

Lieutenant Commander (Vice Negotiator) (M)

Alliance for Freedom and Democracy

Background

You are the son of a Warod father and a Tarim mother and thus grew up with friends across ethnic lines. While you were abroad at university, tensions in Danaan grew. The government responded to the Alliance for Freedom and Democracy (AFD) guerrilla campaign by raiding Nurul and Warod homes in the capital, your family home among them. Your parents survived the raids but became IDPs temporarily. You cut your studies short and returned to Danaan, wanting to fight for the rights of those oppressed by the government's brutality. You became politically active and joined the AFD. When supplies began dwindling in the late 1990s, you were able to use your connections in Tilest to secure arms and funds, which boosted the AFD's campaign.

You are respected for your political savvy and many within the AFD leadership consider you a top strategic thinker. When the AFD agreed to peace talks you were selected as a negotiator because of your clever way with words and your critical thinking skills. You emphasize your ethnic identity as Warod within AFD, not wanting to be seen to be pro-government. You ordered many of the most atrocious attacks on Tarim civilians, including the 2013 Saturday market bomb blast, to appease the hard-liners in the group, and because you felt the need to continuously prove your loyalty. For those outside the AFD, however, you want to conceal your role in the attacks. When your mother confronted you about the civilian deaths, you denied knowing anything about it.

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 members of 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 present at the talks would require agreement by the parties and support by the Contact Group.

What you hope to accomplish

You share many interests with your fellow AFD negotiator. You want to ensure that all Danaanians have equal rights. The Tarim elite have too long controlled your country and you are ready for all members of society, especially the Nurul and Warod people, to have a voice. You are deeply dedicated to this mission and believe that civil society, and especially women leaders, can be an important representative of the people. However, not all civil society groups are created equal. Only those civil society groups who represent Nurul and Warod interests have a key role to play in the peace process; you have no problem with incorporating members of these groups into your delegation or forming an advisory council. They deserve to have their voices heard. You also hope that showing a strong dedication to raising the voices of the people will detract from your past attacks on civilians and show that you are a man of the people.

Your shared AFD agenda is to ensure AFD members are appointed to senior level positions in the government, positions that will give them substantive input into major political policy, economic, and security decisions. 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. Members of the AFD must also secure influential posts in the cabinet (e.g., defense, finance, interior).

You and the Commander General have also agreed that the final agreement should create checks on government power and end the endemic corruption and nepotism that has plagued Danaan since independence. Specifically, you want to see term limits curbed; President Nam's grip on power is setting a dangerous precedent. Further, President Nam has orchestrated countless atrocities against your people. You cannot accept the idea of him remaining in office, even in the transitional period. Any resulting agreement must remove him from power completely.

You have not yet met with any members of the Contact Group, although you are interested in meeting with the US Special Envoy. The AFD has been supported quietly by the US for years, and you believe the US Special Envoy may be able to help you make sure your needs are met.

Capacity to create change

Given international pressure on the DPP government to come to an agreement, the AFD's unpredictability as a rebel group, you are confident that you have enough leverage to ensure that most of your demands are met. The AFD has support from many in the Nurul and Warod communities, even if some disagree with your methods. The AFD's decision to take part in the peace talks has changed its image in the community from a violent armed group to a more moderate movement. You hope that, given this shift, the international community will pay less attention to the Saturday market attack you ordered in 2013. You have been paying some local journalists to refer to you as the "great hope at the peace table". This change has helped solidify your support base and has given you, and the AFD, added legitimacy as political opponents to the current regime.

Relationships with other roles

The Commander General is one of the old guard of the AFD - you respect him but believe he can sometimes be stubborn and old-fashioned in his approach. He knows about the role you've played in carrying out attacks on Tarim civilians, so you must be careful to not anger him enough to say something about it publicly.

You have met with the Joint Mediation Team (JMT) previously, when you worked to draft the initial peace agreement. In that process, you met with members of the JMT privately on numerous occasions. In those private meetings, you expressed your demands to the JMT, and 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. The Commander General knew the Lead Mediator from the informal dialogue processes that took place before these talks, and had spoken highly of him. But, now the Commander General seems exceedingly frustrated and disappointed in the Lead Mediator based on this draft agreement. When you meet with the JMT, you want to reiterate your demands and make clear where the draft agreement falls short.

You grew up with the vice chair of the Peace Action Group for Danaan. He's an old friend, so when he reached out about setting up a meeting with the leader of his organization, you readily agreed. You have agreed to meet sometime today.