

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

torg	gname	onset	min	max
T594	FRENTE DE LIBERACION NACIONAL CUBANA (FLNC)		1972	1976
T1761	JAMAICA LABOR PARTY		1980	1997

I. FRENTE DE LIBERACION NACIONAL CUBANA (FLNC)

Torg ID: 594

Min. Group Date: 1972

Max. Group Date: 1976

Onset: NA

Aliases: National Front For The Liberation Of Cuba (Flnc), Cuban National Liberation Front, Frente De Liberacion Nacional Cubana, Frente De Liberacion Nacional Cubana (Flnc)

Part 1. Bibliography

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<http://web.archive.org/web/20080419153623/http://memoria.com.mx:80/node/750>
- Raul Azaga la Manresa. "Puerto Rico Terrorismo de derecha La conexión cubano-puertorriqueña." El Correo. 2009.
<http://www.elcorreo.eu.org/Puerto-RicoTerrorismo-de-derecha-La-conexion-cubano-puertorriquena?lang=fr>
- Jean Guy Allard. "Informe desclasificado del FBI de 1977 revela plan para volar otro avión cubano en Trinidad-Tobago." Granma Internacional. 2009.
<http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/belligerence/flnc-trinidad.htm>
- GTD Perpetrator 3980. Global Terrorism Database. Study for Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. Last Modified June 2017.
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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: no other aliases found

Group Formation: 1973 (Mendez and Luis 2006; la Manresa 2009)

Group End: 1976 (GTD 2017)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The group first came to attention in 1973 as a merger between para-military and student activist groups to oppose the Cuban regime (Manresa 2009). It is unknown specifically when the group forms but it first comes to attention in 1973, when various leaders of other groups attacked a fishing boat on the Cuban coast (Mendez and Luis 2006; GTD 2017). The group leaders were Frank Castro Paz and Rene Fernandez del Valle (Manresa 2009; Allard 2009). The group is an anti-Cuban militant group, which was opposed to the Castro regime (Mendez and Luis 2006). The group's ideology was right-wing (Manresa 2009).

Geography

The group bombed the Cuban Embassy in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico (Mendez and Luis 2006). Group also held attacks in Cuba (Mendez and Luis 2006). Group was also active in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico (Manresa 2009). Group contained the arsenal in Puerto Rico and explosives in Miami (Allard 2009). Group worked with the C.O.R.U. umbrella to destroy a Cuban plane in Trinidad and Tobago (Allard 2009). Group was also responsible for attacks in Jamaica, France, the UK, and Spain (GTD 2017). The group had an external base in US (Allard 2009). Group is transnational.

Organizational Structure

The group is responsible for around 25 terrorist acts (Mendez and Luis 2006). The group bombed the Cuban Embassy in Mexico in 1974 (Mendez and Luis 2006). The group also bombed a Chilean refugee site in Mexico City (Mendez and Luis 2006).

The group had about 15 to 20 members (Manresa 2009). Some members came from the group "Halcones Dorados" (Golden Falcons), a paramilitary group (Manresa 2009). Others came from the "Agrupacion Abdala" a group mainly consisting of university students stationed in New York and New Jersey (Manresa 2009). The third group to join was "Accion Sindical Independiente" (Manresa 2009). Initial members were therefore a combination of students and ex-militants. In 1976 the group joined the umbrella organization named C.O.R.U.

The group leaders were Frank Castro Paz and Rene Fernandez del Valle (Manresa 2009; Allard 2009). Reynol Rodriguez Gonzalez was in charge of the arsenal (Manresa 2009; Allard 2009).

Group had a political and military wing (Manresa 2009).

Group worked with the C.O.R.U. umbrella to destroy a Cuban plane in Trinidad and Tobago in 1977 (Allard 2009).

External Ties

Some members came from the group “Halcones Dorados” (Golden Falcons), a paramilitary group (Manresa 2009). Others came from the “Agrupacion Abdala” a group mainly consisting of university students stationed in New York and New Jersey (Manresa 2009). The third group to join was “Accion Sindical Independiente” (Manresa 2009). In 1976 the group joined the umbrella organization named C.O.R.U.

Group Outcome

The FBI and CIA closely tracked and reported on the group (Allard 2009). In 1980, Rene Fernandez del Valle was arrested by the FBI and imprisoned (Allard 2009). More information on whether group is still active is unknown. The group’s last recorded attack was in 1976 in Merida, Mexico (GTD 2017). In 1976, the group merged to join CORU, an umbrella organization (Manresa 2009).

II. JAMAICA LABOR PARTY

Torg ID: 1761

Min. Group Date: 1980

Max. Group Date: 1997

Onset: NA

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

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<https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?perpetrator=428>
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<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-18784061>
- “Jamaica Profile - Timeline.” BBC. Last updated 2018b.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-18784730>
- Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Jamaica: Political violence between People's National Party and Jamaica Labour Party members, 1995-August 1999, including any security forces involvement; political killings in the area of Breaton

(Phase 1), St. Catherine, January-March 1996; availability of state protection , 13 December 1999, JAM33392.E, available at:

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- Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Jamaica: Violence between supporters of the Jamaica Labour Party and those of the People's National Party; availability of police protection; neighbourhoods or regions not defined by a particular political allegiance (2003-2005), 4 January 2006, JAM100744.E, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/45f1475bb.html>
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<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/jamaica-turns-its-back-on-violence-as-nation-votes-140332.html>
- “Assassination Plots and the birth of political violence in Jamaica.” The Jamaica Observer. 2015.
http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/columns/Assassination-plots-and-the-birth-of-political-violence-in-Jamaica_18348840

Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: Jamaica Labour Party (Canada IRB 1999)

Group Formation: July 8, 1943 (Jamaica Observer)

Group End: Last Violent Incident : May 6, 1997 (GTD 2018); ACTIVE as a Party (Jamaica Observer 2015)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The Jamaica Labour Party was founded on July 8, 1943 (Jamaica Observer 2012). The JLP is a Social Democratic political party and aims to exert political influence in the country (The Jamaica Observer 2012).

In 1962, Jamaica gained independence from Britain and the Jamaica Labour Party rose to power (BBC 2018a; BBC 2018b). From 1972 to 1980, an opposition party known as the People's National Party won two terms (BBC 2018b). During this period, business became nationalized and a closer relationship with Cuba was established (BBC 2018). In 1980, Edward Seaga from the JLP began to rise to power (BBC 2018b).

The JLP first came to attention as a violent group in 1980. On April 20, 1980, an armed assault was conducted during the FundRaising Dance in PNP Constituency in Kingston (GTD 2018). This was the first recorded violent incident by the JLP (GTD 2018).

The election on October 30, 1980 was extremely violent with an estimation of 844 fatalities (The Jamaica Observer 2012; Canada IRB 1999). With economic tensions rising, the divide between the PNP and JLP became more apparent during the election (Canada IRB 1999; The Jamaica Observer 2012). People were detained in fear that violence could escalate and lead to the overthrow of the government (Jamaica Observer 2012). The JLP eventually won the election (Jamaica Observer 2015).

In 1989, the PNP beat the JLP in the general elections and won re-election soon after (BBC 2018). From 1993 to 1998, the PNP remained in power. There were few reported incidents of electoral violence by the JLP, but criminal violence rose in reaction to growing poverty.

Geography

JLP has committed attacks in Kingston and Tivoli Gardens (GTD 2018). There is reported to be a JLP majority area in Gold Street, Southside in Central Kingston (Jamaica Observer 2012). For the majority, Jamaican constituencies are split between the JLP and PNP (Jamaica Observer 2012). The United States, Canada, and United Kingdom are supporters of the JLP over the leftist Cuba supporting PNP (Jamaica Observer 2012, BBC 2018). West Kingston also has a majority of JLP supporters who often intimidate voters (Canada IRB 2006).

Organizational Structure

The founder of JLP is Alexander Bustamante who served as the first prime minister in 1962 (BBC 2018). Edward Seaga became the head of the party in 1980 (BBC 2018). During 1980, 8,300 JLP members left their constituency following a JLP loss (Jamaica Observer 2012). In 1980, they won over 500,000 votes in the polls (Jamaica Observer 2012). It is unclear the exact size of the party. The JLP secretary is Horace Chang (Jamaica Observer 2015). The JLP has various candidates for different constituencies, one of them being Ferdinand Yap of West Central St Andrew (Jamaica Observer 2012). The United States provided aid to Jamaica while the JLP was in power (BBC 2018). The most recently elected leader is Bruce Golding (Canada IRB

2006). The party has been known to arm their supporters with weaponry to support and fight for them (Canada IRB 1999).

External Ties

The group received aid from the United States when in power of Jamaica (BBC 2018). It is believed they arm their supporters with weapons (Canada IRB 1999). The party has been known to ally with local gangs to intimidate voters (The Guardian 2001). Bruce Golding, recently elected leader, admitted to the connection to criminal gangs (Canada IRB 2006). The known gang associate is known as the "Clansman" (Canada IRB 2006, The Guardian 2001). There was report of gang members in West Kingston intimidating voters in April 2005 (Canada IRB 2006). There is a breakaway faction that was against Seaga that formed in 1995 (Canada IRB 2000).

Group Outcome

The last known attack of the group was on May 6, 1997 in Tivoli Gardens towards the PNP police (GTD 2018). As the 1997 election got closer, the JLP accused the ruling PNP as using police and security forces of intimidating and terrorizing voters and citizens (Canada IRB 1999; The Guardian 2001). However, the election in 1997 was not violent as expected. The winner of the election, Prime Minister Patterson, pledged to increase his government's crackdown on electoral violence and reports of intra-party fighting largely dissipated (Canada IRB 1999).

PNP and JLP have continued to feud and accuse each other for violence that occurs between the two factions (The Guardian 2001, Osborne 2002). The group has remained active as a political party but there have been no recorded violent incidents since 1997 (GTD 2018, Osborne 2002).

Notes for Iris:

- this group is very different from other types of violent political parties
- there are two main parties in the system and different criminal gangs/violent supporters associate with each of the different parties (similar to Bangladesh)
 - seems likely that PNP was also violent, but why is it missing? Was the type of violence they perpetrated different? PNP seemed more like it had the support of gangs (Violence by association), while the JLP seemed to have more direct ties to the violence perpetrators (violence by direct encouragement)
 - why do they stop using violence in 1997?? PNP came to power and started to increase its state forces to stop
 - but around the same time the JLP also began to renounce violence in the face of these challenges. It would be too much of a problem/too risky/too costly
 - pnp has been pretty dominant

