

**Togo Cases, 1970-2012**  
**Last Updated: 5 July 2019**

torg	gname	onset	min	max
T9030	MTD		0	0
T9031	TOGOLESE PEOPLES RALLY		1986	1986

- I. MTD  
 Torg ID: T9030  
 Min. Group Date: 0  
 Max. Group Date: 0  
 Onset: NA

Aliases: None

**Part 1. Bibliography**

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## **Part 2. Basic Coding**

Aliases: Mouvement Togolais pour la Démocratie; Togolese Movement for Democracy

Group Formation: February 1979 (UCDP n.d.)

Group End: September 24, 1986 (Global Security n.d.) (last attack), 1991 (new political party?)

## **Part 3. Narrative**

### **Group Formation**

MTD originated as an opposition political movement operating in exile in Paris, France (CQ 2019). The group formed in 1979 (DADM n.d., UCDP n.d.). MTD is an opposition group that desired to replace the repressive Eyadema regime in Togo (UCDP n.d.).

Following independence from France, Togo’s constitution in 1961 created an ineffective national assembly and a seven term president (Global Security n.d.). They had also seized the Togo embassy in January 1960 (Mitchel 1989). The president had an extreme amount of power and that year, Olympio won all seats in the National Assembly and became President (Global Security n.d.). Four rivaling political parties exist and in 1962 were forced to disband in a fear of a coup (Global Security n.d.). After suppressing a rebellion in 1961, the Togolese government accused Ghana of participating in the attempt to overthrow the government (UCA n.d.). After surviving one assassination attempt in January 1962, he was killed almost exactly a year later in an uprising (UCA n.d.). President Olympio was killed in an uprising of army officers unhappy following discharge from the French army (Global Security n.d.). Olympio’s inability to integrate Togolese soldiers that were displaced from the French army led to his assassination (Minorities at Risk Project 2004).

The MTD operated in Paris because the existing regime did not allow political parties to exist until 1991 (UCDP n.d.). Eyadema was known to be from Northern Togo, and his opposition belonged to the Ewe ethnic group and were majorly from southern Togo (UCDP n.d.). It is believed there have been attempts by this demographic for other coup attempts (UCDP n.d.). Gilchrist Olympio was the leader of MTD (UCDP n.d.). His father was the first president of Togo and was killed by Gnassingbe Eyadema in 1963 at the US consulate (UCDP n.d.). He founded the MTD in Paris and following its coup attack, was sentenced to death (UCDP n.d.).

Grunitzky was placed as Prime Minister then elected President and he reestablished a government with multi party representation (Global Security n.d.). Following many attempts, Grunitzky was finally overthrown in a coup led by Eyadema in 1967 (Global Security n.d.). Political parties and constitutional processes were disbanded (Global Security n.d.). In 1969, one political party was created, the Assembly of Togolese People and Eyadema became the leader (Global Security n.d.). In 1986, he was elected for a third term after an integration of civilians and military personnel in his cabinet (Global Security n.d.). In 1986, the repressive Eyadema regime in Togo went after Assistant Secretary General Paulin and other members who were suspected of treason (CQ 2019). As a result, Paulin fled to Argentina (CQ 2019).

In January 1980, MTD conducted its first attack when it tried to take control of the Togolese Embassy in Paris (Mitchell et al. 1989). The party was believed to participate in a coup attempt in 1986 in Togo, they have denied involvement (CQ 2019). They were suspected of attempting to place Gilchrist Olymipo as President during the coup attempt (CQ 2019). In September 23, 1986, MTD crossed into Lome from Ghana in a coup attempt (Global Security n.d.). 50 members of the group attacked the home of President Eyadema at the military barracks (New York Times 2018). They were believed to be based in Ghana with the intent to kill or capture the President at night (New York Times 2018). Officials say six civilians and seven members of the attackers were killed (New York Times 2018). It is believed the group had two other targets, the Rally of Togolese People Headquarters and the radio Gunfire Heard Til Midmorning (New York Times 2018). The authorities shut down the capital and set up search stations looking for the attackers who escaped (New York Times 2018). They also shut down the Ghana border which is close to Lome (New York Times 2018).

Togo has a history of accusing Ghana in supporting coup attempts (New York Times 2018). Ghana reacted by claiming Togolese soldiers attacked border guards (New York Times 2018). The Rally of Togolese Party is the ruling party in Togo and the attacks are believed to be internal operations (New York Times 2018).

## **Geography**

MTD initially formed and operated in Paris, France (CQ 2019). Eyadema was known to be from Northern Togo and had supporters from the Kabaye ethnic group. The opposition were primarily from southern Togo and were Ewe (Minorities at Risk 2004; UCDP n.d.). The Togolese government asserts that MTD received support, funding for arms, and training from Ghana and Burkina Faso (UCDP n.d.). Both governments have denied this while some MTD members have confirmed it (UCDP n.d.). It is unclear if this is true (UCDP n.d.). In September 23, 1986, MTD crossed into Lome from Ghana in a coup attempt (Global Security n.d.).

## **Organizational Structure**

The group was led by Gilchrist Olympio, who was one of Olympio's sons (UCA n.d.; Mitchell et al. 1989). Another son of Olympio was also a member of the group (Mitchell et al 1989).

Size and type of membership is unknown but there were 70 members that participated in the attack in 1986 (UCDP n.d.). Eyadema was known to be from Northern Togo and had supporters from the Kabaye ethnic group. Opposition members from the MTD were primarily from southern Togo and were Ewe (Minorities at Risk 2004; UCDP n.d.). It is believed there have been attempts by this demographic for other coup attempts (UCDP n.d.).

Gilchrist Olympio was the leader of MTD (DADM n.d.; UCDP). His father was the first president of Togo and was killed by Gnassingbe Eyadema himself in 1963 at the US consulate (UCDP n.d.). He founded the MTD in Paris in 1979 and following its coup attack, was sentenced to death (UCDP n.d.). He denied the allegations and returned to Togo following the legalization of political parties and formed the Union of Forces for Change (UCDP n.d.). It is the primary opposition party in Togo (UCDP n.d.).

The group was led by Paulin Lossou and is an umbrella organization under the Alliance of Togolese Democrats along with the Democratic Convention of African Peoples (Minorities at Risk Project 2004).

## **External Ties**

The Togolese government asserts that MTD received support, funding for arms, and training from Ghana and Burkina Faso (UCDP n.d.). Both governments have denied this while some MTD members have confirmed it (UCDP n.d.). It is unclear if this is true (UCDP n.d.).

The group is led by Paulin Lossou and is an umbrella organization under the Alliance of Togolese Democrats along with the Democratic Convention of African Peoples (Minorities at Risk Project 2004).

## **Group Outcome**

In 1986, MTD staged an attempted coup against the Togolese government which was ultimately unsuccessful (Global Security n.d.). It occurred on September 23 and resulted in 26 casualties (Global Security n.d.). Togo asked for French assistance following the attack and France gave them 350 troops (Global Security n.d.). The President of Nigeria, the President of ECOWAS, The United States, and China all expressed and gave support to the government (Global Security n.d.). Twelve individuals including Gilchrist

Olympio were sentenced to death in 1986, but ended up not having to serve their sentence (Global Security n.d.).

Olympio did not return with the MTD to Togo until 1991 when political parties were legalized. There, he formed the Union of Forces for Change (UCDP n.d.). It is the primary opposition party in Togo (UCDP n.d.). In 1992, Olympio was wounded in an assassination attempt that killed MTD leader Eliot Ohn (CQ 2019).

Notes for Iris:

- Togo is a one-party system that has a firm control over rule.
- Olympio was initial leader and committed many offenses but he got assassinated in 1963
- opposition party in exile formed in France. Olympio's sons fled to Togo sometime after the assassination where they established the MTD. could not return to Togo so formed in exile.
- Eyadema is from northern Togo (Kabaye) and opposition is primarily from southern (Ewe)
- the primary violent incident is the September 1986 coup. 26 people die and it's a complete disaster. Eyadema rallies around the flag and remains in power for almost twenty more years. When there is a coup attempt against Eyadema, other states came in to support and stabilize the country
- MTD technically disbands. The Union of Forces for Change emerges and does not employ any violence.

## II. TOGOLESE PEOPLES RALLY

Torg ID: 9031

Min. Group Date: 1986

Max. Group Date: 1986

Onset: NA

Aliases: None

### Part 1. Bibliography

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Ruling party at time of violence - no polopp

## **Part 2. Basic Coding**

Aliases: Union for the Republic (CQ 2019)

Group Formation: 1969 (Global Security n.d.)

Group End: 1992 (last attack) (GTD 2018)

## **Part 3. Narrative**

### **Group Formation**

In 1969, the RTP was formed as the only political party in Togo by General Eyadema (Global Security n.d.). The party later became the Union for the Republic (Global Security n.d.).

Following independence from France, Togo's constitution in 1961 created an ineffective national assembly and a seven term president (Global Security n.d.). They had also seized the Togo embassy in January 1960 (Mitchell 1989). The president had a extreme amount of power and that year, Olympio won all seats in the National Assembly and became President (Global Security n.d.). Four rivaling political parties exist and in 1962 were forced to disband in a fear of a coup (Global Security n.d.). After suppressing a rebellion in 1961, the Togolese government accused Ghana of participating in the attempt to overthrow the government (UCA n.d.). After surviving one assassination attempt in January 1962, he was killed almost exactly a year later in an uprising (UCA n.d.). President Olympio was killed in an uprising of army officers unhappy following discharge from the French army (Global Security n.d.). Olympio's inability to integrate Togolese soldiers that were displaced from the French army led to his assassination (Minorities at Risk Project 2004). Grunitzky was placed as Prime Minister then elected President and he reestablished a government with multi party representation (Global Security n.d.). Following many attempts, Grunitzky was finally overthrown in a coup led by Eyadema in 1967 (Global Security n.d.). Political parties and constitutional processes were disbanded (Global Security n.d.). In 1969, one political party was created, the

Assembly of Togolese People and Eyadema became the leader (Global Security n.d.). In 1986, he was elected for a third term after an integration of civilians and military personnel in his cabinet (Global Security n.d.). That same year, the group had to repulse an attack by the MTD.

On August 9, 1992, the group launched an attack on the National Computer Center in the city of Lome (GTD 2018). The value of damage was likely 1 million dollars (GTD 2018). They used handguns, specifically pistols (GTD 2018). There were no casualties or injured (GTD 2018). It is an estimated 30 members that participated in the attack (GTD 2018). Another attack was a bombing in Bassar on September 18, 1992 (GTD 2018).

### **Geography**

The group is reported to have bases in Ghana (CQ 2019). They have conducted attacks in Lome and Bassar (GTD 2018). They are not transnational.

### **Organizational Structure**

The party was the ruling party of Togo at the time of the attack (CQ 2019). The political party itself was formed by General Eyadema (CQ 2019).

### **External Ties**

The party was the ruling party of Togo at the time of the attack (CQ 2019). It opposed the MTD and other opposition parties.

### **Group Outcome**

Eyadema seized power in 1967 from Grunitzky and established a single party system with the RPT in 1969 (CQ 2019). Violent protests occurred in 1991 with Eyadema's inability to establish a multiparty system he had promised (CQ 2019). Following the violence, Eyadema agreed to allow a prime minister to take executive power (CQ 2019). During 1993, numerous opposition party attacks were conducted against RPT (CQ 2019). In 1994, RPT was accused of attacking opposition parties and members (CQ 2019). In 2009, Grnassingbe arrested his half brother and RPT members who were supposedly staging a coup (CQ 2019). In 2012, the RPT was dissolved and the Union for the Republic was formed (CQ 2019). The last known attack of the group was in 1992 in Bassar (GTD 2018).

Notes for Iris:

- RTP experiences internal fighting between members who turn against Eyadema and start to fight against him
- RTP attack doesn't seem to express politicized opposition
- the RPT changes to the Union for Republic but this is primarily a name change since there is the same ideological change and organizational structure. The real organizational shift was when the first Eyadema died and they had to reorganize the political structure

Country-Level Theme:

- political parties fighting each other
- interesting similarity to Eritrea and level of repression