

Madagascar Cases, 1970-2012

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torg	gname	onset	min	max
T1812	MILITANT MOVEMENT FOR MADAGASCAN SOCIALISM (MMSM)		1992	1992
T2291	DIDIER RATSIRAKAS MILITIA		2002	2002
T9017	MONIMA		0	0

I. MILITANT MOVEMENT FOR MADAGASCAN SOCIALISM (MMSM)

Torg ID: 1812

Min. Group Date: 1992

Max. Group Date: 1992

Onset: NA

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: AREMA, Vanguard of the Malagasy Revolution

Group Formation: 1976

Group End: 1992

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The group was established on March 19, 1976, when then-President Didier Ratsiraka created the political party (Global Security n.d.). This was during the time of the revolution of socialism during the 2nd Madagascar Republic (Global Security n.d.). When local and provincial elections were held in 1977, the group won 95% of the seats (Global Security n.d.). During the legislative elections, the group won 112 of 137 seats for the National People's Assembly (Global Security n.d.). The group joined the National Front for the Defense of the Revolution (Global Security n.d.). In 1983, for the National People's Assembly, the group won 117 out of 137 seats (Global Security n.d.). In 1989, during the legislative elections, the group won 120 out of 137 seats (Global Security n.d.). The group sought to bring about nationalization policies as well as economic reforms (Systemic Peace 2010). The group's first violent incident was in 1992 when it attacked anti-government groups in Antananarivo, Madagascar (GTD 2017).

Geography

The group launched an attack in the city of Antananarivo in Madagascar (GTD 2017).

Organizational Structure

The group was founded and led by Didier Ratsiraka (Lansford 2015; Systemic Peace 2010; Canada IRB 1994; Canada IRB 2004). Ratsiraka was an ex-commander and the president of Madagascar at its founding. The group originally organized as a political party. MMSM was an umbrella coalition of which AREMA was one faction.

External Ties

The group joined the National Front for the Defense of the Revolution (Global Security n.d.; Lansford 2015). The group is reportedly an ally of MTS (Global Security n.d.).

Group Outcome

The founder of the group, Didier Ratsiraka, left for Paris after losing the elections in 1992 (Lansford 2015). However, he continued to criticize the nation's chaos when it came to politics, blaming it on the Zafy administration (Lansford 2015). He proceeded to, in 1993, create another group called the Vanguard for Economic and Social Recovery to replace the former group (Lansford 2015; Canada IRB 1994). He finally left Madagascar in 2002, and his forces surrendered (Canada IRB 2004).

Notes for Iris:

- Madagascar had a short socialist republic from 1975 to 1992 which is when Didier took power
- the group is organized more as a violent political party than anything else
- when Ratsiraka left in 1992, formed another group and returned to take power. He took power in 1993 again but then he lost in 2002 with the elections
- both groups centered around one guy

II. DIDIER RATSIRAKAS MILITIA

Torg ID: 2291

Min. Group Date: 2002

Max. Group Date: 2002

Onset: NA

Aliases: Didier Ratsiraka's Militia, Didier Ratsirakas Militia, Didier Ratsiraka's Militia

Part 1. Bibliography

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: None

Group Formation: 2002

Group End: 2002 (disband)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The group is made up of supporters for former president of Madagascar, Didier Ratsiraka (NY Times 2002; BBC 2002; Dawn 2002; IOL 2002). The group occupied a town named Antsiranana and chained people to the railing of the office belonging to the governor to create a “human shield,” causing those living there to hide in their homes (NY Times 2002; BBC 2002). After elections in 2002 proclaimed Marc Ravalomanana the victor, Ratsiraka refused to step down and claimed that the elections were rigged (NY Times 2002; US State Department; IOL 2002). This led to violent political clashes between supporters for each man (NY Times 2002; BBC 2002; Dawn 2002; US State Department). The group’s first violent incident was in 2002 (GTD 2017). The group targeted those living in the plateaus of Madagascar (NY Times 2002). The group held Antsiranana and Tamatave, and they created blockades in both of these (BBC 2002). The group has been accused of committing human rights violations in 2002 (BBC 2002; US State Department).

Geography

The group occupied a town named Antsiranana and chained people to the railing of the office belonging to the governor, causing those living in the town to hide in their homes (NY Times 2002; BBC 2002; IOL 2002). There have been clashes between this group and supporters of Ravalomanana in Toamasina (NY Times 2002; IOL 2002). The group also held Tamatave (BBC 2002). The group targeted those living in the plateaus of Madagascar (NY Times 2002). The group held Antsiranana and Tamatave, and they created blockades in both of these (BBC 2002).

The group reportedly took part in abductions (US State Department). The group also reportedly took part in torture and looting (US State Department; GTD 2017).

Organizational Structure

The group supports former president Didier Ratsiraka (BBC 2002; NY Times 2002). The group organized as a vanguard militia called the Zatovo to defend Ratsiraka (BBC 2002).

External Ties

The group may have had supporters from Didier Ratsiraka's older political party, AREMA. The group fought against pro-Ravalomanana militia members.

Group Outcome

Ratsiraka allegedly fled the country after the political standoff ended in 2002 (Guardian 2002; Dawn 2002; IOL 2002). After he fled, the group disbanded and was not heard from again.

Notes for Iris:

- this group is just a band of Ratsiraka's supporters and there are no clear ties to his formal political parties or wing
- the group isn't really opposed to the government, but just fights the other candidate's militia
- Ratsiraka fled Madagascar because Ravalomanana launched a massive attack against Ratsiraka's militia

III. MONIMA
Torg ID: 9017
Min. Group Date: 0
Max. Group Date: 0
Onset: NA

Aliases: NA

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: None

Group Formation: 1971

Group End: 1971 (last attack), 1992 (end)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The political party led a rebellion in 1971 following election results during which the SDP opposition gained 104 seats and the PCIM only won 3 (DADM Project n.d.; New York Times 1971). The uprising happened in the midst of unrest among students as well as agrarian related uprisings occurring in Madagascar (Brown 2003). The group opposed the rule of Ratsiraka and had center-seeking aims (Schmid and Jongman 1988, 614). They are opposed to security authorities that they accuse of repressing any sort of dissent (Schmid and Jongman 1988, 614). The leader of the group declared that the police as well as the army had been committing massacres in the southern region of the country (Schmid and Jongman 1988, 614).

Geography

The group led a rebellion in the Tulear province of Madagascar (DADM Project n.d.; NY Times 1971). The group is centered in the southwestern part of Madagascar, which is primarily agricultural (Brown 2003).

Organizational Structure

The group is headed by a man named Monja Jaona (DADM Project n.d.; Brown 2003; New York Times 1971; Minorities at Risk Dataset 2010; Schmid and Jongman 1988, 614). The group was originally one of the oldest political parties in Madagascar. The group is made up of students and unemployed urban dwellers and the Antandroy people in the southern part of Madagascar (Brown 2003; Minorities at Risk Dataset 2010; Schmid and Jongman 1988, 614). A man named Rene Ranaivosoa was the deputy general secretary of the group until he resigned in 1990 (Lansford 2012). The group had approximately 1,000 fighters in 1971 (Gleditsch et al. 2013, 370).

External Ties

The group eventually joined another group called the National Front for the Defense of the Revolution (FNDR) (Brown 2003). The group went on to leave FNDR in 1977 only to join it again in 1981 (Brown 2003).

Group Outcome

The rebellion ended in 1971 (Gleditsch et al. 2013). The group eventually joined another group called the FNDR (Brown 2003). The group went on to leave FNDR in 1977 only to join it again in 1981 (Brown 2003; Lansford 2012). The group was banned after the rebellion it led in 1971 and was banned again after it left FNDR (Lansford 2012; New York Times 1971). The leader of the group, Monja Jaona, was on house arrest from 1980-1982 (Lansford 2012). During this period of time, he led the group to join FNDR again (Lansford 2012). Jaona gained 20% of the votes in the 1982 presidential election (Lansford 2012). After being put on house arrest again in 1983, he gained 3% of the votes in 1989 (Lansford 2012). Rene Ranaivosoa was the deputy general secretary of the group until he resigned in 1990 (Lansford 2012). He went on to create another party of his own named the Democratic Party for Madagascar Development (Lansford 2012). Jaona was gravely wounded in 1992 in the midst of a pro-Ratsiraka rally; after he died, the group declined (Lansford 2012). His son, Monja Roindefo Zafitsimilavo, was installed as prime minister of his transnational administration (Lansford 2012).

Notes for Iris:

- after elections the political party won fewer seats than they had wanted
- this is one of the first elections in Madagascar
- no evidence of election fraud
- this group initiated the violence and were mostly active outside the capital

- FNDR is a separate political party in 1971 (look up more)
- Monima tries to rise up but they're quick suppressed so they join the FNDR
- they tried to operate as an independent political party
- the group's timing of the end of operations coincide with Ratsiraka leaving the country in 1992
- mostly seems like violent political parties and election grievances