

Poland Cases, 1970-2012
Last Updated: Today's Date

torg	gname	onset	min	max
T907	POLAND NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT		1982	1982
T1687	DECEMBER 13 INDEPENDENT GROUP		1990	1990
T9041	GN-95		1996	1996

I. POLAND NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT

Torg ID: 907

Min. Group Date: 1982

Max. Group Date: 1982

Onset: NA

Aliases: Polish Revolutionary Home Army, Insurgent Home Army, Poland National Liberation Front

Part 1. Bibliography

- "Polish Revolutionary Home Army." Terrorist Organization Profile No. 4206. MIPT Knowledge Base. 2008. National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism.
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1V9CUD1-49lrbu7Kt21VbxYxSKVqnPyAw0m-5e1W3xrM/edit>
- GTD Perpetrator 4107. Global Terrorism Database. Study for Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. Last modified July 2018.
<https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?perpetrator=4107>
- Alex Schmid and Albert Jongman. "Polish Home Army of Resistance." Political Terrorism: A New Guide. Routledge. 1988.
<https://books.google.com/books?id=NgDks1hUjhMC&q=poland#v=snippet&q=poland&f=false>
- "Polish rebels seize embassy in Bern." New York Times. 1982.
<https://www.nytimes.com/1982/09/07/world/polish-rebels-seize-embassy-in-bern.html>
- Bradley Graham. "Swiss storm embassy, free captives." Washington Post. 1982.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/1982/09/10/swiss-storm-embassy-free-captives/f5392fc1-e7db-4791-98d6-bbe07c171823/?utm_term=.5607e6f776fe

Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: Insurgent Home Army (MIPT 2008), Poland National Liberation Front (MIPT 2008)

Group Formation: 1982 (MIPT 2008, GTD 2018)

Group End: 1982 (MIPT 2008, GTD 2018)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

On September 5 1982, four members of the group seized the Polish Embassy in Bern, Switzerland (MIPT 2008; Schmid and Jongman 1988). The leader of the group, who identified as "Colonel Wysocki," released a message to the media threatening fatal violence if his demands were not fulfilled (MIPT 2008, New York Times 1988). The group sought the end of martial law, the freedom of political prisoners, the end of prison camps and repression in Poland (MIPT 2008). They claimed to possess 55 pounds of explosives and set a 48 hour deadline for their demands (MIPT 2008).

The gunmen demanded a ransom of 3 million Swiss francs (Washington Post 1982). Bern's antiterrorist squad was fully equipped with combat outfits, helmets, gas masks (Washington Post 1982, New York Times 1988). At 10:42 am, the bomb delivered through a food basket went off and the authorities went rushing in (Washington Post 1982, New York Times 1988). The bomb enabled the authorities to rush in (Washington Post 1982). All the gunmen were in camouflage and were forced out of the Embassy at gunpoint (Washington Post 1982). The entire operation took 12 minutes and no dynamite was found (Washington Post 1982). The members were carrying automatic rifles (Washington Post 1982; New York Times 1988). After the Polish government gave permission, the Swiss authorities were able to carry out the operation (Washington Post 1982). An embassy official who the attackers did not account for had escaped two days earlier covertly (Washington Post 1982).

Four days later, multiple hostages had been released and the group extended the timeline by another 48 hours (MIPT 2008; New York Times 1988; Schmid and Jongman 1988). Using force, Swiss officers took back the embassy using force and freeing the hostages (MIPT 2008). There were no casualties (MIPT 2008; New York Times 1988). It is unclear what the intentions of this attack or group are (MIPT 2008, New York Times 1988). The group were initially believed to be anti-communist (MIPT 2008). It is known Krszyk was a member of the Polish Secret Service until 1965 (MIPT 2008). After committing a robbery in Vienna in 1969, he was sentenced to nine years in prison (MIPT 2008). He apparently had only financial motives during this robbery but disguised it under a movement (MIPT 2008). In 1997, he assisted the Warsaw government by spying

on Polish refugees and was arrested by Swiss authorities as a result (MIPT 2008). It is believed he was working with the government to infiltrate the Solidarity movement undercover (MIPT 2008; New York Times 1988). Krusyk continued insisting the group was fighting for Polish freedom and was sentenced to six years while the other members served three (MIPT 2008; Schmid and Jongman 1988). There is no evidence as to what the actual motivation of the attack was (MIPT 2008).

Geography

The group conducted an attack in Bern, Switzerland (GTD 2018).

Organizational Structure

The group had reportedly been protesting against the Polish government and were in the Liberal Solidarity Movement (MIPT 2008). Switzerland refused and put the men on trial in Lausanne (MIPT 2008). These members were Florian Kruszyk, Krystof Wasilewski, Miroslaw Plewinski, and Marck Michalski (MIPT 2008). The group size is an estimated four members based on the attack (MIPT 2008).

External Ties

After Swiss officials caught the group members, Poland requested an extradition (MIPT 2008). The group had reportedly been protesting against the Polish government and were in the Liberal Solidarity Movement (MIPT 2008). The Solidarity trade union denied any knowledge of the group or any alliance with them (New York Times 1988).

Group Outcome

The Swiss government acknowledged the attack as criminal (New York Times 1988). The Swiss Minister of Justice assigned a special task force to organize the police and advise the government (New York Times 1988, Washington Post 1982). The Foreign Ministry spokesman, claimed the demands had reached the Polish Government, but there was no official response (New York Times 1988). It was estimated there was five gunmen and 12 or more hostages (New York Times 1988). The hostages were mostly embassy officials (New York Times 1988, Washington Post 1982). It was reported no gunshots were heard (New York Times 1988).

The Polish Home Army is similar to a group that organized the Warsaw Uprising in 1944 against Germany (New York Times 1988, Washington Post 1982). The leader of this group denied the existence of that army (New York Times 1988, Washington Post 1982). It was also reported that the leader identified himself as "Colonel Isorgski (New York Times 1988)." He claimed the group was founded in August 1982 and had 200 members across Western countries

(New York Times 1988). He also claimed this attack was one of many to come (New York Times 1988). The Swiss government was unable to enter the Embassy until Poland gave permission because of diplomatic protection (New York Times 1988).

The attack on September 6, 1982 is the only known attack of the group (GTD 2018). The attack ended on September 9, 1982 (Schmid and Jongman 1988). The weapons they had included TNT and automatic rifles (GTD 2018).

Notes for Iris:

- Colonel names for group leadership doesn't trigger any historical references
- the incident primarily seems financially motivated and no political opposition against the government
- mixed evidence about whether the group was actually politically motivated or not
- Poland in general just has one hit wonders. Solidarity movement denied involvement
- evidence of a strong police response as well

II. DECEMBER 13 INDEPENDENT GROUP

Torg ID: 1687

Min. Group Date: 1990

Max. Group Date: 1990

Onset: NA

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

- GTD Perpetrator 2053. Global Terrorism Database. Study for Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. Last modified July 2018.
<https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?perpetrator=2053>
- "Eastern Europe." Chronology of Significant Incidents. Patterns of Global Terrorism: 1990. Memorial Institute for Prevention of Terrorism. 1991. PDF. p. 8.
- "1981: A Sad Christmas in Poland." BBC. n.d.
http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/witness/december/13/newsid_4524000/4524704.stm
- Matthew Day. "Poland remembers 30th anniversary of martial law declared to crush solidarity." Telegraph (UK). 2011.
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/poland/8954069/Poland-remember-s-30th-anniversary-of-martial-law-declared-to-crush-Solidarity.html>

Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: None

Group Formation: 1990 (GTD 2018)

Group End: 1990 (GTD 2018)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

During December 1981 to July 1983, martial law was in place by General Jaruzelski (BBC n.d.). Thousands of Solidarity activists were arrested and communism was the new order (Telegraph 2011). General Jaruzelski asserts that he declared martial law to avoid Soviet intervention (Telegraph 2011). However, it was later discovered this was very unlikely because the Soviet had no motives (Telegraph 2011). The independent trade union was banned and a lot of daily independence was restricted (BBC n.d.). Polish people were told to stay indoors and a mandatory curfew was in place (BBC n.d.). People suffered with a severe lack of food (BBC n.d.). Soldiers would exchange food rations for a hot meal cooked by Polish families (BBC n.d.). TV was suspended until 9:30 am and censorship was in place (BBC n.d.). There was a huge rally in front of the Polish consulate in the United States (BBC n.d.). There was also a huge demonstration in downtown Chicago (BBC n.d.). When school was closed, there was no transportation (BBC n.d.). The existing food rations got increasingly worse (BBC n.d.). Parents encouraged their kids to disrespect soldiers and police (BBC n.d.). Members of the Solidarity were imprisoned (BBC n.d.).

On June 7, 1990, the group planted a bomb in the Newspaper Glos Wybrezeza building in Gdansk, Poland (GTD 2018). Two other bombings occurred in Gdansk that same day by the same group (GTD 2018). In the ticket office for lot airlines, a bomb went off but there were no casualties (GTD 2018). The other bomb was planted in National Railway Administration Headquarters (GTD 2018). The group also claimed responsibility for an attack against the Soviet Consulate in June 1990 (MIPT 1991).

Geography

The group has committed attacks in Gdansk, Poland (GTD 2018). It is unknown and unclear if the group has bases located anywhere.

Organizational Structure

It is unknown what the group's organizational structure is and what its leadership is. It is unclear who are members, what is the source of funding, and if there are different wings.

External Ties

It is unknown and unclear if the group has any external ties to state or non-state actors.

Group Outcome

On June 7, 1990, the group planted a bomb in the Newspaper Glos Wybrezeza building in Gdansk, Poland (GTD 2018). Two other bombings occurred in Gdansk that same day by the same group against the Soviet Consulate and the National Railway Administration Headquarters (GTD 2018; MIPT 1991).

III. GN-95
Torg ID: 9041
Min. Group Date: 1996
Max. Group Date: 1996
Onset: NA

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

- GTD Perpetrator 755. Global Terrorism Database. Study for Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. Last modified July 2018.
<https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?perpetrator=755>
- United States Department of State, Patterns of Global Terrorism 1996 - Poland, 1 April 1997, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/468106f7c.html>
- "The Global Scourge of Terrorism." Chicago Tribune. 1996.
<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-xpm-1996-08-01-9608020251-story.html>

Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: None

Group Formation: 1996 (GTD 2018)

Group End: 1996 (GTD 2018)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

On April 24, 1996 in Warsaw, the group conducted a bombing at a Shell gas station (GTD 2018). The group demanded 2 million for ransom (GTD 2018, US DOS 1996). There was one casualty as a result (GTD 2018; US DOS 1996). The casualty was a

police officer who tried to deactivate the bomb (US DOS 1996). The group claimed responsibility and said it was in protest of foreign business actions in Poland (US DOS 1996). They demanded the ransom from the Royal Dutch Shell Group (US DOS 1996). GN-95 has a history of attempting to extort money from Western companies (Chicago Tribune 1996). Police believe the group could be a lone operator (Chicago Tribune 1996). They have threatened to continue to bomb Shell gas stations until the ransom demands have been met (Chicago Tribune 1996). It is unclear when the group formed and what their ideologies are.

Geography

The group conducted one attack in Warsaw, Poland (GTD 2018). It is unknown where the group operates from or if they have external sanctuaries.

Organizational Structure

Police believe the group was not a collection of non-state actors, but a lone individual (Chicago Tribune 1996). It is unclear what the group's organizational structure is and where they receive funding from.

External Ties

It is unknown if the group has any external ties.

Group Outcome

The last known attack was in April 24, 1996 in Warsaw, the group conducted a bombing at a Shell gas station (GTD 2018). The group demanded 2 million for ransom (GTD 2018, US DOS 1996). There was one casualty as a result (GTD 2018, US DOS 1996). The casualty was a police officer who tried to deactivate the bomb (US DOS 1996). The group claimed responsibility and said it was in protest to foreign business in Poland (US DOS 1996). They demanded the ransom from the Royal Dutch Shell Group (US DOS 1996). They have threatened to continue to bomb Shell gas stations until the ransom demands have been met, but no attacks since 1996 have occurred (Chicago Tribune 1996).