Latvia Cases, 1970-2012
Last Updated: 29 July 2019

torg	gname	onset	min	max
T529	WAFFEN SS		0	0
T444	RUSSKOE NATSIONALNOE EDINSTVO (RNE)		1990	0
T1787	LATVIAN REPUBLIC VOLUNTEER TROOPS		1992	1992
T2385	NATIONAL BOLSHEVIK PARTY (PARTIYA NATSIONALNIKH BOLSHEVIKOV - PNB)		1992	2000
T861	RUSSIAN NATIONAL BOLSHEVIST PARTY		1993	0
T1084	FIGHTERS OF DEMOCRATIC LATVIA		2000	2000

I.   WAFFEN SS
     Torg ID: 529
     Min. Group Date: 0
     Max. Group Date: 0
     Onset: NA

     Aliases: None

     Part 1. Bibliography

- "Waffen SS." Terrorist Organization Profile No. 3693. 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
- Searched Proquest
     ○ Dobele attack latvia
     ○ Dobele attack waffen ss
     ○ "Waffen ss" attack
     ○ Dobele waffen latvia 1998-05-01 to 1998-05-30

     Part 2. Basic Coding

     Aliases: none

Group Formation: n/a; 1998 (MIPT 2008)

Group End: 1998

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The Waffen SS was a semi-organized group of men who served or supported the military branch of Hitler's army known as Waffen SS (MIPT 2008). There has been an increase in this type of Latvian nationalism including anti-Russian sentiment and anti-semitism, following the fall of the Soviet Union (MIPT 2008). Although some spokespersons have said this is not a pro-Nazi representation but rather an anti-Communist demonstration, the number of hate crimes targeted against Jews with the presence of swastikas suggests that it is also a right-wing, pro-Nazi (MIPT 2008). The group was most likely responsible for the attack on a World War 2 memorial in Dobele that occurred on May 1998 (MIPT 2008).

Geography

The group operates from Latvia (MIPT 2008). The attack it conducted was in Dobele (MIPT 2008).

Organizational Structure

The memberships consists of previous members of the Waffen SS and Latvian nationalists who glorify Hitler and the Waffen SS (MIPT 2008).

External Ties

There is no information about the group's external ties.

Group Outcome

After 1998, there was no evidence of attacks conducted by the group (MIPT 2008). Since the group was never fully an organized group, it is unclear whether this group should qualify.

Notes for Iris:
-the group's political aims was super unclear
-the group's ideology mainly just seemed to glorify Nazism and conduct hate crimes

-the group was not organized, but it still perpetrated 'domestic terrorism' that aimed to intimidate others

II. RUSSKOE NATSIONALNOE EDINSTVO (RNE)
Torg ID: 444
Min. Group Date: 1990
Max. Group Date: 0
Onset: NA

Aliases: Russian National Unity (RNU), Russkoe Natsionalnoe Edinstvo (RNU)

Part 1. Bibliography
- "RNU." Terrorist Organization Profile No. 3674, MIPT Knowledge Base, 2008, National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, https://docs.google.com/document/d/1i_00A0LbKsXW4yPuAyyGOvxy9YQ6qz49aDE4pt4xSyE/edit
- "The Reemergence of Political Anti-Semitism in Russia." Anti-Defamation League. 1999. https://web.archive.org/web/20060615205338/https://www.adl.org/international/russian_political_antisemitism.asp
- Stephen Atkins. "Aleksandr Petrovich Barakashov." Encyclopedia of Modern Worldwide Extremists and Extremist Groups. Greenwood Publishing. 2004. P. 43-44. https://books.google.com/books?id=b8k4rEPvq_8C&pg=PA43&lpg=PA43&dq=Russian+National+Unity&source=bl&ots=2M1hdme0VG&sig=QxucG5AgSyUdBWfiMX_IUG09t3s&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwje_ZWk9Z7XAhVG5IMKHRDxAYw4ChDoAQhUMAs#v=onepage&q=Russian%20National%20Unity&f=false
- Mikhail Sokolov. Russian National Unity and the 'Nation of Slaves'. Russian Politics & Law. May/Jun2001, Vol. 39 Issue 3, p66.
- Romon Rolov. Russian National Unity An Analysis of the Political Style of a Radical-Nationalist Organization. RUSSIAN POLITICS AND LAW; JUL-AUG 2008, 46 4, p66-p79.

Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: Russian National Unity (RNU), Russkoe Natsionalnoe Edinstvo (RNE), National Bolshevik Party

Group Formation: 1990

Group End: 2000 (MIPT 2008)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

Alexandr Barkashov founded the Russkoe Natsionalnoe Edinstvo (RNE) on October 16, 1990 as a splinter of the Pamyat group (Atkins, 2004, 43; Romov 2001, 66; Sokolov 2001, 68). The group's aim was to "cleanse" Russia of religious minorities, endorse the Russian Orthodox Church. (MIPT 2008). Their political aim was to also participate in Russian politics (Atkins 2004, 43; Sokolov 2001, 68). The group first gained acknowledgement as a violent group during the cessation of the Soviet Union in 1990, in a time of socioeconomic instability within Russia (MIPT 2008). Their first known violent incident was in 1993 when it seized the Russian House of Parliament (Romov 2001, 66; Atkins 2004, 43; MIPT 2008) The RNE is extremely anti-semitic, and they are also right-wing (Atkins 2004, 43; Sokolov 2001, 68).

Geography

The RNE primarily operates within Russia, but also conducts activities in Ukraine, and the Baltics (MIPT 2008). Their first attack occurred at the Russian House of Parliament located in Moscow, Russia (Romov 2001, 66; MIPT 2008).

Organizational Structure

The RNE was formed by Aleksandr Barkashov, a former commander in the Russian army, who blamed Russia's socioeconomic instability on Jews (Atkins 2004, 43). The group had 6,000 active members in 1999, but have also been known to have had approximately 100,000 members in the late nineties (ADL 1999; MIPT 2008). Members of the RNE were originally members of the anti-Semitic political party Pamyat (Sokolov 2001, 68). The RNE is a nationalist political party as well as an extremist parliamentary organization (MIPT 2008). The group has an armed wing known as the Russian National Assembly, and the organizational structure of the armed group consisted of divisions and battalions (Atkins 2004, 43: Sokolov 2001). Members of the group are willing to use violence to achieve their goals, and are trained in parliamentary tactics regarding the use of weaponry and explosives (MIPT 2008).

External Ties

The RNE has not had any external ties, but has endorsed the Russian military's efforts to intervene in Chechnya (MIPT 2008; ADL 1999; Atkins 2004, 43). Barkashov's reason for support of the military tied into his ideologies, as he did so in order to protect Russian citizens from control by the Russian-minority Chechnya population (MIPT 2008; ADL 1999; Atkins 2004, 43). After Barkshov's expulsion from Russia in 2000, the RNE split up into many factions without any central leadership (MIPT 2008).

Group Outcome

Though the RNE has proclaimed support for the Russian military, they do not receive any support from the Russian Military (MIPT 2008). However, the Russian government's arrest of Barkashov after the 1993 Parliament attack was short lived, since he was subsequently released in 1994 (Atkins 2004, 43). The Russian government arrested Igor Semyon in 1998 (ADL 1999). The group's last violent attack was in 1998 (MIPT 2008). The group splintered in 2000 after the Russian government expelled Barkashov (MIPT 2008).

Notes for Iris:
-did the government oppose the group?

III. LATVIAN REPUBLIC VOLUNTEER TROOPS
      Torg ID: 1787
      Min. Group Date: 1992
      Max. Group Date: 1992
      Onset: NA

      Aliases: None

      Part 1. Bibliography
● GTD Perpetrator 1547. Global Terrorism Database. Study for Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. Last modified July 2018.
  https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?perpetrator=1547
● Searched Proquest
    ○ latvia russia border 1992
    ○ Latvia garkalne attack
    ○ Latvia russia border guard
    ○ Latvia russia border clash
    ○ Latvia russia border 1992/05/01 to 1992/05/31

      Part 2. Basic Coding

      Aliases: none

      Group Formation: 1992

      Group End: 1992

      Part 3. Narrative

      Group Formation

There is no information about the group's formation. It conducted its first and only attack on May 14, 1992 against the police in Garkalne, targeting the Russian government, Latvia which resulted in one injury (GTD 2018).

Geography

The group operates from Latvia, and their sole attack was conducted in Garkalne (GTD 2018).

Organizational Structure

There is no information about the group's organizational structure.

External Ties

There is no information about the group's external ties.

Group Outcome

After the attack on May 14, 1992, there was no evidence of any other attacks (GTD 2018).

Notes for Iris:
-operating at the same time as the RNE so might be possible tension between the two groups but no evidence to really confirm

IV. NATIONAL BOLSHEVIK PARTY (PARTIYA NATSIONALNIKH BOLSHEVIKOV - PNB)
Torg ID: 2385
Min. Group Date: 1992
Max. Group Date: 2000
Onset: NA

Aliases: National Bolshevik Party (Partiya Natsionalnikh Bolshevikov - Pnb), National Bolshevik Party, National Bolshevik Party (Nbp), National Bolshevik Party (Partiya Natsionalnikh Bolshevikov - Pnb), National Bolshevik Party (Partiya Natsionalnikh Bolshevikov _ Pnb), National Bolshevik Party (Partiya Natsionalnikh Bolshevikov Pnb) Partiya Natsionalnikh Bolshevikov, Partiya Natsionalnikh Bolshevikov - Pnb, Partiya Natsionalnikh Bolshevikov - Pnb, Partiya Natsionalnikh Bolshevikov (Pnb), PNB

Part 1. Bibliography
- GTD Perpetrator 20322, Global Terrorism Database, Study for Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, Last modified June 2017, https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?perpetrator=20322

- "Russian National Bolshevik Party." Terrorist Organization Profile No. 4556, MIPT Knowledge Base, 2008, National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, https://docs.google.com/document/d/1i_00A0LbKsXW4yPuAyyGOvxy9YQ6qz49aDE4pt4xSyE/edit
- Marc Bennetts. "Eduard Limonov interview: Political rebel and Vladimir Putin's worst nightmare." The Guardian. 2010. https://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/dec/12/eduard-limonov-interview-putin-nightmare
- Keith Gessen. "Monumental Foolishness." Slate. 2003. http://www.slate.com/articles/arts/culturebox/2003/02/monumental_foolishness.html
- "Head National Bolshevik on trial in Russia." Baltic Times. 2002. https://www.baltictimes.com/news/articles/6625/
- RFE/RL. "Russian Court Upholds Ban On National Bolshevik Party." RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty. February 02, 2012. https://www.rferl.org/a/1078019.html.
- "Factbox: National Bolshevik Party." RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty. 2005. https://www.rferl.org/a/1063687.html

Part 2. Basic Coding
Aliases: none

Group Formation: 1993

Group End: 2000

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The National Bolshevik Party was founded in 1993 by Eduard Limonov (MIPT 2008; Gessen 2003). The group supports fascism and opposes capitalism, globalization, the U.S., and President Vladimir Putin, and they have been linked to anti-semitism (RFERL 2005; MIPT 2008). The group's aims were to oppose the Russian government although it was unclear what they wanted to replace it with (Gessen 2003; MIPT 2008). The National Bolshevik Party's first incident was a bombing outside a synagogue in Riga, Latvia in 1998 (MIPT 2008).

Geography
The National Bolshevik Party has attacked in Riga, Latvia, and their base is primarily set up their as well (MIPT 2008; GTD 2017). The group is transnational, as they were also active in Moscow, Russia (Bennetts 2010; RFERL 2005; MIPT 2008).

Organizational Structure

The leader of the National Bolshevik Party is Eduard Limonov, who joined the Soviet literary underground during the 1960s. He moved to the United States in the 1970s, and developed ties to American Trotskyites and anarchists (RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty 2005; Gessen 2003; Bennetts 2010). The group itself is not very organized, nor is it dangerous, but their widespread opposition to President Vladimir Putin has caused an increase in their reputation as a violent group (RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty 2005). The group has tried to organize a political wing (Bennetts 2010). They have been estimated to contain several thousands of followers referred to as "limonovstii" (RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty 2005).

External Ties

The National Bolshevik Party does not receive any external support from state or non-state actors.

Group Outcome

The National Bolshevik Party conducted its last attack on November 17, 2000, in Riga, Latvia, targeting religious institutions (Global Terrorism Database n.d.). The founder of the group, Limonov, was arrested by the Russian government in 2001 (Bennetts 2010; Gessen 2003). In 2001, several members of the group were arrested while buying automatic rifles (Gessen 2003; MIPT 2008). In 2004, security forces arrested 39 members of the group during a break-in (RFERL 2005). In 2007, the Russian courts also reaffirmed a ban against the group (RFERL 2007).

Notes for Iris:
-formed as renegade radical and oppose Putin
-very little violent record (similar to Black Beret)
-their leader is very controversial, writes lots of propaganda
-very small and not really organized because they're starting to dissipate
-no historical ties to Bolshevik
-their political aim is to overthrow Putin with a very vague framework for achieving these goals
-only one violent incident
-there are lots of splinters for this group
-Limonov cult of personality here?
-Limonov left the group, but it hasn't been violent since 2004 when he left to join a multi-party coalition to oppose Putin
-interesting correlation between Limonov's popularity as a writer and popular support for the group
-Limonov very opportunistic, capitalizes on popular support to form the group, but nothing ever comes out

V.   RUSSIAN NATIONAL BOLSHEVIST PARTY
Torg ID: 861
Min. Group Date: 1993
Max. Group Date: 0
Onset: NA

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography
- "Russian National Bolshevik Party." Terrorist Organization Profile No. 4556, MIPT Knowledge Base, 2008, National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, https://docs.google.com/document/d/1i_00A0LbKsXW4yPuAyyGOvxy9YQ6qz49aDE4pt4xSyE/edit

Part 2. Basic Coding

Aliases: This is an alias for the NBP (MIPT 2008).

Group Formation: This is an alias for the NBP (MIPT 2008).

Group End: This is an alias for the NBP (MIPT 2008).

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

This is an alias for the NBP (MIPT 2008).

Geography

This is an alias for the NBP (MIPT 2008).

Organizational Structure

This is an alias for the NBP (MIPT 2008).

External Ties

This is an alias for the NBP (MIPT 2008).

Group Outcome

This is an alias for the NBP (MIPT 2008).

VI.   FIGHTERS OF DEMOCRATIC LATVIA
        Torg ID: 1084
        Min. Group Date: 2000
        Max. Group Date: 2000
        Onset: NA

        Aliases: None

        Part 1. Bibliography
   ●   GTD Perpetrator 10084. Global Terrorism Database. Study for Terrorism and Responses
        to Terrorism. Last modified July 2018.
        https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/search/Results.aspx?perpetrator=10084
   ●   "Baltic Report: July 3, 2000." RFE/RL. 2000. https://www.rferl.org/a/1341533.html
   ●   `Young communists' assume responsibility over rail blasting in latvia. 2000. BBC
        Monitoring Former Soviet Union - Political, Nov 25, 2000.
        https://search.proquest.com/docview/455046734?accountid=14026 (accessed July 29,
        2019). PDF. gDrive.

        Part 2. Basic Coding

        Aliases: Latvia's Young Communists (BBC 2000)

        Group Formation: 2000

        Group End: 2000

        Part 3. Narrative

        Group Formation

        The group came to attention as violent after attacking a railway in Riga, between
        Zemitani and Brasa, Latvia on June 10, 2000 which resulted in no injuries (GTD 2018;
        RFERL 2000). The group sent an unsigned letter to several Latvian newspapers,
        documenting the reasons for the explosion and stating that there will be more if their
        demands are not met (RFERL 2000). They claimed responsibility for the attack on
        Latvia's daily newspaper, "Diena" (BBC 2000). They demanded that Mikhail Farbtukh,
        Yevgeny Savenko, and Vassily Kononov who were all charged with war crimes, must be
        released (RFERL 2000). They also demanded that the Communist Party be legalized,
        asked for equal legal status for the Russian language, and end the humiliation of

Russian speakers (RFERL 2000; BBC 2000). Based on the group's actions and demands, it is thought the group might have been communist or leftist.

Geography

The group operates from Latvia, and it conducted its sole attack in Riga, Latvia (RFERL 2000).

Organizational Structure

The group is mainly comprised of Russian speaking Latvians and communists (RFERL 2000). There is no other information about the group's organizational structure.

External Ties

There is no information about the group's external ties.

Group Outcome

After the railway attack in June 2000, they conducted another railway blasting on November 25, 2000 which was very similar to the June attack (BBC 2000). Police launched an investigation into the event and concluded it was the same group (BBC 2000).

Notes for Iris:
-what are their ideological goals? They were a student-led group which demanded the Communist Party change which makes it likely they were leftist
-they might come from a Russian area of Latvia, but there's no evidence to confirm this claim

General Country Trends:
-short, small, one-hit wonders
-no consistency in political aims or ideological goals
-they disappear rather quickly