

PIONEER'S MOOTCOURT HUB  
INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW  
MOOT-PROBLEM  
2026

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#### THE BHANG` ONDI CRISIS

1. The Independent Republic of Miken `Miken´ is a landlocked country located in the southern part of the Continent of Monanka. Miken borders the United Republic of Flinton to the east, the Free State of Baharida to the north, the Democratic Republic of Mamica to the west and the People`s Republic of Kiribo to the South. Kinyobu, the capital of Miken, is one of the fast-growing cities in Monanka, and home to dozens of international organisations. All four states except Mamica are members of the Monanka Free Area Union (MOFAU).

#### MAMICA

2. The Democratic Republic of Mamica is a mid-technologically advanced state with a GDP of \$40.2 billion and an estimated population of 25 million people. Evidence of some of the earliest human tools are found in Mamica which is also regarded as the “cradle of humanity”. It has a strong constitution, democratic elected government and independent judicial body. The Military Index Report released by the International Military Ranking Society (IMRS) ranked Mamica the first in military capability in the region of Monanka.
3. Mamica is headed by a self-established and charismatic leader, Ms. Luciana Ochugu. Under her leadership, Mamica has witnessed fast industrial and technological development in Monanka. Mamica and Miken enjoy close ties that started when Mamica helped the State of Miken defeat the Imperial State of Bangloria colonialists during Miken`s struggle for independence. Ms. Luciana Ochugu and President Anuwar are both committed to sustain the prevailing diplomatic relationship between Mamica and Miken

#### BAHARIDA

4. The Free State of Baharida is a developing country with a GDP of \$3.1 billion based on farming, tourism, and production of textiles. It is a secular and a democratic country with a democratic elected government and an ethnically homogeneous population. The Free State of Baharida has in several times being referred as an island of peace in the region of Monanka since its independence in 1982.

#### KIRIBO

5. The People`s Republic of Kiribo is one of Monanka`s fastest growing economies. It has undeniable natural beauty and attractive national parks, the home of some worlds exotic animals which make it a very popular tourist destination. The country has vast deposits of copper, gold and diamond which have always been well exploited. This has allowed Kiribo to become not only a fast-growing country but also to build strong economy. The MOFAU Headquarters is situated in Kiribo.

#### FLINTON

6. The United Republic of Flinton is a small landlocked country which has a population of approximately 12 million people with its capital city in Flintonia. Flinton is striving to rebuild its economy. Its vision is to become middle-income country and the home of investment.
7. Several reports by the regional and international observers have in several times indicated the involvement of Flinton in supporting and financing Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) operating in different parties of the region of Monanka.
8. According to the Military Index Report released by the International Military Ranking Society (IMRS), the United Republic of Flinton is ranked second in military capability in Monanka Region behind the Democratic Republic of Mamica.

#### MIKEN

9. The population of Miken is approximately ranging from 25 to 40 million people composed of four main ethnic groups namely Bhanchugu, Bhangubho, Bharendwi and

Bhang`ondi who make up 35%, 5%, 10% and 50% of the population respectively. The Bhanchugu 2 though few, are often the most dominant ethnic group in Miken followed by the Bhang`ondi.

10. Miken is divided into four main counties namely Kinyobu, Ajkuna, Marigo and Itiribe. Itiribe County is located in southern Miken and has long before independence been the home to the Bhang`ondi people. The region is fertile and rich in resources with abundant presence of gold, diamonds, oil, timber and coltan, which many groups, inside and outside Miken have continually sought to exploit.
11. The Independent Republic of Miken gained independence on 15 November 1980 from the Imperial State of Bangloria (ISB). The struggle for independence was led by the Miken Freedom and Liberation Army (MFLA), a nationalist movement primarily comprising of people of the Bhanchugu tribe. Immediately after independence, General Ofene Kinyunyi, one of MFLA`s most revered commanders became the first president of Miken. During his early days, General Ofene introduced a discriminatory policy against members of other tribes in Miken especially Bhang`ondi stating that Bhanchugu who fought for independence had “earned the first right to the newly liberated land”. He began redistributing land previously held by colonial settlers to former MFLA members. During his tenure, 90% of all state and public officials were of the Bhanchugu tribe. As a result, after independence, the Bhanchugu people became the landowning and business elite. By 1990s, approximately 10 out of 12 large plantations that were previously owned by Bangloria imperialist were now owned by members of the Bhanchugu tribe.
12. On 02 February 1998, Minister of Mineral and Oil Resources, Ms. Otkin a member of Bhanchugu tribe announced that large oil and mineral deposits had been discovered in the Itiribe County. The national government began forcibly acquiring land from rural Bhang`ondi peasants to pave way for oil and gold extraction. The government also appointed a Miken first son, Gachui Ofene as the Director General of Miken Mineral Commission (MIMCO) in the county. Under the leadership of Mr. Gachui Ofene, Miken became the powerhouse of oil and mineral export in Monanka, with most of the gold 3

extracted from a single mine, the Mogesa Gold Mine, which is found in Southern Itiribe and is the most important gold mine in Miken and in Monanka.

13. Even though Itiribe County is endowed with natural resources, most of its inhabitants are severely impoverished. The revenue earned from the exportation of oil, gold and diamonds from the County goes to the central government in Miken's Capital, Kinyobu. This has resulted to a lot of resentment against the government in Miken. Since independence, Bhangondi ethnic leaders have always murmured in private that they are excluded from the political, economic, social, and administrative management of the country. It is true, however, that the frustration of waiting to reap the rewards of growth has been shared by the general population.
14. In 2005, President, General Ofene Kinyunyi decided to end his 25 years of presidency voluntarily, to what he called Kung`atuka in Bhangugu`s mother tongue and called for the first general election in Miken. President Raven Dove, a member of Bhangugu tribe became the first democratically elected since independence, and Anuwar Rahin as the vice president.
15. Unlike President General Ofene, President Raven Dove strongly believed in potential of creating a secular state with freedom, equality, non-tribalism, and respect to all human beings. During her reign, almost 62% of all state and public officials were from the other three ethnic groups. The years of President Raven Dove`s administration marked a very strong prosperous period for Miken in general. Bhang`ondi, Bhangubho, and Barendwi members became confident with president Raven Dove, however, for Bhangugu the situation was different. They opposed and criticized her administration, for what they said, she was a traitor to the freedom fighters, Bhangugu.
16. Unfortunately, on 15 November 2006, during the anniversary of twenty-six years of Miken`s independence, six Bhangugu extremists all wearing army uniforms, stepped in front of the reviewing stand and assassinated President Raven Dove as she reviews troops shouting "Betrayer" and "Thief". 20 other people also died in the attack.
17. After the assassination of President Raven Dove, Mr. Anuwar Rahin, the vice president, also a member of Bhangugu tribe, assumed leadership of the country in accordance

with Independence Constitution of Miken Revised Edition of 2005. He introduced a discriminatory policy known as “Freedom Fighters (Permanent Protection) Policy” and targeted laws which explicitly excluded other tribe members from public offices, rights to own land, right to association and assembly and right to own mineral rights. The Miken People`s Defence Force (MPDF), which was highly comprising of Bhang`ondi members supported President Anuwar Rahin and enhanced his power. NGOs including Miken Human Rights Centre (MHRC) reported several human rights violations in Miken and called for the government to respect citizens` political, social, and civil rights regardless of their ethnicity, tribe, race or religious.

18. On 5 May 2010, a civil protest movement led by ethnic leaders of Bhang`ondi developed in response to the Miken government human rights violations. The peasants organized peaceful demonstrations against the discriminative policy of President Anuwar Rahin, Bhang`ondi mine workers also joined the protest demanding fairer wages, better working conditions and an end to all discriminatory policies against the Bhang`ondi people in all spheres of life and public administration. In addition, the Bhang`ondi people demanded a Supreme Court of Miken to declare all discriminative laws and policies null and void and compel the Miken`s government to change those bad laws.
19. Deployment of 450 police was the response of the national government to the peaceful protest. The protests were marked with widespread incidents of police violence, including use of pepper sprays, teargas, flash-bangs and rubber bullets, Hundreds of protestors were arrested and detained without trial. The investigative report of the Radio Freedom of Itiribe indicated that at least 2 people were killed and 40 injured. The Minister of Information and Communication also signed an executive order banning all media houses from covering the protests or commenting on the issues raised by the protestors as this would amount to “incitement to violence”. Between June and August of 2012, five 5 investigative journalists who had been arrested in connection with their reporting disappeared without a trace. They have not been heard from since.

## The Bhang`ondi Liberation Front Party (BLFP)

20. Against this background, the Bhang`ondi Liberation Front Party (BLFP) was formed on 13 February 2013. The party was composed of several thousand Bhang`ondi peasants whose land had been compulsorily acquired by the state without compensation and Bhang`ondi mine workers. A charismatic most-educated young leader, son of one of ethnic leader of Bhang`ondi, Mr. Mokare Nyaturya, known simply to the Bhang`ondi as the “Comrade” became the leader of the party under the promise to end discrimination and violations against the Bhang`ondi in Miken.
21. On 30 August 2013, Comrade Mokare called for demonstrations all over Itiribe County to demand for the release of the protestors, members of the Bhang`ondi peasants and miners who were arrested and detained during civil protest movement. During the initial call to protests, the “Comrade” asked all protestors to remain calm and avoid violence in championing for their cause. In response, President Anuwar Rahin remarked that any persons found attending any form of public gathering in Itiribe would face the wrath of the security forces. Comrade Mokare responded to this statement by stating as follows:

*“The government of President Anuwar Rahin is pushing us to violence. We were interested in a diplomatic, smooth and violence-free process, but this government is so used to oppressing the Bhang`ondi people that it cannot fathom that we are finally standing up for ourselves. It seems that the only language this government understands is that of violence. We are also fluent in that language. We shall not back down. The struggle is on” .*

22. On 31 August 2013, thousands of men, women, and children, armed with crude weapons, including clubs, slingshots, petrol bombs, Molotov cocktails, and flammable liquids used for arson were in the road demonstrating against the discriminative actions of the government of Miken and president Anuwar Rahin`s statement. The Minister of Home Affairs deployed 300 armed police members to control the situation.
23. The Miken Broadcasting cooperation (MBC) reported the extreme use of force by police members deployed to suppress demonstrations. According to it, dozens of protests

were seriously injured, and at least 6 people were killed. At the same time 3 police members were killed and other 32 suffered serious injuries. Human Rights Organizations in Monanka issued several statements condemning the Miken government on serious violations of human rights, however the government did not respond to such condemnation.

#### The Bhang`ondi Liberation and Rebellion Army (BLRA)

24. On 1 December 2014, General Busisa Matrich, a member of Bhang`ondi tribe, the former Chief of Staff for Miken People`s Defence Force (MPDF) was dismissed from the military service of MPDF, thereafter, various MPDF troops, mostly the Bhang`ondi tribe members deserted with him. General Busisa and his troops joined the Bhang`ondi Liberation Front Party (BLFP) to fight for the rights of the Bhang`ondi in Miken.
25. General Busisa Matrich began advocating for the use of more violent means to champion their cause. As a result, during the general meeting of BLFP in its headquarters at Bosambe Municipal in Itiribe County was divided into two wings: the political wing led by Comrade Mokare, and military wing superseded by General Busisa. The military wing insisted that the violence that the government had meted on unarmed protesters had to be met with similar force.
26. A few days after the division of BLFP into two wings, General Busisa came with a discernable military strategy, First, he changed the name of the military wing to Bhang`ondi Liberation and Rebellion Army (BLRA). Second, he set up a General Headquarters for BLRA in a remote part of Itiribe. He then divided BLRA into 4 Brigades namely Red, Green, Blue, and Black. Each Brigade was led by a colonel deserted from MPDF, who had at his disposal an operational headquarters with all the usual functions such as Intel, Ops, Logistic and Plans coordinated by a chief of staff. Each Brigade leader had to report and share information to General Busisa on weekly basis.

27. The BLRA through social media introduced a campaign known as “Fight to Free Bhang`ondi”, #FFB to recruit fighters. Through the most popular channel in Miken called “The Moonstory”, BLRA encouraged “people of all ages and backgrounds” to join their ranks. This online recruitment program was led by General Busisa second in command, Colonel Raven Barandi, the former IT expert for the MPDF graduated with a PhD in Cyber Security from the prestigious Miken Collage of Informatics. Online recruitment program was largely successful as hundreds of all ages joined the movement. By November 2014 BLRA had recruited about 3000 fighters.
28. BLRA set up a large training camp in the outskirts of Bosambe Municipal, where the recruited fighters and sometimes their families and children came to be based. The training camp also attracted some children around 12 to 15 years old without parents, who had heard about the recruitment. Camp leaders took them in with the promise of shelter and food, and requested that the children help with camp duties like cooking and cleaning. General Busisa Matrich strongly discouraged his colonels from allowing children in the camps, but there was little enforcement of this.
29. New recruits typically underwent weeks intensive training directed by deserted members of the MPDF who joined the BLRA. BLRA relied on the encrypted network Signal for internal communications.
30. General Busisa set up the structure for the training and determined the topics for instruction at Bosambe camp. 2800 recruits undertook structured training. They were trained in groups. The training was divided into two packages, basic military skills and military discipline, they participated in physical exercise, taught basic military skills such as the use of weapons, marching, crawling, and saluting, mock firearms, made of wood, were used for training recruits. However, specific weapon handling skills, including shooting were taught using real firearms. Some recruits were also trained in the use of rocket launchers. Children at the camp were not allowed to undertake any form of weaponry training but were allowed to participate in the physical exercises.
31. As part of their training, recruits were taught military discipline. There were clear rules requiring obedience of BLRA soldiers, and a violent disciplinary system that

guaranteed adherence to them. BLRA soldiers were punished, for example, for not executing orders, losing a gun or failing to prevent an abducted person from escaping, or attempting to desert themselves. Penalties ranged from beatings to execution. General Busisa personally ordered disciplinary measures in the most serious cases. The rules being imposed only focused on internal discipline and did not address how the fighters were to conduct operations in the battlefield.

32. After months of intense training, several reports emerged indicated that the Mogesa Gold mine and some oil mines in Itiribe were under the good control of BLRA, funds obtained from these gold and oil mines were used to fund BLRA operations and military weapons. BLRA also established a Logistics Centre about 25 Kilometres near the border with Finton where it housed its supply of weapons, food, and other supplies essential to its operations. The Miken Broadcasting Cooperation reported that Itiribe County was under the control of BLRA.
33. On 15 July 2015, through its social media channel “The Moonstory”, BLRA made what it termed as the “final call” for a peaceful resolution. In a video that was viewed by approximately nine (9) million people and shared widely on social media, General Busisa Matrich addressed the government as follows:

*“This is the final call to the corrupt government of Anuwar Rahin to talk with BLRA in peace or otherwise face the wrath of the people of Itiribe. We fight for the rights of ethnic Bhangòndi people. We need direct dialogue with this government which has been in power for 26 years and has done nothing in that time except looting and embezzling Bhangòndi resources. This is the last voice of peace! You must respect Bhang`ondi people! The time has come for a liberation! Viva la libération!”*

34. Two days after the BLRA statement, President Anuwar Rahin addressed the nation on 17 July 2015 during which time he declared the war against terror aimed at “eliminating 9 terrorist organizations and their splinter groups in Miken especially in Itiribe.” President Anuwar insisted that his government was not ready to talk with terrorists. President Anuwar made it clear that BLRA was considered a terrorist organization.

35. On the early morning of 18 July 2015, BLRA launched a series of coordinated attacks against various installations in the Itiribe County including the High-Quality Supermarket, National Diplomacy Training Centre (NDTC) and Bosambe Police Post, at least 15 people were killed, and 41 others seriously injured.
36. On 19 July 2015, President Anuwar Rahin in a press release, declared a state of emergence in Miken saying that BLRA had “crossed a red line” and Miken would teach them a lesson. On 20 July 2015, the Minister for Home Affairs deployed 1300 heavily armed police officers to key areas in the Itiribe County. The police were ordered to arrest and detain any persons who seemed to support terrorists. Hundreds of civilians were arrested and held in custody for days without any formal charges being preferred against them. The report by The Global Human Rights Centre (GHRC), a reputable non governmental organization which monitors unrest around the world indicated that a section of police officers was under instructions to “shoot and kill” any suspected members of the BLRA. By 25 July 2015, 113 people had died as a result of the police operation, many of them unarmed civilians.
37. Following this turn of events, BLRA intensified its operations. On 21 July 2015, BLRA launched several attacks against military and government installations in Kinyobu city including Kifaru Brigade, the largest MPDF military camp in Kinyobu. 10 MPDF soldiers were killed and 34 others seriously injured. BLRA through “The Moonstory” claimed that such attack was a message to the corrupt government of Miken.
38. President Anuwar Rahin, in the press conference held on 22 July 2015 stated that his government would use all means necessary to destroy BLRA once and for all. True to his words, from 24 to 30 July 2015, the Miken People`s Defence Forces (MPDF) backed by tanks and multirole military airplane led an offensive to the BLRA training camp in the outskirts of Bosambe in order to drive BLRA fighters. CDF Rutachokoziwba, Chief of Defence Force reported that 94 BLRA fighters were killed and regrettably that 3 civilians were killed. In the meantime, BLRA issued a statement on “The Moonstory” stating that MPDF soldiers had no regard to the civilian lives claiming that 25 civilians were killed including 18 children and 2 teachers.

39. Following this offensive, on 15 August 2015 General Busisa called an emergency meeting of BLRA`s top leadership to discuss the way forward. After long deliberations and consultations with his top advisers, BLRA decided to retreat and re-strategize.
40. Around the same time, on 16 August 2015, despite of reiterated denials by Flinton, the government of Miken condemned the united Republic of Flinton for supporting, financing, and arming the BLRA. Reports by the MOFAU Experts revealed that BLRA was receiving finance, weapons such as AK47 assault rifles, battle tanks, machine guns and long-range shells. Further, some highly trained members of Flinton Army were alleged to involve in training the newly recruited BLRA soldiers.

## RATIFICATIONS AND SIGNATURE OF INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

R – Ratified

S – Signed but not ratified

'X' indicates that the concerned State is not a Party to the Treaty.

S	INSTRUMENT	MIKEN	FLINTON	MAMICA	KIRIBO	BAHARIDA
01	The Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949	R	R	R	R	R
02	Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol I)	R	R	R	R	R
03	Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II)	R	X	R	R	R
04	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) of 1966	R	R	R	R	R
05	Convention the Rights of the Child (CRC) of	R	R	R	R	R

	1989					
06	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of 1984	R	R	R	R	R
07	Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict of 2000	S	R	R	R	S
08	International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance	R	R	R	R	R
09	Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction of 1993	R	S	R	R	R
10	Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, 1954	R	R	R	X	R
11.	Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural	R	R	R	R	R

	Property in the Event of Armed Conflict of 1954 and its two Optional Protocols					
12	Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons of 2017	S	X	R	R	R
13	The Arms Trade Treaty, 2013	S	X	R	R	R
14	Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties	R	R	R	R	R
15	Rome Statute of International Criminal Court of 1998 the	X	X	R	S	R