



Brief History

Carana gained its independence in 1962. Joseph Uroma (the leader of the largest of the liberation movements and with a power base derived from the backing of the Falin majority in the east of the country) came to power after independence. He consolidated his rule by suppressing all other political parties. Initially popular, his government became increasingly alienated from its people due to the deteriorating economic situation, corruption and inefficiency. He was overthrown in a military coup in 1971. The military government re-established a free market economy, but was unable to solve Carana's mounting economic problems. There was a further military coup in 1975, which established a degree of stability until an economic crisis in 1983 seriously weakened its authority.

Free elections were conducted in 1986, under international pressure, which were won by the Parti Democratique de Carana (PDC). Its leader, Jackson Ogavo, became the country's first elected President. Initially the government was reasonably representative of the ethnic balance of the country, although still dominated by the Falin, and it followed democratic principles that were later enshrined in the 1991 constitution. Some economic and social reforms were realized but Ogavo became increasingly preoccupied with suppressing opposition groups and replaced all key Kori and Tatsi government ministers with members of Ogavo's Falin tribe. Repression corruption and economic inefficiency have mounted. Since 1998, the economy has been in decline and humanitarian crises occur on a regular basis.

Caranian Civil War

In 2003 a rebellion by the Movement Patriotique de Carana (MPC) began in Tereni province. The MPC achieved some local success in the west over the Carana Defense Force (CDF), and, by 2009, it effectively controlled the western highlands. Although the MPC is multi-ethnic and describes its goal as the restoration of democracy throughout Carana, it draws much of its support from Koris who are the dominant ethnic group in the west. With the bulk of the CDF tied down in the west, Tatsi in the southern province of Leppko began to agitate and attack government institutions. Initially this amounted

to little more than a few localized incidents but it quickly escalated into general looting and attacks on Falin civilians. A number of these small rebel groups united and called themselves the Combattants Indépendants du Sud Carana (CISC). The government responded by covertly arming 'self-defense militias' amongst the Falin community who have retaliated with attacks on Tatsis.

On 19 May 2009, after years of violent conflict in Carana a ceasefire agreement (Kalari Peace Treaty) was signed between the country's government and rebel forces. The agreement foresees that a United Nations mandated mission would assist in overseeing and verifying the ceasefire and in the stabilization of the country. The UN Security Council in Resolution 1544 of July 2006 authorizes the establishment of the United Nations Assistance in Carana (UNAC) under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

Geography

Overview

Location: Eastern Africa, bordering the Indian Ocean

Area:

- Total—121,327 sq km
- Land—111,621 sq km
- Water—9,706 sq km
- Country Comparison to the World—97

Area—Comparative: Slightly larger than Virginia; slightly smaller than Mississippi

Coastline: 300 km

Land Boundaries:

- Total—1,511 km
- Border Countries—Sumora (443 km), Katasi (851 km), and Rimosa (217 km)

Terrain: There are two major areas; the plains in the eastern and central parts of the country and the highlands in the West and Southwest areas. The three main rivers in Carana are the Kalesi, Mogave and Torongo.

Elevation Extremes:

- Lowest Point—Kalesi Delta, 0 m

- Highest Point—Mount Oladi, 3,489 m

Climate

Semi-tropical; hot and humid in the central and eastern plains, particularly in the three major river basins and Kalesi delta region; cooler and drier in the western highlands; and cooler and wetter in the southwestern highlands. The wet season is April-October, and the dry season is December-February.

Natural Resources

Minerals: Diamonds are found along the Kalesi River in the provinces of Mahbek and Barin. Copper is mined around Corma. Coal is mined in the province of Hanno.

Timber: The jungle-covered mountains of the west contain rare wood and timber.

Land Use:

- Agricultural Land—22.4%
- Forest—47.3%
- Other—30.3%
- Irrigated Land—10,599 sq km

Note: The unequal distribution of resources is a source of tension and a driver of violent conflict.

Total Renewable Water Resources: 681 cu km (2012)

Environmental Issues and Effects

Natural Hazards: Seasonal flooding along the Kalesi river basin; periodic, but increasingly frequent droughts in the south.

Human Geography: Human development in Carana has been shaped by differences in climate zones, creating a divided society featuring disparate social structures organized around different modes of subsistence. The most salient cleavage is between the semi-nomadic pastoralists inhabiting the pasturelands in the southwest, and the largely sedentary farmers and miners in the east.

Resource scarcity has exacerbated the historical tensions between the two communities centered on the annual eastward migration of pastoralists during the dry season. Intensive cultivation with inadequate crop rotation has depleted the formerly fertile soil of the eastern alluvial plains. Furthermore, climate change has increased the frequency and severity of droughts and accelerated the disappearance of the southwest grasslands. The sharp decline in both agricultural production and habitable real estate has turned cyclical interaction into near-perpetual competition in which the survival of one or both communities is at stake. This dynamic is a significant structural driver of violent conflict in Carana.

International Agreements:

- Party to—Rome Statute, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Climate Change-Kyoto Protocol, Desertification, Endangered Species, Hazardous Wastes, Law of the Sea, Marine Dumping, Ozone Layer Protection, Tropical Timber 83, Tropical Timber 94, Wetlands
- Signed, but not ratified—Environmental Modification

People and Society

Nationality

Noun: Caranian

Adjective: Caranian, Carani

Ethnic Groups, Languages, and Religions

Carana consists of three main groups: the Falin, Kori and Tatsi. The Kori (38 percent) mainly live in the west and are the dominant ethnic group in the provinces of Tereni and Koloni. The Falin (49 percent) are the ethnic majority in the country and mainly live in the east and center of Carana, although some are also present in the west and south. The Tatsi (17 percent) mainly live in the south and southwest. However, all three groups are intermingled in several areas and this has sometimes led to violent inter-ethnic clashes. Many Tatsi are semi-nomadic pastoralists, and their annual migration, with their herds, is an increasing source of tension with the Falin in the provinces of Mahbek and Barin. The official language is French but more than 20 local dialects are spoken.

Population and Age Structure

Total: 14 million

- 0-14 years—42.65%
- 15-24 years—21.41%
- 25-54 years—29.75%
- 55-64 years—3.56%
- 65 years and over—2.63%

Country comparison to the world: 61st

Median Age: 18.1 years

- Male—17.9 years
- Female—18.4 years

Population Growth Rate: 3.6%

Total Fertility Rate: 5.1 children born/woman

Birth Rate: 34.88 births/1,000 population

Death Rate: 10.07 deaths/1,000 population

Maternal Mortality Rate: 706 deaths/1,000 live births

Infant Mortality Rate: 79.47 deaths/1,000 live births

Life Expectancy at Birth: 45.3 years

- Male—42.1 years
- Female—47.9 years

Urban Population: 33.3%

Health and Education

Improved Drinking Water Source:

- Urban—62.3%
- Rural—16.1%
- Total Population—20.77%

Unimproved Drinking Water Source:

- Urban—37.7%
- Rural—83.9%
- Total Population—79.23%

Overall Infectious Disease Risk: Very High

Food or Waterborne Diseases: bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A, and typhoid fever, Cholera

Vector borne Diseases: malaria, dengue fever, onchocerciasis (river blindness), and trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness)

Water Contact Diseases: schistosomiasis

Animal Contact Diseases: rabies

HIV/AIDS Adult Prevalence: 3.3%

People Living With HIV/AIDS: 406,000

Adult Obesity Prevalence: 3.1%

Children Under Age of 5 Years Underweight: 27.4%

Literacy (age 15 and over read/write): 63.8%

- Male—78.1%
- Female—50%

Child Labor (ages 5-14): 42%

Social Issues

Carana has high mortality rates in childbirth and low literacy rates for women. Many households are headed by women as before the war many men left to work in the coal and copper mines. The separation of families for long periods of time has contributed to an HIV epidemic affecting large parts of the populations. Many men have been killed in the conflict, or forcibly recruited by the various combatant groups, leaving women to

raise families on their own. This leaves many women vulnerable to threats, but has also resulted in an increased political awareness among women.

Crime is high and many young men have joined criminal gangs, which fight for control of territory. Gang-related violence has reached shocking levels in the major cities. Some of the gang violence takes place on an inter-ethnic basis, particularly around the IDP camps in Galasi where Koris, Falins and Tatsis have fled to escape the fighting in the south and west. The Koris and Tatsis also face considerable hostility from the settled population of Galasi and other eastern towns, which are predominantly Falin, and who blame them for undercutting wages and contributing to the high levels of unemployment. The water and sanitation in the IDP camps and shantytowns – where many men live – are poor, alcoholism and drug addiction rates are high as is the level of HIV infection.

Bigamy is still common in rural areas. Female genital mutilation (FGM) of girls in their early teens, though illegal, is practiced very extensively in the western part of the country by the Kori. Abuse of both boys and girls has been high throughout the conflict. Young boys are often abducted to be child soldiers. When in the military groups, the boys are often abused and the use of drugs is common. Girls are also abducted by military groups to serve as sex slaves, 'wives' of male combatants and for working in the military organization for example in transport, healthcare and smuggling. The CISC are the main culprits of abductions but also sections of the CDF have been reported to be responsible. There are numerous reports of child prostitution and trafficking involving both girls and boys. Rape rates of young girls in the cities are also high. Many girls have been forced to quit school of fear from sexual violence worsened by the social stigma attached to this form of violence.

Politics and Government

Political System

Official Government Name: Government of the Republic Carana

Government Type: Semi-presidential constitutional republic (nominally democratic)

Capital: Galasi

Administrative Divisions: One special municipality (Galasi) and eight provinces; Fellari, Guthar, Leppko, Hanno, Barin, Koloni, Mahbek, and Tereni.

Constitution: Several previous; latest adopted in 1991 after approval through referendum.

Legal System: Civil law system primarily based on colonial law, but also customary, and tribal law.

Suffrage: 18 years of age; universal and compulsory.

Executive Branch

Head of State: President Jackson Ogavo

Head of Government: Prime Minister **Lee Zareh**

Legislative Branch

Description: 256-seat unicameral parliament

Elections: Every five years. Members of parliament are elected by district. Unlike many other systems, the entire legislature is up for reelection every cycle.

Governance, Corruption, and Human Rights

The Constitution of the Republic of Carana was adopted by public referendum in 1991. The President is popularly elected for five-year terms. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President, but must be approved by a parliament majority. The Parliament consists of 256 elected members and was intended to be representative of the ethnic balance of the country. According to the Constitution, the power to formulate foreign and defense policy resides in the Presidency. The power to formulate economic and domestic policy is vested in the legislature. Although the constitution supports a democratic political system President Ogavo has gradually suppressed any effective opposition and since 1996 Carana has effectively been a one-party state. The PDC is the only legal political party.

The Constitution also provides for a Supreme Court, provincial courts and district courts. The President appoints all judges to the Supreme Court. Provincial governors appoint judges to the provincial and district courts. Government control over these courts varies, depending on the region. Although the courts are constitutionally independent of the executive, they have been politicized during the long period on single party rule. They also lack institutional capacity and resources. Salaries of judicial staff often are unpaid for months, leading to absenteeism and corruption. Legislation remains outdated and often discriminatory against women and other vulnerable groups. There is no functioning juvenile justice system, and no public defense counsel service. The

Constitution permits the declaration of a state of emergency and the government has used this provision to create a system of mixed civilian/military courts, with very limited rights of appeal, to try all treason, terrorist and similar cases. These regularly impose the death penalty for serious crime.

Carana has ratified the main international human rights treaties and the Rome statute of the International Criminal Court; however, its statute book contains many laws inherited from colonial period, which are incompatible with these standards. Alongside the formal administrative structures, there exists a traditional system built around chiefdoms, which exercise considerable de-facto authority, particularly in rural areas, and preside over traditional courts applying unwritten customary legal codes.

Human rights situation in Carana is of grave concern. The police and the army (CDF) are responsible for both opportunistic human rights violations, politically and ethnically motivated violence, in a climate of total impunity. The presidential guard is an additional threat to the population. CISC has been responsible for forced recruitment including of children. Impunity is rampant due to lack of judiciary capacity and political/military interference with judicial processes.

Relations with Neighboring Countries

Carana's external boundaries result from the colonial time and do not represent the ethnic distribution in the region. The Falin make up 10 percent of the population of Sumora, the Kori make up 38 percent of the population of Katasi and the Tatsi make 45 percent of the population of Rimosa. Many Tatsi favor secession of Leppko from Carana and the creation of a 'Greater Elassonia', which would be created out of southern Carana and northern Rimosa.

The relations between Carana and Sumora are traditionally good. Even though the Falin make up only 10 percent of the population of Sumora they are strong politically. In the recent past, the government of Sumora has tended to support the position of President Ogavo. The relations between Carana and Katasi are strained. Carana has accused Katasi of supporting the MPC and these allegations have been corroborated by reports from a number international organizations. Rimosa has been in the grips of a civil war between two rival ethnic groups; the dominant majority Pleionians and the minority Elassonians. Most of the interethnic fighting in Rimosa has taken place in northern Rimosa, near the border of Carana, where a rebel army calling itself the Ellassonian Liberation Front (ELF) has waged a guerrilla-style campaign against government forces and pro-government Pleionian militias. The ELF is said to have links with the CISC in Carana.

Economy

Overview

The conflict has greatly exacerbated Carana's economic problems. The production of copper halted and income from diamonds was hijacked by a number of groups. Fighting in rural areas hit both agricultural production and Carana's timber industry. The net result has been an inflation rate of around 300 percent and a significantly reduced supply of all commodities. Although the government controls the mining sector and all foreign trade activity, it is extremely dependent on international aid to finance basic expenditure. Increasing dissatisfaction with its failure to provide basic services is particularly acute in the major towns and often threatens to erupt into violence.

Gross National Income (GNI), Atlas method (current USD): \$28,729,989,561

GNI, PPP (current USD): \$48,813,239,111

GNI per capita, PPP (current USD): \$650

Country Comparison to the World: 223rd

GDP Composition by Sector of Origin:

- Agriculture—39.9%
- Industry/Mining—44.7%
- Other—15.4%

Agricultural Commodities: manioc, corn, tubers, sorghum, rice, sugarcane, and peanuts

Industrial Commodities: timber, copper, coal, and diamonds

Currency: Caranian Dollars

Inflation Rate: 300%

Infrastructure

Transportation

Roadways: 153,497 km

- Paved—2,794 km

- Unpaved—150,703 km
- Comparison in the World—53rd

Note: Carana had a well-developed road network, capable of supporting commercial traffic, with practically all major towns connected. However, the years of civil war, and minimal maintenance have degraded it significantly, which makes travel very difficult during the rainy season in particular.

Railways: Carana has two main rail lines with a combined length of 280 km. One track originally connected Galasi with the coal mining area east of Sureen, but trains cannot travel further west than Maroni, due to unrepaired damage to the main railway bridge sustained during the 2004 floods. The second track runs between Maldosa and Mia.

Navigable Waterways: 5,342 km

Seaports and Terminals: Carana has three deep-water seaports with varying capacities and a number of smaller fishing ports. The port at Galasi is the best equipped, followed by the ports in Cereni and Maldosa.

Airports: Carana has two international airports in Galesi and Corma. Additionally there are 25 airfields around the country, not all of which have paved runways. The airports in Alur and Folsa are suitable for medium transport aircraft. All other airfields are only suitable for light fixed wing aircraft.

Energy

The two hydroelectric dams along the Kalesi and Mogave have fallen into disrepair over the course of the Carana conflict. Only the Mogave dam continues to produce electricity. In addition to the neglected maintenance, the capacity of both reservoirs is greatly reduced due to years of sedimentation.

There are three power plants, in Carana, the Kilu Dam, the Salobo Dam and a coal power plant in Galasi. Most of the power supply equipment around the Salobo Dam was destroyed during the conflict. Rural areas have no access to the grid, but some small local water power plants and generators provide power. The majority of the country is currently without regular supply. Only the capital and some larger cities have a water supply system for the central area of the city. All other towns and villages rely on wells and water trading. Areas near the major rivers have ample water supply but it still needs purification. There is no system of sanitation and garbage removal in the urban areas. There is no telecommunications system outside Carana's capital. Cellular coverage is, however, expanding and generally covers the main towns and routes throughout the country. Government institutions and major companies also use satellite communications.

Military and Security

State Security Forces

Carana Defense Force (CDF): The CDF has a total strength of approximately 10,000 men (9,000 Army, 800 Air Force, 200 Navy). The chiefs of the service report direct to the president. The navy has a small number of coastal and river patrol boats. The air force, equipped with a squadron of armed helicopters, transport helicopters and a few light bombers has a limited strike capacity. The main military force in the CDF is the army. Structured in four regional commands – North, East, South, and West – the CDF generally represent the central government's authority throughout the country. The military regions do not necessarily match the administrative and provincial boundaries, but reflect the location of the headquarters and troops rather than the real responsibility for a defined area. The army is equipped with light tanks, reconnaissance vehicles, armored personnel carriers, artillery and mortars, missile launchers and anti-aircraft Guns. Some of this equipment is very old and much is in considerable need of repair. The air force is effectively grounded due to lack of spare parts.

Presidential Guard: The Presidential Guard has the equivalent strength of two infantry battalions and it is not part of the regular defense force. The commanders and most officers are Falin, and they are recruited personally by President Ogavo. Its members have received intensive training and are entitled to several privileges. This unit is a loyal elite force with the task to protect the President, but has also been used, together with Gendarmerie units, to fight against rebel groups. It has a reputation for brutality.

Carana National Police (CNP): The CNP are located in population centers and are controlled by the provincial administration. Officially, the CNP has 8,500 officers, but many of these positions may be vacant. The police suffer a critical shortage of qualified personnel, logistical and financial resources, and training and their presence throughout Carana is very low. Customs and immigration officials are also considered to be part of the CNP. The Gendarmerie is part of the Ministry of Interior and maintains the police presence in rural areas and is responsible for border security. However, in recent years the Gendarmerie was used more often to suppress opposition political groups than for rural security or border control. In addition, CDF units often exercise police tasks, representing government power in the internal security role. Crime rates particularly in population centers are high and there are numerous reports of abuses perpetrated by the law enforcement agencies. Evidence of organized criminal activities, especially drug and human trafficking has come to light, in some cases involving collusion or active participation by law enforcement officials.

Rebel Groups

Movement Patriotique de Carana (MPC): The MPC has a total strength of around 10,000 fighters. The MPC is structured into groups of 700 men, each led by a field commander and has a local network of supporters. The groups have no internally defined military structure, but a system of sub-commanders with different numbers of fighters. Loyalty to commanders is high and discipline is very good. The official HQ of MPC is in Alur but this is mainly symbolic HQ rather than operational. In some areas the MPC have taken over government and basic administrative functions. As a result of the broad public support for the rebels, and the dissatisfaction with the government, the new role of the MPC is well accepted by the population in the west.

Combattants Indépendants du Sud Carana (CISC): The CISC is an unstructured formation of rebels of diverging backgrounds, whose total strength is estimated to be around 2,000 fighters. It has a weak command and control structure and discipline and internal cohesion is low, as is the standard of training. Some members are deserters from the CDF, while others are from the civil war in Rimoso. The movement has been successful in recruiting young men from the local population, due to its military successes and reaction against the brutality of the government's counter-insurgency campaign, which indiscriminately targeted Tatsis in the Southern region. The CISC also regularly abducts civilians to bolster its ranks. Male abductees of all ages are often coerced into the fighting forces and girls and women are used as porters, cooks, medics and are oftentimes forced to become 'wives' of combatants. These women are also at times forced to participate in fighting and are killed if they refuse.

Arms, Munitions, and Landmines

All parties to the conflict used landmines intensively and there are no reliable records as to their location. Consequently mines pose a major and unpredictable threat to the population at large, aid agencies and any potential peacekeeping mission.

In addition to mines, Carana is awash in unexploded ordnance (UXO) and potential nitrate-based explosive precursors, which can be used to construct and employ a variety of improvised devices and/or weapons.

Finally, the concentration of small arms and ammunition in Carana is among the highest in the World, both in absolute and per capita terms. Stocks and flows of small arms in and through Carana have increased dramatically due to mutual reinforcement between the civil war and Carana's continuing role as a major hub in the regional illicit arms trade.

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

An estimated half a million people have fled the country, taking refuge in the neighboring countries of Sumora (approximately 200,000 refugees), Katasi (approximately 200,000 refugees) and Rimosa (approximately 100,000 refugees). Another half a million are internally displaced persons (IDPs) within Carana.