

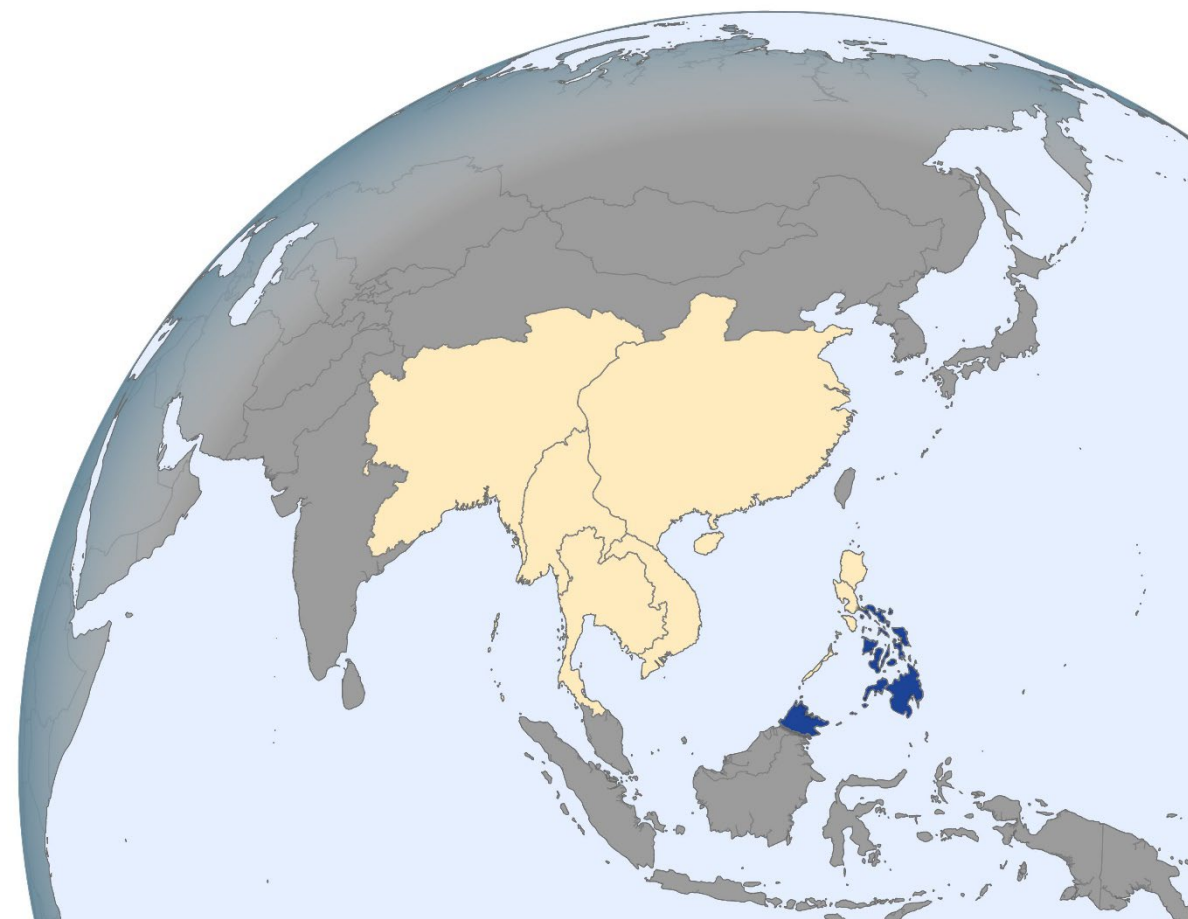
DATE WORLD

BELESIA

DATE INDO-PACIFIC



US ARMY TRAINING AND DOCTRINE COMMAND G2
Operational Environment Integration Directorate



Distribution Statement A.
Approved for public release:
distribution is unlimited



Contents

INTRODUCTION.....2

POLITICS.....3

MILITARY.....19

ECONOMY.....39

SOCIAL.....56

INFRASTRUCTURE.....66

INFORMATION.....77

PHYSICAL.....87

TIME.....98

List of Figures, Maps and Tables

Figure 1. Executive branch ministries in Belesia.....5

Figure 2. Belesia National Assembly by party.....5

Figure 3. Supreme High Command diagram.....21

Figure 4. Belesian Army insignia.....22

Figure 5. Ground Forces Structure.....22

Figure 6. Belesian Federation Fleet composition.....26

Map 1. Belesia.....15

Map 2. Security Group regions.....20

Map 3. Belesian Federation Fleet unit locations.....26

Map 4. Air Forces higher organization.....28

Map 5. Belesia Air Force disposition.....28

Map 6. Belesia physical.....87

Map 7. Samar and Masbate Islands..... 88

Map 8. Belesian Luzon terrain..... 88

Map 9. Belesian Borneo..... 89

Map 10. Panay, Negros, Cebu, Bohol, and Leyte Islands..... 89

Map 11. Belesian bodies of water..... 90

Map 12. Regional sub-climate map..... 91

Table 1. Incarceration statistics..... 9

Table 2. National Assembly party representation..... 13

Table 3. Security Group missions..... 20

Table 4. BNP composition categories..... 31

Table 5. Table of economic activity..... 54

Table 6. Demographics..... 65

Table 7. Infrastructure matrix..... 66

Table 8. Power plant data matrix..... 68

Table 9. Seaport data matrix..... 74

Table 10. Physical environment data..... 87

Table 11. Köppen-Geiger climate classification..... 92

Table 12. Seasons Chart-Davo City..... 92

Table 13. Seasons Chart-Cebu City..... 92

Table 14. Seasons Chart-Zamboanga City..... 93

Table 15. Seasons Chart-Cagayan de Oro City..... 93

Table 16. Seasons Chart-Iloilo City..... 93

Table 17. Holidays & Culturally Specific Observations..... 99



INTRODUCTION

Colonialism has shaped Belesia's political culture and continues to influence its mindset. Over 300 years under colonial power decisively molded the nation. At first, colonial power rule brought political unity to a fragmented collection of states in the archipelago. Trade introduced food goods such as maize, tomatoes, potatoes, chili peppers, chocolate, and pineapples. Public reforms introduced free public schooling and established a university, hospitals, and churches. As a result of these policies the Belesian population increased exponentially.



Figure 1. Flag of Belesia



Map 1. Belesia



POLITICS

Political History

Arrival of Islam

Islam first arrived in Belesia during the 14th Century with the arrival of traders from the Persian Gulf and the Indian Sub-Continent. First arriving in southern Belesia, Islam spread northward until the 16th Century.

Colonization

European colonization of Belesia first began in the late 16th Century. Colonization not only brought European settlers and governance, but it also brought Roman Catholicism. The colonizers set up new towns and missionaries converted many of the inhabitants to Christianity. To defend their settlements, the colonizers constructed and manned a network of military fortresses across the archipelago. During its three-century rule, the colonial power also successfully quelled a few indigenous revolts and external military challenges.

Re-Emergence of Islam

Around 1900, Belesia began its second political shaping period, as Islam spread across the islands, and with it, a desire for independence from both colonial and Christian oversight. In 1918, a three-year civil war erupted, and although the colonial power defeated the insurgents, it also weakened the colonial government. After WWII, Belesia received full sovereignty.

Independence

After independence, the Belesian government operated with a two party system; power being divided between the Islamic Coalition of the People (CP) and the military-backed and western-leaning United Alliance (UA) political parties. Political power, corruption, and influence fluctuated between the two, often violently, until 1986. Under the authoritarian rule of Armando Mendoza, the CP gained

preeminence, as Mendoza effectively shut down opposition to his administration and removed term limitations.

Military Coup

A popular military coup five years later overthrew Mendoza, paving the way for multiple political parties and restoring term limits. At the time, many negatively associated the CP with the Mendoza regime; however, it has had a resurgence in popularity in recent years and today, the CP is consistently one of the top five most popular political parties in Belesia.

Modern Belesia

Today, Belesia is an Islamic but western-leaning country that has also warm relations with North Torbia and other authoritarian governments. Its government is stable, but it faces many challenges. Corruption, dissatisfied island constituencies, debt, regional relationships, natural disasters, and other problems are ever-present threats to stability.

Government Overview

The Federated States of Belesia, more commonly known as Belesia, has a similar government structure as the United States with checks and balances shared between three branches of government. While the United States has a two party system, minority political parties in Belesia play a larger role and regularly shift policies through coalition and patronage partnerships with the two major parties.

Branches of Government

Legislative Authority

Throughout the 18th and 19th Centuries, the Belesian legislature functioned under a colonial power. Tightly controlled by the occupying power it nevertheless conducted the legislative affairs of the country. Under the Belesian Government Act, the legislature's lower house was the elected Belesian Assembly, and its upper



house was the colonial appointed Belesian Commission. The colonial Governor General served as the executive of the Government.

The Burns Law, passed in 1920, abolished the Belesian Commission and reorganized the legislature as a fully elected bicameral legislature composed of a Senate and House of Representatives and known as the Belesia Legislature. In a formal ceremony in 1946, the colonial power granted Belesia sovereignty and renamed the national legislature as the Public Assembly (PA) of Belesia.

Members of both houses of the PA are elected for five years but offset from presidential elections. The last legislative elections occurred in July two years ago. The PA has 321 representatives in two legislative houses. The Senate is composed of 24 senators who are elected by the whole electorate and do not represent any geographic district. The House of Representatives is composed of 297 geographically elected members. There are two types of representatives—district and sectoral representatives. The district representatives represent a particular geographically defined district. All provinces are composed of at least one legislative district. Several of the cities are large enough to have their own legislative districts, giving leaders within those cities additional influence in the national government.

The sectoral representatives represent the minority sectors of the population. This enables these minority groups to be represented in the PA. The sectoral representatives represent labor unions, rights groups, and other organizations. Sectoral or party-list representatives are indirectly elected via a party-list election wherein the citizens vote for the party and not for the party's nominees. The votes are then arranged in descending order, with the parties that won at least 2% of the national vote given one seat, with additional seats determined by a formula dependent on the number of votes garnered by the party. No party wins more than three seats. If the number of sectoral representatives does not reach 20% of the total number of representatives in the House, parties that have not won seats but garnered enough votes to place them among the top sectoral parties are each

given a seat until the quota is met. A voter therefore has two parallel votes in House of Representatives elections—for district representatives and for the under-represented sectoral-party list representatives. Elections are relatively violence free. However, periodic regional, ethnic, and religious tensions flair up in some areas. This is particularly true in places where the distance from the center of national power is greatest and where people feel they are neglected by the national government.

Each bill needs the consent of both houses to be submitted to the president for a signature. If the president vetoes the bill, the PA can override the veto with a two-thirds supermajority. If either house voted down a bill or fails to act on it, the bill must be proposed in the next legislative session, with the process starting all over again. Decisions are mostly via simple majority vote, except for voting on constitutional amendments and other matters of greater importance. Each house has its own inherent power, with the Senate given the power to vote on treaties, while the House of Representatives introduces money bills. The constitution provides the PA with impeachment powers, with the House of Representatives having the power to impeach, and the Senate having the power to try the impeached official.

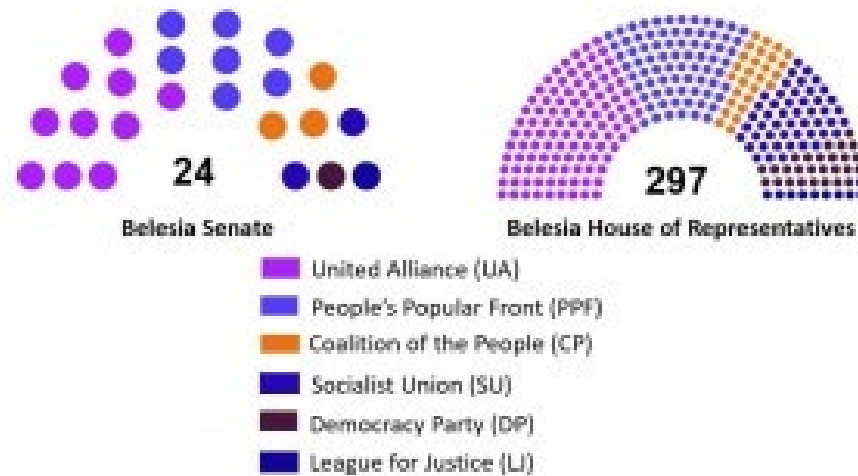


Figure 3. Belesia National Assembly by party

The Belesian National Assembly is currently composed of members from six different political parties. No single party has enough representation to rule alone and must form a coalition government.

Executive Authority

The executive branch of the Belesian government consists of a president and a vice president, each elected separately for a maximum of two five-year terms. Three years ago, Belesia held its last presidential election. The president, Aayiz Hermanto, is serving his second term, while the vice president, Nazra Purnama, is serving his first term. The president heads the cabinet, which he chooses with the approval of the Senate. Under constitutionally given authority, the president is head of state, commands the Belesian armed forces, and conducts foreign relations and policy. The president runs the government through a cabinet that he appoints. The president may choose to appoint the vice president to a cabinet position or give other assignments within the government. President Hermanto is a member of the United Alliance party and Vice President Purnama is a member of the People's

Popular Front party. The two parties form a coalition government and, together, hold a majority of the seats in the PA.

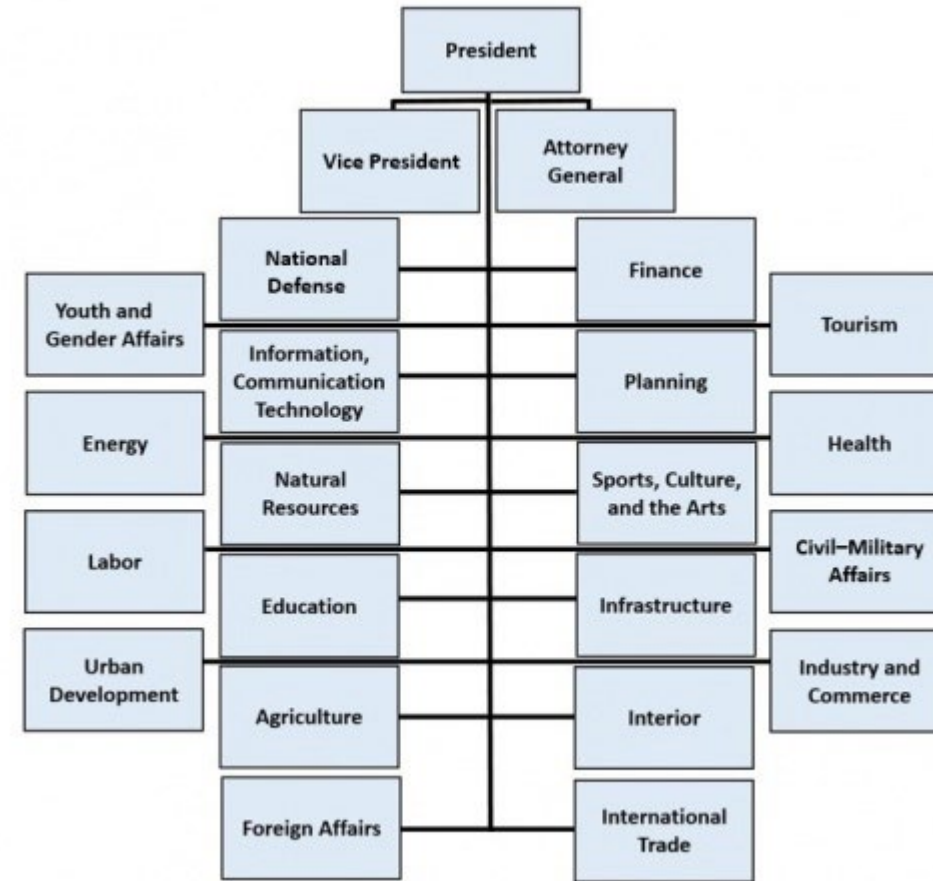


Figure 2. Executive branch ministries in Belesia



Judicial Authority

National Court System

Supreme Court

The Supreme Court has been set up along the American model. Justices are appointed by the president on the recommendation of the Judicial Approval Committee (JAC). The JAC is a constitutionally created six member body that recommends Supreme Court justice nominees. Justices serve until age 70.

The Supreme Court, at the apex of the judicial system, consists of a chief justice and fourteen associate justices. It has original jurisdiction over cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers, and consuls, and over petitions for injunctions and writs of habeas corpus. It has appellate jurisdiction over all cases in which the constitutionality of any treaty, law, presidential decree, proclamation, order, or regulation is questioned. The Supreme Court also may hear appeals in criminal cases involving a sentence of life in prison.

Members of the Supreme Court and judges of lower courts are appointed by the president from a list of at least three nominees prepared by the JAC for every vacancy. The JAC consists of a representative of the Belesia Bar Association, a law professor, a retired member of the Supreme Court, and a representative of the private sector. Presidential appointments do not require confirmation. Supreme Court justices must be at least forty years of age when appointed and must retire at age seventy. According to the Belesia Constitution, members of the Supreme Court "may be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, culpable violation of the Constitution, treason, bribery, graft and corruption, other high crimes, or betrayal of public trust." The House has exclusive power to initiate cases of impeachment. The Senate tries such cases, and two-thirds of the Senate must concur to convict. The judiciary is guaranteed fiscal autonomy.

Court of Appeals

The Court of Appeals reviews the decisions and final orders of all the Regional Trial Courts. In addition, the Court of Appeals reviews decisions and resolutions in administrative cases of the Department of Justice and other agencies exercising quasi-judicial functions, including the Office of the President. The decisions and resolutions of the National Commission for Labor Relations are initially reviewed by the Court of Appeals, instead of a direct recourse to the Supreme Court.

Lower Courts

Regional Trial Courts have jurisdiction over both criminal and civilian cases. It has exclusive original jurisdiction in cases not within the exclusive jurisdiction of any court, tribunal, or body. The RTC has jurisdiction over all cases where the penalty is higher than 6 years, including government-related cases. The RTC has jurisdiction over cases involving:

- Laws on written defamation or libel
- Decree on Intellectual Property
- Dangerous drugs cases except where the offenders are below 16 years and there are Juvenile and Domestic Relations Courts in the province
- Areas where there are no family courts, the cases falling under the jurisdiction of family courts are adjudicated by the RTC
- All civil actions in which the subject of the litigation is incapable of pecuniary estimation
- Civil actions which involve the title to, or possession of real property
- Actions involving the contract of marriage and marital relations
- Civil actions and special proceedings falling within the exclusive original jurisdiction of a Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and of the Court of Agrarian Relations as now provided by law.



The RTC exercises appellate jurisdiction over all cases decided by Metropolitan and Municipal Trial Courts.

Metropolitan and Municipal Trial Courts

These courts have jurisdiction limited to a city or municipality, with criminal jurisdiction usually corresponding to that of a police court and civil jurisdiction over small cases.

Judicial Commission (JC)

The JC is a judicial advisory board established under the Belesian Constitution. It consists of eleven members who are recommended by the president and approved by the Senate. The functions of the JC include:

- Recommend individuals to the president for appointment as judges, apart from the Supreme Court
- Review and recommend the conditions of service of judges and judicial officers, other than their remuneration and the staff of the Judiciary
- Receive complaints against, investigate improprieties, and make punitive recommendations for registrars, magistrates, other judicial officers, and other staff of the Judiciary in the manner prescribed by the Judiciary Reform Act
- Prepare and implement programs for the continuing education and training of judges and judicial officers
- Advise the national government on improving the efficiency and administration of justice.

Parallel Legal Systems

There are parallel legal systems in Belesia and continue to operate no matter whatever attempts the government takes to rid the country of them.

Religious Law

Within the Belesian court system is an accommodation for Islamic law. The parallel system of state Sharia Courts have limited jurisdiction over matters of Islamic law. The Sharia Courts only have jurisdiction over matters involving Muslims and only hear cases when agreed upon by all parties involved in a dispute. This court has limited jurisdiction and can only pass sentences of not more than three years imprisonment and limited fines. In all cases, findings by this court can be appealed to higher appellate courts.

Customary Law

In certain limited and unique circumstances, customary law can be used to defend or prosecute a case.

Common Law

Belesia has a mixed legal system of common law, Islamic (sharia) law, and customary law, however, common law predominates in the legal system.

Governance Issues

Legitimacy

The Belesian government currently enjoys relative stability. Its legitimacy, however, is stronger in some areas than others. The more remote and distanced islands feel less a part of the nation than other areas, due in part to perceived neglect by the national government. These areas tend to be less supportive of the national government and more inclined to protests and conflict with the national security forces. Mistrust on both sides is a concern.

Government Legitimacy Claims

Belesia is a constitutional democracy with executive branch term limits and a successful record of transference of power over the past several decades. While it struggles to govern a dispersed island geography, it has maintained its legitimacy through adhering to its constitution.



Population's Recognition of Legitimacy

Corruption and perceived neglect of its far-reaching island populations are challenges. How legitimate the population views the government is dependent on a few factors associated with individual citizens. While the picture may be mixed, the population continues to vote and support the values espoused in Belesia's constitution and national aspirations.

Participation

Over seventy percent of Belesia's registered voters turn up to support their candidates during elections.

Protests

Protests are a popular way of showing dissent and disagreement with government policies and actions. As in other places, university students and other young Belesians lead and participate in protests focused on government corruption, environmental issues, human rights violations, and other perceived provocations.

Measures Taken to Maintain Legitimacy

At times, the government has been known to resort to punitive and violent reactions to protests and attacks in the media against government officials. At other times, government officials remind citizens of their efforts to protect their basic rights through public relations campaigns.

External View of the Government's Legitimacy

The government of Belesia is generally seen as a functioning democracy and heralded by western countries as an example of a Muslim democracy.

Effectiveness

Belesia has been improving its effectiveness as a government over the last decade. It looks upon South Torbia as an example of what a government can become in their region.

Elections

National and regional elections are usually violence free, with some exceptions in the more contentious areas of Belesia. Electoral winners generally come from the two leading parties, influenced by smaller party interests. This has created a degree of stability and assumed expectations. Elections are not free from disruptions and contentions over election results.

The Commission on Fair and Transparent Elections (CFTE) is the designated oversight authority for elections in Belesia. The president appoints five CFTE commissioners with the approval of the Senate. The president designates one of the commissioners the chief of commission, who then manages the administrative affairs of the commission. The CFTE is tasked with insuring policies and regulations that govern the administration of national, regional, and local elections are fair and transparent. Decisions of the CFTE can be appealed directly to the Supreme Court.

Rule of Law

Belesia generally respects the rule of law. However, it still suffers from challenges related to corruption, disappearances, arbitrary detention, extrajudicial killings, and an inefficient court system. While the nation's media technically enjoys freedom of expression, it sometimes self-censors and is prone to corporate and political interests. Additionally, the government or military controls most of the television and radio outlets. Open and competitive sometimes are tainted by intimidation and political violence. Regular complaints are raised in some areas where the actions of the federal military are regarded as overreach. These conflicts, often religious in nature, happen mostly in areas where local citizens feel distanced from the benefits of the national government and where large federal troops are based.

Reasonable accommodations are made for areas where Muslim population densities support the need for Muslim courts, known as Sharia Courts. The use of these courts is contingent, however, on both parties in a dispute agreeing to use the courts. Areas where the parity between different ethnic, tribal, and religious



groups exists, there is increased risk of conflict. Where the courts are less efficient, extrajudicial means may be sought to solve contentions.

Domestic Security Forces

The Belesian National Police (BNP) is a primarily uniformed federal police force in Belesia. The force is a centralized organization. The police force is led by an Inspector-General of Police (IGP). The constitution, control, employment, recruitment, funding, discipline, duties, and powers of the police force are specified and governed by the Police Reform Act 1990. In carrying out its responsibilities, the regular BNP is also assisted by a support group of Extra Police Constables, Police Volunteer Reserves, Auxiliary Police, Police Cadets, and a civilian service element. Police forces are divided into jurisdictions and led by a cadre officers assigned by the Central Deployment Authority under the direction of the IGP.

Prison System

The Belesian prison system under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Home Affairs through the Department of Prison Systems (DPS). The fifty-two prisons are under the direct management of a superintendent and a cadre of prison managers and guards. These facilities are ill-equipped to feed and house prisoners sent to them from the courts. Overcrowding, aging infrastructure, and the associated living conditions are ever-present problems for prison facilities. The following chart shows the status of the Belesian prison population.

Table 1. Incarceration statistics

INCARCERATION

Prison population total (including pre-trial detainees / remand prisoners)	68,603
Pre-trial detainees / remand prisoners (percentage of prison population)	26.7%
Female prisoners (percentage of prison population)	4.5%
Juveniles / minors / young prisoners incl. Definition (percentage of prison population)	2.2%
Foreign prisoners (percentage of prison population)	20.5%
Number of establishments / institutions	52
Occupancy level (based on official capacity)	131.9%

Corruption

High corruption levels severely restrict the efficiency of businesses operating in Belesia. Extensive bribery within the public administration and vague and complex laws makes foreign companies vulnerable to extortion and manipulation by public officials. Favoritism and undue influence are widespread in the courts, leading to time-consuming and unfair dispute resolution and to an uncertain business environment. Corruption plagues the customs administration and fraud routinely occurs in some companies when they file import and export documentation. The Corruption Act criminalizes active and passive bribery, extortion, abuse of office and conflicts of interest. Giving gifts, except for gifts of insignificant value given in line with local customs, is prohibited. Facilitation payments are not addressed by anti-corruption regulations and private sector bribery is not criminalized. The legislative framework for fighting corruption is scattered and is not effectively enforced by the weak and uncooperative law enforcement agencies.

Human Rights and Freedoms

Periods of Belesian history have been marked with extreme cases of social oppression. This has been the case under colonial rule, military rule, and popularly elected rule. Religious disagreements and socioeconomic disparities have fomented anything from political protests to outright insurgencies, especially in



remote areas. These political uprisings are frequently met with extreme measures from the government, which in turn have resulted in that regime's removal. Belesia has made progress on creating a more stable and freer environment over the past thirty years. However, provincial power struggles, tribal conflicts, religious disagreements, and questionable police brutality still cast a shadow on the nation.

Provisions of Services

Belesia provides a basic level of services to its people and continues to improve. The major stumbling block is the lack of financial resources to institute additional programs to help the poorest of its people. As the Belesian economy has improved, the level of services to the people have also improved

Centers of Political Power

State Institutional Authority

The Federated States of Belesia is a nation of islands. Its geography shapes its politics in a significant way. The national government lives with a bit of suspicion about its more remote and independent island states. In some circumstances, the national military has overreached in some areas, increasing mistrust among the local Belesians. Over the past decade, a delicate balance between national and regional interests has created reasonable stability in Belesia. Since the president and vice president are elected on separate tickets, there is potential for power politics within the executive branch if the president and vice president differ on issues.

The president exercises power as the head of the executive branch. Local politics on disparate islands translate into multiple conflicting interests, which in turn are exploited by elites who enjoy patronage privileges if their candidate wins the presidency. The president has wide discretion in handing out government positions in the cabinet ministries and other areas of the bureaucracy. These positions tend to be given out as a reward for support during a campaign. This patronage capacity gives the executive branch an outsized incentive for support, positioning the

president as a center for political power. Remote islands often feel left out of national politics and are potential points of rebellion.

Military

The Belesian president is the commander in chief of the military and exercises control through powers authorized by the country's constitution. The National Command Authority of Belesia exercises overall control to plan and carry out the national security strategy. The Belesian Chief of National Defense is the senior military position in the chain of command, subordinate to the Belesian president. The military is generally seen as an apolitical institution and is respected by the population. The military is viewed as an honorable career by most Belesians.

Religious

Belesia is fundamentally secular; however, the majority Muslim population ensures Islam's influence is felt in national, regional, and local politics. Regional and local politics tend to be shaped by the religious tensions of a particular area, particularly when religious domination of one religion overshadows minority religions. While national issues are less about religiously divisive matters, local and religious concerns have caused tensions and limited amounts of violence. Because of this dynamic, religious and clerical authority is felt most acutely and effectively at a sub-national level. In some areas, religious leaders regularly complain about national military units singling them out for harassment.

Other

Belesia has a healthy nongovernmental organization (NGO) and media environment. These groups actively hold government, business, and other leaders accountable. Religious leaders actively influence local and regional policies related to societal issues such as human rights, poverty, and the justice system.

Non-State Institutional Authority

Islands, the outlying ones, have tribal and local customs that guide social interactions and facilitate communal harmony. These traditions may be used to



solve local problems outside the legal framework. These are largely ignored by the government, except in rare situations where the government deems a particular practice a threat to established legal statutes.

Informal Authority (Social Groups)

Ethno-linguistic Groups

Due to a dispersed island geography, Belesia is populated by a diversity of languages and ethnic groups. The distance from the federal government and cultural diversity add complexity to creating national unity.

Kinship Groups

Families in Belesia are culturally and economically important. Family bonds are particularly strong in rural areas and on the smaller islands, where the agricultural economy makes immediate and extended family members important to survival and well-being. In the rural areas, extended families live together: elderly members of the family have a place of authority and respect within the home and the community. Elderly members of the family are also a means of transferring values and cultural order to future generations.

The proximity of rural families to each other has eroded to some degree in urban areas. Urban families do not always have the advantage of physical proximity with extended family members. Fewer and smaller available housing units and families separated from one another reduce the influence of older family members in urban areas. Families are members of clans and tribes, which adds extended means of support and organizational structure. Tribal membership is shaped through traditions, rites, and social standing within the larger tribal population. The standing of a particular family within a tribe is determined by wealth, size, historical events, and other cultural variables. Many intra-family disputes are handled within these familial structures.

Belesia is also home to a unique system called Wantok. Literally meaning “One Talk,” the wantok system refers to a reciprocal social responsibility between kin and

community members. Wantok networks vary in size and tend to be between people who are related to each other by a common language, ethnicity, district or by provincial boundaries. Requests made through the wantok system can be directed toward anyone else within a particular wantok, regardless of their profession or status, and refusing a reasonable request can lead to the fracturing of social ties. Despite the benefits the wantok system provides, many external stakeholders are concerned that it is incompatible with notions of good governance. The reciprocity demanded by wantok promotes a dynamic of unofficial favors and the treatment citizens receive is often based on their connection to informal social networks rather than on their rights as citizens. This can result in rule bending, corruption, collusion, fraud, nepotism, redistribution of resources or providing wantoks with contracts, to the detriment of quality service provision.

Non-state Sponsored Religious Groups

Belesia is a multicultural and multi-confessional country, whose official religion is Islam. Other religions represented among Belesians are Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, other oriental religions, Animism, Folk religion, and Sikhism.

Politics and Political Parties

Politics are important in Belesia and there are many parties all with their own pet issues that the party is based upon.

Domestic Political Issues

There are several major political issues in Belesia, but the four most significant are below:

Corruption

Endemic corruption plagues all levels of Belesian politics. Over the past ten years, several high level politicians and business leaders have been arrested, however, it is generally believed that the arrests were less about justice and more about political revenge. Extensive bribery within the public administration and vague and



complex laws makes foreign companies vulnerable to extortion and manipulation by public officials. Favoritism and undue influence are widespread in the courts, leading to time-consuming and unfair dispute resolution, and some uncertainty in the business environment.

National Cohesion

Remote islands feel neglected and distanced from national attention. This has led to protests and strikes. National security forces have been known to exploit the distance from the capital to take advantage of citizens in these areas. There have also been concerns over some regional governments using these conflicts to their advantage by opening fishing and other talks with local leaders.

Terrorism

Terrorist organizations have also exploited weaknesses in the government. There is disparity among the member islands of the Federation about the extent of national versus local control and autonomy. This sometimes erupts into violent protest, or, in the past, outright insurgency.

Human Rights Abuses

As the country goes through periods of national unrest over a variety of issues, the federal government has pivoted to utilizing security forces to quell dissent. This happens most prominently in islands distanced from the national government by geography and culture.

Official Political Parties

United Alliance (UA)

It advocates for a strong federal government and weaker provincial and island governments. It views regional dissent as unpatriotic and against the best interests of the nation. Its official platform includes anti-terrorism, anti-corruption, and pro-economic growth.

People's Popular Front (PPF)

The PPF aligns with the UA political party in support of nationalist over regional interests.

Coalition of the People (CP)

The CP represents, primarily, Muslim interests. It ranks as one of the top five political parties in most years.

Socialist Union (SU)

The SU advocates for taxes on the wealthy and government programs that support the poor, expand education, and flatten incomes across the population. It supports unions and activism across a variety of social justice areas. It aligns with the more moderate PPF.

Democracy Party (DP)

The DP is a relatively small party that advocates for decentralization of the government, giving semi-autonomous governing authority to islands grouped according to traditional, cultural, and ethnic criteria. It has led several secession movements. LJ members have been implicated in acts of violence against government facilities conducted by other radical groups with similar goals.

League for Justice (LJ)

The LJ is made up of government employees, predominated by educators. It focuses its political influence on insuring adequate pay for those employed by the government and services to the poor.



Table 2. National Assembly party representation

POLITICAL PARTY	SENATE	HOUSE
United Alliance (UA)	10	107
People's Popular Front (PPF)	7	77
Coalition of the People (CP)	3	27
Socialist Union (SU)	2	49
Democracy Party (DP)	1	27
League for Justice (LJ)	1	10

Political Coalitions

Coalitions coalesce around common interests and may shift as the political environment changes.

Other Domestic Influential Groups

Belesia has a healthy nongovernmental organization (NGO) and media environment. These groups actively hold government, business, and other leaders accountable. Religious leaders actively influence local and regional policies related to societal issues such as human rights, poverty, and the justice system. Business and trade union organizations exert influence on government policies and have constituencies that can be brought to bear on issues important to the discrete groups. The elites, those in both the public and private sector, have influence in varying, but important, ways.

International Relationships

Geopolitical/International Political Strategy

Belesia's main international objective is expanding its consumer trade while maintaining a neutral stance regarding the global superpowers. As an island nation, it respects US maritime power, but must also respect the regional economic power of Olvana. Religious ties also keep Belesia cordial with much of the Middle East.

Major Diaspora Population(s)

The Belesian diaspora remittances provide a critical supplement to poor island family members. Crowdsourcing funds have also been raised by Belesians working and living abroad to offset the costs of natural and man-made disasters.

Relationship with Major World Powers

United States

Today, the United States and Belesia share a diverse and expanding partnership in trade, investment, security, environmental cooperation, and educational and cultural relations. Belesia has a diverse democracy and is an important partner. The two countries cooperate closely on security matters, including counterterrorism, maritime domain awareness, and regional stability, and participate frequently in bilateral and multilateral training, exercises, and visits. Economic ties are robust, and there is a long history of people-to-people exchanges.

U.S. assistance to Belesia focuses on education, exchanges, counterterrorism, non-proliferation, security cooperation, and enhancing transparency, accountability, and responsiveness of government. The United States supports Belesia's counterterrorism efforts through information sharing, capacity building programs for law enforcement and judicial authorities, and assistance to improve immigration security and border controls. The United States also partners with the Belesian government and civil society organizations on programs and initiatives to counter the spread of violent extremism ideology. Non-proliferation assistance aims at enhancing Belesia's ability to enforce its export control laws to indict shipments and trans-shipments of controlled technology, dual-use commodities, and weapons of mass destruction and related commodities. Security cooperation and training builds capabilities among Belesia's armed forces allowing it to take on an expanded international role including peacekeeping operations.

Donovia

Contacts between the two states picked up momentum in the mid-1980s. In 1986, the establishment of diplomatic relations was accompanied by the signing of a trade agreement. The Donovanian trade mission was established in November 1986, and the Embassy of Donovia was opened in April 1987. Belesia opened its diplomatic mission in Moscow in November of the same year. To fulfil the potential



of cooperation in practical areas, the Donovanian-Belesian Joint Agreement for Cooperation in Economics, Scientifics, and Technical and Cultural Endeavors was established under an agreement signed in November 2015. Humanitarian and educational cooperation is also expanding. Belesians and Donovanians regularly host concerts featuring musicians and performers and organize exhibitions and presentations that highlight each country's cultural heritage. About 3,000 Belesians study at Donovanian universities, mostly at medical and engineering schools.

Olvana

Belesian leaders have long bet that they could make more headway with Olvana through accommodation than confrontation. Despite disadvantaged by size, the Belesian approach to its relations with Olvana has yielded positive outcomes for Belesia. The two countries have exchanged frequent high-level visits. The two sides agreed to elevate Olvana-Belesia strategic cooperative relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership, bringing the relationship to a track of comprehensive and mature development. In addition to diplomatic and economic successes, the two countries are seeing deepened people-to-people exchanges and cultural cooperation.

European Union

The European Commission delegation office was established in Belesia in 2003 and since then, policy interactions and co-operation between both federal and state authorities including the Belesian and EU business communities have increased progressively.

Relationship to Other Countries in the Region

North Torbia

The relationship between Belesia and North Torbia is diplomatically strained, but businesses manage to carry on limited commerce. North Torbian citizens maintain niche capabilities useful to Belesia, such as skills repair of old industrial equipment. While Belesia officially participates with other countries in international sanctions

against North Torbia, enterprising businesses and government bureaucrats willing to look the other way facilitate the sidestepping of the sanctions.

South Torbia

Belesia is a major trading partner with South Torbia. Politically, there are usually no issues between the two countries. On occasion, issues involving fishing rights and other boundary concerns occur as fishermen and others stray across country borders. These are usually warm issues that are easily solved diplomatically.

Gabal

Belesia and Gabal share membership in several regional organizations, mostly related to climate threat mitigation. There is limited trade between the two countries. They share similar challenges in being small countries and resisting the encroachments of larger and more economically powerful countries. In this regard, there have been a several diplomatic meetings to discuss how to better position themselves in a larger world.

Himaldesh

Good. Himaldesh and Belesia have had warm relations over the last 50 years that have been only mildly interrupted by turmoil in Belesia's social and political landscape. Belesia wishes to be an influence in the region, and siding with Himaldesh is in its favor. Himaldesh sees Belesia as a potential partner in economic development and military basing for its Navy.

Khorathidin

Good. The Malays of Khorathidin are linguistic cousins of Belesians. The two cultures have traded for centuries and maintain good diplomatic ties.

Bagansait

None. Bagansait and Belesia have no significant relationship.



Sungzon

Good. Sungzon and Belesia share common strategic goals to limit Olvanan influence in the region. Sungzon's Navy cooperates in maneuvers with Belesian naval forces in the South China Sea. Trade has increased with greater tourism between the two nations. Direct flights are available between the two capitals.



Map 2. Belesia Terrain

Regional Issues

Sovereignty

There are some issues with sovereignty in Belesia as shown below:

Domestic Sovereignty

Belesia seeks to maintain positive economic and diplomatic relationships with big powers, each of whose strategic interests are in competition with the others. This environment requires careful cooperation and resistance to maintain the balance.

Territorial/Interdependence Sovereignty

There are ongoing disputes, however, from groups claiming independence from Belesia. These regional disputes are local, simmer, flare up, and then simmer again. There is always the possibility of one of these eruptions becoming a larger issue with the right amount of foreign intervention.

International Sovereignty

Currently, there are no areas of Belesia recognized by other governments. Both North Torbia and Olvana have claimed some Belesian islands belong to them. This is based on claims from centuries ago. Other than Donovia, no other country entertains the thought that these claims are credible

Issues of de jure and de facto Sovereignty

Outlying islands have the possibility, with outside support, to seriously challenge the sovereignty of the Belesian government.

Conflict or Disputes

- Water Rights: Except for disputes over territorial fishing rights, there are no major water rights issues.
- Environmental Issues: Weather-related disasters are a constant reminder of the precarious position of small island communities. Belesia is involved in several organizations focused on climate change and environmental issues.

Political Relationships

Global Participation

Belesia's most important international political organization memberships are the Non-Aligned Movement, the Coalition of Low-Lying Atoll Nations on Climate Change (CANCC), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). These are all coalitions of small island nations focused on the specific issues facing these types of countries. Gabal is noted as a leader in the CANCC. Belesia is a member of the United Nations and participates regularly in UN activities, to include military peacekeeping operations. Gabal is also a member



of several other major international organizations, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the Pacific Islands Forum.

Regional Participation

In addition to international organizations, Belesia is a member of several organizations focusing on regional issues. These include Conservation Alliance (CA), Regional Fishing Pact (RFP), and Climate Threat Mitigation Initiative (CTMI). In addition, Belesia is involved in several ongoing diplomatic discussions, both formal and informal, focused on climate, trade, and military cooperation.

Military Relationships

The presence of foreign military presents the government of Belesia with the horns of a dilemma. On the one hand, military advisers from various nations, both regional and global, have increased the effectiveness and professionalism of the armed forces. Additionally, security agreements can enhance maritime security, HADR operations, modernization, and interoperability. On the other hand, the presence of foreign troops is seen by the public as a breach of national sovereignty and any discussion of permanent basing is met with protests regarding a return to colonialism. Current government restrictions mean that any foreign military cooperation must be agreed upon on a case-by-case basis by the Public Assembly. This is complicated by the fact that various political parties in the PA have various leanings towards western nations, Olvana, or the Middle East.

Alliances

Belesia's long-held policy is not to involve itself in military alliances with other countries. This is in keeping with its recognition of its limited capacity and a considered strategy of avoiding confrontation at all costs.

Treaties

Except for a handful of informal agreements, Belesia has avoided signing military treaties. Belesia does participate in UN peacekeeping missions in accordance with its membership responsibilities.

Military Aid

Belesia leverages its relationships with the US, Olvana, and Donovia in supplying its military and providing military advisors. Belesian armament used to be mostly Donovanian in origin, but more than a decade of foreign advisors and international assistance has diversified an inventory that now includes a few Olvanan variants and even selected western systems. The inclusion of Olvanan weaponry may be a result of developing economic ties to the regional giant.

Economic Relationships

Trade Agreements

- Pacific Agreement on Closer Economic Relations ('PACER')
- Pacific Islands Air Services Agreement ('PIASA')
- Pacific Islands Countries Trade Agreement ('PICTA')
- South Pacific Regional Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement (SPARTECA)
- Conservation Alliance (CA)
- Regional Fishing Pact (RFP)
- U.S.-Pacific Islands Multilateral Tuna Fisheries Treaty
- EU-Pacific Islands Trade Agreement

Tariffs, Sanctions, and Embargos

Imports into Belesia are subject to a few charges, including tariffs, excise duty, value-added tax, an Export Development Board Levy, a Social Responsibility Levy, and a Ports and Airports Development Levy. These charges considerably increase the cost of importing into Belesia, which in some cases may exceed 100%. Tobacco products and motor vehicles face the highest overall import charges.



Despite having raised tariffs and other charges on imports, the Belesian government made substantial efforts to enhance transparency regarding applied tariff levels and all other import charges. On aggregate, Belesian tariffs display mixed escalation, with first stage processed products dropping to an average tariff rate of 6.7%, semi-finished goods remaining steady at 4.9%, and semi-finished to fully processed products climbing to an average 7%. At a more disaggregate level, positive tariff escalation is most pronounced in textiles and leather, followed by wood and furniture, paper and printing, chemicals, and non-metallic mineral products, thereby providing higher levels of effective protection to those industries than that reflected by the nominal rates.

Economic Aid

Belesia retains \$1.9 billion of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development loans to be disbursed—approximately one-half of the original principal. Over the past decade, the nation has used \$1.77 billion to develop trade with special consideration given to pro-poor growth strategies. Trade is included as a macroeconomic strategy to achieve this development.

Over the last decade, disaster relief and recovery has also become an increasingly important area of assistance to Belesia. The United States has provided over \$143 million in assistance to date to the people of Belesia after Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. The European Commission released the equivalent of \$4 million in emergency aid funds and the United Kingdom Rapid Response Facility sent a team of experts to the Philippines, along with a shipment of emergency equipment, and an additional \$8 million in emergency aid funds.

Other International Organizations

- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
- ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)
- Association of Southeastern Asian Nations (ASEAN)

- Bank for International Settlement (BIS)
- Community of Democracies (CD)
- Certified Internal Controls Auditor (CICA) (Observer)
- D-8
- East Asian Seas (EAS)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- G-15
- G-77
- International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
- International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- International Criminal Court (ICC) (national committees)
- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (ICRM)
- International Development (IDA)
- International Development Bank (IDB)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRCS)
- International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)
- International Labor Organization (ILO)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)
- Interpol
- International Olympic Committee (IOC)
- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
- International Organization for Standardization (ISO)
- International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (ITSO)
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (NGOs)



- Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)
- MINURSO (United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara)
- MONUSCO (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo)
- Non-aligned Movement (NAM)
- Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
- Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA)



MILITARY

Military Overview

The Belesia Federation Defense Force (BFDF) includes the Belesian Army, Air Force, and Navy. The military components have a relatively high degree of cooperation and interdependence. This is largely due to numerous complex and rapidly developing security missions. These roles are generally divided into national defense, internal security, counterinsurgency, and stability support operations. Defense spending as a percentage of GDP has increased over the last few years to an average of 1.51% of GDP.

The BFDF has come a long way since the creation of the Federation in 1946. The most significant development is the formalization and aggregation of member islands' inconsistent security efforts. Standardization and professionalism are most evident in the establishment of a national constabulary and a national guard. Maintaining a balance between enforcing nationhood and preserving a degree of local autonomy has been the major challenge to national policy implementation and military stationing efforts.

Military Forces

The military forces and inventories of the BFDF are developing alongside its national economy, with special emphasis on high-payoff investments, such as air defense and technological improvements to existing systems. The state armed forces rely heavily on its paramilitary and civil defense elements. The Belesia Federation National Guard (BFNG) maintains a presence throughout the archipelago and is charged with supporting local security and local interests. The Belesia National Police (BNP) maintains local security - particularly on the smaller islands, where they may be the only security capability present.

Despite cooperation and numerous joint operations, tensions persist between the BFNG and the local Constabulary elements as state authorities increasingly press

national priorities and policies. Ethnic and religious differences also contribute to antagonism among the BFDF, BFNG, and BNP. Some of this is due to the wantok system where allegiances are more to one's wantok group than the country (See Social Variable for more details about the wantok system). Leadership in the armed forces has traditionally and historically been composed of pro-Colonial Christians, and the active force, especially the Air Force, has a disproportionate makeup from provinces with larger Christian populations. The BFNG, however, is overwhelmingly Muslim, and units tend to be largely comprised of members from a single island or aligned group of islands. The BNP, on the other hand, while also predominantly Muslim, tends to be a more truly national force, with any one unit made up with a broad spectrum of home islands.

Religious, ethnic, tribal, and clan tensions are endemic to relations among the various forces but are secondary to the tension between Federation and local issues. The BFDF has emphasized ethnic and gender inclusiveness wherever possible, but many of the local forces strongly reflect their local populations and cultural norms.

Ethnic and religious differences contribute to antagonism among the BFDF, BFNG, and Belesian Constabulary. Leadership in the armed forces has traditionally and historically been composed of pro-Colonial Christians, and the active force, especially the Air Force, has a disproportionate makeup from provinces with larger Christian populations. The BFNG, however, is overwhelmingly Muslim, and units tend to be largely comprised of members from a single island or aligned group of islands. The Constabulary, on the other hand, while also predominantly Muslim, tends to be a more truly national force, with any one unit made up with a broad spectrum of home islands.

Defense spending as a percentage of GDP has increased over the last few years to an average of 1.51% of GDP.



National Command Authority

The National Command Authority (NCA) of Belesia exercises overall control to plan and carry out the national security strategy. The Belesian Chief of National Defense is the senior military position in the chain of command, subordinate to the Belesian President. Service Chiefs (Land Forces, Air Forces, Naval Forces, and National Guard) are responsible for their respective forces. The services will contribute personnel and resources to the Security Groups under operational control (OPCON) as requirements dictate. The NCA consists of the President and the Chief of National Defense. The NCA will bring in other cabinet members for advice, but the actual decisions in respect to the use of the military belong to the president and the Chief of National Defense acting on guidance of the president.

NCA Wire Diagram

Security Groups

Due to the dispersed nature of Belesia’s member islands and range of potential security issues, Belesia divides security responsibilities into four Security Groups. Security Group commanders often coordinate on a variety of operations but retain a high degree of autonomy within their area of responsibility. Security Group commanders are nominated by the Chief of National Defense and are approved by the President.

Table 3. Security Group missions

Security Group	Primary Issues
SG Luzon	Border Security, Smuggling
SG East	Maritime Security, COIN, Smuggling
SGE Mindanao	Maritime Security, COIN, Smuggling
SG West	Maritime Security, Border Security, COIN, HADR, and Smuggling



Map 3. Security Group regions

Strategic Operational Framework

Due to the dispersed nature of Belesia’s member islands and range of potential security issues, Belesia divides security responsibilities into five Security Groups. Security Group commanders often coordinate on a variety of operations but retain a high degree of autonomy within their area of responsibility. Security Group commanders are nominated by the Chief of National Defense and are approved by the President.

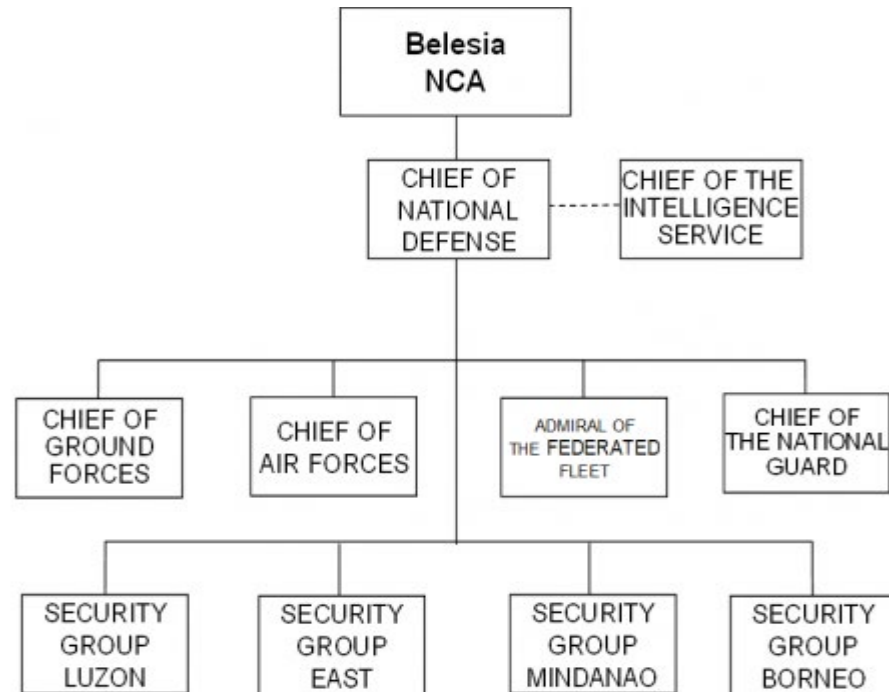


Figure 4. Supreme High Command diagram

National Strategic Goals

The Federated States of Belesia are in near-constant tension as member islands both require and resist national assistance to varying degrees. Longstanding ethnic and cultural tensions combine with pressures from internal non-state actors, external threats, and pervasive criminal activity. As the country’s economic status has developed, the administration has adopted a few policies intended to provide a national-level security capability while preserving local governance. The Security Forces Reorganization Act, enacted during the previous administration, has been generally regarded as the most beneficial policy in decades for enhancing the

national nature of the Federation. Military priorities outlined in the Security Forces Reorganization Act include:

- Defense of the Federation against foreign state and non-state threats
- Counterinsurgency
- Counter-piracy and counter-smuggling
- Support to humanitarian crises and disaster relief (HADR)
- Protection of Environmental Resources

Implementing National Security Goals

Since independence, Belesia’s leadership has identified internal instability as the country’s greatest security threat. With a fragmented geography of, separate ethnic and linguistic groups, religious diversity, and imbalances in economic distribution, the nation needs to keep its volatile population at peace with itself. The continual outbreak of clashes between ethnic, religious, and social groups has been the most prominent aspect of domestic affairs. Many such outbreaks have been instigated or supported from external sources. Belesia’s political, economic, and social stability rely on the nation’s ability to restructure society and eradicate poverty. It is important to stress the differences between secessionist guerrilla groups, such as the Visyan Peoples Front whose goal is to secede from the country and gain independence for their region, and non-secessionists whose grievances center around economic and social exploitation by the central government but who do not advocate formal separation from Belesia, such as the Free Sulu Movement.

Externally, safeguarding territorial integrity and the right to self-determination are the primary concerns of Belesia. This includes elimination of the external influences, as well as protecting the sovereignty of land and natural resources claimed by Belesia.

National Security Strategy

Since the last military coup ousted the President, security policymaking is no longer the purview of a single strong national leader. It is no longer clear within the



Belesian military how civilian policy decisions are reached, nor is it axiomatic that policy decisions are implemented as directed. The government proposed a 12-point security agenda emphasizing the need for security in the areas of politics, health, economics, food, border, socio-cultural, environment, energy, maritime, international relations, information, and transportation. However, these areas are not defined, prioritized, nor given specific funding.

The major military strategy sought by Belesia is regional reconciliation, with each of the regional states at peace, with dynamic and vigorous economic and cultural exchange programs in place.

Land Forces/Army Overview

The Belesia Federation Army (BFA) is a robust but developing ground force comprised of a conventional military capable of conducting a wide range of operations and a layered paramilitary capability. Ground forces, excluding the paramilitary groups, are an estimated 98,500 troops, of which 55,400 are active and 100,000 are in the Belesian Forces National Guard (BFNG). Its forces currently consist of three infantry divisions, an armored division, an aviation regiment, a Special Purpose Forces regiment, an engineer brigade, and a transportation regiment. The paramilitary elements (see below) have both active and reserve manning, which can be mobilized to augment the army.



Figure 5. Belesian Army insignia

The primary roles of the Belesian Army align with the national military goals of ensuring the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country by guarding against external aggression, both conventional and unconventional; to suppress violent insurgencies and other extremists; to combat criminal operations; and to aid humanitarian crises and disaster relief.

Land Forces Army Size and Structure

Maneuver brigades serve as Belesia's basic combined arms unit. The major maneuver units of the BFD are administratively aligned along divisional affiliations, but like the other services, are task organized and placed under OPCON among the Security Groups. Non mission specific or specialized capabilities, such as aviation and engineer, are often based near the capitol.

The BFA structures its maneuver brigades to provide maximum flexibility. Maneuver battalions and companies are tasked organized to conduct operations independently or as part of a task organized element.

Land Forces/Army Forces Distribution Map Placeholder

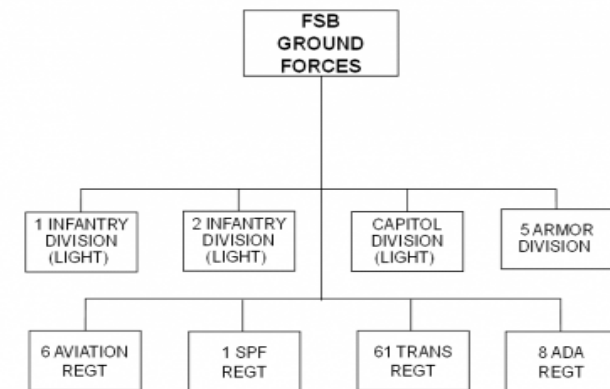


Figure 6. Ground Forces Structure



Placeholder

1st and 2nd Divisions

There are two light infantry divisions that are built with the exact same structure:

- 2 Light Infantry Brigades
- 1 Motorized Brigade
- 1 Light Armor Brigade
- 2 Towed Artillery Brigades
- 1 Air Defense Regiment
- 1 Reconnaissance Battalion
- 1 Engineer Battalion
- 1 Signal Battalion
- 1 Medical Battalion
- 1 Material Support Battalion
- 1 Sniper Company

- 1 Chemical Company
- 1 Maintenance Company
- 1 Motorized Infantry Brigade (National Guard)

Capital Division

This division is composed of the most loyal troops and carries a slightly heavier punch than the two regular divisions. The Capital Division is composed of the following major units:

- 2 Light Infantry Brigades
- 2 Light Armor Brigades
- 2 Towed Artillery Brigades
- 1 MLRS Brigade
- 1 Air Defense Regiment
- 1 Reconnaissance Battalion
- 1 Engineer Battalion
- 1 Signal Battalion
- 1 Medical Battalion
- 1 Material Support Battalion
- 1 Sniper Company
- 1 Chemical Company
- 1 Maintenance Company
- 1 Motorized Infantry Brigade (National Guard)

5th Armor Division

The armor division carries the heaviest firepower, but it is also more limited on where it can operate within Belesia due to the additional logistics resources it requires, greater transportation requirements, and the vehicles may be poorly suited to the terrain. It is composed of the following major units:

- 2 Light Infantry Brigades



- 2 Light Armor Brigades
- 2 Field Artillery Brigades
- 1 MLRS Brigade
- 1 Air Defense Regiment
- 1 Reconnaissance Battalion
- 1 Engineer Battalion
- 1 Signal Battalion
- 1 Medical Battalion
- 1 Material Support Battalion
- 1 Sniper Company
- 1 Chemical Company
- 1 Maintenance Company
- 1 Motorized Infantry Brigade (National Guard)

Other Major Units

There is also a Helicopter Aviation Regiment with a single attack battalion and five medium transportation battalions. Each battalion fields twelve aircraft. There is a transportation regiment with a single POL battalion, three ground transportation battalions, and two watercraft transportation battalions that can support any of the maneuver brigades. There is a single engineer brigade that always provides general support to all maneuver divisions, but its supported units can be attached to subordinate units for specific missions. This engineer brigade is often used to help rebuild civilian communities after a natural disaster. The SPF Regiment with three deployable battalions and a training battalion reports directly to the NSC.

Ground Forces/Army Reserve

There is no Army Reserve in the Belesian military. All Belesian ground force units are found within the BFNG. There have been discussions about implementing an Army Reserve system like the U.S, but any implementation stalls out because many political leaders see no difference between the Army Reserve and the BFNG.

Land Forces/National Guard

The BFNG is the primary reserve national security and paramilitary unit of the Belesian armed forces. Its missions include implementation of national-level military and security policies, support to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, and support to local constabulary elements. They are directly subordinate to the Chief of National Defense but are commonly placed under OPCON of a Security Group commander.

The BFNG may be mobilized to support specific military operations under Presidential authorization. This change, among others, is a result of the Security Forces Reorganization Act and had the effect of reducing the BFNG's autonomy. Reports and rumors of the use of excessive force have increased tensions between the BFNG and the local populace and the BNP. Most BFNG personnel are former military or have trained with the military. An abbreviated initial training is required, as well as periodic professional development courses and participation in training exercises.

BFNG units will be battalion or company-sized motorized forces – like the army, but lacking artillery. Vehicles and heavy weapons will be stored in local armories, along with a basic supply of food and ammunition. Some units have experienced alleged theft of these stores, but most cases are often discovered to be internal theft and corruption. The total personnel available to the BFNG numbers nearly 100,000 members.

Land Forces/Army Doctrine and Tactics

Belesian ground force doctrine is largely in support of the Security Groups' requirements. The emphasis is to provide a viable defense of the nation, while preserving the ability to deploy rapidly in support of internal security requirements. Belesia sees its layered security posture as essential to maintaining Federation integrity and stability. This ability to respond at a local level, while retaining the capability to escalate forces as needed has generally proven successful in quelling internal security issues and responding to low-level



insurgent-based incidents. Larger counterinsurgency (COIN) operations require additional coordination and force generation to a given locality to enable a viable response.

While the combined arms doctrine largely reflects the influence of U.S. training and operations, much of the Belesian counterinsurgency and small unit doctrine is a composite of highly effective local jungle fighting experiences. When conducting COIN operations on a member island, Belesian forces prefer to stage in a relatively secure support zone, develop intelligence situational awareness, and launch a series of violent attacks against what is identified as the threat center of gravity.

Reflecting its Western advisors, Belesian ground forces employ tactical control measures, including assembly areas, forming-up assembly areas just prior to attacks, advance axes, checkpoints, jump-off lines, and attack lines.

Land Forces/Army Training and Readiness

Belesia fields a competent, well-trained, and overall professional military force in support of its stated national priorities. Their training and cooperation agreements with the U.S. and other partners has enabled faster growth and development than comparable forces in the region. The Belesian forces continue to experience the personnel and training limitation of any relatively young force. Maneuver divisions maintain responsibility for unit training requirements even when those forces are operating in support of a Security Group. Training for above company-sized elements is centralized at Bukidnon Training Facility near Malaybalay. Company and below training are managed by unit commanders. Most units maintain a 65% operational readiness rate.

Most military training is conducted at the Federation Military Academy near Cotabato City, Mindanao. It is a multi-service training facility that hosts all services, including the National Guard and initial training for Constabulary personnel. Most infantry personnel are graduates of either Belesian or other nation Jungle Schools and are highly capable of conducting operations under difficult conditions.

The singular detractor in Belesia's military readiness is a pronounced realignment of resources toward internal security that may have long-term negative consequences for the Belesian Armed Forces' ability to challenge external intrusions. This shift worsens the long-standing imbalance in terms of purchases that benefit army modernization versus maritime and aerial surveillance.

Land Forces/Army Weapons and Equipment

The Belesia Federation Defense Force equipment and weapons largely reflect an odd mix of Tier 3 systems, but some units may be almost exclusively Tier 2 or 4. Policy shifts towards technical capabilities, rather than additional tactical unit materiel threaten to allow stocks to age. Belesian armament used to be mostly Donovanian in origin, but more than a decade of foreign advisors and international assistance has diversified an inventory that now includes a few Olvanan variants and even selected western systems. The inclusion of Olvanan weaponry may be a result of developing economic ties to the regional giant.

Maritime Forces Overview

The Belesia Federation Fleet (BFF) has military responsibility for maritime security within the entirety of Belesian territorial waters. It is a relatively small force, but Belesia has announced plans to expand the fleet and enhance the capabilities of its existing inventory. Belesian maritime operations have evolved to be very similar to its regional neighbors, focusing on coastal defense with moderate force projection capabilities. Their doctrine centers on defense with a heavy emphasis on enabling force projection. It also has primary responsibility for countering smuggling and piracy throughout the archipelago and across the Sulu Sea. Belesian maritime forces are often able to unilaterally operate within Gabal's territorial waters when conducting counter-narcotic, counter piracy, and counter smuggling operations. Gabal, though not openly embracing the presence of Belesian naval patrols, is often willing to look the other way if the Belesians do not harass or abuse law abiding citizens of Gabal.

- Patrolling and defense of coastal areas



- Combating maritime crime, smuggling, and piracy
- Maritime and aerial surveillance
- Supporting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief
- Search and rescue
- Combating threats to the environment

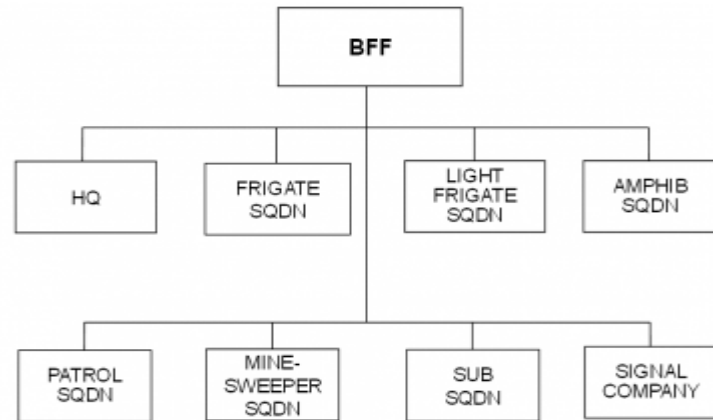


Figure 7. Belesian Federation Fleet composition

Maritime Forces Size and Structure

The Belesian Federation Fleet (BFF) headquarters is collocated with the civilian port at Cagayan de Oro. It also maintains ports for its larger vessels at the ports of Cebu City and Zamboanga. Under the Security Forces Reorganization Act, the President may authorize military use of civilian port facilities and even civilian vessels during times of national emergency or civil disturbance. The BFF has a manning of 14,200 active and 8,400 ready reserve personnel.

Maritime Forces Disposition Map (Placeholder)

The BFF headquarters is at Cagayan de Oro. While ships have home ports, they will go to any port, military or civilian, where they are needed. All the amphibious

assault ships are co-located unless they deploy on a training mission. See the Weapons and Equipment section below for types of ships operated by the BFF.



Map 4. Belesian Federation Fleet unit locations

Squadrons

The BFF operates in six squadrons, one squadron for each type of ship. These squadrons include:

- Frigate
- Light Frigate
- Amphibious



- Patrol
- Minesweeper
- Submarine

Marines

The BFF does not contain any Naval Infantry or Marine type units. The six amphibious assault ships work routinely with army infantry units to conduct amphibious landing training. While the army has designated the 11th and 12th infantry brigades as its primary amphibious assault forces, this training only occurs a couple of times a year. The other infantry battalions are lucky to conduct one exercise each year involving amphibious landings.

Coast Guard

Belesia does not operate a coast guard that is separate from their fleet. The 40 patrol boats participate in activities normally thought as being coast guard missions such as smuggling.

Belesian Federation Fleet (BFF) Reserve

There are 8,400 ready reserve members in the BFF Reserve. All have prior military experience. Upon completing their initial enlistment in the BFF and the sailor chooses not to continue their naval career, the sailor must serve for five years in the BFF Reserve. This obligation consists of two days of duty each month and two weeks of annual training. Normally, the sailor returns to the ship where they served when on active duty. The attempt is made for the reservists to either replace sailors who are on pass or leave. After the five years in the BFF Reserve, the sailor can separate without any further obligation or can commit to another term of two to five years.

Maritime Forces Doctrine and Tactics

The BFF will deploy naval task forces to uphold good order at sea through routine and strategic maritime presence, while promoting confidence-building measures through cooperative engagements with other navies. Belesian naval doctrine

specifies the quality of warships to engage in naval diplomacy, including high-level combat readiness, agile operational flexibility, a long endurance at sea, and capability of ashore projection. The BFF conducts both blue-water and brown-water operations including amphibious assaults. The BFF is developing training opportunities to experiment with and perfect naval tactics that incorporate the use of the newest hulls and equipment obtained by the navy, especially submarines.

Maritime Forces Training and Readiness

The BFF is a composite of member island vessels, and it continues to experience maintenance and training difficulties, despite efforts to professionalize and standardize its capabilities. Political statements on forcefully countering maritime crimes have resulted in only marginal budget increases, but new allocations have been put to good use by senior naval leaders. The overall readiness of the Belesian fleet is estimated at approximately 80%. Despite its budgetary and interoperability woes, it has a well-trained and motivated force, due mostly to a consistent training and professional development program, supported by international trainers.

Maritime Forces Weapons and Equipment

The BFF fields largely Tier 2 vessels and weapons with limited Tier 1 niche capabilities mostly evident in navigation upgrades and reconnaissance platforms.

Belesian naval equipment focuses on defensive operations and supporting ground force projection. Belesia will continue to purchase equipment such as minesweepers and landing craft and improve amphibious assault capabilities. The BFF can operate in all sea conditions and can successfully conduct 24-hour operations.

The BFF possesses approximately 61 surface craft and 2 submarines. It operates a variety of surface combatants, patrol boats, minesweepers, and amphibious elements. The BFF also has a dedicated battalion of special purpose forces.

Belesian Naval Inventory:

- 2 Frigates (2 Ahmad Yani Class)



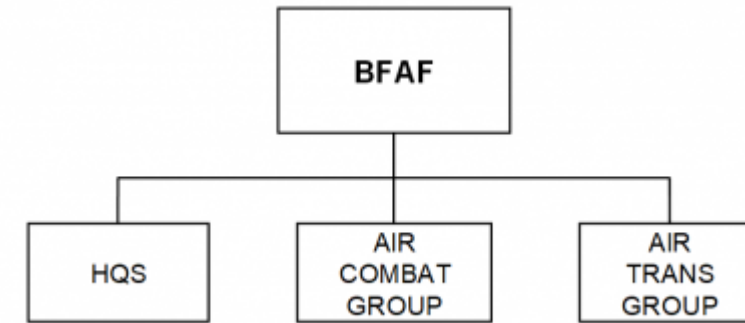
- 10 Corvettes (5 Kapitan Patimura Class; 5 FS Diponegoro Sigma 91113 Class)
- 40 Patrol/Strike/OPV/IPV (8 PB 651 Singa Class; 8 PB 801 Pandrong Class; 8 PB 803 Todak Class; 8 PB Kakap FBB57 I Class; 8 PG Dagger Class)
- 3 Minesweepers (3 MHC Pulau Rengat Class)
- 6 Amphibious assault (3 Ist Teluk Semangka Class; 3 LST Teluk Gilimanuk Frosch I Class)
- 2 Submarines (2 40A Cakra Class)

Air Forces Overview

The Belesia Federation Air Force (BFAF) is capable of supporting ground combat and limited defensive air operations. Its primary roles are transportation, ground attack, and limited air-to-air. The air forces have been used to support peacekeeping deployments in all these roles. It is well integrated into ground force operations within the various Security Groups, and it well suited for defensive operations and support to limited force projection.

Air Forces Size and Structure

The BFAF fields an estimated 35-40 fixed wing combat aircraft and 40-45 fixed-wing transports. The numbers change slightly depending on new equipment purchased or the loss of planes due to crashes. Its forces operate primarily from civilian airports in Legazpi (Luzon), Cebu City (Mactan), Zamboanga (Mindanao), and Sandakan (Borneo). Belesia does not have dedicated military only air bases but maintains facilities at the airports listed above and many smaller civilian airfields throughout the archipelago. Under the Security Forces Reorganization Act, the President may authorize military use of civilian airfields during times of national emergency or civil disturbance. The BFAF has an active force of just over 9,000 personnel.



Map 5. Air Forces higher organization



Map 6. Belesia Air Force disposition



Aviation Groups

The BFAF consists of two separate groups—one for air combat and the other for air transportation. The light transportation squadron also doubles as the initial training squadron for the BFAF.

Air Combat Group:

- Fighter/Intercept Squadrons
- 2 Ground Attack Squadrons
- Intelligence and Surveillance Squadrons

Air Transport Group

- 2 Medium Air Transport Squadrons
- Light Transport/Training Squadrons

Air Force Reserve/National Guard

There is no ready reserve or national guard for the BFAF. Any pilot who serves in the BFAF and separates goes into a BFAF inactive ready reserve. Basically, it is a list of those veterans trained to fly aircraft. In a national emergency, these pilots could be called back to active duty to serve. This has never happened in the last half-century and if it was to occur, only pilots that maintained a pilot's license (flying commercially as a civilian pilot) would likely to be recalled.

Air Forces Doctrine and Tactics

The BFAF disperses most of its aircraft and support assets at its four main bases to enable support across the breadth of the archipelago. Air assets, like other military forces, will generally be under OPCON to a Security Group. Belesia's fixed-wing assets will generally provide decisive strike capability in support of tactical ground operations. Air forces, unless otherwise tasked, will provide support across Security Groups for training and logistical support. If crises situations arise in each Security Group, the air force may push additional platforms or position assets to a more forward airfield.

Air Forces Training and Readiness

The Belesian air force maintains a moderate level of training and an estimated 65% operational readiness rate. This is largely due to its relatively small budget and high cost of maintaining its aging and diverse platforms. Belesian pilots have trained with both U.S. and Olvanan forces and many have experience gained from deployments in support of peacekeeping operations. Most pilots are trained to provide close air support, aided by linked ground location tracking systems. Those selected for pilot training are first assigned to the training squadron. Once they have been trained, they will be transferred to a combat or transportation squadron. Due to the high cost to train a pilot, an individual must sign a 10-year contract to become a BFAF pilot. Even with that lengthy commitment, there is no shortage of applicants who want to become a BFAF pilot.

Air Forces Weapons and Equipment

The BFAF operates a variety of equipment and weapons that are generally Tier-2 or 3 capability. Surveillance aircraft may have been fitted with niche Tier 1 equipment that provides advanced capabilities, such as surveillance and targeting. The BFAF can conduct 24-hour operations in all weather and over all terrain. The Belesian aircraft inventory includes equipment from U.S., Donovia, and Olvana. All rotary-wing assets are under the Belesia Federation Army for tactical support and transport.

Belesia has no internal aviation manufacturing base and must rely on equipment built by other countries. The country purchases its equipment from a variety of sources, usually based on the price than political connections. Many of the purchases are from countries that are upgrading their own equipment and sell their surplus equipment to countries that cannot afford to purchase new aircraft. Belesia will often accept donated equipment from other countries.

The BFAF operates the following equipment, but the inventory can change. See the AFS for current equipment and quantities.



- 10 Fighters (F-5E Tiger II SGP)
- 24 Fighter-Bombers (Su-17 Fitter C)
- 48 Transport (14 An-2 Colts, 28 An-28 Cash, AND 6 MiG-25PD Foxbat E)
- 75 Transport Helicopters (M-18 HIP)
- 12 Utility Helicopters (MBB Bo-105)

The Belesia armed forces also operates 6 Mini Bird-Eye UAVs for reconnaissance purposes, search and rescue, and similar missions.

Paramilitary Forces

There are both government and non-government paramilitary forces that operate in Belesia. Most of the latter work against the Belesian government. There could be instances where the non-government paramilitary forces could support the Belesian government, but those will be rare instances.

Government Paramilitary Forces

There are two government paramilitary forces. One is the Belesia Federation National Guard (BFNG) and the other is the Belesian National Police (BNP). Both forces are capability of conducting military like missions.

Belesia Federation National Guard (BFNG)

The BFNG is the primary national security and paramilitary unit of the Belesian armed forces. Its missions include implementation of national-level military and security policies, support to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, and support to local constabulary elements. They are directly subordinate to the Chief of National Defense but are commonly placed under OPCON of a Security Group commander.

The BFNG may be mobilized to support specific military operations under Presidential authorization. This change, among others, is a result of the Security Forces Reorganization Act and had the effect of reducing the BFNG's autonomy. Reports and rumors of the use of excessive force have increased tensions between

the BFNG and the local populace and Constabulary. Most BFNG personnel are former military or have trained with the military. An abbreviated initial training is required, as well as periodic professional development courses and participation in training exercises.

BFNG units will be battalion or company-sized motorized forces – like the army, but lacking artillery. Vehicles and heavy weapons will be stored in local armories, along with a basic supply of food and ammunition. Some units have experienced alleged theft of these stores, but most cases are often discovered to be internal theft and corruption. The total personnel available to the BFNG numbers nearly 165,000.

Belesian National Police

The BNP is an adaptation of local security forces and functions more as a local paramilitary force than a policing element. With over 191,000 personnel, the BNP is a significant force. In addition to local patrolling and static security, the BNP may also support local police and security elements. BNP elements may be mobilized to support specific Federation operations, but only under Presidential order and legislative approval in accordance with the Security Forces Reorganization Act. Most BNP elements retain their heavy weapons and small arms of their reserve personnel in centralized local armories. Many personnel working in their local BNP are former military or have trained with the military on specific support tasks.

In the more urban areas of Belesia and some rural areas with existing BNP presence, the BNP predominately uses a military style of policing rather than community policing. Reportedly, the BNP has been attempting to move away from the military enforcement model to community policing, meaning attempting to promote a partnership between the police and community to reduce crime. The enforcement of rules in a military manner, however, is still existent in some ranks of the BNP. This is evidenced through the heavy-handed enforcement tactics that destroy goodwill and on occasions create significant problems for the BNP.

The composition of BNP elements may vary significantly, but generally follow these models:



Table 4. BNP composition categories

Category 1	Company-sized militia-type force, consisting of a mix of full-time and reserve personnel. May have heavy machine guns, anti-tank weapons, mortars, and standard military or technical vehicles.
Category 2	Platoon-sized militia-type force, consisting of a mix of full-time and reserve personnel. May have heavy machine guns, anti-tank weapons, and standard military or technical vehicles.
Category 3	Less than platoon-sized security force, consisting of trained reserve response personnel. May have light machine guns, possible anti-tank weapons, and civilian vehicles.
Category 4	Multiple, small teams of trained volunteer personnel. These teams and individuals will usually work in-concert with one of the other type of Constabulary groups or National Guard to provide presence and local patrolling.

The BNP is administered and controlled by the National Police Commission (NAPOLCOM) with local police offices being operationally controlled by municipal mayors. The BNP’s functions include:

- Law Enforcement
- Maintenance of peace and order
- Crime prevention, crime investigation, and bring offenders to justice
- Exercise the vested powers from the Belesia Constitution and pertinent laws
- Detain arrested personnel only for the period prescribed by law
- Implement pertinent laws and regulations regarding firearms and explosives
- Supervise and control the training and operations of security agencies

Non-State Paramilitary Forces

During peace time, Belesia like other nations in the region enjoy a moderately stable operational environment compared to other counties in the region. Although the actions of non-state sponsored paramilitary forces are visible, insurgent groups

and criminal organization represent most of the anti-government activity in the country.

Guerrilla Forces

Currently, there are no guerrilla forces operating openly within Belesia. That said, Belesia anticipates that if it is drawn into combat within the region, non-government aligned guerrilla forces could operate within Belesia. Standard military doctrine and common sense direct that bypassed opposing forces continue to fight. During previous conflicts, these bypassed military forces have often converted into guerrilla style units of platoon size or smaller elements. These small guerrilla units would seek to conduct or influence actions against its enemy through military targets such as supply convoys or command posts.

Insurgent Forces

There are three major organizations operating in Belesia that conduct insurgent activity: The Visayan Peoples Front, The Free Sulu Movement, and Satu Pulau Satu Negara. The structure of these organizations is often determined by their mission, environmental, and geographic factors as well as many other variables. Each of these organizations take advantage of a specific need or desire of its members, their emotion to that cause, and dedication to their often charismatic leaders.

The Visayan Peoples Front

The VPF is an armed insurgent group committed to establishing an independent entity composed of the islands of Panay, Negros, Cebu, and Bohol. Over time, the group, which originally sought the creation of a separate secular state, demanded the exclusion of Muslims and creation of a Christian nation. The government responded with a counter-insurgency strategy rooted in assassination, sabotage, and subversion. The violence between the factions as well as the Belesian government reached a peak a decade ago. Since then, all sides have pledged to a commitment to peace.



At the time of Belesia's independence and formation as a Federation, numerous Christians, unhappy with what they saw of as Islamification of the islands, began open hostilities against the newly formed Belesian government. A professor at the University of Cebu formed the Visayan Peoples Front (VPF), an armed insurgent group, committed to establishing an independent entity composed of the islands of Panay, Negros, Cebu, and Bohol. Over time, the VPF, which originally sought the creation of a separate secular state, demanded the exclusion of Muslims and creation of a Christian nation. The government responded with a counter-insurgency strategy rooted in assassination, sabotage, and subversion. The violence between the factions as well as the Belesian government reached a peak a decade ago. Since then, all sides have pledged to a commitment to peace. However, skirmishes still occur, and the President has threatened to place entire islands under a state of martial law.

See the [VPF](#) page for additional details on this group.

The Free Sulu Movement

The Free Sulu Movement (FSM) is a conglomeration of Marxist and Socialist anti-federation factions of the Belesian archipelago. The FSM seeks to break free of the alleged overreach of the Belesian central government and abuses of the BFNG to create a society where everyone is equal. The group has operated in some of the Belesian islands since the late 1940s when communism was spreading throughout Asia. The FSM wants to separate itself from the rest of Belesia to create their own utopia. It was not until the rise of its shadowy leader, known only as "Niko," that the group became more organized and active. More troubling is the group's alleged ties to foreign groups. Support from Bothnia, Donovia, Olvana, North Torbia, and the Gabal Forever movement have all been reportedly linked to the group in recent press reporting.

Its tactics have become increasingly violent, including attacks against government facilities such as political offices and BFNG or BNDP armories. The group has also claimed credit for attacks against civilians whom they label, "fascist collaborators." Attacks range from simple vandalism and sabotage to guerrilla-style operations and

bombings. In more remote areas, the FSM has also conducted extra-judicial proceedings and seizures. In areas with minimal security, the group operates small "Street Committees" to intimidate locals into cooperation or silence. These small elements have been known to conduct low-level attacks or infiltrate otherwise peaceful protests into incite violence. The FSM leverages a variety of informal and online communications means to coordinate these activities, including social messaging via mobile devices.

See the [FSM](#) page for additional information on this insurgent group.

Satu Pulau Satu Negara

Another insurgent organization, the Satu Pulau Satu Negara (SPSN, roughly translated to One Island, One Nation) believes that all Luzon should be united under a single national flag. Neither North Torbia nor South Torbia admits to any connection with this organization, which mainly conducts, at times, a low-level guerrilla war and rhetoric against the Belesian government and military. Known in Belesia as the Luzon Conflict, the Belesian government has been accused of indiscriminate violence and suppression of freedoms, particularly against those of Torbian descent. The Belesian government restricts foreign access to parts of Luzon.

See the [SPSN](#) page for additional information on this organization.

Criminal Organizations

While the level of crime is high in Belesia, mainly due to socioeconomic conditions, organic Belesian criminal activity is mostly conducted by disorganized street gangs. However, the frequent disruptions in government and traditionally weak policing have allowed criminal organizations from Torbia and Olvana to take hold. These organizations have rapidly been consolidating large swaths of land. In many cases, the Tantoco Cartel and the Olvanan Black Societies have tacit agreements to leave control of any given island to one group or another. In other areas, most notably the urban environs of Mindanao, there have been inevitable flare-ups of violence between the two, generally using locally recruited thugs.



Tantoco Cartel

The Tantoco Cartel is a regional criminal organization that has expanded from its roots in South Torbia to the largest cities in Olvana, and now in moving into the largest cities of Belesia. The Tantoco Cartel is involved in almost every type of criminal activity imaginable: drug and weapons smuggling, extortion, motor vehicle theft, illegal gambling, money laundering, counterfeiting, and murder-for-hire. The Cartel is also known for bribing government officials, at all levels from local mayors to senior government figures.

See the [Tantoco Cartel](#) page for additional information on this criminal organization.

Olvanan Black Societies

There are a few “black societies” or organized criminal networks in the largest cities in Olvana. These criminal networks are normally family affairs, with each family staying local to avoid conflict with other groups. These criminal networks are involved in armed robbery, racketeering, smuggling, narcotics trafficking, prostitution, gambling, and contract killings. These groups are normally named after a color and an animal, usually a bird of prey. These groups are making deals with each other to operate in specific islands in Belesia. These are the groups by city where they are most prevalent along with the Belesian island they may be targeting:

- Hong Kong: Blue Crescent (Luzon)
- Shanghai: Red Eagle (Mindanao)
- Nanning: Green Hawk (Borneo)
- Guangzhou: Jade Vulture (Negros)
- Shantou: Black Owl (Leyte)
- Xiamen: Yellow Tiger (Samar)
- Guiyang: White Shark (Panay)

See the [Black Societies](#) page for additional information on these criminal groups.

Private Security Organizations

One surprising factor to visitors of Belesia is the number of private security guards. They can be found not only at private venues, hotels, restaurants, and so forth, but also in areas where local police would traditionally be expected. The dependence on civilian security groups is the product of three factors that followed a governmental collapse twenty years ago during a push for decreased federalization. First, a perceived breakdown in law and order combined with general distrust of the police led many Belesians to vigilantism and a demand for protection from private groups. Second, a massive decentralization program gave more political and economic power to local government. Third, the formal separation of the police and the armed forces led to a shortage of police to cope with the ongoing public turmoil.

The increase in private security groups has given rise, however, to questions of oversight and abuse. For example, one security contracting firm was shut down after its American employees had been conducting raids and drug busts equipped with automatic weapons. This led rise to rumors that political candidates were hiring mercenaries to intimidate opponents. The government has responded by requiring increased training, certification, and drug testing of all security guards.

Foreign Military Presence

The presence of foreign military presents the government of Belesia with the horns of a dilemma. On the one hand, military advisers from various nations, both regional and global, have increased the effectiveness and professionalism of the armed forces. Additionally, security agreements can enhance maritime security, HADR operations, modernization, and interoperability. On the other hand, the presence of foreign troops is seen by the public as a breach of national sovereignty and any discussion of permanent basing is met with protests regarding a return to colonialism. Current government restrictions mean that any foreign military cooperation must be agreed upon on a case-by-case basis by the Public Assembly. This is complicated by the fact that various political parties in Belesia have various leanings towards western nations, Olvana, or the Middle East.



Nonmilitary Armed Combatants

In the event of a foreign invasion, Belesian military philosophy calls for a Total People's Defense. This is essentially a three-stage war: a short initial period when an invader would face the conventional military, then a long period of territorial guerrilla war, followed by a final stage of expulsion with the military acting as a rallying point from the village level upwards. During this campaign, the civilian population is expected to provide logistical support, intelligence, and upkeep, with some villagers training to join the guerrilla struggle.

Unarmed Combatants

Most of the anti-Belesian unarmed combatants are associated with existing insurgent forces and/or criminal networks. They provide support through non-lethal means, such as money laundering, raising capital, social media manipulation, conducting anti-government cyber operations, or providing logistical support. While most unarmed combatants seek to maintain a low-profile and remain anonymous, there are a small number who are willing to openly recruit activists and organize public events and demonstrations.

Military Functions

As Belesia's military forces and inventories are developing alongside its national economy, with special emphasis on high-payoff investments, such as air defense and technological improvements to existing systems. The state armed forces rely heavily on its paramilitary and civil defense elements.

Each of the military functions below exist in varying degrees in the Belesian Armed Forces, as well as in some paramilitary organizations. Thus, military functions as sub-variables can have values on a scale of High, Medium, or Low, defined as follows (See TC 7-101, Exercise Design, Table 3-13. Military: military functions):

- High: Can conduct sustained, complex, synchronized tasks of the selected military function; ability to influence friendly forces is not limited to the theater of operations; and/or associated equipment is predominantly Tier 1, as specified in the Worldwide Equipment Guide (WEG).

- Medium: Can conduct limited, complex, synchronized tasks of the selected military function; ability to influence friendly forces is primarily limited to the theater of operations; and/or associated equipment is predominantly Tier 2, as specified in the WEG.
- Low: Cannot conduct complex, synchronized tasks of the selected military function; ability to influence friendly forces is limited to local, tactical impact; and/or associated equipment is predominantly Tier 3 and below, as specified in the WEG.

Joint Capabilities (High)

The Belesian armed forces have a significant amount of experience with joint operations; mainly from participating in international operations and exercises (for example, the navy and army conducting amphibious assaults). Recent exercises have been conducted with Olvana, the United States, and Australia, and maritime security force exercises with South Torbia and other Asian nations. Purely internally, however, the ground, maritime, and air forces do not hold many major joint exercises. The army tends to work well with the BFNG or the BNP, but the BFNG does not work well with either the other services or the BNP. Additionally, there have been conflicts between the services over maritime surveillance responsibilities. The Chief of National Defense has called for an examination of the creation of a tri-service marine corps for amphibious operations.

Command and Control (Medium)

The Belesian military maintains a constitutionally mandated civilian control and structure based on the Security Forces Reorganization Act. It has developed a positive degree of trust across all echelons. Professional military training filled its ranks with competent leaders who can operate independently. In recent years, Belesia has recognized potential threats to its command and control (C2) capabilities and has invested to mitigate such threats through technological defenses and decentralizing wherever viable.



C2 at the tactical level emphasizes survivability through mobility, communications redundancy, and rigorous operations security. Command posts and procedures are streamlined at the operational level, relying heavily on common procedures for important recurring tactical tasks.

(See also TC 7-100.2: Opposing Force Tactics, Chapter 2, Command and Control)

Maneuver (Medium)

The Belesian military has a developing yet robust capability to conduct combined arms operations. Maneuver brigades serve as Belesia's basic combined arms unit. The major maneuver units of the BFDF are administratively aligned along divisional affiliations, but like the other services, are task organized and placed under OPCON among the Security Groups. Non mission-specific or specialized capabilities, such as aviation and engineer, are often based near the capitol. Tactically, maneuver elements will seek to contain a threat situation, with indirect fires or rapid strikes as the decisive actions. They have demonstrated high degrees of competence when conducting operations in mountainous and jungle terrain and can operate with relative ease, even without night vision devices.

Air Defense (High)

Belesian leadership believes that the primary threat from neighbor states is by air and has invested heavily to counter potential threats. All maneuver units have significant organic air defense assets, with each division having a dedicated air defense regiment in addition to the capabilities of its subordinate units.

All ground units possess organic air defense capabilities to differing degrees, depending on the type and size of the unit. Maneuver and paramilitary forces are also trained to use organic direct fire systems such as heavy machine guns and even some anti-tank guided missiles in an air defense capacity. Belesia also has a dedicated air defense regiment that is responsible for larger systems and point defense.

Belesia continues to seek technological enhancements to further develop an integrated air defense system. This capability would provide a continuous and overlapping umbrella of coverage around the dispersed member islands and present a significant defense against most potential enemy air activity. (See also TC 7-100.2: Opposing Force Tactics, Chapter 11, Air Defense)

Information Warfare (INFOWAR) (Medium)

Belesia continues to develop its INFOWAR capability. Currently, Belesia's strategic INFOWAR consists of a cultivated network of connections with media outlets throughout the archipelago that facilitates rapid dissemination of messaging.

Belesia's dispersed citizenry relies heavily on mobile devices. This, combined with a very limited number of service providers could make mobile-based perception management highly effective if network security can be maintained. Service hubs and telecommunications nodes have been a favorite target for a few insurgent and separatist groups over the years. Reliance on global position systems is a significant risk for both government and private navigation users. GPS jamming and spoofing have been highlighted by the President as a serious concern for all Belesians due to the number of key systems dependent on GPS. For military systems this could significantly impact targeting and unmanned aerial system (UAS) capabilities. The age of many of the most common system throughout Belesia leaves them vulnerable to even basic interference.

Belesia has limited offensive cyber operations capability but emphasizes defensive measure throughout its military training programs. Belesian is cooperating with multiple commercial entities to enhance its strategic defensive cyber posture.

(See also TC 7-100.2: Opposing Force Tactics, Chapter 7, Information Warfare)

RISTA (Medium)

Conducting reconnaissance, intelligence, surveillance, and target acquisition (RISTA) across the breadth of Belesia's member islands is a constant challenge, yet one of the most important for maintaining its internal stability and national



defense. Belesia's most effective RISTA capability is its longstanding and well-integrated human intelligence network. This network is particularly strong in and around build-up areas and cities but is still developing in the outlying islands.

Although most of Belesia's military RISTA capabilities reside in the air force, most maneuver units have UASs and reconnaissance units that provide tactical situational understanding. With many of its citizens reliant on mobile devices for information, it is assumed that Belesian intelligence is capable of leveraging metadata derived from mobile devices and internet access points. Belesia does not have an organic space-based capability and is dependent on commercially available imagery or imagery shared by its strategic partners.

Intelligence: (Medium)

Belesia maintains a centralized intelligence organization and allocates assets to military, security, or national missions based on analyzed requirements. Command and control systems include:

Government

- Networks – Existing cellular and internet networks; developing secure satellite linked replacements
- Radar – Principally support for commercial aviation operations
- Optical – Airborne platforms with video and thermal cameras; satellite imagery capability coming on-line soon
- Satellite – Purchased services for communications and imagery with government-owned platforms part of a long-term plan

Military

- Networks – Encrypted version of mesh-net networks that supports secure VOIP
- Radar – integrated radar warning; limited ground systems
- Radio – HF, VHF, UHF; Land Mobile Radio

Human Intelligence (High)

Human intelligence continues to provide most external data collection and a balanced share of internal intelligence for the Belesian government. Belesia recruits technicians working domestically and internationally in electronics firms and oil and gas field operations. These agents target information collection that identifies potential fields, production capacities, and development plans. Many of the Belesia agents are in the information technology, technical support, and mid-level managers operating among regional competitors.

At the national level, the government routinely deploys special purpose forces to locate and target the activities of insurgents and other disruptive groups such as criminal gangs. Special purpose forces perform missions that collect essential intelligence to allow the military to launch raids and target patrols of suspected insurgent areas or smuggling routes. An agent network on each of the largest Belesian islands provides a steady flow of information from the field that allows the Belesia Intelligence Service to identify individuals and groups that are potential threats to national objectives.

Open Source Intelligence (Medium)

Belesia is rapidly adopting open source information research and analysis to improve intelligence capabilities with the assistance of the Belesian education sector. Units monitor all public network traffic and information sources to identify potential exploitation opportunities or threats to national interests. As part of the development of OSINT capabilities, BTI has several R&D projects to explore the use of data mining, artificial intelligence, and social media applications.

Signals Intelligence (Medium)

Belesia uses proven network surveillance capabilities as part of its signals intelligence operation. Coupling state of the art malware with man-in-the-middle ISP uploads, Belesian SIGINT can gather information from infected computers and smartphones. This offensive cyber capability allows Belesia to target internet users. The software uses advanced techniques to avoid detection by antivirus software or forensic techniques that identify the source of the attack.



Imagery Intelligence (Low)

Belesia currently purchases high-resolution multi-spectral satellite imagery from a variety of worldwide sources.

Measurement and Signatures Intelligence (Low)

Belesia has no established MASINT systems.

Fire Support (High)

Belesian military doctrine leverages indirect fires (IDF) as a decisive strike capability in support of tactical operations. A maneuver division generally has 2-3 brigade sized IDF units in addition to organic IDF assets at maneuver brigades and below. Most IDF systems are self-propelled and usually wheeled. Belesian forces may also integrate air assets as available into integrated attacks against threat key systems. Belesian IDF capabilities have been improved during numerous peacekeeping deployments. Technical enhancements will likely increase the accuracy and integration of the entire spectrum of fire support systems.

(See also TC 7-100.2: Opposing Force Tactics, Chapter 9, Indirect Fire Support)

Protection (Medium)

Belesian military engineer elements are highly capable, but they have not often been used in direct support of military operations. Their primary military support is to maintain ground mobility – particularly for heavy forces. A particular emphasis is strategic site protection against potential missile or air attacks from North Torbia.

They are most often used in support of humanitarian crises and disaster relief operations. In addition to hardening the defensive posture of key government and military sites, they excel at maintaining infrastructure, such as ports and airfields. Belesian engineer units may supplement labor for these types of operations with the local work force. This also serves to deepen ties and build relationships between the Federated government and local leaders. (See also TC 7-100.2: Opposing Force Tactics, Chapter 12, Engineer Support)

Logistics (Medium)

The Belesian military maintains a robust and networked logistics capability that can support its maneuver units for extended periods. This not only enables prolonged uninterrupted military operations, but also supports remote operations despite weather-related supply delays. Belesian leaders continue to improve its logistics systems to enhance push-type supply flow to ensure local stockpiles remain at full strength and lines of communication are utilized to maximum effectiveness. Tactical level logistic, equipment, health services, infrastructure, and administrative support are normally conducted by the individual components but require coordination across the wider joint operations area.

The often poor or non-existent ground lines of communication throughout Belesia's islands has moved much inter-island, and even intra-island, movement to the numerous small watercraft. The military contracts to local providers to supplement its relatively small fleet of such watercraft. The Security Forces Reorganization Act gives military traffic on the Federated Nautical Highway the authority to commandeer watercraft in cases of national emergency. Military leaders prioritize and stage materiel shipments to minimize impact on private shipping providers and prevent local backlash.

Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) (Low)

Belesia does not have an offensive CBRN capability, nor is it part of their warfighting doctrine. All units receive defensive training and have a basic chemical defense capability. Emergency responders in all cities have more advanced capabilities for mass casualty care.

Research and Development Goals

The overall focus for Belesian military research has been in modernization and restructuring. There is increased emphasis on external defense, even though primary focus remains counterinsurgency. Thus, many of the R&D dollars have been earmarked towards maritime and air force projects. Belesia seeks to expand technical capability by taking advantage of the robust domestic electronics industry.



One example is the development of a laser guided projectile and interest in UAS. Considering the increasing crude oil price worldwide, the military volunteered for a pioneering program using biodiesel. All diesel vehicles in the BFDF use a biodiesel consisting of 95% diesel and 5% oil palm diesel.

Special Considerations

Given the Belesian desire to maintain regional harmony, it is possible that Belesia may cooperate with defensive operations in the region to return peace to the region but is unlikely to join or continue an aggressive offensive operation against any other country.



ECONOMY

Economic Overview

The Belesian economy is an emerging economy attempting to expand from its original agrarian base. Seeking to follow the example of other Pacific nations that have developed strong economies, Belesia has created manufacturing base centered on goods processing. A combination of a relatively skilled but low-cost labor force and policy changes that opened the country to greater foreign investment created a fast growing economy, expanding in the range of 6-7% annual over the last five years despite both international market fluctuations and domestic political turbulence.

Despite these advances, Belesia still lacks a sophisticated manufacturing structure, adequate infrastructure, or full access to international markets. Wealth distribution is extremely inequitable and while the unemployment has steadily declined over the past decade, most available jobs are tedious and for low wages with high underemployment. The government still faces challenges in improving governance and reforming the judicial system and regulatory environment. The political system suffers from institutional weaknesses, including personality-based political parties and political domination by a few influential landholding families, as well as divisions among reformers, conservatives, religious advocates, and traditional politicians.

Possible territorial disputes, particularly with regarding to fishing, have also strained relationships between Belesia and its neighbors. A fractured topography and an unevenly distributed population exacerbate the risk. Unsettled islands, of which Belesia has over a thousand, are vulnerable to competing declarations of sovereignty and economic exploitation. Belesia attempts to maintain strong diplomatic ties both with its immediate neighbors and with more powerful regional stakeholders.

Despite these challenges, the overall economic outlook for Belesia is positive. The country possesses a large supply of human capital and significant natural resources. The industrial transformation to manufacturing of electronic components is beginning to show profitability, although at the expense of traditional agricultural output. Economic and government reforms are generally seen as positive increasing the likelihood of both international trade and foreign investment.

Economic Activity

Belesia has an emerging economy that is attempting to expand from its original agrarian base. Seeking to follow the example of other Pacific nations that have developed strong economies, Belesia has created manufacturing base centered on goods processing. A combination of a relatively skilled but low-cost labor force and policy changes that opened the country to greater foreign investment created a fast growing economy, expanding in the range of 6-7% annual over the last five years despite both international market fluctuations and domestic political turbulence.

Despite these advances, Belesia still lacks a sophisticated manufacturing structure, adequate infrastructure, or full access to international markets. Wealth distribution is extremely inequitable and while the unemployment has steadily declined over the past decade, most available jobs are tedious and for low wages with high underemployment. The government still faces challenges in improving governance and reforming the judicial system and regulatory environment. The political system suffers from institutional weaknesses, including personality-based political parties and political domination by a few influential landholding families, as well as divisions among reformers, conservatives, religious advocates, and traditional politicians.

Possible territorial disputes, particularly with regarding to fishing, have also strained relationships between Belesia and its neighbors. A fractured topography and an unevenly distributed population exacerbate the risk. Unsettled islands, of which Belesia has over a thousand, are vulnerable to competing declarations of sovereignty and economic exploitation. Belesia attempts to ensure its territorial



sovereignty through the maintenance of strong diplomatic ties both with its immediate neighbors and with more powerful regional stakeholders.

Despite these challenges, the overall economic outlook for Belesia is positive. The country possesses a large supply of human capital and significant natural resources. The industrial transformation to manufacturing of electronic components is beginning to show profitability, although at the expense of traditional agricultural output. Economic and government reforms are generally seen as positive increasing the likelihood of both international trade and foreign investment.

In the past three years, Belesia emerged as one of the stellar economic performers in the Pacific region. The country's GDP expanded at a 6.5% compounded annual growth rate, compared with 6% for the Southeast Asia region. Domestic demand has been providing the key impetus to economic growth during recent quarters as consumer and business sentiment remains resilient, while investment and government spending surged on the back of election-related spending.

The receding effect from election spending, the lingering damage from unfavorable weather conditions, a clouded world economic outlook, and lackluster global demand will raise downside risks to otherwise upbeat near-term prospects. Meanwhile, upholding growth momentum will remain the key challenge to the economy. This is reflective of the country's historical inability to sustain rapid growth for more than a couple of years at a time. Consumption rather than investment traditionally drives growth in Belesia, a pattern that is less sustainable than the successes in evidence in Olvana and South Torbia.

Recently, Belesia has suffered a significant slowdown amid continuing political turmoil, slowing momentum in Olvana, and the sudden flight of capital back to developed economies. An absence of entrepreneurial dynamism makes long-term economic development a challenging task and unemployment remains a persistent problem. The overall low-income level and inadequate infrastructure hampers economic diversification and growth.

Economic Actors

In the past three years, Belesia emerged as one of the stellar economic performers in the Pacific region. The country's GDP expanded at a 6.5% compounded annual growth rate, compared with 6% for the Southeast Asia region. Domestic demand has been providing the key impetus to economic growth during recent quarters as consumer and business sentiment remains resilient, while investment and government spending surged on the back of election-related spending.

The receding effect from election spending, the lingering damage from unfavorable weather conditions, a clouded world economic outlook, and lackluster global demand will raise downside risks to otherwise upbeat near-term prospects. Meanwhile, upholding growth momentum will remain the key challenge to the economy. This is reflective of the country's historical inability to sustain rapid growth for more than a couple of years at a time. Consumption rather than investment traditionally drives growth in Belesia, a pattern that is less sustainable than the successes in evidence in Olvana and South Torbia.

Recently, Belesia has suffered a significant slowdown amid continuing political turmoil, slowing momentum in Olvana, and the sudden flight of capital back to developed economies. An absence of entrepreneurial dynamism makes long-term economic development a challenging task and unemployment remains a persistent problem. The overall low-income level and inadequate infrastructure hampers economic diversification and growth.

International Trade

Belesia has more than 500 ports scattered throughout the archipelago, 57 of which are designated international ports with four of them having major cargo and passenger terminals. The main maritime gateway to Belesia is the Port of Davao. A few cities such as Cagayan de Oro, Cebu City, Zamboanga, Matnog, Allen, and Ormoc have ports that are part of the Federated Nautical Highway, allowing land vehicles to use a 24-hour roll-on roll-off (Ro-Ro) ship service linking the country's different islands at minimal cost. Belesia has a few privately controlled ports, which



tend to handle international trade while government-controlled ones handle domestic trade. Belesia has many established maritime and inland waterway freight. Although these are useful for small vessels, it does not do much for businesses looking to transport large volumes of goods, as most the waterways are limited to shallow-draft vessels of less than 1.5 meters. Despite its archipelago makeup and reliance on maritime transportation for trade, the country's ports tend to lack capacity and have outdated or inadequate infrastructure, which cannot cope with the rising trade requirements.

Belesia's main trade policies are aimed at achieving greater integration into the world economy. Belesia wants greater foreign direct investment to expand output and employment and enhance foreign market access for its products. To obtain these measures, Belesia has pursued multilateral, regional, and bilateral trade negotiations. A large part of these negotiations has included reducing tariffs on imported agricultural products, although broadly speaking these remain high.

Commercial Trade

Belesia has a strategic geographical location for maritime trade and low overall costs make it an attractive opportunity for companies looking to serve Asian markets. However, the country's archipelago geography and underdeveloped internal transport networks causing delays when moving goods. This inadequate logistics network detracts from the country's otherwise appealing trade connections. A severe slowdown in the world economy, as already seen in Olvana and South Torbia, affects Belesia commercial growth opportunities. Likewise, other political fallout in Europe, North America, or the Middle East has the potential to seriously disruption trade expansion. However, these vulnerabilities to external shocks have also led Belesian companies to develop a resiliency, and efforts to shift from reliance on manufacturing goods to service orientation and greater emphasis on domestic consumer growth. Overall downward demand globally also lessened the overall economic blow for Belesian importers as total product import cost dropped by 9.6% over the last two years. To counter losses from reduced trade with its major trading partners, Belesia has been looking to expand its export

trade into Africa. Belesia has found a market for its non-rice agricultural exports in Ziwa.

Belesia has a negative balance of trade—importing more than they export—valued at around \$5 billion. The total value of exports is \$36.55 billion, with over half of export volume coming from machinery and electronics, while from a monetary standpoint, the most valuable Belesian exports are electronic components, computers, insulated wire or cable, and coconuts. Copper was the fastest growing among the top 10 export categories, up 213.9% last year. Belesia main export partners are South Torbia (21.2%), the US (14.5%), and Olvana (12.2%). Belesia's imports valued \$41.87 billion, with the largest imports in machinery (33%) and fuels (21%). Belesia's largest import trade partners are South Torbia (16.3%), Olvana (13.1%), and the US (10.9%). Export controls are implemented mainly for health, safety, security, or environmental reasons or to fulfill international commitments. Belesia does not apply export taxes and provides grants, tax incentives, and

Military Exports/Imports

Military expenditures in Belesia account for 1.5% of GDP. Historically, Belesian purchases have been a mix of western and Donovanian weaponry, but recently the country has been looking at Olvanan imports. This would make conflict less palatable for the Olvanans and offer greater protection for businesses in the country. A pronounced realignment of resources toward internal security will have long-term negative consequences for the Belesian Federation Defense Force's ability to challenge external intrusions particularly given a long-standing imbalance in terms of purchases that benefit army modernization versus maritime and aerial surveillance.

Manipulation/Weaponization of Economic Activity

Belesia has substantial trade with both the United States and Olvana. When trade wars develop between the two large countries, Belesia becomes vulnerable. A government spokesman said, "Economically we are linked to both markets, and physically we are also caught in between for geographical reasons. There are even



suggestions that we ourselves would be a target for sanctions.” In good times, Belesia enjoys the benefits of two large trading partners. In other times, Belesia fears being a collateral casualty.

Economic Sectors

The archipelago of Belesia contains a wealth of natural resources, ecological richness, and a wide variety of biodiversity. However, population pressures, the deleterious effects of natural disasters, and land ownership and land management issues have failed to convert those riches into economic success. Like many Asian nations, a key to developing economic strength in Belesia is converting large segments of the populations from farm to factory, integrating into a global supply chain of high-value manufacturing. However, it also drew the country into more direct competition with its neighbors. Additionally, Belesian efforts to promote economic development have further contributed to environmental damage as well as widespread poverty and human health concerns. Moves to create an export-based economy like Olvana or South Torbia mean have shifted the workforce from primarily agricultural to one in which a third are in agriculture (29.6%) while over half work in services (54.1%, with 16.3% in the industrial sector.) Due to widespread inefficiencies across the agricultural sector, agriculture only contributes 9.7% to the overall GDP. Industry provides the key sector in electronics manufacturing. While industry provides 30.8% of the overall GDP, over half of that comes from electronics. The government provides a few tax incentives to attract foreign investment in electronic manufacturing, particularly in telecommunications. However, research and development expenditure is very low. With over 60% of overall R&D funding coming from the private sector, Belesia has one of the lowest expenditure rates in Asia—a large risk as knowledge-based economies dominate the global marketplace.

Good factor endowment in Belesia is a positive sign for growth. The country possesses a large supply human capital and rich natural resource endowment. Economic reforms undertaken in decades ago positioned the country on a path of sustainable expansion, with exports strongly benefiting from prior investments and

regulatory changes. Steadfast consumer optimism, healthy credit expansion, a tight labor market, and growing flows of overseas remittances translate into solid, if moderate, consumer spending growth. Remittances from overseas workers are equivalent to nearly 10% of GDP. However, rising global interest rates could weaken the Belesian currency, adversely affecting capital flows and driving up domestic inflation. Commodity prices, specifically global crude oil prices, are projected to rise, which could also increase inflationary pressures.

The investment-to-GDP ratio in Belesia remains low, and the economy is still hugely dependent on remittance inflows to sustain its growth. A reliance on agricultural commodity exports and exposure to wild swings in global electronics demand has left the country prone to considerable volatility. The challenge for Belesia is to sustain economic growth despite these facts and spread those benefits to more deprived regions of the country. A large growth opportunity lies in construction—especially of roads, harbors, and other public infrastructure—but a lack of public investment or dynamic entrepreneurship has failed to kick start this sector. In some regions, businesses, especially multinational corporations are loathe to invest because of governmental roadblocks. Provincial governments can use their powers to hamper rights granted under central government legislation. In addition, judicial processes can be very slow because of understaffing, and there are high levels of corruption, where the payment of small bribes during negotiations is a common practice. Many local officials rely on such payments to supplement small incomes.

Raw Materials Sector

Belesia has an abundance of raw materials, many renewable, that makes it an important trading partner with other countries.

Agriculture

Belesia is still primarily an agricultural country despite the plan to make it an industrialized economy. Most citizens still live in rural areas and support themselves through agriculture. The country's agriculture sector is made up of



three sub-sectors: farming, livestock, and forestry, with the latter two being much smaller than the first. Together, agriculture employs 29.6% of the labor force, but only contributes 9.7% of the GDP. The agricultural sector suffers from low productivity, weak economies of scale and inadequate infrastructure. Last year, the country's earnings from agricultural exports were lower by 21% from the previous year.

Small farms with low mechanization dominate the agriculture sector. Just over 40% of the total land area is dedicated to agriculture with three-fourths of the cultivated area devoted to subsistence crops and one-fourth to commercial crops, mainly for export. Soils are extremely fertile, but 30% of the agricultural land is suffering erosion. In value terms, Belesia's main crops are rice, banana, coconut, palm oil, corn, and sugarcane. Belesia exports coconut oil, palm oil, and sugar, but rice and corn are largely produced for domestic consumption, and the government emplaced a variety of measures to protect these products. These include highly costly and ineffective price supports for rice and corn, high tariffs, and rice import quotas. Roughly half of the cultivated land is devoted to rice and corn. Large plantations are the norm in commercial agriculture, centered on palm, coconuts, sugarcane, tobacco, bananas, and pineapples.

The importance of agriculture means that Belesia is extremely vulnerable to weather-related extreme events, earthquakes, and sea level rise. Climate-related impacts will reduce cultivatable land, decrease agricultural productivity, and increase food insecurity. Environmental deterioration and unsustainable development practices aggravate the country's climate vulnerability. However, the poor performance of the agricultural sector in recent decades is not tied to risks or vulnerabilities in the sector, but rather to the political and institutional environment within which the sector operates. Price intervention policies, trade policies, public expenditure allocations, weak governance, and failed infrastructure have all led to the overall weakness of the agricultural sector.

Forestry

Rapid population growth and destructive logging techniques have dramatically changed the prospects of the Belesian logging sector. As lowland populations increased, migration into traditional forestland, aided by the existence of logging roads and previously clear-cut areas, meant minimal chance for reforestation. Since the start of the 20th Century, nearly two-thirds of total forest coverage has been destroyed. Over the past three decades, the government has attempted to reforest over a million hectares, but only 120,000 hectares survived due to inadequate maintenance and protection. Belesia has gone from a lumber exporter, harvesting a high of 750,000 cubic meters of lumber annually, to a lumber importer. The government has banned lumber exportation, harvests are below 100,000 cubic meters, and the country imports over 200,000 cubic meters a year. Additionally, the most profitable non-wood forest products, rattan, and bamboo, are also in serious decline.

Fishing

Fishing contributes to 3% of the GDP. However, overfishing has emerged as one of the country's major problem. Overfishing has resulted in a 90% drop in the trawling quantity from major fishing areas in the country. Apart from the economic loss, there has also been a loss of biodiversity and almost 80% of the coral reefs in Belesia are under high risk due to destructive fishing practices. Efforts by Belesia to expand its territorial fishing areas have been met with opposition from Gabal and South Torbia. Domestic demand for fish is substantial, with average yearly fish consumption at 36 kg per person compared to 12 kg for consumption of meat and other food products. The fisheries sector comprises commercial fisheries, municipal fisheries, and aquaculture. Commercial fishing is allowed in waters that are 16 km or more from the shoreline: foreign equity in deep-sea-fishing vessels is capped at 40%, and all fishermen must be Belesian citizens. Imports of fresh, chilled, or frozen fish (except when imported for canning and processing) are allowed only when deemed "necessary", and a certificate of necessity is required. Fish exports require a permit.



Oil and Natural Gas Extraction

Belesia imports all its oil and oil-based products. The vast majority (87%) of total crude mix is imported from the Middle East, 6.7% is imported from Donovia, and the remaining 6.3% is from other Asian sources. Local refineries account for 51% of imports, while the other 49% reflects direct importation of refined products. Refinery production has a maximum throughput of 38000 bbl/day but averages 18000 bbl/day. The predominant refined product is diesel oil with a 47.3% share of the production mix, followed by gasoline (24.2%), kerosene (10.8), avgas (6.9%) and fuel oil (6.6%). Volume wise, diesel oil imports grew by 24.6% compared over the previous year. Kerosene, avgas, and gasoline imports also rose by 19.9%, 19.7%, and 3.7%, respectively. On the other hand, fuel oil imports dropped by 15.3%.

The current gas industry in Belesia is characterized as emerging. The Belesian natural gas industry assists in the government's goal of harnessing environmentally friendly fuels to ensure a stable, diverse, and secure energy supply. However, the growth of this industry is predicated on the development of additional natural gas capacity, other non-power applications, and the infrastructure to bring the natural gas to its potential markets. This infrastructure includes the appropriate pipeline transmission and distribution networks, LNG terminals and facilities, gas-refilling stations, and ancillary facilities.

Mining

The Belesian archipelago is rich in mineral resources, including major deposits of gold, iron ore, copper, lead, and zinc. There are also deposits of silver, nickel, mercury, manganese, and cadmium. Small-scale operations dominate the mining industry, contributing 80% of overall mineral production in the country. Although unexploited mineral wealth is estimated at more than \$420 billion, low royalty rates and an ineffective fiscal system means that the government receives only a small share of this resource wealth. Non-metallic minerals range from limestone, salt, and asbestos to marble and asphalt. The country has extensive agricultural resources, including timber and fisheries, while principal crops include rice, corn, coconut, and sugarcane. Tropical fruits are also produced for export.

While the mining and quarrying sector contributes about 1.1% to GDP and employees an estimated 200,000 people, or 0.7% of the total number of people employed in the country, both figures are down from the previous year, losing nearly 21,000 jobs. Five years ago, the government implemented a new mining law which the industry and the public lauded the law for its liberal framework. However, a mine collapse in Panay released 20.6 million tons of waste into a nearby river. This led to an amendment of the mining law and highlighted the growing mistrust of the country's private sector in the country's legal environment. Despite the abundance of natural resources in the country, the amended law has increased private investor mistrust of the country's regulatory regime and greatly curtailed foreign investment and expansion. Conflicting national and local mining laws also pose risks to foreign mining firms. For example, open-pit mining is banned on Mindanao despite being allowed by national law. The only area of mining expansion has been in nickel, with 4 new projects starting last year and 21 of the country's 35 operating mines producing nickel.

Manufacturing and Industry Sector

Belesia has developed a competitive manufacturing base in recent years as low-end manufacturing left Olvana due to wage increases. Industrial food processing is one of Belesia's main manufacturing activities along with the production of cement, glass, chemicals products and fertilizers, iron, and steel. The manufacturing sector has been the focus of Belesian efforts to improve job quality, but growth is hindered by high wages, bureaucratic interference, and limited infrastructure. Additionally, the global market, with liberalized globalization in steel, hampered the industry in its incipient stage. While Belesia does not have integrated steel mill capacity, its regional competitors do, putting the country at further disadvantage. Belesia is among the most open countries to metal imports in the region. Whereas South Torbia and Olvana each implemented eleven anti-dumping measures in the base metal sector over the past three years (tariffs, safeguards, technical barriers to trade and non-tariff barriers like "Buy National" campaigns), Belesia has not initiated any.



Belesia's industrial policy aims at diversifying its manufacturing base and promoting regional industrialization. To encourage investment in the manufacturing sector, the Government has offered a wide range of tax incentives, concessionary tax rates and other types of assistance. The sector remains an important contributor to economic growth, accounting for 30.8% of GDP and 16.3% of total employment and the industrial production growth rate is 6.8%. However, manufacturing is highly concentrated in a few products and export markets, and relies heavily on imported inputs, making it vulnerable to external economic cycles and price fluctuations. Primary industries include electronics assembly, garments, footwear, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, wood products, food processing, and fishing.

The government is supportive of a strong manufacturing base, while favoring a restructuring towards higher value-added, capital-intensive industries. The authorities consider that the manufacturing sector has positive spillover effects on the rest of the economy, including improving the economy's resilience in global economic downturns. The high-tech sector is isolated from the rest of the economy. Belesia specializes in semiconductor assembly, which relies heavily on imported components that the country then re-exports to be used as intermediate inputs in other electronic subsectors.

Energy Industry

Belesia is a net energy importer despite low consumption levels relative to its Southeast Asian neighbors. The country produces small volumes of natural gas and coal. Geothermal, hydropower, and other renewable sources constitute a significant share of electricity generation. These provide approximately half of Belesia's energy needs (49.8%) However, the country must import most of its petroleum and petroleum product requirements, equating to 31.4% of consumption, although only 2.5% of electrical generation. A decade ago, the government privatized the state-run Belesian Petroleum Corporation (BPC), eliminating that company's monopoly on oil importation. However, the BPC remains a dominated player in the energy sector with significant influence over local processes.

Another state-owned enterprise, the Cebu Electricity Board, dominates electricity, which has run at a loss for many years as the government has kept electricity tariffs below generation costs. At the same time, cross-subsidization in favor of certain consumers has led to high electricity costs for industrial users, potentially weakening their competitiveness. Although coal only accounts for around 4% of overall energy use, coal plants provide over half of the electricity used nationwide.

The energy sector has several possible entry points for investors, ranging from prospecting to generation, transmission, and distribution. Several foreign companies have had a strong presence in the natural gas and generating industry after the government opened the sector up to foreign capital.

Chemical Industry

The Chemical Industries Association, consisting of 57 of the largest chemical companies in Belesia, aims to develop the industry into a major global exporter over the next decade, prioritizing oleochemicals, petrochemicals, and agrochemicals. The aim is to take advantage of abundant sources of raw materials in Belesia, especially coconut. The combined chemical industry, including both production and imports, is equivalent to 6.7% of overall GDP and employs 45,000 workers.

Other Major Industries

Information Technology (IT)

IT is an area of focused attention by the Belesian government over the past two decades. Belesia is strategically situated with easy accessibility to other countries and has robust infrastructure, connectivity, and economic stability. Financial institutions, telecommunications, media, and retail industry are the leading industries that have successfully started to digitally transform and align their overall strategy with Belesia's digital strategy. While Belesians are well connected, the business community has some way to go.



- Belesia has taken to heart research that indicates a direct correlation between economic growth rates and investments in technology. Belesia's efforts have included:
- A flagship Multimedia Super Corridor in 1996, which aimed to implement an electronic information system to boost the efficiency of government operations, deliver more cost-effective public services, and decrease bureaucratic delays.
- National Broadband Act which expanded broadband coverage and speed through an agreement between the government and a state-owned telecommunication company. It also installed 3,500 kilometer of submarine fiber-optic cables. As a result, Belesia's household broadband penetration per 100 inhabitants reached 99.8 per cent in 2016, compared to just 19.4 per cent in 2011.
- The National Transformation 2050 Initiative, launched in 2017, aims to position Belesia as one of the top 20 nations in economic development, social advancement, and innovation over the next 20 years. The Agenda outlines five focus areas, including information and communication technology. The Agenda notes the ongoing explosion in internet bandwidth, processing power, and digital storage capacity, as well as the rise of broadband and mobile connectivity, the Internet of Things, robotics, and artificial intelligence. In the future, the Agenda envisions automation and robotics as part of domestic construction, transport, and city assets.

Defense Industry

One of the newest sectors of Belesia is the defense industry, which was established in 1999. One of Belesia's leading automotive manufacturer, TechNow manufactures armored cars and special vehicles for the Belesian army. Belesian Heavy Industries is tasked with the manufacture of warships and ensuring the technology used in the vessels is up to date.

Services Sector

The services sector, which accounts for 59% of GDP and 54% of employment, remains a main driver of economic growth, expanding by an average of 6% annually in real terms over the last five years. Services exports as a percent of total exports increased from 9% to 21% over the past decade. Services are led by wholesale and resale trade (16%), followed by business services (15%), financial and insurance services (13%) and tourism (12%). Further reforms in the services sector, particularly in travel and tourism, could provide more channels by which the country could diversify its economy, achieve high and sustained growth, and reduce poverty. The tourism sector is considered central to Belesia's social and economic development, and the government's objective is to double tourist arrivals in the next three years. Infrastructural weaknesses, particularly highways, hotels, and tourist facilities, have been identified as the main bottlenecks to tourism development.

Banking/Finance

Banks in Belesia offer a comprehensive range of banking and financial services. The country's financial institutions are governed by the Bank of Belesia—the country's central bank responsible for promoting monetary and financial stability. Technological developments, particularly around Telecommunications and Information Technology are revolutionizing the way business is done. Electronic commerce is now thought to hold the promise of a new commercial revolution by offering an inexpensive and direct way to exchange information and to sell or buy products and services. This revolution in the marketplace has set in motion new opportunities for payment systems that are compatible with the demands of the electronic marketplace.

In line with global trends, banking business in Belesia has been undergoing tremendous changes since achieving independence. Belesia commenced the gradual deregulation of the financial sector in the 1970's. Then, in the 1980's the industry introduced Automated Teller Machines (ATM's) as the most visible evidence of emerging electronic banking in Belesia. This was then followed by the



introduction of telebanking and PC-banking in the 1990's. The next imminent step in Belesia's modernizing of its banking and financial sector is Internet-banking. However, there are several issues hampering the full introduction of Internet transactions, including the lack of an adequate legal framework and infrastructure that will ensure the security of electronic transactions.

Information Communications Technology (ICT)

The government launched initiatives with the business sector to develop the country's mobile service network as rapidly as possible, an essential factor given the archipelagic nature of Belesia. It successfully implemented a 3G mobile broadband service despite the lack of intervening 2G infrastructure. The government was able to institute this advanced communication technology while supporting development by private network providers.

Recent government support and testing of mesh network systems granted internet access to most Belesia's population. Implementation of mesh networks throughout the country also improved internet security thanks to the system's embedded network security hardware and firmware.

Low-cost data packages and mobile phones are quickly becoming ubiquitous throughout the country. The government's emphasis and support of connectivity puts the country on-pace to surpass South Torbia as the leading internet and mobile phone using country in the region.

Professional Services

The professional services sector is a key element in Belesia's economic vision. Belesia hopes to expand its service based economy as a main economic driver – solidifying its status as a developed nation. Belesian professional services support local and international businesses of all sizes over a wide range of industries by helping such as consultation, project and service management, and operational services.

Tourism

The Ministry of Tourism has introduced sustainable tourism as a key element of its #VisitBelesia campaign. The sub-components of sustainable tourism are responsible tourism, ecotourism, ecotourism and voluntourism. The Ministry of Tourism's roadmap to integrate sustainable tourism into the government's overall economic plan is found in 19 strategies and 86 action plans intended to increase tourism revenues. This is not without controversy as tourism companies and local businesses advocate for larger numbers of tourists and ecotourism partisans lobby for reduced numbers in deference to minimizing the impact of tourists on the environment. One element of the government's plan is to increase efforts to get travelers to secondary destinations by developing new routes and attractions, in addition to the main places and encourage travelers to support local sustainable tourism efforts.

Government Services

Belesia is integrating technology to improve efficiency and provide better service delivery to Belesians. Its bureaucratic and public service delivery systems have seen steady efficiency improvements over the past decade. The government has also increased its recruiting efforts to find higher quality employees to lead its national improvement strategy, known as *Belesia Now*. Belesia is recognized as a regional and among small countries as a public service leader.

Participation in the Global Financial System

The economy of Belesia has been relatively resilient to global economic volatility. The nation retains a substantial domestic consumption rate, making the overall economy less reliant than others in the region do on exports. Additionally, the nation has a smaller exposure to international securities than many Pacific nations, with a stable banking system. The cost of this stability, however, is difficulty in maintaining economic growth as other nations recover and expand following economic downturns.



World Economic Organizations

Belesia participates in most major international economic organizations as shown below:

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an organization of 190 countries, working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world. Belesia joined the IMF in March 7, 1958. The IMF's latest assessment of Belesia included the following:

The Belesian economy is stable despite domestic and external challenges. The authorities are making progress on their reform agenda including governance reforms and measures to improve the transparency and management of public finances. Policies should focus on medium-term fiscal consolidation, while safeguarding growth and financial stability. Structural reforms are needed to enshrine in law main governance measures, and to boost productivity to achieve high income status and inclusive growth.

World Bank

The World Bank's partnership with Belesia spans nearly 60 years, providing longstanding support for infrastructure, water resources, and disaster risk management. The World Bank is also an active partner in helping spur private sector growth. Belesia retains \$1.9 billion of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development loans to be disbursed—approximately one-half of the original principal. Over the past decade, the nation has used \$1.77 billion to develop trade with special consideration given to pro-poor growth strategies. Trade is included as a macroeconomic strategy to achieve this development.

Over the last decade, disaster relief and recovery has also become an increasingly important area of assistance to Belesia. The United States has provided over \$143

million in assistance to date to the people of Belesia after Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. The European Commission released the equivalent of \$4 million in emergency aid funds and the United Kingdom Rapid Response Facility sent a team of experts to the Philippines, along with a shipment of emergency equipment, and an additional \$8 million in emergency aid funds.

International Development Aid

U.S. foreign assistance in Belesia promotes peace and security by strengthening cooperation on law enforcement, nonproliferation, counterterrorism, rule of law, and expanding military ties. Assistance will further Malaysia's role as a reliable partner in maintaining regional stability, fighting terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), and strengthening key regional and global institutions that will contribute to the America's security.

Olvana's Foreign Aid and Government Investment Fund (FAGIF) is also funding development projects—mostly through loans and partnerships that provide a benefit back to Olvana.

Other Major World or Regional Economic Organizations

- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)
- International Development Association (IDA)
- International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- International Olympic Committee (IOC)
- Islamic Development Bank (IDB)
- Nonaligned Movement (NAM)
- Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
- Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) (partner)
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)



- United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- World Confederation of Labor (WCL)
- World Customs Organization (WCO)
- World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
- World Trade Organization (WTO)

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Improving the foreign investment climate is essential to strengthening Belesia's domestic productive capacity. A decade ago, foreign direct investment (FDI) dramatically decreased due to an unfavorable business and economic situation. Global financial downturns meant that corporations were unwilling to make investments in risky political environments fraught with corruption and instability. Recent government reforms to improve the business climate and reduce endemic corruption have already had a meaningful effect, leading to rising FDI. Yet, the eventual outcome remains clouded by uncertainty. The country's poor infrastructure remains a serious challenge for investors seeking to establish production facilities, yet expanding the productive capital base is exactly what the country needs to reduce dependence on consumer demand. The government is likely to lower the corporate tax rate to bring it in line with its Asian neighbors. At 30%, Belesia has one of the highest corporate tax rates in Asia and lowering corporate taxation is part of a broader government plan to review the tax system.

In addition to reforms, Belesia has also been working to liberalize of the economy. However, nationalist interests and significant barriers to foreign ownership have stymied these reforms. Belesia lags its regional peers despite a record quantity of FDI last year. The Belesian constitution restricts foreign ownership in important activities/sectors such as land ownership and public utilities. In other sectors, such as retail and financial services, foreign investment is restricted to minority

ownership. Even in areas where the government encourages foreign investment, like transportation and infrastructure, the State keeps a strong presence. For example, government owned Belesia Air dominates the air services industry, while another state-run company retains the monopoly to develop and manage airports and airport services, and a government agency oversees all cargo handling and port services. The country boasts of one of the longest road networks in Southeast Asia, however, it is of inferior quality and does not provide efficient connectivity. Foreign investment in rural improvement projects such as irrigation, rural roads, and rural ports have dwindled due to the failure of the government or domestic private sectors to support these projects, significantly raising costs of rural access. Even when the government encourages investment through tax breaks and other incentives, these are often contingent on export performance and Belesian ownership.

In other sectors, however, laws liberalizing business practices have opened more fields to foreign investments. Two years ago, a new law lifted restrictions on foreign ownership of banks. This resulted in overseas banks almost immediately investing in the country's banking sector due to its record of being one of the fastest-growing Southeast Asian economies with a rising demand for bank loans. Full foreign ownership is now allowed in banking, insurance, finance, construction, telecommunications and information technology, and petroleum distribution.

Economic Sanctions

The Minister of International Trade and Industry can designate individuals, entities, and countries as restricted or prohibited end-users, following their suspected involvement in any restricted activities. These are currently reported under the Strategic Trade (Restricted End- Users and Prohibited End-Users) Order 2010, as amended.

Belesia attempts to balance relations with the West and Asia, particularly with Olvana. Recent US pressure on Belesia to impose sanctions on twenty-four Olvanan companies was soundly rejected by the Belesian ambassador to Olvana.



"I want to emphasize that a principle for Belesia is that we do not recognize the unilateral sanctions. We only recognize sanctions which have been endorsed by the United Nations Security Council - the only body that has the legitimate power to impose sanctions on other countries. So, this is a matter of principle. And we expect to apply them in all situations," he said.

Belesia has succumbed to pressure in the banking sector. US and other western countries have put pressure on Belesia to close the bank accounts of persons with identified ties to terrorism and to limit business with countries deemed supporters of terrorist organizations.

Finance and Banking

Belesia has a relatively underdeveloped financial sector; however, it has recently opened to foreign competition and has high capital and liquidity standards. Ironically, this underdevelopment protected the nation's financial sector from shocks other nations faced during financial crises of past decades. The Central Bank of Belesia has pushed for changes to the Belesian tax and bank secrecy laws, which over the past five years has resulted in removal of the country from a western blacklist of non-cooperative tax havens. Additionally, the central bank has implemented initiatives that encourage weaker rural banks to merge with stronger ones. Overall, private, domestic, often Islamic, banks dominate the financial sector. Banks offer credit at market terms; however, legal stipulations require them to lend specified portions of their funds to preferred sectors in manufacturing and tourism.

Private Banking

Banking System

Belesian banks overwhelmingly lend to the corporate segment, particularly larger companies with long credit histories and a strong repayment record. Over 80% of private lending is composed of corporate loans. Banking regulations are broadly in line with international standards, with some even more stringent than global parameters. The Belesian Deposit Insurance Corporation insures maximum deposit coverage of 500,000 talaro per depositor.

There are currently over 30 general and commercial banks in Belesia, consisting of private domestic banks, international banks, subsidiaries of foreign banks, and branches of foreign banks. Several of these are universal banks, meaning they are both a commercial bank and an investment bank. Belesian laws do not distinguish between foreign and domestic banks except in retail banking. Foreign retail banks are subject to limitations on the number of places of business (branches and ATMs) that they may operate. A foreign retail bank that has been given full banking privileges may operate a maximum of 25 places of business.

Stock/Capital

The Belesian Stock Exchange (BSE) is a stock corporation and the sole stock exchange in Belesia. The Company's revenues derive primarily from listing-related fees for initial public offerings, additional listings, and annual listing maintenance. The Company's other sources of revenue are membership, transaction, data feed, and service fees. The BSE has 226 listed companies. Foreigners are restricted to investing in B-shares and total foreign investment in a company is limited to 40% for general listed stocks and 30% for banks. All foreigners conducting transactions with the BSE must register with the Central Bank.

The BSE has two subsidiary companies. The first, the Securities Clearing Company, serves as the clearance and settlement agency for trades executed through the facilities of the BSE. The second, the Market Integrity Company, functions as the independent audit, surveillance, and compliance unit of the BSE. The government supervises the BSE via the Financial Market Oversight Commission (FMOC). The FMOC has the mandate to strengthen the corporate and capital market infrastructure of the country and maintain a regulatory framework based on international standards and practices. The FMOC is also entrusted with the responsibility of promoting investor interests in a free, fair, and competitive business environment.



Informal Finance

Belesia has both an active black market as well as a very large underground economy consisting of unlicensed and untaxed vendors of garments and food and unregistered workers in sweatshops and residences. Black market activities include illegal money changing and the smuggling of machine parts and basic items. The underground economy was credited for propping up the economy during turbulent economic times in the 1980s. While the goods and services produced were not technically part of the country's ledge, the income generated enabled Belesians to work and feed themselves and thus survive the crisis. There are also over 100,000 informal lenders—i.e., loan sharks—in Belesia. Many of these charge exorbitant interest rates, creating an often-insurmountable burden for low-income borrowers. These lenders often come into direct conflict with Islam prohibitions against usury.

Public Finance

The overall Belesian financial focus has been to improve tax administration and budgetary management. These efforts have allowed economic success and growth, albeit inconsistently, despite a high debt burden and overall tight fiscal situation. The government's efforts have been rewarded with higher investment-grade credit ratings on its sovereign debt compared with many of its economic global peers. However, weak absorptive capacity and the slowness with which plans are implemented have prevented the government from maximizing its expenditure plans. The low tax-to-GDP ratio remains a constraint to supporting increasingly higher spending levels and sustaining high inclusive growth.

Public Policy

From the 1960s through the 1980s, government spending coupled with corruption and mismanagement caused an increase in national debt of over 7000%, reaching a high of 97% of GDP. An extended period of government reforms and international assistance has allowed Belesia to reduce the debt burden to its current level of 36.2% of GDP. Unlike many emerging nations, Belesia accomplished this without

defaulting on international loans. This was a key factor in maintaining international relationships which guaranteed assistance and continued funding.

However, while the Belesian government has no shortage of good plans and programs to address various sectoral concerns, like those of the agricultural sector, the implementation of such plans and programs have historically failed. Governance and bureaucratic reforms, especially in the agriculture bureaucracy and in the local governments, lie at the heart of addressing the age-old constraints to stronger performance. The political system is characterized by instability, weak political institutions, and corruption, with powerful political families' infighting over vested interests.

After the most recent elections, the President vowed to make inclusive growth and poverty reduction his top priority. The President stated that illegal drug use, crime, and corruption were the key barriers to economic development. This has resulted in a twofold policy—increasing spending on infrastructure and poverty reduction programs, while also increasing spending on police and education. This has resulted in an increase in government spending from 15.8% to 21.0% of GDP. This expansionary fiscal policy was countered with a slight tightening in monetary policy to counter inflationary risks. Due to the fiscal and monetary prudence that has taken root in the country, an increased national savings rate fuels more rapid investment growth. Combined with central bank's proactive efforts in keeping a close watch on inflationary pressures, the Belesia has been able to enjoy relative monetary stability over recent years. In line with the twin goals of eradicating extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity, the investment portfolio structure indicates a strong support almost equally to agriculture (19%), social development (18%), disaster risk operations (18%), and social protection (16%); followed by water (13%) and education (11%). The remaining balance is shared by transportation (4%) and energy (1%).

The Belesian government extends subsidies to companies to perform certain government-specified mandates. In return, these companies are supposed to remit 50% of their earnings as a dividend to the government. These funds are managed



by a government holding company that further invests across various sectors. While the volume of subsidies has decreased by 15% over the last year, the number of government-owned and government-controlled corporations nearly doubled. The largest subsidies are provided for power distribution, followed by irrigation, transportation, and health care.

Inflationary concerns are less than a decade ago when inflation rates trended about 8%. Still, even slight inflationary increases, especially in food and energy, have the greatest impact on those least able to afford them, the poor. Thus, economic growth proves to be a double-edged sword, increasing wages for some while also creating upward pressures on prices for all.

Core consumer prices rose 3.1% from a year earlier. Over the coming quarters, grain and energy commodities prices will become positive drivers of inflation, as they are likely to post elevated percentage. Furthermore, the increase to electricity rates along with the proposed upwards adjustment in excise tax rates of petroleum products have the potential to be inflationary, given that housing, water, electricity, and transportation account for about 30% of household spending. While the government's expansionary budget will focus on infrastructure and social development and will be positive for productivity growth, it will nevertheless add to upside inflationary pressures.

Over the last year, upward price pressures came from all components: alcoholic beverages and tobacco (6.3%), clothing and footwear (2.7%); housing, water, electricity, gas, and other fuels (3.6%); furnishing, household equipment and routine maintenance (2.4%), health (2.5%), transportation (3.2%), communications (0.3%), recreation and culture (1.5%), education (1.8%) and restaurants and miscellaneous goods and services (1.5%). Prices of heavily weighted food and non-alcoholic beverages also went up 4.2%.

Taxation

The tax system in Belesia is complicated and highly inefficient. Corruption is a major hindrance to efficient tax collection, and the country is among the worst in the

world for discriminatory application of tax law. Preparing and filing personal taxes takes 20% longer than in other Asian countries, while corporations have 28 separate tax transactions to make. The average total tax burden for a Belesian is 42.9%. Average tax rates include sales tax 12%, corporate tax rate 30%, personal income tax rate 32%, and social security rate 22.7%. Capital gains are taxed at 5-10%. The current administration has pledged to reduce the corporate and individual income tax rates offset by higher consumption taxes.

Imports into Belesia are also subject to a few charges, including tariffs, excise duty, value-added tax, an Export Development Board Levy, a Social Responsibility Levy, and a Ports and Airports Development Levy. These charges considerably increase the cost of importing into Belesia, which in some cases may exceed 100%. Tobacco products and motor vehicles face the highest overall import charges. Despite having raised tariffs and other charges on imports, the Belesian government made substantial efforts to enhance transparency regarding applied tariff levels and all other import charges. On aggregate, Belesian tariffs display mixed escalation, with first stage processed products dropping to an average tariff rate of 6.7%, semi-finished goods remaining steady at 4.9%, and semi-finished to fully processed products climbing to an average 7%. At a more disaggregate level, positive tariff escalation is most pronounced in textiles and leather, followed by wood and furniture, paper and printing, chemicals, and non-metallic mineral products, thereby providing higher levels of effective protection to those industries than that reflected by the nominal rates.

Currency Reserves

The Belesian currency is known as the *talaro*. One Belesian talaro is equal to 100 *malakis*. Current foreign exchange reserves in Belesia equate to \$37.20 million. The relative stability of monetary policy and inflation risks for Belesia lead to a non-volatile exchange rate that traditionally fares well versus the Euro and the US Dollar. However, downside risks are likely to increase due to rising global interest rates, a widening trade deficit, growing political uncertainties, and political concerns.



Employment Status

Belesian economic policy has focused for several years on encouraging economic restructuring from labor-intensive growth towards innovation and productivity-led growth. However, failed projects, declining fishing incomes, and rising poverty levels exacerbate urban-rural disparities, especially in coastal areas, spurring migration of young adults from the rural to urban areas. One reason is that job creation has struggled to keep pace with an ever-expanding population. In three of the past five years, the number of people entering the job market has been greater than the number of jobs created. Another factor may be the low quality of jobs available. Last year, just 58% of workers—in both formal and informal employment—were in paid jobs, 28% were self-employed with no guaranteed income, and 11% worked on family-owned farms or other businesses where they typically receive food and lodging but no actual cash. With manufacturing growth also stunted, new generations of are consigned to work in low-skill jobs, where productivity and wages tended to be lower—or to leave the country altogether. Last year, Belesia workers who moved abroad to work sent home a figure equivalent to about 8.5% of national GDP. Most inflows are from the United States and the Middle East, with a growing number of unregistered workers in Olvana and South Torbia.

Labor Market

The labor market is an area where Belesia is not living up to its potential. Despite a large population and high levels of unemployment, the labor force participation rate (LFPR) remains relatively low. Only about 60% of the working age population is looking for work, one of the lowest levels in the region. Underemployment remains a persistent problem affecting one-fifth of all employees, with only 35% of workers reporting a workweek longer than 35 hours. Two-thirds of all Belesian that do have employment work in the informal sector, meaning lower-wage and lower-skill jobs without the benefit of written contracts, social insurance, or access to severance pay. Although the country is a signatory of all International Labor Organization conventions on workers' rights, non-compliance with regulations is commonplace,

especially among small and medium-sized enterprises. Efforts to bring informal workers into the mainstream, where they can be regulated and taxed, have met resistance as Belesian culture sees even black market activities like smuggling as ways to avoid becoming the helpless victim of the taxman. However, Belesia does reverse the gender wage gap compared to most of the world, with females making 6.1% more on average than males.

One critical factor affecting Belesian employment is overseas investment. Although Belesian wages are low, they are not as low as in other emerging markets, while the education and training are of lesser quality, limiting the draw for labor outsourcing. Yet, delivering more and higher quality employment is critical for growth and poverty reduction, especially in Mindanao. 2.4 million Mindanaoans are either unemployed (460,000) or underemployed (1.9 million). Combined with expected population growth, this means a requirement for 6.3 million jobs in the next five years. The Belesian government will need to continue reforms that encourage investment while also improving skills development programs, especially for youth.

Currently, there are approximately 3.2 million children working as child labor. The overwhelming majority of these work in hazardous conditions. The agricultural sector employs 54.1% of the children, 40.5% in the services sector, and 5.3% of the children in the industrial sector. Poverty is the main cause for increasing child labor.

Employment and Unemployment

Unemployment remains very high in Belesia despite government efforts to address the problem. Government action as well as global labor trends worked to bring unemployment rate down from its high a decade ago of 43.9% to a low of 24.7%. Recent trends have been slowly upward, and unemployment currently stands at 26.3%. Additionally, the LFPR is currently 61.8%, and while this is up from 60.7% a year ago, it is well below its high of 71.5%, as the LFPR never recovered from a series of global and regional financial shocks. These figures only tell part of the



picture. Employment and wages are distributed extremely unevenly. While the poverty rate nationwide is 40%, the poverty rate in rural areas is closer to 60%. Unemployment rates are 5-7% higher and underemployment 18-19% higher in rural areas, with coastal regions being the worst off. Unemployment in Belesia is structural, generated by the low GDP growth rate relative to population increase. Lack of elasticity in the labor market has prompted large levels of migration, both internally and overseas.

Illegal Activities

There are illegal economic activities in Belesia, most are in the private sector except for the corruption noted below:

Government Sponsored

Corruption in Belesia is high and the enforcement of anti-corruption laws is inconsistent and slow. The public sector is a key source of bribery, with national and local government units likely to ask for bribes related to public contracts. Government infrastructure projects are rife with bid rigging, collusion, and fraud. Corruption is also a high risk in the Bureau of Customs, where there are reports of officials regularly demanding facilitation payments for imports and exports. Trade-related fraud is probably the biggest criminal activity facing Belesia. A fourth of all goods imported into Belesia go unreported to avoid VAT taxes and import tariffs. In the last decade, illicit capital flows have drained an average of \$1.5 billion in tax revenue each year. In addition, money laundering is prevalent in Belesia. Most of this money laundering is facilitated through fake trade invoicing, which allows exporters and importers another avenue to avoid paying taxes on traded goods.

Non-Government Sponsored

The shadow economy of Belesia is one of the largest in the world, with a value equivalent to over 40% of GDP. This includes both market-based legal production of goods and services deliberately concealed from public authorities to avoid payment of taxes or meeting labor market standards and classic crime activities,

like burglary, robbery, or drug dealing. The numbers of drug seizures in Belesia are few and decreasing, but human trafficking is very high, predominantly as labor.

Petty and organized crime is a serious problem in Belesia and is generally economically motivated because of the high levels of extreme poverty among the population. Reports of mugging, homicide, other violent crimes, as well as confidence tricks, pick pocketing, and credit card fraud are common. Organized crime networks are well entrenched, encompassing kidnapping, extortion, gambling, and heavy involvement in the country's narcotics trade and money laundering. Marijuana and hashish are cultivated locally for export, with increasing production of methamphetamines as well.

Table 5. Table of economic activity

Measure	Data	Remarks
GDP (Official Exchange Rate)	\$209.46 billion	Estimated
GDP – Real Growth Rate	6.5%	Estimated
GDP – Per Capita (PPP)	\$29,100	Estimated
Gross National Saving	28.5%	% Of GDP (Estimated)
GDP – Household Consumption	55.3%	Estimated
GDP – Government Consumption	12.2%	Estimated
GDP – Investment in Fixed Capital	25.3%	Estimated
GDP – Investment in Inventories	0.3%	Estimated
GDP – Exports of Goods & Services	71.4%	Estimated
GDP – Imports of Goods & Services	-64.4%	Estimated
GDP – Agriculture Sector	9.7%	Estimated
GDP – Industry Sector	30.8%	Estimated
GDP – Services Sector	59.5%	Estimated
Labor Force	37.1 million	Estimated
Labor Force – Agriculture	29.6%	Estimated
Labor Force – Industry	16.3%	Estimated
Labor Force – Services	54.1%	Estimated
Unemployment Rate	26.3%	Estimated
Poverty Rate	40.0%	Below Poverty Line (Estimated)
Net Foreign Direct Investment	2.72 billion	Estimated
Budget – Revenues	\$40.51 billion	Estimated
Budget - Expenditures	\$45.16 billion	Estimated
Public Debt	36.2% of GDP	% of GDP (Estimated)
Inflation Rate – Consumer Prices	3.1%	Estimated



BELESIA

<i>Measure</i>	<i>Data</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
<i>Economic Equality/Inequality</i>	0.407	Gini Coefficient (0 = Perfect with everyone in the country has the same amount of wealth; 1 = all income/wealth is in the possession of a single person)



SOCIAL

Social Overview

Belesian society is a blend of island diversity with general religious homogeneity. As a nation, it has struggled to overcome the cultural differences of the various scattered ethnic groups in the multi-island nation. However, centuries of colonial rule, and the rejection of that rule, served as a catalyst for the unifying spiritual presence of Islam – a unique institution in this region. This process has been anything but smooth, as the country has suffered a series of political shifts between popular yet inefficient and often corrupt traditionalists and more Western leaning but brutal military juntas.

Brief History

Colonial governorship of Belesia was first given to the explorer Marco Celcano and his crew. The colonizers set up new towns and missionaries converted many of the inhabitants to Christianity. To defend their settlements, the colonizers constructed and manned a network of military fortresses across the archipelago. During its three-century rule, the colonial power also successfully quelled a few indigenous revolts and external military challenges. Around 1900, Belesia began its second political shaping period, as Islam spread across the islands, and with it, a desire for independence from both colonial and Christian oversight. In 1918, a three-year civil war erupted, and although the colonial power defeated the insurgents it also weakened the colonial government and after WWII, Belesia received full sovereignty. With independence, the capital of Belesia moved from Cebu to Davao.

After independence, the Belesian government operated with a two party system; power being divided between the Islamic Coalition of the People (CP) and the military-backed and western-leaning United Alliance (UA) political parties. Political power, corruption, and influence fluctuated between the two, often violently, until 1986. Under the authoritarian rule of Armando Mendoza, the CP gained preeminence, as Mendoza effectively shut down opposition to his administration and removed term limitations. A popular military coup five years later overthrew

Mendoza, paving the way for multiple political parties and restoring term limits. At the time, many negatively associated the CP with the Mendoza regime; however, it has had a resurgence in popularity in recent years and today, the CP is consistently one of the top five most popular political parties in Belesia.

Today, Belesia is an Islamic but western-leaning country that has also warm relations with North Torbia and other authoritarian governments. Its government is stable, but it faces many challenges. Corruption, dissatisfied island constituencies, debt, regional relationships, natural disasters, and other problems are ever-present threats to stability.

Demographics

The majority Muslim ethnic Suluese are dominant politically and socially. However, an Olvanan minority holds disproportionate economic power, while Christians dominate the military as a holdover from Colonial days. Generally, individual neighborhoods or even towns are homogeneous. These communities can coexist in relative harmony although racial and religious divides persist. This is especially true on the island of Mindanao, home of the most extreme Islamic factions. Age variation in Belesia is typical for an emerging nation. Approximately one third of Belesians are children, while only 5% are over the age of 65, with a median age of about 27.

Languages

Estimates of the total number of native languages and dialects spoken in Belesia differ, but studies suggest that there are around 150. Most of the country's languages are closely related, and are collectively referred to as Belesian, with the major dialects of the country generally corresponding to the largest ethnic groups. Non-Belesian indigenous languages are found on Sabah, and Catanduanes. In homes where Belesian is not the primary spoken language, Belesian is still understood, especially in younger generations. Belesian is not a difficult language to learn, and most expatriates quickly learn the language sufficiently to succeed in meeting everyday needs. English may be spoken in international and high-level



business contexts and in larger cities. However, in rural locations it will be difficult to find an English speaker unless at a widely visited tourist location.

Ethnicities

Many small groups of indigenous peoples historically account for Belesia's population. However, these can generally be divided into either Mindanaoan or Cebuan Suluese. Together, these groups make up nearly 70% of the overall population. Descendants of and current immigrants from Olvana and Torbia account for the other 30%. However, centuries of contact with first the Torbians, then the Olvanan, and later colonial powers has resulted in only a tiny percentage of the total population in a fixed indigenous tribe. Often these tribes are isolated in mountainous regions. Essentially, the population can be divided into four segments, whom, at any given time may be in either open conflict or tenuous peace with each other. The groups are the unmixed indigenous tribes, who may or may not ally with other indigenous groups based on millennia of tribal affiliation; the Suluese of mixed tribal ancestry; the Olvanan and Olvanan descendants of mixed ancestry; and the Suluese with colonial or Torbian ancestry.

Religions

The government of Belesia formally recognizes six religions and has official national holidays. About 87% of the population is Muslim, roughly 10% is Christian, either Protestant or Roman Catholic, while the remaining 3% is Buddhist, Hindu, or Confucian. While the country is predominantly Muslim, the government is secular and not based on a single religion. Islam was brought to southern Belesia in the 15th century from the west and the religion was already well established in the Sulu Archipelago and Mindanao by the time of European contact. The small numbers of Belesians practicing Buddhism or Hinduism are primarily associated with communities of Olvanan or Torbian descent. Some of the more rural indigenous peoples maintain local religions.

Education

The Department of Education ensures that all school-age children and youths receive a basic high-quality education that will allow them to function as productive, socially responsible citizens.

Literacy Rate

The overall literacy rate in Belesia is 94.9%. Males are slightly more literate at 96.1% compared to females at 93.7%. The difference is that girls often drop out of school to get married when they are 15 or 16 years of age.

Educational System

The Belesian Department of Education oversees all education in the country. Elementary education in Belesia is compulsory; it starts at age five and lasts for seven years (one year of kindergarten and six years of primary education). Secondary education begins at age 12 and lasts for an additional six years; undergraduate college instruction typically is four years. Tertiary (vocational) schools offer specialized training for one to three years. Children can attend a public school for basically free through twelfth grade, attend a private school, or be homeschooled. To attend post-secondary schools, students take an entrance test during their senior year in high school. Wealthy families can pay to attend the post-secondary schools. Tertiary schools are like trade schools. Often students will drop out of regular school to complete a course at the tertiary school and then begin their work careers. A major issue is that various languages are spoken at home by the students, but classes are all taught in Belesian.

Educational Attainment

There is a high dropout rate (over 20%) for both Belesian males and females. The males drop out of the education system and start doing manual labor or take a tertiary course and work in the blue collar (plumber, electrician, carpenter, etc.) field. Belesia females, on the other hand, drop out after one or two years of high school to get married and raise a family.



Population Density

Overview

The population density in parts of Belesia is high, but the distribution of the population is uneven. For example, the density on the island of Cebu is 40 times that of Sabah. The country's birth rate remains significantly higher than the world average, as well as the average for the region. A comprehensive family planning program in place since the mid-20th century has had limited success, in part because reductions in the birth rate have been offset to some degree by reductions in the death rate. Yet, the population growth rate has fallen by half over the past 3 decades.

Since World War II, the population has tended to move from rural areas to towns and cities. At the beginning of the 20th century more than four-fifths of the population was rural, but by the early 21st century, that proportion had dropped roughly one-half. The plains lying amid the mountains have long had the greatest density of population in the islands, except on Cebu, where the people have lived mostly on the coastal plain because of the island's high and rugged interior. Many tribes on isolated mountainous islands have little contact with one another, let alone with the outside world, and live within a non-monetized economy dependent on subsistence agriculture.

Belesia's population problems center mostly on this issue of population density. Millions of inhabitants populate the islands around Cebu inclusive, but these islands account for just over 7% of the land area. By contrast, the Sabah represents 22% of the total land mass, yet has only 1% of the population. While overall, most the people have access to water and sanitation, the dense population trends towards a high risk of infectious disease.

Urban Areas

There are five metropolitan areas within Belesia with a population of about 450,000 or more people. Three of these are located on a single island—Mindanao. Only one city, Davao City, is above a million in population.

- Davao City: pop. 1,632,991 (Mindanao Island)
- Cebu City: pop. 922,611 (Cebu Island)
- Zamboanga City: pop. 861,799 (Mindanao Island)
- Cagayan de Oro: pop. 675,950 (Mindanao Island)
- Iloilo City: pop. 447,992 (Panay Island)

Rural Areas

Slightly over 50% of the Belesian population lives in the rural areas. Based on the annual urbanization rate over the last decade, urban dwellers will past rural residents within the next couple of years. The urbanization varies greatly, however, depending on the island.

Population Movement

Nearly 40 years ago, the Belesian government created regulations that were an inducement to recruit Belesians to work overseas. Since then, it has supplied all kinds of skilled and low-skilled workers to the world's more developed regions. Nearly 10% of the population works or resides outside of Belesia in close to 200 countries and territories. Although Belesia is one of the most important labor exporting countries in Asia, it still faces major problems in receiving actual socioeconomic benefit from globalization and a deregulated global labor market. Since most Belesian workers deployed overseas are uneducated and unskilled, the country has issues with controlling irregular labor migrants and protecting its migrant workers.

Internal Migration

Poverty levels and lack of economic opportunity also contribute to Belesian migration.

Urbanization

Urbanization has been increasing at an increasing rate. While 37% of Belesian lived in urban environments twenty years ago, that number is 49% today and expected to reach 80% within two decades. The annual urbanization rate for all



Belesia is approximately 2.2%, but this varies from island. Within the next couple of years, more Belesians will be living in the urban areas than in the rural areas. On some islands, urban dwellers outnumber those in the rural areas. The government has been unprepared for this shift and the country has seen overcrowding, congestion, traffic, flooding, and environmental degradation. This rural-to-urban migration pattern remains the main migration stream in the country and has given rise to urban sprawls. Peripheral rural areas receive much of the spillovers of population from the highly urbanized cities.

Displacement

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Belesia has a smaller number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDP). The IDP population generally fled the military actions between the military and the more extreme Islamic factions in areas of Mindanao into the northern and central islands with higher Christian populations. Generally, however, those fleeing Mindanao tend to leave Belesia altogether, driven by economic factors. The country's largely Muslim refugee population stems from those seeking to flee persecution, torture, or cruel and unusual punishment, as Belesia has a broad immigration policy.

The country also has periodic temporary IDP surges as the result of natural disasters. Over the last thirty years, the country has had 363 natural disasters that claimed 33,000 lives and cost \$7.5 billion in economic damages. The most recent typhoon season rendered 4.1 million people homeless. Over 150,000 remain internally displaced. The poor, especially those who live in the most hazard-prone areas, are affected the most.

Stateless Personnel

There are few, if any, internal stateless personnel in Belesia.

Migration Cycles and Transhumance

While there are few, if any, Belesians who adhere to pastoral lifestyles, there are seasonal migration patterns. Some Belesians, especially in the outer islands, know

where the best places to fish on a seasonal basis. Those fishers who focus on a single type of fish follow the schools based on the ocean temperature and seasonal weather patterns. Those fishers who do not care what type they catch, fish where they are traditionally found based on centuries of family traditions.

Some rural Belesians use their small boats to travel to uninhabited islands to obtain nature's bounty that grows wild on them. Centuries of experience have taught them what islands grow what plants and when they can expect them to be ready for harvesting.

External Migration

Inbound

In the last decade, there has been an increase in the number of people immigrating to Belesia. Some come for economic opportunity while others come because they escaped a dangerous situation back in their home country. A recent trend is for Westerners to retire to Belesia due to its weather and low cost of living.

Economic Migration

Very few workers come from other countries to working in Belesia. Those that do come to Belesia are from companies that conduct business in the country and stay for short periods of time. There are not a lot of manual workers who come to Belesia for jobs because there are plenty of homegrown manual workers.

Forced Migration (Refugees)

Most refugees in the region are from North Torbia and they usually end up in South Torbia. They would rather go to a country where they speak the language than end up in Belesia or Gabal.

Outbound

There is a significant number of Belesians that leave their country for long periods of time. The primary reason is usually economic. Some eventually settle permanently in the country they work in, but most eventually return to Belesia due to the draw of their family.



Economic Migration

Belesia sends more people to work abroad than almost any country in the world except Mexico. About 70% of these workers are legal. Many of these Belesians work in Olvana or South Torbia.

Forced Migration (Refugees)

Most Belesian refugees are from natural disasters, and they are usually taken care of internally elsewhere in Belesia instead of a foreign country.

Culture

Dimensions of National Culture

There are studies that show that there are six basic issues that society needs to come to terms with to organize itself. Power distance is whether the society accepts unequal distribution of power, or they seek to distribute the power more evenly. Individualism is whether the society desires each person to be a separate entity or if the individual is just a cog in the societal wheel. Uncertainty avoidance is whether the society tolerates ambiguity in life or wants life to be more certain. Some societies look long-term and save while others do not see the need because the future planned may never arrive. Restrained societies live to work while indulgent societies work to live. Some societies encourage individuals to be competitive and do their best while other societies value cooperation over individual success.

Power Distance

With a score of 98 on the Hofstede scale, this means that the Belesian people accept a hierarchical order in which everybody has a place in the system and no further justification is needed. Subordinates expect to be told what to do and the ideal boss in a benevolent dictator. Within the Belesian culture, challenges to the leadership and the social order are not well-received. People do what they are told because the system just works that way. For many manual laborers, they can be easily replaced by someone else, so they do not try to buck the system.

Individualism vs. Collectivism

With a Hofstede score of 25, Belesia is a collectivist society with a long-term commitment to the member group, whether it is to a family, extended family, or to the individual's "wantok" network. In a collective society, everyone takes responsibility for fellow members of their group where offenses against the general normal leads to shame and loss of "face." Hiring and promotions are based on how the individual is connected to their place of work.

Uncertainty Avoidance (Tolerance for Ambiguity)

Belesia, with its score of 34 on the Hofstede scale, has a low preference for avoiding uncertainty. Countries with low scores believe what one does is more important than principles and there should be no more rules necessary for the society to thrive. If the rules are not working, low-scoring groups believe that the laws should be changed. Hard work should be done when needed, but not just for the appearances. Precision and punctuality do not come naturally to Belesians, but innovation is not found threatening either.

Long-Term Orientation vs. Short-Term Orientation

Belesia scores a 40 on the Hofstede scale for time orientation. In a normative culture, the people do not think often out of the box. Instead, these cultures exhibit great respect for traditions, little propensity to save for the future because it may never come, and prefer quick, tangible results.

Indulgence vs. Restraint

With a Hofstede score of 60, Belesia has a culture that is known for indulgences. High scoring groups exhibit a willingness to act on their impulses and desires regarding enjoying life as well as having fun. Normally, these people have a positive view towards optimism. Belesians care more about their leisure time than what they do at work.

Competition vs. Consensus

Belesia has an intermediate score of 50 meaning that the culture displays both signs of competition and consensus. In high scoring societies, the group is driven



by completion, achievement, and success. This starts early in schools and continues throughout their adult working life. In low scoring societies, standing out in a crowd is not admirable and people do what they want to do—not what they are good at doing. Belesia's indifferent score means that their society has a time and place for both with neither side being the dominant societal trait.

Cultural Norms and Values

Belesians, like many island nations, have cultural values that revolve around a multi-active understanding of time. Priorities are planned not according to a time schedule, but in accordance to personal and societal feelings. Speaking is important and body language is not subtle. Sticking to an agenda is not as important as ensuring that everyone's opinions and feelings are expressed and respected. Belesian basic values include:

The Family

The family is the center of a Belesian community. Children do not leave their parents' home until they are married. Even after marriage, the new couple will likely live near one of their two parents. The youngest child is expected to take care of his/her parents when they become old and can no longer work. This often leads to two or three generations of family living under the same roof.

Positive Attitude

Belesians are known to be happy people. They love their local island history and most Belesians are optimistic about the future. When faced with a difficult problem, they turn to their family and together they believe that tomorrow will be a brighter day.

Faith and Religion

Most Belesians are spiritual people. It does not matter if the individual practices century old native religions or have converted to Christianity or another major religion. Most Belesians practice their faith, albeit it may not be in the standard method found in other parts of the world.

Hospitality

When a guest comes to a Belesian home, the visitors are treated like royalty as much as the family can afford. If a meal is served, it will be better than the family normally eat when not entertaining. When the guest leaves, the family will often send them home with a *pasalubong* or souvenir. This is often no more than a couple of pieces of dessert. This could include:

- *Puto* (rice-cakes)
- *Kutsinta* (spongy rice cake with coconut flavor)
- *Turon* (saba banana and jackfruit rolled in brown sugar & wrapped in a spring roll wrapper)
- *Ensaymada* (sweet, buttery bread).

Centers of Social Power

The traditional Belesian social structure includes the following characteristics: 1 - the practice of religion; 2 - recognition of bonds of kinship with obligations extending beyond the immediate family group including their Wantok network; 3 - generally egalitarian relationships with an emphasis on acquired, rather than inherited, status; 4 - a strong attachment to the land. Most Belesians still adhere strongly to this traditional social structure, which has its roots in island village life.

Communication

Traditional Methods and Symbolism

Most Belesians are still a generation behind in communication. Word-of-mouth is extremely important in the country as well as the print media, radio, and television for those that have access. These are slowly being pushed aside for newer and more personal types of communication.

Role of Technology and Media

Many older Belesians still have not fully embraced the technology age as cell phones have not fully penetrated the adult market. The younger a Belesian is in



age, down to teenagers, the more likely the person will have a telephone. In some urban schools, the students are exposed to the Internet and smart phones. While cell phones are found nearly everywhere, their still relative high cost of smart phones, however, prevents the entire under-30 age market to be fully dependent on the Smart phone.

Social Impact of OE Hazards

Disease is a daily aspect of Belesian life. At certain times of the year so are natural disasters. Still the Belesian people struggle through these difficulties with their positive attitude hoping for a better day tomorrow.

Disease

There are six major diseases in Belesia. Many of these occur more often in the rural areas than urban areas and are often link to poor sanitation practices. Several of the other diseases are spread by insects, especially mosquitos. These include Bacterial Diarrhea, Hepatitis A, Typhoid Fever, Dengue Fever, Malaria, and Leptospirosis. Urban dwellers have better access to healthcare, but it is not top of the line except for those where money is no object. In rural areas, local healers try to help the sick in addition to the doctors that make irregular visits outside the cities.

Bacterial Diarrhea

There are many different types of bacteria that can cause diarrhea and most enter the body through contaminated food or water. This disease is more prevalent in the rural areas of Belesia although the country's larger cities are not immune to it. Most of those affected in the urban areas are under five years old and in the poorest sections of the cities, often because they cannot afford to seek out treatment.

Hepatitis A

Most Hepatitis A cases are linked to the poor hygiene of food handlers in Belesia's open air markets. Hepatitis A normally is found in shellfish, uncooked vegetables, or raw fruit. More cases are found in the rural areas of the country as the government does a better job of inspecting the markets in larger cities. International

health organizations often come to Belesia and provide free healthcare including preventive programs that inform the people how to prevent diseases by proper sanitation procedures. These programs have reduced the hepatitis A numbers, but not eliminated them. There is no treatment for hepatitis A. After recovery, the victims return to work but will likely have health-related issues connected to the disease for the rest of their life. In the end, the victims will likely die a premature death.

Typhoid Fever

Poor water purification is the standard cause of typhoid fever as it normally enters the body from drinking water contaminated with the feces of an infected person. The death rate for typhoid fever without antibiotics is about 20% and many poor Belesians cannot afford the cost of a doctor and the antibiotics. Luckily, the number of people afflicted with typhoid fever continues to drop each year as the government's investment in teaching rural Belesians about clean drinking water has at least got the people drinking fresh rainwater instead of standing water or other sources of water that could be contaminated.

Dengue Fever

This is one of the mosquito borne diseases found in Belesia. People who have never been infected before and young children have milder cases than older children and adults who have been infected with dengue fever before. There is no treatment to cure dengue fever. Traditional practice to treat dengue fever includes rest and drinking plenty of fluids. If the family can afford it, fresh juices, or the fruit itself may help.

Malaria

This is a mosquito-borne infectious disease, but it is not caused by a virus or bacteria. While there are a few treatments that can prevent, interrupt, or treat a malarial infection, some Belesians cannot afford them. Malaria can go into remission on its own and an infected person can build up some temporary immunity. If bitten again by an infected mosquito, the victim may only suffer mild symptoms or maybe none. If bitten again by an infected mosquito, the victim may



only suffer mild symptoms or maybe none. Symptoms include fever and other flu-like symptoms like chills, headaches, muscle aches, and tiredness. Some victims may exhibit nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Still in others there may be cases of anemia and jaundice.

Leptospirosis

This is a blood infection spread by animals to humans. Some known carrier animals include cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, and dogs. Leptospirosis is rarely found in cats. Symptoms for leptospirosis include high fever; headaches; chills; muscle aches, vomiting, jaundice, red eyes, and abdominal pain. Preventative measures include not swimming or wading in water contaminated with animal urine or contacting animals that may be affected with the disease. The bacteria are quickly killed by using soap, disinfectants, and drying. In other words, good hygiene practices will help prevent this disease. Oral antibiotics can be used early on to treat leptospirosis. If not caught early, intravenous antibiotics are also effective to cure the victim. The issue in Belesia is access to these antibiotics. They may not be available in the rural areas or could be cost prohibitive to the poor.

Natural Disaster

As part of the “ring of fire,” Belesia faces several types of potential disasters.

Typhoons

The most common disaster is the typhoon that is a seasonal activity that normally occur between the months of May and October each year. A typhoon is a hurricane that occurs in the Pacific Ocean. Typhoons strike Belesia almost every season, some of them are small and do little damage while others cause tremendous damage to the country. Due to the protection of western Belesia by North and South Torbia and Gabal, most of the damage occurs to either eastern or southern Belesia.

Floods

One of the results of typhoons or just heavy rains in Belesia is flooding. Rural areas with little infrastructure to deal with the water runoff are hit harder with floods than urban areas that have drainage systems.

Earthquakes

There are a few active volcanoes in South Torbia. There have been no major eruptions in the last century in Belesia itself. There have been eruptions over the last half-century in both North and South Torbia. The Belesian government has few resources in the event of a major earthquake and will likely rely on other countries for assistance if a major earthquake does hit.

Tsunamis

Earthquakes or volcanic eruptions in other parts of the Pacific or even underwater can cause a tsunami (giant tidal wave) to hit a landmass up to several hundred miles away from the origination point. The most susceptible areas of Belesia for a tsunami are the eastern and southern parts of the country. The western part of the Belesia is protected physically by other countries that would absorb the tsunami's force. The biggest threat of a tsunami is most likely flooding even though the coastline could be battered directly by the huge waves.

Social Volatility/Fragility

Social Fault Lines and Friction Points

The two main sources of internal strife in Belesia are poverty and interpretations of religion. Over the last two decades, Belesian politics have been split between supporters and detractors of the popular yet frequently corrupt ruling party. Over the past century, the military has seized power in often-violent coups no less than 12 times. These coups are followed by interludes of a democratically elected government.

Either the government or the military control nearly all the national television networks and operate most of the radio networks. While the media are free to



criticize government policies, and cover instances of corruption and human rights abuses, journalists tend to exercise self-censorship regarding the military, the judiciary, and other sensitive issues.

Emerging social problems have shown that the characteristics of poverty are becoming more complex, with differing forms of disparity and inequality. Unemployment is persistently at the 25-30% rate, with higher levels in youth and rural demographics. Government efforts to expand employment in the manufacturing and tourism sectors are offset by fears that development could harm the environment, particularly the rain forests that are under pressure from palm oil plantations and illegal logging. Poverty levels are the worst in either the densest urban or least dense rural environs. All these factors have led Belesia to face widespread terrorism from a few disparate groups, forcing the Belesian government to also require international assistance in developing counter-terrorism measures. These measures are often excessive and critiqued by the world at large.

Criminal Activity

Belesia's crime rate is considered high. Incidences of theft, armed robbery, and assault are quite prevalent in the nation. The frequent disruptions in government and traditionally weak policing have allowed organized crime gangs to relocate from other areas of Asia in recent years, thus helping to increase the overall crime rate in the region. There appears to be a correlation between the urbanization rate in Belesia and the rise in crimes including "smash and grabs" in traffic by thieves on motorbikes, purse theft, and pickpocketing.

Cultural Approach to Punishment

For the most part those arrested are considered guilty and the accused must approve their innocence. The accused are often not released on bail or bond and are put in a prison while their case makes it through the system. Many times, the individual's case is thrown out or the accused found not guilty but have already served a couple of years in the prison. Somewhere between one-quarter and one-

third of inmates are innocent and just waiting for their case to be decided in their favor.

Prison Life

While many aspects of prison life in Belesia are like other Asian countries, there are also some differences. The Belesia prison system has their own brand of goods packaged in such a way that the prisoners cannot convert them to shanks or other contraband. While drugs are illegal in prisons, they still find a way into the prison through various methods. The worst contraband to be caught with is a cell phone with severe punishment for the offenders. To charge the cell phones, the prisoners smuggle in wire that connect to the lighting system. Belesia's prisons are often overpopulated and underfunded, in some cases leading to extremely poor living conditions for inmates.

Human Rights

Belesia is currently a parliamentary democracy, but with a checkered history of military coups and corrupt governance. Recent elections saw continued claims of voter intimidation, violence, and influence peddling. However, although irregularities did occur, international monitors believe that the will of the people prevailed. While the current government purports to respect the civil and human rights of the citizenry, problems still exist. The judiciary is understaffed, which causes inefficiency and long delays in bringing people to trial, along with violent attacks on judges and witnesses. Police and private security forces are known to use excessive force, including fatal shootings of 'suspects.' The government uses surveillance of questionable legality to monitor persons of interest. Prison conditions are harsh, while inter-tribal violent crime led to the deaths of at least 30 people in recent years. Provincial power struggles, government corruption, and reprisal killings fuel violence, especially among the religious extremists of Mindanao. Rising malaria and HIV/AIDS infection rates are also a concern, prompting calls for emergency intervention from humanitarian aid organizations.



Belesia scores 22 of 40 points for political rights on the Freedom House Civil Liberty criteria. Belesia scores two out of four points in most sub-categories such as electoral process; political pluralism and participation; and functioning of government. While this is an increase over the last couple of decades, there is still much improvement that Belesia can make to become a fully functioning democratic government.

Once again, Belesia scores in the midrange (32 of 60 points) for civil liberties under the Freedom House Civil Liberty criteria. Belesia scores 3 or 4 out of a maximum 4 points available in the sub-categories under freedom of expression and belief. Belesia scores 2 out of 4 points in most sub-categories under associational and organizational rights and rule of law. Belesia only receives 1 of 4 points for equal treatment of all members of the population. Except for economic exploitation, Belesia scores 2 or more points in all sub-categories under personal autonomy and individual rights. While these scores are better than a half-decade ago, there is still a great amount of room for improvement in all areas of civil liberties.

Table 6. Demographics

Category	Statistic		
Primary Languages (%)	Belesian: 85.9%		
	Major indigenous languages: 8.2%		
	English: 4.5%		
	Other foreign languages: 1.4%		
Ethnic Groups (%)	Mindanaoan Suluese: 54.7%		
	Cebuan Suluese: 14.1%		
	Olvanan: 23.3%		
	Torbian: 7.0%		
	Other: 1.0%		
Major Religions (%)	Muslim: 86.8%		
	Christian: 10.4%		
	Buddhist: 2.8%		
Literacy Rate (Older Than 15 in %)	Overall: 94.9%		
	Males: 96.1%		
	Females: 93.7%		
Age Distribution (%)	Age	Male	Female

Category	Statistic		
	0-14	32.94%	32.34
	15-54 (Military Age)	55.833%	56.23
	55-64	5.38%	6.98
	65+	4.15%	6.15
Median Age	Overall		
	Males		
	Females		
Population	59.966,876		
Annual Growth Rate	+1.53%		
Birth Rate Per 1,000 People	19.7		
Death Rate Per 1,000 People	5.9		
Urban Population (%)	49.1%		
Annual Urbanization Rate	2.2%		
Infant Mortality Rate Per 1000 Live Births	22.6		
Life Expectancy At Birth (Years)	Overall: 70.9		
	Males: 68.4		
	Females 73.5		
Major Diseases In OE	Bacterial diarrhea		
	Hepatitis A		
	Typhoid Fever		
	Dengue Fever		
	Malaria		
	Leptospirosis		



INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure Overview

While the region’s five major countries have a significant number of urban residents, Belesia has almost half of its population living in rural areas. The country contains a mixture of both modern cities, primitive rural villages, and everything in between. Modern utilities are found predominantly in the major cities and at reasonable levels throughout the rural countryside.

Rapid urbanization is stressing the Belesian infrastructure to its limits. Despite this, Belesia can still claim to be among the best in the world regarding some of the services it provides. Belesia has a robust mass transit system. Several bus companies provide transportation in major cities and to rural areas. Airports range from large international airports that can handle almost any aircraft, to small, unimproved dirt strips. Some seaports are modern that can handle most global cargo vessels with dolphin platforms for the offloading of petroleum. The country suffers from high levels of pollution in the urban areas and the government has made policies to combat pollution in urban environments and water supplies.

Urban areas contain skyscraper buildings at least 100 m tall, large apartment complexes, and residential suburbs. There is a shortage of available housing that meets the minimum standards causing some of the poorest residents to construct makeshift dwellings. This is predominantly in the outskirts of the major urban areas. The local governments are actively creating new low income housing areas. Typical rural construction is low quality wooden houses with corrugated roofs. The Belesian government is investing heavily in modernizing living conditions for its entire population, but these upgrades are expected to take decades before completion.

Construction patterns in Belesia’s urban areas are similar throughout the country, with high-rise construction contrasted with low cost public housing requiring modernization due to age. City planners have extensive knowledge of strategic and sustainable city planning but are hampered by decades of unplanned growth and

expansion. Building materials typically consist of concrete, steel, and rebar. In areas prone to flooding, houses are built on pilings to prevent flooding.

Military operations in urban areas will initially benefit from modern electricity, water, sewage, and other utility services. As the size of the force increases however, it will further stress the grid and could cause catastrophic failure. Urban areas provide additional networks of subterranean and vertical construction that will provide cover and concealment for the enemy and possible refuge to civilians in times of conflict. Because of its expansive metropolitan population spread across numerous islands, any military operation in Belesia will involve intensive urban operations.

Major Belesian Cities and Urban Zones

Note: Belesian convention adds the term "city" following the municipality name to disambiguate it from other administrative regions or islands that might share the same name. Additionally, some city names--e.g., Naga--are used in more than one municipality. Belesia's national average for urban density is 232 / km².

Table 7. Infrastructure matrix

City	Pop	Pop Dens/ km ²	UBD	Roads	Air	Rai	Sea	Power	Water	Sewage/ Sanitation
Davo	1.6M	656	M	C	C	NE	C	Dv	Dv	Dv
Cebu	922,611	2,934	H	C	C	NE	C	Dv	Dv	Dv
Zamboanga	861,799	618	M	C	M	NE	C	Dv	Dv	Dg
Cagayan de Oro	675,950	1,622	H	C	M	NE	C	Dv	Dv	Dv
Iloilo	447,992	5,792	M	M	M	NE	M	Dg	Dg	Dg

Legend: Population (Pop); Density (Dens); kilometer (km)

Per TC-7-101: UBD = Urban Building Density; low (L); medium (M); high (H); primitive (P); moderate (M); complex (C); non-existent (NE); degraded (Dg); developed (Dv)



Davao City

Davao City is the capital of Belesia. It is also Belesia's largest city in both territory and population. The larger metro area of Davao City, Tagum, Panabo, Samal, and Digos combines for a total population of 2.5 million. Urban development is even more condensed than Cebu City, with over 75% of the population living and working within 15% of Davao City's land area.

Cebu City

Cebu City serves as Belesia's major port in the center of the Belesian archipelago. Metropolitan Cebu is made up of Cebu City, Carcar, Danao, Manuaue, Naga, Talisay, and Lapu-Lapu, with a combined population of 2.8 million. It is the most populous metro area in Belesia. Development is condensed to less than 20 percent of the terrain due to steep forested mountain ranges running parallel to the coastline. The city also boasts one of the largest and most sheltered harbors in Belesia. The buildings in the main urban areas consist of high-rise buildings, single family and duplex dwellings, and high-rise apartment buildings. On the periphery are the government tenement housing and shantytowns. A well-developed city core serves as an intermixed commercial and institutional center, with a larger residential zone on the surrounding periphery. Major shipping and ship repair facilities dominate the waterfront on the city's northwest coastline.

Zamboanga City

Zamboanga City sits at the extreme western end of Mindanao Island at the bottom of a peninsula straddling the Sulu Sea and Celebes Sea. As with the other major Belesian cities, it boasts a good deep-water port. However, it is more known as a commercial fishing port and seafood processing center than a trade port. Construction is high-density mid-rise with orderly block-style development within the city core. Government, industry, and commerce are mixed in the central district surrounding the city pier. Development stretches primarily in an east-west fashion following the coastline. It transitions to more random, residential, and low-rise construction radiating out from the city center.

Cagayan de Oro City

Cagayan de Oro City sits on the north side of Mindanao Island on the center of the Macajalar Bay coastline and is bisected by the Cagayan de Oro River. Seven other rivers also flow into this bay within a 16 km stretch of coastline. It is bounded by Mt. Mangabon 35 km to the east and Mt. Katanglad 35 km to the south. The port and industrial facilities are east of the river, with residences, resorts, and agriculture dominant on the west side. Construction is densely concentrated mid to low rise buildings surrounded by green space and agriculture. Construction patterns are mostly orderly, accounting for the irregularities dictated by the river courses. Government and other institutions are distributed on both sides of the river, mostly in the city center away from the shoreline. The terrain becomes extremely sloped within 10 kilometers of the shoreline where development abruptly ends.

Iloilo City

Iloilo City is the largest city on the Belesian island of Panay. The greater metropolitan population is 946,146. It sits on a large alluvial plain with much of development occurring on low-lying or reclaimed land. The Iloilo and Batiano Rivers in the south form two east-west peninsulas containing most of the old city residences and commerce. The Jaro Floodway forms the northern boundary of the city's development. The old airport forms the nucleus of a central business district, housing most of Iloilo's high-rise construction. The city's oceanfront borders the Iloilo Strait. Resorts and residences dominate the south coast, with traders and heavy industry accounting for most of the northeast coastal development. Construction patterns are mostly dense orderly along the peninsulas and in the central business district, giving way to dense random low-rise construction in the outlying districts.

Energy Sector

electricity; 96% in urban areas and 80% in rural areas. Large interconnection lines provide some measure of stability to the national grid. Getting power to the smaller outlying islands is a challenge. These islands are mainly serviced by small diesel



generators (<1 MW) operating on a mini grid. Those islands close enough to the main grid are connected via undersea cable.

Nuclear Power

There are no nuclear power plants in Belesia.

Renewable Power

Wind, solar, and biomass plants are gaining popularity with the number of new plants being built each year rising by 10-12%. Nearly all the renewable energy plants have been developed within the last two decades, which means that they are significantly new and more modern than existing hydrocarbon power plants.

Hydrocarbon Power

Of the 63 operational hydrocarbon power plants, over half of the generating capacity comes from 16 coal-fired plants. These power plants have the greatest age on them and are more susceptible to breaking down just because of their age. Sometimes it is tough to find replacement parts for equipment and technology that was developed nearly six decades ago, or longer. In the past, Belesia has gone to North Torbia for assistance with fixing and maintaining outdated industrial equipment. However, the latest round of international sanctions has made this more difficult.

Hydroelectric Power

Approximately 33% of Belesia’s power comes from 23 hydroelectric and geothermal plants. Hydroelectric power will continue to be an important resource in creating power in the country. While there are protestors that wish to get rid of any power produced by fossil fuels, this attitude has not transferred to the country’s hydroelectric and geothermal plants.

Table 8. Power plant data matrix

Name or Location	Fuel Type	Capacity (MW)	Latitude	Longitude	MGRS
<i>Agus 1 Hydroelectric Power Plant</i>	Hydro	80	8.0046	124.2868	51PXJ4181485028
<i>Agus 6 Hydroelectric Power Plant</i>	Hydro	200	8.1937	124.1915	51PXX3124805906
<i>Agus II Hydroelectric Power Plant</i>	Hydro	180	8.0528	124.2709	51PXJ4004590352
<i>Agusan 2 Hydroelectric Power Plant</i>	Hydro	1.6	8.3526	124.7690	51PXX9479523721
<i>Ampiro Geothermal Power Project</i>	Geothermal	30	6.9838	125.2760	51NYH5146172567
<i>BacMan Geothermal Production Field</i>	Geothermal	140	13.0547	123.9678	51PXQ0493143384
<i>Bacolad Solar Field</i>	Solar	25	10.8055	122.9908	51PVM9899494473
<i>Balingasag Power Station</i>	Coal	165	8.7662	124.7685	51PXX9453569461
<i>Baloi Hydro Plant</i>	Hydro	158.1	8.1336	124.1983	51PXJ3201799262
<i>Belesia Group Power Plant</i>	Coal	511	14.2310	121.7570	51PUR6589173629
<i>Biliran Geothermal Plant</i>	Geothermal	49	11.5637	124.4072	51PXN5344478691
<i>Bohol Diesel Power Plant</i>	Diesel	11	9.6442	123.8751	51PWL9600966191
<i>Bubunawan Run Hydroelectric Power Plant</i>	Hydro	32	8.3825	124.6504	51PXX8172326968
<i>Calong Solar Field</i>	Solar	60	10.4152	123.6789	51PWM7430951398
<i>Cebu Private Power Corporation</i>	Natural Gas	260	10.2905	123.8981	51PVM9834137666
<i>Colorado Solar Plant</i>	Solar	28.6	6.7718	125.2853	51NYH5259949116
<i>Concepcion Power Plant</i>	Coal	135	11.1872	123.1210	51PWN1321036681
<i>Cosmic Solar Plant</i>	Solar	5.7	10.6163	122.1683	51PVM0902373675
<i>Don Carlos Biomass Energy Plant</i>	Biomass	10	10.5116	123.4351	51PWM4760862010
<i>Green Power Bukidnon</i>	Biomass	35	7.7851	124.8262	51NYJ0138260975
<i>Hopewell Power Station</i>	Coal	728	10.2185	123.7577	51PWM8298629668



Name or Location	Fuel Type	Capacity (MW)	Latitude	Longitude	MGRS
Kalilangan Biomass Energy Corporation	Biomass	10	7.7834	124.8265	51NYJ0141660787
La Carlota II Solar Plant	Solar	48	10.4249	122.9280	51PVM9211952392
La Carlota Solar Power Plant	Solar	32	10.4216	122.9348	51PVM9286352027
Lakewood Geothermal Prospect	Geothermal	40	7.8548	123.1353	51NWJ1491168252
Lanao Kauswagan Power Station	Coal	552	8.1864	124.1176	51PXX2311405080
Leyte Geothermal Production Field	Geothermal	588.4	11.1419	124.6200	51PXN7691132152
Leyte Optimization Geothermal Power Station	Geothermal	50.9	11.1730	124.6297	51PXN7794735595
Ludo Power Station	Natural Gas	200	10.2904	123.8892	51PWM9736937656
Mindanao Geothermal Power Plan	Geothermal	106	7.0128	125.2199	51NYH4524075742
Misamis Oriental Biomass Energy Plant	Biomass	12	8.5577	124.5080	51PXX6596546278
Mt. Sibulan-Kapatagan Geothermal Power Project	Geothermal	300	9.3551	123.1564	51PWL1717234118
Mt. Apo Geothermal Plant	Geothermal	106	7.0128	125.2199	51NYH4524075742
NAC Diesel Fired Power Plant	Diesel	10.9	9.7189	125.5081	51PYL7519275350
Naga Thermal Power Complex	Geothermal	43.4	10.2185	123.7577	51PWM8298629668
Nasulo Geothermal Power Plant	Geothermal	49.4	9.2874	123.2391	51PWL2626426635
National Power Corporation Hydro Plant	Hydro	255	7.7156	125.0236	51NYJ2319553386
One Power Energy	Biomass	42	10.3163	123.9012	51PWM9867440523
Pagbilao Power Plant	Coal	420	13.8932	121.7450	51PUR6439936271
Palinpinon Geothermal Power Plant	Geothermal	172.5	9.2874	123.2391	51PWL2626426635
Panay Diesel Power Plant	Diesel	74.9	11.0248	122.6329	51PVN5989418742
Pililla Wind Farm	Wind	54	14.4710	121.3675	51PUS2404700443
Pulanghi IV Hydroelectric Power Plant	Hydro	255	7.7865	125.0236	51NYJ2316161224

Name or Location	Fuel Type	Capacity (MW)	Latitude	Longitude	MGRS
San Carlos Bio Power	Biomass	19.9	10.5158	123.4351	51PWM4760862475
San Lorenzo Wind Farm	Wind	54	10.5907	122.6923	51PVM6633470736
San Miguel Coal Power Plant	Coal	135	6.3943	125.6173	51NYH8953907528
Sarangani Power	Coal	118	5.8710	125.0789	51NYG3017349371
Sembrano Wind Farm	Wind	72	14.3783	121.3711	51PUR2436890186
Sibulan Hydro A	Hydro	42.5	6.8843	125.3702	51NYH6192561612
SPI Cebu Diesel Power Plant	Diesel	43.8	10.4170	123.6690	51PWM7322451597
SPI Power Coal Plant	Coal	232	8.5725	124.7573	51PXX9340248031
SPI Power Plant	Coal	200	10.2171	123.7619	51PWM8344729510
State Power Inc. Coal Power Plant	Coal	232	8.5601	124.7465	51PXX9221946654
Sultan Energy	Coal	200	6.6899	124.6719	51NXH8480639779
Supercritical Coal Power Plant	Coal	500	14.2310	121.7570	51PUR6589173629
Talomo Hydro 3	Hydro	4.5	7.0964	125.6096	51NYH8827085216
ThermaBelesia	Coal	300	6.9645	125.4812	51NYH7415670549
Tiwi Geothermal Power Plant	Geothermal	275	13.4655	123.6486	51PWQ7020388707
Toledo Power Plant	Coal	200	10.3871	123.6401	51PWM7006848282
VECO Power Generation	Natural Gas	307	10.2895	123.8974	51PWM9827037555
Western Mindanao Power Corporation	Diesel	100	7.0818	122.2138	51NVH1318082867

Legend: MW: Megawatt MGRS: Military Grid Reference System

Home Heating

Home Heating: Due to the tropical climate (see Physical Environment variable) in most of Belesia, the temperature does not drop low enough so that heating is necessary. For the times when this does occur, most families put a few charcoal briquettes in the family stove to help heat the house. During this periods, the kitchen becomes even more of the hub for a family than normal.



Water and Sanitation

Belesia continues to improve the number of its citizens that can access potable water and proper sanitation facilities. NGOs visit rural villages on a regular basis to educate the people on proper methods to gain access to clean water and dispose of body waste. These programs and the construction of facilities continue to improve the health of Belesians.

Water

Ninety percent of the population has access to potable water. Relatively modern household water distribution systems cover most cities, while the rural population relies on improved wells and boreholes. Though tropical, Belesia is also susceptible to drought, exacerbated on the smaller low-lying atolls. The government has invested in desalination projects to service the larger islands.

Sanitation

Seventy-five percent of the population has access to an improved sanitation, predominantly those in the developed urban areas. Even in the cities, this does not always equate to fixed plumbing in residences, but also includes improved latrines. The lack of universal or adequate sanitation contributes to the high rate of infectious disease spread, especially in the dense urban

Transportation Architecture

Roads are the primary intra-island transportation method. Although air travel is gaining popularity, surface transport by boat, ferry, or coastal freighter is the primary inter-island mode of transport. Most roads, especially rural roads, are in poor condition at best, due to lack of maintenance. While Belesia has no operational railway, tentative plans envision initial construction around the capital city of Davao, eventually expanding out with 2,000 km of coverage throughout Mindanao.

Road System

Overall, Belesian roads are below US standards. Driving is extremely hazardous and even more so at night and during the rainy season. In general, drivers typically ignore traffic laws and many vehicles on the roads fail to meet the minimum safety standards outlined by the government.

Paved Roads

About 62% percent of Belesia's roads are paved. The network consists mainly of three types of national roads: Primary, secondary, and tertiary. Primary roads connect three or more major population centers of 100,000 or more. Secondary roads connect major population centers to smaller cities and tertiary roads are any other maintained by the national government. The Belesian government maintains over 1,200 permanent bridges. During the monsoon season, roads in elevated areas have been known to have the soil wash out from underneath them, causing a collapse.

Unpaved Roads

About 38% of Belesia's roads are unpaved. Most of these contain a gravel roadbed that helps drainage during rainstorms. Most of the country receives a large amount of rainfall and dirt roads without a gravel base are quickly washed away. Road maintenance projects create bottlenecks cutting two-way traffic to a single lane alternating the flow of traffic every few minutes. As anywhere else in the world, these projects often take several months to complete.

Local Driving Habits

Belesian drivers have terrible habits including: overuse of the horn; texting while driving; racing to beat the red light; changing lanes too often; tailgating; failure to use seatbelts; using their hazard lights to park anywhere for a quick stop (e.g., an ATM withdrawal, or to make a quick purchase with a street vendor); and unloading passengers anywhere. If stopped for moving violations, most Belesian drivers will attempt to bribe the law enforcement officers.



Public Transportation

The larger the city the more likely it is to be a hub for bus traffic. The bus companies are independently owned and operated. The buses run both in the major metropolitan areas and to the more rural areas, providing mainly long distance travel to the civilian population. Very few Belesians use them for local travel, as there are other more efficient and reliable ways to move around the congestion in the major metropolitan areas. The buses used by the private companies do not come from any predominant manufacturer. For the smaller companies that cannot afford to purchase new buses many are refurbished and updated. Many of the buses have air conditioning, which require passengers to pay an additional fee to ride. Many of the major bus companies originate their lines from the major metropolitan areas and then run to the more rural areas. Typically, the routes traveled are limited to only a few companies to each area.

Rail System

Belesia has no operational railway system. Rugged terrain, adequate roads, and plentiful water transport challenge the feasibility for a capital-intensive rail system. Initial work is proceeding on a 150- km prototype line in Davao City on Mindanao Island. If successful, an eventual 2,000 km system is planned to cover the entire island.

Air Transportation System

Belesia's airport infrastructure can support major military operations. The two major international airports are located at Davao City on Mindanao Island, and Cebu City on Cebu Island, though most major islands have an international airport serving as a first port of entry. Belesia's network of airfield, fixed base operators, and maintenance facilities can accommodate most intermediate and some depot-level maintenance for its civil air fleet.

Paved Runways

- Over 10,000 feet: 2

- 8,000 to 10,000 feet: 8
- 5,000 to 8,000 feet: 28
- 3,000 to 5,000 feet: 34
- Less than 3,000 feet: 3

Unpaved Runways

- Over 10,000 feet: 0
- 8,000 to 10,000 feet: 1
- 5,000 to 8,000 feet: 2
- 3,000 to 5,000 feet: 19
- Less than 3,000 feet: 35

CITY	LENGTH (FT)	WIDTH (FT)	ELEV (FT)	MGRS	LAT	LONG	SURFACE	LTS
ABORIAN	2500	50	1575	50PPR7050351652	9.5103	118.5533	Dirt	No
AGUTAYA	3946	184	0	51PTN5202056621	11.3588	120.7278	Asplt	Yes
ALCANTARA	4560	98	10	51PVP0050561113	12.3110	122.0850	Asplt	No
AROROY	2009	47	165	51PWP3078994743	12.6165	123.2835	Grass	No
ASTURIAS	1070	45	207	51PWM8157765259	10.5404	123.7456	Grass	No
ASUNCION	2220	25	141	51NZJ0131835571	7.5507	125.7304	Grass	No
BACOLOD	6569	148	26	51PVM9230076440	10.6424	122.9296	Asplt	Yes
BALOI	4593	60	1300	51PXJ3385898925	8.1305	124.2150	Con	No
BISLIG	3937	98	12	52PBQ0492506949	8.1960	126.3220	Con	No
BONGAO	5100	98	15	50NRL0416658500	5.0470	119.7430	Asplt	No
BORONGAN	3935	95	7	51PYN7025991722	11.6743	125.4790	Con	No
BRAULIO E. DUJALI	3129	72	23	51NYJ8253022831	7.4366	125.5596	Dirt	Yes
BUENAVISTA	3652	25	5	51PVM6330082054	10.6930	122.6644	Grav	No
BULAN	4350	120	3937	51PWQ9533302373	12.6842	123.8780	Grass Asplt	No
BULUAN	3000	50	10	51NYH0189345207	6.7384	124.8266	Asplt	No
BUTUAN	6450	150	141	51PYK7257290408	8.9515	125.4788	Con	Yes
CAGAYAN DE ORO	6890	148	190	51PXX6027352283	8.6122	124.4565	Con	Yes
CAGAYAN DE ORO	8050	118	601	510WK7736830608	8.4156	124.6110	Asplt	Yes
CALBAYOG	4843	98	12	51PXP6816035066	12.0727	124.5450	Con	Yes
CALUYA	7075	94	0	51PUPU2460135385	12.0752	121.3885	Con	No



CARLES	4365	119	25	51PWN2733366799	11.4595	123.2506	Dirt	No
CATARMAN	4429	98	6	51PXP7777882658	12.5024	124.6360	Con	No
CATBALOGAN	4265	120	0	51PXP9938106195	11.8100	124.8300	Con	No
CUYO	3696	135	0	51PTN5190156699	11.3595	120.7267	Asplt	No
DAET	3773	98	10	51PVR9784162015	14.1292	122.9800	Asplt	No
DALAGUETE	945	33	1013	51PVR9784162015	9.8213	123.5478	Dirt	No
DARAGA	3000	75	406	51PWQ7361049874	13.1143	123.6791	Dirt	No
DATU ODIN	6234	98	189	51NXH3360792187	7.1652	124.2100	Asplt	Yes
SINSUAT								
DAVAO CITY	9842	148	96	51NYH9227688460	7.1255	125.6460	Asplt	Yes
DEL CARMEN	4167	98	10	52PAR7246791296	9.8591	126.0140	Con	No
DIPOLOG	6273	98	12	51PWK3761950867	8.6020	123.3419	Con	Yes
GASAN	4785	95	32	51PUQ7286877358	13.3610	121.8260	Asplt	Yes
GENERAL SANTOS	5577	98	28	51NYG4735975479	6.1064	125.2350	Asplt	No
GENERAL SANTOS	10587	148	505	51NYG3198970063	6.0580	125.0960	Con	Yes
SANTOS								
GUIUAN	7919	148	7	51PYN9961721277	11.0355	125.7420	Asplt	No
HILONGOS	3280	100	12	51PXM9082647950	10.3800	124.7430	Asplt	No
ILOILO	8202	148	27	51PVM4462597560	10.8330	122.4934	Asplt	Yes
IPIL	3150	65	52	51NVJ5611760616	7.7856	122.6020	Con	No
ISABEL	3691	53	0	51PXN5713206644	10.9122	124.4378	Con	No
ISULAN	3802	55	219	51NXH7846036698	6.6622	124.6144	Grass	No
JEROCO	2700	75	60	51NXH7846036698	5.4061	118.3964	Dirt	No
JOLO	4144	98	118	51NTG7985669543	6.0537	121.0110	Asplt	No
JOSE PANGANIBAN	3090	50	302	51PVR6204679949	14.2911	122.6481	Dirt	No
KABANKALAN	2600	65	310	51PVM8368106002	10.0053	122.8511	Dirt	No
KALAMANSIG	2675	25	26	51NXH1652725164	6.5594	124.0540	Grass	No
KALIBO	7175	148	14	51PVN3199191177	11.6794	122.3760	Con	Yes
KAPALONG	2409	30	25	51PVN3199191177	7.6031	125.6544	Dirt	No
KENINGAU	9173	150	1036	50NML0715292245	5.3575	116.1620	Asplt	No
KIAMBA	3955	60	0	51NXG9306956655	5.9380	124.7441	Grass	No
KOTA BELUD	4800	150	46	50NMN4149503604	6.3652	116.4710	Dirt	No
KOTA KINABLU	9800	150	10	50NLM9495856352	5.9372	116.0510	Asplt	Yes
KUALA PENYU	1813	50	6	50NLM4305519177	5.6000	115.5830	Grass	No
KUDAT	2395	75	10	50NMN8188365184	6.9225	116.8360	Asplt	No
LABUAN	7546	148	101	50NLL0606686177	5.3007	115.2500	Asplt	Yes
LAGUINDINGAN	6890	147	190	51PXX6035052317	8.6125	124.4572	Con	Yes
LAHAD DATU	4498	98	45	50NPL4677656383	5.0323	118.3240	Asplt	Yes
LAPU-LAPU	10827	148	31	51PXM0719639574	10.3075	123.9790	Asplt	Yes
LEBAK	2140	44	16	51PXM0719639574	6.6739	124.0581	Asplt	No

LEGAZPI	7480	118	66	51PWQ7965554669	13.1575	123.7350	Asplt	Yes
LILOY	1900	85	260	51PVJ6370995577	8.1019	122.6706	Dirt	Yes
MAASIN	3642	98	328	51PXM9521626658	10.1873	124.7820	Con	No
MABINI	3480	30	15	51NZJ1391403818	7.2631	125.8426	Dirt	No
MACO	3268	50	61	51NZJ1361924205	7.4473	125.8411	Dirt	No
MAGSAYSAY	5000	100	13	51NZJ1361924205	10.8581	121.0690	Grav	No
MAITUM	3041	68	1316	51NXG6219072433	6.0815	124.4656	Grass	No
MALABANG	4462	100	27	51NXJ1681342122	7.6172	124.0590	Con	No
MALANGAS	2400	25	3	51NWJ0197445638	7.6503	123.0179	Grav	No
MALAY	3117	98	7	51PUP8609518419	11.9245	121.9540	Con	No
MALITA	3715	94	5	51NYH8974408403	6.4022	125.6192	Con	Yes
MAMBAJAO	3945	98	53	51PXL8751723327	9.2535	124.7070	Asplt	No
MANOLO FORTICH	4576	50	1425	51PYK0375923225	8.3478	124.8503	Dirt	No
MAPUN	4265	125	98	50NPN6524875559	7.0140	118.4960	Mac	No
MARAGUSAN	3651	65	2076	52NAP8493408784	7.3079	126.1467	Dirt	No
MARAMAG	4592	60	919	51NYJ2424657617	7.7538	125.0333	Asplt	No
MASBATE	4921	98	26	51PWP6837867482	12.3694	123.6290	Con	No
MATI	5330	105	156	52NAN9865669023	6.9494	126.2730	Con	No
MERCEDES	812	65	3	51PWR0998557073	14.0845	123.0925	Grass	No
MILAGROS	1341	50	26	51PWP6743646977	12.1840	123.6199	Dirt	No
M'LANG	5143	95	130	51NYH1286064894	6.9160	124.9265	Con	No
NAVAL	3000	70	0	51PXN5584673411	11.5159	124.4290	Dirt	No
NEW CORELLA	2866	75	118	51NZJ1179849307	7.6742	125.8261	Dirt	No
ORMOC	6120	118	83	51PXN7095222840	11.0580	124.5650	Con	No
OZAMIZ	5720	95	75	51PWK9275004128	8.1785	123.8420	Asplt	No
PAGADIAN	5512	98	5	51NWJ5084565609	7.8307	123.4612	Asplt	No
PAGBILAO	2218	75	0	51PUR6431737057	13.9003	121.7442	Dirt	No
PANGIAO	9200	150	74	51PWL8460858462	9.5745	123.7710	Dirt	No
PANTUKAN	3777	75	3	51NZJ1421301972	7.2464	125.8452	Dirt	No
PEREZ	1766	107	6	51PUR8445273650	14.2320	121.9290	Grass	No
PILI	4599	98	142	51PWR2920901835	13.5849	123.2700	Con	Yes
ROXAS	6201	48	10	51PVN5333982103	11.5977	122.5720	Con	Yes
SAN ANTONIO	1695	82	3	51PXP3850172996	12.4170	124.2742	Grass	No
SAN CARLOS	2396	57	1220	51PVM4893262421	10.5153	123.4472	Grass	No
SAN FERNANDO	500	43	10	51PVP5917657533	12.2799	122.6246	Grass	No
SAN ISIDRO	2043	25	25	52NAN7940755501	6.8262	126.0997	Dirt	No
SAN JOSE DE BUENAVISTA	3937	98	23	51PUM8333990309	10.7660	121.9330	Asplt	No
SANDAKAN	7000	151	46	50NPM1722652361	5.9009	118.0590	Asplt	Yes
SANTA CATALINA	3037	65	43	51PVL8658030387	9.3214	122.8778	Grass	No



SANTA FE	2950	40	60	51PWN817534039	11.1624	123.7484	Dirt/Con	No
SANTO TOMAS	2577	80	16	51NYJ9095926399	7.4684	125.6361	Dirt	No
SEMPORNA	1998	50	60	50NPK7564392056	4.4500	118.5830	Dirt	No
SIBULAN	6136	118	15	51PWL3294331759	9.3337	123.3000	Asplt	Yes
SILAY	6562	148	82	51PWM0163991256	10.7764	123.0150	Con	No
SIOCON	2155	58	923	51NVJ0760752295	7.7097	122.1622	Dirt	No
SIQUIJOR	4100	100	0	51PWL5188218567	9.2142	123.4723	Grav	No
SIRAWAI	2243	50	800	51NVJ0709538697	7.5867	122.1578	Dirt	No
SORSOGON CITY	2750	75	126	51PXQ1127338156	13.0072	124.0261	Grass	No
SURALLAH	4396	59	659	51NXH9367804079	6.3668	124.7510	Asplt	No
SURIGAO	5603	98	20	51PYL7217679412	9.7558	125.4809	Con	Yes
SURIGAO CITY (NONOC ISLAND)	3939	82	0	51PYL8465685415	9.8092	125.5950	Asplt	No
TACLOBAN	7014	148	10	51PYN2141741908	11.2276	125.0280	Asplt	Yes
TAGBILARAN	5837	98	38	51PWL9358268391	9.6641	123.8530	Asplt	Yes
TAGUM	2000	30	84	51NZJ0772127399	7.4765	125.7879	Dirt	No
TAMPAKAN	2444	60	3827	51NYH1400809041	6.4110	124.9349	Dirt	No
TANDAG	4765	98	16	52PAR8899404034	9.0721	126.1710	Con	No
TAWAU	8800	155	57	50NPK2517177613	4.3202	118.1280	Asplt	Yes
TOMANGGONG	2198	50	26	50NPL8281997127	5.4000	118.6500	Grav	No
TUBAY	3124	70	61	51PYL8137014594	9.1695	125.5603	Dirt	Yes
UBAY	1312	50	7	51PXM5622612275	10.0590	124.4256	Con	No
VIRAC	5118	98	121	51PXR3048001201	13.5764	124.2060	Con	Yes
WAO	3380	85	3907	51NXJ9123544309	7.6348	124.7336	Dirt	Yes
ZAMBOANGA CITY	8560	144	33	51NUH9615465273	6.9224	122.0600	Asplt	Yes

LEGEND: ELV = ELEVATION MGRS = MILITARY GRID LOCATION SYSTEM LAT = LATITUDE LONG = LONGITUDE

CON = CONCRETE GRAV = GRAVEL ASPLT = ASPHALT PAVE = PAVED MAC = MACADAM
 CMT = CEMENT LTS = LIGHTS AB = AIR BASE

than 1 million tons of cargo throughput annually. The only ports that can accommodate Military Sea Lift (MSC) Commands Large, Medium-Speed Roll-on/Roll-off (LMSR) is the Port of Iloilo and the Port of General Santos. Belesia's largest and most productive port is the Port of Iloilo, which is the independent capital of the province of Iloilo in the western Visayas region on Panay Island in the Philippines. Located in the center of the Belesia islands, the Port of Iloilo is well-positioned to be an important center for industry, commerce, and trade. It has the educational infrastructure to prepare a skilled workforce, and it has the physical city infrastructure to attract and support business and industry. Today, the Port of Iloilo's banking, finance, retail trade, and customer service sectors are important to the local and national economy. In 2007, the City and Port of Iloilo was home to over 418 thousand people.

The Iloilo Commercial Port Complex is located on 20.8 hectares of reclaimed land. It includes 11,400 sq. meters of open space for operations, supplemented by an area of 97,000 sq. meters, fixed and mobile cranes, rails of 348 lineal meters; Roll-On-Roll-Off (RO/RO) support; a 7,800 container freight stations; and a 720 sq. meter passenger shed. The port complex is ideal for ships plying international routes having a berth length of 400 meters, a width of 26.26 meters and a berthing depth of 10.50 meters. Large inter-island ferries run 24/7 scheduled service to the main islands, and most others have daily service from one of the major gateway ports. Cargo traffic is mostly containerized or break-bulk with the ports of Davao and Cebu serving as the main entry points for scheduled liner services to the major container hubs in mainland Asia. These ports are operated with RORO capacity and combined are known as the Federated Nautical Highway.

Maritime

Seaports

Water transport is the primary mode of passenger and cargo transport within the Belesian archipelago and with its neighbors. Belesia has 36 seaports located along the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman. There are 11 Belesia ports that average more



Belesia has relatively large merchant marine and fishing fleets operating globally. Belesians are skilled navigators, and it is common to see very small vessels operating at great distances offshore. These craft can be seen in the hundreds of

Maritime Authority. Enforcement of Belesian laws in Belesian territorial waters and exclusive economic zone enforcement falls to the Coast Guard and Revenue Service of Belesia, under the overall authority of the Ministry of Finance.

Table 9. Seaport data matrix

BELESIA																		
Sea Port of Debarkation (SPOD) Infrastructure																		
Name of Port	Chart	Sailing Directions	Military Grid Reference System (MGRS)	Harbor Size	Harbor Type	Maximum Vessel Size Length Overall (LOA)	Large, Medium-Speed Roll-on/Roll-off (LMSR)	Depth of Water				Metric Tons Per Year (MTPY) of Cargo	Load On/Load Off (LOLO) Capability					
								Channel Depth	Cargo Pier Depth	Oil Terminal Depth	Anchorage Depth		LO/LO	RO/RO	Fixed Crane	Mobile Crane	Floating Crane	Crane Capability
BASILIAN CITY (ISABELA)	# 92216	Pub. 162	51N UH 8579342547	Very Small	Open Roadstead	LOA less than 500 feet	No	31 - 35 feet	26 - 30 feet	16 - 20 feet	46 - 50 feet	No Data	Yes	No Data	No	No	No	24 Tons Max
BUTUAN CITY	# B1957	Pub. 162	51P YK 7857390282	Very Small	River Natural	LOA less than 500 feet	No	11 - 15 feet	16 - 20 feet	NA	6 - 10 feet	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
BORONGAN	# 92050	Pub. 162	51P 6N 6534883456	Very Small	Open Roadstead	LOA less than 500 feet	No	Over 76 feet	36 - 40 feet	NA	51 - 55 feet	274,000	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
BUGO	# 92290	Pub. 162	51P XK 9262641852	Small	Coast Natural	LOA less than 500 feet	No	Over 76 feet	26 - 30 feet	NA	Over 76 feet	No Data	No Data	No	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
CAGAYAN DE ORO	# 92293	Pub. 162	51P XK 8345939968	Medium	Coast Natural	LOA less than 500 feet	No	Over 76 feet	36 - 40 feet	16 - 20 feet	Over 76 feet	9.4 Million	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	200 Tons Max
CAGAYAN DE ORO	# 92293	Pub. 162	51P XK 8345939968	Medium	Coast Natural	LOA less than 500 feet	No	Over 76 feet	36 - 40	16 - 20 feet	Over 76 feet	8.4 Million	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	200 Tons Max
CATBALOGAN	# 92070	Pub. 162	51P YP 05226 01440	Very Small	Open Roadstead	LOA less than 500 feet	No	41 - 45 feet	11 - 15 feet	NA	26 - 30 feet	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
CEBU	# 923853	Pub. 162	51P WM 9854738720	Large	Coastal Breakwater	LOA less than 500 feet	No	31 - 35 feet	31 - 35 feet	21 - 25 feet	46 - 50 feet	9.5 Million	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	49 Tons Max
DAVAO	# 92153	Pub. 162	51N YH 8907081931	Medium	Coast Natural	LOA more than 500 feet	No	26 - 30 feet	31 - 35 feet	31 - 35 feet	71 - 75 feet	10 Million	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	49 Tons Max
DUMAGUETE	# 92302	Pub. 162	51P WL 3294529876	Small	Open Roadstead	LOA less than 500 feet	No	Over 76 feet	11 - 15 feet	NA	Over 76 feet	No Data	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	24 Tons Max
GENERAL SANTOS	# 92170	Pub. 162	51N YG 4163376591	Small	Coast Natural	LOA less than 500 feet	Yes	36 - 40 feet	Over 76 feet	NA	56 - 60 feet	103 Million	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	24 Tons Max
GENERAL SANTOS	# 92170	Pub. 162	51N YG 4163376591	Very Small	Coast Natural	LOA less than 500 feet	No	26 - 30 feet	26 - 30 feet	NA	Over 76 feet	1.6 Million	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	24 Tons Max
ILIGAN	# 92293	Pub. 162	51P XK 3584410302	Very Small	Open Roadstead	LOA less than 500 feet	No	Over 76 feet	31 - 35 feet	NA	Over 76 feet	2.5 Million	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	200 Tons Max
ILOILO	# 923560	Pub. 162	51P VM 5443582839	Large	Open Roadstead	LOA more than 500 feet	Yes	36 - 40 feet	36 - 40 feet	NA	Over 76 feet	491 Million	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	49 Tons Max
JIMENEZ	# 92293	Pub. 162	51P WK 9543021233	Very Small	Coast Natural	LOA more than 500 feet	No	Over 76 feet	36 - 40 feet	NA	71 - 75 feet	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
LAZI	# 92290	Pub. 162	51P WL 6958709654	Very Small	Coast Natural	LOA less than 500 feet	No	Over 76 feet	11 - 15 feet	NA	Over 76 feet	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
LEGAZPI	# 91407	Pub. 162	51P WQ 8128353844	Very Small	Open Roadstead	LOA less than 500 feet	No	41 - 45 feet	11 - 15 feet	31 - 35 feet	Over 76 feet	600,000	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	49 Tons Max
MAASIN	# 92090	Pub. 162	51P YM 0087520719	Very Small	Open Roadstead	LOA less than 500 feet	No	41 - 45 feet	16 - 20 feet	NA	31 - 35 feet	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
MASBATE	# 92302	Pub. 162	51P WP 6703867176	Small	Coast Natural	LOA less than 500 feet	No	Over 76 feet	26 - 30 feet	NA	Over 76 feet	416,000	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	49 Tons Max
MATI (DAVAO)	# 92160	Pub. 162	52N AN 9242769126	Very Small	Open Roadstead	LOA more than 500 feet	No	Over 76 feet	21 - 25 feet	46 - 50 feet	Over 76 feet	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
NASIPIT	# 92310	Pub. 162	51P YK 5654593825	Very Small	River Natural	LOA less than 500 feet	No	21 - 25 feet	41 - 45 feet	NA	Over 76 feet	1.6 Million	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	49 Tons Max
ORMOC	# 92090	Pub. 162	51P XN 7481116445	Very Small	Open Roadstead	LOA less than 500 feet	No	Over 76 feet	11 - 15 feet	NA	Over 76 feet	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
PALOMPON	# 92380	Pub. 162	51P XN 5110821857	Very Small	Coast Natural	LOA less than 500 feet	No	Over 76 feet	21 - 25 feet	NA	51 - 55 feet	88,600	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	24 Tons Max
POLLOC (COTABATO)	# 92190	Pub. 162	51N XJ 3428912622	Very Small	Open Roadstead	LOA less than 500 feet	No	Over 76 feet	31 - 35 feet	NA	Over 76 feet	98,000	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	200 Tons Max
PULUPANDAN	# 92350	Pub. 162	51P VM 7811662544	Small	Open Roadstead	LOA less than 500 feet	No	11 - 15 feet	16 - 20 feet	21 - 25 feet	31 - 35 feet	201,000	No Data	Yes	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
ROMBLON	# 92450	Pub. 162	51P VP 2034391169	Very Small	Coast Natural	LOA less than 500 feet	No	Over 76 feet	26 - 30 feet	NA	Over 76 feet	No Data	No Data	Yes	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
SAN CARLOS	# 92370	Pub. 162	51P WM 45596 58882	Very Small	Coastal Breakwater	LOA less than 500 feet	No	41 - 45 feet	16 - 20 feet	NA	56 - 60 feet	No Data	Yes	No Data	No	Yes	No	24 Tons Max
SANTA CRUZ (MARINDUQUE ISL.)	# 91335	Pub. 162	51P UQ 9899092621	Very Small	Coastal Breakwater	LOA less than 500 feet	No	Over 76 feet	31 - 35 feet	NA	51 - 55 feet	No Data	No Data	No	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
SAPANGAR BAY	# 71320	Pub. 162	50N MM 0225372496	Small	Coast Natural	LOA less than 500 feet	No	36 - 40 feet	31 - 35 feet	36 - 40 feet	71 - 75 feet	4.3 Million	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	41 Tons Max
SURIGAO CITY	# 92115	Pub. 162	51P YL 7425082474	Small	Open Roadstead	LOA less than 500 feet	No	Over 76 feet	36 - 40 feet	16 - 20 feet	Over 76 feet	113,000	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	200 Tons Max
TABACO	# 91407	Pub. 162	51P WQ 7940777802	Very Small	Open Roadstead	LOA more than 500 feet	No	21 - 25 feet	26 - 30 feet	NA	Over 76 feet	No Data	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	49 Tons Max
TACLOBAN	# 92061	Pub. 162	51P YN 1834244365	Small	Coast Natural	LOA less than 500 feet	No	16 - 20 feet	16 - 20 feet	21 - 25 feet	26 - 30 feet	No Data	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No Data
TAGBILARAN	# 92320	Pub. 162	51P WL 9325766831	Small	Open Roadstead	LOA less than 500 feet	No	21 - 25 feet	16 - 20 feet	NA	Over 76 feet	No Data	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	24 Tons Max
VIRAC	# 91040	Pub. 162	51P XR 3523701992	Very Small	Coast Natural	LOA less than 500 feet	No	26 - 30 feet	16 - 20 feet	NA	51 - 55 feet	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data	No Data
ZAMBOANGA	# 92214	Pub. 162	51N UH 9688662795	Small	Open Roadstead	LOA less than 500 feet	No	Over 76 feet	26 - 30 feet	16 - 20 feet	Over 76 feet	8 Million	No	Yes	No	No	No	No Data

smaller ports and anchorages that are not listed in the mainstream commercial port directories. The Belesian Ministry of Infrastructure assigns the administrative responsibility for ports, waterways, and merchant and fishing fleets to the Belesian

.At a local scale, water transport is sometimes the primary form of transportation that rural island communities may have. Small boats serve a wide variety of roles, from being taxis to being school buses. One challenge that the Belesian



government has faced is finding a way to make travel by small boat safer. There have been a few incidents where boats have capsized and lost everyone on board, including boats serving as school buses that were loaded over capacity with children.

Navigable Rivers

All rivers in Belesia are navigable for only small vessels. There are no rivers where oceangoing freighters can travel upstream from the ports on the coasts. Locals will use traditional boats to bring their goods to market.

Pipelines

There are a few pipelines in Belesia, and more are being built every year as the economy continues to grow.

Petroleum

Belesia has a single refinery located in southern Luzon. After conversion of the petroleum to various types of oil-based products, there are a few pipelines that distribute the refined petroleum to the largest cities in Belesia. There is also a complex petroleum pipeline system that operates at the larger ports. Some of them take raw petroleum and then transport it to the refinery before distribution. Other pipelines take refined products off ships and transport them to holding facilities before distribution throughout the country.

Natural Gas

Most pipelines in Belesia are for natural gas. There are approximately 200 km of transmission pipelines that run from the offshore fields west of Gabal's Palawan Island to southern Luzon. Then there are another 300 km of distribution pipelines that distribute the natural gas to much of Belesia. Over 9% of Belesia's electricity comes from the fuels transported by these pipelines.

Water

Water is transported in standard pipes from the purification plants to those houses that have indoor tap water. The same pipes transport water to community fountains

where people without indoor water can get their daily water supply. There are no major pipelines transporting water great distances across the country.

Telecommunications Architecture

In Belesia, most citizens can access a telephone and listen to a radio or television, and over 70 percent of the population has access to the internet either through computers or through cell phones. Belesia boasts the largest growth trends within the archipelago, with upgrades and competition in both internet and mobile services. Belesians have approximately 20 million landlines and 40 million cell phones. The country has multiple radio stations that range from government owned, religious, pop culture, and music. There are three national television networks and approximately 40 local television stations providers.

Industry

Belesian manufacturing is relatively significant but lags its neighbor South Torbia in capital and technological investment. It possesses a modest steel industry along with the attendant downstream industries. Abundant regional energy reserves and favorable environmental laws sustain a capable but ageing petrochemical industry.

Food and Agriculture

About 30% of Belesians farm, accounting for 10% of the country's GDP, though it is a net food importer due to large rice imports. The bulk of Belesian farms are small farms and family run. Irrigation is controlled by the Belesian government, which recently implemented legislature that removed charges for small farmers to irrigate their fields. In the central region of Belesia, the crops are rain fed and irrigation is used in the lowlands.

Major crops are abaca, cashew, citrus fruit, coconut, lemon, maguey, mango, oil palm, pineapple, papaya, other fruits, and rubber, while annual crops are cabbage, cassava, corn, cotton, eggplant, garlic, onion, peanut, sweet potato, rice, sugarcane, tobacco, and vegetables. The current agriculture production is not sufficient to sustain the population and the country must import grains and



soybeans to meet the demand of the populace. The government has placed increased emphasis on the agriculture sector to become more self-sufficient. The palm oil industry has been growing over the last decade, with many farmers switching from other crops to the more economically beneficial palm oil industry. This trend has not only made it harder for local agriculture to sustain the population, but it has also led to an increase in deforestation to clear land for palm oil plantations. This has become a particularly intense issue on the island of Borneo, where environmentalists seek to protect endangered rain forests.

Oil/Gas

Belesia is a net energy importer in both natural gas and crude oil. The country does have an extremely well-developed maritime transport and storage terminal infrastructure. Each port has storage facilities capable of handling both raw petroleum and finished petroleum products. After offloading from the ships, the Belesian distribution system works well getting the products to where they are needed.

Defense Infrastructure

Recent construction of coastal patrol craft based on indigenous designs are the highlight of the Belesian defense industry. It is also a key player intermediate maintenance, with depots servicing sophisticated maritime, aviation and land systems. Domestically produced land force products are limited to tactical vehicle modification, small arms, and personnel equipment.

Nuclear Facilities

Belesia does not possess the infrastructure nor the resources to have nuclear capabilities.

Space

Belesia participates in UN space protocols and other international agreements controlling satellite use in search and rescue, communication, and navigation. However, it procures all its imaging and communication services from the private

sector and security partners. Its proximity to the equator has made it a frequent target for real estate acquisition for corporations looking to construct ground control stations.



INFORMATION

Information Overview

Belesia's information sharing and management is very progressive. The government and population seized on the opportunities that technological advancement offers to enhance quality of life. Fifteen years ago, the government instituted the Belesia Technology Institute (BTI) to direct the development of information technology. BTI actively conducts information, communications, and technology (ICT) programs to achieve the goal of developing a regionally competitive communications sector. Government programs support many sectors, including government regulatory support, science and technology education, business, and technology development and implementation. BTI established and maintains the country's social media presence using the applications popular not only with Belesia's population but also with the region at large. This is no small task considering the vast number of languages, dialects, and cultural nuances.

Onset of Information Age

Belesia like many other developing Asian countries, experienced a rapid onset of technology. Many Belesians, especially those in the rural areas, jumped from having no technology in their home other than a radio or television to being a smart phone user. Belesians are accepting the technological changes as fast as they come. While older Belesians may only use their smart phones to contact their families or share photographs of their grandchildren

Contemporary Situation

Recent government reforms abolished government censorship of internet news and information sharing. In addition, passage of laws supporting e-commerce and digital signatures contributed to one of the most active e-government and e-commerce sectors in the Pacific region. The government launched initiatives with the business sector to develop the country's mobile service network as rapidly as possible, an essential factor given the archipelagic nature of Belesia. They

successfully implemented a 3G mobile broadband service despite the lack of intervening 2G infrastructure. The government was able to institute this advanced communication technology while supporting development by private network providers.

Recent government support and testing of mesh network systems granted internet access to most Belesia's population. Implementation of mesh networks throughout the country also improved internet security thanks to the system's embedded network security hardware and firmware. Low-cost data packages and mobile phones are quickly becoming ubiquitous throughout the country. The government's emphasis and support of connectivity puts the country on-pace to surpass South Torbia as the leading internet and mobile phone using country on the continent.

Information Industries

Information Products (Content Industries)

News Media

While some news media outlets are controlled by the Belesian government since they are government-owned television and radio stations, there are enough independent news sources that there the government is under scrutiny by outsiders. While the government may arrest journalists for attack stories, but normally the courts free them before or during any trial.

Entertainment Media

A growing entertainment industry is developing within Belesia with independent filmmakers trying to gain a foothold. Most Belesian television viewers can access foreign networks from Olvana, South Torbia, and other counties either through local cable networks or more likely satellite. Belesians are also viewing on their home computers and smart phones the various feeds available including short-term series programming.



Social Media

Most Belesians between the ages of 10 and 40 and living in urban areas have a presence on social media. Older urban residents continue to join social media at an ever-increasing pace even if it is just to communicate with their relatives or see photographs. Rural residents are slightly behind, but as internet access continues to grow so will their social media presence will also grow. Younger Belesians are always looking for the next big thing on social media and continue to jump to a new platform when their parents discover the current social media fad. Their children move to another to try to maintain some privacy from their parents. Belesians under 40 are more likely to get their news and information from their phone or internet instead of the traditional forms such as print, radio, or television.

Information Services

Financial Institutions

Most major Belesian companies are fully invested in the digital age using computers, the internet, and other applications in the work environment. Each day, more small businesses are becoming digitalized so cell phone users can find them and access their website. Then, the user can either visit the business in person or purchase items electronically. Of course, there is a price with becoming digital and it leaves opportunities for hackers to access a company's data or even steal for the company. North Torbia has been known to hack into neighboring countries' businesses including those in Belesia.

Control/Regulation

The government has laws that regulate the financial institutions, but Belesia tries to keep regulation to a minimum. Belesia believes that the fewer laws and regulations, the easier it is for an individual without many resources to open a new business. Belesia is an excellent place for entrepreneurs to reside and attempt to find a new ways to obtain wealth.

Medical System

Description: Belesia is moving towards maintaining medical records electronically. This is already being done at urban hospitals and by city doctors. However, rural

communities are severely lagging, particularly those that are on islands requiring ferries to access services. The Belesian government is trying to encourage the rural doctors to go electronically, but spotty internet access and tradition often gets in the way.

Control/Regulation

The Belesia government has passed laws that makes it illegal for people to access others medical records without proper authorization. Each adult Belesian controls their medical history and records. They determine if relatives are allowed access. For minors, parents or their legal guardians have access to medical records.

Legal/Criminal Records

The Belesian government is in the process of digitalizing all legal and criminal records. They are starting with the cases and working backwards. Right now, they have digitized records back a decade. This is an expensive project and additional digitalization requires funding that is sporadic from the national legislature.

Control/Regulation

Each local police station is responsible for inputting new case information into the database as the crimes occur. Once in the system, other law enforcement personnel and those in the judicial system can access the records. Local input reduces the cost on the federal government but makes it difficult to determine any quality control issues. Anyone with access to the system could abuse it to find out information for nefarious purposes such as stalking a woman.

Navigation

Navigation (Global Positioning): Belesia uses global navigation satellite systems in support of many programs. Notable among them is the long-running effort to forecast severe weather events, flooding, earthquake, and tsunami danger. Belesia is a member of the Pacific Meteorological and Oceanographic Consortium and collaborates on projects with South Torbia and Olvana. Most of these systems are from other countries as Belesia has limited space capabilities. Belesia usually uses Western satellites for GPS. With the recent completion of the Olvanan Navigation



System, the regional player is pressuring Belesia and other countries in the region to start using their own.

Belesia military forces currently use the American Global Positioning System for guidance and limited targeting. The government continues to work with the European Space Agency as a partner in the group focused on deployment of the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service (EGNOS) by 2020. EGNOS upgrades will improve signal reliability, thereby reducing susceptibility to spoofing or jamming.

Control/Regulation

The Belesian government is responsible to obtain the necessary connections to any global positioning system that the people are allowed to access from any electronic device.

Electromagnetic Spectrum Management (Radio Frequency)

Belesia is trying to emulate South Torbia in its electromagnetic spectrum management procedures by reserving certain frequencies for government use. The most recent example of copying South Torbian practices is that about two years ago Belesia auctioned off the frequencies from the 3.5GHz and 28 Ghz bands so commercial vendors could install 5G service in the country. 5G presently covers less than 5% of Belesia, but that is expected to grow to 50% over the next decade. 5G towers are being built creating a faster, cheaper, and better communications network. Belesia has yet to auction off the frequencies in the 6 Ghz band from 5925 to 7125 waiting to see the effects in other countries such as the US, Olvana, and South Torbia.

Control/Regulation

Belesia aims to strictly regulate how the electromagnetic spectrum operates within its borders. Sometimes North Torbia's attempt to jam South Torbian frequencies causes issues in Belesia. As North Torbia seldom jams the frequencies for a long period of time, this does not have long term effects on Belesia.

Information Distribution

Belesia demonstrates a dichotomy when it comes to information distribution depending on whether the individual lives in an urban or rural setting. In urban areas, television and radio is rapidly being taken over by computer and other electronic methods. In rural areas, the primary method of information distribution is word of mouth supplemented by radio or print media. In other words, rural residents receive information, for the most part, the same way they did a half-century ago.

Internet

Belesia's urban population is rapidly becoming technically adept, with a growing interest in the opportunities offered by electronic financial transfers, social media, and data mining. The growth of 3G broadband cellular availability and dropping costs of data packages is responsible for rapid growth in internet use by Belesians. 5G coverage in the future will only continue to spur the growth. The last statistics available show the internet penetration rate at 35% with a projected growth rate of 10% annually. This growth and penetration percentage puts Belesia on par with or surpassing South Torbia in the next 10 years.

Infrastructure Support

There are a dozen public and private internet service providers (ISPs) competing in the communications business sector. Each of the major islands has a cable terminal, with branches servicing neighboring smaller islands. Leyte is connected to the South Torbia-Olvana submarine backbone, while the southern islands connect to a trans-Pacific cable terminating in the United States. This arrangement generally provides reliable service. A notable exception to this connectivity is the Sulu Archipelago between Borneo and Mindanao. Communication is limited to cellular telephone, marine and shortwave radio.

Control/Regulation

While the Belesia government has an office, Belesia Information Agency (BIA), responsible for internet regulation, their hands off approach is like that of South Torbia. If the internet activity does not threaten Belesian government interests, it is allowed. Anti-defamation laws apply to websites in the same manner as they do for



print media, the degree of anonymity related to publishing information online and utilization of foreign sources to create content makes these laws more difficult to enforce online.

Television

Television remains a leading media product, with access found in 70% of current households, especially in the urban areas. Rural areas often receive television by satellite, but the penetration is still not as deep as in the urban areas. Private network broadcasts provide separate entertainment focused mostly on sports and variety shows

Infrastructure Support

Broadcast facilities and transmitters remain under government control and service two national and one private network. The networks support a chain of 40 stations throughout the country. The viewing public also has direct access to regional and international satellite television programming.

Control/Regulation

Control/Regulation: The same Belesian office that is responsible for the internet is also responsible for the regulation of television. The BITA allows almost anything on the airwaves if it meets the country's decency standards and is not anti-government.

Radio

Despite the influence of the internet and television in Belesia, the radio still plays an important role. The radio is often on in the background in many houses while the family goes about their daily activities. This is probably truer in rural Belesia than in the urban areas.

Infrastructure Support

BTel operates the broadcast system for four national radio networks, fifteen regional radio stations, and five privately owned stations. These radio stations are both on both AM and FM frequencies. There are some ham radio operators licensed by the government and are often used during natural disasters when other

communications means are not possible between the islands due to typhoon or other damage.

Control/Regulation

The BIA not only regulates the internet and television, but the radio waves as well. If decency standards are met by the stations and they do not offer up any anti-government rhetoric, the stations are free to operate. All the government radio stations and most of the private stations receive national and regional news from the Belesia News Agency. The private stations are more likely to cover international news stories, however, than the government owned network system.

Print

Print media continues to be a strong source of Information in Belesia with each of the major islands publishing at least one daily newspapers. Print media continues its historic role in Belesia as a bastion of truth. Newspapers routinely criticize all levels of the Belesian government, as well as the governments of other countries. Publishers and journalists hold an ethos that they seek and report facts and not opinion, even when unpopular with the government. The Belesian people hold the print media in high regard and readily launch demonstrations calling for a journalist's release when incarcerated for political reporting.

Infrastructure Support

Due to the island nature of Belesia, the newspapers are published locally on the larger islands and distributed throughout that island. Journalists in Belesia are embracing digital channels for information delivery to the public. The number of print newspapers that now have a presence online continues to grow exponentially. It is likely that within a couple of years, every print newspaper in Belesia will have either added a web presence or will likely to have folded.

Control/Regulation

The BIA is not only responsible for electronic media regulation but print media as well. When the BIA first began, its primary focus was on print media. Due to the increased workload in the electronics age, the BIA gives the print media a lot less



attention than before. This sometimes leads to something slipping by the BIA that could be construed as anti-government. When this has happened, the government has occasionally arrested print journalists for refusing to reveal sources, usually within the government, for these anti-government stories. The courts, however, predictably dismiss the charges once the case comes to trial.

Telephone/Telecommunications

Belesia followed the same path as many other island countries and jumped directly to mobile phone service, bypassing landlines as the main communications means. BTI initiated the program for commercial 3G/LTE licenses for mobile service. The mobile 3G/LTE market skyrocketed after the initial offering to reach a subscription rate of 452 per 1000 of the population. The subscriber rate continues to grow as the service providers expand the infrastructure to support their networks.

The rapid expansion of mobile phone use is made possible by the availability of prepaid Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) cards. Initially, the government required little in the way of documentation of SIM card sales, creating a huge market of small SIM card sellers to appear throughout the country. As it became apparent that limited regulation would lead to misuse and abuse, SIM registration requirements were established. A mandatory registration program went into effect to capture and document identification information of all paid and prepaid SIM card users. The program instituted a one-month grace period with a cut-off date for completion of registration. After that date, the government forced all mobile service providers in Belesia to cut-off service to unregistered SIM cards.

While the intent of the program was to reduce fraud and crime associated with unregistered SIM cards, it had several negative effects. Many users were unceremoniously cut-off because of poor program administration. This resulted in lengthy adjudication and a growing public anger. Public outcry led to distrust over security of user information and the government's access. Finally, the program caused a black market to spring up for purchase of fraudulent or stolen SIM cards. Criminal elements in Belesia found the black market to be lucrative in both the sale of the SIM cards and identity theft.

Infrastructure Support

The mobile phone market is expected to show double-digit growth over the next 5 years. The public is rapidly dropping their hard-wired phones to adopt low-cost mobile units supplied by both international and national service providers. The activation of Belesian satellite service supporting internet access will result in increased competition and is expected to reduce the cost of access by as much as 60%. Cellular towers are present throughout Belesia, but service may be spotty on some of the smaller, less populated islands. The future construction of the 5G network will continue to increase the accessibility of the rural population to cellular telephone and the internet.

Control/Regulation

Like South Torbia, personal use of mobile telephones is not subject to regulation by the Belesian government. The BIA is also responsible for regulating the telephone service providers. Based on previous Belesian Supreme Court decisions, the BIA regularly obtains phone records for criminal investigations from service providers to use by government prosecutors.

Postal/Carrier

Belesia's postal system (BelPost) offers not only letter and package delivery but also financial services. At the onset of mobile phone growth, there were approximately 4 million Belesians with bank accounts through their local post office. Integration of e-finance services via mobile phones resulted in significant growth of on-line accounts.

BelPost is a relatively reliable service provider with a good track record of delivery and accountability. Public perception is that the postal service is a trustworthy government agency and there is little corruption among the postal employees. The government's direct investment to establish the necessary network connections focused on reliability and security firmly establishes BelPost as a key information service provider for the population. The only negative for BelPost is the sometimes slow parcel delivery, although the public correctly attributes this to the poor road infrastructure rather than to any fault of BelPost.



Infrastructure Support

BelPost and private delivery services are present throughout all Belesian urban areas and make deliveries directly to the destination address. In some rural areas, BelPost will deliver directly to the address. In the most remote parts of Belesia, BelPost will drop off mail and packages to a central location. Recipients will either pick up the package or a neighbor passing by will take the mail/package to the addressee.

Control/Regulation

The Belesia government regulates BelPost. Since BelPost operates a banking system, this regulation is through the financial sector. BelPost has a reputation for good service with integrity.

Oral Communication

Among many families and tribes in Belesia, word of mouth is still the most trusted information medium, facilitated between islands by constant small boat traffic. Belesians, however, are quickly assimilating new communication abilities offered by the internet and mobile phone technology so word of mouth is starting to lose its standing in information exchange. Belesians now have greater access to information, with many accepting internet content without question its validity. Some pockets within the country continue to rely on word of mouth; the strongest are religious groups, trade unions, and tribal groups.

Infrastructure Support

Standard methods but facilitated in Belesia by small boat travel between various islands.

Control/Regulation

Belesian anti-defamation laws also apply to oral communication as well. Enforcement is very difficult as it is often hard to prove defamatory speech. It often breaks down to hearsay with one person and their witnesses against another person and their witnesses. This means that defamatory speech is rarely prosecuted in Belesia.

Satellite

The Belesian government operates no satellites of its own. They purchase all its imaging and communications services from the private section and its security partners. South Torbia is the major benefactor of Belesia's satellite service use. Belesia's proximity to the equator has made it a frequent target for real estate acquisition for corporations looking to construct ground control stations.

Infrastructure Support

Currently Belesia has none of its own satellite infrastructure, either in space or on the ground. Several countries have bought or leased land in Belesia to operate satellite monitoring stations and/or control stations.

Control/Regulation

Currently, there are no Belesian agency responsible for control or the regulation of satellites in the country. There have been discussions at the highest level regarding whether Belesia should launch its own satellite through a partner country such as South Torbia or to create its own space agency. So far, these discussions have not gone beyond the visionary phase.

Internet of Things

Belesia is embracing technology and in parts of the country—the urban areas—there are more interconnected digital products each day. Basically, Belesia is about five years behind South Torbia but catching up fast. Those in the highest socio-economic groups have grasped the capability of the “smart phone” with Wi-Fi, Blue Tooth, and other enabled appliances that can be controlled using a cellular telephone. Even those not as wealthy in the urban areas are being inundated with smart phone technology. While higher quality items are designed with more protections, less expensive and more widely available models may have a few vulnerabilities that could be exploited by those with nefarious intents.

The internet of things also plays a role in public projects and newer infrastructure developments, with things as common as traffic and streetlights are being digitized and interconnected. The influence and impact of the internet of things on daily lives



of urban Belesians can be seen in things as simple as a daily commute using one of the bus routes through a city. Commuters can use their smart phones to identify where a specific bus may be on its route, estimate the times of arrival for each stop, and see how many seats are available on the bus. All this is enabled through smart phone applications used to create user specific accounts, pay for passes, and use the Blue Tooth and Wi-Fi when and where a rider gets on and off the bus.

Infrastructure Support

Belesia has looked at what has happened in South Torbia and understands the potential for the convergence of smart technologies and public works for streamlining urban development. Using real time analytics, empowered by machine learning, Belesia hopes to reduce costs, trim maintenance requirements, and overcome many of the challenges associated with rapid development and urbanization.

Control/Regulation

All these technological advances also come with a degree of risk and vulnerability. The Belesian government has sought to reduce its mistakes by sending teams to South Torbia to study the successes and failures there. Currently, the BIA is also responsible for any control or regulation associated with the internet of things. The BIA is overwhelmed and not only needs an increase in manpower, but with a workforce with the necessary skills in this age of technology. Like South Torbia, the Belesian government will need to balance regulation around this technology with an almost universal desire within the government to create an economic boom.

Information Cohorts (Information Consumption)

Cohort: Information Age Heavy Users

These are the Belesians, typically upper-middle class and above who live in urban areas, which have embraced the information age. They see technology as the future and that eventually Belesia will be like South Torbia, the US, and Western Europe. These individuals are likely quick to adopt trends coming from overseas that they have seen online. Their ability to be constantly on the internet, either by

using a computer or a smart phone, and shapes not only how they go about their daily lives, but also how they interact with each other. Older Belesians may look down upon them, criticizing them for being glued to technology, but tech savvy Belesians have demonstrated time and again how they are able to use tech to organize and mobilize large groups of people. A subset of this group is those that work in government and are working to make sure that all new construction will embrace the information age. The cost of new technology can be prohibitive for most Belesians, therefore lower quality and imitation products that are significantly cheaper are often widely sought after.

Biases

Their primary biases are against those that do not see the benefits of the technology age. Whatever the reason such as tradition or cost, the Information Users, think the cost now will be cheaper in the long run.

Perceived Antagonist Cohorts

Their antagonists are those within Belesia unwilling to embrace the future and are still living in the past.

Media Engagement

The Information Age Heavy Users are no longer reading newspapers, watching television, or listening to the radio to receive their news. Instead, they are receiving their news from international websites on their smart phone or watching news features on a variety of channels on the internet or smart phone.

Presence/Activity in Cyberspace

This group willingly participates in Cyberspace activities and cannot get enough. They are constantly upgrading their phone and purchasing new technology. They work for large businesses where they use computers daily while staying updated on social media via the internet or smart phone.



Cohort: Information Age Light Users

These are the Belesians that use electronic media but have not fully embraced it. They have access to the internet at their office, at school, or the local library. The light users see the benefits of technology but fear all its capabilities and/or the cost of the equipment. While the light users may check out the internet during the day at work, they cannot afford a smart phone or the other latest electronic technology. While they may have access to the internet, it does not have a ubiquitous presence within their lives.

Biases

Their primary biases are against the heavy users as they do not seem to understand that while this group wants to embrace the new technology, they cannot do it because of financial reasons. The light users understand while the other cohorts are not using the technology, primarily because they cannot afford to do so. Additionally, since they are not constantly influenced by information communication technology, they may be more trusting of information presented to them through television or the radio, rather than through purely online sources.

Perceived Antagonist Cohorts

Because this cohort is perhaps most appropriately defined by socio-economic status, it may be more common for them to have a degree of distrust targeted at individuals from higher socio-economic classes.

Media Engagement

While in the office, the light users may get their news from the internet. Outside the office, the light users primarily engage with the media via the television or radio.

Presence/Activity in Cyberspace

The light users group engages in cyberspace mainly through access to the internet in their place of business. Outside of work, they do not have the means to engage in cyberspace activities.

Cohort: Urban Poor

These are the Belesians that live in the urban areas and do not have access to any electronic devices at their worksite. This is probably 50% of the urban population. Some of their children may have access to digital age through a computer at school, but most will not. They do not yet have the financial means to join the digital age.

Biases

Their primary biases are against the rich who they believe do not understand them. These Belesians are not poor because they are lazy, but because they do not have the opportunities to obtain a better position.

Perceived Antagonist Cohorts

The urban poor's main antagonists are the rich (heavy information users) who they perceive as unsympathetic to their situation. The urban poor believe that the rich do not understand their situation and most of them are doing the best they can with the life they have been dealt.

Media Engagement

The urban poor receive most of their information from the television and radio. To a lesser extent, they may receive information from the print media.

Presence/Activity in Cyberspace

Not active in cyberspace.

Cohort: Rural Populations

These are the Belesians that live in the rural areas and do not have access to computers, the internet, or other pieces of the Information Age. The children of these people are unlikely to have access to computers or the internet at their schools either. In many cases these populations are on islands and separated from other communities by significant distances and water.



Biases

Individuals described by this cohort are likely from tight knit communities who are more trusting of familiar sources of information, Outsiders, particularly those who they are unable to relate to, are often met with distrust. These Belesians do not view their circumstances as being unfortunate, instead they are likely to be happy to be able to sustain a living without having to leave their communities.

Perceived Antagonist Cohorts

The rural people's main antagonists are those in the urban areas, especially wealthy individuals with whom they have little in common with.

Media Engagement

The urban poor receive most of their information from word of mouth supplemented by the radio and in some cases satellite television.

Presence/Activity in Cyberspace

Not active in cyberspace.

Information Suppression

Relative speaking, Belesia has lower information suppression than neighboring countries.

Government Censorship

Partial government control of radio, television and internet continues with a strong focus on using the full capabilities of the various ICTs to advance Belesia's economy as rapidly as possible. The control is officially limited to development and maintenance of the infrastructure, not the information content itself. Compliance by government leaders with the country's anti-censorship laws continues to be effective in maintaining the guaranteed freedom of speech established by the constitution.

Public (Popular) Censorship

Belesia's anti-defamation laws keeps the print media, radio, and television networks in check. If these entities do not break public decency laws or spew anti-government stories, the BIA leaves them alone. Thus, most of the private entities self-censor to keep the Belesian government out of their business.

Non-Government Entity Censorship

For the most part, there are no non-government entities that attempt to censor the information flow in Belesia. The one exception may be in rural areas where traditional norms may prevent one from really speaking their mind. Anyone that breaks with the "group speak" may find themselves being shunned by others in the village.

Cyberspace

Strengths

The Belesian government and the rich have embraced the information age and are trying to drag the rest of country with them into the future. As such, the Belesia military will have access to some technological features. While not the latest technology, the Belesian military may have pockets of new technology available for some weapon systems.

Vulnerabilities

The more that Belesia becomes involved with the Information Age, the more likely that users will be susceptible to cyberattack from outsiders. If new Belesian users try to cut corners to obtain the latest technology without using property security procedures, this only makes them more susceptible to cyberattacks. North Torbia has been known to attack foreign banks to steal funds and therefore, Belesia financial institutions will need to be prepared to meet such threats.



OE Specific Challenges

The biggest challenge in Belesia may be finding individuals with the right skill sets to work for the US or other Western military that comes into the country in its defense against an outside attack. Often, locals are used to support the logistical effort including those that track orders and shipments. In many cases local contracted businesses may be dependent upon low quality technology to facilitate operations. Integration of these lower quality technological systems may present challenges with interoperability and could lead to a higher level of security risks due to vulnerabilities related to cyber-crime and cyber-attacks.



PHYSICAL

Physical Environment Overview

Belesia is a small country located in an archipelago in the western Pacific Ocean. It borders South Torbia and Gabal—with whom it has friendly relations. The country’s terrain consists primary of forested mountains interspersed with low valleys. The valleys are typically fertile and comprise most of Belesia’s arable land. Both vegetation and climate are tropical in nature. Multiple natural hazards exist, resulting from the country’s geology, weather, native wildlife, and human activity.

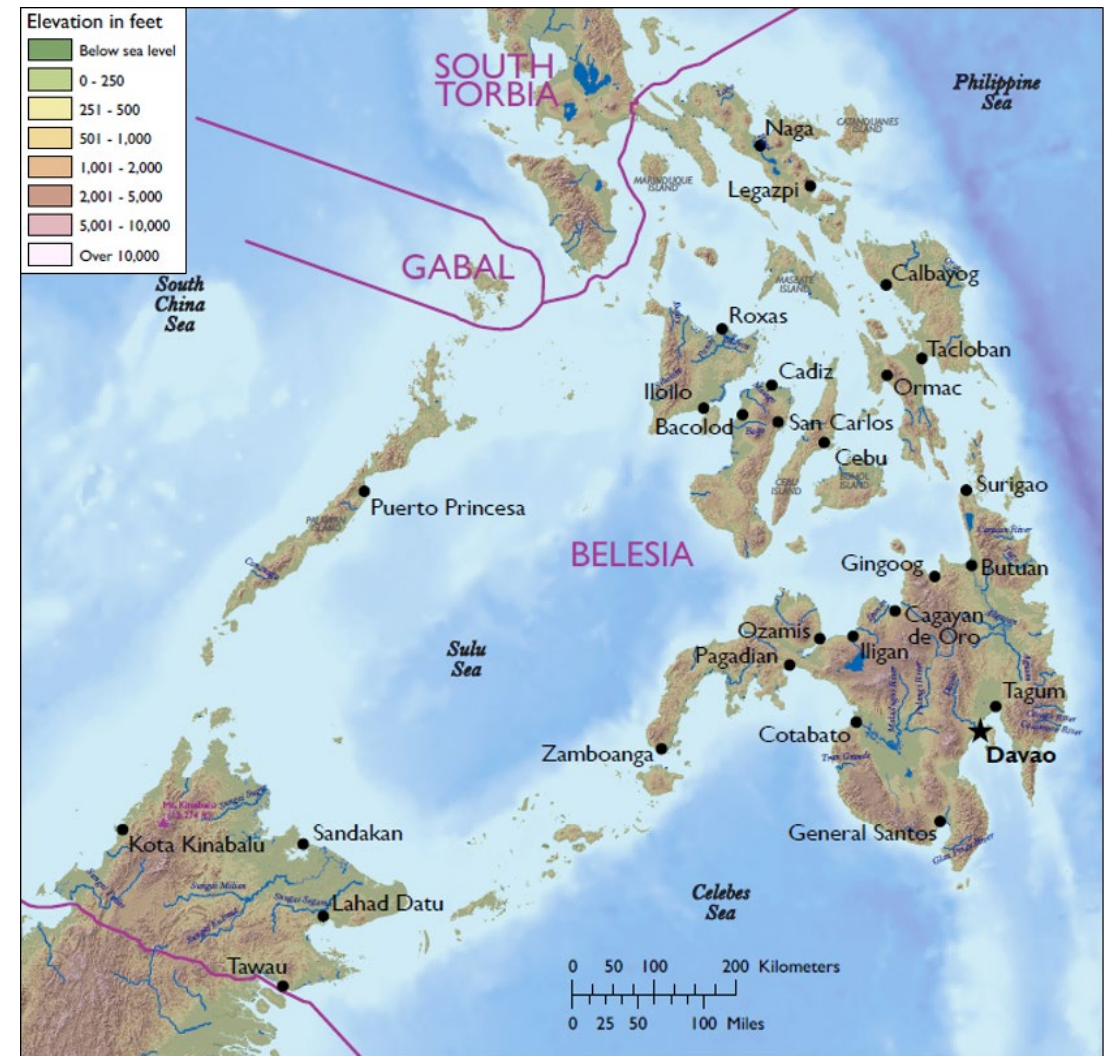
Table 10. Physical environment data

MEASURE	DATA	REMARKS
LAND AREA (KM ²)	258,807	Includes inland water
LAND BORDER (KM)	253	South Torbia
COASTLINE (KM)	30,662	
HIGHEST ELEVATION (M)	4,046	Mount Kinabalu
LOWEST ELEVATION (M)	0	Sea Level
ARABLE (CULTIVATED) LAND (%)	27%	
PERMANENT CROPS (%)	17%	
PERMANENT PASTURE (%)	<1%	5% grasslands could be used for pastoral
IRRIGATED LAND (%)	<1%	
FORESTED LAND (%)	36%	Conifers (1%); Rainforest (24%); Other (12%)
URBAN AREAS (%)	<1%	

LEGEND: KILOMETER (KM); METER (M)

Terrain

Belesian territory encompasses over 2,000 islands. It is part of a larger archipelago bounded by the Philippine Sea to the east, the South China Sea to the west, and the Celebes Sea to the south. Belesia shares land boundaries with South Torbia to



Data sources: NGA, OpenStreetMap, Natural Earth v2.0, World Linear Water, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, OurAirports.com, Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) 3 arc-second [NASA/NGA]

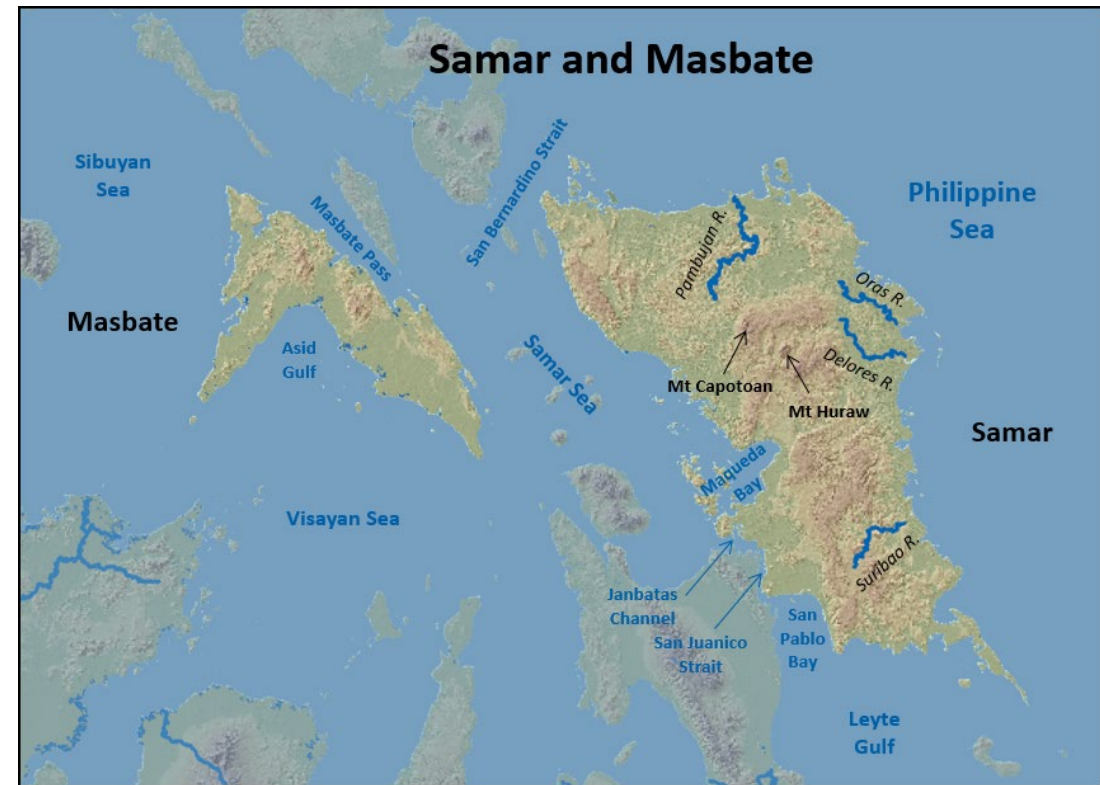
Map 7. Belesia physical

the north and another country to the southeast, but only maritime borders with its other neighbors, including Gabal.



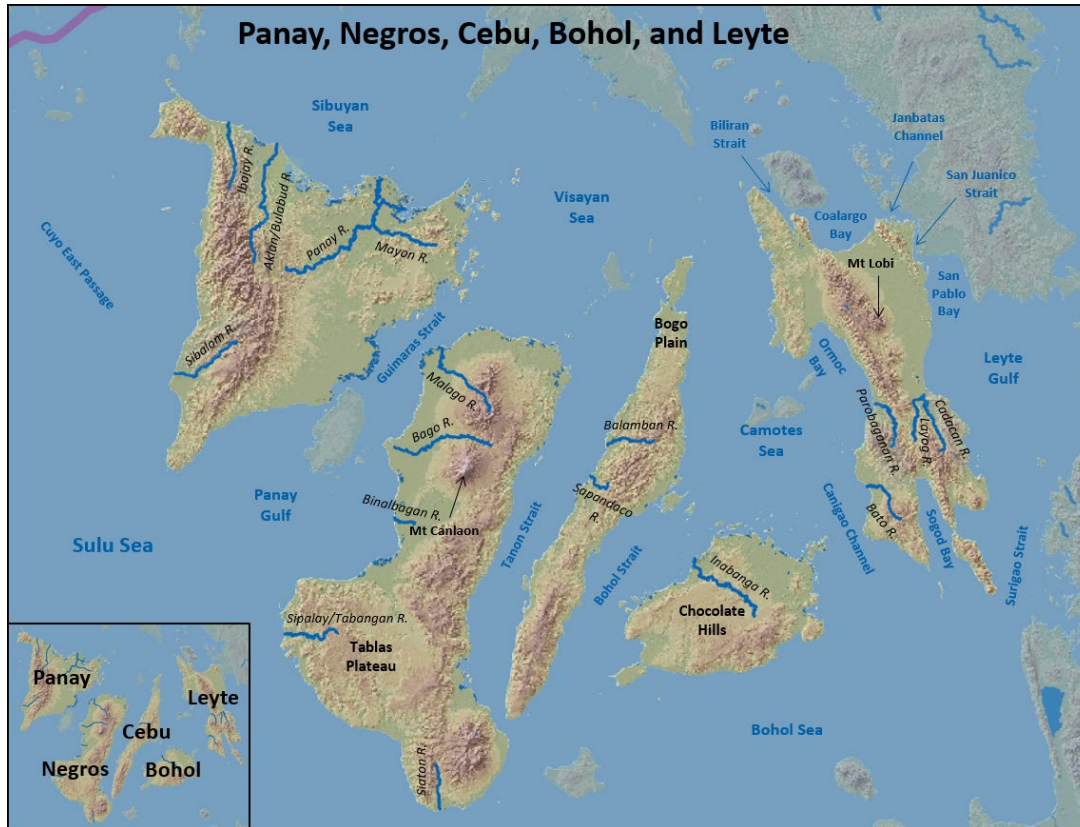
Map 9. Belesian Luzon terrain

Belesia’s major islands are Bohol, Borneo, Cebu, Leyte, Luzon, Masbate, Mindanao, Negros, Panay, and Samar, 11 in all. While the country possesses most of these in its entirety, it shares Luzon with both North and South Torbia, and possesses less than one-tenth (8%) of Borneo. Lesser islands include Biliran, Burias, Catanduanes, Dinagat, Marinduque, Siargao, Sibuyan, Tablas, Ticao, the Cuyo Islands, and the Sulu Archipelago.



Map 8. Samar and Masbate Islands

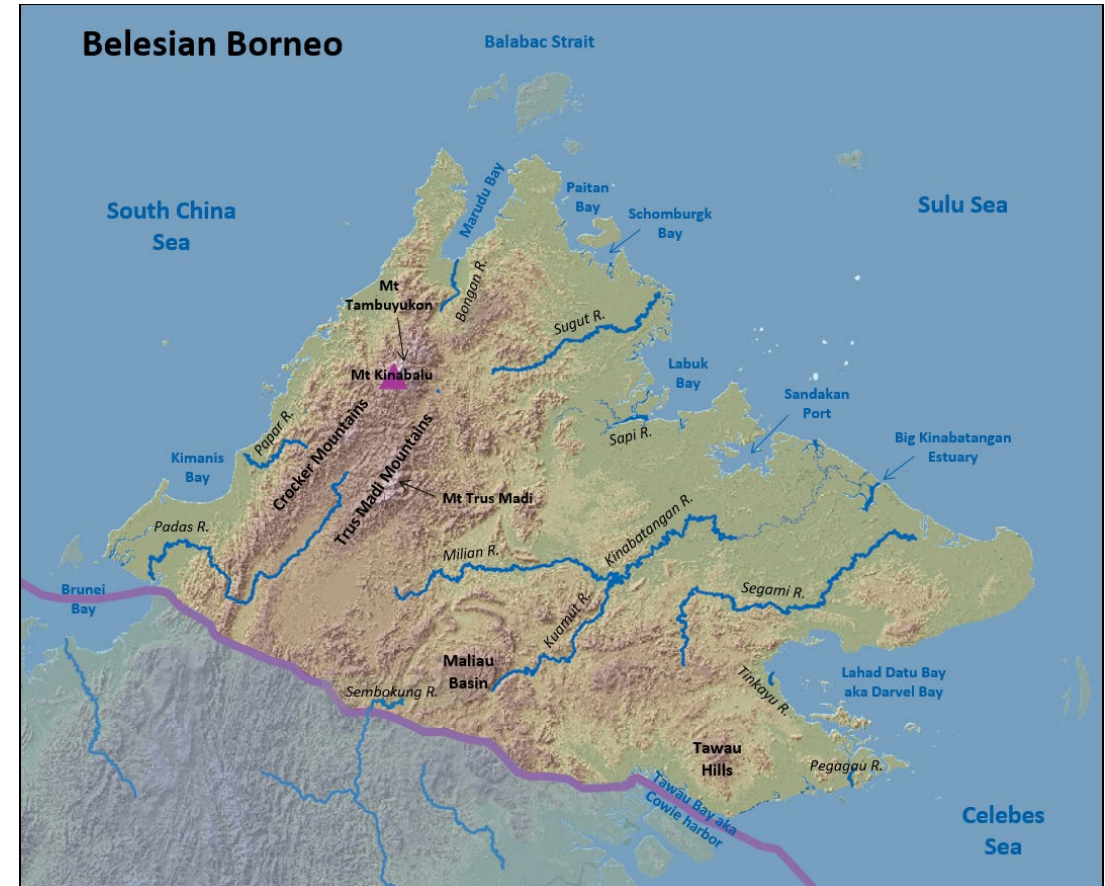
The islands are mountainous in nature, with interspersed lowland valleys and low coastal plains on the larger islands. Major geographic features include the Bicol Peninsula and the Mayon Volcano (Luzon), Mount Apo (Mindanao), the Chocolate Hills (Bohol), the Zamboanga Peninsula (Mindanao), and the Crocker and Trus Madi Mountain Ranges (Borneo). Surface and subsurface caves are common in the archipelago.



Map 11. Panay, Negros, Cebu, Bohol, and Leyte Islands

Bodies of Water

Belesia is surrounded by bodies of water. The South China Sea lies to its west, the Philippine Sea to its east, and the Celebes Sea to its south. The Sulu Sea is nearly encompassed by the country, with Gabal and South Torbia lying on its far northern edge. The country is separated from Gabal by the Sulu Sea. It also shares Tablas Strait, Tayabas Bay, and Lamon Bay with South Torbia. It also possesses numerous smaller seas, gulfs, bays, and straits.



Map 10. Belesian Borneo

Multiple rivers and a few small lakes exist on the islands, with the former being drainage for many mountain ranges. Due to the mountainous terrain, most rivers are navigable only by shallow-draft vessels (less than 1 meter) for short distances—if at all.



Map 12. Belesian bodies of water

Mobility Classification

Movement in Belesia is difficult due to the mountainous island nature of the country. Water or air transport methods are required to and between islands. Once on land, mountain ranges and steep river gorges naturally canalize movement. Heavy rains, flooding, and mud/landslides can seriously hamper troop movement during the rainy season. The presence of forests at higher elevations limits mobility

and provides cover for enemy forces and smugglers, while multiple rivers and streams challenge mechanized and motorized movement in the valleys. Air operation impediments include mountain ranges, forests, steep valleys and gorges, clouds/fog/haze, aircraft icing at high altitudes, and cyclonic storms.

Subterranean Environment

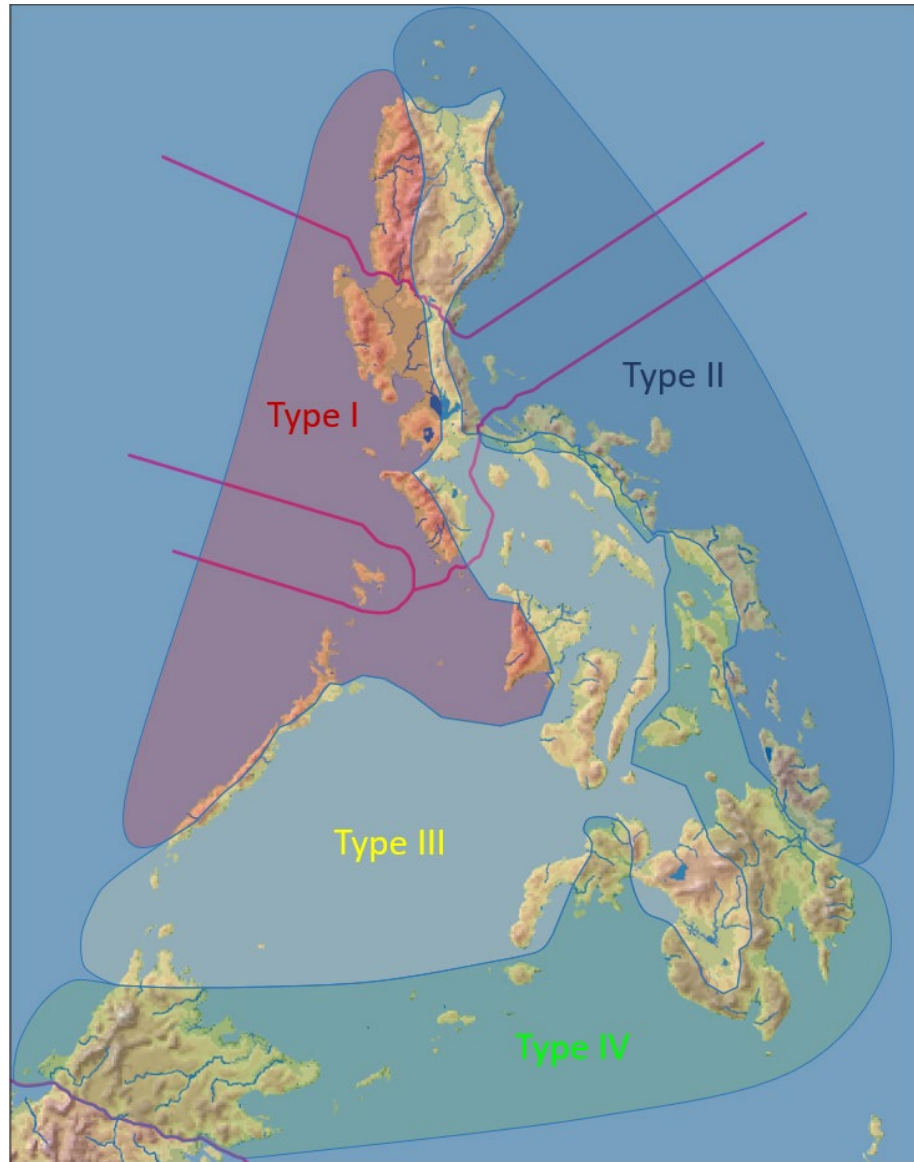
The islands are full of caves, both above and below sea level. One of the most famous of these is the Odloman Cave on Negros Island, which is equally long. In addition to the multitude of naturally occurring caves, past and current mining on the islands has produced networks of manmade tunnels. Higher-level tunnels and caves are sometimes used as emergency shelters by residents during and after larger cyclonic storms.

Vegetation

Around 36% of Belesia is forested, primarily consisting of rain forest in the mountainous areas. While coniferous pines are found at the highest elevations, most trees are broadleaf varieties such as balau, meranti, and narra; other plant species found in montane forests include bamboo, ferns, orchids, and climbing palms (rattan). Due to the country's climate, trees keep their leaves year round. The lowland valleys are devoted almost completely to agriculture, while the forested areas are confined to the mountains. Small mangrove swamps can be found on some of the coastline.

Agriculture

Most agriculture is concentrated in lowland valleys, with over half of this land dedicated to annual crops. Permanent crops include abaca, agave, banana, cacao, cashew, citrus fruit, coconut, coffee, lemon, maguey, mango, oil palm, pineapple, papaya, other fruits, and rubber, while annual crops are beans, cabbage, camote, cassava, corn, cotton, eggplant, garlic, onion, peanut, sweet potato, rice, sugarcane, tobacco, tomato, and vegetables. The country's main crops are rice, coconut, corn, pineapple, other fruits, abaca, palm oil, and sugarcane. Agricultural



Map 13. Regional sub-climate map

exports include abaca, banana, coconut, palm oil, pineapple, rubber, sugarcane, and other fruits and vegetables.

Belesians have some livestock, especially in regions where crop cultivation is more difficult. Common domesticated animals include cats, cattle, dogs, goats, horses, pigs, poultry, and water buffalo. The country also possesses multiple types of wildlife, including bat, bearcat, civet cat, crocodile, deer, elephant, lemur, mice, mongoose, monkey, monitor lizard, orangutans, rhinoceroses, scaly anteater, squirrel, sun bear, tapir, tiger, wild boar, wild ox. The country has several national parks, designed to protect the flora and fauna found on the islands.

Climate and Weather

Climate Map

Belesia experiences four different climate types that can be broken into two broad categories. Three are considered tropical climates and the fourth, a temperate climate, is only found at higher elevations. These are small pockets that are situated in amongst the other climates.

Winds follow a distinctive northeast, east, southwest cycle (NE monsoon, easterlies, SW monsoon) that corresponds to—and causes—the country's seasons. The coolest part of the year falls during the northeast monsoon, while the warmest temperatures occur during the easterlies. Relative humidity is high year-round, although relatively lower inland, at higher elevations, and during the evenings.



Table 11. Köppen-Geiger climate classification

Zone	Precipitation Type	Heat Type	Acronym: Description
Tropical Climate (Zone A)	Rainforest (f)		Af: Tropical rainforest climate with an average precipitation of at least 2.36 inches of rain in every month. This is the most prevalent climate in Belesia covering most of or major sections of most islands.
			Am: Tropical monsoon climate with an average temperature of 64.4° F every month with significant rainfall, but driest month is around the winter solstice. This climate occurs on the western side of several islands in the western side of many islands of Belesia
			Aw: Tropical savanna climate with an average temperature of 64.4° F every month with significant rainfall. This occurs primarily on the series of islands in the far western part of the country.
Temperate Climate (Zone C)	No Dry Season (f)	Warm Summer(b)	Cfb: Temperate oceanic climate where the coldest month averages above 32° F and all months with an average temperature below 71.6° and at least 4 months average above 50°. No significant precipitation difference between seasons. This climate only occurs in very isolated spots at higher elevations in the southern part of Belesia

Seasons Overview

Table 12. Seasons Chart-Davo City

	TEMP COLDEST (F)	TEMP HOTTEST (F)	PRECIP (IN)	Days of Rain	WIND (AVG MPH)
JANUARY	72.3	88.2	4.3	13	4.5
FEBRUARY	72.5	90.1	4.1	12	6.7
MARCH	72.3	89.6	3.1	11	4.5
APRIL	74.7	91.4	5.9	12	4.5
MAY	74.5	89.4	7.9	16	4.5
JUNE	74.5	88.2	7.7	17	4.5
JULY	72.3	88.2	5.9	15	4.5
AUGUST	72.3	88.2	5.5	14	4.5
SEPTEMBER	74.8	89.4	5.7	15	4.5
OCTOBER	74.8	89.2	5.5	16	4.5
NOVEMBER	72.0	89.4	4.7	15	4.5
DECEMBER	71.8	88.2	3.1	13	4.5

Table 13. Seasons Chart-Cebu City

	TEMP COLDEST (F)	TEMP HOTTEST (F)	PRECIP (IN)	Days of Rain	WIND (AVG MPH)
JANUARY	72.5	86.4	4.1	12	5.1
FEBRUARY	72.7	86.7	3.1	10	5.1
MARCH	73.0	88.5	2.3	9	5.1
APRIL	74.7	90.5	2.6	6	5.1
MAY	75.7	91.4	4.5	9	5.1
JUNE	75.4	90.1	6.9	14	5.1
JULY	75.0	89.4	7.6	16	5.1
AUGUST	75.2	89.4	6.5	14	5.1
SEPTEMBER	74.7	89.1	6.9	15	5.1
OCTOBER	74.5	86.7	7.6	16	5.1



NOVEMBER	74.3	88.3	6.5	14	5.1
DECEMBER	73.6	87.3	4.8	14	5.1

Table 14. Seasons Chart-Zamboanga City

	TEMP COLDEST (F)	TEMP HOTTEST (F)	PRECIP (IN)	Days of Rain	WIND (AVG MPH)
JANUARY	74	90	3.5	7	5.1
FEBRUARY	74	91	2.9	6	5.1
MARCH	74	92	2.4	6	5.1
APRIL	75	92	2.8	7	5.1
MAY	75	91	3.5	12	5.1
JUNE	76	91	3.9	15	5.1
JULY	75	90	4.7	14	5.1
AUGUST	75	91	4.7	13	5.1
SEPTEMBER	75	90	4.6	13	5.1
OCTOBER	75	90	6.7	14	5.1
NOVEMBER	75	91	4.2	13	5.1
DECEMBER	74	91	2.4	10	5.1

Table 15. Seasons Chart-Cagayan de Oro City

	TEMP COLDEST (F)	TEMP HOTTEST (F)	PRECIP (IN)	Days of Rain	WIND (AVG MPH)
JANUARY	71	85	7.1	16	5.1
FEBRUARY	70	87	4.6	12	5.1
MARCH	70	89	2.3	10	5.1
APRIL	71	91	2.9	9	5.1
MAY	72	91	5.9	13	2.9
JUNE	72	89	8.6	18	5.1
JULY	72	88	9.8	16	2.9
AUGUST	71	89	8.3	15	5.1
SEPTEMBER	71	89	8.5	16	2.9
OCTOBER	71	88	7.7	18	2.9
NOVEMBER	71	88	6.2	19	2.9

DECEMBER	70	87	5.5	17	5.1
----------	----	----	-----	----	-----

Table 16. Seasons Chart-Iloilo City

	TEMP COLDEST (F)	TEMP HOTTEST (F)	PRECIP (IN)	Days of Rain	WIND (AVG MPH)
JANUARY	72.9	84.2	2.0	5	5.1
FEBRUARY	73.2	85.5	1.9	5	5.1
MARCH	73.8	87.3	1.7	5	5.1
APRIL	75.4	90.0	2.1	6	5.1
MAY	76.3	90.5	3.8	10	5.1
JUNE	76.4	88.7	5.2	12	5.1
JULY	74.8	86.9	4.7	12	5.1
AUGUST	74.8	86.9	5.4	12	5.1
SEPTEMBER	74.7	87.1	5.5	11	5.1
OCTOBER	74.8	87.4	6.8	11	5.1
NOVEMBER	74.7	86.4	5.3	12	5.1
DECEMBER	74.1	85.1	38.8	9	5.1

Precipitation

Precipitation in Belesia comes in the form of rain, with an annual average of 30–200 inches, depending on location. This usually takes the form of afternoon or evening showers, which are light and infrequent during the dry season and nearly daily and often heavy during the rainy season. Daily amounts vary, with maximums ranging from a low of two inches in southern Mindanao and southern Belesian Borneo to more than 20 inches in the far northwest of Belesian Luzon. During the dry season, monthly rainfall can drop to less than one inch in some areas, while as much as 32 inches can fall during the height of the rainy season. Dry and rainy seasons vary by local climate type (I, II, III, or IV). Of note, snow has been known to fall on the highest peaks of the Crocker Mountains on Borneo.



Temperature-Heat Index

Belesia lies in a tropical zone, and the country's temperatures reflect this. The average temperature difference between night and day is usually greater than the seasonal variation of either highs or lows for any specific location. The hottest month of the year is April, while the coolest is January. Altitude has the greatest effect on temperatures, with inland valleys being warmest and high mountains being coolest. Average monthly highs range from the mid-70s to the upper-90s degrees Fahrenheit and monthly lows are not much cooler, usually dropping less than 15 degrees. Record highs usually fall in the upper 90s to low 100s, depending on location, but have been known to exceed 100 degrees. When combined with Belesia's high relative humidity, the heat index can easily reach levels that could affect military operations.

Temperature-Wind Chill Index

Temperatures very rarely drop below 65°F at night, even in the coolest part of the year. The only exception is in the mountains, where the weather can be cool enough to necessitate a light jacket at night. The highest mountain peaks can get cold at night; record lows in the Crocker Mountains on Borneo are frequently below the freezing mark, and snow has been known to fall there as well.

Relative Humidity

Relative humidity is high throughout the year in Belesia. Ranging from the low 70s to the mid-90s with an average of 77%, humidity is higher in the coastal and low-lying areas than inland or at higher elevations. Relative humidity is typically higher in the mornings and drops several percentage points by evening. When combined with the country's high temperatures, it produces the type of hot, humid conditions typically associated with tropical jungles.

Wind

Belesia's annual wind cycle drives the country's seasons. Trade winds from the northeast begin blowing in November. These winds, known as the *amihan* or the

northeast monsoon, blow through February and bring cool air to the country. They recede and are replaced with the *silanganin*, or "easterlies," from March–June, which bring heat. The *habagat*, or southwest monsoon, begins in July and runs through October. This wind brings cooler temperatures and higher humidity.

Winds during the NE monsoon are usually light and variable, with the eastern coastal areas experiencing stronger winds and more precipitation than the rest of the country. The SW monsoon pattern is similar, except that it is the western areas that receives stronger winds and more rain. Winds during the easterlies period are slightly less than during the two monsoons, and periods of calm are more frequent. Tropical cyclones, which are rated from tropical depression (mildest; winds under 32 knots) to super typhoon (most severe; winds over 118 knots), occur from June to December. Cyclonic storms hit regularly, with an average of up to two typhoon-category storms—based on location—each year.

Visibility

Belesia experiences an average of 5–10 hours of sun daily, with more sunshine and correspondingly fewer clouds during the easterlies and the transition period from southwest to northeast monsoon. April is the least cloudy month. Haze, fog, and low ceilings are common. Cloud cover is lightest on leeward coastal areas and the leeward sides of mountain ranges, and fog is usually restricted to mountains and inland valleys. Blowing dust may occur on leeward coastlines. Clouds can exceed 8,000 ft. during both the northeast and southwest monsoons. Sunshine is more common during the morning periods, while clouds are more frequently seen in the afternoon.

Hazards

Belesians face hazards daily in the form of dangerous animals including several varieties of venomous snakes. There are also a wide variety of plants that are poisonous to humans. Lastly, Belesia is susceptible to many types of natural disasters including seasonal typhoons.



Events

Belesia is subject to many types of natural disasters, including droughts, earthquakes, floods, forest fires, land and mudslides, tropical cyclones (except on Borneo), tsunamis, and volcanic activity. Mountainous areas and those cleared of vegetation are most prone to land and mudslides, while the eastern islands are affected by cyclones and tsunamis. Mayon Volcano, located near the southeastern shore of the Bicol Peninsula, Luzon, is just one of over a dozen historically active volcanoes. Its largest eruption was in 1814, and its most recent major eruption occurred in 2009, with the latter displacing over 33,000 Belesians. Earthquakes are common on the islands; their seismic activity triggers landslides as well as causing direct damage to the country's infrastructure. A major earthquake centered by Mindanao and the resulting tsunami killed 5,000–8,000 people in 1976. Cyclonic storms hit most of the country regularly, with an average of 1–2 typhoon-category storms a year making landfall; though the southern two-thirds of Mindanao, the Sulu Archipelago, and Borneo rarely experience storms of this strength. One storm, Super Typhoon Haiyan, hit Belesia in November 2013 and killed over 10,000 just on the island of Leyte. Forest fires are a frequent problem on Borneo during droughts, and the country is also concerned about deforestation, erosion, pollution, and possible rising sea levels due to climate change.

Disease

Major diseases in Belesia include bacterial diarrhea, hepatitis A, typhoid fever, dengue fever, malaria, and leptospirosis. (See the Social Variable for more detail on these diseases.)

Flora

There are many types of poisonous plants to Belesia. Here are ten of the most common ones:

<i>Plant</i>	<i>Description</i>
--------------	--------------------

Adelfa (*Nerium indicum*)

This is an erect, smooth shrub that grows from four to 10 feet high with a sticky cream-colored resinous juice. It has showy white, pink, or red flowers with a sweet scent attracting people to it. It is found throughout Belesia as it thrives well in sandy loam soil. The leaves and bark are both poisonous. Locals have been using it for years as an insecticide. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, dizziness, decrease in pulse rate, and if not treated can lead to death.

Atis (*Anona squamosa*)

This is a small tree that grows from ten to sixteen feet in height. It has white or light yellow flowers in the axils of the leaves. Found throughout Belesia, it normally does not grow in the higher elevation. Both the leaves and seeds are poisonous. Locals use it as a poison to kill lice.

Baraibai (*Cerbera manghas* Linn)

This is a shrub that can grow into a tree that can stand up to 20 feet in height. The white flowers are about two inches in diameter and quite fragrant. This plant grows not only in Belesia, but North and South Torbia as well as Olvana. Locals use the wood to produce a fine charcoal, but if the juice gets into the eyes, it can cause blindness. If the seeds are eaten, it will cause vomiting followed by collapse and death.

Ligtang (*Anamira cocculus*)

This is a large, woody vine with gray bark. The flowers are small and yellowish in color. They are normally yellowish white and about 2.5 inches in diameter with a sweet scent. The seeds are very poisonous. Locals crush the seeds and place the mixture in their hair to kill lice. If eaten, the seeds cause an overstimulation of the motor center in the medulla in the brain.

Molave (*Vitex parviflora*)

This is a large tree that can reach 75 to 100 feet in height with a diameter of 40 to 60 inches at the base. This is an important tree to the Belesian economy as it is one of the hardest woods used for ship building, railroad ties, and making bridges. The wood and bark are poisonous, however, if eaten.

Paraiso (*Melia azedarch*)

This is a medium-size deciduous tree that grows from 15 to 45 feet in height and can reach 27 inches in diameter at the base. The flowers are fragrant and come in a lilac-color in clusters. This



is another wood important for the Belesia economy as it is used in cabinet making and fuelwood. The flowers, leaves, rootbark, bark, and fruits are all poisonous. If eating, paralysis occurs with death following by suffocation.

Putat
(*Barringtonia racemose*)

This is a tree with a smooth trunk that can reach about 30 feet in height. The white or pink flowers occur at the end of the stems on the branches. It is not found only in Belesia, but other Asian countries as well. The bark, fruit, and seeds are toxic, and locals are known to use them as an insecticide. Locals also use it to make a poison to kill fish and wild pigs.

Saging-saging
(*Aegiceras corniculatum*)

This is a shrub that only reaches a height of a height of ½ inch. The flowers are green or pinkish and quite fragrant. It is found throughout Belesia as well as parts of Olvana. The toxic portion is the bark. Locals use it as an acid in the tanning trade and to poison fish.

Turban bakod
(*Jatropha curcas*)

This is a shrub that grows from six to fifteen feet in height. The greenish white flowers are about one-quarter of an inch in diameter. This is an invasive species brought from the Americas to be farmed as it produces an oil used in diesel fuel. The seeds are poisonous and if eaten, it causes vomiting, dizziness, and drowsiness.

Tuba (*Croton tgilum*)

This is a spreading shrub native to Olvana but has spread to all parts of Belesia as well as North and South Torbia. It thrives best in tropical climates at lower elevations. The toxic portion are the oil extracted from the seeds, fruits, and crushed leaves. If eaten, the victim suffers stomach irritation, pain at the back of the throw and at the anus. It causes nausea, colic, diarrhea, and dysentery. Locals use it as a fish poison.

Fauna

The same dangerous animals found in North and South Torbia are also found in Belesia because they share a similar climate and borders. These include the following:

Dangerous Animal

Description

Mosquitoes	Mosquitoes cause several diseases including dengue. Dengue victims begin showing symptoms three to fourteen days after infection with a high fever, headache, vomiting, muscle pain, joint pains, and normally a skin rash. There is no cure for dengue fever and victims need to rest, drink fluids, and take a pain medicine that includes acetaminophen. Other diseases that mosquitoes can carry include the chikungunya virus, Japanese encephalitis, malaria, West Nile virus, yellow fever, or the zika virus.
Dogs	Dogs carry rabies and every year about 50 Belesians are diagnosed with rabies. Dogs may be man’s best friends, but rabid dogs are not.
Jellyfish	Many species of jellyfish are dangerous and even a small amount of its venom can lead to heart seizures or cause it to stop.
Snakes	There are a large variety of snakes in Belesia with over ten of them considered poisonous. The most dangerous is the South Torbian Cobra. They like being around rice paddies so it can hunt for mice and rats.
Crocodiles	The biggest crocodile ever was caught in South Torbia, but crocodiles are also found in Belesia. While crocodile attacks are rare, sometimes a person succumbs to an attack. People know not to mess with crocodiles.
Sharks	Even though there are only about 60 attacks around the world annually, Belesian fisherman must be extremely safety conscious. Shark species that are found in the waters around South Torbia include the Bull Shark, Tiger Shark, and the Great White Shark.
Scorpions	While they do not bite, Scorpions sting. Many species are harmless, but some are dangerous such as the Arizona bark scorpion.
Red Black Spider	This is the same type as found in Australia and is quite poisonous.
Centipedes	Most are harmless, but deaths have been known to occur in Belesia.



BELESIA

PHYSICAL

***Blue-ringed
Octopus***

This beautiful creature has a bite that is not too painful, so the victim often does not know they are bitten until it is too late. One Blue-ringed Octopus can carry enough venom to kill ten human adults.



TIME

Time Overview

Belesians' approach to time is polychromic, meaning that they tend to perform multiple tasks at the same time, as opposed to the in-sequence (monochromic) view of Americans. The younger, more urban generation is beginning to adopt aspects of monochromic thinking. Belesia sits within the South Torbian Time Zone (STTZ), which is eight hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)/Coordinated Universal Time (UTC); the country does not observe Daylight Saving Time (DST).

Daily

Muslims are required to pray five times a day based upon the sun and the moon. This means that the actual time of prayer changes from day to day depending on the time of year. These are the five prayers:

Salat al-fajr

The first daily prayer of the day takes place at dawn or just before sunrise.

Sala al-zuhr

The midday prayer is done after the sun passes its highest point in the sky for the day. The exact time can vary, but zuhr prayers must be completed at least ten minutes before sunset.

Salat al-'asr

These prayers occur in the late afternoon, but before sunset. This prayer time can also vary, but the 10 minutes before sunset is reserved specifically for asr prayers.

Salat al-maghrib

This prayer time occurs after sunset.

Salat al-'isha

The final prayer of the day takes place sometime between sunset and midnight. While Isha prayer needs to be completed before the next Fajr prayer time, it should

occur before midnight unless there are circumstances that would prevent that from happening.

Weekly

Belesia's Muslim population are required to pray five times a day, but Friday is the most holy day of the week for them. The mosques are normally filled on Fridays, especially for the prayer just after sunset.

Monthly

There is no monthly reoccurring event, but one month of the year has significant meaning to Muslims.

Ramadan

This is the most holy month in the Islamic calendar. The Islamic calendar is based on the lunar cycle so there are 12 months in each year, some months having 29 days while others having 30 days There are 354 days in an Islamic lunar year. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, and this is determined by the sighting of the crescent moon. This is also a local phenomenon so what is true in one location may be off by a day in another place. Comparing the Islamic calendar to the Gregorian calendar will cause Ramadan to move up approximately eleven days each year, give or take a day.

Key Dates, Time Periods, or Events

Colonial Period to World War II

Colonial governorship of Belesia was first given to the explorer Marco Celcano and his crew. The colonizers set up new towns and missionaries converted many of the inhabitants to Christianity. To defend their settlements, the colonizers constructed and manned a network of military fortresses across the archipelago. During its three-century rule, the colonial power also successfully quelled several indigenous revolts and external military challenges. Around 1900, Belesia began its second political shaping period, with a significant portion of the population converting to Islam. As the influence of Islam grew, so too did anti-colonial sentiment. Viewing



the growth of Islam as an indicator that the population wished to reject western colonial policies, and return to self-rule, Belesians began to increasingly push for independence from both colonial and Christian oversight. In 1918, a three-year civil war erupted, and although the colonial power defeated the insurgents the conflict also weakened the colonial government and after WWII, Belesia gained full sovereignty. With independence, the capital of Belesia moved from Cebu to Davao.

Post-Independence

After independence, the Belesian government operated with a two party system; power being divided between the Islamic Coalition of the People (CP) and the military-backed and western-leaning United Alliance (UA) political parties. Political power, corruption, and influence fluctuated between the two, often violently, until 1986. Under the authoritarian rule of Armando Mendoza, the CP gained preeminence, as Mendoza effectively shut down opposition to his administration and removed term limitations. A popular military coup five years later overthrew Mendoza, paving the way for multiple political parties and restoring term limits. At the time, many negatively associated the CP with the Mendoza regime; however, it has had a resurgence in popularity in recent years and today, the CP is consistently one of the top five most popular political parties in Belesia.

Current

Today, Belesia is an Islamic but western-leaning country that has also warm relations with North Torbia and other authoritarian governments.

Routine, Cyclical Key Dates

Holidays and Culturally Specific Observations

There are only three true national holidays in Belesia, but the government and the people celebrate 11 major religious holidays. Holidays are a combination of traditions from the colonial period, Islam, and even native lore that predate Europeans arriving in the islands.

Table 17. Holidays & Culturally Specific Observations

<i>Holiday</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Remark</i>
<i>International New Year's Day</i>	1 January	National	
<i>Federation Day</i>	15 March	National	
<i>Military Day</i>	7 October	National	
<i>Islamic New Year</i>	01 Muharram	Religious	2 Days
<i>Mawlid al-Nabi (Birth of the Prophet)</i>	12 Rabi Al-Awwal	Religious	
<i>Al-Isra' Wal Mi'raj (Journey and Ascension of the Prophet)</i>	27 Rajab	Religious	
<i>Ramadan</i>	Entire Month	Religious	29-30 days
<i>Eid al-Fitr (End of Ramadan)</i>	01 Shawal	Religious	3 Days
<i>Eid al-Adha (Festival of Sacrifice)</i>	10 th day of Dhu al-Hijjah	Religious	4 Days

International New Year's Day

This day begins at midnight with children being encouraged to jump as high as they can as people believe it will help them grow taller during the following year. The family then gathers for a midnight feast containing a few round fruits (oranges, limes, lemons, apples, etc.) as they are symbol for prosperity; sticky rice to “bind” the family together for the year; and long noodles (pancit) for good luck. The meal will contain no chicken or fish as these types of food are associated with food scarcity.

Federation Day

15 March is the official founding date for Belesia. Local politicians make speeches and families enjoy a day off from work and school, often going on picnics in a park.

Military Day

On 7 October of each year, Belesia honors its military. In the larger cities, there may be a military parade for people to watch.

Muharram

Islamic New Year begins on the first day of Muharram, the first month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Due to the different in days between a lunar calendar and the



Gregorian calendar, this date will change about eleven days each year. Most devout Muslims will attend services at the mosque and then celebrate with a dinner for the extended family. People greet each other with, “May all the praises and thanks be to Allah to whom belongs all that is in heavens and in the earth. Have a blessed Muharram. Wishing you and your family a new year full of peace and happiness! May Allah bless you throughout the new year!” The celebration spills over into a second day.

Mawlid al-Nabi (Birth of the Prophet)

Mawlid celebrates Mohammad’s Birthday and occurs on the twelfth day of Rabi’ al-awwai, the third month of the Islamic lunar calendar. Villages have a carnival atmosphere with charity and food distributed and children reciting poetry about the life of Mohammad.

Al-Isra' Wal Mi'raj (Journey and Ascension of the Prophet)

This holiday celebrates the journey and ascension of Mohammad and is observed on the 27th day of Rajab, the seventh month of the Islamic calendar. In a single night in the year 621, Mohammad traveled from Mecca to Jerusalem on a winged creature (Buraq) and then ascended into heaven where he met earlier prophets and then God. During this trip, Mohammad was told that Muslims should pray five times a day (salat). It is one of the more important holy days on the Islamic calendar. Mosques will put on a special services on this holiday and those not participating at a mosque teach the children the significance of the day in their religion.

Ramadan

The month of fasting begins with the first day of the ninth month of the lunar calendar. All devout Muslims must fast (food and water both) from sunup to sunset. Since the time of the year for Ramadan varies, the fasting can last up to over twelve hours. Those in the military are allowed to break the fast if they need to maintain their strength to do their military duties. After sunset and the maghrib prayers are complete, the family gathers for a meal. Then they must eat breakfast before al-fajr prayers the next day.

Eid at Fitr (End of Ramadan)

On the last day of Ramadan, the end of the month of fasting is celebrated with arrival of the next crescent moon. This celebration will occur on the first three days of the tenth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, Shawwal. The first day of Shawwal is the only day that Muslims are not allowed to fast. Besides big family dinners, those that can give alms to the poor and the needy or performing Zakat-ul-fitr, one of the seven pillars of the Muslim faith.

Eid al Adha (Festival of Sacrifice)

Eid al Adha (Festival of Sacrifice) Considered the holiest day in Islam; Eid al-Adha commemorates the willingness of Ibrahim (Abraham) to sacrifice his son Ismael as an act of obedience to the will of God. Today, Muslims recognize this event through prayer, charity, and sacrifice. Affluent members of a community often sacrifice *halal* domestic animals (such as lamb, sheep, goat, or cow), the meat of which is divided into three parts, one third for the family, one third for relatives and neighbors, and the remaining third to be given to the poor and needy. Observation of Eid al-Adha begins on the tenth day of Dhu al-Hijjah, the twelfth month of the Islamic calendar, and lasts for three days.

Wedding Season

Belesians usually time their weddings based on three things: weather, agricultural cycles, and proximity to major holidays. Most couples prefer to get married in the cooler months of the year (November–February); this is complicated by the occasional presence of religious holidays during this period. In addition, many people will not marry in the month of Ramadan. A large portion of the populace is also engaged in agricultural pursuits, so wedding dates rarely fall during planting or harvest periods.

Harvest Cycles

Agricultural cycles in Belesia are primarily determined by regional climate and the crop in question. Some crops, such as abaca, coconut, pineapple, and oil palm, are grown and harvested year-round; others, e.g., rice, corn, and sugarcane, follow



distinct cycles. There are usually two crops per year for rice and corn: one in the wet season, and one in the dry season. If a region's wet season is long enough, farmers may be able to plant and harvest two successive crops during this season instead of just one. Sugarcane is harvested only once per year: during the cool part of the dry season. (*For additional information on Belesia's agriculture and seasons, see the Physical Environment variable*)

Natural Disaster Cycles

Cyclonic storms hit most of the country regularly, with an average of 1–2 typhoon-category storms a year making landfall; though the southern two-thirds of Mindanao, the Sulu Archipelago, and Borneo rarely experience storms of this strength. Over 70% of all cyclones develop in the Pacific between July and October each year making those months as the most likely ones for Belesia to suffer major storm damage.

Election Cycles

Belesians directly elect the President and Vice President every five years; these officials are elected on separate tickets and can be held by members of opposing political parties. Members of the People's Assembly are elected for five-year terms one year after Presidential elections, while local officials, who also serve five-year terms, are elected two years after the Presidential elections.

Cultural Perception of Time

Most Belesians are Muslim, and this is reflected in their perception of time. *Insha allah*, meaning "God willing," permeates the culture. Time is viewed casually, and relationships are more important than the clock. Priorities determine the order in which events occur and meetings take place, and interruptions are not viewed as an annoyance, but rather as an opportunity to develop and strengthen other relationships. This view of time is known as polychromic—performing many tasks simultaneously—as opposed to monochromic (performing tasks in sequence).

This prioritization of relationships over the clock plays out in several ways. Tardiness has historically been a way of life in Belesia, and meetings inevitably run long. Side conversations and interruptions are the rule, not the exception, and are attended to with the same importance as the main topic. Decisions are based on consensus as opposed to "majority rule," and are strongly adhered to once reached as to change anything would require reaching a new consensus.

The influence of Western thought and the presence of Western businesses are resulting in a shift of time paradigms in the country. Younger people and those employed by international corporations are heavily exposed to the monochromic view of time and are beginning to adopt it as their own. This change is also occurring in the Belesian military, due primarily to two factors: its leadership receiving training by Western militaries, and its personnel being exposed to Western military thought during multinational exercises and deployments to other countries. This has caused strain between older and younger generations, as well as between urban and rural dwellers. While younger, more urban Belesians view it as "hip" to value the clock over people, Belesians that are older and more rural look askance at such beliefs and bemoan the deterioration of their culture.

Tactical Exploitation of Time

Belesian Perception of Time

The Belesian perspective on time leads to slow but firm decisions. Each person's input is considered carefully, and all participants agree on the result. The implementation can be slow, but this will have been accounted for in the decision making process. Another result of this process is that each party to the decision personally agreed to it, thus making it a matter of honor to follow through on his part of the agreement. It is this, more than anything, which ensures that action will eventually be taken. The increased influence of Western thought in the country has created some chaos in this area, as those adopting a more monochromic view tend to act faster but are more likely to need to revisit a decision due to unforeseen complications during the implementation.



The combination of insha Allah and the prioritization of people over the clock leads to a long view of conflict. Wars are seen as the result of poor relational decisions over an extended period; the obvious way to best win a war is to prevent it from occurring in the first place. The Belesian saying “sow a friendship and you will not reap an enemy” reflects this mindset. As such, both political and military leaders focus on creating and maintaining good relations with other countries. One result of this approach is cross training with other militaries, as well as the deployment of military personnel abroad; both are seen as steppingstones to stronger relations with other countries.

US Perception of Time

The time perception of Belesians will make them appear slow to act in the eyes of US military members, and the long timelines and extended consideration of issues will strain soldiers' patience. The best way to interact with Belesians is to focus on reaching mutual agreement. US personnel should expect timelines to be loosely defined and double or triple what would be considered a “normal” length. Attempting to rush the process will be seen as rude and will most likely backfire. Belesian military leaders that have received training in Western nations will be of immense value, as they can help bridge the cultural gap between their compatriots and US personnel. These persons must not, however, be viewed to an end, but rather as potential lifelong friends. Only then will US military members be able to strike the right tone to be effective in their mission.

Decision-making

Belesia decision-makers will take a much longer to arrive at a course of action than their Western counterparts, possibly causing some frustration among any allies. U.S. planners who are partnering with Belesians will need to factor in the additional time to arrive at decisions in their planning.