

**Laos Cases, 1970-2012**  
**Last Updated: 28 May 2019**

torg	gname	onset	min	max
T863	FREE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT OF LAOS		2000	2003

I. FREE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S GOVERNMENT OF LAOS

Torg ID: 863

Min. Group Date: 2000

Max. Group Date: 2003

Onset: NA

Aliases: Free Democratic People's Government Of Laos, Free Democratic Government Committee Of The Lao People, Free Democratic People's Government Of Laos, Underground Government Of The Free Democratic People Of Laos

**Part 1. Bibliography**

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## **Part 2. Basic Coding**

Aliases: Free Democratic People's Government of Laos, Free Democratic Government Committee of the Lao People (MIPT 2008), UGFDPL

Group Formation: 2000 (MIPT 2008) if believe ex post claim or 2003 (GTD 2018)

Group End: 10 - 31 - 2003 (GTD 2018) -- unclear/disappear

## **Part 3. Narrative**

### **Group Formation**

It is unknown precisely when the group forms. In 2000 and 2001, a series of four bombings exploded around Vientiane, the capital of Laos (Radio Free Asia 2004). The attacks -- which killed four people and injured more than 40 -- went unclaimed for over two years. In October 2003, a previously unheard of group -- the Free Democratic People's Government of Laos -- arose and claimed responsibility for these earlier attacks (Freeman 2004, 135; Radio Free Asia 2004; Radio Free Asia 2005). That same month, the group also claimed responsibility for an attack against the Patouxay Monument in Vientiane (GTD 2018). In their claim of responsibility, the group expressed opposition to the existing communist regime in Laos -- the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (MIPT 2008). The group also noted that they do not support Vietnam's military presence in Laos (MIPT 2008). The Free Democratic People's Government of Laos self-identifies as a pro-democratic party (MIPT 2008). They do not support Vietnam's presence in Laos and the existing communist regime (MIPT 2008). They are center-seeking because their aim was to promote regime change in Laos (MIPT 2008; Jones and Libicki 2008) .

### **Geography**

They operate underground throughout Laos, but it is unknown precisely where their bases are (MIPT 2008). They have claimed responsibility for attacks in Vientiane and the Khantaboury district of Savannakhet Province (RFA 2004).

### **Organizational Structure**

There is very little information available about this group and what information exists is purely speculative. The structure of the group, its leader, or funding mechanisms are unknown (MIPT 2008). While it is believed the group is made of former military personnel, there is no evidence to support this claim (MIPT 2008). The size of their membership at an unknown date is speculated to be hundreds (Jones and Libicki 2008).

### **External Ties**

There is no information about any external ties to other state or non-state actors.

### **Group Outcome**

The group claimed responsibility for numerous bombings throughout Laos between 2000 and 2003 although it did not really emerge until 2003 (RFA 2004). MIPT (2008) claims the group also claimed responsibility for a 2004 bombing on the Lao-Thai Friendship Bridge, but there is no evidence to back this up. The group's last known violent incident was in 2003 when it claimed responsibility for an attack on the Patouxay monument in Vientiane, Laos. The group has not been heard from again and it is unknown what happen to the group.

Notes for Iris:

-why is there a delayed claim of responsibility for this group? Very unusual to have this gap between the group's first attack and the claim of responsibility. (are there any strategic advantages?)