

Sri Lanka Cases
Last Updated: 17 January 2018

torg	gname	onset	min	max
T1239	PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT	30-Apr-71	1971	1990
T277	LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL (LTTE)	1-Sep-84	1975	2011
T419	REVOLUTIONARY EELAM ORGANIZATION (EROS)		1975	1988
T327	NEW ARMENIAN RESISTANCE		1977	1983
T2222	PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ORGANIZATION OF TAMIL EELAM		1980	1999
T1926	TAMIL EELAM LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (TELO)	20-Nov-84	1984	1989
T1694	EELAM PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY LIBERATION FRONT (EPRLF)	4-May-85	1986	1989
T1134	PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT (JVP)	30-Apr-71	1987	1990
T1705	FLYING EAGLES (VIGILANTE GROUP)		1989	1989
T1663	CITIZENS VOLUNTEER FORCE		1989	1989
T1619	ANTI-COMMUNIST VIGILANTE GROUP		1989	1989
T2387	NATIONAL FRONT AGAINST TIGERS (NFAT)		1998	2001
T1124	GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS - SRI LANKA		2000	2012
T1576	KARUNA GROUP		2004	2007
T733	TAMIL MAKKAL VIDUTHALAI PULIKAL		2004	2008
T768	PEOPLE'S TAMIL ORGANIZATION		2006	2006

- I. PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT
 Min. Group Date: 1971
 Max. Group Date: 1990
 Onset: 1971

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

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- Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Sri Lanka: 1) JVP activities between 1980 and 1988; 2) Incidence of violence by the JVP committed against Tamils living in Colombo, 1 September 1989, LKA2137, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6ab5958.html>
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- Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Sri Lanka: 1) Forced recruitment by the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) in Sri Lanka; 2) Treatment of a suspected sympathizer or member of the JVP by the Sri Lankan authorities, 1 June 1989, LKA1237, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6ac9d14.html>
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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: JVP, Sinhalese Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (Jvp), Peoples Liberation Front (Jvp), People's Liberation Front (Jvp)

Group Formation: May 14, 1965 (Peebles 2015)

Group End: July 30, 1990 - last violent incident (GTD 2017; Gleditsch, Cunningham, and Salehyan 2013); transition to political party 1990-2017

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The People's Liberation Front, also known as the JVP, was founded on May 14, 1965 (Peebles 2015). The PLF originally formed as a Maoist political party (Gleditsch, Cunningham, and Salehyan 2013, 375-377). The PLF splintered from the Communist Party in Sri Lanka (Peebles 2015). The initial goals during its first period of activity were to overthrow the Sri-Lankan government (Gleditsch, Cunningham, and Salehyan 2013). The group's goals during its second period of activity were also center-seeking as they rejected an offer to legalize the party & rejected Tamil Separatism (Gleditsch, Cunningham, and Salehyan 2013). The ideology of the PLF during its first period of activity was Maoist left-wing; the ideology during the second period of activity was ethno-nationalist because it promoted the rights of the Sinhalese (Schmid and Jongman 1988; Gleditsch, Cunningham, and Salehyan 2013). The group first came to attention as a violent group on April 5, 1971 (Daily Mirror 2016, Strategy and Tactics of the JVP n.d., Christian and Rahimi n.d., Imtiaz 2017; Schmid and Jongman 1988, 664).

Geography

The People's Liberation Front operates mainly within North and East Sri Lanka; however, it has also conducted operations in South and West Sri Lanka (Daily Mirror 2016; Strategy and Tactics of the JVP n.d.; Gleditsch, Cunningham, and Salehyan 2013; Christian and Rahimi n.d.; GTD 2017; Imtiaz 2017).

Organizational Structure

The People's Liberation Front was initially led by Rohan Wijeweera; however, as the group is a political party, its leadership constantly changed (Christian and Rahimi n.d.; Daily Mirror 2016; Strategy and Tactics of the JVP n.d.; Schmid and Jongman 1988). The group had a political wing. Rohan Wijeweera went into hiding in 1985 (Schmid and Jongman 1988). It is unclear how many members were in the group during the first insurgency; however, police killed about 5,000 to 10,000 in the 1971 insurgency (SATP

n.d.). According to Gleditsch, Cunningham, and Salehyan, there were about 1,200 to 1,300 members in 1990 (Gleditsch, Cunningham, and Salehyan 2013).

It has been stated that members in the PLF are ethnic Sinhalese people (Peebles 2015; BBC 2017). Many members in the PLF originally came from lower castes and rural areas (Peebles 2015). There is no information available regarding where the People's Liberation Front attains its funding. The People's Liberation Front has a splinter group known as the National Freedom Front (Daily Mirror 2016; Peebles 2015).

External Ties

It can be inferred that the People's Liberation Front has external ties with the United Front of Sirimavo Bandaranaike because it campaigned for the political party during its first active period in 1970; however, this is simply an inference and such a claim has not been corroborated (Peebles 2015). Additionally, during its first active period, the People's Liberation Front joined the United People's Freedom Alliance for a while before it broke away (Peebles 2015). The People's Liberation Front has a splinter group known as the National Freedom Front (Daily Mirror 2016; Peebles 2015). It has been stated that the splinter, the National Freedom Front, was eventually adopted by the United People's Freedom Alliance (Peebles 2015). No evidence of external support by other state or non-state actors.

Group Outcome

The JVP launched its first insurgency in 1971 after the 1970 election results failed to produce the group's desired effects (Peebles 2015; Daily Mirror 2016). The government cracked down on insurgency harshly, killing 5,000 to 10,000 and repressing the rebellion in a couple of weeks (Peebles 2015; Gleditsch, Cunningham, and Salehyan 2013).

The government banned the group in 1983 (Schmid and Jongman 1988). During the 1980s, the group abandoned its leftist ideology and embraced ethno-nationalism. It re-launched an insurgency in 1989 (Peebles 2015; Gleditsch, Cunningham, and Salehyan 2013). In response, the government cracked down swiftly on the insurgency and killed up to 60,000 individuals (Peebles 2015; Gleditsch, Cunningham, and Salehyan 2013).

The group's last violent attack was in 1990 (GTD 2017). After the government suppressed the second insurgency, the JVP became a political party in 1994 and still participates in politics today (Peebles 2015; Australia RRT 2005; Daily Mirror 2016).

Note for Iris: just code the first insurgency since ideology changes

Interesting quote from Daily Mirror:

Many analysts have opined that the Tamil youth in the North and the East who took arms against the State a few years after the 1971 insurrection had been inspired mainly by the uprising of their southern counterparts. It also had been an inspiration to another rebellion of

southern youth led by the same group, the JVP in 1988/89 which claimed nearly a hundred thousand lives. However, unlike the southern rebellion which was brutally crushed by the armed forces within a few months, the northern uprising lasted more than thirty years claiming another one hundred thousand lives.

II. LIBERATION TIGERS OF TAMIL (LTTE)

Min. Group Date: 1975

Max. Group Date: 2011

Onset: 1984

Aliases: Liberation Tigers Of Tamil Eelam (Ltte), Internet Black Tigers (Tamils), Liberation Tigers Of Tamil (Ltte), Liberation Tigers Of Tamil Eelam, Ltte, Tamil Tigers, Thamil Eelam Viduthalai Puligal

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: Tamil Student Federation, Tamil New Tigers, The Tamil Tigers, the Eellalan Force, the Ellalan Force, the Tiger Movement, the Sangilian Force, the Air Tigers, the Black Tigers (Karum Puligal), the Sea Tigers, the Tiger Organization Security Intelligence Service (TOSIS) and the Women's Combat Force of Liberation Tigers (WCFLT)

Group Formation: 1972

Group End: 2009 (BAAD Narratives 2015, Mackenzie Institute 2016, Crenshaw 2015, SATP n.d.)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The LTTE formed in 1972 as the Tamil New Tigers when it splintered from the Tamil Students Movement (SATP n.d.; Peebles 2015; Crenshaw 2015). The group renamed itself the LTTE in 1975 (Peebles 2015; SATP n.d.). The initial goals of the group can be characterized as autonomy-seeking because it wanted to create a separate state for the Tamil people (Schmid and Jongman 1988; Mackenzie Institute 2016). The ideology of the group was ethno-nationalist (Schmid and Jongman 1988). The group's first violent incident was in 1975 when it claimed responsibility for assassinating the mayor of Jaffna (GTD 2017).

Geography

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil predominantly operate in Sri Lanka; their headquarters are located in the Northern region of Sri Lanka (GTD 2017; SATP n.d.; Mackenzie

Institute 2016; Crenshaw 2015; FAS 2004). The Liberation Tigers of Tamil also have conducted operations in Tamil Nadu, India, and Italy (Schmid and Jongman 1988, GTD 2017). It had a partial base in Tamil Nadu in India (Crenshaw 2015; Gleditsch et al. 2014, 544). It also had offices for fundraising and logistics located in the UK, Botswana, Myanmar, Cambodia, Denmark, Germany, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Qatar, South Africa, Switzerland, and Thailand (Al Jazeera 2009; Crenshaw 2015).

Organizational Structure

The founding leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil was Velupillai Prabhakaran (Peebles 2015; Schmid and Jongman 1988; Gleditsch, Cunningham, and Salehyan 2013; FAS 2004; Mackenzie Institute 2016; SATP n.d.; Crenshaw 2015; Bhattacharji 2009; BAAD Narratives 2015). It has been stated that the leader of the group had to go into hiding in 1985; however, the reason behind this is not stated (Schmid and Jongman 1988).

There is disputed information regarding the size of the LTTE. In 2002, the group had approximately 16,00 members and in 2008, the group had approximately 4,500 members (FAS 2004, Mackenzie Institute 2016, SATP n.d.; Schmid and Jongman 1988; Peebles 2015; Crenshaw 2015; Bhattacharji 2009; BAAD Narratives 2015). The members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil were originally students (Crenshaw 2013; SATP n.d.). There are also multiple sources that regard the Liberation Tigers of Tamil as the “largest and most aggressive Tamil guerrilla organization” and as the “most powerful Tamil group” (Schmid and Jongman 1988, FAS 2004). Members are ethnic Tamil.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil receives most of its funding from an extensive Tamil diaspora (SATP n.d.; FAS 2004, BAAD Narratives 2015; Crenshaw 2015). The Liberation Tigers of Tamil has a political wing and several different armed wings (BAAD Narratives 2015). The group created its political wing in 1989 (Crenshaw 2015). Notably, the group had a very sophisticated armed operation with different infantry, naval, and airborne units (SATP n.d.).

External Ties

It is stated that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil have external ties with the Palestine Liberation Organization, Harakat-al Mujahideen, Abu Sayyaf Group, Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and the Students Islamic Movement of India (BAAD Narratives 2015). Additionally, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil traveled to Lebanon in the 1970s to receive guerilla training (Crenshaw 2013). The Liberation Tigers of Tamil trained with the PLO (BAAD Narratives 2015; Al Jazeera 2009).

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil allegedly received support from the Tamil Nadu local government until 1991 and from the Eritrean government (Crenshaw 2013; Gleditsch, Cunningham, and Salehyan 2013). The Liberation Tigers of Tamil received most of its funding from an extensive Tamil diaspora after it lost support from the Tamil Nadu government (SATP n.d.; FAS 2004, BAAD Narratives 2015; Crenshaw 2015). The

Colonel Karuna faction splintered off in 2004 from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil (Crenshaw 2013; SATP n.d.).

Group Outcome

The government of India responded to the activities of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil by proposing a peaceful resolution between the two parties; however, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil rejected the Indian government's compromise (Schmid and Jongman 1988; Gleditsch, Cunningham, and Salehyan 2013; Refworld 2016; Refworld 2011).

Additionally, the government of India sent a peacekeeping force that helped the Sri Lankan government fight against the LTTE (Gleditsch, Cunningham, and Salehyan 2013). The Colonel Karuna faction splintered off in 2004 from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil (Crenshaw 2013; SATP n.d.).

The insurgency ended in 2009 because the government launched a massive counterinsurgency operation against the group and defeated them (BAAD Narratives 2015, Mackenzie Institute 2016, Crenshaw 2015, SATP n.d.).

Notes for Iris:

- differences between the JVP and LTTE? Political aims, ethnic membership, state responses
- common trend of Tamil - more foreign contacts with the diaspora and militant groups
- they had access to a good diaspora;
- a lot of these groups → recruited students and youth groups which is highly unusual from other groups

III. REVOLUTIONARY EELAM ORGANIZATION (EROS)

Min. Group Date: 1975

Max. Group Date: 1988

Onset: NA

Aliases: Revolutionary Eelam Organization (Eros), Eelam Revolutionary Organization Of Students

Part 1. Bibliography

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: Eelam Revolutionary Organization, Eelam Revolutionary Organizers (Peebles 2015)

Group Formation: January 3, 1975 (Crenshaw 2015)

Group End: April 18, 1988 - last incident (GTD 2017), 1990 (disband)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

EROS formed on January 3, 1975, in the UK (Crenshaw 2015; Schmid and Jongman 1988). The initial goals of the EROS can be characterized as autonomy-seeking for Tamilians and the ideology was ethno-nationalist and Marxist (Crenshaw 2015; Schmid and Jongman 1988). The EROS first came to attention as a violent group in 1984 (Crenshaw 2015).

Geography

EROS operates mainly in Eastern Sri Lanka (GTD 2017; Crenshaw 2015). The group originally formed in the United Kingdom (Crenshaw 2015; Peebles 2015; Sunday Leader 2004).

Organizational Structure

EROS was formed by three leaders named Edward Ratnasabapathy, Shankar Rajee, and Velupillai Balakumar (Peebles 2015, Crenshaw 2015). Ratnasabapathy had originally been active in the Tamil United Liberation Front, but eventually left to form his own group (The Sunday Leader 2004). The membership of EROS was about 1,750 cadres in 1986 (Crenshaw 2015). EROS had approximately 750 members in 1988 (Schmid and Jongman 1988). Members were originally Tamil students (Schmid and Jongman 1988; Crenshaw 2015). It is not explicitly stated how EROS receives its funding.

External Ties

It is not explicitly stated how EROS receives its funding; however, the group does have ties with prominent Tamil militant groups in the region and may receive support from those organizations.

EROS had close ties with the LTTE and trained with it initially (Crenshaw 2015). It is also stated that the EROS has ties with some militant groups that operate in Palestine (Schmid and Jongman 1988, Crenshaw 2015). The EROS also allied with the Palestine Liberation Organization and the African National Congress (Crenshaw 2015). The group received guerilla training in Lebanon in the 1970s (Crenshaw 2015).

The EROS was part of a larger alliance called the Eelam National Liberation Front from 1985 to 1986 (Peebles 2015; Crenshaw 2015).

EROS had ties with Indian intelligence beginning in 1983 and later received training in Indian camps (Crenshaw 2015).

Group Outcome

The last violent attack of the EROS took place on April 18, 1988; the reason for the attack is unknown (GTD 2017). The group participated in Sri Lanka elections after the 1987 India-Sri Lanka accord (Peebles 2015). The group disarmed in 1990 and is a political organization today (Crenshaw 2015; Peebles 2015). In 1990, Balakumaran defected from EROS to the LTTE (Crenshaw 2015).

Notes for Iris:

- not as much information about this group versus others
- part of the larger Tamil separatist movement
- initially a student group that evolved into a later political organization
- looks very similar to the other Tamil groups

IV. NEW ARMENIAN RESISTANCE

Min. Group Date: 1977

Max. Group Date: 1983

Onset: NA

Aliases: New Armenian Resistance (Nar), New Armenian Resistance

Part 1. Bibliography

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: No Proposed Changes

Group Formation: 1977 (MIPT Knowledge Base 2008)

Group End: 1983 (Either disbanded or combined with ASALA) (MIPT Knowledge Base 2008; GTD 2017)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

It is unknown when the group first formed but the first violent incident of the NAR was in 1977 when they bombed a Turkish tourism office in Paris (MIPT Knowledge Base 2008). This was followed with more attacks on Turkish banks and counters within Brussels, London, and Rome (MIPT Knowledge Base 2008). This group is allegedly a faction of ASALA within Europe and, in relation to that, is also hypothesized to be communist leaning (MIPT Knowledge Base 2008). Its goals and aims were to seek justice and retribution at Turkey for the Armenian genocide and to fight for the establishment of an independent Armenian state. They specifically targeted these Turkish foreign offices as they believed the diplomats deserved to be attacked as well (Armenian Reporter

International 1967-1988). It also targeted foreign travel agencies (Schmid and Jongman 1988, 676). This group's ideology is ethno-nationalist because they promote the rights of Armenians (MIPT Knowledge Base 2008).

Geography

This group is known and responsible for bombing travel agencies within Belgium, France, Italy, and Switzerland (Schmid and Jongman 1988, 676). The group aimed specifically for Soviet, British, and Israeli travel agencies (Schmid and Jongman 1988, 676). There is no reliable source on the group's bases.

Organizational Structure

There is no known leader of the NAR nor any information on its group structure, funding, or size. Although not explicitly stated, the ethnic group is most likely composed of Armenians (MIPT Knowledge Base 2008).

External Ties

The only information on external ties is that this group is alleged to be a faction of ASALA within Europe (MIPT Knowledge Base 2008).

Group Outcome

There are no known counterterrorism efforts by the state. The last known violent attack was in 1983 when they bombed a Turkish airlines office within Brussels (MIPT Knowledge Base 2008). It either combined with ASALA (MIPT Knowledge Base 2008) or became inactive after an ASALA power struggle (Schmid and Jongman 1988, 676). As of 2012 the group's status is assumed to be inactive.

- V. PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ORGANIZATION OF TAMIL EELAM
Min. Group Date: 1980
Max. Group Date: 1999
Onset: NA

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

- GTD Perpetrator 2265. Global Terrorism Database. Study for Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. Last modified June 2017.
<http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?perpetrator=2265>

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: PLOTE, People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam

Group Formation: 1979

Group End: 1990 - (Disarm/integrate into politics), 1999 (last attack), 2014 (Active as political party)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam was founded in 1979 (Crenshaw 2013; Peebles 2015). The initial goals of the group can be characterized as autonomy-seeking because it wanted a separate Tamil state. (Crenshaw 2013; Schmid and Jongman 1988; Canada IRB 1989). The PLOTE formed because its leader splintered away from the LTTE in 1979 (Peebles 2015; Crenshaw 2013). The group's ideology was Marxist-Leninist and ethnonationalist (Crenshaw 2013; Schmid and Jongman 1988; Canada IRB 1989). It is unknown exactly when their first attack occurred, but military activity "peaked" around 1986 (Crenshaw 2013).

Geography

The People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam is active in multiple cities within Sri Lanka, such as Jaffna, Colombo, Vavuniya, Wilpattu, and Batticaloa (Crenshaw 2013; GTD 2017). The group also has some training camps in Tamil Nadu, India (Schmid and Jongman 1988; Crenshaw 2013). It also had "thousands of members in India" (Peebles 2015). Additionally, the People's Liberation Organization has conducted transnational attacks in the Maldives (Crenshaw 2013; Crossette 1988).

Organizational Structure

The People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam was founded by Uma Maheswaran, the leader of the LTTE from 1977-1979 (Schmid and Jongman 1988, Refworld 1989, Peebles 2015; Crenshaw 2013). However, Uma Maheswaran had to resign from his position of leadership in 1979 (Peebles 2015). The reason for the splinter is disputed. Some suggest the resignation stemmed from an interpersonal dispute with another member of the LTTE; however, Maheswaran states that he resigned due to the conflicting ideologies between the PLOTE and LTTE (Crenshaw 2013, Peebles 2015). According to Peebles, the membership of the PLOTE was at 1,000 members but at what stage of activity is unknown (Peebles 2015). According to Mapping Militant Organizations, the group had about 7,000 members in 1985 but membership deteriorated as it only had 1,500 members in 2009 (Crenshaw 2013). The members of these groups tend to be ethnic Tamil people (Crenshaw 2013). The People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam funded itself through illegal activities such as assassinations and extortions (Peebles 2015; Crenshaw 2013). The PLOTE has one political wing, which is called the Democratic People's Liberation Front (Crenshaw 2015).

External Ties

The People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam funded itself through illegal activities such as assassinations and extortions (Peebles 2015; Crenshaw 2013).

The PLOTE has a complicated relationship with the LTTE, for they are rivals who also ally with each other in certain situations (Crenshaw 2013). It is alleged that the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam allied with the Indian government and received material aid and sanctuary from them (Crenshaw 2013). The PLOTE is allegedly tied to the Popular Front for Liberation Palestine and the African National Congress (Crenshaw 2013). The PLOTE has one political wing, which is called the Democratic People's

Liberation Front (Crenshaw 2015). The PLOTE has fought against the LTTE at various times (Peebles 2015). LTTE effectively eliminated most of the groups between 1985-1987 during internecine fighting (Crenshaw 2013).

Group Outcome

The state of India is allegedly allied with the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam (Crenshaw 2013). The People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam was last active on May 15, 1999; however, the reason for why the group stopped using violence is unknown (GTD 2017). LTTE effectively eliminated most of the groups between 1985-1987 (Crenshaw 2013). A faction splintered from the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil to form the ENDLF in 1987 (Crenshaw 2013). In 1989, when PLOTE disarmed, some members went to the LTTE (Peebles 2013). In 1990, the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil transitioned into a political party; the group still operated as a political party as late as 2014 (Peebles 2013).

Notes for Iris:

- some of these groups stemmed from the LTTE and initially the LTTE aided or supported these groups
- once these groups start to grow, the LTTE starts to turn on these groups and massacring them. This motivates the smaller groups to turn on the LTTE and aid the Indian government.
- context for leadership splintering: some kind of affair or interpersonal dispute
- intergroup violence is really clashed

VI. TAMIL EELAM LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (TELO)

Min. Group Date: 1984

Max. Group Date: 1989

Onset: 1984

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

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http://privatewww.essex.ac.uk/~ksg/data/NSAEX_casedesc.pdf
- “Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.” South Asia Terrorist Portal. N.d.
<https://www.satp.org/terrorist-profile/srilanka/liberation-tigers-of-tamil-eelam-ltte>

Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: None

Group Formation: 1977 (Crenshaw 2013)

Group End: November 25, 1989 - TELO disbanded (Crenshaw 2013; GTD 2017)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

There is conflicting information on the group’s origins. Some contend the group formed in 1972 from the Tamil Student Movement (SATP n.d.; Australia RRT 2002). Others say the group formed in 1977 when several students splintered from the Tamil Youth Front (Crenshaw 2013). The initial goal of TELO is autonomy-seeking because it seeks a separate state, and the ideology of the group is ethno-nationalist (Crenshaw 2013;

Gleditsch, Cunningham, and Salehyan 2013). It is unclear when the group's first violent attack occurred, but it was as late as 1978 (UCDP).

Geography

TELO is active within Sri Lankan cities such as Wilpattu, Nochchiyagama, Navatkuli, Jaffna, Mannar, Kandaikulum, & Mullaitivu (GTD 2017; Gleditsch, Cunningham, and Salehyan 2013). The group originally formed in London, UK and later transitioned operations to Sri Lanka (Peebles 2015).

Organizational Structure

TELO was formed by Nadarajah Thangathura and Selvarajah Yogachandran who were the leaders of the group until they were murdered in a prison riot in 1983 (Crenshaw 2013). Sri Sabaratnam took over leadership of TELO in 1983 (Crenshaw 2013). The leaders of the TELO were originally students (Crenshaw 2013). The group had approximately 3,000 members at an unknown date in the 1980s (Schmid and Jongman 1988). The membership of TELO grew to 4,500 members in 1986, and many of these members were initially fishermen (Crenshaw 2013). The TELO receives its source of funding from illegal activities such as breaking into banks (Crenshaw 2013; Canada IRB 1998). TELO is a splinter group of the Tamil National Alliance (Bandara 2017). Members are ethnic Tamil.

External Ties

TELO allegedly allied with the LTTE from 1978 to 1984 after which the alliance broke down (Crenshaw 2013; Peebles). In April of 1986, the LTTE planned an attack on the TELO which caused the death of Sri Sabaratnam, who was the leader of TELO at the time; this event dramatically impacted the group's strength and it essentially broke apart (Crenshaw 2013).

TELO joined the Eelam National Liberation Front, an umbrella group that consisted of TELO, EPRLF, LTTE, and TUIF, in 1984 (Peebles 2015; Gleditsch, Cunningham, and Salehyan 2013). The TELO receives its source of funding from illegal activities such as breaking into banks (Crenshaw 2013; Canada IRB 1998). TELO is a splinter group of the Tamil National Alliance (Bandara 2017). TELO also has a splinter group named TELA, which is the military wing of the party (Crenshaw 2013; Canada IRB 1989).

Group Outcome

In April 1986, the LTTE planned an attack on the TELO which caused the death of group leader Sri Sabaratnam (Crenshaw 2013). This event undermined the group's strength and led it to break down. The group disbanded around 1987 (Crenshaw 2013). The last known violent attack performed by TELO occurred on November 25, 1989 (GTD 2017). The group transitioned into a political party at an unknown date after its last attack (Peebles 2015).

Notes for iris:

-tons of internecine fighting

-TELO is a student group that engages in criminal activity and then becomes political later on

VII. EELAM PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY LIBERATION FRONT (EPRLF)

Min. Group Date: 1986

Max. Group Date: 1989

Onset: 1985

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

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- Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Sri Lanka: When was the EPRLF founded and when did it start to become active?, 1 March 1990, LKA4749, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6ac1c44.html>
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- Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Sri Lanka: Current information on the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and on its relationship with the government, 1 October 1992, LKA12076, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6ab714.html>

Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: None

Group Formation: 1979

Group End: 1992 - Announced itself as an independent political party (Canada IRB 1992)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front formed in the mid-1970s by a group of Tamil students (Schmid and Jongman 1988). The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front splintered from EROS in 1979 to form the EPRLF (Crenshaw 2013). The initial goals of the group are autonomy-seeking because it supports the creation of an independent Tamil state and the ideology of the group is Marxist (Peebles 2015). The group is also ethnonationalist and promotes the rights of the Tamil people (Crenshaw 2013). It is unknown exactly when the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front had its first violent attack, but it occurred as late as 1984 (Crenshaw 2013).

Geography

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front operates mainly within cities in Sri Lanka, including Vavuniya, Mannar, Neervely, Jaffna, Vasavilan, Mandaitivu, Oork Kavalthurai (GTD 2017). The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front has also operated within Colombo (Refworld 1995). The leadership of the EPRLF operated from London, UK (Crenshaw 2013).

Organizational Structure

The exact details on the leadership of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front are unclear; however, it is alleged that the group was founded by Tamil students (Schmid and Jongman 1988). It can be inferred that the Tamil students who founded the group also are the members of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front; it is stated that the members of the group are passionate about their Marxist beliefs and that they are highly educated (Schmid and Jongman 1988). There is no information about where the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front receives its funding from. The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front is a splinter group of the Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students (Crenshaw 2013). It is also stated that the EPRLF has a splinter group known as the Padmanabha wing (Peebles 2015).

External Ties

It can be inferred that the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front has external ties with the People's Alliance, as it allegedly provided them with support during an election period (Peebles 2015). The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front splintered from EROS in 1979 to form the EPRLF (Crenshaw 2013). The group clashed with the LTTE in 1986 (Peebles 2015). Additionally, it is alleged that the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front has unspecified links with militant organizations in Palestine (Schmid and Jongman 1988). Between 1987 and 1990, the group assisted the Indian Peacekeeping Force and the Sri Lankan government in combatting the LTTE (Canada IRB 1992).

Group Outcome

It is stated that the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front began to crumble as a militant organization in 1985 and 1986 because of constant aggression from both the government of India and the LTTE; this aggression caused the group to deteriorate until it re-emerged as a political party during the 1990s (Crenshaw 2013; Peebles 2015; Refworld 1992). In 1992, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front publicly stated that it would from that point onwards be an independent political party (Refworld 1992). The group clashed with the LTTE in 1986 (Peebles 2015). The EPRLF began assisting the Indian Peacekeeping Force and the Sri Lankan in 1987 (Canada IRB 1992). However, the EPRLF said it still opposed the Sri Lankan government until 1992 (Canada IRB 1992). The group's last known violent attack was in 1989 (GTD 2017). In 1990, members of the group went abroad when the Indian Peacekeeping Force withdrew because they feared that the LTTE would massacre them (Canada IRB 1992; Peebles 2015).

VIII. PEOPLE'S LIBERATION FRONT (JVP)

Min. Group Date: 1987

Max. Group Date: 1990

Onset: 1971

Aliases: Sinhalese Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (Jvp), Peoples Liberation Front (Jvp), People's Liberation Front (Jvp)

Part 1. Bibliography

Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: This is an alias for T1239.

Group Formation: This is an alias for T1239.

Group End: This is an alias for T1239.

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

This is an alias for T1239.

Geography

This is an alias for T1239.

Organizational Structure

This is an alias for T1239.

External Ties

This is an alias for T1239.

Group Outcome

This is an alias for T1239.

IX. FLYING EAGLES (VIGILANTE GROUP)

Min. Group Date: 1989

Max. Group Date: 1989

Onset: NA

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

- GTD Perpetrator 2284. Global Terrorism Database. Study for Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. Last modified June 2017.
<http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?perpetrator=2284>
- Search Proquest
 - “Flying eagles (vigilante group)”
 - “Flying eagles” sri lanka vigilante group
 - Flying eagles sri lanka vigilante group

Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: None

Group Formation: October 25, 1989 (GTD 2017)

Group End: October 25, 1989 — Reason Unknown (GTD 2017)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

There is no information available about the founding date, initial goals, and ideology of the Flying Eagles. The Flying Eagles first came to attention as a violent group on October 25, 1989 when it killed 24 citizens in Kandy, Sri Lanka (GTD 2017).

Geography

The Flying Eagles have conducted their operations in Kandy, Sri Lanka (GTD 2017). No other information is known about the group's operational environment.

Organizational Structure

There is no information available about the organizational structure of the Flying Eagles.

External Ties

There is no information available about the external structure of the Flying Eagles.

Group Outcome

There is no information available about the group outcome of the Flying Eagles. The last recorded violent attack occurred on October 25, 1989; the reason why the group stopped using violence is unknown (GTD 2017).

- X. CITIZENS VOLUNTEER FORCE
Min. Group Date: 1989
Max. Group Date: 1989
Onset: NA

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

- GTD Perpetrator 2304. Global Terrorism Database. Study for Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. Last modified June 2017.
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<https://www.upi.com/Archives/1989/10/25/Indian-troops-vacate-district-in-Sri-Lanka/6854625291200/>

Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: None

Group Formation: November 21, 1989 (GTD 2017)

Group End: November 21, 1989 - Reason Unknown (GTD 2017)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The Indian government allegedly founded the group in 1989 in order to combat the People’s Liberation Front or the JVP (UPI 1989 A). There is no information available about the ideology of the Citizen’s Volunteer Force, but it is organized as a pro-government militia (Canada IRB 1989). The Citizen’s Volunteer Force first came to attention as a violent group on 11/21/1989 (GTD 2017).

Geography

The Citizen’s Volunteer Force had an attack in Mannar, Sri Lanka (GTD 2017).

Organizational Structure

There is no explicit information available about the leadership of the Citizen’s Volunteer Force; however, it has been stated that the Indian government founded the group in order to help its efforts against the People’s Liberation Front or the JVP (UPI 1989 A). It has been stated, however, that the Citizen’s Volunteer Force is a provincial militia (IRB 1989). The membership of the Citizen’s Volunteer Force with size estimates from 2,000 to 10,000 members (Canada IRB 1989). Members might have been Tamil (UPI 1989b). The EPRLF at one point was attempting to recruit young citizens on behalf of the Sri Lankan government to join the CVF (IRB 1989). There is no information available about the source of funding of the Citizen’s Volunteer Force. There is no information available about different wings of the Citizen’s Volunteer Force.

External Ties

The EPRLF at one point attempted to recruit young citizens on behalf of the Sri Lankan government to join the CVF (IRB 1989). The group was a pro-government militia (Canada IRB 1989; UPI 1989A).

Group Outcome

The EPRLF at one point attempted to recruit young citizens on behalf of the Sri Lankan government to join the CVF (IRB 1989). The group was a pro-government militia (Canada IRB 1989; UPI 1989A).

The last recorded violent attack of the CVF occurred on November 21, 1989, and the reason for why it stopped using violence is unknown.

Notes for Iris:

-the EPRLF is no longer violent at this time and it is just helping the Sri Lankan government

XI. ANTI-COMMUNIST VIGILANTE GROUP

Min. Group Date: 1989

Max. Group Date: 1989

Onset: NA

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

- GTD Perpetrator 2293. Global Terrorism Database. Study for Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. Last modified June 2017.
<http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?perpetrator=2293>
- Search ProQuest
 - “Anti-communist vigilante group”
 - Anti-communist vigilante group sri lanka

Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: None

Group Formation: September 1, 1989 (GTD 2017)

Group End: September 14, 1989 - Reason Unknown (GTD 2017)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

There is no information about the founding date, initial goals, and ideology of the group. The group first came to attention as a violent group on September 1, 1989 when it attacked members of the EPRLF (GTD 2017).

Geography

The Anti-Communist Vigilante Group operates within various cities in Sri Lanka such as Punewa, Menikhinna, Kundasale, and Aranagala (GTD 2017).

Organizational Structure

There is no information available about the organizational structure of the group.

External Ties

There is no information available about the external ties of the Anti-Communist Vigilante Group.

Group Outcome

The last recorded violent attack of the Anti-Communist Vigilante Group occurred on September 14, 1989, when it attacked members of the EPRLF; however, the reason for why the group stopped conducting attacks is unknown (GTD 2017).

XII. NATIONAL FRONT AGAINST TIGERS (NFAT)

Min. Group Date: 1998

Max. Group Date: 2001

Onset: NA

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

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<https://www.tamilnet.com/art.html?catid=13&artid=5073>

Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: None

Group Formation: May 24, 2000 (GTD 2017)

Group End: January 31, 2001 - Reason Unknown (GTD 2017)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

There is no information about the founding date of the National Front Against Tigers. When the group claimed responsibility for the attack, it said it opposed the efforts of Norway's Save the Children, Britain's OxFam, and other organizations trying to conduct aid work in Sri Lanka (Sunday Times 2001). Additionally, the group's aims are to oppose businesses and other states that support the LTTE (Reuters 2001; TamilNet 2000). There is no information about the specific ideology of the group; however, one source describes them as extremist (Reuters 2001). The National Front of Tigers opposes the LTTE, but there is no evidence that the group opposed the Sri Lankan government (Reuters 2001; Sunday Times 2001). Additionally, the group was ethnonationalist, and promoted the rights of the Sinhalese (Reuters 2001). The group first came to attention as a violent group on May 24, 2000 (GTD 2017).

Geography

The National Front Against Tigers has conducted its operations in Colombo, Sri Lanka (GTD 2017; TamilNet 2000; Reuters 2001).

Organizational Structure

There is no information available regarding the organizational structure of the National Front Against Tigers except regarding membership. It is likely that the members of the NFAT are Sinhalese (Reuters 2001).

External Ties

The National Front Against Tigers has stated that it is considered Norway it's "international agent" and aimed to oppose it (TamilNet 2000). The group also opposed LTTE; there is no evidence that the group has opposed the Sri Lankan government (Reuters 2001; Sunday Times 2001).

Group Outcome

The last reported violent attack of the National Front Against Tigers occurred on January 31, 2001 (GTD 2017). There is no information available about why the group stopped using violence after this set of incidents.

XIII. GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS - SRI LANKA

Min. Group Date: 2000

Max. Group Date: 2012

Onset: NA

Aliases: Government Supporters, Government Supporters - Sri Lanka

Part 1. Bibliography

Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: This name is too vague for research.

Group Formation: This name is too vague for research.

Group End: This name is too vague for research.

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

This name is too vague for research.

Geography

This name is too vague for research.

Organizational Structure

This name is too vague for research.

External Ties

This name is too vague for research.

Group Outcome

This name is too vague for research.

XIV. KARUNA GROUP

Min. Group Date: 2004

Max. Group Date: 2007

Onset: NA

Aliases: Colonel Karuna Faction, Karuna Faction, Karuna Group

Part 1. Bibliography

- GTD Perpetrator 20128. Global Terrorism Database. Study for Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. Last modified June 2017.
<http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?perpetrator=20128>
- “Colonel Karuna faction.” BAAD Narratives. N.d.
<http://www.start.umd.edu/baad/database/colonel-karuna-faction-2005>
- Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Sri Lanka: The Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP) and Karuna factions; their relationship with each other; reports concerning their treatment of Sinhalese and Tamil citizens; whether they are still active as paramilitary groups, 17 February 2012, LKA103950.E, available at:
<http://www.refworld.org/docid/4f4f35d22.html>
- Anurada Herath. Media Director, Sri Lankan Presidential Office. “The Saga of Colonel Karuna.” Huffington Post. n.d.
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- Padma Sundarji. “Exclusive: Ex-LTTE commander ‘Col Karuna’ floats new party to amplify Tamil autonomy demand.” 2017. WION News.
<http://www.wionews.com/south-asia/exclusive-ex-ltte-commander-col-karuna-floats-new-party-to-amplify-tamil-autonomy-demand-12361>
- Australia: Refugee Review Tribunal, Sri Lanka: 1. Please provide any information you have about the physical appearance, age, background, etc, of LTTE Commander Karuna. 2. Please provide current information about Karuna. 3. Please provide information about the murder of MP Joseph Pararajasingham, 16 February 2006, LKA31328 , available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4b6fe2980.html>
- United Kingdom: Home Office, Country of Origin Information Report - Sri Lanka, 30 October 2008, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/490af9d22.html>
- Patrick Peebles. “TMVP.” Historical Dictionary of Sri Lanka. Rowman and Littlefield. 2015. PDF gDrive.

Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: This is an alias for TMVP (Peebles 2015).

Group Formation: This is an alias for TMVP (Peebles 2015).

Group End: This is an alias for TMVP (Peebles 2015).

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

This is an alias for TMVP (Peebles 2015).

Geography

This is an alias for TMVP (Peebles 2015).

Organizational Structure

This is an alias for TMVP (Peebles 2015).

External Ties

This is an alias for TMVP (Peebles 2015).

Group Outcome

This is an alias for TMVP (Peebles 2015).

- XV. TAMIL MAKKAL VIDUTHALAI PULIKAL
Min. Group Date: 2004
Max. Group Date: 2008
Onset: NA

Aliases: Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (Tmvp), Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal, Tamil National Front, Tamil Peoples Liberation Tigers

Part 1. Bibliography

- GTD Perpetrator 30073. Global Terrorism Database. Study for Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. Last modified June 2017.A
- <http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?perpetrator=30073>
- Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Sri Lanka: The Tamil Makkal Viduthalai Pulikal (TMVP) and Karuna factions; their relationship with each other; reports concerning their treatment of Sinhalese and Tamil citizens; whether they are still active as paramilitary groups, 17 February 2012, LKA103950.E, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4f4f35d22.html>
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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: Karuna Group (Canada IRB 2012; GTD 2017; Sunday Times 2008; Sunday Leader 2016; Sundarji 2017)

Group Formation: 2004 (splinter from LTTE)

Group End: 2008 (Disarm and become political party), December 24, 2014 - electoral violence (GTD 2017-A)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The TMVP was founded in 2004 by Vinayagamuthri Muralitharan, more commonly known by his alias of Karuna (Australia RRT 2006; Canada IRB 2012; Herath n.d.; Sunday Leader 2016; Sundarji 2017). The group splintered from the LTTE in 2004 either

because Karuna thought LTTE was not serious about peace negotiations or because of personality disputes between Karuna and LTTE leadership (Herath n.d.). The group posed as a paramilitary organization and assisted the Sri Lankan government in counterinsurgency operations against the LTTE (Herath n.d.; Canada IRB 2012; Sundarji 2017). The TMVP first came to attention as a violent group on July 26, 2005 (GTD 2017-A).

Geography

The TMVP has conducted its areas of operations within the cities of Sri Lanka such as Batticaloa, Ottamawadi, Vadamunai, Kalawanchikudi, Valaichchenai, Vira Puliyankulam, Thalaiva, Sewanapitiya (GTD 2017-A; GTD 2017-B).

Organizational Structure

The TMVP was founded in 2004 by Vinayagamuthri Muralitharan, more commonly known by his alias of Karuna (Canada IRB 2012; Heath n.d.; Sunday Leader 2016; Sundarji 2017).

Karuna, the leader of the party, was initially a member of the LTTE before he broke away to form the TMVP (Canada IRB 2012; Sunday Leader 2016; Sunday Times 2008). The Karuna faction had a formal political wing known as the TMVP, which it formed in 2006 (UK Home Office 2008; Canada IRB 2012).

In 2009, however, Karuna and other members of the party who believed in his ideology broke away from the TMVP to join the Sri Lanka Freedom Party; the cause of the split was due to power disagreements between Karuna and another important member of the party (Sunday Times 2008; Canada IRB 2012). TMVP membership included up to “thousands” at an unknown date (BAAD n.d.). A second estimate says the group had 15,000 ex-LTTE fighters when it splintered in 2004 (Sundarji 2017). It has been hinted that the membership of the TMVP consists of children that have been kidnapped by the party in order to work for them; these incidents caused the leader of the TMVP to be charged for human rights abuses (Sunday Leader 2016; Heath n.d.). The TMVP funded itself through illegal activities such as “ballot rigging, intimidation, violence, extortion, and abduction” (Canada IRB 2012; Sunday Leader 2016). The TMVP is a splinter group of the LTTE (Canada IRB 2012).

External Ties

The TMVP receives funding through illegal activities such as “ballot rigging, intimidation, violence, extortion, and abduction” (Canada IRB 2012; Sunday Leader 2016). The TMVP is a splinter group of the LTTE (Canada IRB 2012). It has been stated that the TMVP assists the government in its efforts against the LTTE (Sunday Leader 2016).

Group Outcome

In 2008, the TMVP participated in Sri Lankan elections and won 20 of 37 seats (UK Home Office 2008). That same year, TMVP began disarming (Sunday Times 2008). The last reported violent attack of the TMVP occurred in 2014 as part of campaign violence (GTD 2017a). The group's last activity as a paramilitary organization occurred around 2008 (GTD 2017a; Sunday Times 2008). The group operated as a political party after 2008 (Sunday Times 2016). In 2016, Sri Lankan police arrested Karuna for stealing government-owned property (Sunday Times 2016).

XVI. PEOPLE'S TAMIL ORGANIZATION

Min. Group Date: 2006

Max. Group Date: 2006

Onset: NA

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

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 - "People's tamil organization" sri lanka
 - People's tamil organization sri lanka

Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: None

Group Formation: September 2006 (GTD 2017)

Group End: September 29, 2006 - Reason Unknown (GTD 2017)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

There is no information available about the founding date, initial goals, and ideology of the People's Tamil Organization. The People's Tamil Organization first came to attention as a violent group in September 2006 when it attacked three suspected members of the LTTE (GTD 2017).

Geography

The People's Tamil Organization has conducted its operations within various cities in Sri Lanka, such as Colombo and Vinayagapuram (GTD 2017).

Organizational Structure

There is no information available about the organizational structure of the People's Tamil Organization.

External Ties

It can be inferred that the People's Tamil Organization has external ties with LTTE, because the GTD source has data on how LTTE may have conducted an attack on September 29, 2006, in collaboration with PTO (GTD 2017).

Group Outcome

The last reported violent attack of the People's Tamil Organization occurred on September 29, 2006, when it attacked suspected members of the LTTE (GTD 2017). There is no information available about why the group stopped using violence.