H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan

Short political biography:

**1960s:** First joined southern Sudan rebels against North Sudan;
**1972:** Joined the Sudanese army, after peace deal with President Jaafar Numeiri;
**1983:** Became founder member of Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM);
**January 2005:** Involved in the conclusion of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) which ended 21 years of civil war between North and South Sudan;
**2 August 2005:** Nominated John Garang's successor as first Vice President of the Government of Sudan (GoS) and President of the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) during the transition period (January 2005 - July 2011) following Garang's sudden death in a helicopter crash;
**April 2010:** General elections in South Sudan confirming Kiir’s presidency;
**January 2011:** Referendum on Southern Sudan's self-determination overwhelmingly in favour of South Sudan’s independence;
**9 July 2011:** President of the newly independent state of the Republic of South Sudan.

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