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OPA Belesia - General Idea

Background - Situation

Growing ethnic tensions in the Belesian island of Panay resulted in violence when the local government in Panay attempted to take control of the lucrative Cerium rare earth mine in San Rafael from the Olvanan registered operator. The resulting loss of life amongst the Belesian Constabulary and unknown number of mine employees has sparked unrest in the nearby city of Roxas with the violence occurring along ethnic lines with the greatest loss of life amongst the Olvanan diaspora.

Olvana has been conducting a week's long biennial exercise in the South China Sea, named Exercise RISEN SWORD. It was under the cover of this exercise that Olvana landed a Brigade on Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands, as a staging base for operations into the region. Simultaneously, Olvana landed a Brigade near the city of Roxas, Panay and captured the seaport, airport, and the San Rafael Mine; securing the North of Panay. With the northern port controlled Olvana landed a second Brigade that have conducted a rapid advance to the south to disrupt reinforcements for Belesia arriving at Iloilo, with the current limit of exploitation on the northern outskirts of Iloilo IVO Santa Barbara. Olvana has claimed the justification for this act of aggression is to protect ethnic Olvanns in Panay from persecution.

In response to this blatant disregard for international protocols, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) passed UNSCR 8868 condemning Olvanan aggression and calling for the withdrawal of Olvanan Forces from Belesian territory. Concurrently, Belesia landed an Infantry Brigade of troops in the south of Panay through the city of Iloilo in an attempt to force the Olvanan forces off the island; with allied support.

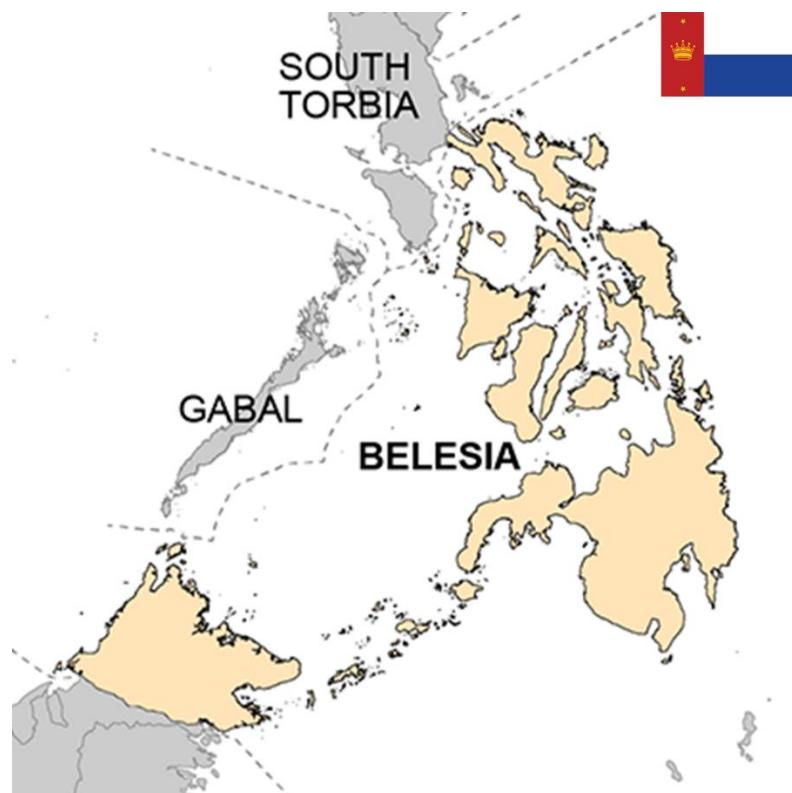


Figure 1. Belesia

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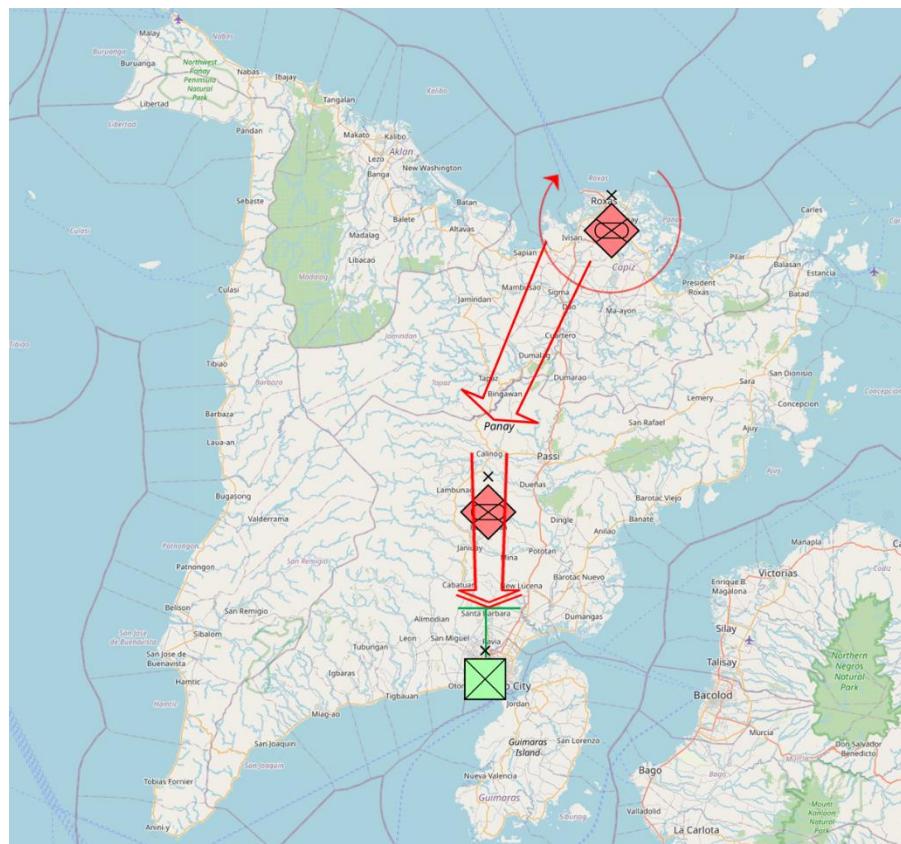


Figure 2. OPA Panay Advance

Area of Operations (AO). The AO encompasses the entire landmass of Panay, and the surrounding waters out to 12NM. Panay's terrain is a wildly diverse ecosystem with high mountain range to the West, a central plain, dense jungles, and extensive river systems and wetlands that are impacted by regular tropical rain. A long chain of mountains extends from the far north along the western coastal region and is densely vegetated, resulting in significant restrictions to movement for large forces. The central plain is a lowland area, that is primarily used for agriculture, is shaped by the country's principal extensive river systems. The river systems and its tributaries, feed into the delta area along the west of Panay.

Panay has two major cities, with Roxas in the North and Iloilo in the South, providing significant trading hubs and import export points for the Island. Smaller regional cities provide more localised support for regional industries, acting as hubs facilitating the supply of goods to the larger cities of Iloilo and Roxas.

Belesia Response

Belesia has gained international support to the sovereignty and have gained a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution, UNSCR 8868 (ref A - Steel Sentinel) condemning OV aggression and calling for the withdrawal of OV Forces from Belesian territory. Currently, Belesia (BX) landed a Brigade of troops in the south of Panay through the city of Iloilo in an attempt to force the OV forces off the island. This course of action has resulted in a stalemate with the OV Southern Fleet Marine Expeditionary Force (SFMEF) holding the northern half of Panay centred on the city of Roxas and the BX Forces holding the area around the city of Iloilo. OV has since declared a Maritime Exclusion Zone (MEZ) and Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ) over the occupied island and parts of the Sulu and South China Sea. In an effort to allow diplomatic options to be utilised and reduce further loss of life,

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the UNSC passed UNSCR 8869 (ref B – Steel Sentinel) calling on all Member States to enforce economic and military sanctions against OV. With OV's continued occupation of Panay in contravention of International laws, the UNSC passed UNSCR 8873 authorising the raising of the International Belesian Security Assistance Force (IBSAF) to utilise military force to remove OV military elements on sovereign Belesian territory.

Belesia are currently partnering with allied forces to conduct a counter offensive to defend Panay and to push back the OV forces.

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