

Abstract

This thesis „Rainbow Warrior Affair: act of state terrorism?“ studies an incident that happened in New Zealand, in 1985. The flagship vessel of international peace organization, Greenpeace, was sabotaged and scuttled. The operation was executed by French secret services and ordered by President Francois Mitterand. This thesis aims to determine if the operation was an example of state terrorism. The first chapter deals with the concept of terrorism and its typology. The second chapter reviews the 2 opposing schools of thought on whether or not state terrorism actually exists. The third chapter analyses the different reactions to the incident by New Zealand and France. The final chapter deals with how Operation Rainbow Warrior influenced relations between France and New Zealand.