

Argentinian President Suffers Broken Ankle, Cancels Travel Plans



Buenos Aires, December 30 (RHC-Xinhua) -- Argentinian President Cristina Fernandez suffered a broken ankle after slipping and falling at her vacation home Friday, cabinet chief Jorge Capitanich said Monday.

In his regular morning press briefing, Capitanich told reporters the president had not been warned that "a slippery liquid had been applied to the floor, and that caused a fall, which led to a fracture."

Fernandez, he said, was currently staying at the presidential residence of Olivos, and all of her meetings will be rescheduled after January 12th.

Among the president's plans was to attend Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff's swearing-in ceremony on January 1st and a trip to Vatican on the invitation of Pope Francis, to participate in the 30th anniversary marking the peace treaty that ended the Beagle conflict, a border dispute between Argentina and neighboring Chile that nearly led to war in 1978.

Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, who was to attend the ceremony, also canceled her trip after hearing about Fernandez's fall.

Fernandez, who is 61, was at her vacation home in southern Patagonia when the accident occurred. She has suffered from a series of mishaps and ailments recently that required hospitalization.

In late November, she made her first public appearance following a nearly month-long period of recovery from sigmoiditis, or inflammation of the colon. Though she was hospitalized only for about a week, doctors had recommended at least 10 days of rest.

Last year, she fell and hit her head, which required surgery to drain blood from her brain.

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