

I-RED Deploys To Semiki; Interview With I-RED Directors  
Selenna Solange • YC121.01.20

Semiki, Lonetrek - With the recent events which transpired on the Zainou biohazard containment facility in Semiki, I-RED has deployed forces to the system alongside elements of the Heiian Conglomerate [HECON]. Within hours, an Astrahus-class citadel maintained by HECON for the purposes of coordination with I-RED and Ishukone, Ishukone Watch, Zainou, Wiyrkomi, and Aliastra officials will be fully operational. The joint I-RED-HECON team arrived in the system yesterday in a small force of Eagle-class heavy assault cruisers which escorted a Bustard-class deep space transport ferrying essential operation assets.

I-RCN had an opportunity to speak with a number of directors from I-RED regarding the recent situation in Semiki. Below is a transcript of the interview:

Solange: The recent security issues aboard the Zainou station and the resulting cyberinfection of Aliastra employees in Semiki appears troubling. Cyber viruses which are targeted at cerebral implants are both an uncommon and potent weapon; one which can pose a danger to many people across the cluster if used in a greater capacity. I-RCN is joined today by Director Ku Mayaseki, CEO of I-RED biotech subsidiary Integrated Health Systems. Also with us are I-RED Director of Intelligence Operations Korbin Lavius and Executor Alex Hinkelmann. Welcome, gentlemen.

Hinkelmann: Evening, Miss Solange.

Lavius: Ave.

Mayaseki: Greetings.

Solange: Right, let us dive right in to it. Will each of you be willing to elaborate on your role or duties with the Semiki situation?

Hinkelmann: Gladly. My direct involvement in the situation is limited. I am mostly coordinating communications between Ishukone officials and our own personnel.

Mayaseki: I am leading a small team of cybernetics researchers and developers from IHS. While normally IHS maintains a notable amount of autonomy from greater I-RED affairs, we were called in to assist in ongoing investigation efforts at the request of I-RED leadership. We are, of course, glad to oblige, given our expertise in biotechnology, and cerebral cybernetics in particular. We are in close communications with the Ishukone-Raata Technological Research Institute IT team as well.

Lavius: Right, I suppose it's my turn. I am working alongside I-RED's contingent of security forces which have been deployed to Semiki to provide additional reinforcements if need be.

I-RED has opted to use forces from both of its current primary security contractors, the Oniseki-Raata Internal Watch and Revenent Defense Corporation. O-RIW will focus on ground operations while RDC forces will take priority of managing forces in space.

Solange: Thank you all for your input. On a related note, is there any comment on the resources available by your teams? What sorts of qualifications do each of you and your groups represent, perhaps?

Lavius: Respectfully, Miss Solange, we are unable at this time to provide specifics on exact resources on hand. We will note, however, that we have available to us cyberwarfare experts, technical support staff, cybernetics experts, and an appropriate security contingent for their defense with all the teams put together. As for qualifications, RDC has been a founding member of I-RED, before taking on a more PMC approach and shifting to becoming the alliance's primary security contractor. As for I-RED as an entity, we unfortunately are very familiar with the likes of turncoats from within facilitating sabotage. In this respect, our security teams have venerable experience when handling internal security matters which Zainou has apparently had issues in with regards to the Semiki affair. Furthermore, the scope of this attack is concerning. One of the affected groups, the Aliastra corporation, happens to be a business partner of I-RED. I-RED stands in solidarity with Aliastra and their employees. We remain committed to promoting the livelihoods of all Intaki, and we look forward to working with Aliastra officials to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice.

Mayaseki: I will defer most of my comments to those made by Mr. Lavius. Operational security and such. As for my personal qualifications, I graduated from the School of Applied Knowledge with a bachelor's in human biology as well as cybernetics. I later returned to SAK for my doctorate in biocybernetics. My team for this mission is likewise well educated in the field biotechnology.

Solange: Right, of course. Thank you! So, quite the buzz has been centered around the seeming lack of high-level coordination between Zainou capsuleer affiliate Itsukame-Zainou Hyperspatial Inquiries [IKAME] and the joint I-RED-HECON assembly. Is there a reason for this that any of you would be willing to share?

Lavius: I'll defer to Executor Hinkelmann for the answer you seek.

Mayaseki: Likewise.

Hinkelmann: I won't presume to speak on our associates in the Conglomerate, but the stance between I-RED and IKAME is indeed an interesting one. I-RED has since its inception been a staunch supporter of Ishukone; coming up on ten years of active service to Ishukone and the State, from the warzone, to the frontier of Syndicate, we prioritize the safety of Ishukone's assets, both personnel and material. As such we firmly believe in promoting certain stipulations and agreements between cooperative groups when it comes to operating with outside entities

on a issue such as the Semiki one. IKAME is part of the Arataka Research Consortium, which is a multinational conglomerate who prioritize neutrality and transparency when possible. While neutrality and transparency in many aspects are commendable, we as an organization simply cannot approve of such tactics when handling the sensitive affairs of our parent corporation and her subsidiaries. I believe this is where the rift between our groups stems from - a difference in approach to dealing with this problem. Furthermore, there seems to be an idea that I-RED and HECON are attempting to step on the authority of other capsuleer groups. This is simply not true. Perhaps the wording of our public remarks could have been tailored better, but we openly agree to cooperate with any individual or entity that will abide by a non-disclosure agreement to protect the interests of Zainou and Ishukone. Additionally, such potential allies cannot be open enemies of the Caldari State, naturally.

Solange: Of course, yes. It is an interesting dynamic indeed. You mention differing approaches to dealing with a problem. Can you elaborate on why this is so important to you?

Mayaseki: I believe I can answer this question with regards to the safety of human life in mind. Assuming I-RED were to promote a transparent approach and openly discuss details such as the tools we have available to us, how we plan to utilize those tools, how we plan to implement strategies to neutralize any potential threats, and the methods by which we operate, then by default we forfeit the entire safety of individuals who could be affected by cyberwarfare against cerebral cybernetics. Taking such an approach opens up an avenue for the perpetrators of this cyber attack to stay one or more steps ahead of us, and attack again, with potentially greater consequences for whomever their targets are. This approach, with all due respect, is not only erroneous, but it is unethical. We owe it better to handle the situation with due discretion in order to protect the lives of our employees, those of our parent corporation and her subsidiaries, and those of Aliastra. This is not to say that I-RED will not release our potential findings at a later point in time. We will forward to the cluster at-large any pertinent information regarding the attack that may be of use to prevent future attacks like this, but for the duration of this current problem in Semiki we will refuse to publish any such information.

Solange: Thank you for your comments Dr. Mayaseki. Lastly, it has been stated that I-RED is willing to cooperate with outside individuals and entities so long as they abide by certain disclosures beforehand and aren't outright enemies to the State. With these considerations in mind, has there been any offers of assistance from outside groups? If so, how do these potential offers plan to be used?

Hinkelmann: I believe thus far we have received an offer of support from Dr. Mizhir Devara of Devara Biotech. Dr. Devara has quite the resume under her belt, with collaborative publications done alongside ARC with regards to the Drifters. It is still too early to confirm or deny anything, but I will say that the offer is being considered and we will be in talk with the doctor soon. Recently, the Antumbra corporation has begun the process of anchoring a Raitaru-class facility near the Zainou station. Their leadership has initiated contact with our allies at HECON, and I believe discussion is ongoing. I cannot comment further on the matter.

Solange: Thank you for your clarification Executor Hinkelmann. For now, that will conclude our interview. I-RCN will continue to monitor the situation in Semiki. For I-RCN, this is Selenna Solange.

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## Protests and Vandalization Erupt Following IPI Suresha's Remarks On IGS Selenna Solange • YC121.01.22

A-3ES3, Syndicate - I-RED police forces have been deployed in large numbers to the Bataav Intaki Heritage Site located in the Gamma Residential Sector aboard the Tash-Murkon Refinery, an Astrahus-class citadel operating under I-RED's Operation Grey Steel© investment program. Station Manager Mishka Targalon has urged for calm and cooperation among Gamma Residential Sector inhabitants, who are predominantly of Intaki ethnicity. The police response was triggered following reports of vandalization from a number of individuals present at the time of the protests. I-RCN was unable to confirm whether these individuals were originally a part of the protesters or not.

I-RCN has managed to reach out to I-RED Director of Public Works Roirdan Bouchate for comments on the matter. "Many Intaki living aboard I-RED facilities in the region have directly themselves emmigrated from Placid colonies, or have other connections to Placid Intaki", stated Director Bouchate. "A commonly sited reason for moving to I-RED facilities is the long-standing relationship I-RED has maintained with Placid Intaki promoting peace and prosperity. As a result, many of these Intaki living under the umbrella of I-RED have a very strong sense of loyalty and friendship to our organization. The recent decision of Suresha Bataav of the Intaki Prosperity Initiative with regards to the Semiki situation seems to have triggered a negative response from these groups of people."

Residents aboard I-RED facilities have easy access to fluid router networks which hosts popular sites such as the Intergalactic Summit, where capsuleers often engage in fierce debates and controversial subjects. Such sites are a favorite of tabloids to draw subject matter from. Due to the easy access, it did not take long before word spread of Suresha Bataav's decision to render assistance and support to the Itsukame-Zainou Hyperspatial Inquiry's [IKAME] efforts.

Within hours following the Suresha's statements, protesters gathered by the hundreds on the heritage site's grounds. The site was christened after the esteemed Bataav, who has long been a friend and ally of I-RED. Footage has been circulating of chants and signs which vary in range of controversy. One group of protesters who appeared to be a small family held a sign with the words "TRAITOR TRAITOR TRAITOR" painted on them. Another sign which has been going viral on the popular social media site Peeper™ appears to be an image of a toddler holding a

sign that says "Bataav - Once a friend of I-RED, once a friend of Intaki." The protesters were protesting for hours, and remained peaceful throughout the duration of their protests.

After a couple of hours, however, things started taking a different turn when a small group of individuals began encouraging riots and vandalism. According to an estimate by Manager Targalon, these individuals number around a couple dozen or so. Most of them have already been identified and arrested. I-RED police forces are still reviewing footage and witness accounts to determine the identity of those that got away.

"Employees, permanent residents, and guests aboard the Tash-Murkon Refinery are welcomed and encouraged to exercise their personal rights to peacefully assemble, as outlined in the I-RED Corporate Charter", stated Manager Targalon in a press conference just moments ago. "However, I regretfully must reiterate to a troublesome few that such rights do not include vandalizing public and corporate property and attempting to incite riots. Such behavior is simply unacceptable, and those found doing so will be punished accordingly. Protesters are encouraged to maintain their assembly as long as they do so peacefully and legally. Individuals who violate their employment contracts to protest will be warned, fined, and detained according to the policy outlined in the I-RED Corporate Charter."

For now, the protests continue aboard the Tash-Murkon Refinery, although Manager Targalon has ordered a shutdown of the Bataav Intaki Heritage Site grounds while crews initiate clean-up and repair operations following the vandalism.

Elsewhere, on the I-RED sponsored colony of Utpattia in the same system, unverified reports are coming in of protests taking place in Marpiko Grand Park in the city of Atlas. The park is a famous site on the colony for hosting a massive statue which depicts an Intaki man shaking hands with a Caldari man wearing an Ishukone uniform.

When pressed for comment, I-RED Executor Alex Hinkelmann provided the following. "I-RED currently maintains our friendship with the IPI. We respect Suresha Bataav's decisions, and support his wishes to render assistance to the IKAME investigation. I encourage all of our employees and guests to respect his individual decisions as well. We are all on the same team, regardless of how we go about conducting our investigations into the Semiki situation."

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**BREAKING: GURISTAS ESTABLISH MULTIPLE FORWARD OBSERVATION BASES IN SEMIKI.**

Koren Akko • YC121.01.23

SEMIKI, Lonetrek - The Oniseki-Raata Internal Watch has submitted several reports that have just been de-classified for the I-RCN's use.

As of late 21.01.121, the security forces under direction of O-RIW's Commander, Shiran Mazaki, have reported the detection of unusually aggressive Guristas forces in the Semiki solar system. Initial reports detail several Ishukone-Raata operated scout vessels coming in contact with these patrols and ultimately being forced to disengage. Later reports from 22.01.121 show that an Intaki Liberation Front Vexor class cruiser, piloted by Mammal Tafren, came into contact with a Forward Observation Base around 09:48 NEST and was ultimately destroyed by the supporting Guristas forces. There have also been several reports from passing merchant vessels and security forces of multiple attacks on Semiki citadels in position around the Zainou Containment Facility, though in all cases they have been forced to disengage or been destroyed. As well, an attempted assault on an Ishukone-Raata Accounting and Transport Badger ferrying supplies to aid in the joint Directive/Conglomerate effort took place. Skirmishes between other capsuleer forces in the area have also been noted.

Early 23.01.121, an Internal Watch detachment was able to locate a second Guristas Forward Observation Base, prompting the Internal Watch to send out a system wide advisement to caution all civilian traffic to avoid any Guristas forces in the Semiki system and to stay clear of areas not regularly patrolled by State security forces.

We at I-RCN will continue to report this situation as it unfold.

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#### I-RED Forces On High Alert In JQV5-9 Constellation Selenna Solange • YC121.01.26

98Q-8O, Syndicate - With the recent establishment of a Sansha's Nation incursion in the constellation of JQV5-9, I-RED faces a difficult situation. A sizable portion of I-RED capsuleer forces have been deployed to Semiki and its surrounding areas in order to assist in the ongoing cyber malware crisis. Meanwhile, non-capsuleer forces in the form of the Ishukone-Raata Enforcer Fleet [I-REF] have stayed behind to protect I-RED infrastructure in the area. The Sansha incursion has placed increasing strain on I-RED's limited resources, according to some analysts.

Although I-RED does not operate any Upwell facilities in the constellation of JQV5-9, there are many planetary customs offices in place. As a precautionary measure, Executor Alex Hinkelmann has ordered a state of martial law across all I-RED customs offices in the constellation. Throughout the past couple of days, I-REF transports have been ferrying off a majority of the civilian staffs aboard all customs offices, leaving only skeleton crews with security

detachments behind to operate essential functions. Civilian crews have been shuttled to the Ishukone stations in 98Q-8O and S-U8A4 where they will stay until the incursion subsides.

Veteran commander of I-REF forces in the constellation, Kuvo Maikalen, provided a brief statement on the matter. "We do not anticipate Nation forces to pose a threat to I-RED customs offices in the area. Regretfully, I-RED is operating on limited resources, and will likely not be capable of engaging Sansha forces on an equal footing. I-REF forces are currently coordinating in local Ishukone and Intaki Space Police officials on how to best handle this situation. We are trying our best to assist outlying facilities and outposts before Nation can attack them."

When pressed for comment, Executor Hinkelmann was unable to provide further details, instead referring to the public statement put forth by Commander Maikalen. I-RCN will monitor the situation as it develops.

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Tash-Murkon Refinery Manager Approves Visit From IPI Suresha Bataav  
Taigeru Beldeia • YC121.01.26

A-3ES3, Syndicate - Station Manager Mishka Targalon has apparently been in contact with Intaki Prosperity Initiative Suresha Bataav, whom has garnered a rather unfavorable view among many Intaki living aboard the facility. Discontent surrounding the once revered Suresha Bataav stems from a recent decision he made to render assistance to the Itsukame-Zainou Hyperspatial Inquirie's [IKAME] investigation in Semiki, rather than the one spearheaded by I-RED and the Heilian Conglomerate [HECON].

In a response to the outbreak of protests against his decision, Suresha Bataav offered a visit to the Tash-Murkon Refinery, to speak directly to the Intaki population which dominates the facility's Gamma Residential Sector. Suresha Bataav's response was marked with a calm and diplomatic tone. I-RCN has received report that Manager Targalon has reviewed his request and approved a visit to the facility.

It has not been confirmed when the Suresha will visit the facility, but it is expected he will be escorted by a sizable number of I-RED security personnel. According to a member of Manager Targalon's inner circle, she seemed adamant on there not being a repeat of chaos observed during the initial protests. I-RCN will be sure to provide coverage of the Suresha's visit when it occurs.

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Enforcer Search And Rescue Teams Discovery Tragedy Following Sansha Incursion

Selenna Solange • YC121.01.30

CY-ZLP, Syndicate - The Sansha's Nation incursion within the JQV5-9 constellation in Syndicate has already withdrawn. Immediately following the retreat of Nation forces, I-RED Executor Hinkelmann lifted the state of martial law across all I-RED facilities operating in the region. Ishukone-Raata Enforcer Fleet [I-REF] Constellation Commander Kuvo Maikalen has promptly ordered standing forces to begin search and recovery operations of outlying civilian outposts. A tragic discovery was recently made by S&R teams within the CY-ZLP system.

Commander Maikalen recently issued a public statement on the discovery. "In light of the recent discovery of a wreckage field of I-RED transports near a civilian outpost in the system of CY-ZLP, this announcement will also function as a public disclosure", reads an excerpt from the statement. "I had previously stated that I-REF was in close communications with Ishukone and Intaki Space Police forces in the constellation. I-REF transports supplied by Ishukone-Raata Accounting and Transport were busy working to extract civilians from poorly defended outposts in the area; these transports were usually escorted by Intaki Space Police security forces. We received warning of an impending attack on one civilian outpost in the system of CY-ZLP, and scrambled a small contingent of transports to assist with evacuations. Unfortunately, a number of the transports that were scrambled were in the midst of essential repairs and maintenance checks. Under my authority, I ordered the transports through with the mission anyway, in a desperate attempt to save as many lives as possible. While extraction of a majority of the population was successful, regrettably, two of the aforementioned transports suffered critical propulsion failures during the extraction. While crews on board valiantly attempted rapid troubleshooting interventions, Nation forces descended upon the outpost and quickly overwhelmed the security escort for the operation. The transports, their crew, their rescued civilians, and a handful of security vessels, were lost in the operation. I offer my sincerest apologies to the families of those who lost loved ones during the operation."

A I-REF S&R taskforce is currently sifting through wreckages of the vessels to recover any human remains that may be present. I-REF is currently working with local authorities to secure the abandoned outposts and stations which now litter the area following mass evacuations and Sansha abductions of civilians. I-REF has put out a public warning that any looters and scavengers attempting to take advantage of the results of the Nation incursion will be shot on sight.

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Executor Initiates Standings Review  
Koren Akko • YC121.02.13

Several reports have surfaced that Executor, Alexandre Hinkelmann of the Ishukone-Raata Enforcement Directive has initiated a high-level standings review. The review appears to involve



two Capsuleer organizations, the Intaki Prosperity Initiative [IPI], and the Amarr Loyalist group known as Khimi Harar [LUMEN].

There has been speculation on the reasoning behind the decision. Some of which point to the interactions in the already tense situation evolving in the Semiki Solar System.

Karia Kaalkar a retired STI Professor who worked in the fields of Infomorph Technology and Political Sciences seems to believe. “The Ishuk-Raata organization has a history of utilizing their diplomatic standings as leverage. Though we’ve only seen it used a handful of times, especially when it pertains to actions within the Caldari State.” Kaalkar also stated that while the Ishukone-Raata policy has often been viewed as “very open”, that was only when dealing with corporations and entities outside of direct State or Ishukone influences.

“It is very likely that they’re using this review to put pressure on their partners aboard, to ensure non-interference in what they see as a sensitive State matter.”

Attempts were made to contact the Executor’s office but so far there has been no comments.

We at I-RCN will continue to report this situation as it unfolds.

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Ishukone-Raata Technological Research Institute Issues TCMC Recall  
Koren Akko • YC121.02.14

The Ishukone-Raata Technological Research Institute issued a immediate recall of Transcranial Microcontrollers produced between May-July of YC119. The small quantity of TCMC’s have been identified as the ISH-G322 Enhancement-Omega grade, and said to have been implanted in a handful of employed Ishuk-Raata Capsuleers.

The official notice issued by the I-RTI states “Recipients of the quality high-grade capsuleer designed implants have been notified of the rare and minor defect detected recently. They are urged to seek out medical attention at our facilities in the Syndicate region, especially if recipients have signs of headaches, shakes, nausea, fatigue, and in extreme cases a feeling of paranoia.”

When asked why the recall wasn’t issued and dealt with by the medical firm known as Integrated Health Systems LTD, the two organizations stated that the Technological Research Institute was better suited to deal with this matter due to their extensive experience with infomorph technology.

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## Rumors Of I-RED Strike Force Against 2-M6DE Incursion Circulate

Selenna Solange • YC121.02.18

XS-XAY, Syndicate - It has been less than a month since the last Nation incursion into the region of Syndicate. Memories are still fresh in the minds of those who lost loved ones and their livelihoods in the constellation of JQV5-9. The area is still recovering from the incursion that disrupted the daily life of thousands in the area. Thus, it has been a shock to many in the region to see Nation mobilize yet another incursion a mere two constellations away.

I-RED leadership has been silent on the matter of the 2-M6DE incursion. The events centered around Semiki, and the 10th Anniversary celebrations have taken up much of the concern of the directorship. I-RED also invested heavy effort in a recent defense of their Fortizar anchored in the system of IOAB-R which was attacked by a mixed group of Imperium forces and others, mainly The Initiative [INIT.], Initiative Mercenaries [IM], and NullSechnaya Sholupen [-NSH-].

While I-RED does not operate any structures in the constellation of 2-6MDE, many outside spectators are curious to see if and when the organization will take a stance on the incursion. In the meantime, tabloids have been circulating rumors on various GalNet sites that I-RED intends to take formal action against the incursion. The sources of these claims have yet to be verified. I-RCN attempted to seek out a formal response by I-RED directorship, but has been denied for the time being.

Although no official military response has been confirmed, I-RED has began mobilizing relief efforts which are being spearheaded by Director of Public Works Roirdan Bouchate. Essentials such as food, water, medical supplies, and clothing are being gathered aboard the XS-XAY Reppola Logistic Support. Anyone interested in donating to the relief efforts of I-RED are encouraged to submit contracts to Director Bouchate in the citadel, or anywhere else in the region of Syndicate. Also being accepted are items such as manufacturing tools, titanium carbide sheet metal, smartfab units, and more.

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## Controversy Sparks As Sightings Of 'Iron Lady' Surface

Taigeru Beldeia • YC121.03.04

6-U2M8, Syndicate - Local tabloids in Syndicate and abroad in the Caldari State are clamoring over the rumored return of infamous I-RED pilot Katrina Oniseki - sometimes referred to among certain circles as the Iron Lady. Former I-RED Vice-Admiral Oniseki, founder of the sizable Oniseki Corporation (which itself owns entirely or partially a multitude of other corporations), has a long history for taking on heavy-handed approaches to solving problems. Moreover, she is

most infamous for the “Syndicate Killing Fields” scandal which largely pointed to her as the instigator and mastermind behind the gruesome acts.

The Syndicate Killing Fields scandal is reportedly what caused the retirement of Oniseki under the banner of her then freshly created Oniseki-Raata Internal Watch [O-RIW]. The scandal was also linked to the resignation of renown individual John Revenent of the Revenent Defense Corporation [RDC] from the position of Executor for I-RED. Since the fallout caused by the events, which I-RED at the time claimed to be the act of a rogue elite agent named Jaito Kruger, Oniseki has eluded paparazzi and stayed out of the spotlight. Keen observers of the whole affair liked to theorize that Oniseki retreated to the safety of her mountain fortress estate on the planet of Onitseru in New Caldari.

Now, years after the controversial chain of events, photos have surfaced of the Iron Lady out and about in the flesh. A leak reportedly from a low-lying staff member within I-RED claims that Oniseki has been observed touring within the XS-XAY Reppola Logistic Support. Curious onlookers and critics from outside I-RED have been quick to voice their thoughts on what these reported sightings spell for the future of the organization.

“It is too early to speculate if Miss Oniseki will return to a leadership position within I-RED”, commented one analyst for a Poitot tabloid. “A return to leadership will certainly cause I-RED critics to bombard the organization with questions and negativity, but of course given her infamous history it probably won’t be entirely unwarranted. We will just have to wait and see if any official announcements are made regarding her status.”

O-RIW maintains their security contract with I-RED. It, alongside RDC, are I-RED’s primary security contractors which are used to bolster its own in-house security forces of the Ishukone-Raata Security Corps [I-RSCO] and the Ishukone-Raata Enforcer Fleet [I-REF].

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Syndicate Splinterz League Celebrates Two Years, Announces Upcoming Tournament  
Taigeru Beldeia • YC121.03.08

6-U2M8, Syndicate - Two years ago to this day, a handful of I-RED employees sought to create an official league to host Splinterz matches, a beloved sport in the Caldari State that sees custom-built robots duke it out in combat. Chairman for the SSL, Gerachi Boika, is currently hosting a gala aboard the Oriki Commercial Center in 6-U2M8. The event is sponsored by numerous big names which include I-RED, the Intaki Bank, and the Ishukone Corporation. Chairman Boika opened up the event with an announcement that the SSL will be hosting its biggest tournament to date, set to begin in June of YC121. The Syndicate Splinterz Superclash, as its going to be named, will be the league’s new major yearly tournament from this year going forward.

"I am pleased and humbled to bring this good news to the enthusiasts and audiences of Splinterz in Syndicate!", announced Chairman Boika cheerfully. "SSL tournaments in the past will pale in comparison to the size of the Syndicate Splinterz Superclash both in terms of participant numbers and prizes. And for the latter, I on behalf of the entire SSL thank our generous sponsors of I-RED, Ishukone, Intaki Bank, Quafe, Aliastra, and many many more for their kind support."

Ever since the return of I-RED to the 98Q "superpocket" years ago - an area consisting of the JQV5-9 and MK7-AO constellations - social researchers have observed a notable increase in the popularity of the traditionally State sport. While popularity for Splinterz remains the highest among populations dwelling in the aforementioned cluster of star systems, there is plenty traction gaining elsewhere in Syndicate. Particularly, the exciting visuals and displays of robotic combat seem to draw a lot of crowds and views from audiences all over the region. The ease with which gambling and bets can be made on matches has also likewise greatly helped increase the notoriety of the sport in the region of Syndicate, given the penchant for its residents to partake in such activities.

Applications for teams across the region to join the upcoming Summer tournament are now open. A full list of prizes have yet to be announced, but Chairman Boika did note that the grand prize will be one million Poitot Pounds. There are no entrance fees for the Syndicate Splinterz Superclash, courtesy of the array of big-name sponsors. A full list of tournament rules and qualifications will be released at a later date. For now, the Syndicate Splinterz League remains focused on advertising to recruit more interest in the battle royale sport.

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I-RED Subsidiary Closes Its Doors After Failed Renewal Of Contract With Khanid  
Jelvia Taredi • YC121.04.14

Khanid Prime - The Ishukone Khanid Logistics [I-KL] corporation has closed its doors and sold off its assets over the weekend following an announcement posted by its CEO, Harin Shara Talor. Harin, a relative of I-RED capsuleer Creedance Talor, held a lead role in facilitating business relations between I-RED and the Khanid Kingdom. The corporation was in operation for roughly six years, until recent turmoil regarding the status of the Kingdom within the Empire has opted I-RED to not renew the contract for the continued existence of I-KL.

I-KL functioned as a multi-role company and included such services as: courier transportation, warehouse storage rentals, retail sales, and personnel distributions. While the company did not maintain a large presence among the capsuleer market, it operated in many systems and their respective local markets. Employees were notified over two weeks ago of the impending shutdown, and were offered a myriad of options following the closure of the corporation. Some

employees opted to remain living in the Kingdom while others chose a relocation package which was subsidized by I-KL to move back to the Caldari State.

Non-personnel assets were either auctioned off in local markets or relocated under the umbrella of I-RED. A majority of assets, most notably transport ships and storage infrastructure, were redistributed to the command of I-RED.

When pressed for comment by local news agencies, Harin Talor did not provide anything other than a mention of the announcement posted on the Intergalactic Summit. Many economic analysts suspect that the recent rise in tensions between Khanid and Amarr groups are the reason to blame for the failure to renew the operational contract of I-KL. I-RED has shown a strong interest in providing public support to the Empire and its most notable capsuleer loyalists - groups such as PIE, LUMEN, and CVA. Analysts hypothesize that I-RED opted not to renew the contract in order to preserve relations with these groups. I-RED officials have yet to comment on the suspicions, and likely won't.

In the meantime, Harin Talor has joined I-RED proper as a member, bringing with her a sizable portion of I-KL noncapsuleer employees.

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Thousands Celebrate 04.20 Across I-RED Syndicate Facilities With Music And Lots Of Harroule Dryweed

Taigeru Beldeia • YC121.04.20

6-U2M8, Syndicate - Across New Eden, the date of 04.20 is renown (or perhaps infamous) for users of the mentally stimulating crop Dryweed, originating from the Placid system of Harroule. While smoking Dryweed has relatively minimal effect on a user's psyche compared to other forms of recreational drugs, the plant still carries with it some stigma in various corners of New Eden - most notably those areas under heavy Empire and State influence. Still, that did not stop reportedly "thousands" of residents across the many I-RED structures in Syndicate from openly celebrating their love for the unofficial holiday celebrating a very beloved plant.

"I do my work, I pay my taxes, and I contribute to society", stated Arbash Jujaiko, a resident aboard the 6-U2M8 Oriki Commercial Center. "I'm just using today as an opportunity to share the love with my fellow mankind around me!", he stated, as he offered a blunt to the I-RCN cameraman.

I-RED has no official stance on the usage of Harroule Dryweed among its residents in Syndicate. While use of recreational drugs aboard I-RED facilities in State territory are generally frowned upon, the facilities I-RED maintains in Syndicate are notoriously more relaxed about

many types of social expectations. I-RCN reached out to Director of Public Works, Roirdan Bouchate, for comment on the matter.

“Well...”, started out Director Bouchate as he puffed out a cloud of smoke from what appeared to be a cigar which smelled awfully similar to Dryweed. “The general stance of I-RED on the subject of Dryweed use in particular is very...relaxed. So long as users do not disrupt the peace with their public gatherings and abide by local protocols such as smoking only in designated smoke areas, we allow our residents much leeway in celebrating or not celebrating four-twenty as they please.”

Meanwhile, keen market observers have noted a sharp spike in short-term profits for the Serpentis Corporation which coincide with today's date.

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Fashion Mogul Rudy “Roo” Porteau Teases Early Previews Of Upcoming Summer Catalog  
Taigeru Beldeia • YC121.04.26

Poitot, Syndicate - Syndicate based fashion designer Rudy Porteau has just teased a selection of shots for his upcoming Summer catalog, which will launch in early August. Porteau's teaser was done on his Peeper™ account, and has already received thousands of likes and reapeeps. The popularity of Porteau's designs seems to remain high despite highly controversial claims by rival fashion mogul Fabuleux in May of YC120. Porteau insists till this day that the claims Fabuleux made are false and malicious.

The early tease of upcoming releases for Porteau's in-house brand, Roo's Looks, comes weeks ahead of the Poitot Summer Fashion Show. Fashion commentators have noted that this early release could either set Roo's Looks ahead of the other major fashion houses, or it could prove detrimental to the brand. Porteau seems willing to bank on the riskiness of the early tease, eager to stay ahead of the pack.

In another recent Peeper™ post by Porteau, an image of a model wearing a YC120 Summer outfit by Fabuleux is posed next to another image with the same model wearing a YC121 Summer outfit by Roo's Looks. The post was captioned “Upgrade ur lewk this Summer! Soon, darlings!!!” followed by a kissing face emoticon. Comments are currently disabled for the post, but it has already garnered the attention of a large portion of Fabuleux fans, who have berated the post with vitriol and criticism.

The Summer of YC121 is set to be an interesting one for the fashion world, with rumors circulating of other fashion houses teasing their upcoming releases all in an attempt to remain in dominant positions.

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Nadire Security Consultants Complete SSI-II Development Contract  
Koren Akko • YC121.04.28

98Q-8O, Syndicate - It has been several months since the small Gallente security firm Nadire Security Consultants [NADSC] secured a secretive short term infrastructure development contract. Not much is known as to the goal or extent of the backroom deal, as executives and staff belonging to the Ishukone-Raata Accounting and Transport Corporation [I-RAT] have made an effort to withhold all information from the public, by citing security concerns.

Public records however have revealed that NADSC has been targeting Customs Offices in the SSI-II "Free Trade & Development Zone". Which have been replaced under I-RAT, and what appears to be a shell corporation.

When further inquiries were made about these findings, a spokesperson for the Executor's office Aimii Nata made a statement. "Ishukone-Raata is committed to the prosperity and fair trade practices within the SSI-II project zone. Contractors are sometimes utilized in an effort to aid in expansion operations against threats to stable free trade in the region, and more importantly to ensure Ishukone's interests are secured.

This is not new for Ishukone-Raata under the current directorship. Security issues have in the past been successfully outsourced to mercenary groups like Akagi, and now Nadire Security.

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Semiki Based Contractor Breaks Ishukone-Raata Enforced NDA  
Koren Akko • YC121.04.29

Semiki, The Forge - Following the successful purge of a aggressive malware infection last month, the more dire chapter of the Semiki Incident appears to be coming to a close. While sightings of Oniseki-Raata Internal Watch security vessels continue to be seen orbiting the Zainou station. It would seem that in light of the statements made by the Ishukone Watch that both ARC affiliates and the Ishukone-Raata "Cooperative" have already begun to remove unnecessary assets and personnel from the system.

The malware that was originally thought to be the product of a Lai Dai agent, continues to be researched by many loyalist organizations. ARC and their affiliates openly share carefully selected aspects of this research. A decision that has often drawn the ire of their politically aligned allies inside the Ishukone-Raata Enforcement Directive, who have kept all their findings under a blanket of confidentiality.

Officials however have recently report that a member of the Cooperative initiative has breached the Ishukone-Raata enforced NDA. The exact details of the leaked documents have yet to be released, if at all. An anonymous source who was unable to speak on the matter revealed that the individual involved was a employee of the Ishukone-Raata Technological Research Institute, by the name of Akihiko Hiko. They believed that members of the Internal Watch had uncovered incriminating evidence that Doctor Hiko had handed over sensitive documents to New Eden Correspondent Reporters and may have been planning on selling the same information to an unnamed individual affiliated with ARC.

The Executor's Spokesperson, Aimii Nata was quick to release a statement that "all legal measures under the NDA agreement would be taken into consideration" and "the employee involved has taken it upon themselves to avoid custody, forcing our security to issue permits accepting the arrest of the implicated individual from outside sources".

Local bounty offices have confirmed this by reporting a reward of 2,212,000,000.00 ISK has been placed for the capture and secure return of Ishukone-Raata property in the possession of Doctor Akihiko Hiko.

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## Gallente Holoseries 'Game of Crowns' Draws Criticism Abroad

Koren Akko • YC121.05.14

Atlanins, Everyshore - The Impetus production Game of Crowns first nine episodes were released on May 13th. Already it has seen major backlash from critics within religious circles of Amarrian Empire, and despite it's overwhelming success, harsh comments from film groups inside the Federation. Many of them largely in part due to the depiction of the late Empress and an otherwise good story destroyed by to much "Sex & Violence".

In an interview with holofilm critic Ucien Toire, he stated that in his opinion "Peeper is currently more ablaze then the scene during Elder's Fall [A cut showing the single handed destruction of the Elder Fleet at the hands of the heroine styled Empress]" due to scenes involving Aimée Dreneau, where the actress playing the part of Jamyl is seen several times partaking in debauchery with prominent members of nobility and slaves. While others voiced frustration that Dochuta Karsoth, who is viewed as a 'Good Guy' in the series only trying to hunt down his good friend Doriam II's assassins.

Unconfirmed reports also appear to point toward members of the Ardishapur family, who may have quietly joined in the rising anger inside the Empire due to the insinuation in the holoseries that their house was full of Purist Cultists who sought to forcefully take the Imperial Throne, but had been thwarted by a Federation spy and Imperial Advisor duo.



While Impetus has stated it's production is "pure fiction", tempers continue to flair and it seems the Game of Crowns may see itself removed from the Amarrian entertainment sector completely. This hasn't seemed to phase the production team however, after releasing a teaser of the upcoming season that depicts the entry of King Khanid, Drifters and seemingly more adult orientated divisive scenes.