

Peace Action Group for Danaan Representative (M)

Background

You are a respected Tarim community leader in Mos and member of the Peace Action Group for Danaan. Prior to the war, you were a biology professor at one of the best universities in Danaan. Although you are Tarim, you are sympathetic to the Alliance for Freedom and Democracy (AFD). You believe that a government should act in the interest of all its people, not only a small minority. However, you oppose the AFD's tactics; violence is not the way to end inequality and government repression. You have been advocating for an end to Danaan's endemic violence throughout the civil war.

You have personally been struck by the senseless tragedy of this war: numerous battles have taken place in your city resulting in many casualties, irreparable damage to buildings, and the forced displacement of your friends and neighbors. This destruction and disorder is what led you to become one of the co-founders of the Peace Action Group.

In 2008, you and other respected academics along with religious and business leaders in Mos founded Peace Action Group. The Group's mission is to bring people together from across all ethnic groups to engage in dialogue and seek ways to work together to end the violence and hatred. Peace Action Group has organized conferences and rallies around the country, publicly opposing the violent tactics used by the government and AFD and developing policy papers on how to move the peace process forward. Peace Action Group currently has 80 members (75 men, five women), representing Warod, Tarim, and Nurul communities.

In addition to these activities, you have also worked with the Danaan Interfaith Dialogue Group (DIDG) on community-level peace and reconciliation efforts and have built a friendship with its leader. DIDG and Peace Action Group complement each other in that both organizations are advocating for a more inclusive peace process and both have expansive networks throughout Danaan.

What you hope to accomplish

You believe that a coalition among diverse civil society leaders across all identity groups is necessary for rebuilding Danaan's social fabric. Such a coalition would ensure that attention is brought to all affected communities across Danaan. Additionally, it is very important that community leaders, such as yourself, are included in the design and implementation of the peace agreement. Community leaders are best positioned to represent their constituents' interests and will give voice to all members of their constituency. Elected members of parliament have proven to be poor conduits for communicating community needs.

You want to see an end to the conflict in Danaan and you truly believe that civil society participation is vital for creating a sustainable peace agreement. Peace Action Group has set an example of what civil society can accomplish through its local dialogue and trust building initiatives. You want to secure a leading role for the Peace Action Group at the peace talks. Peace Action Group could, for example, organize civil society representatives into an advisory group that feeds ideas and perspectives into

the talks. You also believe that civil society should have a greater role in the transitional government, which could include cabinet seats or other official positions for civil society representatives.

You are traveling to Abayo (the capital of Trumont), where the peace process is ongoing. You would like the opportunity to meet with members of the Contact Group, because you believe they are more likely to be receptive to your calls for inclusion. You know they are financially supporting the negotiations and could influence the mediator and the parties. You would also like to communicate your message to the Joint Mediation Team. The leader of DIDG is very well connected, and as a close colleague, you may consider asking him to help connect you with these officials.

Capacity to create change

Based on your work as a community leader with Peace Action Group, you have gained significant trust and respect among all sectors of society. Your close relationship with the leader of DIDG may also be an advantage. He is well known and highly respected among many of the top officials at the peace talks.

Relationships with other roles

You have worked closely with DIDG and respect their commitment to bridging religious divides in Danaan. DIDG could be a strong partner for Peace Action Group, as it also commands great respect among Danaanian communities and internationals.

Your vice chair and the AFD Lieutenant Commander grew up together and have a warm relationship. The vice chair set up a meeting between you and the Lieutenant Commander for today, but also warned you to avoid talking about your ethnic identity, since you are Tarim.

You don't know anyone in the government personally, but you've heard that the Minister of Interior knows of Peace Action Group. You aren't sure how he feels about your work, so you'd like to build his trust and show him that Peace Action Group is committed to sustainable peace, not one side or the other.

You're familiar with other NGOs working in Danaan such as 4Peace and the Danaan Women's Unity League. While you agree that the new government should include women, you think the entire NGO community should be advocating for greater civil society representation in general and not necessarily limit their advocacy to getting women to the table. The peace process is not an appropriate time to push for women's inclusion. Personally, you believe that a woman's role is in the home. Women should focus on raising the next generation of Danaanians and rebuilding communal ties. Politics are best handled by men who are less fickle and bring less emotion to the negotiation table.