

Australia Cases, 1970-2012
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torg	gname	onset	min	max
T459	SIHALA URUMAYA (SU)		0	0
T41	THE UNIVERSAL ARMY		1955	1978
T360	PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO)		1964	1995
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T919	EJERCITO ZAPATISTA DE LA LIBERACION NACIONAL		1983	2010
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T95	AUM SHINSEN NO KAI		1990	2011
T1967	COMBAT 18		1992	2010

- I. SIHALA URUMAYA (SU)
 Torg ID: 459
 Min. Group Date: 0
 Max. Group Date: 0
 Onset: NA

Aliases: Sihala Urumaya, Sihala Urumaya (Su)

Part 1. Bibliography

- Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Sri Lanka: Information on the activities of **the** Sihala Urumaya; whether its members commit acts of sectarian violence and/or criminal acts against Tamils; protection available to individuals threatened by the Sihala Urumaya (2002-2003), 28 August 2003, LKA41901.E, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/485ba87cc.html>
- Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Sri Lanka: Information on the Sihala Veera Vidhana (SVV) Singhalese movement; whether members of this movement

commit acts of sectarian violence and/or criminal acts against Tamils; protection available to individuals threatened by the SVV; relationship between the SVV and the Sihala Urumaya (2002-2003), 29 August 2003, LKA41900.E, available at:

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: Sinhala Urumaya, Sinhalese Inheritance, SU

Group Formation: 2000

Group End: 2004 (merger/reorganization into JHU?)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

Sihala Urumaya was founded by Tilak Karunaratne and Champika Ranawaka in April 2000 as a Sri Lankan political party (Island 2001). The founders had come from the National Movement Against Terrorism (NMAT), which aimed to counter anti-eelam and promote pro-sinhalese feelings (ibid). The aim of the nationalist party was to unify the Sinhalese and gain enough political power and control to transform Sri Lanka into a pure Sinhalese nation (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2003). The group also opposed the national government delegating authority to resolve the Tamil conflict to local governments (UNHCR 2001).

The founders decided to have a man named S. L. Gunasekara, a Christian who was very openly anti-Eelam, run in the parliamentary elections of 2000 to get votes (Island 2001). However, Ranwaka got more votes than Gunasekara, and he claimed the one

seat that the party had one (Colombo Telegraph 2015). Soon after, Gunasekara decided to leave the party (ibid). The group used violence against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), and at an art fair that they claimed was a front for the LTTE in 2003 attacked people, injuring four.

The group's use of political violence is murky at best. The group threatened in 2003 that it would use suicide attacks against LTTE rebels if the government tried to initiate ceasefire talks with the group (Canada IRB 2003). Members of the political party also protested their opposition to government talks with the LTTE rebels (Canada IRB 2003). Notably, "neither reports of Sinhala Urumaya members committing acts of sectarian violence and/or criminal acts against Tamils, nor information on the protection available to individuals threatened by the Sinhala Urumaya, could be found among the sources consulted by the Research Directorate" (Canada IRB 2003). The group had a connection with the Sinhala Veera Vidhana (SVV) movement, which may have been violent, but again "the article does not mention whether members of the SVV perpetrated violence against Tamils, and no information on whether members of the SVV movement commit acts of sectarian violence and/or criminal acts against Tamils, or on the protection available to individuals who are threatened by the SVV, could be found" (Canada IRB 2003). As a result, there is insufficient evidence to conclude whether the group used political violence and -- at best -- its political opponent seems to be the LTTE.

Geography

The group was based in Sri Lanka (Island 2001). It had branches in Kandy, Galle, Matara, Kalutara, Kagalle, Avissawella and Kurunegala, and held meetings in Nuwara Eliya and Kalpitiya (ibid). There is no evidence of any politicized opposition to the Australian government.

Organizational Structure

The group originally organized as a political party and was legally recognized as such in August 2000 (Island 2001). At its start the party listed S.L. Gunasekara as the president, Tilak Karunaratne as the secretary, and Champika Ranawaka as the national organizer (Island 2001). Its supporters were mainly middle class professionals, but it also had some lower class support (ibid).

External Ties

The formation of the group was supported by the NMAT, Sinhala Veera Vidhana (SVV), and other Sinhalese nationalist groups (Canada IRB 2003; Island 2001). The group may have played a part in the creation of the JHU, which later rose to prominence as its own political party (Colombo Telegraph 2015). The party also was connected to the Jathika Sangha Sammelanay, a group of Buddhist monks. Both of these entities contributed to

the creation of the right-wing political organization, Jathika Hela Urumaya in 2004 (CORI Report 2010).

Group Outcome

No evidence of the Sri Lankan government taking action against the group was uncovered. There is also no evidence of political violence by the group. The group later reorganized or help create the JHU in 2004 (CORI Report 2010). The group was described as “dead” in 2015 though it is unclear when its last attack occurred (Colombo Telegraph 2015).

Notes for Iris:

- very little information about any violent activities and mostly just political activities
- the group’s philosophy promoted violent against the Tamils, but there is no clear

connection

II. THE UNIVERSAL ARMY

Torg ID: 41

Min. Group Date: 1955

Max. Group Date: 1978

Onset: NA

Aliases: Ananda Marga, The Ananda Marga Yoga Society, The Universal Army

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: no proposed change.

Group Formation: 1955 (Crovetto 2008, 26)

Group End (Outcome): (ceased violence circa 1979 and shifted to politics, still active in politics (Jones and Libicki 2008, 146; India Today 2014; Crovetto 2008).

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

Ananda Marga was formed in 1955 (Crovetto 2008, 26). It is a Hindu militant group which rejects the key Hindu philosophy of *ahimsa* or nonviolence (Crovetto 2008, 25). It was based on the philosophies of Pranav Sarkar (Crovetto 2008, 26). Ananda Marga was against social rules and constraints such as the caste system. They aimed to do away with caste distinctions (Crovetto 2008, 26). Besides spiritual freedom, the group's other goals including socialism and service projects, for example education, health services and disaster relief (Crovetto 2008, 26). It can be understood as a "revolutionary mystic socialism" (Crovetto 2008, 26). The ideology of the group's founder, Prabhat Ranjan Sakar, included believing it was necessary to have military capabilities because he claimed the animal-like nature of humans made war inevitable (Crovetto 2008, 36). Its first attack was around 1978.

Geography

The Ananda Marga movement is based in Ananda Nagar (Purulia District of West Bengal) and in Tijila, a Kolkata suburb (Crovetto 2008, 26). The group also operates in several foreign countries, including Australia, where they attacked the Indian embassy (AAP 2009)

The group has regional headquarters in Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi and Bangalore (India Today 2014). The group also has a presence in the Philippines and the USA such as yoga centers in New York (Ibid.).

Organizational Structure

The group has a political wing commonly known as PROUT (full name is PROUTist Universal) (Crovetto 2008, 29). Sarkar founded PROUT in 1959 to advance his socio-economic and philosophical goals (Ibid.). PROUT is based in Denmark (Ibid.). Ananda Marga follows an extremely centralized, authoritarian organizational structure (Crovetto 2008, 26). With those objectives in mind the Margis swung into action. Although the group's philosophy includes equality, there are allegations that members are put in a strict hierarchy (Crovetto 2008, 35; India Today 2014). *Sadhak* is the lowest rank. A *sadhak* graduates to *tatvik*, who ultimately rises to the position of an *acharya* (IndiaToday 2014).

The group has many different types of members (Crovetto 2008, 30). Some members live isolated lives with only other members of the group, some live in agrarian communities, and others have typical occupations and lives in addition to their involvement (Ibid.)

Sakar founded two paramilitary groups, one for males named Volunteers Social Service, and one for females named Girls' Volunteers. These groups trained in India and Australia. However, it is not clear to what extent members intended to actually use force and the groups were less emphasized after the late 1970s (Crovetto 2008, 36-37). There is a subdivision known as the AMURTEL, which focuses on relief work and had members who volunteered after Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana and Texas (Crovetto 2008, 26). In 1969, the sister organization Ananda Marga Yoga Society was formed in the United States and claimed to have 3,000 members as of 2002 (Lewis 2002). Ananda Marga also launched ERAWS, a group which reportedly manages about 400 schools, in 1963 (India Today 2014).

External Ties

The Ananda Marga is opposed to Indian Communist Party and Indira Gandhi, former prime minister of India who was a leader in the Indian National Congress (Crovetto 2008, 26). Its International Committee has reached out to the United Nations (IndiaToday 2014). The group claims that that all members voluntarily donates two per cent of their earnings to the organization (Ibid.). There are rumors that the organization is financed overseas, however the only evidence given to support this is that some of the propaganda material shows signs of being printed outside of India (Ibid.). A news story in IndiaToday claims that this foreign aid is actually from the USA's Central Intelligence Agency, however this is not substantiated by credible evidence (IndiaToday 2014)

Group Outcome

The group's founder, Sakar, was convicted in 1976 of allegedly murdering "half a dozen" ex-disciples, however he was acquitted by a higher Indian court upon retrial on 2 August 1978 (Crovetto 2008, 32). While Sakar was imprisoned from 1971 to 1978, he issued statements saying that the use of violence was against Ananda Marga's philosophy (Crovetto 2008, 32). Crovetto claims that Sakar's statements led sympathizers to cease violent attacks globally (Ibid.).

Ananda Marga was banned in India in 1975, however sympathizers globally pushed for repeal of the ban (AAP 2009). The group's members were suspected of attacks against Indian interests in India in 1977 (military attache at the Indian embassy in Cranberra along with his wife) and 1997 (Air India employee in in Melbourne stabbed) (Ibid.). Ananda Marga was also suspected of a bombing outside the hotel where then-prime minister of India, Moraji Desai, was visiting, however these allegations remain disputed (Ibid.)

The group runs schools, medical centers, orphanages, rural development projects, and spiritual retreats. Ananda Marga describes itself on its website as an organization with a global reach.

III. PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO)

Torg ID: 360

Min. Group Date: 1964

Max. Group Date: 1995

Onset: NA

Aliases: Palestine Liberation Organization (Plo), Palestine Liberation Oraganization (Plo)

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: PLO

Group Formation: 1964

Group End: 2004 (Arafat's death - Fatah replaces - dissolve)

*Umbrella

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The PLO formed in 1964 as a Palestinian nationalist political organization, which sought to form an independent Palestinian state (FAS 1998; Al Jazeera 2009). In 1974, it changed its struggle from an independent state and called for a two-state solution instead (Robinson n.d.). The group's ideology was ethno-nationalist and it first came to attention as a violent group in 1969 following the group's decision to launch an armed struggle (Al Jazeera 2009). It is also primarily secular (FAS 1998). It was partially an umbrella group (FAS 1998).

Geography

The group is from the Palestine region (West Bank and Gaza Strip), but has conducted transnational attacks in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Israel (FAS 1998; Al Jazeera 2009; GTD 2017). The group had its base of operations in Jordan until 1974 before Jordan expelled it (Al Jazeera 2009). Its base of operations was in Beirut, Lebanon from 1974 until 1982 (Al Jazeera 2009). The PLO also operated in Tunisia after it left Lebanon (Zanotti 2011).

Organizational Structure

The PLO's leader was Yassir Arafat (Robinson n.d.; Al-Jazeera 2009). He was the leader of Fatah (Al-Jazeera 2008). The PLO leadership was young and middle class (Robinson n.d.). The main faction in the PLO was Fatah (Zanotti 2011, 17). The organization has an Executive Committee and National Council, which mimic the functions of executive and legislative branches of government (Zanotti 2011, 17).

External Ties

The group was heavily inspired by the Muslim Brotherhood (Robinson n.d.). It clashed with Amal in Lebanon during the “Camps War” in the 1980s due to enmity over Arafat’s leadership (Al Jazeera 2009). It also splintered and lost several members during the early 1980s. Israel allegedly sponsored Christian militia groups in Lebanon to fight against the PLO (BBC 1998).

The PLO received “tacit support” from the Jordanian and Syrian governments (BBC 1998).

The PLO is an umbrella organization that is legally recognized by the UN as the representative of the Palestinian people (Zanotti 2011, 17).

Group Outcome

The group originally operated in Jordan, but was forced to leave in 1970 following a massive crackdown by Jordanian forces (BBC 1998). The group clashed with Israeli security forces on several occasions. In 1982, the PLO was forced to leave Lebanon following the Israeli invasion (Al Jazeera 2009). The PLO operated in Tunisia afterwards (Zanotti 2011).

In 1987, the first Intifada erupted when an Israeli driver killed Palestinian workers (Al Jazeera 2008). In 1988, Arafat renounced terrorism and violence to achieve the group’s goals and tried to steer the PLO towards a diplomatic solution (FAS 1998). The Intifada also helped make the Palestinian issue salient and drive negotiations (Barhoum n.d.). In 1993, the PLO signed the Oslo Accords with Israel (Barhoum n.d.; Robinson n.d.). This helped lead to the creation of the Palestinian Authority, which is a de facto state (Zanotti 2011, 18). The group was particularly active during the Second Intifada from 2000-2004. In 2002, Israeli forces attacked Arafat’s headquarters and forced him to flee to Paris where he eventually died in 2004 (Al Jazeera 2009; Robinson n.d.). Arafat’s death led the group to partially disintegrate due to lack of strong leadership to replace it (Robinson n.d.). Today, Fatah remains a prominent organization and main face of the Palestinian Authority (Zanotti 2011, 25-26). The PLO umbrella organization has declined in prominence (Zanotti 2011, 25).

IV. JUSTICE COMMANDOS FOR THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Torg ID: 248

Min. Group Date: 1975

Max. Group Date: 1986

Onset: NA

Aliases: JCAG-ARA, Armenian Revolutionary Army

Part 1. Bibliography

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: JCAG-ARA, Armenian Revolutionary Army

Group Formation: 1975

Group End: 1986

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The Justice Commandos for the Armenian Genocide or JCAG, formed in 1975 as the militant branch of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation (ARF), also known as the Dashnak Party, a transnational Armenian political organization (Central Intelligence Agency 1984, 1). JCAG was founded to provide a right-wing alternative to the Marxist-Leninist group the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) which was attracting young Armenians away from the ARF (Central Intelligence Agency 1984, 1). The groups first attack occurred on October 22, 1975 in Austria (Gunter 2007, 115; GTD 2018). It came in response to a January 1973 event where a lone Armenian had murdered two Turkish diplomats in Los Angeles, California as retribution for the 1915 genocide (CIA 1984, 1). The attack is thought to have inspired other Armenian groups to organize and begin conducting their own attacks.

The goals of the group were to force the Turkish government to recognize the Armenian genocide and to establish an independent Armenian state (New York Times 1983). The group can be described as right-wing ethno-nationalist.

Geography

JCAG has conducted operations in North America, Europe, and the Middle East (GTD 2018). JCAG was incredibly selective in their planning and exclusively attacked Turkish targets (Gunter 2007, 115). There is no public information regarding a centralized base of operations.

Organizational Structure

JCAG is the militant wing of the ARF and should be considered one in the same (Central Intelligence Agency 1984, 1). Membership in JCAG is drawn from the Armenian community and funding for the group is provided by ARF (Central Intelligence Agency 1984, 2). While declassified CIA documents have redacted the name of the former leader of JCAG (Central Intelligence Agency 1984, 2), academic sources refer to Abraham "Apo" Ashjian as the leader of the group (Gunter 2007, 116; Dugan and Huang and LaFree and McCauley 2008, 236). These sources claim that Ashjian was killed in December of 1982, information corroborated by the CIA source with his name redacted. Once Ashjian was killed, JCAG was reborn as the Armenian Revolutionary Army (ARA)

under a new leader but still a wing of the ARF (Gunter 2007, 116). No information could be found about size estimates. The group allegedly organized in cells (MIPT 2008).

External Ties

JCAG has no publicly known external ties to other groups. Due to its place in the ARF organization, JCAG did not need to associate with other groups or states for external support or funding. ARF was able to provide JCAG with the resources it needed to operate (Central Intelligence Agency 1984, 2). It is rumored that Ashjian was killed by the ARF for attempting to form an alliance with the rival group ASALA (Gunter 2007, 116), suggesting that some members of the two groups may have interacted with each other.

Group Outcome

Following the death of Ashjian in 1982, JCAG was renamed the Armenian Revolutionary Army (ARA) in 1983 and continued operations under a new leader, Sarkis Aznavourian (Gunter 2007, 116). The group's last attack occurred on March 13, 1985 (New York Times 1985) and should be considered inactive. The group eventually dissolved, the reason for which is believed to be the death of Sarkis Aznavourian (Gunter 2007, 116). The ARF persisted as a nonviolent political party afterwards.

V. EJERCITO ZAPATISTA DE LA LIBERACION NACIONAL

Torg ID: 919

Min. Group Date: 1983

Max. Group Date: 2010

Onset: NA

Aliases: Zapatista National Liberation Army, Ejercito Zapatista De La Liberacion Nacional, Ej_rcito Zapatista De Liberaci_n Nacional, Ezln, Zapatista Army Of National Liberation, Zapatista National Liberation Army (Ezln)

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: no other aliases

Group Formation: formed in 1983, first violent attack Jan. 1, 1994 (Miranda 2016; UNAM N.D; Canada IRB 2011; Historia de America Latina 2010).

Group End: 1994 last violent attack, group only used political violence once, group continues to be active today (Miranda 2016; UNAM N.D; Canada IRB 2011; Historia de America Latina 2010).

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The EZLN fights for increased rights of indigenous peoples (MIPT 2008; Miranda 2016; UNAM N.D.; Historia de America Latina 2010). Group is named after Emiliano Zapata who fought for the rights of lower classes in the Mexican Revolution (MIPT 2008). Group was founded in 1983 by a well known leader called “Subcomandante Marcos” (MIPT

2008;Harvey 2011;Historia de America Latina 2010). During the first few years, the group adhered to a communist ideology, but by 1990 the group was anti-globalization, anti-government, and anti American (MIPT 2008). Group is still leftist, socialist (Miranda 2016; UNAM N.D.;Tucker 2014). The EZLN is the armed wing of a group named Comité Clandestino Revolucionario Indígena (Miranda 2016;UNAM N.D.). Group often spoke of returning to when humanity was one with nature (Miranda 2016).

January 1994 was the time the group first used arms in reaction to the timing of North American Free Trade Agreement, which they claimed to be their “death sentence” as indigenous peoples (Miranda 2016;UNAM N.D).

The group’s political aims are mixed as they wish for the government to change how they treat indigenous peoples through policy reforms and increased autonomy⁰. Nevertheless, the group stated it does not want to become a political party (Miranda 2016). Later on, the group sought autonomy for the Chiapas region (Grant 2014;Tucker 2014; Harvey 2011).

When the group takes over a city, they act autonomously, saying that they are the government in that region and that the government must obey them; they have political and economic autonomy in their regions (Grant 2014; Tucker 2014; Harvey 2011).

Geography

When the uprising began in 1994, group took over San Cristobal de Las Casas (Harevy 2011). Group is based in northern Chiapas, Canadas, and de los Altos Mexico (MIPT 2008;UNAM N.D.; Grant 2014;Harvey 2011). Group conducted attacks in the Mexican cities of Las Margaritas, Altamirano, Chanal,Oscosigno, Oxchuc, Huixtan, Chalam, and San Cristobal de Las Casas (UNAM N.D;Harvey 2011). The group does not operate in other countries or have bases in other countries.

Supporters of the EZLN formed in the US and in Europe who protested the government's violent reaction during peace negotiations in 1994 (UNAM N.D.).

Organizational Structure

In 1994, during the first uprising, the group had 3000 fighters (Harvey 2011). Group is thought to have more than 5000 members (fighters) (MIPT 2008). It initially recruited from villages and churches. Group members include indigenous peoples, Catholic groups, and agrarian companies (Miranda 2016; UNAM N.D.). The group also has a lot of indigenous women participants (Miranda 2016). Indigenous groups that are in EZLN include: chol, tzeltal, tzotil, tojotobal, and mam (Miranda 2016; UNAM N.D.).

January 1994 was the only time the group first used arms in reaction to the North American Free Trade Agreement which they claimed to be their “death sentence” as

indigenous peoples (Miranda 2016;UNAM N.D; Canada IRB 2011;Historia de America Latina 2010).

Group has many writings and speeches which they present to thousands of indigenous peoples (Miranda 2016;UNAM N.D). The most famous document is the Declaracion de la Selva Laconda (Miranda 2016;UNAM N.D).

In 2012, the group had about 40,000 supporters (Tucker 2014). At its peak, the group reached to have 70,000 followers (Historia de America Latina 2010).

When the group takes over a city, they act autonomously, saying that they are the government in that region and that the government must obey them; they have political and economic autonomy in their regions (Grant 2014;).

External Ties

Group has many supporters in the jungles of Chiapas and los Altos (Miranda 2016). Many human rights associations including the United Nations have supported the group (Miranda 2016). Supporters of the EZLN formed in the US and in Europe who protested the government's violent reaction during peace negotiations in 1994 (UNAM N.D.).

Group Outcome

When the January 1994 uprising happened, the Mexican government met the fighting with a military counteroffensive (Harvey 2011). Large counter-protests against the Mexican government after the military counteroffensive led the Mexican government to begin peace talks in February 1994 (Havey 2011). In 1994, group had a truce with the government (MIPT 2008;UNAM N.D.). Group began negotiations with president Salinas and continued them with president Zedillo (UNAM N.D.). Negotiations were peaceful until the government passed reform laws that were against the peace agreements (UNAM N.D.). The EZLN revolted because of this and the Zedillo government reacted brutally, turning against any zapatista indigenous community and persecuting any supporter of the EZLN (UNAM N.D.;Human Rights Watch 1996; Historia de America Latina 2010). The Zedillo government acted unconstitutionally and tortured and forced extradition to EZLN sympathizers (Human Rights Watch 1996). By 1996, peace negotiations were abandoned and the group began seeking other autonomous ways of reaching their goals (Tucker 2014; Harvey 2011). In 2005, group announced it would be entering politics and holds rallies and marches, and broadcasts their mission statements to raise awareness for indigenous rights (MIPT 2008). In 2006, Subcomandante Marcos went "on tour" speaking about zapatista ideologies (Canada IRB 2011). In 2007, Subcomandante Marcos retired as group leader (Canada IRB 2011). In 2009, the government arrested some EZLN supporters and said they were criminals (Canada IRB 2011).

Notes for Iris:

- EZLN is “really not that violent” and only violent for a short period of time
- it is ethnonationalist and originally nonviolent
- in 1994, the government privatized land which caused the group to rise up for a short time. Later that year, the president started peace talks but Zedillo reneged on this agreement and instituted a bunch of reforms that undermined the peace talks
- the EZLN says the government never listened or recognized their claims as legitimate; it’s unclear if it was clear how
- the government thought they were poor and unimportant
- Salinas president was more lenient and more willing to recognize their grievances
- Zedillo tortured leadership during peace talks so in 1996 they switched to being a separatist group and semi-autonomous. The government doesn’t really interact with them much anymore except in 2009.
- Mexican government doesn’t engage with the group anymore; the government doesn’t want to deal with them because they’re not trying to overthrow the government
- not transnational, no external support, far from capital
- note from Oxford/Harvey: “Higgins 2004 uses international relations theory to see the rebellion as a response to the centralizing tendency of state formation in Mexico, which had rendered indigenous people largely invisible, at least in political terms, until 1994. “legibility connection

Note this group vs Triqui: (from Cristina)

I think the Triqui was more violent at the start because they were being violently attacked by local authorities, so they first used violence in self defense from them. So the group was first formed in self defense. The EZLN was formed in a less violent way because they formed because they were advocating for indigenous rights without using violence. The EZLN did not use violence till their uprising in 1994.

Later, the MULT continues to be violent especially they fight against the UBISORT faction over territory. Whereas the EZLN does not have a rival like the UBISORT.

VI. PEACE CONQUERORS

Torg ID: 1233

Min. Group Date: 1985

Max. Group Date: 1985

Onset: NA

Aliases: None

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: n/a

Group Formation: 1985

Group End: 1985 (disappear)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

It is unknown precisely when the Peace Conquerors formed, but the group first came to global attention in June of 1985 with the bombing of the Bayer chemical company (Associated Press 1985; New York Times 1985a). The group claimed to have bombed the company office in protest of its methods of chemical dumping and other concerns (MIPT 2008; Associated Press 1985; New York Times 1985b). In the following days, the Frankfurt airport was bombed, killing 3 people and injuring numerous others.

The group claimed responsibility for the attack in a letter, and said that they were in protest of environmental concerns surrounding the airport, however, the attack was later said to have been perpetrated by the Revolutionary Arab Organization (New York Times 1985c, United Press International 1988). Then in July of the same year, the group claimed responsibility for a bombing at a chemical company called Union Carbide in Sydney, Australia (MIPT 2008). The company had caused an industrial accident in India (MIPT 2008).

Geography

The group conducted its attacks in Brussels, Belgium and Sydney, Australia (Associated Press 1985; New York Times, 1985, MIPT 2008). The group was transnational.

Organizational Structure

The group has a "Pacific Branch" that conducted an attack in Australia (MIPT 2008). No information about the group's size, membership, leadership, funding, or organizational structure could be found.

External Ties

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

Group Outcome

After the Frankfurt attacks, in the letter claiming responsibility for the violence, the group threatened to destroy a jumbo jet, but no such attacks were ever credibly linked to the group (New York Times 1985). Many other groups also claimed responsibility for the Frankfurt airport attack, and the Revolutionary was ultimately concluded to have conducted the attack (Associated Press 1985, MIPT 2008). The attack in Brussels is the last attack for which they have been known to have claimed responsibility (Associated Press 1985). After their short period of attacks in 1985, the group disappeared and has since been inactive (MIPT 2008).

Notes for Iris:

-the group threatens attacks, carries out attacks, and claims responsibilities for attacks
-carries out Brussels, doesn't carry out Frankfurt, and does carry out Australia attack →

clear evidence that they're transnational

-there was a reference to the Green Peace organization during the same period.

Specifically, w/ Brussels attack there was a Green Peace ship operating around the same time

**interesting timing around Rainbow Warrior (July 1985)

VII. GREEK BULGARIAN ARMENIAN FRONT

Torg ID: 192

Min. Group Date: 1986

Max. Group Date: 1986

Onset: NA

Aliases: None

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: JCAG [??]

Group Formation: 1986

Group End: 1986 (disappear)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

It is unknown precisely when the group formed, but it first came to attention as a violent group in 1986 (GTD 2018). The group conducted its first attack in Melbourne, Australia, setting off a car bombing outside the Turkish consulate (Associated Press 1986). The explosion killed one of the bombers (ibid). Prior to the Melbourne consulate attack, there had been numerous other attacks in opposition to Turkey (MIPT 2008). After the attack a man called a news agency in Sydney, claiming to a member of the group and taking responsibility for the car bombing (Associated Press 1986; MIPT 2008). He also listed criticisms of Turkey in the call (UPI 1986; Associated Press 1986; MIPT 2008). The group's political aims seem to be to oppose the Turkish government and compel it to recognize or make several policy changes related to their grievances.

Geography

The group's sole attack was conducted in Melbourne, Australia (Associated Press 1986).

Organizational Structure

The eight people arrested in connection to the attack were all Armenian (MIPT 2008; Schmid and Jongman 1988).

External Ties

The group is thought to be connected to the Justice Commando for the Armenian Genocide, an extremist group intent on perpetrating attacks in order to make Turkey admit to the Armenian Genocide (Dogan 2019, CIA Library 1984).

Group Outcome

The group threatened more attacks in the future over the phone call, but the group did not conduct any more attacks after 1986. Of the eight Armenians arrested in connection to the Melbourne attack, one was convicted of murder (MIPT 2008).

Notes for Iris:

- group's political aims might have been part of the larger Armenian movement about claiming responsibility for the genocide and admitting guilt
- there is an alleged connection with JCAG (unusual area of operations for JCAG, but similar goals and possibly had capabilities to stage transnational operations)

VIII. AL-QA'IDA

Torg ID: 28

Min. Group Date: 1989

Max. Group Date: 2012

Onset: NA

Aliases: Al-Qa'ida, Al Qaeda, Al Qaida, Al-Qa`Ida, Al-Qaeda, Qaidat Al-Jihad, Qa'idat Al-Jihad, The Base

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: None

Group Formation: 1988 (Mackenzie Institute 2016)

Group End (Outcome): 2016 (active) (Crenshaw 2015)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

Al-Qaida was founded by Osama Bin Laden in 1988 (Mackenzie Institute 2016). The group's initial goals were to completely remove Western influence and ideas and to abolish the United States and Israel (BAAD 2015). Al-Qaida attempts to achieve a state governed by sharia law and a conservative interpretation of Islam (FP 2012). They conducted their first attacks against the US embassy in Africa in 1998 (BAAD 2015; Global Security N.D). Al-Qaida first came to global attention after 9/11 but was active prior to that in its region (FAS 2005). The group has a radical Sunni Muslim ideology and ascribes to Salafi jihadist ideas (CFR 2012; Global Security n.d.; Blanchard 2007, 6).

Geography

Al-Qaida operated mainly within Peshawar, Pakistan, and Afghanistan (CFR 2012; PBS N.D). The group hid within cities and hills with particularly mountainous terrain in the Tora Bora mountains of Afghanistan (as shepherd or farmers) (FAS 2005). The group's leader Osama bin Laden had a base of operations in Sudan from 1991 to 1998 (Mackenzie Institute 2016).

Organizational Structure

Al-Qaida was headed by Osama Bin Laden, who was the group's sole leader until his assassination in 2011 (CFR 2012). He was originally from Saudi Arabia and had helped fight the Soviets in Afghanistan (Crenshaw 2015). His father, Mohammed bin Laden, moved from southern Yemen to Saudi Arabia, where he worked his way up from being a menial laborer to gaining favor with the royal family and constructing palaces and mosques for King Faisal (The Guardian 2015; PBS 2001). Osama bin Laden was born in Saudi Arabia as one of fifty children (The Guardian 2015). After returning from a trip to Peshawar, Pakistan, he vocally advocated for support for the mujahideen (PBS 2001).

After collecting monetary donations for the mujahideen in Afghanistan, bin Laden first went to Afghanistan in 1982 and eventually fought in battles and established camps, which eventually attracted more Saudis to the country (PBS 2001). Eventually, bin Laden established Al-Qa'edah, or "The Base" as the center of his mujahideen operations. After the Soviets had withdrawn from Afghanistan, bin Laden again went to Afghanistan (PBS 2001). He was unable to leave the country as he had been banned from travel for trying to spread jihad to Yemen (PBS 2001). In response to Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait in 1991, bin Laden argued that all Arab mujahideen should be brought to defend the country (PBS 2001). Then, bin Laden learned that the United States would enter the conflict in Kuwait (PBS 2001). This was a turning point for bin Laden. He gathered religious support and led 4000 people to receive jihadist training in Afghanistan (PBS 2001). He spent a short while in Pakistan and Afghanistan, but eventually escaped from Saudi and Pakistani authorities to Sudan where he received temporary refuge (PBS 2001). In 1996, he left Sudan and returned to Afghanistan, where he conducted attacks against civilians and American forces on the Arabian Peninsula (PBS 2001). After the Taliban took over the Afghan city of Jalalabad, bin Laden joined the group (PBS 2001). The Saudis and the U.S. tried unsuccessfully many times to kidnap bin Laden (PBS 2001). He was finally

defeated when American Navy SEALs raided his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan (History 2018).

Following his death, he was replaced as leader by Ayman al-Zawahiri in 2011 (Crenshaw 2015; CFR 2012). The group used a complex decentralized, or cell-based, organizational structure in which members reported to couriers who reported to other couriers eventually making their way up to the head (RAND 2008). Funding for the organization came from many places, including donations (FTO 2005). The group had different councils to deal with different aspects. For example, they had a “military committee” to deal with “military” matters, and a “consultation council” to plan out terrorist attacks and deal with financial matters (PBS 2001). They have no formal political wing (BAAD 2015). Al-Qaida can be considered an umbrella group that consisted of many other terrorist groups within (ibid; Global Security n.d.). The organization had an estimated 75 members when it was first formed and up to 18,000 at its peak in 2004 (Crenshaw 2015). As of 2015, it is thought to have less than 1000 members, but these estimates vary wildly by source (Crenshaw 2015; BAAD 2015).

External Ties

Both the government of Saudi Arabia and the US Central Intelligence Agency allegedly provided money and supplies to the mujahideen during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan before al-Qaida formally organized (Crenshaw 2015). Some reports claim that the CIA itself sent more than \$600 million to mujahideen associated with bin Laden (Crenshaw 2015). Some reports allege that Saudi Arabia funded Al-Qaida through drug trafficking and diamonds, though these claims are now considered to have been falsified and invalid (Crenshaw 2015). Bin Laden maintained ties with key members of the Saudi royal family; some, including Prince Faisal, allegedly provided Al-Qaida with large monetary donations (Crenshaw 2015; CNN 2015). Iran also allegedly trained and supported AQ members in the early 1990s (ibid; BAAD 2015). Afghanistan and Pakistan allow Al-Qaida to operate training camps within their borders (ibid). The group has ties to several other terrorist organizations including Egyptian Islamic Jihad, The Libyan Islamic Fighting Group, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Muhammad, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, Armed Islamic Group in Algeria, the Abu Sayyaf Group, and Jemaah Islamiya (CFR 2012; PBS 2001).

Group Outcome

The US launched Operation Enduring Freedom in 2001 to find and destroy the Taliban and Al-Qaeda elements operating in Afghanistan (BAAD 2015). The group's first leader Osama bin Laden was killed during a U.S. raid in 2011 (CFR 2012; BAAD 2015). The group is still active today.

Min. Group Date: 1990
Max. Group Date: 2011
Onset: NA

Aliases: Aum Shinri Kyo, Aleph, Aum Shinrikyo, Aum Shinrikyo (Aum), Aum Shinsen No Kai, Aum Supreme Truth

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: Aleph, Aum Shinsen no Kai, Aum Supreme Truth, Aleph, , AUM
Group Formation: 1987

Group End: 1995 (last violent attack), 2017 (reorganize, but still active as nonviolent organization known as Aleph?)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The group was a cult founded in 1987 by a man called Shoko Asahara (United States Department of State 2017). Asahara, originally named Chizuo Matsumoto, was born partially blind in southern Japan in 1955 (Council on Foreign Relations 2012). He traveled to the Himalayas in 1987 in an effort to study more about Buddhism, and even met the Dalai Lama in the same year (Council on Foreign Relations 2012). He believed

himself to have been the first human since the Buddha to attain enlightenment (MIPT 2008). Asahara taught his followers a mixture of Buddhist, Hindu, and Christian values (Council on Foreign Relations 2012; MIPT 2008).

After Asahara's failed run for a seat in the Japanese parliament in 1990, Asahara became convinced that the Japanese government had rigged the election against him (Journal of Strategic Strategy 2016). Asahara believed a nuclear apocalypse was coming and would start by the United States and Japan commencing World War III (MIPT 2008). The cult then became intent on developing weapons of mass destruction in order to survive the apocalypse, overthrow the Japanese government, and eventually even take over the world (Journal of Strategic Strategy 2016; FAS 2004). The group started committing attacks in order to initiate what they believed was the approaching apocalypse (MIPT 2008). The cult's first attack is thought to have happened in 1990, with the spraying of botulinum germs into the streets of American naval bases in Tokyo Bay (New York Times 1998). However, the group's attempted attack was unsuccessful, as no injuries or deaths were reported (New York Times 1998). The group's most famous -- and possibly first fatal -- attack was in 1995 when it released the nerve agent sarin into the Tokyo subway system. The resulting attack killed 13 people and injured 5800 (BBC 2018).

Geography

The group is based in Japan, but had offices in the United States, Taiwan, and Germany. It also had a large member base in Russia, and in 2016 there were several raids of Aum Shinrikyo properties in Russia (MIPT 2008; United States Department of State 2017). In the same year, an Aum Shinrikyo conference at a hotel in Montenegro was discovered (United States Department of State 2017). All of the group's attacks were conducted in Japan, though it had planned an attack in the United States as well (GTD n.d.; New York Times 1997). The attacks were primarily in Tokyo, but there were also attacks in Matsumoto, Narita, Yokohama, and Yokosuka (GTD n.d.). The group also had a compound in Australia and a sheep farm, where the group mined uranium, and used the sheep to make microbes of Q fever, a very serious disease (New York Times 1998; Journal of Strategic Strategy 2016).

Organizational Structure

The founder of the cult, Shoko Asahara, studied Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, and even science fiction, drawing from this research to preach to his followers. He claimed to be enlightened (MIPT 2008; Council on Foreign Relations 2012). The cult was run in Japan and claimed to have 9,000 members in Japan and 35,000 in Russia, along with others around the world (MIPT 2008; FAS 2004). However, at the time of their most famous attack in 1995, most experts agree they had approximately 1000 members (FAS 1994). Most of the members that it recruits are educated and upper class, a lot of them

even scientists from many different universities (Council on Foreign Relations 2012; Journal of Strategic Strategy 2016). In 2000, the cult claimed renamed itself Aleph, and claimed to have stopped following the violent beliefs of the old group (Council on Foreign Relations 2012; MIPT 2008; United States Department of State 2017). The group mainly received its funding from membership fees, selling its books, donations, and electronic businesses and restaurants that it is charge of (MIPT 2008; Council on Foreign Relations 2012). The cult also makes sure members transfer ownership of their land property to the group (Council on Foreign Relations 2012).

External Ties

The group received little external support, and instead recruited educated members, such as scientists who have access to deadly chemicals needed to create biological weapons for their deadly attacks (MIPT 2008; New York Times 1998; Journal of Strategic Strategy 2016).

Group Outcome

In 1989 Japan acknowledged the cult as a religious group, but after the 1995 sarin gas attack, which killed 13 people, Japan declassified it as such (United States Department of State 2017; GTD n.d.). The group attempted several additional incidents to release HCN in the months after the 1995 sarin incident, but these attacks failed (BBC 2018).

After the 1995 attack, Japanese authorities arrested a number of members of the group, one of them being the leader and founder of the group, Shoko Asahara (MIPT 2008). He was jailed, and along with many other high level members of the cult, was executed as recently as 2018 (CNN 2018; United States Department of State 2017). Japan also chose not to make the group illegal in 1997, but decided to surveil the cult to make sure no other attacks were being planned (FAS 2004). There have been no violent attacks by the group since 1995. In 2000, a new leader, Fumihiro Joyu changed the cult's name to Aleph, and disavowed most of Asahara's violent beliefs (MIPT 2008; FAS 2004). The group still has around 1500 members around the world (MIPT 2008; United States Department of State 2017). However, although Aleph renounced its violent methods, there have still been arrests made over members' plans to free Shoko Asahara from jail, and in 2012, a bomb threat was made to a Japan Airlines flight, forcing it to ground (United States Department of State 2017).

Notes for Iris:

-what's the group ideology? The group had a lot of political aims and the sources sometimes contradict

--before Parliament run, there was contradictory information about their specific ideology. The timing and fixation on eschatological beliefs is slightly unclear

- some interesting nuclear apocalypse fixation and they hated the US partially due to atomic bombings
- nothing specific in ideology about WMDs, just a tactical choice
- after the 95 attacks a lot of leaders were quickly arrested and violent attacks dissipated
- Aleph renounced violence to distinguish itself but still has the same ideology

X. COMBAT 18
 Torg ID: 1967
 Min. Group Date: 1992
 Max. Group Date: 2010
 Onset: NA

Aliases: None

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: None

Group Formation: 1992

Group End: 2017 (Active)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

Combat 18 was formed in 1992 as a wing of the British Nationalist Party (BBC 1999). They were a right-wing neo-Nazi group that opposed British electoral politics as a means to achieve change (Independent 1998; Metro 2017). The group's first attack was in 1997 in Denmark (BBC 1999). The group is fascist and center seeking (Independent 1998; BBC n.d.).

Geography

Combat 18's first attack took place in Brixton, London (GTD 2017). It is unknown of the location of their bases. The group is transnational and conducted attacks in Germany and Australia (DW 2017; GTD 2017).

Organizational Structure

The group was formed by a one-time leader, Charlie Sargent, who was imprisoned in 1998 due to a violent murder against one of his fellow Combat 18 members (BBC 1999; Metro UK 2017). The group was originally the armed wing of the right-wing British National Party (BBC 1999). It organized in a series of cells modeled after a right-wing terror group in the USA known as the Order (Independent 1998). The group is mostly comprised of cocaine dealers and illegal debt collectors (Independent 1998). It also recruited working-class members to join it (Independent 1998). The group started with around 12 members, but became more popular after their levels of violent activity increased (Independent 1998). By 1999, the group had 40 to 200 members (BBC 1999).

External Ties

The group explicitly claims responsibility for its attacks. It created an alliance with other right-wing groups known as the National Socialist Alliance (Independent 1998).

Group Outcome

Police arrested and sentenced Charlie Sargent to life in prison in 1998 (BBC 1999). Germany banned the group in 2000 (DW 2017). The group partially splintered in 2002 leading to the creation of another group known as the Racial Volunteer Force (Metro 2017). The group's last known attack was on February 4, 2010 (GTD 2017). It reemerged in Germany in 2013 (DW 2017). UK police shut down the group's website in 2014 (Metro 2017). The British National Party shut down in 2016 after failing to pay its electoral dues (Metro 2017). The group was still active in 2017 (DW 2017; Metro 2017).

Notes for Iris:

- in comparison to the ITP, this group does not have a training camp, it doesn't seem as violent, and it seems more decentralized because it operates in cells
- both these groups are transnational
- this group was likely more popular than ITP because it was the armed wing of a political party (fewer organizational challenges than ITP) and also still persists to this day

Country-Level Notes for Iris:

--only one group had actually conducted a real attack in Australia. Most others used Australia for bases or had very limited ties with the group.

--there was not a lot of traditional grievances or inequality that could have spurred the group