoum.

Sudan Hits The Pause Button

The Christian Science Monitor

August 11, 2005

Just days ago, it looked as if the peace deal in Sudan that ended Africa's longest-running civil war would have a very short life.

That war - separate from the Darfur conflict and leaving more than 2 million people dead - seemed about to restart when riots recently erupted across the country.

The clashes were sparked by the death of southern rebel leader John Garang, killed in a helicopter crash July 30. The charismatic leader, who signed the peace accord ending the 21-year war between north and south in January, had just been installed as the first vice president of a new Sudanese unity government.

But for now, the gloomy scenario of a return to violence is not playing out. For that, all of the main players deserve credit: Sudan President Omar al-Beshir has promised to abide by the peace agreement "letter by letter." He also set up an internationally monitored, joint north-south investigation of the probably accidental crash. The US, the driving force behind the pact, sent two senior officials to the country and President Bush called Garang's widow to thank her for urging calm.

Also, the Sudan People's Liberation Army, which Garang led, quickly selected a new leader, Salva Kiir Mayardit. Some worry he lacks the stature of his predecessor to ensure peace. But leading a military campaign and establishing a consensus-driven civil government are two different things, and Mr. Kiir seems more suited to this than was Garang.

No one underestimates the challenges ahead. But if Sudan's north-south peace is to take root, all parties will have to follow through with the resolve they've shown lately.