

## **Commander General (Lead Negotiator) (M)**

### *Alliance for Freedom and Democracy*

#### **Background**

You are the son of a Nurul businessman and were born in the capital city of Caana. As a young man, you were an early member of the Danaan Liberation Front. Due to your aptitude for military strategy you quickly became one of the independence movement's leaders. Following independence, you held a high rank in the Danaanian Army where you saw how the Nurul and Warod people continued to be marginalized and mistreated. After voicing your concerns, you were forced into early retirement.

As a result of growing frustration toward the DPP-led government, you began quietly assembling your former network of Nurul and Warod soldiers from the Danaan Liberation Front. In 1995 this group became the Alliance for Freedom and Democracy (AFD) and you have been one its top commanders since that time. You helped create the AFD because you were tired of seeing Nurul and Warod communities starved and sidelined. All Danaanians fought together for independence, yet the Tarim elite stole all the wealth and power for themselves. You feel personally insulted by the DPP's false promises and believe that the only way to achieve justice is by taking up arms and removing the DPP from power.

While a final date and time has not been set for the formal peace talks to begin, you have agreed to meet the government delegation in person at some point in time to discuss the power sharing provisions of the peace agreement. This meeting will take place in Abayo (the capital of Trumont) and will include the Joint Mediation Team, the parties, and the Contact Group as observers. This structure has been tentatively agreed upon by both sides, but is not set in stone. Any changes to the structure and/or configuration of actors would require agreement by the parties.

#### **What you hope to accomplish**

Your goal is to ensure AFD members are appointed to senior level positions in the government and the military, positions that will give them substantive political, economic, and security decision-making authority. The AFD must also have a meaningful share of power in the legislature as well. You can live with 45% representation in the Transitional Legislative Assembly, but you would much rather prefer 50-55% representation for the AFD. You want to make sure that the final agreement creates checks on government power to end the endemic corruption that has plagued Danaan since independence.

You want to be fully recognized in a top-level position, preferably the Presidency and only the Vice Presidency if it contains substantive powers. Members of the AFD must also secure influential posts in the cabinet (e.g., defense, finance, interior). Your ultimate goal is to win the next presidential election and will use the peace talks to establish your presence on the national political stage.

While natural resources are to be discussed later, you have strong feelings about the oil refineries. You have seen how the DDP has exploited the oil fields with no regard for the communities living there or the environmental repercussions. You want to make sure the DPP does not continue to maintain this control. More importantly, you want to see a more equitable distribution of the wealth from the oil industry. Spreading the wealth will make you look good and will increase your popularity, but it will also reduce your control of the oil profits.

You also want to meet with members of the Contact Group. They can be useful allies and sources of technical and financial support. The AFD has been supported quietly by the US for years and you hope to continue this relationship.

Some in the international community are keen on increasing women and civil society's participation in the peace process, but this type of 'inclusion' is not a high priority for you. While inclusion could help boost your popularity, it could also increase the number of competing interests and reduce your control of the situation. However, if the US Special Envoy pushes for inclusion, you might consider it, since the US is a strategic partner. You know of several qualified women from the AFD women's brigades who could join the negotiation delegation or serve in a cabinet position.

### **Capacity to create change**

You command a powerful army, so if things don't go your way you can always resort to taking up arms again. As the leader of the AFD, your cooperation is necessary for peace negotiations to succeed and you know that the government is under increased pressure from its international allies to come to an agreement. You also have support from the Nurul and Warod communities who believe in your cause.

You may want to flex muscle once in a while and exercise carefully orchestrated skirmishes or threats to remind the government negotiators what is at stake. The Lead Mediator may plead with you to cease these activities; when he does, put on a great show and say that your troops are restless for a solution that favors your people. You are charismatic, charming, and have excellent public relations instincts (e.g., doing a photo shoot with smiling children before the peace talks).

### **Relationships with other roles**

You and the Government's Minister of Defense fought together for independence. You like him but cannot fully trust him - he represents the government after all.

Your vice negotiator is a young but very clever fellow. You admire his drive, but want to make sure he understands that you are in charge. He has ordered and led some of the most brutal attacks against Tarim civilians, including the 2013 Saturday market bombing. You can use this information as leverage over him if he starts getting out of control, as he is afraid of being labeled the instigator of violence.

You've personally known the leader of the Danaan Interfaith Dialogue Group since the independence struggle and look to him for religious guidance. You've never met the Executive Director of 4Peace, but know of the valuable work that 4Peace is doing.

You met with the Joint Mediation Team (JMT) as you worked with them to put together the draft peace agreement. In that process, you met privately with members of the JMT on numerous occasions and expressed your demands. At the time, you felt that they understood your needs. However, once you saw the draft agreement, it became clear that they took little of what you said into account. You are so far unhappy with their performance. You knew the Lead Mediator from the informal dialogue processes that took place before these talks. Back then he was a man you trusted, a man who had integrity. You wonder if he has become soft, too political, and afraid to get his hands dirty with this new promotion. When you meet with the JMT, you want to reiterate your demands and make clear where the agreement falls short.