



News Front Page



Africa
Americas
Asia-Pacific

Equatorial Cyberspace

Europe
Middle East
South Asia
UK
Business
Health
Science/Nature
Technology
Entertainment

Have Your Say
In Pictures
Week at a Glance
Country Profiles
In Depth
Programmes



What is RSS?

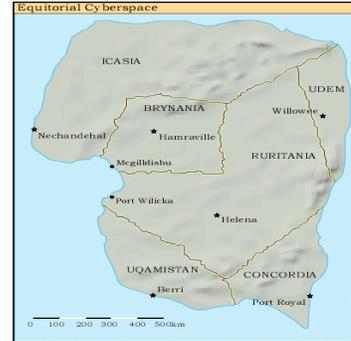


Equatorial Cyberspace

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Brynanian approaches ceasefire agreement

As Brynanian's government and rebel leaders work out a potential ceasefire, civilians wonder what this means for them?



In Biku, the market bustles with an air of caution. The people here still fear sporadic attacks from Zaharian rebel groups. While the fighting is not as intense as in the surrounding areas, those who live here are tired and are looking for peace.

Jenu, a rug dealer, fears that economic impact of the civil war will be so great that it may never recover, at least not in his lifetime. "The people hear are scared to come out. I haven't sold a rug in months! But that is good, because I do not know where I would get new rugs to sell. No one wants to trade. No one has money, and everyone who did left! Peace would be good, but I don't think things are going to change."

Economics is not what matters to many though. Marisa's son and daughter both left home to fight in civil war against the Zaharian rebels. At first she wanted to see victory for the Brn people, but now she just wants her children back. "I have not heard from my children in weeks," she says, "I want to know that they are not fighting in vain, but it comes to a point where you no longer care for the outcome."

Yet outcomes are still all that others care about. Kriston and Kare are two Ophug fighters. They have been career soldiers, leaving their schooling early for the cause. Semi-literate, they do not want to see the fighting end because they fear there will be little opportunities for them elsewhere. "All we know is how to be a soldier," says Kare, "it is a position of respect, and I don't want to do anything else." "There is nothing I can't get just by saying I want it," adds Kriston, "a soldier means freedom with power. People do what I say. I don't want to work for no one."



There are currently approximately 37,300 armed militia members in the state of Brynania, and 21,300 members of the Armed Forces of Brynania alone. Should a peace agreement be reached, much of the focus will have to be placed disarming and reintegrating the former combatants. Focus must be placed on aid and development geared towards vocational training as well as psychological healthcare. The sentiment is that without this, peace may never be reached.



Jenu is a rug dealer in Biku. "Peace would be good. But I don't think things are going to change"

Soldiers will not be the only people who will require special rehabilitation. After decades of hate, the people of Brynania need to reconcile their differences and build their nation together. However, the pain is still real for many. "I'm not sure I could have a Zaharian as my neighbour," says Sara, a Brn-Bryanian. "My father was taken away by Zaharian forces when I was child. He never returned. I still have a lot of hate." It is evident that in many parts of Brynania people are tired of fighting, but the question remains whether they will be willing to forgive.

Optimism for peace extends outside of the country as well. President Misha Iokheles of Ruritania expressed that she hopes to see a return to rule of law, and good governance in Brynania. However, she is careful to point out that the international community must stay neutral in their support. "Civil wars are touchy issues. One cannot show favouritism. Favouritism is grounds for not coming to the table." Her words are chosen carefully, after criticising neighbouring Uqamistan for aiding Zaharian rebel groups.



SRSJ Jay Potter is hopeful that the two sides will come to an agreement.

The Special Rapporteur to the Secretary General, Jay Potter shows confidence that his work throughout his time as SRSJ will culminate in a peace agreement. But there is still much work to be done. It is imperative that cooperation is shown not only amongst the people of Brynania and the states of Equatorial Cyberspace alone. The international community on a whole must work to coordinate the necessary efforts to rebuild this war torn country and maintain regional stability, should a ceasefire be reached.