

Foreign Ministry of Gilbia

The democratic country of Gilbia shares a 1,385 mile border with the country of Budan. The countries were never allies and have fought often about their border. Gilbia's economy has been healthy for the last decade because of its strong service sector (banks, financial companies) and information technology (IT) fields. The 2008 worldwide recession has hit Gilbia hard, however, causing high unemployment and a large deficit in the national budget. The 2,000 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)-sponsored refugee tents in the west of the country are putting a strain on resources and making the people of Gilbia angry. The press is also criticizing Budanese refugees and blaming them for an increase in crime and disease. Gilbia is a member of the United Nations and enjoys a strong relationship with the United States. Over the last decade, the United States has invested billions of dollars into the Gilbian economy which has strengthened the economic and political relationship between the two nations. The flood of refugees arriving from Budan, however, threatens to undo these valuable investments and may cripple the Gilbian economy for a generation.

Opening Position

Gilbia has asked for a meeting among relevant parties to be held to determine how to halt the flow of the thousands of refugees crossing into Gilbia from Budan. Gilbia is seeking a solution to the crisis and U.S. sanctions leveled against Budan for persecuting the Rubits. Gilbia will accuse Budan of persecuting the Rubits for their religion and for creating the crisis in the first place. Gilbia will therefore demand that Budan take the lead in addressing the refugee status of its own Budanese Rubit citizens and point out that Budan has the economic strength to do so. Gilbia will also accuse Budan of using the Rubit's religion as an excuse to punish them for their economic success.

Negotiation Strategy

- Consider your short and long-term goals regarding the Rubit migration into your nation. Is a short-term, stop gap solution enough?
- If achievable, what other agreements with Budan and the other stakeholders might address the refugee crisis and benefit your nation in the long run?
- How can you provide shelters and protection for refugee Rubits in your country given limited national resources?
- What are the objectives of the other stakeholders? How can you use those objectives to achieve your own goals?



FAST FACTS

Member nation of
United Nations

Form of government:
Democracy

ECONOMY

Exports
Information Tech
Accounting
Financial Services

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.

U.S. Department of State

The State Department leads the United States in its relationships with foreign governments, international organizations, and the people of other countries. It aims to promote the security, prosperity and interests of the American people around the world. It does so by creating American jobs through support for open markets for U.S. companies; by issuing passports and providing emergency assistance to U.S. citizens abroad; by negotiating treaties to reduce nuclear weapons and equipping countries to respond to their own security challenges; by helping countries with health, food and humanitarian crises; by promoting stability, peace and human rights; and by increasing understanding of American society and values.

The United States has had relations with both Budan and Gilbia for over a century, but the U.S. relationship with Gilbia has always been warmer. Budan, in contrast, remains closer to the influential nation of Malil. The U.S. has moderately staffed embassies in both countries, and the number of American citizens living in Budan and Gilbia is small. The United States is a member of the United Nations and is one of the Permanent Five (Perm5) members of the Security Council. The United States is also the biggest donor to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), contributing hundreds of millions of dollars annually. Additionally, the United States has historically accepted many refugees for resettlement.

The U.S. Congress has remained unwilling to pass the President's budget and as a result, local agencies who handle refugee resettlement programs have almost closed for lack of funds. Nongovernmental organizations (the Association for Refugee and Minorities [ARM] included) continue to run heart-wrenching television ads showing Rubit refugees and appealing to Americans and their government's responsibility to defend religious minorities. Members of Congress, pressured by both Dannii and Rubit immigrant populations in their districts, are beginning to raise the issue.

Over the last decade, the United States has invested billions of dollars into the Gilbian economy, which has strengthened the relationship between the two nations. The new flood of Rubit refugees crossing over into Gilbia however, threatens the strength of the Gilbian economy, the investments of the United States, trade, U.S. jobs, and stability in the region.

Opening Position

The United States will defend the right to religious freedom and criticize Budan for persecuting the Rubits. The President and Secretary of State have given your team great leeway in supporting the refugees as you see fit, citing both American financial support for the UNHCR and longstanding U.S. support for refugees worldwide. The United States will note that the region including Budan and Gilbia is currently under great



FAST FACTS

Perm5

member of the **UN Security Council**

70,000

total global refugees
accepted into U.S.
this year

internal strain and should not become an area for further conflict between the external powers (i.e. Malil and the United States).

Negotiation Strategy

- How should the Department of State react to the concerns of Budan and Gilbia, ARM and the UNHCR? The United States has significant interests and partnerships with all groups as well as other pressing concerns around the globe.
- How can you encourage better economic and political relations between the Governments of Budan and Gilbia while protecting minority groups at the same time?
- How many refugees are you willing to accept given that the United States has already taken in approximately 70,000 refugees this past year and processing takes on average 18-24 months?
- Finally, Malil (a close ally of Budan and a Security Council member) almost always opposes the United States in the geopolitical arena. The relationship is complex and needs to be managed with care.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly. The UNHCR coordinates international action to protect refugees and acts as a global leader in resolving refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees and to work to make sure that citizens of all nations can exercise the right to seek asylum and to find safety in another country if the need arises. Under international law, refugees have the right to return to their home nation, become a part of the community to which they have fled, or move to another country. UNHCR encourages voluntary repatriation, or return, as the best solution for displaced people. The agency often provides transportation and other assistance, such as money, tools and seeds. Occasionally, UNHCR helps rebuild homes, schools and roads.

Because so many Rubits (10,000) left Budan so suddenly, the government of Gilbia was not able to respond adequately. Therefore the UNHCR and its partners moved life-saving emergency assistance such as clean water, health care resources, as well as shelter materials (tents), into the west of Gilbia near the border with Budan. Among the relief items are blankets, sleeping mattresses, household goods and food. The UNHCR can provide refugee registration, assistance and advice on asylum applications, education and counseling. Conditions, however, are far from ideal. Supplies are limited; the rain and other extreme weather never stop; and the refugees remain in miserable living conditions.

Opening Position

The UNHCR will state its concerns about the refugees currently in Gilbia, note that it has brought in only 2,000 tents and emergency supplies and inform all parties that its resources are at capacity. It will remind all stakeholders that refugees continue to cross the Gilbian-Budanese border in large numbers and that the UNHCR cannot resolve this crisis alone. The UNHCR will therefore ask the countries of the world, and especially UN Security Council members, to make additional pledges of donations, emergency supplies, personnel, equipment, and vaccines to enable the UNHCR to respond effectively to this humanitarian crisis.

Negotiation Strategy

- How can you convince other nations to contribute their resources in resolving this crisis? What are the objectives of the other stakeholders? How can you use those objectives to achieve your own goals?
- In what ways can you act as a neutral party to resolve conflicts between rival stakeholders while



FAST FACTS

Established in

1950

2019 budget:

\$8.6B

achieving your primary goal of protecting the refugees?

- Your primary objective in the early rounds of negotiation should be to provide immediate care and relief supplies for those refugees currently in Gilbia.
- In later rounds, determine if your more long-term priorities can be negotiated: where can refugees in Gilbia be relocated; how to stop the flow of refugees; can protection for the Rubits within Budan be achieved.
- Remember that a partial solution, however seemingly unsatisfactory, is preferable to no solution at all.

Foreign Ministry of Malil

The country of Malil is approximately the same geographic size as the United States. It has a large army and an authoritarian (strong single party) government. Malil has a significant influence in the region surrounding Budan and Gilbia and wields economic and political power worldwide. Budan has been in Malil's orbit (influence) for many years and receives consistent foreign aid from the Malilian government. Malil does not give high priority to religious freedom or to the rights of minorities, and contributes minimally to refugee assistance worldwide. Budan and Malil are strong allies and have worked together on many issues. Malil supports Budan's national integrity, sovereignty, and right to decide what is best for its people.

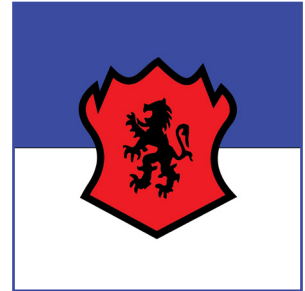
Opening Position

Malil will support Budan, affirm its desire to resolve this issue and emphasize the right of all nations to internal integrity and sovereignty. Malil will criticize the United States for trying to make the region a conflict zone and meddle in the internal affairs of foreign countries.

The possibility of relocating a number of Rubits to Malil is an option for your Ministry, but high ethnic tensions could consequently undermine your own national stability if too many refugees are brought in. Currently, Malil questions the refugee status of the Rubits and considers them economic migrants seeking better lives in another country rather than as victims fleeing persecution. Malil, like the United States, is a member of the United Nations and a permanent member of the UN Security Council. The two countries are usually on opposite sides of any given issue. It is often in the best interest of Malil to offer support and economic aid to Budan if needed given the historic partnership the two countries have enjoyed.

Negotiation Strategy

- How can you minimize the influence of the United States in the region while simultaneously preserving your own?
- What are the objectives of the other stakeholders? How can you use those objectives to achieve your own goals? Can you resolve the crisis at hand while minimizing your own contribution?
- If your nation's funds and supplies are distributed to Rubits in Gilbia, who or what organizations will ensure those resources are being distributed properly?
- Your ultimate priority is preserving stability in the region with minimal involvement. However, as a last resort, your government has authorized you to (1) offer economic assistance to Budan so they may address this issue on their border and (2) accept a limited number of Rubits into Malil on the condition that the Budanese delegation defers to your leadership in shaping any final agreement



FAST FACTS

Perm5

member of the **UN Security Council**

Form of government:

Autocracy

Association for Refugees and Minorities (ARM)

The Association for Refugees and Minorities (ARM) is a non-governmental organization (NGO), an advocacy group similar to Greenpeace or Amnesty International, whose mission is to increase worldwide education in and awareness of global refugee issues. ARM is based in New York and has active supporters around the world. In the United States, ARM members lobby members of Congress, the State Department and the President on minority rights and protections of refugees. The organization recently ran a successful campaign to boycott businesses that discriminated against refugees in their employment practices.

The NGO has brought attention to persecuted communities in the darkest corners of the globe (and loudly publicized their success in doing so). It has a significant budget with endowments from several American foundations and film celebrities and can act internationally when needed.

ARM has lobbied for the rights of Budan's minorities for many years. The organization has experienced minimal success with the Government of Budan during this time and has found more success instead in attracting international attention to the plight of Rubit Budanese. A star-studded concert last week in downtown Manhattan drew attention to the problem of Budan's Rubit minority population, and American and European youth are now wearing orange bracelets and leading social media campaigns to express their solidarity with Budan's beleaguered minority.

Opening Position

The representative of ARM pleads for action to protect the Rubits, the Budan minority who are being persecuted by Budan for their religion. ARM will speak at length about the terrible suffering and horrific human rights situation in the refugee camps in the country of Gilbia.

Negotiation Strategy

- Neither the UNHCR nor ARM wants to be on different sides of this issue.
- The UNHCR and ARM need to work together, but as an official United Nations agency the UNHCR must remain officially neutral and may be content with a partial solution.
- ARM, on the other hand, is clearly aligned with the Rubits and remains focused on gathering support for the group worldwide.



FAST FACTS

Based in
New York City

2019 budget:

\$38M