

Papua New Guinea Cases, 1970-2012
Last Updated: 27 November 2017

torg	gname	onset	min	max
T710	FREE PAPUA MOVEMENT (OPM - ORGANISASI PAPUA MERDEKA)		1963	2012
T1654	BOUGAINVILLE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (BRA)	7-Feb-90	1989	1997
T2104	STUDENTS OF UPNG		1995	1995

I. OPM

Torg ID: 710

Min. Group Date: 1963

Max. Group Date: 2012

Onset: NA

Aliases: Free Papua Movement (Opm-Organisasi Papua Merdeka), Free Papua Movement, Free Papua Movement (Opm), Liberation Army Of The Free Papua Movement, Liberation Army Of The Free Papua Movement, Liberation Army/Free Papua Movement, Opm-Organisasi Papua Merdeka, Organisasi Papua Merdeka, Organisasi Papua Merdeka (Opm), Organization For A Free Papua

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: No additional aliases

Group Formation: 1963 (MITP 2008)

Group End: 2017 (Jakarta Post 2017)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

OPM was founded by exiled Papuans, Elkie Bemei and Seth Rumkorem, when Irian Jaya was taken over by Indonesia (Schmid 1988 pg 576). OPM is a separatist group seeking freedom for the indigenous people of West Papua from the Indonesian Government (MITP 2008; Global Security n.d.; FAS 2000; Radheya 2015; Muhammed n.d. Pg 7; Vermonte 2007 pg 284). OPM wants the Indigenous people of West Papua to return to their traditional way of life (MITP 2008).

OPM has been active since 1963 (MITP 2008). Other sources claim that OPM was formed in March 1965 (UNPO 2014). OPM had two major factions established, which could explain the discrepancy in the start dates (Muhammed n.d. pg 6). One OPM faction was formed by Permenas (Ferry) Awom and Terianus Aronggear (UNPO 2014; Muhammed n.d. Pg 6). The second OPM faction was formed by Aser Demotekay (Muhammed n.d. pg 6). OPM originally was a group of fighters who called themselves the West Papuan Freedom Fighters (Radheya 2015).

Geography

OPM operates in the mountainous areas of West Papua (MITP 2008). OPM operates on Irian Jaya (Global Security n.d.; FAS 2000). In 1996, OPM took hostages in Irian Jaya

(FAS 2000). In 1997, OPM took 26 hostages in Mapunduma Village (FAS 2000). OPM blew up gas pipelines in Freeport (Radheya 2015). OPM opened a Mission in Dakar (Radheya 2015). The original OPM faction was founded in Jayapura (Muhammed n.d. pg 6; Vermonte 2007 pg 2). Another OPM faction was formed in Manokwari (UNPO 2014; Muhammed n.d. Pg 6). OPM leaders had a public reconciliation in Port Villa (Muhammed n.d. Pg 7). OPM and Indonesian forces clashed in the Jayawijaya Highlands (Humans Rights Watch 2001). Modern OPM members come from Kampung Weni and Kampung Rumagi in Mageabume, Puncak Jaya (Jakarta Post 2017). The OPMRC operates in Madang, Papua New Guinea (Vermonte 2007 pg 284). The group has a transnational base of operations in Papua New Guinea.

OPM has targeted foreigners (MITP 2008; FAS 2000).

Organizational Structure

OPM is the political wing of the insurgency movement (MITP 2008). The Liberation Army of the Free Papua Movement (TPN) is the armed wing of the insurgency (MITP 2008). The Libyan Dictator, Muammar Gaddafi, supplied OPM with weapons in the 1990's (Radheya 2015).

Aser Demotekay was the original leader of one OPM faction (Muhammed n.d. pg 6; Vermonte 2007 pg 284). He was replaced by Jacob Prai (Muhammed n.d. pg 6). Terianus Arrongear and Permenas Awom led the other Opm faction (Muhammed n.d. Pg 6; UNPO 2014; Vermonte 2007 pg 284z). OPM leaders Jacob Prai and Seth Rumkorem had disputes on how to run the organization (Muhammed n.d. Pg 7). Prai and Rumkorem had a public reconciliation overseen by the Prime Minister of Vanuatu (Muhammed n.d. Pg 7). The members were originally "comrades," but it is unknown if they had any prior military experience (Radheya 2015). OPM consists of two branches; the armed branch which operates in West Papua, and the OPM Revolutionary Council (OPMRC), which operates outside of Indonesia in Papua New Guinea (Vermonte 2007 pg 284). The chairman of The OPMRC is Moses Werror (Vermonte 2007 pg 2). Markus Kaisiepo and Nicolas Jouwe are OPM leaders in Europe who have actively provided tactical support (Vermonte 2007 pg 285).

Indigenous people from Biak, Sukarnapura, Ajamaru and Central Berg land all joined OPM to fight against Indonesia (UNPO 2014). OPM members are Indigenous people of West Papua (MITP 2008). One OPM faction consisted of former PVK members. OPM claimed to have 10,000 members in 1977, but in 1978 it was estimated that there were 5,000 OPM members (Schmid 1988 pg 576; Muhammed n.d. pg 6). OPM had at least 154 members in 2017 (Jakarta Post 2017; Schmid 1988 pg 576).

External Ties

OPM members often retreat to Papua New Guinea for sanctuary (MITP 2008). The Papua New Guinea Government has burned villages where OPM members hide (MITP 2008).

The Liberation Army of the Free Papua Movement (TPN) is the armed wing of the OPM (MITP 2008). The armed wing of OPM has ties to the Libyan dictator, Muammar Gaddafi (Radheya 2015). OPM members have trained in Libya (Radheya 2015). OPM is supported by the Government of Senegal (Radheya 2015; Vermonte 2007 pg 288). Prai and Rumkorem had a public reconciliation overseen by the Prime Minister of Vanuatu (Muhammed n.d. Pg 7). The Governments of Nauru, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, and recently, Guyana all publicly support OPM (Muhammed n.d. Pg 11). OPM has supporters abroad, specifically in the Netherlands, Sweden and Senegal (Vermonte 2007 pgs 285 & 288). Young neo-Marxists are advocating for OPM abroad (Vermonte 2007 pg 288)

Group Outcome

The Indonesian government placed military officers in charge of the province where OPM was active (Vermonte 2007 pg 288). The Papua New Guinea Government has burned villages where OPM members hide (MITP 2008). The Indonesian Government captured Terianus Arrongear in 1965 (Muhammed n.d. Pg 6; Vermonte 2007 pg 286). 154 members of OPM surrendered to the Indonesian Government and pledged their allegiance to the Republic of Indonesia (Jakarta Post 2017). The surrendering members simply requested that they not be harmed and that their leader in captivity be allowed to live in a traditional Papuan House (Jakarta Post 2017). The last recorded instance of violence was in 2017 (Jakarta Post 2017). The Indonesian government forced former OPM members to go kill a current OPM member to prove their loyalty to the Indonesian Government; they had to return with a foot, hand or head as a memento (Humans Rights Watch 2001). Indonesian forces in 2004 refused to let native Papuans fly their flag (Vermonte 2007 pg 279).

Note for Iris:

- The start date is heavily disputed because factions emerged at different time.
- The start date has to do with the original occupation/invasion of Papua by INS forces.

II. BOUGAINVILLE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (BRA)

Torg ID: 1654

Min. Group Date: 1989

Max. Group Date: 1997

Onset: 1990

Aliases: None

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: BRA

Group Formation: 1988

Group End: 1997 (disarm)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

In 1976, the Bougainville region joined Papua New Guinea as an autonomous region (Notholt 2006, 627). The Panguna Copper Mine operated on the island, but mainly employed foreign labor and discriminated against locals (Notholt 2006, 627; Global Security n.d.). The Bougainville Revolutionary Army formed in 1988 as an ethno-nationalist separatist group (Global Security n.d.; Notholt 2006, 627). Its primary goal was independence for the Bougainville region (Global Security n.d.). The BRA also demanded compensation for environmental damage by the mine (Minorities at Risk

Project 2004; Notholt 2006, 627). Its first violent incident was in late 1988 or early 1989 when it began guerrilla attacks and shut down the mine (Global Security n.d.; Forster 1992, 368; Notholt 2006, 627; Gleditsch et al. 2013, 583; GTD 2017).

Geography

The group controlled territory on Bouka island in Bougainville until 1990 (Global Security n.d.). It established its capital in Arawa (Amnesty International 1994). It also had attacks in Awara, Buin, Soraken, Tinputz, and Bougainville Island (GTD 2017).

Organizational Structure

The BRA's leaders were Francis Ona and Sam Kauona (Global Security n.d.). Members are Bougainvillean (Minorities at Risk Project 2004; Radio New Zealand 2017). They are primarily young men, but no information could be found about their class or social background (Forster 1992, 370). The group had approximately 30 to 200 members in 1989 (Gleditsch et al. 2013, 584). At its peak in 1997, the group allegedly had 3,000 members (Gleditsch et al. 2013, 584). No evidence could be found about a political wing. It is also unknown how the group funded itself.

External Ties

The group received explicit diplomatic support by the Solomon Islands and possibly logistical support as well (Gleditsch et al. 2013, 584).

Group Outcome

In 1989, the Papua government suspended Bougainville's local autonomy after the rebellion erupted (Notholt 2006, 627). The PNGDF was largely ineffective at the beginning of the conflict because of local distrust (Global Security n.d.). A tentative ceasefire in 1990 quickly fell apart and led the government to impose a blockade against the Bougainville region (Forster 1992, 371; Minorities at Risk Project 2004). The group's last known violent incident was in 1997 (GTD 2017).

In 1997, the group reached a peace agreement with the government (Minorities at Risk Project 2004; Notholt 2006, 627). The group's leader, Francis Ona, refused to participate in peace talks and left the group (Notholt 2006, 627; Radio New Zealand 2017). The peace agreement provided autonomy for the island, a phased troop withdrawal, and democratic elections (Minorities at Risk Project 2004; Notholt 2006, 627).

Notes for iris:

-Gleditsch et al have interesting time varying data on size estimates here

III. STUDENTS OF UPNG

Torg ID: 2104

Min. Group Date: 1995

Max. Group Date: 1995

Onset: NA

Aliases: Students U Of Png, Students Of The University Of Papua New Guinea, Students Of Upng

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: none

Group Formation: 1991

Group End: 1997 (first wave disbands), 2016 (second wave disbands)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

Over the last thirty years, sporadic encounters between groups of student protesters at the University of the Papua Guinea and police have led to clashes or violence (US State Department 1996; Australia RRT 2006; Los Angeles Times 2016).

In 1991, student protesters clashed with police during a series of riots at the University of Papua New Guinea and University of Lae (Australia RRT 2006). The group's goal was to oppose government payroll increases during a recession (US State Department 1996; Australia RRT 2006).

In 2016, the group re-emerged as student protesters demonstrated for the Prime Minister to resign (BBC 2016; Davidson 2016). The Prime Minister promised to address corruption, but became implicated in a corruption scandal himself (BBC 2016; Simmons 2016). No evidence could be found of militant violence.

Geography

Violence occurred in Port Moresby and Lae, Papua New Guinea (US State Department 1996; Australia RRT 2006; BBC 2016; Simmons 2016).

Organizational Structure

Members of the group were students (Australia RRT 2006). In 1991, they had an estimated 1,000 members (Australia RRT 2006). There is no evidence of a systematic organization or leadership of the group.

External Ties

No information could be found about ties to other state or non-state actors.

Group Outcome

In 1995, a PNGDF soldier killed a student during protests (US State Department 1996). In 1997, students launched additional protests, but they did not conduct any violent attacks (Australia RRT 2006). In 2016, police opened fire on student demonstrators (Davidson 2016; BBC 2016). The University of Papua New Guinea banned additional protests following the incident and called off the remainder of the school year (Doherty and Davidson 2016; Davidson 2016).