

New Caledonia Cases, 1970-2012
Last Updated: 17 June 2019

torg	gname	onset	min	max
T1775	KANAK SOCIALIST NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT		1984	1988
T1835	NATIONAL COMMITTEE AGAINST INDEPENDENCE (CNCI)		1984	1988

- I. KANAK SOCIALIST NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT
 Torg ID: 1775
 Min. Group Date: 1984
 Max. Group Date: 1988
 Onset: NA

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: Kanak and Socialist National Liberation Front, Front de Libération Nationale Kanak et Socialiste, FLNKS, PALIKA, Party of Kanak Liberation, Parti de Liberation Kanak

Group Formation: 1976 (founding of PALIKA), 1984 (merger with other groups to form FLNKS)

Group End: still active

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The Kanak Socialist National Liberation was formed in 1976 as an ethnonationalist, separatist organization (Rich et al. 2008, 153). The group was a political party turned militant group that started in New Caledonia and aimed to gain independence from the French government, give natives more land, and implement anti-capitalist laws (Schmid and Jongman 1988; Pedahzu and Weinberg 2013; Howard 2019).

In 1977, the PALIKA won two seats in the New Caledonian Territorial Assembly. In 1984, after the French government invited members from parties seeking independence to Paris for talks, PALIKA and a number of other radical anti-colonization organization merged together and changed their name to Front de Libération Nationale Kanak et Socialiste, or FLNKS (Howard 2019).

The movement was led by Jean-Marie Tijibaou, a part of the Union Calédonienne (UC), which was one of the organizations that later became a part of FLNKS (Howard 2019; Rich, Hambly, Morgan 2008, 210). Jean-Marie Tijibaou had also run in the 1977 Territorial Assembly elections (Howard 2019). In 1984, FLNKS boycotted the elections and formed the short-lived Republic of Kanaky in the town of Thio, declaring Tijibaou the president (Howard 2019, Minority Rights Group International 2007).

1984 is the same time is when the group's first attack occurred; they burned ballot boxes in the town of Gomen. Violence ensued, and many French and Kanaks were killed, prompting the French government to redraw boundary lines to favor Europeans (Howard 2019). The group's kidnapping of 22 policemen and 1 state prosecutor, the FLNKS signed the Matignon Accords, which agreed to a 10 year transition period for New Caledonia, ending with a referendum vote in May 1998 (UPI 1988; MacLellan 1999, 245). A short while later, the Tijibaou was assassinated and a man named François Burke, also from the UC, took his place as leader of FLNKS (Howard 2019).

Geography

All of the attacks that FLNKS perpetrated were in New Caledonia (GTD 2018). The group is not transnational (ibid). The cities in which they conducted attacks include Noumea, Gomen, Pouembot, and Poe (ibid). After one of their attacks in Noumea, that left 4 dead they kidnapped policemen and then held them hostage in caves on the island of Ouvea (GTD 2018, UPI 1988).

Organizational Structure

The group was originally by Nidouish Naisseline in the mid-1970s (Schmid and Jongman 1988 (Schmid and Jongman 1988; Pedahzu and Weinberg 2013). Two leaders of the group were killed by a Melanesian militants in 1989, the movement's head, Jean-Marie Tijibaou, and Yeiwéné Yeiwéné, another leader (Howard 2019; Minority Rights Group International 2007).

The group is made up mostly of the indigenous Melanesians, known as Kanaks, who support autonomic rule (Minority Rights Group International 2007). The Union Calédonienne, PALIKA, Rassemblement Démocratique Océanien, and Union des Progressistes Mélanésienne are all different wings of FLNKS, united by their goal to gain

independence from French Rule (Minority Rights Group International 2007). The Liberation Kanaka Socialiste was a part of FLNKS when it first formed in 1984, but broke away from the group later (Howard 2019; Rich, Hambly, Morgan 2008, 210). The group's sources of funding are unclear.

External Ties

The group has no ties to international actors. In 1984, after the French government invited members from parties seeking independence to Paris for talks, PALIKA and a number of other radical anti-colonization organizations merged together and changed their name to Front de Libération Nationale Kanak et Socialiste, or FLNKS (Howard 2019).

In 1988, FLNKS worked with the mostly European Rassemblement pour la Calédonie dans la République (RPCR) to create the Matignon Accords (Minority Rights Group International 2007). This caused group divisions in FLNKS, and later the UC splintered and Fédération des Comités de Coordination des Indépendantistes (FCCI) was created, which then formed a coalition with RPCR.

Group Outcome

After the violence during FLNKS boycott of the elections in 1984, the French government responded by redrawing regional lines so that New Caledonia would be split into 4 areas (Howard 2019). Two of these parts were for most Melanesians, in the poorer parts of the country, and the remaining half was mainly for the Europeans, in regions with many natural resources (ibid). This only caused more violence. After the kidnappings and attacks in April and May of 1988, the French government and Tjibaou, the leader of FLNKS at the time, came together to write the Matignon Accords (ibid). This caused divisions within the party, as the moderates felt that the agreement was a step in the right direction, while more radical members thought the opposite (ibid). This division also played a part in the assassination of Tjibaou (ibid). The political party is still active in New Caledonia, although it has not carried out any attacks since 1988 (GTD 2018; Al Jazeera 2018).

Notes for Iris:

- the group's first violent attacks were either right around the same time as the merger or after the merger
- why does the merger and violence both happen in 1984? The group was getting frustrated with the lack of progress by participating in politics. Specifically, the group was having a hard time getting seats and influence. There wasn't a lot of popular support within the community for their rule.

-why did the group stop using violence? Their leader was assassinated around 1989 which was a huge blow to the group and led it to shift tactics. The group also signed the Matignon Accords in 1988 which got them the concessions they wanted.
-the country as a whole has a referendum every few years on the question of independence and then it fails

II. NATIONAL COMMITTEE AGAINST INDEPENDENCE (CNCI)

Torg ID: 1835

Min. Group Date: 1984

Max. Group Date: 1988

Onset: NA

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: CNCI

Group Formation: 1984

Group End: 1988

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The group's first attack was in on New Year's Eve in 1984, and this was also when the group first came to attention (Connell 1987, 337; The Guardian 1985). As its name

suggests, the group opposed granting New Caledonia independence from France. Its 1988 attack targeted the car of Jean-Pierre Deteix, a member of the pro-independence group Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) (UPI 1988). The group claimed responsibility for the attack through a phone call to a radio station (ibid). Both of the group's attacks left no one injured or killed (GTD 2018).

Geography

The group was not transnational; it solely operated in Noumea, New Caledonia. Its first attack occurred in 1984 in the Central Post Office in Noumea (GTD 2018). The group's second and final attack occurred in 1988 also in Noumea (ibid).

Organizational Structure

There is no information about the group's leadership and branches.

External Ties

There is no information as to whether the group has any ties other pro-independence groups or other armed groups.

Group Outcome

The state's response to the group is unknown. The National Committee Against Independence has not been heard of since its last attack in 1988 (GTD 2018). There is no information regarding the reason for the group's inactivity.

Notes for Iris:

- the country has a lot of referendum votes on independence from France
- PALIKA is technically opposed to France, but may not be actually opposed to the local government in New Caledonia
- CNCI mainly wants to oppose the PALIKA group so there's no politicized opposition against the local government
- the group probably stopped using violence when PALIKA stopped violence because there was no need to do so.

Country-Level Trends:

- both of these cases involved two very clearly defined factions that were pro-independence and anti-independence. Attacks were concentrated in the same area. The anti-independence groups formed in reaction to the pro-independence group.
- very limited external ties
- Kanak is the main ethnic group -- much more ethnonationalist, separatist group than before