

## Foreign Ministry of Budan

The authoritarian government of Budan has been in power for decades. It is made up entirely of the country's majority ethnic group, the Dannii. The Dannii have their own culture and religion and do not accept the religion of the minority Rubits, who represent less than 20% of the country's population. The Rubits, who are among the original peoples of Budan, are from a different ethnic group and have a distinct culture and religion. Even though they are politically disadvantaged, the Rubits have been very successful economically. Conflicts between the two communities have existed for years, but the Rubits are now being overtly persecuted because of their religion.

This persecution has caused many Rubit families to flee the country of Budan, leaving behind their businesses and relatives, to seek safety in the neighboring country of Gilbia. This migration has been the unspoken goal of the government of Budan for many years. The Budanese government justifies its taxation of the Rubits by claiming Rubits use unfair business practices that allow them to dominate key sectors of the valuable information technology (IT) sector and as a result become far wealthier than others in Budan.

Budan and Gilbia have a long history of disputes over their shared 1,385-mile border which has made their political relationship very tense. Budan is much larger in terms of geography and population, economy and Gross National Product (GNP) thanks to its industry, agriculture and IT sectors. The country of Budan is a member of the United Nations and relies on the much more powerful Permanent Security Council Member Malil for economic and political support.

### Opening Position

Budan will rebut (go against) Gilbia's complaint that it is persecuting the Rubits and forcing them to cross the border into Gilbia. Budan will argue that it is not treating the Rubits any differently from its other citizens and that it has the right, like all nations, to conduct its internal affairs as it sees fit. Budan will further question the presence of the United States at these negotiations as it has no direct interests at stake in their outcome.

### Negotiation Strategy

- What elements of the status quo benefit your government? Are there elements of the status quo that do not benefit your government?
- What might incentivize your government to change its policies towards the Rubits? If an agreeable alternative/incentive is presented, what must it contain?



### FAST FACTS

Member nation of  
**United Nations**

Form of government:  
**Autocracy**

### DEMOGRAPHICS

80% Dannii  
20% Rubit

- What are the objectives of the other stakeholders? How can you use those objectives to achieve your own goals?
- Much depends on whether the Rubits crossing into Gilbia should be defined as refugees and whether your government even considers this scenario and treatment of its minority citizens to be problematic.