

Monkeying around with the Thai police

April 2, 2010

Categories: Thai Police

[Monkeying around with the Thai police](#) – *BigPond News*, April 2, 2010

A Thai police force has begun taking a monkey, dressed in uniform, on patrol to help improve relations...

Songkran with the Red Shirts

April 2, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010, Songkran

[Songkran with the Red Shirts](#) – *womenlearnthai.com*, April 18, 2010

Sushi-shaped donuts

April 6, 2010

Categories: Food and Drink



Sushi-shaped donuts – April 6, 2010
Sushi-shaped donuts from Mister Donut...

Thai-language newspapers reporting on the events of Friday, April 9, 2010

April 9, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

Also: [Red Protests 2010](#)
[main page](#)



From *Khao Sod*, April 11, 2010

The headline reads: Invading through teargas to seize Thaicom – Mark accuses of being bold



From *Daily News*, April 10, 2010

The headline reads: Reds asks for the return of their PTV – Move to Thaicom – Forcing soldiers and police to move out – Arrest warrants issued for 17 UDD leaders



From *Khaosod*, April 10, 2010

The headline reads: Seizing Thaicom, invading through teargas and soldiers



From *Matichon*, April 10, 2010

The headlines read: Soldiers defeated by the Reds! – Forcing to return “PTV” successfully – Iron rule of the CRES unable to control red mob – Tear gas and water cannons cannot stop – Bomb set at EGAT electric generating station in Laem Chabang Industrial estate

Also: [Red Protests 2010](#)
[main page](#)

Red Protests – April 1-9, 2010

April 9, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

Also: [Red Protests 2010 main page](#)

[Thai ‘perfect storm’ may drive investors to bonds from stocks](#) – *Business Week*, April 9, 2010
...Sodsatit said he expects the index to fall back to 650 from 800 levels...

[It’s time for Thais to vote](#) – *Gulfnews.com*, April 9, 2010
A poll would lead to the creation of a new government capable of restoring stability...

[Bangkok officials taken from dangerous city](#) – *Argentina Star*, April 7, 2010

[Thailand Isn’t the Safest Place to Be Traveling To Right Now](#) – *janunted.com*, April 8, 2010

China behind improvement in relations between Cambodia and Thailand – *Khmer Intelligence*, April 9, 2010
China behind improvement in relations between Cambodia and Thailand (2)
Two reliable diplomatic sources have indicated that China recently put strong pressure on the Cambodian government to stop stirring up trouble in Thailand by openly interfering in the neighbouring country’s internal affairs. China wants to preserve peace and stability in South-East Asia and wants to prevent Vietnam from gaining more influence in the region. Vietnam is believed to be behind Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen’s aggressive behaviour aimed at weakening Thailand. This was already the case in the violent anti-Thai riots in Phnom Penh in January 2003.

Water cannons and tear gas used as Reds attempt to overrun Thaicom building – April 9, 2010

[Red shirts storm into station, seizing police trucks](#) – *The Nation*, April 9, 2010

[Some 10 red-shirt protesters injured](#) – *The Nation*, April 9, 2010

[Red shirts enter ThaiCom compound](#) – *The Nation*, April 9, 2010

[Red-shirt Protesters Storm Thaicom Gate, Tear Gas Fired at Protesters](#) – *TAN*, April 9, 2010

[Red shirts beginning rallies at two ThaiCom sites](#) – *The Nation*, April 9, 2010



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Signs on Silom – April 9, 2010
The sign reads: Thailand loves peace



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Welcome gatherers to the peace zone



(Source: NBT screen grab)

PM on TV – 21:15, April 8, 2010

PM Abhisit is on TV explaining why the government decided to close PTV. The reason given is that PTV was spreading deliberate misinformation to inflame the situation such as the government was preparing to wage a war on Thai people. He also explains arrest warrants have been issued for the Red Shirts leaders.

[New Politics Party head office attacked with M79 grenade, M16 ammunition](#) – *The Nation*, April 8, 2010

[TPI building hit with M79 grenade, M16 shots](#) – *The Nation*, April 8, 2010

[Another M79 attack aimed at Anupong's office in Army HQ](#) – *The Nation*, April 8, 2010

Real riots: Kyrgyzstan – April 6, 2010

From [Google News](#): *Protestors rioting in Kyrgyzstan have killed the interior minister, are holding the deputy prime minister hostage and have taken over state television...*

[Foreign media weighs in on fate of Abhisit administration](#) – *TAN*, April 7, 2010

...All together, a general consensus has emerged among foreign analysts of Thailand's situation; that the government is failing on three accounts.

The first account is the government's failure to counteract the red-shirt group's propaganda machine.

The second issue is the government's failure to enforce the law, allowing the red-shirt group to threaten security and infringe on the rights of the wider public.

The final factor is that the government has failed to reassure both the Thai public and foreign investors that it can reestablish economic stability...

[Anti-dissolution Facebook group](#) – April 8, 2010



PTV channel off the air – 23:05, April 7, 2010

Right: Screen on the PTV channel. It reads: Apologizing for the satellite signal problem



(Source: NBT frame grab)

More government announcements

22:00 – Suthep, flanked by all top generals, asks people not to believe rumors.

[Capture of a military policeman](#) – TAN, April 7, 2010



(Source: ASTV/Manager)

Arisman again – April 7, 2010

It was almost one year ago that Arisman Pongruangrong (left) led the storming of the Cliff Beach Resort in Pattaya which forced the cancellation of the Asean Summit.

Today Arisman led the charge into the Thai parliament building causing



officials to escape over a back wall via ladders and leading to a state of emergency declaration in Bangkok.

(Source: NBT frame grab)

Red-shirts declare war against government – TAN, April 7, 2010

The red-shirt group has declared war against the government after a state of emergency was announced. It encouraged supporters nationwide to lay seige to provincial town halls.



(Source: NBT screen grab)

Above: Government and security forces reading out the state of emergency declaration

State of emergency declared – April 7, 2010



Thai email forwards: [Rural buffalos](#) – April 7, 2010

[Abhisit red-faced](#) – *The Nation*, April 7, 2010

[Hun Sen's U-turn marks tough time for Thaksin](#) – *Bangkok Post*, April 7, 2010



From *Komchadluek*, April 6, 2010

The headline reads: Turbulence wreaked late at night as bomb attack targeted to NBT occurred – ‘Poseidon’ car bomb attack – Business area closure – Arrest warrant urged to be issue for the reds

NationPhoto's Photos - Wall Photos

Photo 26 of 26 | [Back to Album](#) | [NationPhoto's Photos](#) | [NationPhoto's Profile](#)



Rear window – April 6, 2010

This is an odd photo supposedly showing a sick baby in a vehicle surrounded by Red Shirts. It is hard to

understand the oddly stretched image of the man (top left) in the back window. Is this a Photoshopped image?

Caption and photo [here](#) and [here](#): *A child cries out of shock after red-shirt protesters surrounded her vehicle and broke the windshield. The mother tried to drive through the crowd to take the child to a nearby hospital.*
Update: Another view of the [sick baby pickup is here](#). It seems that the *Nation* photograph could have been altered to put a Red Shirt in the back window.

Update:

Another set of [photos of the incident from Manager](#). The same view as the *Nation* shot [here](#) (showing the same two men in the rear window as in the above photo) and [here](#). The rear window view in these *Manager* shots looks much more natural.



(Source: NBT screen grab)

Right here, right now: [PM says govt will not give up attempts to restore normalcy](#). – *The Nation*, April 6, 2010



(Source: NBT screen grab)

PM Abhisit addressing the nation on all Thai channels – 16:20, April 6, 2010

[FLASH NEWS: Bomb attacks at two more locations](#)– TAN, April 6, 2010

Grenade explosion at Democrat Party HQ – 15:45, April 6, 2010

INN is reporting a grenade exploded at Democrat Party HQ and two were injured.

Blocking Silom

The Nation Channel is reporting that the Red Shirts are occupying the Silom-Rama IV intersection

[Chiang Rai Red-shirts Close off Provincial Hall](#) – TAN, April 6, 2010

The Chiang Rai red-shirt group has closed off the entrance to the provincial hall.

Red-shirt groups elsewhere in the North and Northeast have threatened to lay siege to their provincial halls if the rally in Bangkok is dispersed.

[Red shirts renew plan to defy orders to 11 roads](#) – The Nation, April 6, 2010

[Kwanchai cancels plan to go to Democrat HQ but will march to Silom](#) – The Nation, April 6, 2010

[Red-shirt motorcycles block exit to Lumpinee Park](#) – TAN, April 6, 2010

[Jatuporn plays Abhisits' doctored audio clip to incite protesters](#)– The Nation, April 6, 2010

[Kwanchai will lead protesters to besiege Democrat head office](#) – The Nation, April 6, 2010

Doctored clip again – 12:33, April 6, 2010

The Nation Channel is reporting that the Red Shirt leaders are once again playing the doctored audio clip of PM Abhisit ordering a crackdown on protesters. This clip was apparently edited together from conversations in April 2009 to give the impression the PM is planning a violent crackdown. Abhisit has threatened legal action in the past when the clip was played.

[BREAKING NEWS: Red-shirts cancel plans for today's mobile rally](#) – TAN, April 6, 2010

[Reds push against police lines](#)– Bangkok Post, April 6, 2010



(Source: Channel 5 screen grab)

Spokesman explaining the situation on all Thai channels

- Claims no crackdown is in progress
- Troops are unarmed

–

Troops will "pressure" protesters to leave the area

(Technically this is the CAPO (capothai.org)

which is handling security surrounding recent events.)

From Thai-language news reports:

- All shopping malls around Rajprasong closed today
- Skytrain

Rajdamri Station closed

- Troops continue to arrive in the Rajprasong area

[Red-shirts to storm Democrat Party and PM's residence if prohibited from marching](#) – TAN, April 6, 2010

A large group of red-shirt protesters have surrounded the Democrat Party headquarters, threatening to storm the building if they are forbidden to lead a convoy through 11 key routes in Bangkok today. They also threatened to invade the PM's residence as well...



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Defaced Red Shirt signs – April 6, 2010

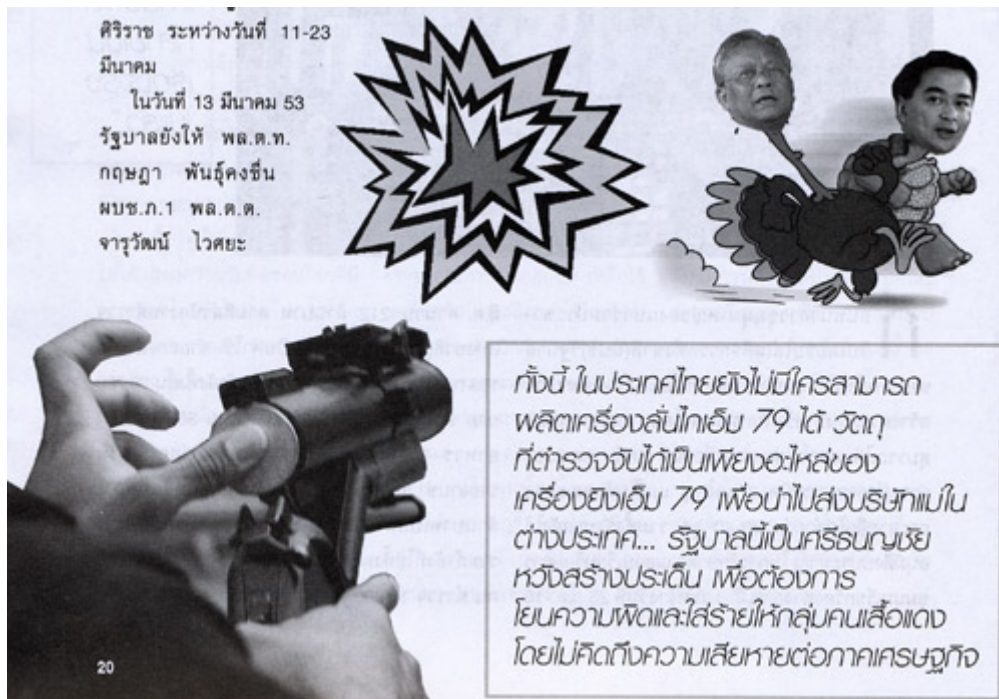
These signs are on Weepahwahdeeransit Road.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The sign reads: Non-Violence – Peace – is Thailand’s solution – National United Front of Democracy Against Dictatorship

Earlier: [Democrat posters defaced](#)



(Source: *Voice of Taksin*, April 18, 2010)

M79 – *Voice of Taksin*, April 18, 2010

The quote reads:

Therefore, Thailand has no ability to produce the M79 weapon so the object seized by the police is merely the material of the M79 gun to export to a mother company in a foreign country. The government is wise to

create a plot aimed at disgracing the Red Shirts with no regard to the damage of the economic sector.
[More from the Red Shirt publications](#)

[100 red shirts storm into EC head office](#) – *The Nation*, April 5, 2010

[Protesters prepared to break into EC head office building](#) – *The Nation*, April 5, 2010

[600 red-shirt protesters head to NBT head office](#) – *The Nation*, April 5, 2010

[Red-shirt protesters breach barriers, Officials at EC HQ urged to leave](#) – *TAN*, April 5, 2010

[Veera vows to stay put at Rajprasong](#) – *The Nation*, April 3, 2010

[Red shirts disperse from NBT station](#) – *The Nation*, April 3, 2010



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: Red Shirts in front of Mahboonkrong. The banner on the side has a photo of Thaksin as Superman and reads: UDD-Red Sakhonnakorn, Phangkon District
We cannot make out the banner on the front, except the words "aristocrat government"

Closing streets – April 3, 2010

The Red Shirts appear to be trying to implement the strategy they threatened before the present Bangkok rallies started—that protesters would spread out in an attempt to paralyze the city. The second part of that original threat was that protesters would roam the city and burn buildings, cause chaos, etc.

Now that the first part of the threat has finally been put into place, it is a possibility that the second part might come into play as well. While it is clear that the Red Shirts' present peaceful methods are not having an impact, more open action would again tend to discredit the movement like it did last April during Songkran.

At the moment the government seems content to let the Red Shirts annoy the public with road closures while waiting out the crowds that are thought will leave en masse before the Songkran holidays.

In 2006, when [the PAD dared to protest in the heart of the city](#), it caused considered annoyance from the public and they quickly withdrew back to the downtown government areas.



Above: From *Voice of Taksin*, March 1-16, 2010

The caption reads: Special campaign to greet the coup festival – Cheer up, Thaksin! – Do not throw more than 2 bottles a day!

Here come the threats...

[Arisman vows to prevent Abhisit from returning home, Government House](#) – *The Nation*, April 3, 2010

[Veera threatens to burn NACC head office](#) – *The Nation*, April 3, 2010

[Jatuporn vows to lead protesters to besiege BMA](#) – *The Nation*, April 3, 2010



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Moment of the "verbal clash" – 13:17, April 2, 2010

This was the scene Friday afternoon on Rama IV Road in front of Lumpini Park. This photo is the moment the "verbal clash" as reported by [The Nation](#). Their article seems to highly exaggerate the event.

Scattered trucks filled with Red Shirt were traveling down Rama IV Road. As the last couple of Red Shirt trucks passed by (you can see these in the shade on the right side), about 30-40 pink shirted people (most older ladies) came out of the park and walked to the area of the green tent (in the center left of the photo).

This was as close as the two sides got to each other and the "revolutionary music" from the Red Shirt trucks was so loud, it was not possible to hear the ladies yelling at a



From *Phujatkan Weekly*, March 27-April 4, 2010

The headline reads: Toppling the highness, clinging to highness

At the bottom: Loyal? Lighting the 'red candle' showing the 'foot clapper' for royally veneration, p.8

[Blood used in Red Shirt protest tainted with severe communicable diseases: medics](#) – *TNA*, April 1, 2010

[The dark side of skin-whitening cream](#) – *Guardian*, April 1, 2010

The dangerous fashion for skin-whitening across Asia perpetuates racism and should be stigmatised as such...

Also: [Red Protests 2010](#)
[main page](#)

State railway, Bangkok city battle over Green-Line rail ownership

April 9, 2010

Categories: Mass Transit

[State railway, Bangkok city battle over Green-Line rail ownership](#) – TAN, April 9, 2010

Red Protests – Thai-language newspapers reporting on the events of Saturday, April 10, 2010

April 10, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

Also: [Red Protests 2010 main page](#)



(Source: *KhosSod*, April 12, 2010)

Above: *KhaoSod*, April 12, 2010 – The dead displayed on the Red Shirt rally stage



From *Daily News*, April 11, 2010

The headline reads: Bloodshed! – Violent clash between Army and red shirts – 12 die and more than 500 suffer injury – Bullets and bombs wreak damage among the masses



From *Daily News*, April 12, 2010

The headline reads: 12 died in sacrifice – Army moves to dissolve the red rally injuring more than 500 – ‘Mark’ expresses condolence in tension, but will maintain the law



From *Komchadluek*, April 12, 2010

The headline reads: To solve the situation – Investigating deaths – PM expresses condolence- Prayuth dissatisfied by Reds injuring subordinates – Smell of coup in the air

Popular opinion urges for peace – Stop killing each other in the center of the city

The red in provinces turn angry – Chiang Mai-Udon Thani Reds seize the provincial halls

Violent clash killing 12 – 9 people and 3 soldiers, injury rate of more than 500

Bad omen of UDD – the image of the Emerald Buddha breaks into two pieces



From *Khao Sod*, April 11, 2010

The headline reads: Uproar of ‘guns-bombs’ – Sedition! – Death-injury more than 500



From *Komchadluek*, April 11, 2010

Tragedy of the Bloody April – Thais kill each other – 2 sides clash in grudge – Government and UDD negotiation remains silent – Prayuth's dissatisfaction on shooting injury of soldiers – Death of 8 UDD/soldiers/journalists in the clash – Injury of more than 500 – Who is to take responsibility



From *Thai Rath*, April 12, 2010

The headline reads: Mark neither to resign nor dissolve parliament – 12 dead in dark April
Both guns and bombs injuring more than 500, the Center for the Resolution of the Emergency Situation steps back to seek negotiation with UDD – PM urges autopsy for UDD dead

Also: [Red Protests 2010](#)
[main page](#)

Teaching Thai kids to take like ducks to water

April 10, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Teaching Thai kids to take like ducks to water](#) – *The Age*, April 10, 2010

One night in Bangkok

April 10, 2010

Categories: Tourism

[One night in Bangkok](#) – *The Age*, April 10, 2010

Barbaric spectacle: Orangutans kickbox and parade in bikinis for cheering tourists

April 10, 2010

Categories: Thailand in the International Media, Wildlife and Nature

[Barbaric spectacle: Orangutans kickbox and parade in bikinis for cheering tourists](#) – *Mail Online*, April 10, 2010

Cartoon by Stephff

April 11, 2010

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Stephff's Cartoons



(Source: Courtesy of Stephff – *The Nation*)

Paduang: Tradition or exploitation?

April 11, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Paduang: Tradition or exploitation?](#) – *Contra Costa Times*, April 11, 2010

Some trekking companies and human rights groups consider the Padaung villages of northern Thailand to be 'human zoos' that exploit women...

Thai exits from inquest amid Malaysian pressure

April 12, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai exits from inquest amid Malaysian pressure](#) – eTaiwan News, April 12, 2010

...Pornthip Rojanasunand, who heads the Thai Central Institute of Forensic Science, told independent news Web site Malaysiakini on Sunday that she decided to pull out from the inquest into the death of Teoh Beng Hock due to “political pressure” from Kuala Lumpur...

Thaksin Shinawatra, terrorist Prabhakaran and Mahinda Rajapakse

April 12, 2010

Categories: Thai Politics

[Thaksin Shinawatra, terrorist Prabhakaran and Mahinda Rajapakse](#) – *livetradingnews.com*, April 12, 2010

...Details revealed to the media regarding Thaksin Shinawatra's stay in Sri Lanka:

The date & time of arrival: 1.40 p.m. on 12.12.2009.

The day of departure: 8.00 a.m. on 13.12.2009

Passport No. L38RB3695

The No. of the plane: N300BZ

Arrived from: United Arab Emirates

The nos. of vehicles used to travel from the Airport: JD 6565, JG 6565...

Songkran – Thai new year and water-throwing festival – Various Articles

April 13, 2010

Categories: Songkran



(Photo: Rapee for 2Bangkok.com)

Above: [2005 – Songkran decorations at night](#)



Happy Songkran Day – From Khoasod, April 13, 2010

The title reads: Happy Songkran Day

*Songkran Festival has been blissful,
The water blessing ceremony that cools off the hot climate
Now becomes the saliva war ,
Fearful of possible bloodshed.
To release the hot climate and sufferings,
We have to rely on kindness for each other
And holding tight to moral peace.
To return a blissful Songkran to every Thai*

Songkran – Thai new year and water-throwing festival

Also: [Songkran](#)
[at U-tapao in 1970](#)

Another
interesting Thai holiday: [Loy](#)
[Krathong](#)



April 13, 14 and 15 are the Songkran holidays in Thailand.
It is the hottest time of the year. Families gather and youngsters pour water over their elders' hands as a sign of respect. Buddha images are also sprinkled with water. Another tradition is merit making by forming miniature chedis out of sand and placing small flags in them.

Songkran's international fame comes from the water dousing that goes on throughout the country. Children stand along the roadside to douse passersby with water and talcum powder. Young people get in the back of pickup trucks with barrels of water and cruise around, throwing water at people.

Traffic deaths also hit a yearly high due to a combination of motorcycles, alcohol and roads slick from talcum powder and water. A few short decades ago Songkran was much more subdued lasting 1-2 days. Today it has become akin to Japanese Golden Week with travel chaos throughout the country as people taking the entire week off to return to their homes and drunken young people engaging in all-night 'water wars.'



(Photo: Graham)

Let's be careful out there –
April 12, 2008

Songkran one of the most dangerous times of the year for road accidents...



(Photo: Graham)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Songkran billboard –

April 12, 2008

It reads: Have you paid respects to your parents during the Songkran Festival?



(Photo: Zsolt)

"Songkran No Alcohol" –

April 12, 2008

It reads: Have fun with the Songkran Festival without alcoholic beverages



(Photo: Zsolt)

Pre-Songkran parade and "Mr. Thailand" –
April 12, 2008

The sign reads: Promoting the Songkran Festival to carry on Thailand's tradition



(Photo: Zsolt)



Other festivals with a water-throwing component –
April 13, 2007

The Philippine's [Feast of St. John](#)

Cambodia's [water festival](#)

Laos's [water festival](#)

Brazilian carnival-related [water throwing festival from the past?](#)

Poland's [Dyngus Day or Wet Monday](#)

Myanmar: [Burma Civil Servants to Remain in Naypyidaw for Water Festival](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, April 10, 2007

Burmese authorities have ordered civil servants to stay in the new capital Napyidaw during the traditional New Year, while entertainers were urged to join them, according to sources in the administrative city...

Myanmar: [Thingyan Time—When Fun-Loving Burmese Douse Their Disappointments](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, April 11, 2007

Historians suggest that the annual water festival now about to be celebrated in many countries of Southeast Asia, including Burma, dates back more than 900 years and is believed to be rooted in Hinduism...

Songkran goddess – *Daily News*, April 13, 2007

Left: The Songkran goddess of this year is named Mahothorn-Sama. The fortune for this year is lots of thieves/bandits, bad situations, and farmers in trouble.

Right: Water pistols for Songkran for 7 baht.



(Photo:



Bangkok

residents want to pay respect to PM Thaksin most during Songkran festival

– TNA, April 11, 2006

People living in this Thai capital say they want to pay respect to caretaker Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra most during the ongoing Songkran festival, the traditional Thai New Year, by pouring perfumed water on his palms, according to a recent poll.

The ABAC Poll of Assumption University, conducted from April 8-10, found that the caretaker premier is still the most popular politician, with 52.9 per cent of respondents saying they want to pour perfumed water on Mr. Thaksin's hands and being blessed in return...

Seniors ride BTS free of charge

– April 15, 2006

Left: The sign reads: Let's celebrate Songkran – 13-15 April

– Seniors ride BTS free of charge



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Official Songkran website – Songkran.net

– April 13, 2006

Also: TAT has some info on the [religious and cultural aspects](#) of the festival.

Also: [Ancient, region-wide custom](#), *The Nation*, April 13, 2003

The water festival has been celebrated for centuries in Thailand,

Burma, Laos, Cambodia, even in Yunnan...

‘The gayest of Thailand’s festival’ – April 13, 2005

An interesting [ghost](#)

[site](#) is the [Internet](#)

[1996 World Exposition Thai Pavilion](#) that also [explains](#)

that Songkran is the ‘The gayest of Thailand’s festival.’ [Here:](#)

‘Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra clicking an electronic

door to open the Thai Pavilion.’

[abandon is not Songkran](#) – Bangkok Post, April 9, 2005

...What is supposed to happen is that extended families reunite to express their respects to elders and each other by pouring scented water onto the hands of parents, grandparents, other kinfolk and friends, near and far. They are also presented with gifts to make merit and the elders, in return, wish the younger ones good luck, good health and prosperity in the year to come. It is a family affair and the most noble and loving one in our calendar... To such people, Songkran is a time for getting wildly drunk, non-stop partying, motorcycle racing, drug-taking, gambling their present and future earnings away, taking water-throwing to dangerous and insane extremes with high-pressure water guns and hoses directed at unwitting passersby and moving vehicles, and engaging in outright hooliganism and water torture...

Picking up the bodies
– April 16, 2005

Right: Truck from the Portektueng Foundation that helps pick up dead bodies. Note the interesting cartoon stickers— one of the left has a worker carrying an apparently nude worker and on the left a worker carries a corpse tied up in a white sheet Thai style.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Songkran billboard

April 13, 2010

Categories: Songkran



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

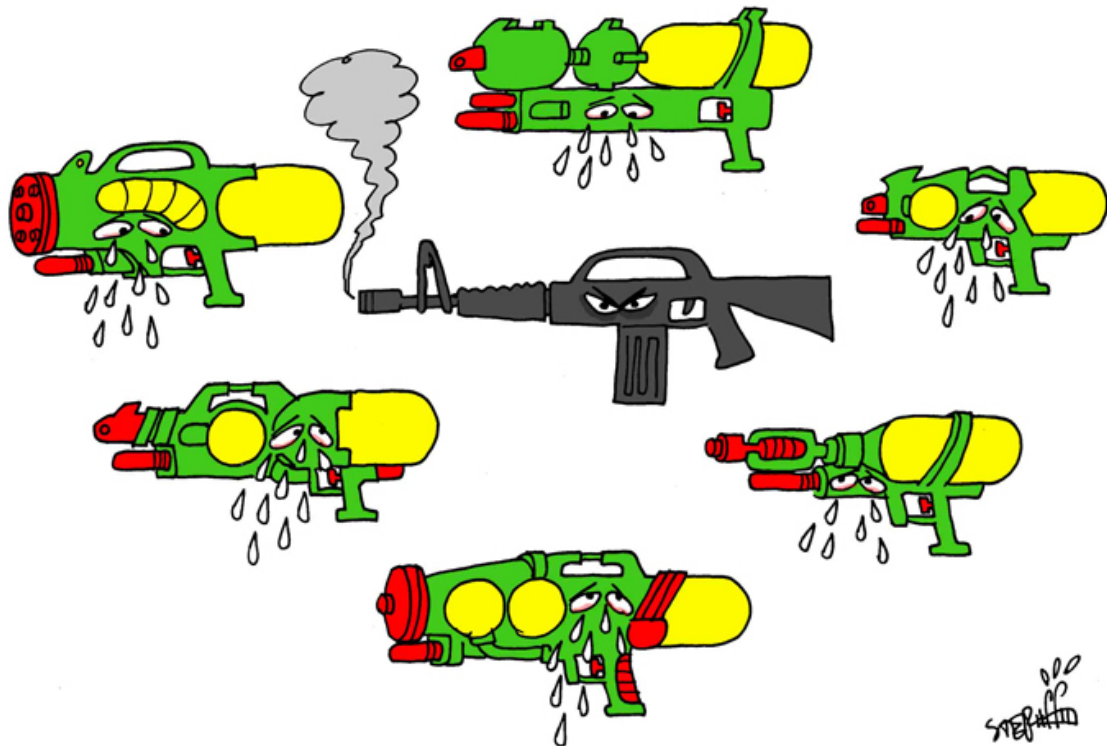
Songkran billboard – May 8, 2010

Leftover Songkran billboard on Pra Padaeng. It reads: Sawasdee everyone – Songkran of the year 2010 – We, brother and sister send our wishes – Have a cool splash, be happy and safe, good luck be with every one of you – MP Pracha Prasobdee – MP Naruemon Tharndamrong – Pheu Thai Party

Cartoon by Stephff

April 14, 2010

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Stephff's Cartoons



(Source: Courtesy of Stephff – *The Nation*)

2Bangkok Situation Update: Understanding what is going on

April 14, 2010

Categories: Analysis, Red Shirt Protest 2010

Also: [Red Protests 2010 main page](#)

2Bangkok has received many questions about the current situation. Here is an overview with some perspective.

What did Thaksin do?

What Thaksin did was break the hierarchical form of political and economic dependency. In the past the central government trickled money down to regional governors and MPs who in turn trickled down to regional bosses and on down to village chiefs and other local leaders who organized people at a grassroots level. The only national-level individuals who aided country people directly were royalty. The central government was remote and faceless.



Thaksin's government changed all this by feeding money directly to people at the grassroots level, which bypassed all the traditional hierarchy and upset the existing balance of power. The result was not only a grassroots constituency that was empowered, but a growing cult of personality that grew up around Thaksin.

This on its own was originally tolerated. Many social activist groups in the country and abroad had long called for this kind direct funding to break the bonds of poverty which had kept rural people poor. Having a strong and stable PM and government during a was also thought to be a good thing to maintain political and social stability.

However, Thaksin also embarked on a series of controversial legal moves that ended up openly benefiting his family's companies. Along with this was a concerted campaign to blunt or co-opt all the independent organs of the constitution (the auditor general, the election commission, etc.) and a re-igniting of problems in the south by cutting the army out of its longstanding role there. By the time Thaksin began to pressure media firms not to write negative editorials about his government by getting companies to withhold advertising, he had collected an awesome array of enemies.

There is no doubt that Thaksin had a bold vision for Thailand's future. From Thaksin's perspective he was probably desiring a Malaysian or Singaporean-style democracy with a strong one-party government that also controls the press. Thaksin and his new age political allies were heavily influenced by admiring first hand the level of development in more developed nations. Complete control in change-adverse Thailand was seen to be necessary to push through needed reforms and changes.

Is the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) simply a "royalist group?"

The PAD actually started as more of a pressure group formed by powerful business and political interests that were disenfranchised by Thaksin's actions. The royalty angle was used to subtly point out to people how Thaksin's style and aspirations were competing with the royal role in Thai politics—as well as to provocatively push the boundaries of acceptable criticism by drawing royal issues into politics. Another key fear for the PAD was how Thaksin bought other political parties and integrated them into his Thai Rak Thai block to create his majority while manipulating laws to give his company businesses massive advantages.

The PAD is not essentially a royalist group (although it uses these symbols in its protests), but an attempt by powerful interests to push back against what they see as overwhelming Thaksin's monopolistic control of political and business spheres at their expense.

While it is easy to paint the PAD or UDD with a broad ideological brush, the reality is that there is very little ideology in Thai politics. Voters, particularly in rural areas, are motivated by those who can deliver general prosperity and opportunities for gainful employment.

Has the army chief split with the government by calling for dissolution?

The commander-in-chief's comments were a way to outwardly show a sense of being open to early dissolution, but they were made in the context of showing the government was stable and dissolution should not happen in the near term. He was only saying that a dissolution should take place in October—after the key military budget and promotions are finished. Dissolution has to be stalled until after that point so that these events can be managed to Thaksin's disadvantage.

The surprise call for dissolution of the Democrats (a week earlier than scheduled) does throw a monkey wrench into these plans. It is entirely possible that the ruling was expedited in a Quixotic attempt to somehow ameliorate the tense political situation.

Are the Red Shirt protests all about a “people power” uprising?

The protests now, whatever the overall legitimate social and economic aspirations they reflect for the rural poor, are being run on the ground for very prosaic and immediate political goals: to engineer a situation in which Thaksin can return to Thailand and be pardoned. The snipers, the bombs at power stations, Sah Daeng and his shadowy supporters, are all a part of an immediate Machiavellian political game.

The unintended consequence is that Thaksin appears to have created a real rural movement that could be driven by progressive ideas and not controlled by Shinawatra family patronage. How this new power influx will be integrated into Thailand's rapidly changing political system is anyone's guess.

In any case, both Thaksin and his lawyers have several times stated they could end the movement completely if the government gives in to Thaksin's demands. So at least Thaksin is under the impression that he has the on and off switch for the movement. It is likely that this also drives various Red Shirt faction leaders to steer their own course so that they cannot someday be shut down if Thaksin gets his way.

So we have both a nascent political grassroots block that could have enormous political implications in the future, but on the ground today, a political drama involving traditional political figures jousting for the immediate spoils of the country.

Also: [Red Protests 2010 main page](#)

Students provide Thai village with running water

April 14, 2010

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[Students provide Thai village with running water](#) – *The Daily Barometer*, April 14, 2010

...a group of Oregon State University students embraced education's philanthropic roots by traveling to Thailand, where they built a dam to supply water to a struggling village...

Social security office advise public to carry insurance card during Songkran

April 14, 2010

Categories: Songkran

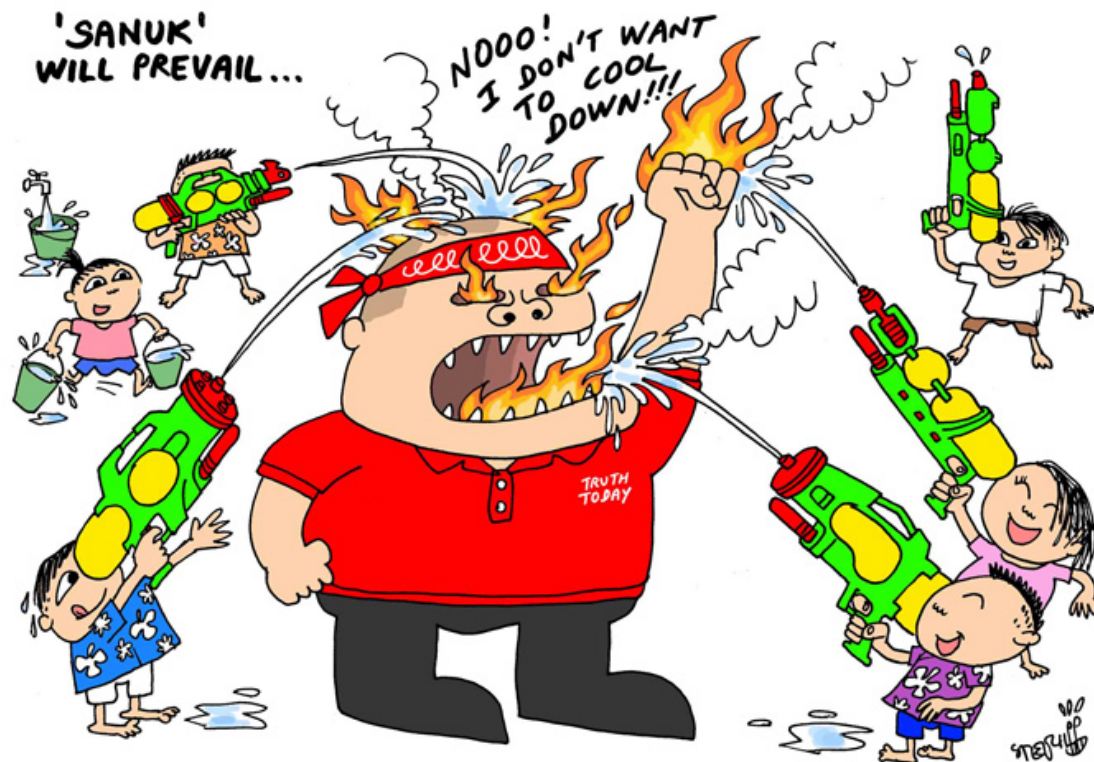
[Social security office advise public to carry insurance card during Songkran](#) – TAN, April 14, 2010

The Social Security Office has advised the public to carry their social security cards with them during the Songkran festival so they can be admitted to the nearest hospital, should any accidents occurs...

Cartoon by Stephff

April 15, 2010

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Stephff's Cartoons



(Source: Courtesy of Stephff – *The Nation*)

Red Shirt Protests – April 10-15, 2010

April 15, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

Also: [Red Protests 2010 main page](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Downtown – April 15, 2010

Songkran on Khao Sarn Road (above) was not too crowded and definitely less chaotic than usual.

Nearby at Democracy Monument, people were cleaning off the graffiti left by the Red Shirts (below).
More [photos here](#) and a [video here](#).



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

[Thai royal taboo under pressure](#) – *FT*, April 14, 2010

[Government distances itself from Thai monarchy comments](#) – *NYT*, April 14, 2010

[Military admits firing at reds](#) – *The Nation*, April 15, 2010

[Democrats urge Pua Thai Party to take responsibility for violence](#) – *TAN*, April 14, 2010

[Pictured man clarifies his position](#) – *The Nation*, April 15, 2010

[Thai democracy threatened by organized subversion](#) – *The Epoch Times*, April 14, 2010

[Ousting Abhisit may not end deadly Thailand protests](#) – *Bloomberg*, April 14, 2010

[Red-shirts deny terrorist connections](#) – *Bangkok Post*, April 15, 2010

Anti-government protesters Thursday denied that the group was related to a group of terrorists that was involved in the shooting during bloody clashes in the Thai capital last weekend...

Situation update – April 14, 2010

2Bangkok has received many questions about the current situation. Here is an overview with some perspective.

[What did Thaksin do?](#)

[Is the People's Alliance for Democracy \(PAD\) simply a "royalist group?"](#)

[Has the army chief split with the government by calling for dissolution?](#)

[Are the Red Shirt protests all about a "people power" uprising?](#)



Attempts to determine the identities of Red Shirt gunmen – April 13, 2010

[Here](#) and [here](#)

Also: First day Songkran road toll:

45 dead and 607 injured. In comparison the clashes on Saturday resulted in 21 killed and over 800 injured.



Snipers – *Daily News*, April 13, 2010

More photos emerging of unknown gunmen who targeted commanders leading soldiers in the crackdown on Red Shirt protesters on April 10, 2010—including snipers in buildings on Ratchadamneorn Road with professional sniper rifles (top right).

Also: [ISOC spokesman says military officer identified Romklao for assailants](#) – *The Nation*, April 12, 2010

[Col Romklao: Pre-meditated or accidental death](#) – *TAN*, April 12, 2010



From *Komchadluek*, April 12, 2010

The headline reads: Army-Govt breaks – Army retreated! – Saying Mark made wrong decision – Coalition parties pressure for house dissolution in 2 months

Death toll reaches 21 and a thousand injuries – A colonel from ‘Buraphapayak’ unit died

Who causes the strategic operation to fail!!!

Popular opinion urges for reviving negotiation – Chaos wreaks trouble – Loss of 35 billion – Shares plummet

World promotes peace approach – Japan doubts the death of journalist – Committee formed by four sides to be set up to investigate the cause of deaths – Denouncing the use of violence



From *Komchadluek*, April 13, 2010

The headline reads: Popular opinion urges negotiation – Denounces the use of violence

The coalition party's ultimatum on constitution revision – Pressure Mark to dissolve parliament in 2 months – Relations between government and army are breaking – Force withdrawn, canceling mob dissolving plan
Economic damage of 35 billion baht – Tourism in coma – Three countries ban tourists to travel to Thailand
Seeking Asean to discuss the Thai crisis – World promotes peace approach

[Thai foreign minister: 'Thaksin Shinawatra is a terrorist'](#) – *Times Online*, April 13, 2010

... "Hitler was elected, Mussolini was elected, even Stalin could say that he was elected also but what did they do to their very society? This is the question," Mr Kasit said...

[Respect people's aspiration](#) – *Review Nepal*, April 12, 2010

...The Sinawatra's supporters including Thai people have been voicing for democratic right since 2006 when military had coup and dismissed the elected government of Sinawatra.

...The present Military backed government has been ruling the nation suppressing the voices of people and without any democratic base...

[The violence of Thailand's tyrants](#) – *socialistworker.org*, April 12, 2010

Thailand's right-wing government ordered its soldiers to open fire on pro-democracy demonstrators who have been gathered in the heart of the capital of Bangkok for nearly a month to demand free and fair elections...

[Final video by slain Reuters cameraman](#) – *Reuters*, April 12, 2010

[Urgent: EC resolves to dissolve Democrat Party](#) – *The Nation*, April 12, 2010

[Arisaman leads 300 motorcyclists to capture CAT Telecom CEO](#) – *The Nation*, April 12, 2010

[PM on air, announcing terrorists commit sabotage Saturday](#) – *The Nation*, April 12, 2010



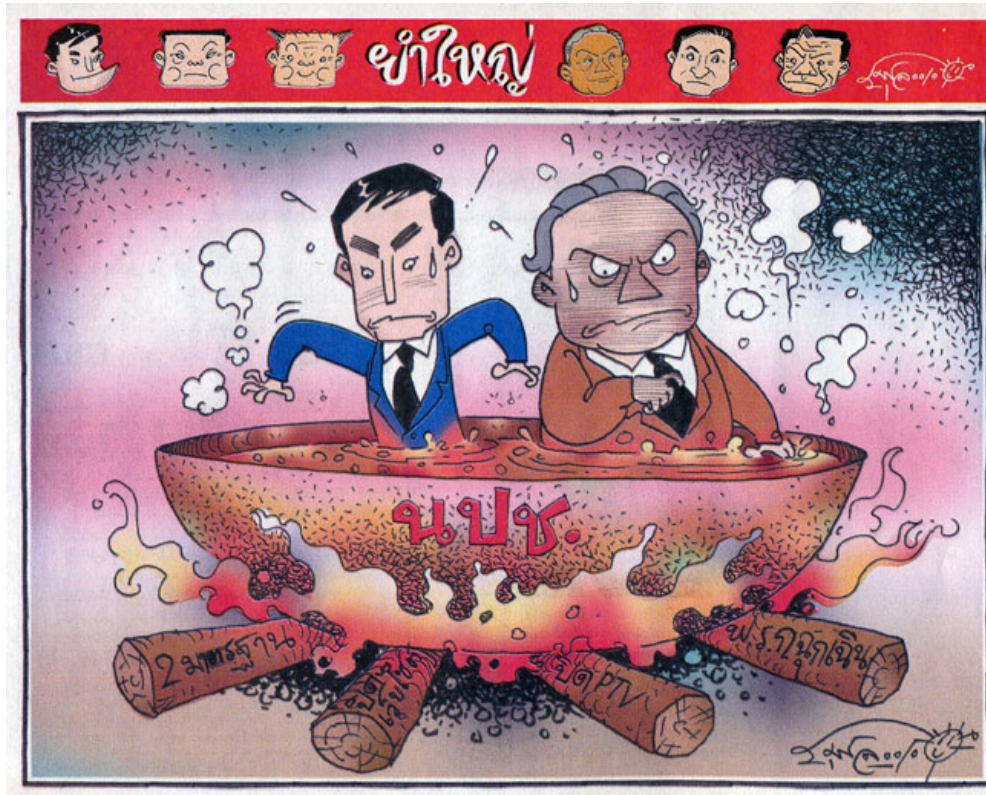
From *Thai Rath*, Column: Cartoon by Zia, April 12, 2010

The cartoon title reads: The people must die first

The words on the heart clapper reads: The red people asking for justice

The words on the foot clapper reads: The red people asking for the return of democracy

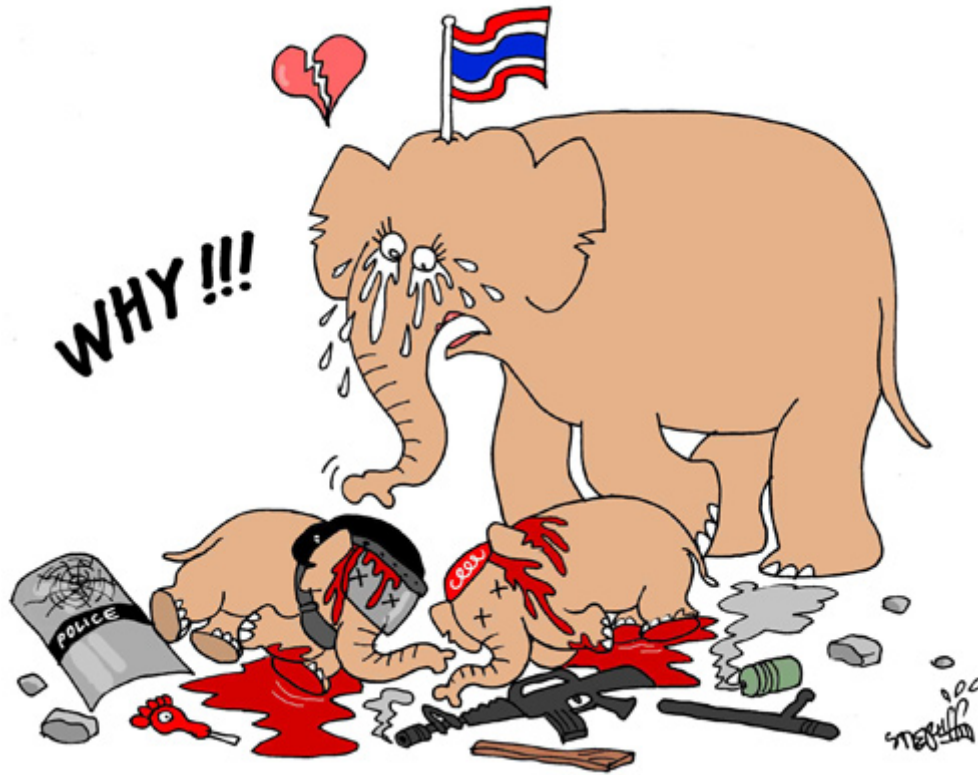
On the drawing of Abhisit at the top right: Toddler tyrant



(Source: *Khao Sod*, April 11, 2010)

From *Khao Sod*, Cartoon "Yam Yai" (Mixed salad), April 11, 2010

PM Abhisit and Deputy PM Suthep Tuaksuban are in a pot with "UDD" on the side. The wood burning underneath the pot reads: Double standards, Website blockade, PTV close order, Emergency decree



(Source: Courtesy of Stephff – *The Nation*)

Latest news

- Red Shirts capture some APCs
- [PTV signal is back on](#) – *Bangkok Post*, April 11, 2010
- Government coalition partners meeting
- Death toll up to 20 and 842 injured

[Roads blocked/Red Shirts moving to Thaicom building again](#) – *Bangkok Post*, April 11, 2010

Assessing the situation – 10:26, April 11, 2010

- * There is an uneasy calm this morning as well as shock at the resistance put up by the Red Shirts and the high death and injury tolls on both sides.
- * The government is trying to present its side of the story—even having news reports in the Northeastern dialect to explain the situation to rural people.
- * Perhaps most troubling for the government is that the situation on the ground is apparently unchanged—Red Shirts are still encamped at several key rally spots in town.
- * While it is not clear what the next move will be, it is likely that the Red Shirts will feel their cause is considerably strengthened. The pro-Thaksin and then Red Shirt groups have been predicting and trying to provoke a violent crackdown ever since the 2006 coup.
- * Of interest will be the military mindset. There has already been considerable chatter about alarm and anger among soldiers at how they were opposed on the streets of Bangkok by an armed force. This has undoubtedly led to coup rumors. Several factors could encourage a coup, particularly if the government coalition seems shaky, then controlling the military budget and the appointment of a new commander-in-chief in coming months would be of top importance. However, cooler heads will likely want to protect the military from further blame and attention now that the Democrats are in the hot seat for the moment. If the

government really does seem to be unable to maintain control or implement its decisions, the possibility of a coup increases.

* The push and pull of previous days—with many demanding action while at the same time security forces being a hesitant to act fits the overall feeling of most political players. This idea is that the perfect outcome would be that the Red Shirts and the Democrats be either literally destroyed or have their reputations ruined, thus leaving a bright future for the coalition and opposition parties while shielding the military and police from blame for initiating violence.



(Source: *Daily News*, April 10, 2010)

The 17 – from *Daily News*, April 10, 2010

Large photo at left: Veera Musikapong

Left to right, top row:

Nuttawut Saikua,

Doctor Weng Tojirakan, Kwanchai Praipana, Korkaew Pikulthong, Charan Ditthapichai, Darunee Kridboonyalai, Chinnawat Haboonpat, Wiphuthalaeeng Pattanaphumthai

Left to right, bottom row: Nisit Sinthuprai, Pol. Lt. Col. Waipoj Arpornrat, Army specialist Maj. Gen.

Khattiya Sawasdipol, Paijit Aksornnarong, Wisa Khanthap, Vorapol Prommikkabut, Samrerng Prachamruea, Adisorn Piangket

[Chronology of Black Saturday](#) – *The Nation*, April 11, 2010

[Army spokesman: Soldiers held as hostage by red-shirt group](#) – *TAN*, April 10, 2010



(Source: NBT screen grab)

PM addressing the nation

[PM says real bullets only used to shoot into sky or self-defence](#) – *TAN*, April 10, 2010

[PM promises independent probes into Saturday killings](#) – *The Nation*, April 10, 2010

[BKK medical centre announces 11 killed, 521 injured so far](#) – *The Nation*, April 10, 2010

[8 dead, 486 injured from officer-Red-shirt clash](#) – *TAN*, April 10, 2010

The Latest

– Red Shirts regroup at Phan Fa Bridge.

– At least 5 dead. Some reports state that Reuters reporter Hiroyuki Miramoto was killed in the clashes. Some of the dead being displayed on the Red Shirt stage.

– Troops holding back. Red Shirts venting from the stage at Phan Fa Bridge.

[First death reported at Kok Wua intersection](#) – *TAN*, April 10 2010

First death reported at Kok Wua intersection after protesters clashed with authorities. Total number of casualties reported by INN put no. Of injured at 300, 64 are soldiers.

[UDD calls for PM to leave country](#) – *Bangkok Post*, April 10, 2010

[Thai PBS says protesters return gunfire at troops](#) – *The Nation*, April 10, 2010

The Latest

– Grenades fired into government House compound.

– 8 seriously injured in clashes.

– Firefight consisting of Molotov cocktails and gunfire at Kok Wua intersection.

[Soldiers exchange gunfires with red shirt protesters](#) – *The Nation*, April 10, 2010

Red shirts threw explosives into soldiers at Si Yak Kor Woe site, injuring about 20 soldiers...

[Unrest in Thailand](#) – *Boston.com*, April 10, 2010

[BTS services suspended; All malls around Ratchaprasong close](#) – *TAN*, April 10, 2010

[Troops try to evict reds from rally sites](#) – *Bangkok Post*, April 10, 2010

[Tear gas used on protesters, monks form barrier to protect protesters](#) – *TAN*, April 10, 2010

[Standoff between Red-Shirts VS soldiers at Region 1 Army HQ](#) – *TAN*, April 10, 2010

Troops and riot police on the move – April 10, 2010

Troops appear to be surrounding Red Shirt protest areas after attempts by the Red Shirts to storm the Region 1 Army base this morning.



(Source: NBT screen grab)

Also: [Red Protests 2010 main page](#)

Red Shirt graffiti on Democracy Monument

April 15, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

Also: [Red Shirt Protests 2010 main page](#)



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Red Shirt graffiti on Democracy Monument – April 15, 2010

Graffiti on Democracy Monument being cleaned off after the Red Shirts vacated their protest site at Phan Fa Bridge and moved to Rajprasong.

A video of the area is [here](#).



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

A reader provides this photo and translation of some of the Red Shirt graffiti on Democracy Monument:

Only good at shooting civilians ... Dickhead soldiers

My brothers and sisters are dead. You must pay with your lives, you bastards.

Mark-Thep

The bitch Prem, The bastard Thep



(Photo: A reader)

The fall of Phnom Penh

April 17, 2010

Categories: Cambodia



(Source: *Bangkok World*, April 17, 1975)

35 years since the fall of Phnom Penh – April 17, 2010



The last message

"Goodbye, sir. See you in Phnom Penh." The last message from the military operator in the Cambodian capital at 11:30 am yesterday in effect announced the end of a five-year war.

In Bangkok, the message was the anti-climax for Col. Liou Phin Oum, the Cambodian Armed Forces Attaché, who in the past five days had been briefing journalists on the war around Phnom Penh.

Five minutes before the two-way radio went dead the operator in Phnom Penh reported demonstrations welcoming the Khmer Rouge and the street scenes following the fall of Phnom Penh.

There was a crackle and the radio fell silent.

"It is finished," Col. Oum said, gesticulating in despair and forcing a smile. The operator in Col. Oum's sparsely furnished office covered the radio set with a newspaper and sat back dejected in his chair.

Col. Oum's staff members stood by, silently staring at the equipment. There was no surprise

on their faces, only the deep sadness of the moment and the uncertainty of the future.

Since the Americans evacuated Phnom Penh at the weekend Col. Oum had been in almost constant radio contact with the general staff headquarters in Phnom Penh. He was the only source of news on the war for the journalists here.

"It's been a bad day for us," the colonel had told journalists on Wednesday. The markings on a military map in his office looked different yesterday. There were prominent arrows in red and green showing the final insurgent thrusts towards Phnom Penh from the South, South-east and the North-west.

With radio contact lost Col. Oum sat at his desk with a small transistor radio, translating in English snippets of news in the Khmer language.

"You see, I've now become a translator," he told the journalists crowding round his desk. — Reuters

Interesting links from *KI Media*:

[17th April: A Day of National Mourning](#)

[Duty of Memory: Please help share your stories under the Khmer Rouge regime](#)

[Last Khmer Rouge to defect discuss reconciliation](#)

[Through the mistake of one single individual](#)

[Life under the Khmer Rouge \(Part 1\) – Excerpt from an upcoming book by Author Chanda Chhay](#)

[Life under the Khmer Rouge \(Part 2\)](#)

[Life under the Khmer Rouge \(Part 3\)](#)

[Roland Neveu: The Fall of Phnom Penh](#)

[Phnom Penh \(Monivong Blvd\) on 17 April 1975](#)

[CAMBODIA: The Last Days of Phnom-penh](#)

(Source: *The Nation*,
April 18, 1975)

[CAMBODIA: Long March from Phnom-Penh](#)

[17 April 1975: 35 years later, do you still remember where you were on that fateful day?\)](#)

[April 1975 ... a recall: By Khoar Chev](#)

[Life under the KR – Story by Anonymous](#)

[Mrs. Phoeung Sunthary: Reconciliation cannot be done with forgiveness](#)

[Khmer Rouge legacy lingers 35 years after Phnom Penh's fall](#)

[Long Beach's Cambodians to remember beginning of Killing Fields](#)



(Source: *The Nation*, April 18, 1975)

2Bangkok Situation Update: Botched raid and Anupong steps forward

April 17, 2010

Categories: Analysis, Red Shirt Protest 2010

2Bangkok Situation Update: Botched raid and Anupong steps forward – April 17, 2010

More answers to various questions about the present situation.

Why was the police raid to capture Red Shirt leaders botched?

It is not clear exactly the reason, but it is probably a combination of factors. Thai institutions are not known for coordinating well nor carrying out operations that require force with finesse. It is also true that some parts of the police are sympathetic to Thaksin and this explains the go-slow attitude of letting the leaders escape as opposed to fighting through a crowd to capture them. Also, the stigma of being blamed for tactical failure still haunts both the police and military and this results in hesitation and avoidance of conflict in a way Westerners perhaps cannot fully comprehend.

Whatever the reason for its failure, the bungled raid will allow each side to see the worst of the situation. The Red Shirts will again be emboldened as it seems the authorities do not have the stomach to capture them. Opponents of the Democrats will see it as another proof that PM Abhisit does not have the authority to command. Military leaders will see it as a proof that a legalistic, gentle approach will not be enough to clear the Red Shirts and that a hardcore crackdown is the only way to save the nation.

The botched raid, any way one looks at it, bodes ill for any quick end to the conflict.



Above: The "coup on TV" from 2008

What is the military meeting about next week (on April 19)? Is the military still supporting the government?

The military has not wavered in its support of the government, but has made tactical moves to say it wants early dissolution—but only after the government pushes through the budget and annual reshuffle. Talk of

dissolution is merely a public relations ploy to distance itself from the Democrat's decision-making (even assuming that the Democrats responsible for all the decisions made during last weekend's crackdown).

The crackdown exposed "rogue" forces participating actively against the military, validated the boasts of Sah Deang and Gen. Pallop, and is surely resulting in both fear and hurt pride in army ranks. There will be a strong desire to avenge the deaths of soldiers and restore the army's self-held belief in its supremacy over the nation.

It is not clear the exact nature of the Monday meeting, but it is safe to assume it is the military's way to show a united face against further Thaksin-Red Shirt provocations. This time it will likely be used to underline the seriousness of the situation while displaying that the armed forces are united. The military remains happy to let the Democrat government take the blame for any actions against the Reds.

These kind of public moves by the military again demonstrate (at least at the highest level) that there is no desire for a coup. This is similar to the "coup on TV" from 2008 when leaders appeared on TV to call on the government to step down.

What is the meaning of the C-in-C replacing Suthep in handling emergency operations?

In effect the duties of governing and handling the security situation are being split between the government and military. Commander-in-Chief Anupong is going to personally take control of the Emergency Operations Command (it was formerly held by Deputy PM Suthep). It is very early to understand the ramifications of this, but it seems to show that the government and military are taking a harder and more serious line in relation to the recent bungled security activities.

This means that the authorities are taking the recent events very seriously and are willing to exert force and prestige in restoring the situation to normal. This shows that there is a desire for the government not to collapse under the impression that they cannot direct security forces. It means the military has been shaken by the apparent rouge soldiers who supported the Reds and have given the impression that Thailand is in a state of civil war. It means the military need to take action, but do not want an outright coup (despite calls already coming from the Red Shirts that this is a coup).

This could mean more deliberate and steady tough action against the Reds—and more bloody as well. The Thai military has always been an uncompromising and even cruel force when it acts on its own—but it does stand for the status quo.

Is more violence likely?

The Red Shirts are emboldened and earlier in the week vowed to split Bangkok in two with a protest site that stretches across the city and through the heart of the tourist district (down Sukhumvit Road).

At this moment there is little stomach for open conflict as both sides are jockeying to get their version of events out for maximum public benefit. As mentioned before, the Red Shirt activity on the ground is merely the extension of political behind-the-scenes jockeying to bring the government down by any means necessary. Abhisit's authority is hanging by a thread, but authorities will want to make sure he does not lose total legitimacy as all want him to be blamed for whatever tough decisions have to be made in the near future.

It is notable that the PM was not seen in public for most of the week. Once the brightest star of the Democrats' aristocratic elite, Abhisit seems destined to be sacrificed in his historical role as the sharp end of the spear against the first challenge to the authority of the traditional Thai state in the 21st century.

We also cannot ignore the growing calls in some quarters that an old-fashioned right-wing crackdown is called for to remove a relatively small group of people acting on Thaksin's behalf. Such a crackdown would, at the same time, set a precedent for other calculating political figures in the future—like Newin Chidchob—who might be tempted to use the same type of tactics in a future political crisis.

Ironically this desire for blood comes from the same progressive middle- and upper-class that opposed military moves in the early 1990s. This again goes to show that ideology plays little role in Thai

politics and is instead driven by the “ends justifies the means” thinking.