

## Martinique Cases, 1970-2012

Last Updated: 8 July 2019

torg	gname	onset	min	max
T1588	"22 MAY 48"		1988	1988
T1949	YICH TELGA		1992	1992

I. "22 MAY 48"

Torg ID: 1588

Min. Group Date: 1988

Max. Group Date: 1988

Onset: NA

Aliases: "22 May 48", 22-May-48, 22 May 1948 Organization

### Part 1. Bibliography

- GTD Perpetrator 1588. Global Terrorism Database. Study for Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. Last modified July 2018.  
<https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?perpetrator=3663>
- Kristen Stromberg Childers. "Citizenship and Assimilation in Postwar Martinique: The Abolition of Slavery and the Politics of Commemoration." Proceedings of the Western Society for French History. 2006.  
<https://quod.lib.umich.edu/w/wsfh/0642292.0034.018/--citizenship-and-assimilation-in-postwar-martinique?rgn=main:view>.
- James Chastain. "Slavery Emancipation." Slavery Emancipation. 2004.  
<https://www.ohio.edu/chastain/rz/slavery.htm>.
- Search Proquest:
  - 22 may 1948 organization bombing martinique
  - Radio France Overseas Transmitter bombing martinique
  - Radio france bombing martinique dates: 1988/04/01 to 1988/04/30

### Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: None

Group Formation: 1988 (GTD)

Group End: 1988 (GTD)

## **Part 3. Narrative**

### **Group Formation**

Until 1946, when Martinique became a French prefecture, the country was part of the French colonial empire (Childers 2006). In 1845, the French cabinet passed an abolitionist supported act to have a slow transition of emancipation of enslaved people (Childers 2006). However, in 1847, tensions erupted between the abolitionists, who desired a rapid emancipation, and the government, who wanted to delay (Childers 2006). Following the February revolution in France in 1848, the Orleans monarchy was overthrown and the Second Republic was created (Childers 2006). The revolution inspired a small violent rebellion in Martinique (Childers 2006). On May 22, 1848, local authorities killed 65 to 70 slaves (Childers 2006). In response, enslaved people in Martinique killed 34 white settlers and burned their houses down (Childers 2006). Originally, the Martinique government had planned to wait for the April 27th decree abolishing slavery to arrive, but following the violent events, the government abolished slavery the next day (Childers 2006).

During the war, Martinique supported the Vichy regime in France, which created major tensions between the white minority called, 'bekes, and the black majority (Chastain 2004). After World War II, Martinique voted to become a partially autonomous section of France rather than an independent state (Chastain 2004). In March 1948, folks in Martinique planned a celeration recognizing a hundred years of abolition (Chastain 2004). The celebrations of 1948 highlighted the racial tensions and poverty former slaves were experiencing (Chastain 2004).

While it is unclear, what the group's ideology or motives are, it is known that May 22 represented a day of freedom and violence in Martinique history (Chastain 2004). It is also known that 1948 was a year filled with racial tensions and integration into the French government (Chastain 2004). The first violent incident of the group is suspected to be on April 28, 1988 (GTD 2018). The Radio France Overseas Transmitter was bombed in Fort-de-France (GTD 2018). One person was injured and it is unclear what the intention of the attack was. It is unknown how the group originated (GTD 2018).

It is unclear, but in a separate set of incidents in 1983, a series of bombs went off in Martinique and Guadeloupe near the anniversary of the abolition of slavery (Childers 2006). It is possible this was the work of the Guadeloupe Liberation Army (c.f. Guadeloupe profile) or related to the unknown bombings here.

### **Geography**

The group has conducted their only known attack in Fort-de-France, Martinique. They have only been known to operate within Martinique in the Caribbean region. It is unknown where else they operate, where they have bases located, and where any external sanctuaries would be located.

### **Organizational Structure**

It is unknown what the organizational structure or the leadership of the group looks like. It is unknown the size or type of membership, source of funding, or operational wings.

### **External Ties**

It is unknown if the group has any external ties to state or non-state actors. It is unknown if they have external support or alliances. It is unclear if there are existing splinter groups or sources of funding.

### **Group Outcome**

The group's last known attack was suspected to be on April 28, 1988 (GTD 2018). The Radio France Overseas Transmitter was bombed in Fort-de-France (GTD 2018). One person was injured and it is unclear what the intention of the attack was (GTD 2018). It is unknown how the group originated (GTD 2018). It is unclear if there was a state response to the group and if the group is currently active (GTD 2018).

Notes for Iris:

- why 1948?
- may 22 uprising is inspiration
- world war 2 leadership heightened racial tensions and 100th anniversary provided opportunity/focal point for grievances
- one hit wonder -- not enough data

- II. YICH TELGA
  - Torg ID: 1949
  - Min. Group Date: 1992
  - Max. Group Date: 1992
  - Onset: NA

Aliases: None

### **Part 1. Bibliography**

- GTD Perpetrator 2501. Global Terrorism Database. Study for Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. Last modified July 2018.  
<https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?perpetrator=2501>

- Didier Chirat. *Les Petites Histoires de L'Histoire de France*. Larousse Publishing. 2018. <https://books.google.com/books?id=At58DwAAQBAJ&pg=PT608&lpg=PT608&dq=YICH+TELGA&source=bl&ots=xaplh7Occz&sig=ACfU3U0we7IVNReTUy2OV4nAPHInMmRpRg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjZipzA3aXjAhWKvZ4KHRySDCgQ6AEwBXoECAgQAQ#v=onepage&q=YICH%20TELGA&f=false>
- David Ne. "Mea Culpa de Josephine." Art Majeur. 2015. <https://davidne.artmajeur.com/pages/265685/mea-culpa-de-josephine>

## **Part 2. Basic Coding**

Aliases: Sons of Telga (Chirat 2018)

Group Formation: September 1991 (Chirat 2018)

Group End: March 1992 (GTD 2018)

## **Part 3. Narrative**

### **Group Formation**

It is unclear precisely when the group formed, but their first violent incident was in September 1991 when they vandalized a statue (Chirat 2018, Ne 2015). As an island nation that is still part of France, Martinique is subject to French legislature. Slavery was abolished in 1789, but when Empress Josephine and her husband, Napoleon Bonaparte came into power, slavery was re-established (Chirat 2018). It is believed that Empress Josephine advised her husband in 1802 to reinstate slavery (Chirat 2018). Since she is a native of Martinique, there is a statue of her in Fort-de-France (Chirat 2018). It is speculated that the statue was beheaded and splattered with red paint in 1991 by Yich Telga as a symbol of disapproval of her support of slavery (Chirat 2018). The group is believed to be an ethnonationalist separatist group seeking independence (Chirat 2018, Ne 2015). The group is named after Louis Telga, who was shot in the head by state authorities in 1870 during a small uprising in Martinique (Chirat 2018).

On March 11, 1992, a vehicle owned by Radio Caraïbe International in Fort-de-France was attacked (GTD 2018). It was an armed assault and estimated to be 15,000 dollars worth of damage (GTD 2018). It is unknown what the intentions of this attack were.

### **Geography**

The group has conducted attacks in Fort-de-France (GTD 2018). It is unknown areas they operate from or have bases in. It is unknown if they have external sanctuaries.

### **Organizational Structure**

It is unknown the organizational structure or the leadership of the group. It is unknown the type of or size of membership. It is unknown the source of funding or if different wings exist.

### **External Ties**

It is unknown if the group has ties to other non-state or state actors. It is unknown if the group has external support, alliances, or splinter groups.

### **Group Outcome**

It is unknown if there was a state response to the group. In March 11, 1992, a vehicle owned by Radio Caraibe International in Fort-de-France was attacked (GTD 2018). It was an armed assault and estimated to be 15,000 dollars worth of damage (GTD 2018). The group has not been heard from since.

Notes for Iris:

- this group seems weak/disorganized in tactical choice (spraypainting a statue?)
- what does it mean to be a violent group here? Property damage sufficient? Symbolism is violent--did they want to impose harm or just advertise?
- they don't carry any weaponry so first attack

Country-Level Trends:

- weak to non-existent groups
- lot of racial tension within the community but no clear evidence