

New Zealand Cases, 1970-2012

Last Updated: 30 May 2019

torg	gname	onset	min	max
T2428	11 SEPTEMBER GROUP		2001	2003

- I. 11 September Group
Torg ID: 2428
Min. Group Date: 2001
Max. Group Date: 2003
Onset: NA

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

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Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: This is an alias for the 11 September Group (GTD 2018).

Group Formation: What is the earliest year the group was active? Late December in 2001 (GTD 2018).

Group End: What is the last year the group was active? ~in March of 2003 (GTD 2018). **Why did it stop using political violence?** Unclear, but probably because they continued to fail and be suppressed by New Zealand officials and because of New Zealand's heightened security and counterterrorism measures after 9/11 such as the passage of the Terrorism Suppression Act (*New Zealand Police, 2019*).

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

Shortly after the devastating attacks of September 11, 2001, in the United States, many countries throughout the world scrambled to improve their counterterrorism measures including New Zealand (Greener-Barcham, 2002). A month after these attacks, towards the end of December, the U.S. Embassy in New Zealand received a letter, which contained threats to attack the New Zealand Gold Open, a golf tournament in the upcoming month of January. Supposedly, an armed group calling itself the 11 September Group sent this letter, laced with cyanide. This tactic became a sort of signature for this group and their threats. They threatened to launch multiple "cyanide attacks" during the as a means to protest US intervention in Iraq (CNN 2003b; Sydney Morning Herald 2003). Based on the Islamic phrases included in each of these letters, it is likely that the group's ideology was Islamic and for the protection of Muslims (CNN 2003a; CNN 2003b). It also claimed it wanted to protect the rights of Muslims throughout the world and protest American, British, and Australian military actions throughout the Middle East (CNN 2003a). Therefore, this group essentially was formed as a response to the impending conflict in the Middle East after the September 11 attacks in the US, in this case, their response was the make threats to prevent a conflict from arising (GTD 2018).

Geography

Mostly, this group just operated within the barriers of New Zealand (GTD 2018). Their threats about attacks through letters sent to the US Embassy in New Zealand suggests they were targeting the United States, Great Britain, and Australia (CNN 2003a; CNN 2003b; Sydney Morning Herald 2003).

Organizational Structure

This group is rooted in anonymity, and there is not a lot of data in terms of the specific members, leaders of this organization, the overall organization of the group, and how it's funded. In fact, due to the lack of data and information about the group, some police in

New Zealand have expressed uncertainty about even the existence of the group (CNN 2003b).

External Ties

No data or evidence showing any external ties and relationships with other states or organizations.

Group Outcome

In response to the terrorist threats posed during and after 9/11, New Zealand passed the Terrorism Suppression Act in 2002, which provides regulations and methods of legislation which can be used to prevent terrorism domestically (Greener-Barcham 2002; New Zealand Police, 2019). This might have affected the group's ability to stage attacks as there were no attacks in 2002. However, they carried out 2 more "threats" with their cyanide-induced letters, once to the British Diplomatic Mission in New Zealand in February of 2003 and in March of 2003 when they claimed responsibility for contaminating beverage supplies (GTD 2018; CNN 2003a; CNN 2003b; Sydney Morning Herald 2003). However, after these two events, the group has seemed to fade, with no attacks or "threats" ever since. The Iraq War, which they had been protesting, started shortly after their last attacks at the Americas Cup and Tiger Woods event, rendering their political aim obsolete (CNN 2003b).

Notes for Iris:

- they were primarily targeting Western sources -- there's no evidence of politicized opposition against New Zealand
- all their attacks were attempted and never actually executed. Their attacks were primarily aimed to intimidate
- the group threatened to conduct attacks, but there's no evidence they actually conducted attacks in practice
- timing around 2003 war is interesting