

JCCC/Citizen Zani

Julián Camilo Conrado Cerdà, generally known as "JCCC" was one of the world leaders in the turbulent decades before the Fall.

In any revolution a few ruthless politicians tend to come to the top after the dust has settled, often displacing the less politically crafty revolutionary heroes. In his case he rode on the coattails of the distributed insurgencies of anarchist heroes like Hermann Bard and Daniela Linares: while they pioneered fifth-generation insurgency and open source warfare, becoming the cultural icons for millions of disaffected through their daring actions and charisma, JCCC was the one orchestrating their media image and preparing political deals. A skilled online populist, marketer and demagogue he was vital to the political success of insurgency behind the scenes. As things calmed down he cleverly outmaneuvered parts of the old guard, sending Hermann Bard onto a hopeless anti-hypercorp crusade that would be his death (incidentally creating a perfect martyr for the cause) and distracting Daniela Linares with the south Asia situation.

He became the de facto coordinator for the "equatorial network", the vast autonomous networks of South America, parts of Africa and South Europe. While autonomists of course to this day fiercely deny that any particular person held power over the networks there was no question that JCCC got what he wanted - he played out the fractions against each other, fostered egalitarian paranoia bringing down competitors, held a memetic high ground and set up networks of "revolutionary intelligence" and "anti-nationalists" to bring down enemies. When nations, NGOs, hypercorps and others wanted to deal with the equatorial networks they dealt with JCCC and his group.

The Fall was a total disaster for JCCC: while he held enormous power and could easily ensure the escape of himself and his friends, the base of his power was impossible to save. The Fall disrupted the social systems, reputations and networks he used, replacing them with chaos. He found himself back where he started.

Naturally he began to look for a new base of power. Unfortunately the Titanian Commonwealth was stacked with several of his ideological enemies, well aware of who he was and unwilling to let him get involved. The hypercorps and lunar citystates regarded him as a dangerous revolutionary. Most scum and autonomist groups were small and scattered - he had no interest in dealing with small potatoes. He settled for the Barsoomians and other inner system opponents of the Planetary Consortium. Taking on a new identity as "Citizen Zani" he set out to forge himself a new power base.

Citizen Zani is currently a well-regarded if not widely known Barsoomian. He is a fixer, coordinator and advisor that often gives very useful advice for the struggle. He appears to have an extensive intelligence network, but also plenty of practical political and diplomatic savy. Planetary Consortium intelligence is somewhat worried by him, but usually have more important tasks to do - in a few conflicts he has even provided them with useful intelligence. Few suspect any link to JCCC (commonly believed to be dead in the Fall) or with negotiators on Venus.

JCCC/Citizen Zani is first and foremost a ruthless politician, always looking out for chances of gaining influence and preventing competitors from gaining it. Ideological autonomists would find him a selfish betrayer of true autonomist ideals, but there is no question that he is good at keeping autonomist networks functioning: without him the Barsoomians would have been far less effective. He is also a skilled populist, saying what the poor and desperate want to hear and suggesting policies that seems to be giving them what they need (but also putting him in charge). He usually has good judgement about who to pick a fight with, but when he wants somebody or something out of the way he will use all available resources: destroying their reputation, subtle sabotage, aid or leaks to their enemies, whispering campaigns, lethal "accidents" and false accusations - anything goes.

Personally he is a proud, strong man who is partially driven by his belief that others simply do not know how to do things properly. In the past he has been good at reining in his desire to micromanage everything, but he might occasionally lapse. Since the fall he has also become increasingly cagey and paranoid. He has plenty of old enemies who might want to find him, and the experience of being swept away from the pinnacle of power by something far greater was profoundly unsettling. To treat this he is increasingly making use of drugs and sanity-enhancing psychosurgery. His greatest fear is that he will not have a second chance.

Physically, he is living under the identity of Samuel Mabaku in New Shanghai. Mr Mabaku is quietly living off a moderate trust fund originating in the former Tanzanian banking network. His nice, slightly isolated, villa is staffed with loyalists and is actually functioning as his command centre for the Citizen Zani network. He has of course a nearly absurd number of backups and escape plans, mostly aimed at bringing him over to Venus if something goes badly wrong.