

Cuba Cases, 1970-2012
Last Updated: 15 May 2019

torg	gname	onset	min	max
T593	MOVIMIENTO 30 DE NOVIEMBRE		0	0
T215	INDEPENDENT ARMED REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MIRA)		1967	0
T1045	COORDINATION OF THE UNITED REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION (CORU)		1976	1977

I. MOVIMIENTO 30 DE NOVIEMBRE

Torg ID: 593

Min. Group Date: 0

Max. Group Date: 0

Onset: NA

Aliases: NA

Part 1. Bibliography

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- Colhoun, Jack. *Gangsterismo: The United States, Cuba and the Mafia, 1933 to 1966*. OR Books, 2013. Accessed July 9, 2019. https://books.google.com/books?id=CC_3AgAAQBAJ&pg=PT213&lpg=PT213&dq=Movimiento+Revolucionario+30+de+Noviembre&source=bl&ots=H9-l3SUYIA&sig=ACfU3U2UCpYHrKgbDJGIZWed0mE0jkUydQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjx8-K-oKfjAhULbs0KHWE8Dco4FBDoATABegQICBAB#v=onepage&q=november%2030th%20movement%20&f=false
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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: Movimiento Revolucionario 30 de Noviembre, MR-30-N, Movement 30 of November, 30th of November Movement, November 30th Movement, MRTN, November 30th Group

Group Formation: 1960

Group End: unclear

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The group formed in 1960 by David Salvador to oppose Fidel Castro (FBI 1961). Salvador was originally part of the communist party, but left and became the leader of the Confederación Trabajadores Cubanos (CTC), a union group (FBI 1961). The group first came to attention as a violent group when it bombed electrical plants in Havana in November of 1960 (Mary Ferrell Foundation n.d.) The group essentially wanted Cuba to democratize and to replace Castro (Gloobal n.d.). It was named after famous counter revolutionaries, like Frank Pais who died in a revolt on November 30, 1956 (Cuban Information Archives n.d.).

Geography

In 1961, the group had its headquarters in Miami, Florida (FBI 1961). It also had cells in Cuba (ibid). The group also had a branch in Philadelphia (FBI 1961). As of 2004, the group has a national directorate in New Jersey and chapters in Miami (Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2004a).

Organizational Structure

The group formed in 1960 by David Salvador to oppose Fidel Castro (FBI 1961). Salvador was originally part of the communist party, but left and became the leader of the Confederación Trabajadores Cubanos (CTC), a union group (FBI 1961).

The general secretary of the group is Luis Israel Abreu (Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2004a). The members of the movement in 1961 were mostly working class (FBI 1961). It was divided into cells. After the arrest of the group's founder and former leader, David Salvador, Carlos Rodriguez Quesada became the General Coordinator of the movement (ibid). He planned to unify the counter revolutionary movements and did so by merging with the Revolutionary Democratic Front (ibid). The leader of the Philadelphia branch was Elio Cruz and it had 10-12 members (FBI 1961). It received some funding from Roberto Mendoza, who donated money to buy arms (Colhoun 2013). As of 2004, the group allegedly has 10,000 members, some living in Cuba (Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2004a).

External Ties

In 1961, the group merged with the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FBI 1961). Raul Rodriguez was the coordinator of the movement (ibid). The group is connected to the Democratic Party 30th of November in Cuba (Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada 2004a). Both groups have the same goals (ibid). MR-30-N is also linked to the Cuban Revolutionary Council (FBI 1961). The group also sent a letter to J. Edgar Hoover, the director of the FBI at the time, asking for help in fighting the communists (ibid). The CIA helped a part of the MR-30-N led by a man named Jesus Fernández, and members of the group were trained by the CIA in Florida (Colhoun 2013,).

Group Outcome

The G-2 arrested David Salvador, the founder and former leader of the group, in 1961 (FBI 1961). In October of 1961, the group split in two (Colhoun 2013,). It is unclear whether the group is still active.

Notes for Iris:

- the group's leader got arrested and then splintered
- unclear if there is supposed to be a later reincarnation of this group post-1970 but there's just no evidence

II. INDEPENDENT ARMED REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT (MIRA)

Torg ID: 215

Min. Group Date: 1967

Max. Group Date: 0

Onset: NA

Aliases: Independent Armed Revolutionary Movement (Mira), Movimiento Independentista Revolucionario Armado (Mira)

Part 1. Bibliography

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: Armed Revolutionary Independence Movement

Group Formation: 1967

Group End: 1973 (dissolve/repressed)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The movement formed in 1967 by Filiberto Ojeda Ríos and William Pintado Burgos (Noticel 2011; Schmid 2011, 661). Burgos was a part of the Federation of Students for Independence in Cuba and was a cadet for the Nationalist Party in Puerto Rico (ibid). It was a socialist movement (Indiegogo n.d.). It was an ethnonationalist separatist group fighting for Puerto Rico's independence from the United States. MIRA carried out attacks against the United States, as its goal was independence for Puerto Rico (Noticel 2011; MIPT 2008). Its first attack was in 1969, with the start of a series of bombing in and near New York City (Leonard Lugo-Lugo 2015, 195). In the same year, the group also attacked military bases in Puerto Rico and US owned places on the island (Indiegogo n.d.)

Geography

The group was transnational. It conducted its attacks in New York City, New Jersey and Puerto Rico (MIPT 2008; Indiegogo n.d.). It had bases in Puerto Rico, Cuba and the United States (MIPT 2008).

Organizational Structure

The group was led by Filiberto Ojeda Ríos and William Pintado Burgos (Noticel 2011). It received its funding from Cuba (MIPT 2008). Burgos was a part of the Federation of Students for Independence in Cuba and was a cadet for the Nationalist Party in Puerto Rico (Noticel 2011). Members were likely Puerto Rican.

External Ties

Cuba provided the movement with arms and training (MIPT 2008). It was also supported by the Puerto Rican Socialist Party (Leonard Lugo-Lugo 2015, 195). It is also allegedly connected to the Armed Commandos of Liberation (CAL), which was also ended around the same time as MIRA, and also had former members who joined Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional, founded by Filiberto Ojeda Ríos in 1974 (Leonard Lugo-Lugo 2015, 195; MIPT 2008). The group is also linked to the Armed Forces of National Liberation and the Macheteros (MIPT 2008).

Group Outcome

MIRA ended after the United States government found its weapons arsenal and arrested twenty members, including William Pintado Burgos in 1973 (Noticel 2011; MIPT 2008; Leonard Lugo-Lugo 2015, 195). The government also arrested Filiberto Ojeda Ríos in

the early 1970s (MIPT 2008). They were accused of conspiracy against the US government (Leonard Lugo-Lugo 2015, 195). After these arrests, the group became inactive (MIPT 2008). Ríos later went on to form the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional (FALN) in New York City, recruiting members of MIRA (MIPT 2008; Leonard Lugo-Lugo 2015, 195). FALN was later renamed the Macheteros (Vásquez 2006).

Country-Level Trends:

-the Cuban groups were not very violent compared to the other groups we've seen

III. COORDINATION OF THE UNITED REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATION (CORU)

Torg ID: 1045

Min. Group Date: 1976

Max. Group Date: 1977

Onset: NA

Aliases: CORU, United Revolutionary Organizations Commando (Anderson, 33),

Part 1. Bibliography

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Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The Coordination Of United Revolutionary Organizations (CORU) ceased attacks in the 1990s and was inactive as of 2012. The founding of CORU is disputed although most reports claim the group was founded in either 1975 in Chile (S&J 1998, 527) or June 11, 1976, in the Dominican Republic (NSA Archive 1, 1978). It was an umbrella organization for five anti-Castro paramilitary groups. These groups were: Acción Cuba; Cuban Nationalist Movement; Cuban National Liberation Front; Association of the Veterans of the Bay of Pigs Brigade 2506; and the 17th of April Movement (NSA Archive 1, 1978). CORU's initial goal was regime change, the end of revolutionary leader Fidel Castro's communist regime (Sweig 2009, 83). Through acts of sabotage and misinformation about who was responsible, CORU sought to undermine Cuba's relationships with other states in the Americas (Schmid and Jongman 1998, 527; NSA Archives 1978). A C.I.A. report attributes CORU with 17 acts of international terrorism during 1976, three of which occurred in the U.S. (C.I.A. 1997, 5). The five groups in CORU officially united under the umbrella organization on June 11, 1976, at a meeting in the Dominican Republic (NSA Archive 1, 1978). Using false names and passports, CORU leaders traveled to countries with Cuban exile communities including Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, and Venezuela (Martin 2011; NSA Archives, 6 re: Venezuela).

Geography

Posada and Bosch are alleged to have organized the mid-flight bombing of Cubana Airlines Flight 455, which killed all 73 people on board on October 6, 1976 (Sweig 2009, 83). Cubana Airlines Flight 455 was from Guayana en route to Havana, with layovers in Trinidad, Barbados and Jamaica. The plane crashed in the sea about 10 minutes after departing from Barbados. It was the first act of airline terrorism in the Americas (Bardach 2006). A source had told the C.I.A. that CORU was planning to bomb a Cubana Airline Flight, according to a declassified C.I.A. memo from June 22, 1976 (Bamford 2016). However, the bombing occurred despite this information.

Organizational Structure

The founders of CORU were Cuban exiles Orlando Bosch (a medical doctor) and Luis Posada Carriles (often known as Posada rather than Carriles). Bosch and Posada were schoolmates from the University of Havana, who said they became disillusioned by the Castro regime's unfulfilled promises and oppression (Bardach 2006).

External Ties

The right-wing military in Argentina and CORU both had strong ties to the covert paramilitary network Operation Condor, which reportedly had the aim of weakening leftist groups including the Cuban government (Martin 2011; Kohut and Vilella 2010). U.S. Government investigators have considered it possible (although never confirmed), that the Argentine military may have provided support to CORU as part of the multinational

Operation Condor (Bardach 2006). Bosch received housing and logistical support from the Chilean military in the latter half of the 1970s, following the 1973 military coup in Chile that deposed democratically-elected, socialist President Salvador Allende (Martin 2011; Bardach 2006). The Chilean secret police allegedly helped Bosch plan the assassination of Chilean diplomat Orlando Letelier (a Castro sympathizer) in Washington, D.C., on September 21, 1976 (Bardach 2006; Bamford 2016; Kohut and Vilella 2010). A bomb placed under Letelier's car detonated, killing him and his American aide Ronni Karpen Moffitt (Ibid.).

CORU also had supporters in the Cuban exile community in Miami, Florida (Martin 2011). The F.B.I. described the group as organized in "secret cells," but Bosch and Posada were familiar both to law enforcement and the Cuban exile community since the 1960s (NSA Archives 12, 1978; Bardach 2006).

Bosch and Posada allegedly had ties to the CIA beginning in the 1960s. Posada is alleged to have received payments from the C.I.A. for his work until 1976, according to declassified documents and an unclassified summary of his career from court records (McKinley). Bosch worked closely with Posada through the 1980s. Unlike Posada, Bosch has claimed that he received direct support from the C.I.A. only briefly, for paramilitary training in Florida in the early 1960s (Bardach 2006).

Group Outcome

In 1968, Bosch was sentenced to ten years in federal prison in Miami (after six prior arrests) but earned parole in 1972. Florida's then-governor Claude Kirk was among those who lobbied for Bosch's parole (Bardach 2006; Martin 2011). Bosch and Posada were arrested in Caracas, Venezuela, in connection with the bombing of Cubana Airlines Flight 455 (Bamford 2016). Posada fled Venezuela in 1985 and Bosch was released on appeal in 1987 (Bardach 2006). The U.S. Justice Department called for Bosch to be deported from Miami in 1989, alleging that Bosch was responsible for 30 acts of sabotage in the United States, Puerto Rico, Panama and Cuba between 1961 and 1968 (Martin 2011). However, both Bosch (who died in 2011) and Posada (alive as of 2012) were allowed to remain in Florida.