

Glossary of Some Organizations

ASALA. In 1975, at the start of the Lebanese civil war, some young Armenians close to the PFLP launched the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA). Whilst the primary purpose of ASALA was to secure international recognition of the Armenian genocide and Armenia's reunification around the soviet republic of Armenia (then still part of the USSR), its action mobilized young Armenian immigrants (especially in the Middle East) against Turkey – at that time one of Israel's main allies. ASALA led several bombing campaigns targeting Turkish interests. Notably in France. Undermined by a succession of splits and the arrest of one of its main cadres, Varoujian Garbidjian, in Paris in 1983 in the wake of the 15 July 1983 bombing of the Turkish Airlines centre in Orly, ASALA petered out after the assassination of its founder, Hagop Hagopian, in Athens on 18 April 1988.

Azione Rivoluzionaria: The only Italian guerrilla group professing to be anarchist. Azione Rivoluzione came into existence in 1977 in northern Italy and Florence, the result of a rapprochement between feminists and ex-members of the Operaio group of the 1960s.

BI: Emerging from the Maoist movement in 1974 and a nod to the antifascist brigades active during the period between the wars, the BI (International Brigades) were to be active up until 1977 and notably fed into the NAPAP. "In December 1974 the BI (Raul Sendic Brigade) claimed responsibility for the execution of Colonel Tralal, the Uruguayan military attache : in October 1975, the attempt on the life of Captain Garcia, the Spanish military attache in Paris (Juan Paredes Manot Brigade): in May 1976, the execution of Joaquin Zenteno Anaya (Che Guevara Brigade), Bolivia's ambassador in Paris; in November 1976, the attempt on the life of Homayoun Keykavoussi, an attache at the Shah of Iran's embassy (Reza Rezay Brigade): and in July 1977, the attempt on the life of Ahmed Ould Ghanahallah, Mauretania's ambassador in Paris (the El Oulai Sayed Brigade)" Rouillan states.

BR: The first act of the Red Brigades, an armed Italian group that had grown out of the Collettivo Politico Metropolitano, was the arson attack on the cars of company chiefs and neo-fascist militants: "Hit and run! Nothing is to go unpunished! Hit one, educate one hundred!" They were very quickly targeted in a crackdown and went underground as the armed vanguard of the movement in support of worker autonomy with an eye to "downing the bourgeoisie in a three-pronged offensive": "Waging war on fascism, resisting the factories, resisting the militarization of the regime." In 1973-1974, when the "mass movement had grown enormously – with mass self-discounting in the supermarkets, phone services, gas services and power, etc.; plus squatting of empty premises, sabotage attacks in bourgeois districts, medical and nursing support in abortion procedures, etc. – the BR kidnapped several industrial managers and denounced the convergence between the bosses, the trade unions and the Italian Communist Party, before the struggle in the workplace gave way to attacks on the "multi-nationals' imperialist State", highlighting the central role being played by the Christian Democrats. The years 1975-1978 saw a lot of bosses, engineers, managers, police personnel, trade unionists, prosecuting counsel, etc. "kneecapped", abducted and executed – one being Aldo Moro, the Christian Democrat leader. From the 1980s on, the BR endured a crackdown that drove it into making a "strategic withdrawal" before they entered into an "anti-imperialist front" with the Red Army Faction and Action Directe. During the 1990s the Red Brigades for the building of a Fighting Communist Party (BR-PCC) claimed responsibility for attacks on NATO bases and for executing the legislative advisor to the Italian ministry of Labour.

Camarades: Group set up in 1974 at the same time as a review with the same name. Camarades marshalled part of the autonomous movement behind the thinking of Toni Negri. In late 1978, the group split over the issue of armed struggle; one faction took part in the launching of Action Directe and the other was to carry on with what Rouillan terms “the official autonomy”, notably in conjunction with the Libertarian Communist Organization (OCL), a group that broke with the autonomous movement at the beginning of the 1980s and which had itself arisen out of a split within the Revolutionary Anarchist Organization (ORA).

CCC: “Brussels-based marxist-leninist group [1983-1985] the Fighting Communist Cells [CCC] worked alongside Deocom publishers whilst AD had a hand in their training. In 1985, the CCC rejected the idea of an anti-imperialist front [in favour of the fight for a communist revolution] and went it alone in mounting their last actions”, Rouillan states. The CCC anthology *Textes de lutte 1984-1985* was published in Belgium in 1988 – in which year four CCC members were convicted for several attacks on NATO, American industry and banks and Belgian institutions.

Collettivo Politico Metropolitano: From within the Italian new left the CPM emerged in September 1969; “calling for worker autonomy, meaning that the ‘proletariat’s liberation movement [break free of] the bourgeoisie’s global hegemony”, and a complete break with the institutions. Rooted in workers’ groups (at Sit-Siemens, IBM and Pirelli), especially within the “iron triangle” (Turin, Milan and Genoa), the CPM was intended to lay fresh foundations for the revolutionary struggle: “Embedding the armed struggle on the basis of the mass worker struggles in the larger industrial centres”.

COLP: Italian armed organization that emerged in 1981 from the disbandment of Prima Linea, these ‘Communists Organized for Proletarian Liberation’ (or COLP) petered out in 1984: it has been especially active on the liberation of political prisoners (notably Prima Linea prisoners) but the group came under the intense repression then being visited upon the armed struggle in Italy.

CSPPA: Against the backdrop of the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988) in which the latter enjoyed the support of the West and in particular of France – ranging from arms deliveries to the lending of France’s own military equipment – a “Committee of Solidarity with Arab and Near Eastern Political Prisoners” (CSPPA), marshalling resistance networks with ties to Iran, carried out a wave of bloody outrages in Paris (December 1985-September 1986), flanked by the kidnapping in Lebanon of several French citizens. Whilst the purpose of these actions was to punish France’s foreign policy, and especially to force an end of military aid to Iraq, one factor in the negotiations was a demand for the release of the Anis Naccache commando which had been responsible for an attempt on the life of the Shah of Iran’s last prime minister. According to Rouillan, tossing in the demand for the release of Georges Abdallah, a Lebanese communist member of the FARL and of Varoujan Garbidjian, the ASAL leader, was a smokescreen designed to cover up the direct negotiations being conducted between Iran and France.

Direct Action: “This Canadian libertarian group, in concert with the Wimmin’s Fire Brigade, carried out a range of attacks in 1981 and 1982, the most significant being the attack on Litton Industries, a manufacturer of components for US Cruise missiles; but these feminist and ecologist groups also mounted actions targeting the pornography industry and the ministry of the Environment. When Ann Hansen, Julie Belmas, Doug Stewart, Gerry Hannah and Brent Taylor were arrested, an international solidarity campaign was launched on behalf of the ‘Vancouver Five’.

FARC: Set up in 1966 on the basis of an agrarian reform scheme and backed by the Colombian Communist Party, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia’s (FARC) guerrilla campaign, at its

height in the 1990s, controlled much of the country, with upwards of eighteen thousand military personnel: under the designation of The Commons Alternative Revolutionary Force, the FARC has since 2017 become a political party and stands in elections.

FARL: Set up in the late 1970s around Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, a member of the PFLP for North Lebanon and an active member of the progressive militias, the Revolutionary Lebanese Armed Faction [FARL] was a response to the international pressures banning Palestinian militant organizations from operating in Europe. In order to free Lebanon from all foreign influence [Israeli, US, French] and foster the creation of a Palestinian state, some young Lebanese communists joined the FARL in order to strike at western backing for the reactionary Lebanese forces spilling blood in Beirut. Several attacks were mounted in Paris. The FARL vanished within months of the arrest of Georges Abdallah in Lyon in October 1984 and those of some other militants in Italy.

FRAP: “A Spanish maoist organization from the final period of the Francoist dictatorship (1972-1974) and deeply embedded in the student movement, the Revolutionary Antifascist Patriotic Front little by little opted to take up arms. In September 1975, three of its members – Jose Luis Sanchez-Bravo Solla, Jose Humberto Baena Alonso and Ramon Garcia Sanz – were the last victims of the dictatorship executed by firing squad” – [The Spanish FRAP ought not to be confused with the Action Directe-connected libertarian and autonomous Front révolutionnaire d’action prolétaire which was active in Belgium in 1984].

GARI: In the first volume of his *De memoire* series, Rouillan defines these Internationalist Revolutionary Action Groups as “a political organization set up in December 1973 at the time of the Barcelona councils of war trying Salvador Puig Antich and other members of the MIL which had been dismantled by the police two months earlier. Militants who had made good their own escapes from Catalonia set up a coordinating body made up essentially of ex-members of the 1960s fighting groups and young French and Spanish anarcho-syndicalists, autonomists and libertarians. Very active in 1974, this coordinating body vanished following around thirty arrests made in France, Spain and the rest of Europe.

Gladio: See under Trevi

GRAPO: After the Spanish Communist Party was reconstituted in the mid-1970s as the PCE(r), these “First of October Revolutionary Antifascist Groups” were formed for the purpose of marshalling the largest possible number of antifascist fighters acting upon its own decisions and moulding its own cadres (who were not necessarily required to be members of the PCE(r) nor subscribers to communist ideology)”. Active up until the end of the 1990s, the GRAPO essentially went into action after Franco’s demise, during the period of the transition, carrying out fund-raising operations, and retaliating against informers, etc. In the view of their militants “fascism has been the main instrument employed by the financial oligarchy and landowners in bringing the masses of the people to heel and pulling off the country’s economic growth by following the path of monopoly. This dual feature – monopolist [imperialist] and fascist – is the chief characteristic of the Spanish State.”

GP: A Maoist group founded in 1968 by militants drawn from the Union of Marxist-Leninist Communist Youth, some libertarian militants and veterans of the 22 March Movement around the *La Cause du peuple* newspaper the Gauche proletarienne [Proletarian Left = GP] built up its influence through the action committees that popped up in the Renault plants (in Billancourt, Flins, Le Mans) the Peugeot works in Sochaux), the Vitho works (in Saint-Ouen), and so on. As well as through the high-schools. In 1969 the GP launched the slogan “Just one way out for workers: popular resistance”. In April 1979, a ban on a GP rally escalated the process of violent resistance that had emerged

through actions such as the “looting” of the luxury Fauchon grocery store. Following the arrest and indictment of the publication managers of *La Cause du peuple* and violent demonstrations in the Latin Quarter, the government banned the GP, the leaders of which then went to ground. Espousing a direct-action approach, the GP stated its support for the kidnapping of bosses, sabotage, looting, thievery and civil war. During the summers of 1970 and 1971, the GP organized “long marches” which had been introduced back in the summer of 1968 through the countryside, notably in Brittany and Le Larzac, whilst pressing ahead with its clandestine actions (using plastic explosives against the newspaper Minuit (in May 1971), attacking the Jordanian Embassy in support of the Palestinians (in July 1971), and so on. In January 1974, an edition of the GP review, *Cahiers proletariennes*, announced that the GP was disbanding after a much contested decision had been made by its hidden and very powerful leadership, made up of a coterie of intellectuals.

June 2 Movement: An armed Marxist and anti-authoritarian group founded in 1972, the reference being to the June 2 1967 demonstration against the Shah of Iran’s visit to West Berlin, in the course of which demonstration the student Benno Ohnesorg was killed by a police officer. It disbanded itself in 1980 – some of its members then joining the RAF.

LCR: Initially the Ligue communiste, this Trotskyist organization – set up in April 1969 by former members of the Internationalist Communist Party (PCI) and the Revolutionary Communist Youth (JCR), itself the result in 1966 of a banding-together of expellees from the Union of Communist Students (UEC) and then dissolved by the government in June 1968 – was banned in June 1973 (after a demonstration opposing a far right rally), before being resurrected in 1975 as the Revolutionary Communist League (LCR) – which in February 2009 was absorbed into the NPA [New Anti-capitalist Party].

Lotta Continua: Launched in 1969 as a continuation of the Pisa-based Potere Operaio and an umbrella for workerist groups and student activists from Turin, Venice, Bologna and Naples on an anti-authoritarian, spontaneist platform. Lotta Continua was said to have numbered as many as 30,000 militants prior to the splits between those militants that went on to join the armed struggle and the ones that threw their weight behind a (failed) attempt to engage in elections that resulted in its self-disbandment in 1976.

MIL: In the first volume of his *De Memoire* series, Rouillan defines the Iberian Liberation Movement [MIL] as “an armed organization set up in January 1971 at the instigation of radical Barcelona groups subscribing to revolutionary Marxism; these were joined by libertarians based in Toulouse. The MIL essentially operated inside Catalonia with fall-back bases in the Toulouse area. Its underground publishing house, Mayo ’37, published the classics of left-wing communism (Anton Pannekoek, Anton Ciliga, Etienne Balazs, etc). The Franco dictatorship’s police dismantled the organization in September 1973. One of its members, Salvador Puig Antich, was the last political prisoner the regime sentenced to death by garrote.”

ML: During the 1920s, the ideologues of Stalinism hitched the term “Leninism” to “Marxism” in order to indicate that Stalin was the very embodiment of the only “correct line” and was the successor to marxism’s theoreticians: Marx, Engels and Lenin. Following the Khrushchev Report (1956), the international communist movement experienced a huge schism between the supporters of the USSR and those supporting Mao’s China. In order to underpin their position as the sole heirs to Stalin’s USSR (and after he had been condemned inside the USSR itself) and as great Marxist theoreticians, the Chinese leadership announced that they were the only true “marxist-leninists” against the “revisionism” of the Soviet party. By extension, those splits around the globe which took place under the aegis of Chinese communist thinking claimed the title “marxist-leninists” and tacked

on the “ML” abbreviation. In most cases these were the most orthodox groups with the closest organic ties to the Chinese Communist Party – the PCMLF [French Marxist-Leninist Communist Party] being one example of this. The more un-orthodox supporters adopted the label “Maoists” and joined organizations such as the GP.

MLSPB: See under THKP-C

MOI: A trade union group banding together immigrant workers under the auspices of the Unified General Confederation of Labour [CGTU] in the 1920s, the “Main d’oeuvre immigrée” [Immigrant Man-power or MOI] afforded its support to the republicans during the Spanish Civil War and then played an active role in the French Resistance to the Nazi occupier as part of the Francs-Tireurs et Partisans (FTP). Stigmatizing the foreign presence within the French Resistance by coming up with a “Red Poster” showing the Missak Manouchian network (made up of Armenian, Spanish, Italian or Jewish communist resisters), German propaganda made the group the very emblem of the internationalist fight against fascism.

MTA: The Arab Workers’ Movement [MTA] was formed in June 1972 “by some Arab and French militants close to the Gauche Proletarienne, on the basis of the shared political experience they had acquired through the Palestine committees [...] The main areas of the immigrant struggle in which the MTA engaged are: Palestine, racist crimes, immigrant workers’ hostels, slum housing, residence- and work-permits, and the specific demands of foreign workers.” The GP’s retreat left the MTA to its own devices and in September 1973 triggered the first “general” strike against racism. At the time the MTA was targeted in a crackdown and this with its internal loss of stability was to curtail its sphere of influence within the Arab immigrant community up until it was, effectively, dissolved in 1976.

NAP: An amalgamation of Lotta Continua and Sinistra Proletaria (of Naples), the militants of the Armed Proletarian Nuclei [NAP] were drawn primarily from marginals from southern Italy – and the ones that survived the repression went on to join the Red Brigades.

NAPAP: An armed group formed in 1976 within the tradition of French Marxism and especially of the BI, these Armed Nuclei for Popular Autonomy [NAPAP] were, up until the summer of 1977, to conduct a series of attacks designed to “galvanize the worker forces” and “re-establish a balance of power with the bosses” and “inspire the masses”. Some NAPAP militants went on to join Action Directe.

New Left: At the time when a coalition between the Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD] and the CDU/CSU [Christian-Democratic Union of Germany/Christian-Social Union of Bavaria], had been stymying all access by the left-wing opposition in Parliament for several years past, the violent repression of a demonstration in response to the Shah of Iran’s visit to Berlin in June 1967 radicalized the left-wing student movement built up since the Second World War around the SDS [Socialist Federation], the members of which had been thrown out of the SPD in 1961 and the Berlin chapter of which was under the leadership at the time of Rudi Dutschke and included militants such as Ulrike Meinhof. This context of mass mobilization spawned a “new left” that drove right-wing organizations out of the universities, embracing social movements and the struggle against emergency legislation whilst settling scores with the rightward drift of the Social Democrats and the Nazi pasts of the generation in power: “It is the Union of German Socialist Students [SDS] that is leading the revolt in Germany. Following the attempted assassination of Rudi Dutschke, the student leader, on 11 April 1968, things took a more radical turn: the far right National Democratic Party very nearly gained entry to the Bundestag in the 1969 elections, whilst the hard core of the SDS joined

the Red Army Faction.” In Rouillan’s estimation, “that anti-authoritarian challenge was embodied in the communes and house-squatter social movements, the opposition to rearmament, campaigns against nuclear power and radical ecology (paradoxically) linked with support for armed anti-imperialist organizations, chiefly the RAF but also the June 2 Movement and later the RZ.”

NRP: In May 1970, out of the Gauche Proletarienne emerged the New People’s Resistance [NRP], invoking the French Resistance to the Nazi Occupation “and within it there surfaced an autonomous military wing which later just held on to the ‘NRP’ acronym up until 1973, at which point it disbanded itself once and for all.” In response to the February 1973 murder of Pierre Overney, the kidnapping one month later of a Renault manager by the NRP was to be crucial in determining the course taken by the GP’s relations with armed struggle.

OCML-VP: The Marxist-Leninist Communist Organization-Proletarian Path [OCML-VP] was set up in 1976, which is to say “‘towards the beginning of the end’ of the Maoist movement in France”, as the 2014 internal document defining the organization has it.

Operaist: see Potere Operaio

ORA: A libertarian communist group founded in 1967 within the Anarchist Federation [FA]. The Revolutionary Anarchist Organization [ORA] fed into a range of ultra-left, Maoist, Trotskyist and autonomous group up until it was disbanded in 1976.

PCMLF: The chief representative of the “orthodox” tendency within the French Maoist movement, the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of France [PCMLF] was set up in December 1967. Its members were out to build “France’s communist party, an authentically Marxist-leninist party, a party of the age of Mao Tse-Tung thought” that was to rely upon democratic centralism and fight against the revisionism of the PCF and the Mao-Spontex deviations (of the GP). Dissolved by order in June 1968, it returned as an underground presence: but the gulf between the underground leadership and the grassroots groups triggered a series of splits that rendered it marginal from the early 1970s onwards.

Potere Operaio (Worker Power): Launched in 1968 and disbanded in 1973, this was the Italian equivalent of the Gauche Proletarienne. Potere Operaio was particularly active in the major industries in northern Italy; an important reference point for the autonomous movement, the group found a fraction of its members going on to join the Red Brigades.

Prima Linea: The product of a 1976 split within Potere Operaio and Lotta Continua, Prima Linea rounded up supporters of armed struggle – and by the beginning of the 1980s its last remaining active members were to join the Red Brigades and the COLP.

RAF: In an anti-communist West Germany, subjected to American imperialism and with masses of former Nazis populating the machinery of the State, the Red Army Faction [Rote Armee Fraktion/RAF] was a response to the crackdown on the student protest movement. From 1970 on, the RAF was to conduct an urban guerrilla campaign informed by Maoism and Guevarism, pushing ahead with the “militarization of the class struggle” through armed actions targeting industrial interests, the State (the police and the courts), American military bases, propaganda (the Springer group) and the German employers. After the 1972 arrest and repression of the first generation (around Andreas Baader and Ulrike Meinhof) – and the violence of the conditions of their detention made a lasting impression on minds – a second generation (repressed in 1982) and then a third joined with Action Directe to conduct a “west European anti-imperialist guerrilla war”. More and more isolated by the end of the 1980s, the RAF announced in April 1996 that it had disbanded.

RZ: The Revolutionare Zellen /Revolutionary Cells attracted a range of political persuasions (Marxist-leninist and anarchist) as well as organizational formats for the armed struggle that were or were not associated with PFLP, movement-ist or otherwise and both close to and critical of the RAF.

SAC: Conjured up in 1960 in support of the policies of General De Gaulle, the Civic Action Service [SAC] acted as the private militia of the Rassemblement du Peuple Francais [RPF], particularly in dealings with the members of the PCF, and then carried out dirty work, notably in the crackdown on May '68; led by Pierre Debizet, a henchman of Jacques Foccart (De Gaulle's advisor on secret services and African policy), the SAC endured under the RPR [Rassemblement pour la République] and Charles Pasqua's leadership. An intelligence-gathering agency as likely to draw its recruits from among far right activists as from the underworld, the SAC saw its members accused of "unprovoked assault and woundings, bearing arms, fraud, armed assault, counterfeiting money, pimping, racketeering, deliberate arson, blackmail, drug dealing, hold-ups, abuse of trust, outrages, thefts and receiving stolen goods, criminal conspiracy and offences against morality." Francois Mitterrand's election in 1981 triggered a storm of panic even within the Paris leadership – the "Reds" had taken power! – and in July 1981 resulted in the murder of one of the members of the SAC's Marseilles branch and his entire family in order to prevent revelations from being made to the incoming authorities. Sentenced in 1985 to fifteen years in prison in one case and twenty years for the rest and to life imprisonment for the last three, all six of the murderers were – every last one of them – released at the beginning of the year 2000.

Squadre: In close concert with Prima Linea and made up of autonomist militants, the Squadre (full title being Squadre Proletarie di Combattimento-Esercito di Liberazione Comunista/Proletarian Fighting Squads-Communist Liberation Army) were formed in Milan in 1977.

THKP-C: Created in 1970, the Marxist-leninist and Guevaerist guerrilla campaign waged by the Peoples of Turkey Liberation Party-Front was decimated in two stages: on 19 February 1971 and on 30 March 1972, through the assassination of Ulas Bardakci, the leader of the rural guerrilla units; and then the killing of its founding-father and theoretician Mahir Cayan. Cephe's full name is Devrimci Halk Kurtulus Partisi-Cephesi (People's Revolutionary Liberation Party Front) and the MLSPB is the Armed Marxist-Leninist Propaganda Union.

Trevi: Set up in 1976, this inter-governmental Europe-wide police cooperation network (a confidential one up until 1989), was not formally acknowledged until 1992; its initial purpose was the fight against terrorism but this was to be extended to include international criminality and domestic security issues such as immigration. Against the backdrop of the Cold War and the fight against communist influence, NATO coordinated, right across western Europe, a number of clandestine "stay behind" networks, the best known being the Italian Gladio outfit: during the "years of lead" (1964-1989), that network played an important part in the implementation of the so-called "strategy of tension". A blend of terrorism and repression enforced by much of the machinery of the Italian State (and the Christian Democrats) in concert with the CIA, in order to sustain a climate of fear that would justify authoritarian policies and smooth the way for the arrival in power of a dictatorial regime.

From Jean-Marc Rouillan. "Dix ans d'Action Directe : un temoignage (1977-1987)". Agone, 2018

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