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USDOS – US Department of State (Author)

Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 5 - Continuity Irish Republican Army (CIRA)

Aka CIRA; Continuity Army Council; Continuity IRA; Republican Sinn Fein.

Description: Designated as an FTO on July 13, 2004, the Continuity Irish Republican Army (CIRA) is a terrorist splinter group that became operational in 1986 as the clandestine armed wing of Republican Sinn Fein, following its split from Sinn Fein. “Continuity” refers to the group’s belief that it is carrying on the original goal of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), to force the British out of Northern Ireland. CIRA cooperates with the Real IRA (RIRA).

Activities: CIRA has been active in Belfast and the border areas of Northern Ireland, where it has carried out bombings, assassinations, kidnappings, hijackings, extortion operations, and robberies. On occasion, it has provided advance warning to police of its attacks. Targets have included the British military, Northern Ireland security forces, and Loyalist paramilitary groups.

In 2019, CIRA members conducted an attack on the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), setting off a bomb near the border of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Also in 2019, CIRA claimed responsibility for a grenade attack in west Belfast on a PSNI vehicle. In 2020, CIRA claimed responsibility for attaching an IED to a truck destined for an unknown location in England; CIRA had allegedly planned for the bomb to go off on the day the United Kingdom left the European Union. In 2021, CIRA claimed responsibility for an attack on a police station in Fermanagh County, Northern Ireland. CIRA did not claim responsibility for any attacks in 2022.

Strength: CIRA's membership is small, with possibly fewer than 50 members.

Location/Area of Operation: United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

Funding and External Aid: CIRA supports its activities through criminal activities, including smuggling.

Associated documents

Document ID 2101653 Chapter

30 November 2023 | [USDOS – US Department of State](#) (Author)

United Kingdom

Northern Ireland: Annual report on terrorism (covering 2022)

[Country Report on Terrorism 2022 - Chapter 1 - United Kingdom \(Northern Ireland\)](#) (Periodical Report, English)

en

[ID 2101617](#)

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15 June 2023 | [USDOS – US Department of State](#) (Author)

Ireland

Annual report on trafficking in persons (covering April 2022 to March 2023)

[2023 Trafficking in Persons Report: Ireland](#) (Periodical Report, English)

en

[ID 2093725](#)

ecoi.net description:

Brief description of the Continuity Irish Republican Army (CIRA) (Excerpt of chapter 5 of the country report on terrorism 2022)

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