

Gang War

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Much occurs in the Cularin system that has yet to make its way into Living Force scenarios, but which is just as important in the daily lives of the heroes of Cularin, and which may provide context for them to better understand the system in which they reside. And a great deal of this comes to them as rumor . . .

First came the whispers. In the cold booths hidden in the shadows of cantinas around the system, smugglers and pirates and scoundrels of all sorts watched one another over frothing tankards and hesitantly traded information. No one knew what to believe. Had there been a dogfight in the [asteroid belt](#)? And if so, who had won?

Intrepid, adventurous types made their way into the Belt, searching for clues. Most of them found little more than an escort back out -- sometimes just one, other times as many as a squadron of Headhunters bearing Nirama's crest. None of them fired on the vessels searching the Belt, but they kept a polite distance and offered plenty of reason for those who had strayed from the shipping lanes to return and continue on their way.

Observers have remarked that Nirama's smugglers aren't engaging in hostile actions; they're simply patrolling "their" territory more efficiently than had been done in the past. Ships that remain in the designated lanes through the Belt have yet to report spotting any Headhunters among the asteroids, and commercial transports have reported that the lanes actually seem safer now than they have in quite a while. No pirate attacks have occurred in the Belt in the last two months -- none at all. Whatever's going on outside the shipping lanes, it's been good for legitimate shipping in the system.

Since the coming of [Rufus Trammel](#) to [Cularin](#), tensions have mounted. Now, Nirama seems to have taken the initiative - though some reports claim the first shots were fired by one of Trammel's ships, a freighter whose armaments were deceptively well designed. Whoever fired first, the rumors make it clear that things are not well in the Belt, and that Trammel may be intending to attempt to wrest control of smuggling in the system from Nirama.

The most conflicting, disturbing reports on the potential conflict have arisen from CANTINA, a creatively-named dive on the floating city of Air Avab within [Genarius](#). Here, the rumor of an attack on Nirama's private yacht was first brought to light, an attack coordinated with frightening precision and which resulted in the destruction of the yacht. CANTINA was also the source of a similar rumor, that Nirama's private yacht had been attacked, and that the attackers had not only been repelled but also hunted down and killed to a man, while the yacht was left intact. Still others at CANTINA swore that the yacht was not involved in any attack, but that instead, two sets of fighters were seen, weaving in and out of the shipping lanes, blasting at each other and anything else that got in their way. This report has received the most independent verification, as several individuals who have never crossed the threshold of CANTINA have offered similar stories.

Some speculation has centered on the Cell, an organization that attempted to rise up and overthrow Nirama's organization from within earlier this year. However,



anonymous sources within the smuggling community state that the Cell has been systematically hunted down and its members imprisoned or exiled from the system. Trammel has made no claims of any ties to the Cell, and rumor has it, he doesn't think much of their failed coup attempt.

The pirates, for their part, are staying as far away from the conflict in the Belt as possible. Both the Red Fury Brotherhood and the Order of Independent Trade have reportedly made offers to assist Nirama, but no source so far has been able to confirm that such assistance has been accepted, or that either the Brotherhood or the Order has any intention of the offer being made good. As to the other pirate groups, their long-standing rivalry with Nirama's organization is not important enough to them to risk their lives over. Smart money says that all the pirate organizations will sit back, wait, and attack whoever comes out on top while they're still weak from the fight. (Current Tolea Biqua odds on active Pirate Involvement in the conflict: 22.7 to 1; current Tolea Biqua odds on Pirates attacking the victor within 24 standard hours of conflict resolution: 1 to 3; current Tolea Biqua odds on Pirates fighting one another prior to resolution of the conflict and weakening themselves to the extent that an attack would be useless: even money.)

Thus far, the governments of the Cularin system have had no official response to the reports from the Belt. Most citizens don't expect much in the way of official response, however, since the residents of the Belt operate on their own terms, and neither give nor expect assistance from the outside. Policy within Cularin has always centered around keeping the maximum number of people safe and happy, and this goal is best accomplished, in the eyes of the various governments, by leaving the "seedier elements" to their own devices. The Jedi Academy has also been silent on the matter of the conflict between Nirama and Trammel, though speculation from Forard is that preparation has begun to send teams out to investigate disturbances in the Belt. No source within the Academy has been willing to confirm this.

The group that has taken the most active stance is the [Thaereian military](#). Colonel Tramsig himself issued the following statement: "People of Cularin: In the interest of peace and prosperity, the Thaereian military is willing to sweep the asteroid belt of all the villainous scum that inhabit it. We will search every rock, drop charges into every hole, until we are certain that the law-abiding citizens of Cularin are no longer in danger from this heinous criminal element."

The operation was put on hold indefinitely, however, when [Senator Lavina Wren](#) learned of Tramsig's plans. While the contents of the actual communiqué are not a matter of public record, that Wren contacted Tramsig is beyond doubt, and that all military actions were halted before the first of the heavily-armored freighters crossed into the Belt was documented by the local press.

For the time being, much of the fighting remains localized to the asteroid belt. However, reports have begun to trickle in of shoot-outs in the streets of Varna Biqua, of stabbings on Dorumaa, and of well-known bounty hunters from outside the system making their way through the dark alleys of Cularin.

It looks very much like a sizable gang war may be brewing . . .

If you want to learn more about the Living Force campaign and how to take part in the adventure, this [introduction](#) will get you started.