

The IRA or Irish Republican Army was a paramilitary organisation that sought to end British rule in Northern Ireland. They wanted to create an independent republic that encompassed all of Ireland. The group was considered a terrorist organisation by the United Kingdom. Disagreements about how to lead led to a split within the IRA creating the official and provisional IRA. The Official IRA aimed to unite workers, whereas the Provisional IRA wanted to launch guerilla attacks against the British army in order to force them to withdraw from Ireland. Regardless of the tension, the Provisional IRA carried through with its attacks and bombings. Eventually the IRA decided to adopt the "long war" strategy which entailed breaking up the IRA into smaller groups in order for the campaign to last many years. During this period, the IRA transitioned from bombing economic assets, to attacking members of the security forces. As well as hunger strikes. Eventually, the group signed a ceasefire in 1997, but not before a streak of bombings after the British made demands that hurt negotiations.