

# **Rose Venkatesan has sex reassignment surgery in Bangkok**

May 2, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Rose Venkatesan has sex reassignment surgery in Bangkok](#) – *News Express Websitekraft*, May 2, 2010

## **2Bangkok Situation Update: About the dissolution offer**

May 5, 2010

Categories: Analysis, Red Shirt Protest 2010

2Bangkok Situation Update: About the dissolution offer – May 5, 2010

The dissolution offer is at once a defeat for the government while also being a shrewd move to force the end of the rallies quickly. With elections to be held just after the military reshuffle and budgeting, it essentially denies Thaksin what he has wanted from the start—a quick dissolution so a new government could control these issues. The offer also allows the Red Shirts to leave gracefully while directing political attention to the next election.

While the Red Shirt crowd roared in approval of the dissolution offer, the Red leadership was initially silent. The offer forced them to basically accept what they have been asking for—dissolution—or risk showing that the protests were more about short term political jockeying over specific issues related to Thaksin's return.

The rudderless leadership of the Red Shirts after the hospital raid and Thaksin's hiring of a lobbyist firm a day before the Prime Minister's announcement all signaled that the dream of a quick dissolution was being abandoned and eyes were turning to new battlegrounds and goals.

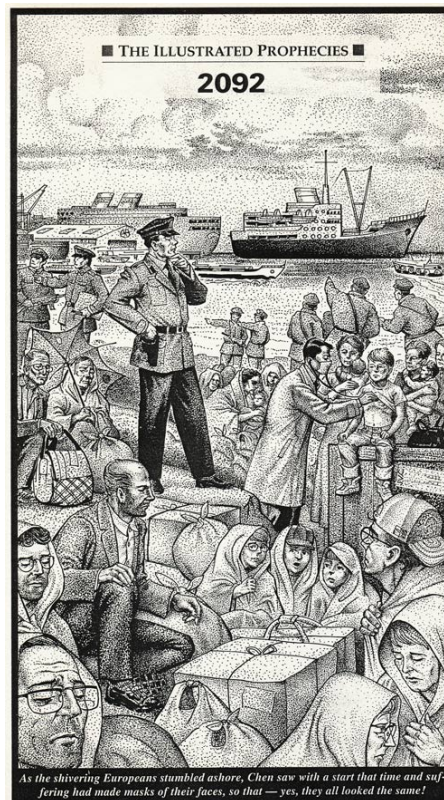
This earlier dissolution is a back down for the government. It will be seen by critics as giving into "mob" intimidation and continuing this precedent for political skirmishes in the future. It allows the Red movement to leave intact as no amount of provocation has been able to shake the government coalition. Even the long sought after "bloodbath" has not resulted in public condemnation of the government, but instead was skillfully played to claim the protesters were armed and violent. There will be many in the anti-Thaksin camps who will be very dissatisfied if the Red movement walks away from this episode intact and is able to protest another day.

A key issue will be the charges against the Red Shirt leaders—following through on these are important on the government side—not only to deter others in the future, but to return control of this movement to more conventional political figures. This is now the goal of the Pheu Thai Party that will now seek to control and mobilize the Red Shirt groups for a triumphant return in the next election. The Red Shirt leaders have done their work for the party cause and can now be discarded or held up as martyrs in jail.

# Illustrated Prophecies

May 8, 2010

Categories: Editorial Cartoons

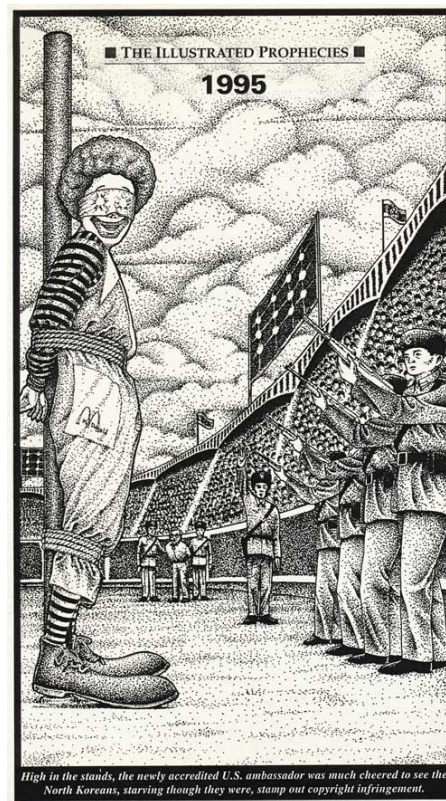


(Source: *AsiaWeek*, February 2, 1994, "Illustrated for AsiaWeek by Juanito V. Canonizado")

"Illustrated Prophecies" from *Asiaweek* – May 8, 2010

Above and below are examples of the "Illustrated Prophecies" cartoons from AsiaWeek magazine in the 1990s. They were subtle, clever and sometimes provocative. They were drawn by a variety of artists.

We were looking for one we remember set in Bangkok. It had a car on a divided highway and this caption:  
"I am in my car on the road just opposite  
the entrance to your soi. I'll be there in three hours."



(Source: *AsiaWeek*, March 23, 1994, "Illustrated for AsiaWeek by Renato G. Jardimiano")



# Accidental Tourist: Thai water torture

May 9, 2010

Categories: Songkran

[Accidental Tourist: Thai water torture](#) – *TimesLive*, May 9, 2010

*...It's delightful to see kids squirting their giant water guns at each other, squealing with delight.*

*It's less appealing when you see some aged foreign git treating what is essentially a sacred Thai holiday like a wet T-shirt competition. The oglers are bad enough, but those who try to cop a feel are pathetic...*

# Thailand: Human Security, Today and Tomorrow

May 10, 2010

Categories: Thai Politics

Thailand: Human Security, Today and Tomorrow – May 10, 2010

The report: [2009 Thailand Human Development Report: Human Security, Today and Tomorrow](#)

Many interesting tidbits:

*...One party boasted of recruiting over 15 million members, but the members had no active role, and the membership list served solely as a database for electoral campaigning. 100 Some MPs and candidates adhere to their parties because of admiration or other attachment to the party leader. But for others the membership is more contractual. They expect to be paid for their continued loyalty. They can be persuaded to switch parties for a transfer fee.*

*...Thailand can be moderately proud of its record on economic development over the past generation. Real per capita incomes have tripled in 25 years, despite the country being at the centre of the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s. Poverty has significantly declined.*

*...Thailand's record on the Millennium Development Goals*

*1: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people living in extreme poverty. Achieved.*

*2: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. Achieved.*

*3: Ensure that, by 2015, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. Highly likely.*

*4: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015. Already achieved.*

*5: Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate. Still problems in remote areas.*

*6: Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio. Target not applicable.*

*7: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. Achieved.*

*8: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases. Achieved for malaria, potentially achievable for tuberculosis.*

*9: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources. Potentially achievable.*

*10: Halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Achieved.*

*11: By 2020 to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers (globally). Likely.*

*...The richest Thais earn 14.7 times more than the poorest. The bottom 60% of the population's share of the income is only 25%. An average of 879 people living in urban areas compared to 5000 living in rural areas*

*have access to only one doctor. Fewer than a million people, despite the high population, live under the poverty line in urban areas compared to more than 5 million in rural areas. Additionally, about 3.5 million people are stateless. Many of them face insecurities. They have uncertain access to the Thai judicial system, uneven access to health services and education, and because of their limited rights they are vulnerable to the worst kinds of exploitation and violence...*

# **Thai royal asks Thai Parliament to stop debate on Khmer-Thai border issue**

May 10, 2010

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

[Thai royal asks Thai Parliament to stop debate on Khmer-Thai border issue](#) – *KI Media*, May 10, 2010

## Old postcard

May 12, 2010

Categories: Old photos and films



Old postcard – May 12, 2010

It reads: First artillery, King's bodyguard, March 11, 1913

I miss you and hope you are really doing fine,

However, why you did not contact me after all, it sounds lonesome.

I am doing great here, eat well sleep well and enjoy traveling,

I will learn new subject on artillery on this coming April.

Send you a flower to smell,

Acting Police Captain

# Hmong: Urge for the release of dissident and refugees

May 12, 2010

Categories: Refugees and Migrants

[Hmong: Urge for the release of dissident and refugees](#) – *unpo.org*, May 12, 2010

*... "The LPDR regime continues to hunt and brutally persecute Laotian and Hmong Christians, Animist leaders and many independent Buddhist groups as well as to deny the United Nations access to over 8,000 Lao Hmong refugees forced from Thailand to Laos from 2007-2009..."*

# What to expect from Thaksin's new lobbyist Robert Amsterdam

May 13, 2010

Categories: Analysis, Robert Amsterdam

What to expect from Thaksin's new lobbyist Robert Amsterdam  
by Ron Morris, May 13, 2010

There is no doubt that Thaksin and the Red Shirts need an image update internationally.

Beginning with the Songkran riots in 2009 and continuing through the present protests this year, the Red Shirt movement has seen its image muddled. The international press has cast a jaundiced eye on Thaksin and the Red Shirts, in most cases refusing to simply delineate the rallies as simply rich vs poor and usually implicating Thaksin as a background cause.

The Red Shirts, unfamiliar with international expectations of non-violence, define themselves as peaceful—unless, of course, they become so dissatisfied that they are justified in fighting (more on this very Thai concept [here](#)). On top of this, Thaksin is clearly under pressure from his host countries not to be seen as leading a political movement from afar.

Public relations for an international audience from either Thaksin or the Thai government are nonexistent. Both sides continue to put out bizarrely Thai-centric websites and blogs that have no resonance with non-Thai readers.

Thaksin's public comments to his followers center around the classic Thai "big man" speech: how much and how hard he works and suffers. The culturally understood meaning of this is that his followers and underlings can feel satisfied that he is working hard and thus they can work hard and sacrifice too. Of course, this logic of this is completely lost on non-Thais.

The government is even worse. Not only is Prime Minister Abhisit focused inwardly on political parties and the military (as every Thai PM inevitably is), but he seems uncomfortable with social media and uses it inconsistently. The government website touted as a source of official information in English—[capothai.org](#)—is just a listing of official pronouncements—as if non-Thais would be somehow dazzled and respectful of the "officialness" of the information presented. So Thaksin needs an effort promoting his cause in a way that is understandable to an international audience.

Amsterdam and Peroff is exactly that: less lawyers and more high-profile public relations. An aggressive strategy undertaken by Amsterdam and Peroff would fit with Thaksin's previous major lobbying effort, [USA for Innovation](#), carried out by the PR company [Edelman](#).

Unlike Edelman, known for setting up fake websites and grassroots movements to influence public opinion, Amsterdam and Peroff is known for turning its clients into symbols of miscarriages of justice through articles and blog posts written by Robert Amsterdam.

This means we can expect articles, press releases, and opinion pieces in major outlets like *Huffington Post* demonizing the government and touting the Red Shirts, but written from the perspective of a reasoned opinion piece. Along with this will likely be an advocacy blog for democracy in Thailand delivered on behalf of the Red Shirt movement.

When the USA for Innovation issued press releases and other articles on behalf of Thaksin's cause in 2007, the international media uncritically carried these along with USA for Innovation's fake history despite the "organization" having been set up just the month before.

Amsterdam and Peroff is a much more up-front and nuanced foe for the government. It has demonstrated an aggressive and extensive use of social media and has a respected history of altering international opinions of



those it represents—most notably Yukos CEO Mikhail Khodorkovsky who is now seen internationally as a victim of the Kremlin's antidemocratic meddling in business activities.

### **Points that might be put forward for an international audience by Amsterdam and Peroff**

- \* The prominence of the military in Thai politics (this was one of the key Edelman talking points put forward in 2007). Not that there is any immediate danger of a coup, but keeping pressure on the military not to act further pressures the Prime Minister and limits his options to control an unruly protest.
- \* How human rights of the protesters are being violated and how international law is being violated by the government
- \* How the government is (supposedly) not democratically elected
- \* How the government is engaging in censorship
- \* Keying in on government pronouncements like "CRES okays live rounds against protesters"
- \* Attacks on a wide range of unrelated issues to besiege the government—such as intellectual property violations and sex trafficking (this was also an Edelman tact)

### **Goals of this public relations effort**

- \* Improving the image of the Red Shirts and turning them into a symbol of non-violence and democracy.
- \* Setting the groundwork for a future pro-Thaksin government to take power—probably as part of a coalition. In such a circumstance, the danger of a coup must be forestalled and international perceptions and pressure must be set well beforehand to allow a big Pheu Thai Party win to stand.
- \* Countering successful Thai government efforts in silencing Thaksin. It is clear in recent weeks Thaksin has been under intense pressure internationally for bankrolling and controlling the protests for near term political goals. This has made it difficult for him to reside in other countries while claiming he is not engaging in politics (or even revolution) from afar. It is key that the Red Shirt movement in Thailand be seen as being about democracy and fairness for the poor again.

First press release from Amsterdam and Peroff on behalf of Thaksin: [Fearing Crackdown, Protestors in Thailand Prepare to Document Possible Human Rights Abuses](#)

Additional Amsterdam and Peroff links

Thaksin's new international lobbying effort begins: [Defending a controversial figure against 'the people with bayonets'](#) – The Globe and Mail, May 14, 2010

*...A government that is based out of a military barracks, whose genesis of power is a 2006 military takeover, who is operating on a constitution that does not reflect the people's will and was adopted during a period of strong military control ... this is not a legitimate government. It's very important that Canadians and others not allow the people with bayonets to use those bayonets to justify their ability to rule...*

From [Ex-Thai PM Thaksin hires law firm to aid protesters, AFP](#): ...Amsterdam & Peroff, which has office in Toronto, London and Washington, said it had been appointed by Thaksin "to assist in the current contentious struggle for the restoration of democracy and rule of law" in Thailand...

[Thailand's ousted leader Thaksin hires international lawyer](#) – Radio Australia, May 6, 2010

*...LAM: And finally Robert Amsterdam, is this a first for your law firm to represent a ousted leader with a view to restoring his leadership?*

*AMSTERDAM: That is not our brief. You have not presented our brief properly. Nothing like this constitutes a first for our firm. We've been involved.....*

*LAM: So you just want to set forward a clear legal framework for any reconciliation process. You are not actually acting on Thaksin's behalf to try and restore him to power?*

*AMSTERDAM: I have stated clearly what our brief is and that is the brief we intend to perform in this country. We just are still acting in a number of other countries for various other political leaders. So no, this is nothing new to our firm, nothing new to our experience. Our firm's speciality often relates to dealing in politically charged environments...*

Robert Amsterdam's blog: ["Robert Amsterdam – Perspectives on Global Politics and Business"](#)

Another Robert Amsterdam blog: [Corporate Foreign Policy](#)

How can a big time lawyer find time to write all these blog posts? The blogs are run/managed/outsourced (?) to [K Social Media Consulting](#) founded by James Kimer: *...Past clients have included Rolls-Royce, Lockheed Martin, 3M, and Amsterdam & Peroff. He has maintained successful blogs and social media campaigns on behalf of various clients since 2006...*

Kimer's philosophy meshes almost exactly with Amsterdam's. From [this page](#): *...In addition to straight-forward business promotion, my area of specialty has focused on contentious international political and legal issues, and the management of powerful awareness campaigns on the issues which surround these disputes. I believe that it is not enough to be knowledgeable of media and technology or even to be what they industry terms "a good talker," but rather, the best consultants should totally immerse themselves into the client's business, country, and subjects of interest, become known and respected among the leading voices, and work to engage the client's rightful role in the public debate regarding issues which concern them....*

A highly critical article on Amsterdam: [Who Really Is Robert Amsterdam?](#) – Borba, May 10, 2009

[Robert Amsterdam continues to attack Singapore government on Huffington Post](#) – temasekreview.com, November 12, 2009

[Robert Amsterdam on Wikipedia](#)

Example of an advocacy website set up by Amsterdam and Peroff: [Michael Kapoustin](#) (interestingly the domain is registered by "Domain Discreet")

## 2Bangkok Situation Update: Colonel Romklao's Revenge

May 14, 2010

Categories: Analysis, Red Shirt Protest 2010

Right: From *Nation Weekend*, February, 2010

The headline reads: Black tigers roar! – bloodshed over the land



2Bangkok Situation Update: Colonel Romklao's revenge – May 14, 2010

It was likely not a difficult decision for the military to resolve to take out Seh Daeng. This is assuming the military was behind the sniper attack and we believe this is a very likely scenario. Seh Daeng's recent attempts to reconstitute the Red Shirt leadership into a more revolutionary group opposed to the reconciliation offer means that even the government would be opting for his removal.

In the past, Seh Daeng correctly predicted multiple attacks on the Commander-in-Chief's headquarters, warned that judges would be assassinated, and implied at every turn he was behind armed resistance to the government. In doing all this and more he was provoking a very dangerous foe—the Thai military in the defense of the nation.

Recent years have been an anomaly for the military. They have tolerated provocation and resisted being provoked by pro-Thaksin forces. This is unusual behavior for the military which historically has always clumsily leaped forward to defend its sense of the nation despite any negative ramifications.

Those with memories of only the past decade perhaps have forgotten what a dangerous beast the Thai military can be when roused to action. It was an incredibly preposterous notion that protesters could take off their red shirts could somehow be safe during a crackdown. Once the military gives a final warning, all are fair game and are dealt with in broad strokes. Such an organization does not hesitate carrying out what it sees as necessary action—even when their target is being interviewed by the international press.

[As we have previously noted](#), the armed resistance to the military culminating in the apparent targeting of Colonel Romklao on April 10 likely set in motion the final fate of Seh Daeng.

Once it was clear Seh Daeng was also standing in the way of the government brokered end to the rally at Rajprasong, and even trying to put together a more radical leadership bent on revolution, even the government would have likely agreed to Seh Daeng's killing.



Above: Colonel  
Romklao



(Source: Seh Daneg's trip to meet Thaksin in December 2009)

Above: One of a series of photos of [Seh Daeng's visit to Thaksin's Dubai residence in December 2009](#)

Earlier: [Seh Daeng: Thaksin Appoints New Red Shirt Leaders](#) – *TAN*, May 10, 2010

Earlier: [No new team of red shirts leaders : Nuttawut](#) – *The Nation*, May 10, 2010



The title reads: Dust fighter – Seh Daeng – read interview word by word before assassinated: "No one can order She Daeng, even if that person is Brother Thaksin, cannot order me because I am here due to my heart"

–

Collection of the pictures of Seh Daeng – Special news team – Major General Khattiya Sawasdipol, a soldier of one side for justice and democracy. His name is hero of red shirt and who was assassinated at Saladaeng – Collection of interviews, articles –political views of Seh Daeng

Update – June 1, 2010

# **‘In Trying Times, Local Movie Festival Fights On’**

May 14, 2010

Categories: Film and TV

*From a press release: May 14, 2010 Bangkok, Thailand – Despite Red Shirt protests, lack of government support, and a diminishing pool of potential sponsors, one emerging Bangkok-based movie festival is determined to carry on.*

*The new [Bangkok IndieFest](#), slated for August 4-8 of this year, was set into motion as a grass-roots undertaking by Thai and International organizers last August, when times in Thailand were relatively untroubled.*

*Since then, hundreds of international and local filmmakers have submitted their work, eager to screen in Bangkok, Southeast Asia’s movie capital, despite the growing unrest.*

*...IndieFest organizers concede that, while a low-budget film festival may run counter to some local Thai moviegoers’ expectations of a lavish motion picture event, they are seeking to adhere to a viable sustainability model for the fest’s long term growth, especially after experiencing current operational challenges in Thailand.*

*Ultimately, organizers believe Bangkok IndieFest will nonetheless make a positive contribution to the development of the local motion picture sector.*

*And more importantly, while many organizations are scaling back their cultural events or canceling them altogether, Bangkok IndieFest organizers are convinced that any cultural attraction which can help offset negative international press generated by recent protest activities can only be beneficial to Thailand in the long run.*



# Red Protests – May 1-15, 2010

May 15, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

Red Protests – May 1-15, 2010

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



(Source: Channel 3 screen grab)

[PM regrets loss of lives](#) – *The Nation*, May 15, 2010

[CNN breaking news on the PM's speech](#) – YouTube, May 15, 2010

[Thaksin's harvest –](#)

[Where red shirts hang their hats](#) – *The Economist*, May, 2010

*...Thailand's political crisis is often framed, simplistically, as a battle between haves and have-nots. But in Mr Uthai's village, there are plenty of pickup trucks and tidy houses. The question is who speaks for his generation's children, who are moving to provincial cities, eager to trade up. They have middle-class aspirations but their economic interests, and the politicians they elect, are not those of white-collar Bangkok. Mr Thaksin won their hearts by swelling their wallets. A global boom helped polish his pitch. Mr Abhisit took power in a nasty recession...*

[Thailand is deeply fractured and anarchy has come closer](#) – *The Independent*, May 15, 2010

There is also [this article](#) in the *New York Times*

[Thailand's escalating violence](#) – CFR,  
May 15, 2010

[Official website of Bangkok EMS](#) – May 15, 2010



Tweeted photo: [Paknam UDD men gathering at Imperial Samorng](#)

[Military sniper takes down armed red-shirt protest at Bon Kai](#) – *The Nation*, May 15, 2010

[Din Daeng on fire, 11 deaths, 140 injured](#) – TAN, May 15, 2010

[Bon Kai fire still blazing, 1 death and 3 injured](#) – TAN, May 15, 2010

[US Embassy offers evacuation of families of staff](#) – *AP*, May 15, 2010

Delivering tires to the Red Shirts to burn – [1](#) – [2](#) – [3](#)

[Red-shirt Facebook page issues call for help](#) – *The Nation*, May 15, 2010

*...The page also asked the red-shirt people to be careful, saying the black-shirt warriors and former Army chief Gen Chavalit Yongchaiyudh would help them battle the troops...*

[PM's Office Minister: "PM and Dep PM have not been shot. Just vicious rumors."](#) – *TAN*, May 15, 2010

[BANGKOK DANGEROUS – Timeline of Mayhem in Bangkok – Day 2](#) – *The Nation*, May 15, 2010

[Timeline of Mayhem in Bangkok – Day 1](#) – *The Nation*, May 15, 2010

Tweeted photos – [1](#) – [2](#) – [3](#)



(Photo: I Prahin)

Smoke over Bangkok – May 15, 2010

[I Prahin](#) took these photos and notes: *View from Narathiwas (Chan Road) towards Lumpini (Rama IV) at 5pm today*



(Photo: I Prahin)



From *Komchadluek*, May 15, 2010

The headline reads: Picking him off! Seh Daeng – Sniper shooting into the center of the mob – 2 bullets severely injured – Doctors’ rescue life – UDD shaken – Hardcore to continue fight – Foreign media reports Seh Daeng life targeted, plan to pick off his head





From *Daily News*, May 15, 2010

The headline reads: Two mysterious bullets hitting the head of Seh Daeng – abruptly fell while giving interview to the foreign press – Coma state reported – Being rushed to hospital to save his life

The holy oxen eat grass – Enough water – Rice paddy fields in watershed area grow well – Rice paddy field in high land suffers loss to some extent



From *Thai Rath*, May 15, 2010

The headline reads: Sniper targets Seh Daeng – Suffers critical injury while giving interview to reporters – 3 M79 bombs at Sala Daeng – Cut off water supply, power, bus service, mobile





From *Thai Post*, May 14, 2010

The headline reads: Shooting 'Seh Daeng' in his head! Sniper from the high view/ M79 attacks and M16 shooting from the rally site



(Source: CNN screen grab from May 14, 2010)

Above: Reporting from the business district of Bangkok – CNN's Dan Rivers in full flak gear

[Soliders being pulled out of their trucks and beaten at Din Daeng](#) – YouTube, May 14, 2010

CRES on Thai TV – 20:45, May 14, 2010

Samsern: *We warn people living in certain areas that there are groups with ill intentions that will attempt to create a situation...*

Kasit, Samsern speaking in English: Blaming Thaksin for opposing the reconciliation plan that was accepted by the red leaders and saying that the military is using live ammunition under the previously agreed to rules

of engagement... also interspersed in the talk are clips showing Red Shirt gangs unplugging security cameras and confronting troops on Sathorn Road.

[More M79 attacks: Army bunker and Pathunam area](#) – TAN, May 14, 2010

[Montenegro bans Thailand's Thaksin from talking politics](#) – AFP, May 14, 2010

... "We warned Mr. Shinawatra that, like any other citizen of Montenegro, he cannot abuse the territory of Montenegro for sending any kind of political messages to his followers or the followers of the current Thai authorities," Rocen told a news conference.

...Montenegro's officials have so far failed to explain how Thaksin, a former telecoms tycoon, obtained Montenegrin citizenship...

[Thailand's unrest may unsettle region](#) – Guardian, May 14, 2010

[Authorities close Din Deang intersection as clashes spread](#) – TAN, May 14, 2010

[Four UDD leaders abandon rally](#) – Bangkok Post, May 14, 2010

... "We then could not come into terms because none of us want to be in prison without receiving a fair treatment," Mr Chinawat said. "If the emergency decree is revoked the police could detain us further for 84 days."

Mr Chinawat said Mrs Paijit had a sore throat and Mr Visa was taking care of her, while Mr Veera was not leaving the UDD but he was tired and he was still somewhere nearby the protest venue...

[Possible car bomb defused by authorities near Ramintra Road](#) – TAN, May 14, 2010

[Nathawut warns big tragedy will happen Friday night](#) – The Nation, May 14, 2010

Tweeted photos from Rama IV Road – [1](#) – [2](#) – [3](#) – [4](#)

Thaksin's new international lobbying effort begins:

[Defending a controversial figure against 'the people with bayonets'](#) – The Globe and Mail, May 14, 2010

...A government that is based out of a military barracks, whose genesis of power is a 2006 military takeover, who is operating on a constitution that does not reflect the people's will and was adopted during a period of strong military control ... this is not a legitimate government. It's very important that Canadians and others not allow the people with bayonets to use those bayonets to justify their ability to rule...

From yesterday: [What to expect from Thaksin's new lobbyist Robert Amsterdam](#) – May 13, 2010

[Red-shirt leaders renounce reconciliation](#) – TAN, May 14, 2010

[Soldiers retake Ratchaprarop](#) – TAN, May 14, 2010

[Offices on Asoke asked to evacuate](#) – TAN, May 14, 2010

[Cameraman, foreign journalist shot](#) – The Nation, May 14, 2010

[Troops clash with protesters at Rajprarop](#) – The Nation, May 14, 2010

...Protesters tried to ambush troops at the Rajprarop barricade at 2:15 pm, leading to an exchange of gunfire...

[Troops fire tear gas at protesters at Lumpini Bazaar](#) – The Nation, May 14, 2010

[Photo of Red Shirt shooting a rocket](#)

On the forum: [Odds and ends mainly from the anti-Thaksin Thai-language press](#)

[UDD leadership in disarray as Veera is said to have quit](#) – Bangkok Post, May 14, 2010

[Reds' guards given beverage laced with sedative Thursday night](#) – The Nation, May 14, 2010

[Footage of an unconscious and bloodied Seh Daeng after being shot](#) – CNN, May 13, 2010

[Nation interview with Seh Daeng: ‘Who would dare to get me’](#) – The Nation, May 14, 2010

*...If Suthep surrenders to CSD, the protest is over?*

*As agreed. No one will give up. They are ready for a revolution. The hawks are ready to do it since Wednesday night. Arisman announced openly to bring back the 1997 Constitution and Thaksin.*

*...When did Veera leave Thailand?*

*Three days ago, because I revealed the infighting. The PM got angry with me over the road map, because they could not reach an agreement...*



2Bangkok Situation Update: [Colonel Romklao's revenge](#) – May 14, 2010

[Fact Report](#) – May, 2010

Government website with an animated timeline of events.

[Exclusive tour of Red shirts' container and command center](#) – The Nation, May 14, 2010

[Thai power grows from the barrel of a gun](#) – ATimes, May, 2010

*...It is thus ironic that more former communists are currently on side with the royalist PAD than the supposedly pro-poor UDD, which is simultaneously striving to restore the billionaire Thaksin's wealth and power. So, too, is the fact that while the UDD has called with revolutionary zeal for a new political order, the Thaksin-aligned Pheu Thai party that will contest the next elections is packed with old-style and corruption-tainted patronage politicians...*





(Source: Nation Channel screen grab from May 13, 2010)

Above: Seh Daeng's bandaged head as he was wheeled from ER to surgery

[Timeline of red-shirt dispersal operation](#) – TAN, May 13, 2010

...Reports have surfaced that several key leaders of the red-shirt movement have resigned after Major General Katthiya Sawasdiphol, or Seh Daeng, was shot by a sniper this evening. They include Weera Musikapong, Wisa Kanthap and Pajit Aksornnarong. Meanwhile, several key members, such as Weng Tojirakarn, Jaran Dittapichai and Korkaew Pikulthong are considering leaving the movement.

– Almost no movement from Lumpini Park where another group of red-shirt protesters are gathering except earlier reports of street lamps being smashed and CCTV cameras destroyed by the red-shirt protesters...



(Source: NBT screen grab from April 28, 2010)

Above: Seh Daeng (middle, wearing a hat) in the Red Shirt rally site. He had repeatedly been named by the government as a terrorist and had vowed to maintain the Red Shirt rally even if the present Red Shirt leaders accepted the November election date. It is theorized that he was intent on maintaining the rally at Thaksin's



orders although the Red Shirt leaders has secretly been negotiating with the government to bring the rallies to an end.

[Dissident Thai general shot; Army moves to face protesters](#) – NYT, May 13, 2010

*...He was struck in the head by a bullet during an interview with this reporter...*

[Outspoken red general shot and seriously injured](#) – The Nation, May 13, 2010

20:07 – Urgent: The Nation Channel has announced a correction in a Tweet, saying doctors are still attempting to save Sen Daeng's life.

[Seh Daeng on Wikipedia](#)

[Seh Daeng official website](#) (blocked within Thailand)

20:01 – Urgent: Nation Channel reports Seh Daeng has died.

\* More shooting and grenades reported at the southern Red Shirt barricades (at Silom Road).

\* Key Red Shirt militant leader Seh Daeng shot and hospitalized.

\* Some reports of protesters fleeing the rally site.



(Photo: Kewalin)

Southern billboard – May 12, 2010

This billboard in the Songkhla area reads: Muangkham people love and support PM Abhisit Vejjajiva – No parliament dissolution



Stop the red rally! – From *Komchadluek*, May 12, 2010

The headline reads: The UDD is dodging by pressuring Suthep to report to the police – Stop the red rally

3 department stores suffered 2 billion baht loss – asking for free zone/tax exemption

Claiming DSI for being biased – Asking green light to be given to PTV

[Fifty killings a day, but less risky for tourists than Thailand](#) – *Sydney Morning Herald*, May 10, 2010

*...Britons also have a greater chance of becoming hospitalized in Thailand, Greece, Egypt or India, where they can get mixed up in sexual or drug crimes, the ministry said...*



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



Signs on Silom – May 11, 2010

Above: The topmost sign reads: Protecting nation and homes, in exchange of their blood and flesh, our duty is to maintain further – Silom belongs to every one of us – Silom residents help each other – Buy drinking water and refreshing towels for soldiers and police taking care of Silom

The bottom sign reads: Being born under the shadow of the Thai flag, everyone is Thai – Soldiers and police are far away from their families providing care for Silom which belongs to every one of us! Help buy drinking water, refreshing towels for soldiers and police—Silom belongs to every of us, do not let others to take the area.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: The sign reads: During 6:30am- 8:30am and 3:30pm-5:30pm cars traveling to the Naralom junction, please use the right most lane.

[US rebuked for involvement in Thai politics](#) – Bangkok Post, May 10, 2010

*The US ambassador received a rebuke this afternoon from Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya for Washington's perceived intervention in Thai domestic politics, diplomatic sources said.*

*Ambassador Eric John was summoned by Mr Kasit at 4.30 pm...*

[Thailand's monarchy does not take sides](#) – NST, May 10, 2010

*...Fourth, any notion that Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva "was never elected" is wrong. Elected member of parliament seven times since entering politics, he was voted prime minister by the majority of the House of Representatives in the same manner and by exactly the same house as his two predecessors. That members of the house switched their allegiance is not unusual in a parliamentary democracy...*

[Chaos in Thailand](#) – The Irrawaddy, May, 2010

*An unprecedented movement of rural working-class Thais challenges the Bangkok establishment's hold on power...*

[Without discussion, democracy is doomed](#) – Guardian, May 8, 2010

*...Authoritarian, crude, and somewhat megalomaniacal (almost as though he were a king himself), Thaksin was a Thai version of Silvio Berlusconi...*

[Renegade joins Thai Red Shirts](#) – Thailandnews.net, May 10, 2010

*He boasts of killing 20 Thai communists and fondly recalls working with the CIA, but he denies charges that he leads a death squad that has engaged in bombings and shootings to help the anti-government Red Shirt protesters bring downtown Bangkok to a halt...*

[Policeman killed, 7 policemen, 2 civilians injured in double attacks](#) – *The Nation*, May 8, 2010

[Why Thailand's reds beat a retreat](#) – *Asia Times Online*, May 8, 2010

*...Significantly, the US's accusations mirror many of the government's claims, and raise questions about how much support the US and other Western intelligence agencies have lent Abhisit and the military in helping to unravel the UDD's complicated underground networks, financial flows and command structures – including what role, if any, Thaksin has played in recent violent events...*

More on the Aussie Red Shirt – May 7, 2010

A reader reports some info on the Aussie Red Shirt: *...There is a photo showing him dressed in yellow at a yellow-shirt rally two years ago!*

*Really. I've seen it. Looks like him. No name on that photo, and the owner is not giving permission to use it, so it cannot be run yet...*

*But it really looks like him. He's in a men's room washing his hands, and he's looking at himself in the mirror. So you see his full face in the mirror. However the owner of the photo is not giving permission for the press to run it...*

UPDATE: Another reader claims that the person in the PAD photo is not the Red Shirt Aussie: *If you want to see the guy who is dressed in PAD garb from the photo, in the flesh walk down Soi Rang Nam and look for him sitting outside 7-11 opposite King Power. I swear it's him in the photo, I walk past him almost every night. He's definitely not an Aussie so I don't think they're the same guy.*

Earlier: [Wounded Australian on handouts takes to red shirt stage](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 2, 2010

[Factbox: Countries warn against travel to Thailand](#) – *Reuters*, May 3, 2010

[Thailand crisis is not a struggle against elitism](#) – *Sydney Morning Herald*, May 6, 2010

*...Last, but by no means least, your Editorial touches on the issue of royal succession. Let's admit it: it is an extremely challenging task for anyone, including the Heir to the Throne, to match HM the King's feat of more than six decades of hard work to improve the well-being of His subjects and the ensuing respect He has rightly earned therefrom. HRH the Crown Prince is following His Majesty's footsteps, and he should be judged by what he will do for Thailand if and when he eventually ascends to the Throne. The Thai constitutional monarchy will definitely continue to play a constructive role for the Thai nation in the future...*

[Stop using media as a political weapon, journalists groups tell government, opposition](#) – *IFEX*, May 4, 2010

[Media groups slam Red Shirts for intimidating journalists](#) – *IFEX*, May 4, 2010

[About the dissolution offer](#) – May 5, 2010

*...The rudderless leadership of the Red Shirts after the hospital raid and Thaksin's hiring of a lobbyist firm a day before the Prime Minister's announcement all signaled that the dream of a quick dissolution was being abandoned and eyes were turning to new battlegrounds and goals...*

[Army chief's tactics force election offer](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 5, 2010

[PM announces roadmap, sets election on Nov 14](#) – *The Nation*, May 4, 2010



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Sacrifice – May 4, 2010

Several of these billboards have gone up both on the inbound and outbound Bangna Trat and the Rama 9 roads to the airport.

They read: We love HM The King – sacrifice blood for the nation



Dead or Alive – From *Voice of Taksin*, April, 2010

Back cover of the magazine. The words read: Arrest order – Alive or dead – Slaughtered people – Arrest reward of 100,000 baht to be granted at Ratchaprasong – Apply for Voice of Taksin subscription 081-2869708 089-4828586



[Thai protesters should count their blessings](#) – SFGate, May 2, 2010

...Laos last held an election in 1955, but the coalition government collapsed in 1958, and the country hasn't experienced even a breath of democracy since. Meanwhile, half of the nation's children are so malnourished that they are stunted, meaning they are not growing, either physically or mentally...

[Divisive Thaksin looms over Thai protests](#) – Reuters, May 3, 2010

[Former Thai PM Thaksin throws down the gauntlet to government](#) – emergingmarkets.org, May 2, 2010

... "They want to crack down on the people, but there are a million red shirts", he said. "The only way forward is to reconcile, but if they want to kill red shirts there are too many. Do they want to kill millions? The red shirts are everywhere."

Thaksin said the government had run out of options, and should relinquish power or face a mass uprising that could envelop the entire country...

[Wounded Australian on handouts takes to red shirt stage](#) – Bangkok Post, May 2, 2010

[Stalemate for a city and a nation](#) – Washington Post, May 1, 2010

*Weeks of protests in Thai capital have scared off tourists and spooked investors...*



Hospital raid – Komchadluek, May 1, 2010

The main headline reads: 200 guards dare to invade Chula Hospital – UDD claims the hospital is hideout of military force – Weng says UDD to accept fault

Amnesty for gatherers – Separate fish from the water

'Maew' appears in Russia, showing picture to end rumor about death – Or and children fly to Hong Kong

Patient-nurses frightened

Revealing the face covering man in black hiding themselves among reds



Pheu Thai website – May 1, 2010

Items on the Pheu Thai main page reads: Pheu Thai Party – Pheu Thai...for Thailand's future  
Dissolving Parliament...New Election –  
Respect the decision of the people – Pheu Thai Party  
1 year of the failure of the Abhisit-led government –  
The economy damaged

News items on the left: Big Jew fights back over the claim of participating in a group toppling the monarchy  
Chalerm interrogates government, stating he will take back from Democrats and Bhum Jai Thai parties

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



# Pantip.com Rajadamneorn forum closed

May 15, 2010

Categories: Analysis, Red Shirt Protest 2010



2Bangkok Situation Update: Pantip.com Rajadamneorn forum closed – May 15, 2010

Pantip.com's political discussion forum has been closed because of the political turmoil. This is not the first time the forum has been temporarily shut during times of political high tensions.

While this is a form of self-censorship, it is also seen in the Thai world as being responsible. Thais are taught from birth a mantra of "unity" for the nation. The heated and free-wheeling discussions on the boards, filled with invective and threats, strikes at the heart of Thai expectations that society should be united.

Such venues for free and anonymous speech have yet to be integrated into accepted Thai norms. As it stands now, they are regarded and used as just another tool of brute force political campaigning.

It was widely suspected that during the Thaksin government years, legions of paid posters began flooding forums with pro-Thaksin comments and systematically threatening those with other opinions. This was thought to be part of the overall plan to tame media opinion of the government.

Later, discussion of the monarchy became an issue. It was clear that many Thais were genuinely interested in a reasoned discussion of the institution in the safety of a forum interface, but it was unclear where the lines were going to be drawn.

Then, in 2008, a proliferation of anti-monarchy websites and other rhetoric appeared. These were generally allowed to continue without official interference until the Democrat-led coalition came to power and a new mass blocking program began in earnest.

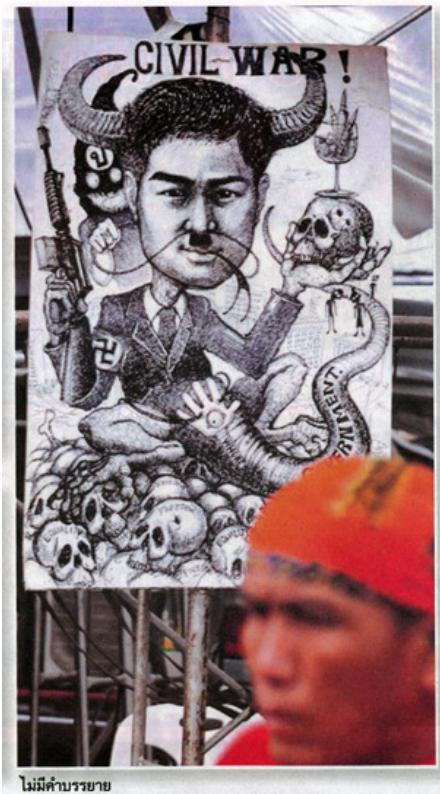
Whatever the right and wrong of this, it is certain that the authorities (and Thai society) will continue to be extra sensitive about these issues considering the place we are in this era and with the Red Shirts fighting in the center of Bangkok.

It is also always worth noting how limited internet penetration is in Thailand. However, even those in the most remote areas can receive constant SMS updates on their mobile phones from the news gatherer of their choice.

## 2Bangkok Situation Update: Claims of civil war

May 16, 2010

Categories: Analysis, Red Shirt Protest 2010



Above: From *Truth Today*, May 7-10, 2010 –

The caption reads: No description , etc. desire death and chaos.]

Yesterday, at the height of the rioting in Bangkok, a group of older cleaning ladies were in my office. They were all from the provinces as most of the physical laborers are in Bangkok. When they saw MCOT running on a TV with various government figures and commentators, they started telling me how these people were no good and were all going to be killed soon. They kept pointing to the government men on TV and then making the "slit throat" gesture with their fingers.

Events of recent years have unleashed a huge amount of partisan information and unbridled hate into the political system that will likely challenge the Thai political system for years to come. However, it is important to contrast the distant and fearful international view of what is happening (such as CNN coverage that is focusing on violent events on the ground) with the background detail of what is propelling events and how they might play out.

The Democrats, the military, and Pheu Thai are all focusing on how these events are perceived by the public and what ramifications the actions now might have legally in the future or during the next election.

Claims by the Prime Minister of "civil war" have less to do with the ability of the Red Shirts to conduct civil war and more about justifications for tough action that will be taken. Such claims are part of an overall media campaign on local TV screens to prove the Red Shirts are violent and bent on "disunity" (more about Thai unity [here](#) and [here](#).)

The end to the rallies was almost achieved last week through a secret, separate peace negotiated with the Red Shirt leadership, but this was sabotaged by Thaksin who attempted to have Seh Daeng discredit and replace the Red leadership so the fight would continue. This led to Seh Daeng's shooting (more about this [here](#)).

One fear is that violent activity in another part of the city or country could occur suddenly, but many of the hired guns and radical political young men have been drawn into the scuffles in Bangkok already. Newin and Chavalit undoubtedly have forces of their own and there are numerous semi-militant cells in the the North and Northeast.

However, the height of military involvement and the unshakable government coalition makes it clear to all that near term dissolution will not be tolerated—it is only a question of who gets wiped out during this operation and who the results will negatively impact.

The resolve of the military will be closely watched. Up until a few days ago, it was unclear if there was a willingness to confront the Red rally—especially at the south end of the site where Seh Daeng was controlling cells of militants who constantly skirmished with troops on Silom. The present operations—beginning with

the removal of Seh Daeng—shows something has changed and there is some commitment to act though a final clearance plan. A coup still remains unlikely, but if one should occur it would indicate the need to go beyond legal norms in liquidating perceived threats to the state.

It will be up to the Red Shirts to prove they can field thousands more men from the provinces willing to fight their way into Bangkok. In the past, despite these types of claims, masses of real fighters on this scale have never materialized.

The government is moving through this minefield, but also seems confident that slowly increased pressure will bring the protests to an end and result in the incarceration of the Red Shirt leadership. Just like during the April 2009 rioting, the Red Shirts are purposely being allowed to run riot and then clips of this are repeated over and over on TV in a public relations campaign to prove to the public the Reds are rowdy and violent.

We previously mentioned, the desire all around is for the dual destruction of both the Red Shirt leadership and the Democrats for the purposes of future politics. This means many players will want the end to be as bloody and messy as possible. This means the Democrats' goals are becoming clear as well—serve out as much of their term as possible after removing any further threat of mass rallies during their remaining tenure—so this has to mean capturing or co-opting the Red leadership.

Those with a less politically centered view will be working to one goal after the Red leadership is deposed of—to ensure that the roused Red masses reassemble under the leadership of conventional political parties and will not again be harnessed again for more revolutionary goals.

Further in the future the question remains, can the military and the establishment tolerate the seating of a Pheu Thai government controlled by Thaksin?

All of 2008 was a stalemated battle with Thaksin's People Power Party which expedited cases against the opposition, allowed anti-monarchy threats to proliferate, and halted official government activities in an attempt to change the constitution and pardon Thaksin.

It is likely that a blizzard of legal and procedural changes will be enacted in an attempt to combat a return of a Thaksin-controlled party. And certainly there will be further attempts to wean or split the Pheu Thai Party from Thaksin through ambitious figures like Chalerm Youbamrung.

Finally, the nature of media

and modern campaign organizing techniques have enabled Thaksin to rouse legions of rural people with new political aspirations and expectations (more on this [here](#)). The definition of democracy for most of these people is the ability to make money and be prosperous and secure. This comes from the tradition of aligning oneself with powerful "big men"—like police or military men, other family members, employers, or politicians.

If all of these people can be harnessed to support the Pheu Thai Party, it will mean more worries for the establishment. However, it is thought that most of these rural voters are personally opportunistic about their votes and may be open to supporting any number of political parties that offer change.

# On Sathorn Road – May 16, 2010

May 16, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010



(Photo: [I Prahin](#))

Sunday afternoon on Sathorn Road – May 16, 2010

Also:

[Silom Road](#)





(Photo: [I Prahin](#))



(Photo: [I Prahin](#))

Also: [Silom Road](#)



## Sunday afternoon on Silom Road – May 16, 2010

May 16, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010



(Photo: [I Prahin](#))

Sunday afternoon on Silom Road – May 16, 2010

Also: [Sathorn Road](#)





(Photo: [I Prahin](#))



(Photo: [I Prahin](#))



(Photo: [I Prahin](#))





(Photo: [I Prahin](#))



(Photo: [I Prahin](#))



(Photo: [I Prahin](#))

Above: Note the plume of smoke from a rocket the Reds were shooting at a helicopter



(Photo: [I Prahin](#))

Next page -> [Sathorn Road](#)





(Photo: [I Prahin](#))

Next page -> [Sathorn Road](#)

# **Prison chiefs spend 30k on junket – Outrage as bosses see how justice is handed out in Bangkok**

May 16, 2010

Categories: Thailand in the International Media

[Prison chiefs spend 30k on junket – Outrage as bosses see how justice is handed out in Bangkok](#) –  
*newsoftheworld.co.uk*, May 16, 2010

*Prison bosses splashed out 30,000 to send staff to Thailand – to find out how we can learn from a jail system where prisoners are clamped in leg irons and executed...*

## 2Bangkok Situation Update: Divining the Plan

May 17, 2010

Categories: Analysis, Red Shirt Protest 2010

We have noted analysis from foreigners on the ground saying it does not seem like the security forces are committed, etc. This was true in the immediate past when the government was only reacting to the Red Shirts. It has also been clear in the past that there was no stomach from the military and the police were largely supporting Thaksin's return.

However, beginning with the shooting of Seh Daeng, it seems there is a new resolve. It is not the resolve that perhaps a Western person would recognize, but seen in the light of how the military and government tends to work, it does seem a final operation is already underway, driven by the authorities, to end the current situation.

### Sequence of events

- Seh Daeng shot and effectively removed from command. The real issue was his attempt to discredit and replace Red leadership to prevent them from making a deal with the government to end the rally.
- Security forces begin to provoke the militant Red Shirts. This is to allow a certain degree of chaos to begin, get a feel for the types of weapons they have, and use up as much of the Red's ammo as possible. Footage of protesters running riot is continually emphasized on TV.
- Military snipers begin to occupy high-rises in the area and random shooting occurs, lending a sense of dangerous unease to the area.
- Police buildings and hospitals near the site are evacuated. Residents are urged to leave the area and vicinity.
- Reporters agree to leave the rally area because of danger.
- Additional states of emergencies declared in the provinces (anticipating trouble in response to a Bangkok crackdown).
- Today, RPGs were shot at the Dusit Thai Hotel, the one remaining immediate vantage point at the south end of the rally site and also host to many of the foreign press. The hotel is closed by noon. This eliminates one of the remaining vantage points overlooking the south end of the rally site where Seh Daeng's militant followers are in control and where they might be the most intense fighting.
- The government gives a 3pm deadline today for those not wanting to be arrested to leave the rally site.

Events may move rapidly if the military begins to act. Any hesitation raises great dangers of stalemate and complications. It took this long for the military and other institutions to agree to this plan, and the longer they wait, the greater the danger any of the players could lose their nerve again.

With embassies evacuated and Thaksin's international lawyer collecting human rights evidence at the site, it is anyone's guess what is planned. Bringing in foreigner activists to sit as human shields at the site? Certainly it would be something to complicate and compromise any operation.

Also, Amsterdam has promised a full series of articles explaining the Thai situation. As a contributor to major world newspapers and top websites, he will certainly be able to draw attention and increase pressure on the government. However, thus far, the initiative has not started. The longer the government waits, the more likely they will be facing an onslaught from one of the top spin doctors in the world. This, along with general international focus on "troops shooting live ammo at people" will begin to impact the government position.

Most troubling would be the bubbling up of protest in the provinces. So far, there has been much less provincial protesting than during the 2009 Songkran events. This has been good luck for the government, but the longer they wait without displaying resolve and force, the more likely they might have to deal with spreading disruptions in the provinces.

Of course this buildup of a plan is apparent to the Red leaders and is a government bargaining chip in their ongoing negotiations. Knowing that Seh Daeng was attempting to sideline them from leadership, it is perhaps not surprising that Veera is at an undisclosed location while negotiating the Red leaders' separate peace with the government. As the end to the rally contradicts Thaksin's desires, the Red Shirt leaders have to feel concern that they are under threat from the "independent" Red Shirt factions Seh Daeng once controlled in the southern part of the rally site.

Some sort of settlement, even if clearing comes, would probably be necessary so at least some of the Red Shirt leaders can call on the main body of the protest to end and then join the government line of denouncing the roving young men fighting soldiers as "terrorists" and mysterious "third hands."

As the numbers of protesters at the site is still in the thousands, forcibly removing them would not be able to be accomplished quickly, so a dual plan comprising an agreement and then a rounding up of more radical groups, strung out far from the main site, might be an option.

The continual statements from the government over the last few days are clearly indicating momentum. They are building a case and sending signals about the lengths to which they will go. The talk of terrorism, civil war, and today "someone overseas attempting to overthrow the government" indicate to conventional political figures that those standing in the way at this time will be in harm's way.

This, along with Seh Daeng's killing, sent clear signals to the elite. There is never an anonymous killing or bombing in Thailand in which the meaning is not understood by those in power. Every one of the elite knows (as well as the press) who Seh Daeng was connected with and what his killing says about a shift in power and an end to the present situation. This is why top political figures have fled the country (as they always do) in anticipation of a messy and contentious operation.

# Red Protests – May 16-18, 2010

May 18, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

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

[The Long Winding Red Road to Ratchaprasong and Thailand's Future](#) – [jinpeili.blogspot.com](#), May 17, 2010

[Millions found in aides' accounts](#) – *The Nation*, May 18, 2010

*Authorities will shortly ask two close aides of Pojaman na Pombejra, ex-wife of Thaksin Shinawatra, to substantiate their recent cash withdrawals of Bt600 million and Bt800 million.*

*...The money was taken out of bank accounts in cash and left the banks in several vehicles...*

[The shame of the UDD](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 18, 2010

[Thailand's 'Black May': 1992 vs. 2010](#) – *Roubini*, May 18, 2010

[CNN: Living in chaos](#) – May 18, 2010

[Outside Bangkok, life goes on](#) – *CNN*, May 18, 2010

[Last best hope](#) – *Newsweek*, May 18, 2010

*Former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra was thought to be a populist demagogue. Actually, he was the high-water mark for Thai democracy...*

[Gen Chavalit and Jutuporn added to CRES blacklist](#) – *TAN*, May 18, 2010

["FreakingCat", reporting from the barricades journalists steer clear of](#) – *France24*, May 18, 2010

[Time reporter looks into claims of red-shirts using women and children as shields](#) – *TAN*, May 18, 2010

[12 yr old allegedly responsible for Din Daeng fire](#) – *TAN*, May 18, 2010

*...During questioning, the boy admitted that he wandered into the rally by mistake, but stayed because he enjoyed the free food and activities. He claimed that setting fire to the building made him feel like a man.*

[War correspondent in Bangkok](#) – *Facebook*, May 18, 2010

[Female reporter attacked by angry protesters](#) – *The Nation*, May 18, 2010

[CRES: Picture showing soldier shot in head taken from southern violence](#) – *TAN*, May 18, 2010

[Thailand protests echo those of 1992](#) – *Time*, May 17, 2010

*...Yet while the conflict is often portrayed as a battle between the elite and the poor, it is in fact a battle between two elites with different constituencies. The Red Shirt leaders are an entrenched political and business elite largely subservient to Thaksin.*

*...Thaksin's elite is in conflict with members of a rival political and business elite, some of whom have closer ties to the palace, and many of whom have lined up behind Abhisit, who was elected in 2008, and his Democrat Party. Unlike the Prime Minister's experience in 1992, Abhisit's party did not win a majority of seats in parliament. Protesters believe those backing Abhisit have manipulated the political process, making it possible for him to become Prime Minister. They are demanding that Thaksin be allowed to return to Thailand with amnesty...*

[Protests turn deadly in Thailand](#) – *Boston.com*, May 17, 2010



[Thai leaders planned this crackdown](#) – The Guardian, May 17, 2010

*...The offer from the government was meant to be a show of force. It was a strategic step taken in advance to justify a well-planned massacre...*



(Source: Channel 3 screen grab)

More government explanations – May 17, 2010

For the second night in a row, considerable time was spent on Thai TV to demonstrate the violence caused by militant Red Shirts.

Samsern from the CRES also appeared again and showed various video clips including the [human shield baby](#).



(Source: Channel 3 screen grab)



(Source: Channel 3 screen grab)



(Source: Channel 3 screen grab)





(Source: Channel 3 screen grab)

[Terror in Thailand](#) – *Life*, May 17, 2010



CNN: Living in chaos – May 18, 2010

Thailand's troubles finally make it to CNN's much-ridiculed "magic wall" which in this case is used to illustrate the location of various "ireporters."

One video featured prominently (below) shows the much talked about human-shield baby being held above a Red Shirt tire barricade.

It was also mentioned that the CNNireport site was at one point blocked by the Thai government, but later unblocked. Errol Barnett (above) noted that this "reminds us of Iran" which also actively blocks political content the government does not like.

Also: The [Open Letter to CNN International](#) on Facebook criticizing Dan Rivers and Sarah Snider's parachute journalism.



[Red leaders all miscalculated and are losing](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 17, 2010

*...If only they had agreed to disperse the protest after Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban reported to the Department of Special Investigation last week, they would have emerged as the winner of the political standoff. The leaders could have told the demonstrators that they successfully forced the prime minister to call an early poll...*

[Seat on Human Rights Council a saving grace for Thailand](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, May 17, 2010

[Thai tyrants cling to power on top of the dead bodies of the people](#) – *Socialist Worker*, May 17, 2010



(Source: Channel 3 screen grab)

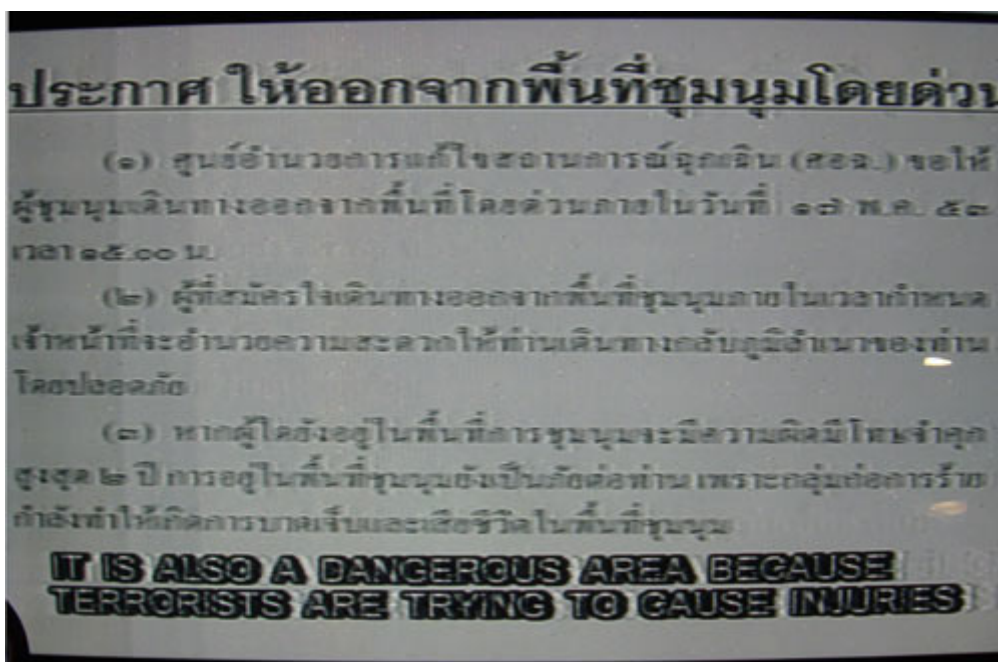
[Protesters attempt to blow up oil tanker at Bon Kai clashing site](#) – *The Nation*, May 17, 2010

Tweeted photo: [Thaksin shops in Paris](#) – May 17, 2010

[Manipulator wants deaths: CRES](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 17, 2010

... "From intelligence reports, the goal of these terrorists and their manipulator is to see the highest possible losses of lives. They have [hired foreign lawyers](#) and brought them into the country so that they can see the damage they have caused with an intention to file lawsuits with international organisations abroad and to put blame on the present administration," Mr Sathit said...

[Poor Thai 'red shirts' victims of the New World Order](#) – *powerpointparadise*, April 11, 2010



(Source: Channel 7 screen grab)

Government warning – May 17, 2010

The government warning for people to leave the protests site by 3 pm has been replayed hourly today along with some English-language captions summarizing the points.



Animated fire – May 17, 2010

TPBS had an explanation of the events around the Din Daeng area which included an overhead shot of the area and a massive animated fire at the intersection.



(Source: TPBS 7 screen grab)



(Source: Channel 11 screen grab)

Trying to explain – May 17, 2010

Thai TV has been spending large amounts of time showing images and clips of rioting people and the damage they cause. Above is a shot of multiple wounded soldiers. Below is a shot of protesters turning over a vehicle.

At bottom is the attempt to explain that troops are only shooting people in the legs. In the clip a protester tries to open the gas cap on a truck. He is then shot in the feet or legs and hops quickly away.



(Source: Channel 11 screen grab)



(Source: Channel 11 screen grab)





From *Khaosod*, Cartoon Yamyai , May 16, 2010

The words above the soldiers and the man (probably Abhisit): Thailand today

The word on man in the brown suit: Human rights



From *Komchadluek*, May 16, 2010

The headline reads: Mark roughly insists to continue operation – Reds clash with soldiers at boiling point – Death toll reaches 24 with many injuries – M79 attack severely destroys police station – Seh Daeng's condition is stable

Words across the very top: Series of events – Soldier clashes with red shirts at boiling point! Bangkok in Dark Age, page 2



From *Khaosod*, May 16, 2010

The headline reads: Bangkok ruined – 24 dead already



[Seh Daeng pronounced dead at 9:20 am](#) – *The Nation*, May 17, 2010

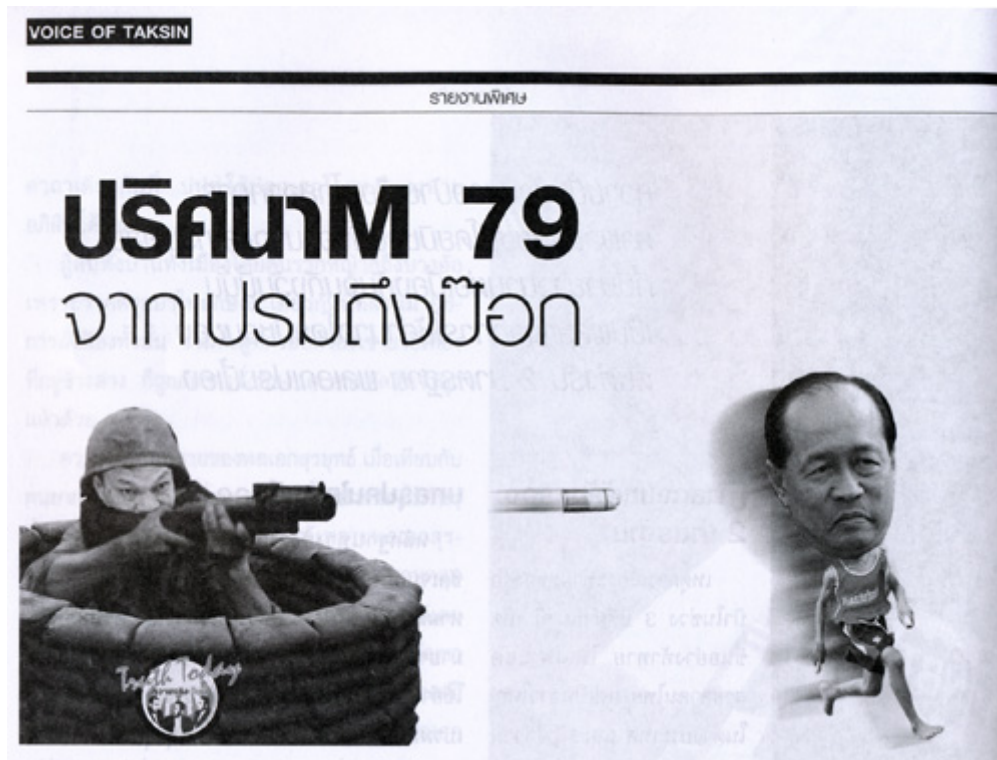
Earlier: [Colonel Romklao's revenge](#) – May 14, 2010

Earlier: Sae Daeng threats – February 16, 2010

Maj. Gen. Khattiya's (Sae Daeng) [threats against the Prime Minister's family and the cabinet](#) have caused even Thaksin's lawyer to speak up.

From the [Post](#): ...Mr Noppadon also said he would like to say on behalf of Thaksin that army specialist Maj-Gen Khattiya Sawasdipol should not use the former prime minister's name in conducting his activities, because this could cause misunderstanding and send out wrong signals...





Earlier: From *Voice of Taksin*, February, 2010  
 The headline reads: Clue of M79 – From Prem to Pok

[Violence reduces central Bangkok to a 21st-century Sarajevo](#) – *Times Online*, May 17, 2010

[Australians urged to flee Bangkok battleground](#) – *ABC Online*, May 17, 2010

[Anti-Dan Rivers page on Facebook](#)



(Source: Channel 7 screen grab)

Government explanations – May 16, 2010

At least every other hour today the government has interrupted regular programming with messages and explanations about their plans and what they are doing.

At about 20:30 Samsern from the CRES appeared on TV to refute specific photos and conclusions being circulated on the net and via social media about army snipers and various weapons seen on the streets. Above he demonstrates a tear gas launcher while emphasizing it is not for launching M79 grenades. Below is one of the examples of photos being circulated on the net that Samsern is attempting to explain.



(Source: Channel 7 screen grab)

[BANGKOK DANGEROUS: DAY III – Timeline of Bangkok chaos](#) – *The Nation*, May 16, 2010

[Put an end to this rebellion](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 16, 2010

*...The goals of the UDD from the very start: They wanted a House dissolution. They will have one in September. They wanted a general election. They will have one on Nov 14. All within seven months and PM Abhisit Vejjajiva's term actually ends in January 2012, a year and a half from now.*

*They should be dancing in the streets, celebrating victory. Then we can all go to the voting booth in November. Peace and democracy. But no.*

*The truth has revealed itself. The United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship is simply using democracy as a front in the interests of dictatorship.*

*Refusing the peaceful compromise, forsaking the democratic process, continuing to harm the country for the interests of one man, Thaksin Shinawatra, fighting against security forces of the rightful democratic government of Thailand—that's an uprising, it's a rebellion...*

Nation TV reports Reds trying to storm Century Park Hotel to search for troops – 19:00, May 16, 2010

[‘Scared’ Bangkok resident talks about being evacuated](#) – *BBC News*, May 16, 2010

*An Australian woman living and working in Bangkok has told the BBC that she is being evacuated from her home, which she describes as being in the ‘red zone’...*

[Journalist ‘out of danger’ and recovering in hospital](#) – *Globe and Mail*, May, 2010

*...Mr. McEwen said it seems bizarre that Mr. Rand, who has been in combat situations several times, and has spent months in the jungles of Southeast Asia with groups of rebels, would end up being shot on the streets of downtown Bangkok...*

Tweeted photos

["Live firing zone" sign](#) – [Monks with the Red Shirts](#)





Never think of, never dream about it! – From *Daily News*, Cartoon by Khwad Column, Khaprajam Wanarthit, May 16, 2010

The title reads: Never think of, never dream about it!

Top right: That we are living in the country having ala of Siam, the land of smiles!

Middle left: That some Thais who think different can change this much!

The words coming from the TV: Report on losses

The is saying: Satisfied

Middle center: That this is the same man!

At left PM Abhisit holds Democracy Monument and the caption says: When being in the opposition party

At right Abhisit is hiding in a military boot and the caption says: When being in government

He is holding a sword with the word "decree" next to it.

Lower middle left: That we see the roles of human rights and press organizations

Lower middle right: That holding tight to the chair will aggravate the situation!

Bottom: That events will not end after dissolving parliament... so the government ends up with solution like this

Earlier: More cartoons [here](#)

[Thai forces use 'brute force'](#) – *Straits Times*, May 16, 2010

*Thai authorities have chosen 'brute force' over conventional crowd control tactics to contain protests, but may be wary of launching a major crackdown for fear of igniting wider unrest, experts said...*

[Bangkok descends from bustling metropolis to war zone](#) – *Reuters*, May 16, 2010

Major figures leaving the country? – May 16, 2010

Rumors are legion that major political figures have fled the country: Banharn, Chavalit and Potjaman (Thaksin's ex-wife) have reportedly left for Hong Kong and Singapore. This has come to be known as a signal that real trouble is expected (or planned). Before the April 2009 Red Shirt rioting, pro-Thaksin people also made sure they were outside the country.



This time it likely revolves around how far the military feels it needs to go to restore order and preserve the present system. After the shooting of Seh Daeng it suddenly became clear to many higher ups that the military was finally roused and could be a direct danger if they decided to eliminate vast swaths of political figures judged unsympathetic to the royal system at this delicate time.

Update: [Shinawatra family leaves Thailand](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 16, 2010

2Bangkok presents: [Red Shirt tire fires from the expressway](#) – *YouTube*, May 16, 2010

How to keep the protesters in place? – May 16, 2010

TPBS last night reported that Jatuporn was having word spread among the Red Shirt crowd that they should not leave and should not be concerned. This is because the Red Shirts found out that there are 6000 army troops from the United States waiting on a ship at sea. These troops were ready to march in to help the Red Shirts if the government attacks. This is because the U.S. government has accepted that Thailand is no longer fair and has to intervene.

[Inside the Red city](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 16, 2010

*...This was a constant mystery during the occupation – how were the red shirts able to move goods, machinery, food and other items so freely under the noses of both the police and military?*

*Here are some examples: After a threat by the Centre for the Resolution of the Emergency Situation (CRES) to disconnect the electricity supply to the Ratchaprasong area at midnight on May 12, the red shirts brought in more generators, transported to the area by large trucks equipped with a crane...*

[Reds to ask for help from HM the King](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 16, 2010



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Sunday morning tire fires in Bangkok – 11:30, May 16, 2010

Above:

Red Shirt tire fires just before the Din Daeng intersection.

Below:

Burning tires in front of Lumpini Tower, a front line between troops near Sathorn Road and the Reds towards the expressway.

Also: [Live images of the Din Daeng area from the 2Bangkok cam](#) – May 16, 2010



(Photo: [I Prahin](#))



Right: Smoke hanging over  
Bangkok



(Photo: Don)

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



# Red Protests – May 19, 2010

May 19, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

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

[Thailand's real road to freedom starts here](#) – *Globe and Mail*, May 19, 2010

*...Second, what the world has seen in the weeks of confrontation is nothing less than an attempted coup d'état by Thaksin Shinawatra, prime minister from 2001 to 2006, who was convicted of corruption and had about \$1.5-billion of his assets seized by the government. Mr. Thaksin, now in exile, aimed to provoke a bloody massacre of so-called Red Shirt demonstrators by the army that would have led to civil conflict – the only way for him to return to power and end the monarchy that holds Thailand together. The coup failed when the army showed extraordinary restraint until it was no longer possible to allow the ruination of Bangkok's business and shopping district. Even then, casualties were comparatively low...*

[The Reds have suffered a devastating defeat. Why?](#) – *The Nation*, May 19, 2010

*...At the peak, the Reds commanded an audience of about 100,000 in late March when they were holding their rally at Phanfah Leela Bridge. With an aid of a Black Army, they won the battle against the government troops on April 10. Wherever they went, they could sway the public opinion and get away with it. The Military and the Police caved in to their demand. If they were to hold Abhisit in check at the Government House, they would have easily toppled him from power. At that point, they had the state mechanisms on their side. The Reds were the law. The Police had to bow to their request. The People's Revolution would have overwhelmed Abhisit and changed the course of Thai history for good...*

[Bangkok's savage conflict may be a mere dress rehearsal](#) – *KI*, May 19, 2010

[Ji Ungpakorn on anger](#) – *thaipoliticalprisoners.wordpress.com*, May 19, 2010

*...There are reports that Government buildings, banks, the stock-exchange, luxury shopping malls and pro-military media are all being set on fire.  
All this is totally justified.. why?...*

[Former UVic student seriously wounded by grenade in Thailand](#) – *Vancouver Province*, May 19, 2010

*A young filmmaker is badly wounded after grenades exploded close to the main protest camp in Thailand's capital of Bangkok...*

[Thaksin's arrest warrant delayed](#) – *The Nation*, May 19, 2010

[Court approves arrest warrant against Thaksin, 9 others on terrorism charge](#) – *The Nation*, May 19, 2010



(Photo: [I Prahin](#))

Central World engulfed – May 19, 2010

Last sight of Central World before darkness...

The Red Shirts have made good on threats of fire and Molotov cocktails in Bangkok. Such rhetoric had been part of the movement from the beginning.

The question is if any further coordinated attacks will come in the following days or if all parties who can pull strings will look toward new political goals.

With one part of the equation in place—Red Shirt leaders sidelined, there will be mighty efforts to right the political system by getting Red Shirt factions behind Pheu Thai Party leadership and tightening the noose on Thaksin by linking him to the rioting.

The government appears to be lucky so far—a quick end to the rally and a mighty demonstration of the ill-intentions of the protesters through their rioting.

The next few days will be key in determining if there will be a quick end to the arson attacks and how extensive any unrest will be in the provinces.

Arson and rioting is not that unusual for Thais in these situations. Similar arson attacks and rioting happened at the end of upheavals in the 1970s and at the end of the Black May events in 1992. There was also an ongoing spate of arson attacks in the provinces for many months after the 2006 coup.



(Source: MCOT screen grab)

Patriotic music videos – May 19, 2010

Patriotic music videos are being shown on all Thai TV channels (frame grabs above and below). These patriotic songs are generally not marshall in nature, but are more sentimental with an emphasis on loving King and country.

These videos also included images of the Red Shirt leaders meeting with the Prime Minister (from last month) during lyrics that say something like "we all have to remember to love each other. The King loves everyone the same..."

After the music videos was a show in Thai and English with officials explaining what happened and why and what the government is doing.

For instance: *Question: Why do they burn buildings?*

*Answer: They are trying to destroy the financial credit of Thailand and cause as much chaos as possible.*

*...Hardline, radical Red Shirts are now have weapons and are attacking and robbing people on the streets so please stay home tonight.*

*... Please stay home tonight because the authorities are going to secure the areas.*

*...This is very unusual, very uncharacteristic of Thais.*

*...The situation will return to normalcy very soon...*



(Source: MCOT screen grab)





(Source: MCOT screen grab)



(Source: MCOT screen grab)



(Source: MCOT screen grab)



(Photo: [I Prahin](#))

Attacking banks – May 19, 2010

[I Prahin](#) reports: *The Bangkok Bank at Chan Road near the intersection with Narathiwas Road was attacked by about 20 thugs on motorcycles. They blockaded the road, threw Molotov cocktails and rocks into the building causing a fire. They also flipped over a police pickup which was parked in front of the bank (it was left there for the last 2 mths). No police or fire brigade for at least 15-20mins. There is a gas station across the road. Scary...*



(Photo: [I Prahin](#))





(Photo: [I Prahin](#))



(Photo: [I Prahin](#))

Above: Fire in Klong Toey – probably at the Stock Exchange of Thailand building

[Central World destroyed in fire](#) – *TAN*, May 19, 2010

[Details of fires in Bangkok as Red-shirt renegades lash out](#) – *TAN*, May 19, 2010

[Mobs burn Bangkok](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 19, 2010

[Red shirts attack TV station, stock exchange](#) – *The Nation*, May 19, 2010



Thai TV: Curfew for the next two nights in Bangkok – 8 pm to 6 am



**robertamsterdam**

+ Follow



The decision of **#redshirt** leaders to sacrifice themselves to prevent violence stands in stark contrast to a govt willing to murder its own.

9 minutes ago via web

(Photo: Frame grab from [robertamsterdam](#))

Thaksin's lobbyist's opinion –

May 19, 2010

[Robert Amsterdam's tweet page](#)

Earlier: [What to expect from Thaksin's lobbyist Robert Amsterdam](#)

[Protesters loot Siam Square, set fire to Siam Theatre](#) – *The Nation*, May 19, 2010

[Stock Exchange of Thailand torched](#) – *TAN*, May 19, 2010

*Protesters have torched the Maruay Library at the Stock Exchange of Thailand. The SET is located in the Klong Toey area, right next to the Queen Sirikit National Convention center. The fire is not yet under control as of 3:36 P.M.*

[Scary sequence of tweets by freaking cat](#) – May 19, 2010

*...Curfew at bangkok. Still huge explosions here. Announcrment of government now via loudspeakers on street – 21 minutes ago via Twitterrific*

*...30 meter flames! Fire getting worst. Huge explosions!!! – 43 minutes ago via Twitterrific*

*...Rama 4 is all destroyed! I am crying! about – 1 hour ago via Twitterrific*

*...Transformer blew up!!! Insane fire at whole electricity building now....fire at kt stage about – 1 hour ago via Twitterrific*

*...All windows destroyed of mrt khlong toei. Smoke took pics but cannot send. Apocalyptic!!!! Hell about – 1 hour ago via Twitterrific*

*...Firetrucks arrive but fire out of control!!! My god!!! Mrt getting burned too about – 1 hour ago via Twitterrific*

*...Firetruck just beside at soi baan plai nuan cannot get out! Reds destroy everything!!! about – 1 hour ago via Twitterrific*

*...My god!!! Huge fire at electricity work khlong toei just beside our house! Huge thick smoke!...*



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

End of the rally – 14:22, May 19, 2010

Above: Multiple Red Shirt fires started as the government spokesman announces an end to the rally.

[Ubon red shirt protests turn violent](#) – *memock.wordpress.com*, May 19, 2010

[Protesters burn tyres on Lard Prao Road](#) – *The Nation*, May 19, 2010

[Protesters set fire to Central World](#) – *The Nation*, May 19, 2010

[SEER Rangsit set on fire by Red-shirt protesters](#) – *TAN*, May 19, 2010

Right here, right now: Red Shirt radio is calling for buildings to be burned nationwide—especially banks. They further say there is no longer any leaders at present and people have to act on their own.

Din Daeng Red-shirts to act on their own – *TAN*, May 19, 2010

*Red-shirt protesters in Din Daeng area, who were not happy with the key leaders' decision to call off the red-shirt rally, have declared themselves independent from the main red-shirt movement. They say they'll now act on their own and have threatened to hunt down members of the press.*



(Source: [2Bangkok cam](#))

Black smoke rising again – 14:00, May 19, 2010

We note that black smoke is billowing up again from Din Daeng and Rama IV areas at this moment. We have an excellent vantage of both sites and it is amazing how precisely these incidents of burning seem to be coordinated

Update: [Red Protesters Set Fire to Central World, Regroup at Victory Monument](#) – TAN, May 19, 2010

*Red-shirt protesters who did not agree with the decision by the red-shirt protesters to call off the protest have stirred up chaos around the Ratchaprasong area. They've rallied others who also disagree with the call for an end of the rally to regather at the Victory Monument. They've set fire to parts of Central World, blown up gas cylinders in front of the National Police Office and electrical units in Din Daeng area.*



(Source: MCOT screen grab)



Above: The media mob the Red Shirt leaders as they enter police headquarters to surrender.

[Rajprasong rally ends](#) – *The Nation*, May 19, 2010

... "I can no longer tolerate the cruelty inflicted on us, the red shirts," he said...

[Reds raid Udon, Khon Kaen city halls](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 19, 2010

... They brought with them car tyres and fuel and threatened to set fire on the city hall if the government did not respond to their demand for it to dissolve the House of Representatives...

[UDD urges protesters to create unrest](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 19, 2010

... "If there is no ceasefire, our supporters in other provinces will begin their movements. Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva can run the country that is in ruins if he wants"

[Khon Kaen: Reds raid city hall](#) – *TAN*, May 19, 2010

Government announces some Red leaders have fled the rally site – 11:40, May 19, 2010

Panitan: *Anyone who sees fleeing red leaders please call 02 5511515*

Rally participants left at the site are to walk to National Stadium where they will be placed on busses and sent back home.

Update: Other media reports indicate that

Nuttawut is still on the main rally stage.

Update 2:

Other media reports indicate Arisman is confirmed to have fled. Other leaders have not been seen.

[Death before amnesty in Thailand](#) – *AsiaTimes*, May 19, 2010

... In the run-up to the first armed exchanges between troops and protesters on April 10, Thaksin told UDD protesters in a phone-in address to prepare for "sacrifices", a speech many foreign diplomats have flagged as significant. Underscoring his influence over the protest group, Thaksin has been directly involved in talks with the government, including a secret meeting in late April in Brunei, according to one diplomat familiar with the meeting...

[Thaksin: Thai crackdown may spark "guerrilla war"](#) – *Reuters*, May 19, 2010

Exiled former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said on Wednesday he fears a crackdown on anti-government protesters could lead to guerrilla warfare across the country...

[Red-shirts place gas tanks in front of Platinum Fashion Mall](#) – *TAN*, May 19, 2010

Update: A *Nation* tweet reports: *Witness says there is no gas tanks or oil in front of Pratunam Pathinum Department Store as earlier reported.*

Update 2: [Photo of a gas canister in front of Platinum](#)

[Clashes expand to Sam Yan area](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 19, 2010

[20 armed men in black captured by soldiers, Arisman believed fleeing](#) – *The Nation*, May 19, 2010



(Source: TPBS screen grab)

Imagine – May 19, 2010

TPBS is showing a montage of riot images set to John Lennon's *Imagine*. There were similar videos show on Thai TV after the 1992 Black May incident.



(Source: TPBS screen grab)



(Source: TPBS screen grab)

Tweeted photo: [Huge tire fire](#)



(Source: TPBS screen grab)

Armored vehicles breaking through the bamboo barricade at Saladaneg – May 19, 2010

[Banharn calls for decisive, swift action to contain terrorism](#) – *The Nation*, May 19, 2010

[Protesters seize Thai Com satellite uplink station in Nonthaburi](#) – *The Nation*, May 19, 2010





(Source: TPBS screen grab)

Tire fire – May 19, 2010

Smoke from a tire fire engulfing a Chula Hospital building.

[Thaksin looms large in Thailand crisis](#) – *Financial Times*, May 19, 2010

*In Thailand's turbulent and complex political scene, there is a simple test to find out which side someone is on: Thaksin Shinawatra – hero or villain? ...*

[Calgarian Nelson Rand thought he'd died in Thailand](#) – *Calgary Herald*, May, 2010

*... "I have some memory of flatlining, but then everything started coming back into focus and I was alive," Rand said Monday from the intensive-care unit of a Bangkok hospital, days after being shot by a sniper while covering anti-government protests in that city...*

Korbsak: [Reds must end rally now](#)– *The Nation*, May 19, 2010

*... "The red-shirts must immediately stop setting fire in the capital. Their leaders wanted under arrest warrants must enter the judicial process, and after that the government will move ahead with the national reconciliation road map proposed by the prime minister", Mr Korbsak said on Wednesday morning...*



(Photo: Don Entz)

Smoke over the city – 08:00, May 19, 2010

[Gunfight erupts at Saladaeng](#)– *The Nation*, May 19, 2010

[Troops attack with tear gas](#)– *Bangkok Post*, May 19, 2010

[Troops push protesters back from Saladaeng Intersection](#)– *The Nation*, May 19, 2010

[Masked men trying to set fire to Kong Toey MRT Station](#) – *TAN*, May 19, 2010



(Source: Channel 3 screen grab)

Massive tire fire – 07:50, May 19, 2010



TPBS says the smoke is from a tire fire and that the smoke is blowing back towards the Chula Hospital area.

[Protesters set fire to tyres to prevent visibility of sniper](#) – *TAN*, May 19, 2010



(Source: Channel 3 screen grab)



(Source: Channel 3 screen grab)

Smoke rising – 07:00, May 19, 2010

The skyline of Bangkok is once again an incredible vista of rising smoke as Red Shirts stoke fires in anticipation of a crackdown.





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Wednesday morning in Bangkok – 07:00, May 19, 2010

Water cannons – 06:58, May 19, 2010

Channel 9 reporting water cannons are being moved into place on Silom.

Burning again – 06:53, May 19, 2010

Thai TV reporting fires erupting again at Rama IV Road, Din Daeng and further up the expressway near Klong Toey.

[Thaksin's vendetta is wrecking the country](#) – *The Nation*, May 19, 2010

[Legacy of broken promises](#) – *joongangdaily.joins.com*, May 19, 2010

[Gwynne Dyer: Thailand heading towards Burmese-style tyranny, isolation, and poverty](#) – *straight.com*, May 19, 2010



(Source: TPBS screen grab)

Right here, right now: Heavy military presence moves closer to the rally site – 06:13, May 19, 2010  
Thai TV is reporting  
that soldiers and heavy armored vehicles have moved down Silom and are waiting at Silom Soi 4.

[Media the new battlefield for reds and yellows](#) – *The Nation*, May 19, 2010

*...The Samut Prakan-based FM101.25 radio station received calls yesterday morning from irate red shirts calling on the protesters to burn down the buildings where snipers were waiting to shoot down leaders and other civilians.*

*"If we have to burn them down, so be it," one caller said.*

*...Meanwhile, the view of two female hosts at the pro-government FM97.75 could not have been more different. Both urged their fellow citizens to not be too upset the 30-odd fatalities over the past three days.*

*"Thirty deaths aren't that many and polls show that people are still supportive of Abhisit," one host told listeners...*



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

End the rally – May 19, 2010

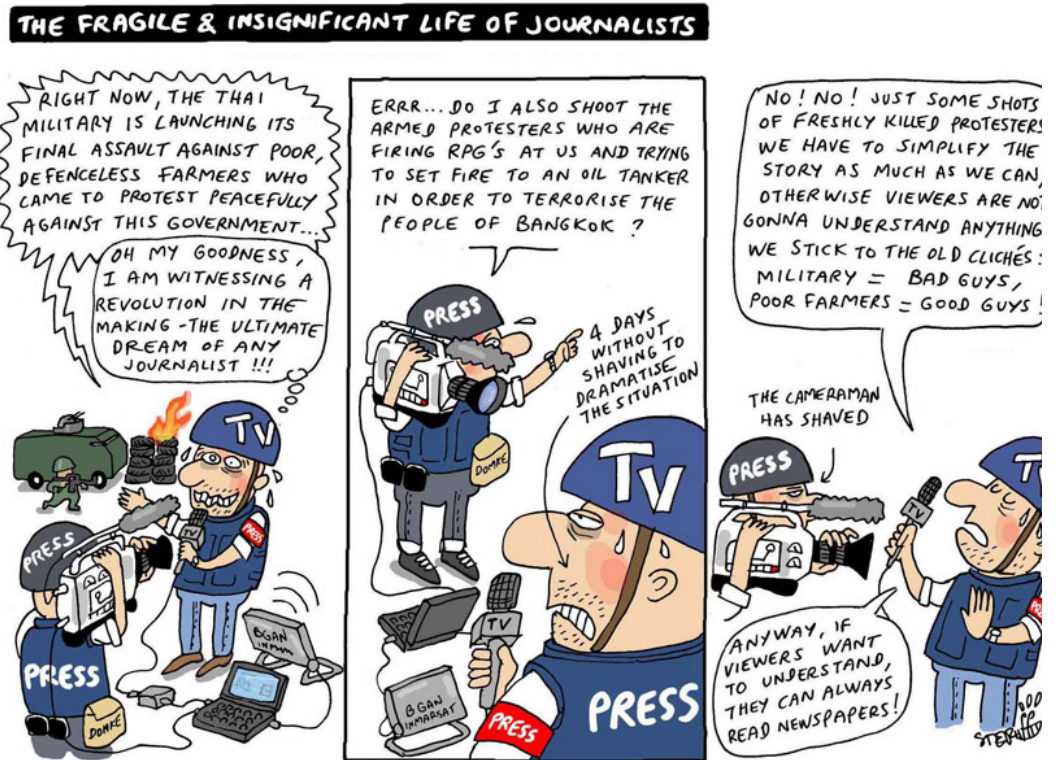
The sticker reads: End the rally – want to have life as usual

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

# Cartoon by Stephff

May 20, 2010

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Stephff's Cartoons



(Source: Courtesy of Stephff – The Nation)



# Cartoon by Stephff

May 20, 2010

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Stephff's Cartoons



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

# Cartoon by Stephff

May 20, 2010

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Stephff's Cartoons

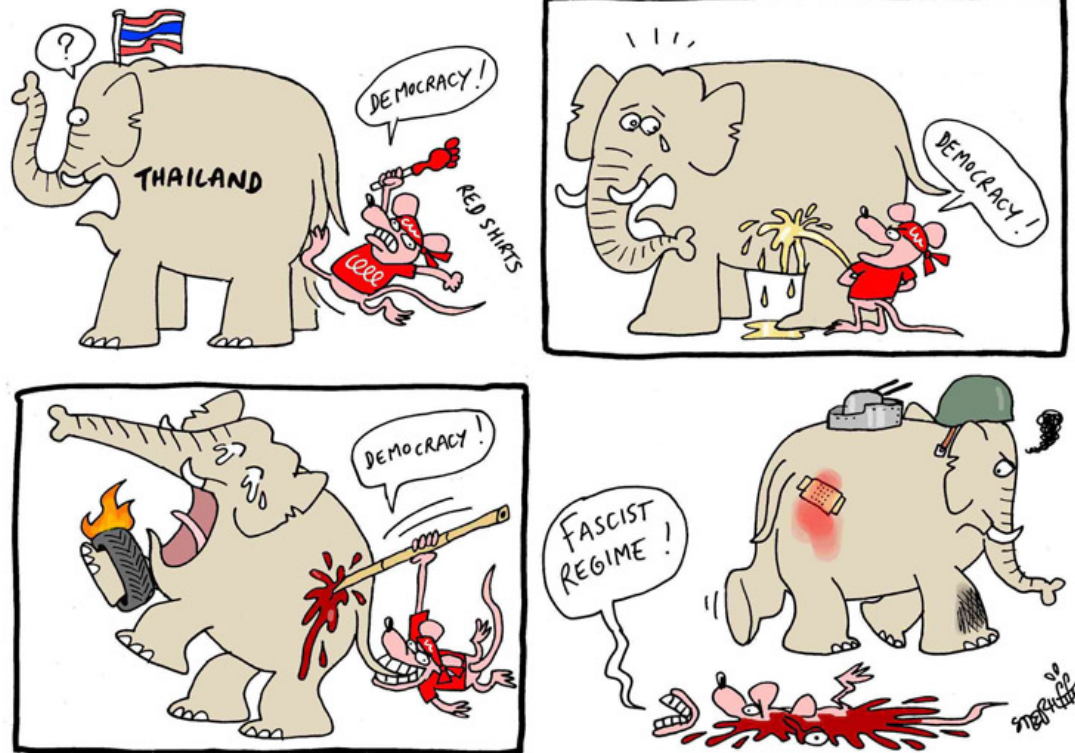


(Source: Courtesy of Stephff – *The Nation*)

# Cartoon by Stephff

May 20, 2010

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Stephff's Cartoons



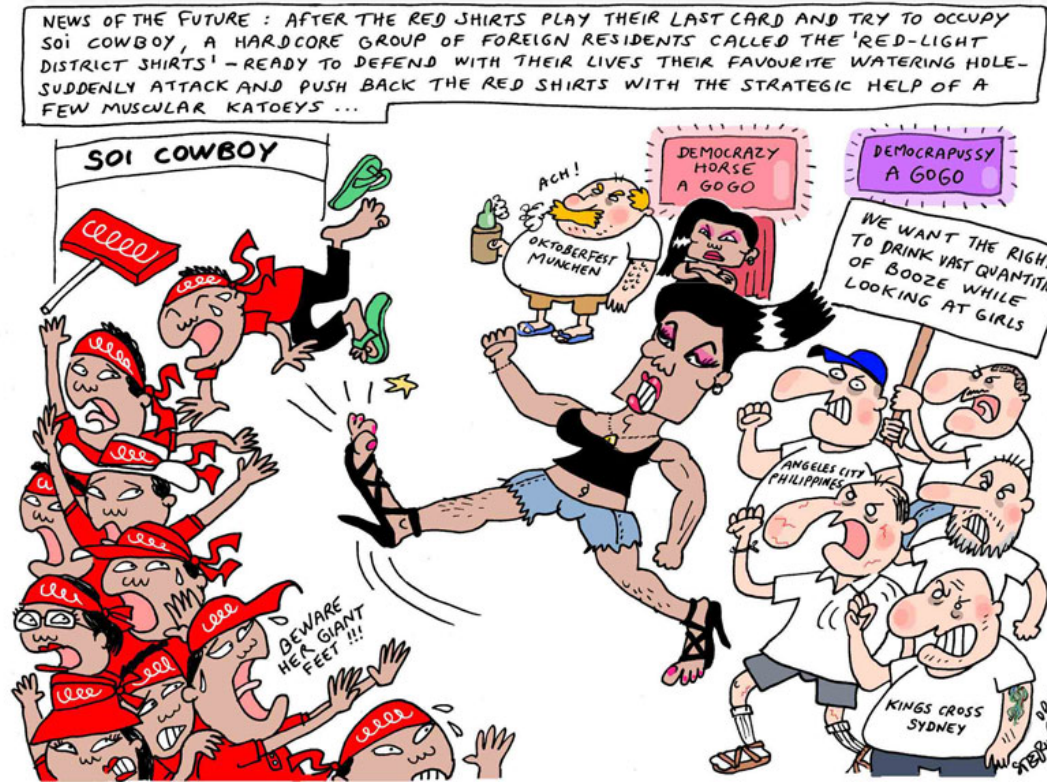
(Source: Courtesy of Stephff – The Nation)



# Cartoon by Stephff

May 20, 2010

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Stephff's Cartoons



(Source: Courtesy of Stephff – The Nation)



# The day after: Rama IV Road area

May 20, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010



(Photo: [I Prahin](#))



(Photo: [I Prahin](#))





(Photo: [I Prahin](#))

The day after: Rama IV Road area – May 20, 2010

More:

[Klong Toei](#)

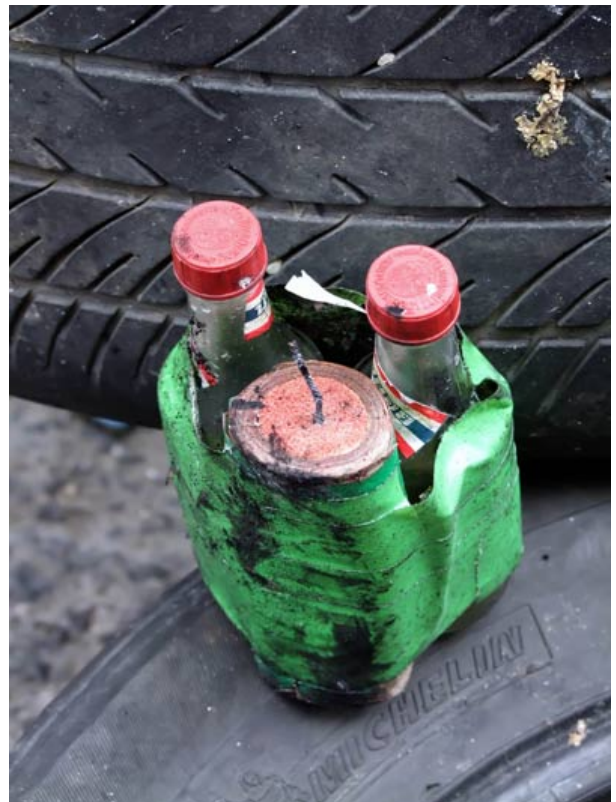
[Rama IV #1](#)

[Rama IV #2](#)

[Soi Ngam Dupli](#)

[Rama IV Statue](#)

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



(Photo: [I Prahin](#))



## **2Bangkok Situation Update: Is everything in Thailand these days “unprecedented”?**

May 20, 2010

Categories: Analysis, Red Shirt Protest 2010

### **Is "the degree of violence unprecedented"?**

No. Present events are just one in a series of periods of civil conflict that happen in Thailand roughly every 10-15 years. While the nature and seriousness of each event differs, twentieth century Thai history was regularly punctuated by bloody carnage and near-breakdown of civil society just like this.

Making vicious threats and then acting on these threats is also not unusual. And as [we have previous noted](#), the value of non-violence is not understood and valued in the same way as in the West. When the government spokesman says this arson and rioting is "uncharacteristic" of Thais, this is simply not the case.

### **Is Thai arson "unprecedented?"**

No. Arson and threats of arson are perennial fixtures of protest in Thailand. Arson is a normal indicator of both personal dissatisfaction and especially dissatisfaction of major figures or political groups who feel they have been wronged or treated unfairly.

There is a long history of both unionists and locals residents burning down factories, hotels etc., over various grievances. Threats of arson—particularly burning Bangkok to ashes—were also a perennial theme of the Red Shirts.

Arson attacks happened during and after the protests in the 1970s and at the end of the Black May events in 1992. There was also an ongoing spate of arson attacks in the provinces in the months after the 2006 coup.

While the scale and locations of arson in this case are stunning to affluent Bangkok residents, neither the threats of arson nor the carrying of it out are outside historical norms.

If what the government faces now is a series of late-night arson attacks on schools in the provinces and some late night "political intimidation" bombings (men on motorcycles throwing explosive devices over walls), then the government can feel they have won and nothing out of the ordinary for these circumstances is happening. Any terror activities on a larger and more organized scale will indicate a greater challenge.

### **Was the crowd "out of control?"**

It is most likely that the militant groups had already planned the final action to "run amok." There is plenty of evidence of radio communication and coordination between various parts of the encampment. Most of the times when fires flared up at both Sala Daeng/Rama IV and Din Daeng areas, the fires were nearly simultaneous. Fires also started simultaneously from five places at about 14:02 on May 19.

The places targeted were specific—business thought to be behind PAD funding and Thaksin enemies. Those aligned with the Red Shirts—like Amarin Plaza—were off limits. The arson after the surrender of the Red Shirts was planned and specific.

### **Will there be further terrorism or a civil war?**

There will be a short lull while conventional political action is taken in parliament—a censure debate motion. It will be key for the Pheu Thai Party to replicate a frantic sense of outrage as has been common in recent parliamentary sessions.

After this there still remains a window of opportunity to cause the government collapse before it is too late to seat a government before the next military reshuffle. If Gen. Prayuth is confirmed as Commander-in-Chief, the hopes of seating a Thaksin proxy government led by Pheu Thai Party in the next few years will be gone.

Complicating further action is that further open protest or covert terrorism could be used to implicate and disband the Pheu Thai Party. The wide spate of top political figures either named as terrorists or banned already is a part of this effort already underway to enable the government to warn off who might be inclined to support Thaksin's goals.

The danger for Thaksin is that the Pheu Thai Party will fragment.

Knowing that a purely Thaksin-proxy party would not be allowed to win again means that MPs will be carefully considering their fortunes.

Pheu Thai MPs have been continually fated to switch parties—especially to Banharn Silpa-archa's political machine which is working hard to rebuild itself.

Banharn's grouping could be particularly appealing: lots of money, second generation of leaders in Banharn's family with real power, ability of Banharn to always land in a government coalition, and no taint of being Thaksin-connected nor part of the loathed Bhum Jai Thai which was set up as a rural rival to Pheu Thai.

Very telling are the huge cash withdrawals of 600 million and 800 million baht taken out by Thaksin's ex-wife in the week before the end of the rallies. This is to keep Thaksin's ability to influence events liquid in anticipation of the wide-ranging financial bans.

### **Why isn't the international community speaking out?**

There is no Thai political party with a better understanding of quiet international diplomacy than the Democrats. The Democrats have been using this skill to quietly convince foreign governments to share and exchange intelligence and convince them that Thailand is facing agitation by Thaksin.

The international community values consistency and slow change. Ever since April 2009 when Thaksin and Red Shirt leaders were talking about dismantling the Privy Council and giving other indications that wholesale changes would be made to the Thai political system, the international community has been wary of attempts to destabilize the country.

Even if the international community felt a radical change was desirable, they would likely not be wishing Thaksin to come back and rule.

The international community will be wanting the present regime to succeed and new elections to happen under normal circumstances. However, publicly they will take a cautious and impartial stand as is customary in these cases.

### **Will Abhisit have to flee the country?**

It is considered good form for a Prime Minister involved in this kind of action to leave the country for a time and remain silent on politics. Previous violent upheavals have been followed by this action. It is possible that once elections do occur and a new government forms Abhisit will likely follow this tradition.

However, for now Abhisit will continue as PM and elections will be pushed back as far as is practical. One of the points of this sacrifice on the part of the nation was to set the example that no politician—in this case, Thaksin—would be able to cause a government to fall through extra-parliamentary street action.

The scenario of the rural people taking to the streets is not novel, but had long been seen as a real possibility. It has long been feared that some Machiavellian politician—Newin, Sanoh, Sanan, Banharn, Chavalit, etc.—would use this sort of tact—march thousands of country people into Bangkok and threaten riots—unless some political goal was met.

**If Thaksin has nothing to do with the UDD and does not communicate with them, why would he pay an international lawyer to speak for them? And what does Thaksin want?**

As previous explained, the Thai rural poor do have grievances and it is likely that a new political power is being unleashed in the present Red Shirt movement.

However, the goals for Red Shirt rally in Bangkok in April and May was for one thing: to insist on immediate dissolution so a new, Thaksin-aligned government could be in power before the military budget and appointment of the next Commander-in-Chief occurred. The government would then proceed along the lines of the People Power Party government in 2008—stop all government activity until constitutional amendments and a pardon for Thaksin could be arranged.

To control the Commander-in-Chief appointment was key. With Gen. Prayuth expected to take the helm in October, the prospects that a government solely functioning to effect a Thaksin pardon would be allowed to take power are nil.

### **Why Robert Amsterdam having trouble answering if Thaksin is funding the Red Shirts?**

This is pure speculation, but rumors have swirled for weeks that terrorism charges would be leveled at Thaksin as a final coup de grace. This could be why an unprepared Robert Amsterdam was having difficulty answering during his [Al-Jazeera interview](#). If he indicated Thaksin was supporting the Reds in some way, this could lend credence to the charges and allow the government to link Thaksin to terrorism.

### **The Media and the "mob"**

The Thai media loves to match technology to these pivotal violent events and show how protest has been influence by technology. 1992 was known as the "mobile mob" or "hand-phone mob" which was united and organized with new mobile phone technology. This also indicated that the protesters were affluent and urban as only these people had mobile phones.

This time around the internet and especially social networking have been linked to the ebb and flow of events as they allow everyone to have their own presence on the web, tweet in real time and share their videos their own TV channel on YouTube.

### **What is happening now?**

The government has been very lucky in the speed and timing of the clearance operations. It has tried to be out in front of the news curve by defining the Red Shirts as terrorists and highlighting the ordnance they left behind.

Just like after Songkran 2009, the government is making the most of the destruction with non-stop propagandizing on TV and in the press. However, the knowledge of what really happened during Songkran 2009—including the intensity and falsehood of the rhetoric on stage which greatly exceeded that during 2010—apparently did not greatly impact the loyalty of pro-Thaksin people last time. There is little reason to think it will this time.

Thus indirect means will be employed to blunt the possibility that a political party controlled for Thaksin's benefit could come to power again. The considerable powers of the state—money, inducements, legal threats, promises of future benefits and leniency, all manner of inside deals—are being employed to meet and pacify Red Shirt aspirations.

Perhaps the greatest danger to the government making headway is the institutional bias towards Thaksin. The disloyalty of police and military, coupled with the tendency to be easily swayed by money to go slow or leak information, have repeatedly frustrated government efforts.

As we wrote on May 17, with the shooting of Seh Daeng it was suddenly clear that a major change had taken place and that a plan to end the situation had been agreed on and was underway. Part of this plan is the highly contentious financial blacklisting of Chavalit and now figures like Suriya Jeungrungrungkij. This financial ban is an extreme and serious action towards extraordinary dangerous political figures. They are going after these major people to split and ameliorate the power of Thaksin to influence politics through direct or indirect means.



A variety of criminal charges will eventually be dealt to those who are not willing to distance themselves from Thaksin's political goals and the more radical aims of the Red Shirt movement. Some who are charged will have agreed to cooperate in return for assurances of immediate probation. All of this is the typical way the Thai political system envelops and pacifies potential troublemakers.

Thailand has a long history of quickly and aggressively integrating disaffected parties back into the mainstream after periods of civil strife. Justice, punishment, and the truth of the matter will always take a back seat to the mantra of unity.

# Politics redraws the investment map in South East Asia

May 20, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Politics redraws the investment map in South East Asia](#) – Reuters, May, 2010

*...Meanwhile, as protesters paralyzed central Bangkok in a long standoff that exploded into gun battles and arson attacks in the heart of the business district, the Philippines was surprising everyone with the smooth election of a market-friendly president.*

*“A strong president, restart of infrastructure spending, and a traditional relief rally should provide fuel for the markets,” J.P. Morgan said in a research note after the election.*

*Indonesia has already experienced a profound shift in how it is viewed by fund managers and multinationals...*

# End the rally–want to live as usual

May 20, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010



A sticker from the April-May period. It reads: End the rally–want to live as usual

(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)



# Thaksin's lawyer documents army abuse of Red Shirts

May 20, 2010

Categories: Analysis, Robert Amsterdam

[Thaksin's lawyer documents army abuse of Red Shirts](http://www.abc.net.au) – [www.abc.net.au](http://www.abc.net.au), May 20, 2010

*...ELEANOR HALL: Now a statement that Dr Thaksin released overnight says he has no authority to negotiate on behalf of the Red Shirts and yet he's paying you to act for them. So what exactly is the former Thai PM's relationship with the protesters?*

*ROBERT AMSTERDAM: No, no. He's not... I think we're getting confused. That's not what I said. Let's be clear. He sent me to assist them in announcing and trying to get some third party to mediate. That's not acting for them. That's trying to just help bring them into some form of dialogue. It's very different.*

*...ELEANOR HALL: Just before we move on to the negotiations or your attempt to work negotiations here I just want to clarify – are you certain that Thaksin Shinawatra is providing no financial help to the protesters, apart from paying you?*

*ROBERT AMSTERDAM: Again I, look let's be clear. I find all these questions about him and money and everything else frankly ridiculous. I just left a campsite where there were thousands of people who had slept under the stars for weeks and weeks trying to get their message about their desire for some form of democracy out there. They risked their lives. They took bullets for this.*

*I think you actually, it's a shame on people to try to focus on whether or not he and a number of others may have tried to help in some way.*

*...ELEANOR HALL: And what's Thaksin Shinawatra telling you about how he feels about the state of his country at the moment? Is he worried about civil war?*

*ROBERT AMSTERDAM: He is terribly worried, shocked and horrified by what the government has done. I think that you've had a government turn on its own citizens in an absolutely incredible way, with live bullets, killing journalists indiscriminately...*

# Red Protests – May 20-21, 2010

May 21, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

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

[A walk thru inner Bangkok, the day after](#) – Facebook, May 20, 2010

[Bangkok burns](#) – Flickr, May, 2010

[Experts: Bangkok crackdown no replay of Tiananmen](#) – Boston Globe, May 21, 2010

*... "The mouthpieces of the Chinese Central Propaganda Department can point to democracy in Taiwan and democracy in Thailand as cautionary tales," Li said. "They can say: 'You think democracy is good, well have a look at Thailand, see what kind of trouble they've got there?'"*

[A polity imploding](#) – The Economist, May 20, 2010

[The battle of Bangkok – An all-out massacre in the capital has been avoided, but Thailand is not beyond the risk of civil war](#) – The Economist, May 20, 2010

[Phuket villas go empty as Bangkok riots scare away tourists](#) – Bloomberg, May 20, 2010

[A member of the Thai travel industry speaks out – Thaksin is in the same league as Bin Laden and responsible for the Terror attacks in Thailand](#) – eTN, May 20, 2010

*eTN Received this letter from a known member of the Thai travel industry. eTN respects not to disclose the identity of this long time eTN reader.*

*Thaksin is responsible for the horrible things that happened lately in Thailand.*

*He is in the same league as Bin Laden – Thaksin's behind the scenes financing of the terror attacks should be punished the same way as Bin Laden would be punished...*

[The revolt of Chiang Mai's Phrai](#) – The Irrawaddy, May 20, 2010

*...A company of armed soldiers and police massed about 100 meters away did nothing to prevent a handful of hardcore protesters from setting fire to the second truck more than 40 minutes after they had burned the first.*

*"It's certain they were ordered not to interfere," said Homnuan Rattanawunna, a local writer who would only give her pseudonym.*

*"There is so much corruption here . Aside from whatever political advantage they might get, someone will get a commission when the fire trucks are replaced," she said, adding that most of the city was under the control of the Redshirts.*

*"Some people in the village I come from work for a Chiang Mai-based company—I can't give you details because if I do the people could lose their jobs or worse. Its owner is a prominent Redshirt supporter.*

*"They don't even get the minimum wage, but they dare not complain..."*

[Exchange students, ex-Pittsburghers abroad fear unknowns over Thai uprisings](#) – Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, May 20, 2010

[France tries to gag Thaksin on Thai crisis](#) – AFP, May 20, 2010

*France said Thursday it would try to prevent former Thai premier Thaksin Shinawatra from speaking out on*

*the political crisis in his homeland while he is on its territory.*

*"Given the violence in Thailand ... we have told Mr Thaksin, who is on a strictly private visit to France, that he should abstain from any public appearance or statement on our territory," a foreign ministry spokesman said...*

[France is looking for Thaksin... who was seen in Paris](#) – RFI, May 20, 2010

*...The Quai d'Orsay is looking for the former Thai prime minister in order to make sure he does not make any public statements on french soil...*

[Poverty bomb explodes in Thailand](#) – island.lk, May, 2010

[In a Bangkok Buddhist temple, the groans of the wounded shot seeking sanctuary](#) – Globe and Mail, May 19-20, 2010

[Thailand: challenging the "heroic revolution" archetype](#) – ABC, May 20, 2010

[The Philippines – Bangkok ablaze: It could've been us](#) – Inquirer, May 20, 2010

[Red Shirt leaders surrender](#) – newsy.com, May 20, 2010

Collection of videos showing how news of the crackdown was reported internationally.



(Source: Channel 3 screen grab)

Channel 3 still off the air – May 20, 2010

Channel 3 remains off the air today after Red Shirts rioted in the Channel 3 building yesterday. The words under logo read: Channel 3 Thailand – Color TV, channel 3

[Calls for Australia to take regional lead in Thai crisis](#) – ABC, May 20, 2010

*...What they actually should do is call a fresh election to lance the boil in Thailand. And of course the government there have been very reluctant to call a fresh election and we all know why they've been reluctant to call a fresh election because they think they'll lose it. They think that again what you might call ordinary working people and small holding farmers in Thailand want to vote for the sort of Thaksin movement, which is extremely popular there. And for as long as they're effectively in practice they're disenfranchised the tension is simply just going to remain I'm afraid...*

[Thailand's bitter divisions widened by bloodshed](#) – The Australian, May 20, 2010





From Khaosod, May 20, 2010

The headline reads: 9 dead – Reportedly died in escape to Pathumwanaram Temple  
 Victims from clashes in Ratchaprasong – Death toll reaches 15 – Core leaders submit themselves to end rally  
 – Curfew announcement in Bangkok – Ruinous burning at Central World – 10 more Bangkok Bank branches  
 torched – Sorayud of Channel 3 escaped  
 Senators blame Mark’s dishonesty in suppressing the UDD mob  
 On the banner across the very top: Events of the rally dispersal clashes – pages 4,12,16 / guide to duck  
 noodle in pot at Bangyai – page21



From Komchadluek, May 20-21, 2010

The headline reads: Curfew ends dark age –  
City torched!

Red leaders end rally – Red mass angrily rose – Tragic clashes – Channel 3 escapes frantically

Leaders submitted themselves into police – Kir fled, but arrested

CRES urges people to inform related information

Revealing behind the scenes issues, page 16”

Ending of UDD , the 2nd round



(Source: Channel 7 screen grab)

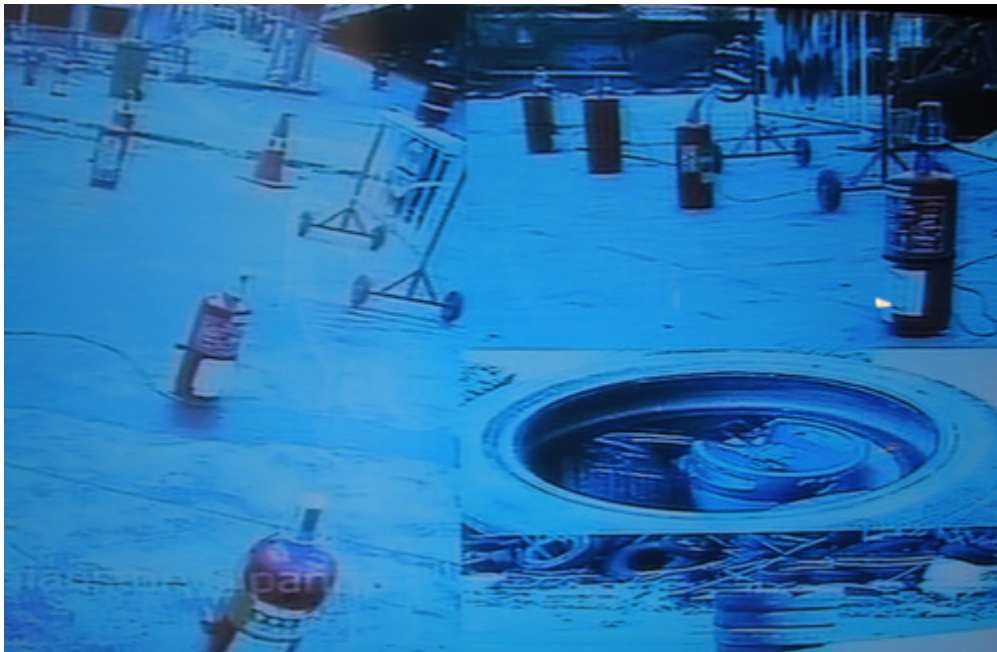
CRES on TV – 16:11, May 20, 2010

The CRES is on TV now, documenting in detail the weapons, ammo, pipe bombs, molotov cocktails, rigged gas canisters, etc. seized from

Red Shirt rioters.



(Source: Channel 7 screen grab)



(Source: Channel 7 screen grab)

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



# Red Protests – May 21, 2010

May 21, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

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



(Source: [YouTube video](#))

["Bangkok ablaze"](#) – *YouTube*, May 21, 2010

Dramatic collection of the Red Shirt revolutionary threats. First from the 2009 Songkran riots and then from the May 2010 events. Some of 2009 quotes were part of "people's decrees" read out from the stage saying any law could be violated in service of the revolution. Ironically the Songkran 2009 rhetoric overall was much hotter than from the rallies this year.



(Source: [YouTube video](#))

Earlier: [Nuttawut threatens to burn the city \(with English subtitles\)](#) – YouTube, May 20, 2010

Earlier: [Arisman urges protesters to be ready to burn the city \(with English subtitles\)](#) – YouTube, May 20, 2010

Earlier: [Jeff Savage threatens to burn down Central World](#) – YouTube, May 20, 2010



(Source: [YouTube video](#))

[Thaksin still stands amid Thai turmoil](#) – WSJ, May 21, 2010

*...At other times, he lashes out at the soldiers and royalist bureaucrats who toppled him from power, urging on his so-called Red Shirt followers to launch a full-blown revolt and regain control of Thailand. He regularly extols his followers via video links, Twitter and other media to take on the authorities. Government investigators go further and say he has provided significant financial support for Thailand's antigovernment movement.*

*People on both sides of Thailand's political divide with knowledge of the negotiations say that Mr. Thaksin's interventions—which they say included a number of new demands that ended up slowing the talks intended to end the standoff—delayed an agreement for elections that might have enabled the protesters to call off*

*their months long rally. His machinations prompted the most senior Red Shirt negotiator to quit in frustration, according to these people...*



From *Daily News*, May 21, 2010

The headline reads: Thailand in tragedy – Chaotic city torched – turns ruined  
CRES rally dispersal led to clashes at flash points – UDD leaders surrounded themselves – Curfew announced – Torching tremendously ruined Central World

On the banner across the very top: 2 hot campaigns of Daily News for World Cup football match to win live tickets ‘sport page’ – 41 million winning opportunity, cut the coupons, page 2

[A farewell to Siam Theatre](#) – *The Nation*, May 21, 2010

[Mop-up operation in Bangkok under way](#) – *Irish Times*, May 21, 2010

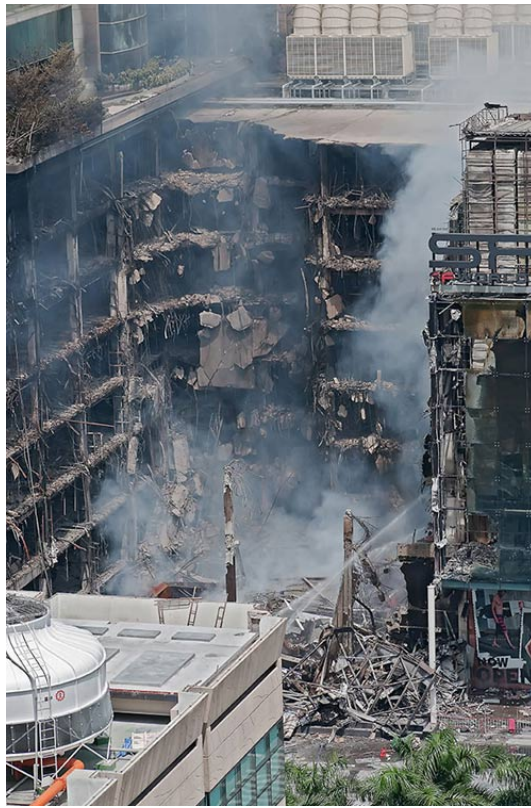
*...Rumours swirl in the capital. Many say the Black Shirt hardcore rioters were made up of Khmer mercenaries from Cambodia. I witnessed one fighter with elaborate Khmer style tattoos on his neck and arms, but these are also popular in Thailand...*

[Burmese lottery shut down by burning of Thai stock exchange](#) – *The Irrawaddy*, May, 2010

*...The winning numbers in the lottery are based on the last two digits of the SET Index, and are picked four times a day: at 9:30 in the morning, 12:10 in the afternoon, 2:00 pm and 4:30 pm, when the stock exchange closes.*

*The updated prices are televised on Thai channels Modernine TV and ITV, available to cable subscribers from Thailand’s MCOT Public Company...*





(Photo: [Bernd Mechsner](#))

[Update 2: Expat's Eye-witness Report: Ratchaprasong](#) – [womenlearnthai.com](#), May 21, 2010



From *Krungthep Turakit*, May 21, 2010

The headline reads: Torching the city

World Trade-Paragon-Siam-SET-Channel 3 suffered arson ruin

Bangkok under curfew – Ratchaprasong dispersal led to 5 dead and 42 injured



From *Matichon*, May 21, 2010

The headline reads: 27 spots under city torch – Core leaders turn themselves over to police – Mob turns wild – Uncontrollable chaos spreads to the whole city – 24 provinces announced under curfew  
Town pavilions in 4 provinces torched in Red fury



From *Thai Rath*, May 21, 2010

The headline reads: Town torched in ruin – Soldiers tackled – Rally end  
Chatuporn-Nutthawut turned themselves over to the police – Arisman escape but seized – Reds staged chaos around Bangkok and other provinces – Central World tremendously ruined!

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



# Reading list

May 22, 2010

Categories: Books

\* For those of you would like to know about how present events are just one in a series of mini-civil conflicts that happen in Thailand every 10-15 years, get a copy of [Democracy, Shaken and Stirred](#). This book is most notable to non-Thais for expressing the very Thai sensibility towards protest and politics.

\* Also [Chronicle of Thailand](#) which is a pictorial history of Thai news since 1946.

\* David Murray's Angels and Devils is a very detailed account of the machinations of party politics that surrounded the coup and subsequent events of 1991-1992 gleaned from newspapers. It is kind of a pre-internet version of 2Bangkok.com. It appears to be out of print, but occasionally a copy can be found on ebay.

Pklykoom writes: Thought it might be worth noting that Murray's book is [still available from Orchid Press](#) and have always shown up at the publisher's booth during past book fairs.

# Red Protests – May 22-23, 2010

May 23, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

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



(Source: [YouTube video](#))

[British 'red-shirt' arrested as Thai government criticizes foreign agitators](#) – [www.andrew-drummond.com](#), May 23, 2010

[Thai govt accuses foreigners in Bangkok arson](#) – *AFP*, May 22, 2010

*...“A white Westerner was involved in the arson attack on Central World, convincing them to set fire to it. And an Asian was also involved in the arson attacks on the banks,” said government spokesman Panitan Wattanayagorn...*

[Briton faces jail or execution for inciting Thai redshirts to torch mall](#) – *Guardian*, May 25, 2010

*...Savage has admitted to being involved in earlier redshirt demonstrations, including riots in Pattaya in April 2009, when protesters stormed the hotel hosting the Asean leaders' meeting, causing the conference to be abandoned. He was at state-owned TV station Channel 3 when it was set on fire last Wednesday, though he says he played no part in burning the building...*

[The Brit thug of bloody Bangkok](#) – *The Sun*, May 22, 2010

*The British yob caught on video whipping up deadly riot fury in Bangkok was identified today as a London hospital driver...*

[Briton in Red Shirt demonstration regrets video arson gibe](#) – *The Times*, May 21, 2010

*...He insisted that he had played no part in the mayhem, and that at the time he was watching –although not*

taking part in—another arson attack on a Thai television station. But he defended the destruction of property as a weapon in the “class war” which he believes the Red Shirts are fighting...

[Jeff Savage, of Tonbridge in Kent, threatens to burn down Central World](#) – YouTube, May 20, 2010

[Dutch stone throwers "got carried away"](#) – [rnw.nl](#), May 23, 2010

The two Dutchmen, aged 44 and 17, who were arrested in Thailand for throwing stones during last week's riots in the northern city of Chiang Mai, have been released with a warning. Salient detail: they were taking part in a rehabilitation project for people addicted to drugs or other substances...

Earlier: Foreigner rioting with the Red Shirts in Chiang Mai – [here](#) and [here](#) – YouTube, May 21, 2010

## การ์ตูน ชัย ราชวัตร 23/05/53



What's the idea... – from *Thai Rath*, cartoon by Chai Ratchawat, May 23, 2010

The cartoon headline: What's the idea...

Top left: Peace, non-violence by producing the OTOP bomb!

Top middle: By teaching students to know democracy by killing

Top right: Using innocents as human shields

Bottom left: Interpreting the speech "Do not go home empty handed" by robbing

Bottom middle: Interpreting the speech "withdrawing money from Bangkok Bank" by breaking open ATM machines

Bottom right: Burning homes and the city to hide mobs from view!

[In media reds](#) – [jinpeili.blogspot.com](#), May 23, 2010

In retrospect, red shirt calls for free speech and unfettered television access were as deceptive as the big red banner behind their stage at Ratchaprasong, which proclaimed in English for all the world to see:

PEACEFUL PROTESTERS

NOT TERRORISTS

That unforgettable banner, background to a vitriolic karaoke show and some unforgettable hate-laden banter held in the middle of a barricaded intersection, points to an image problem that was never really resolved.



*Were the reds peaceful and democratic at heart, betrayed by a militant fringe, or was violence and intimidation part of the overall red program from the start?...*

[Breaking News! The international media's coverage of the situation in Bangkok leaves a lot to be desired. And some of it has been plain wrong](#) – Bangkok Post, May 23, 2010

*...I am having to answer questions and comments on a daily basis from Americans whose only knowledge of what's happening in Thailand comes from CNN. Why is the "unelected" evil Thai government murdering its own people when "all they want is democracy"? Even my mother is distraught. "It's terrible what's going on there," she said. "All those red shirts want is democracy, and they're being killed for it..."*

[School fire in Sakhon Nakhon](#) – The Nation, May 23, 2010

[Massacre in Thailand: US's bloody hands](#) – Tehran Times, May 23, 2010

*...By working to maintain the Bush-era coup government in Thailand, President Obama bears criminal responsibility for the current atrocities. If the Thai working class is unable to overthrow their murderous government, Obama will bear further blame for propping up a coup-government that must resort to prolonged, massive brutality to maintain its rule...*



(Photo: [I Prahin](#))

[Selection of Bangkok Burning Photo-Journalism](#) – Flickr, May 23, 2010

[Siam Theatre – 44 Years of History Destroyed](#) – Flickr, May 23, 2010

[Heartland of Thailand, still angry and divided](#) – NYT, May 23, 2010

*...The protesters returned with horrifying videos of the violence in Bangkok prepared by protest organizers. Rumors swelled that hundreds, or even thousands, had died in the streets, fueling talk of revenge.*

*...Then once the conversation has started, you will know who to hate.*

*... "What we have to accept is that most of them are from the countryside, less educated, and abandoned by the government for so long," said Naengnoi Yanwaree, a professor of education.*

*"They are fed by community radio with wrong information, hate, anger, hatred of the yellows, hatred of the monarchy," she said...*

From *Not the Nation*

[Arsonists Set Chuwit On Fire](#)

[California Wow Still Flaming](#)

[Mob of Interior Designers, Architects Set State Tower On Fire](#)

[Journalists Continue To Parachute Into Bangkok](#)

[After Evacuation, Bangkok Post Realizes Entire Paper Can Be Produced By Two People](#)

[TAT Demands Foreign Media Stop Exaggerating Story, 36 Not 38 Buildings Torched](#)

[Husband lost in Bangkok](#) – *New Zealand Herald*, May 23, 2010

...*Warhurst's sister Cari Batenburg, 45, says the family had to "weigh up" advice from the New Zealand Government against their desire to get on a plane to travel over there.*

*"We're all thinking we should be over there. It's hard for us to hold back and not go," she said. "But the reality of wandering around Bangkok ... I had to stop and ask 'what do I think I'm going to find?'"*

*The country is listed as an "extreme risk" destination on the Government's Safe Travel website...*

[Red crisis in Bangkok](#) – *Google Maps*, May, 2010

[Thai officials use a powerful visual to explain violence](#) – *Washington Post*, May 23, 2010

...*The government and its supporters say military action was the only option against protesters who, though mostly unarmed, harbored a small group of militants bent on wreaking havoc. Red shirts and their sympathizers blame the violence on the government's decision to call in the army rather than accept demands for early elections...*



(Photo: [LPrahin](#))

[Citizens clean up at Ratchaprasong](#) – *Flickr*, May 23, 2010



From *Komchadluek*, Cartoon: Hedkerd Yaek Bangna , by Kui, May 20-21, 2010

Left: The city greatly suffered from arson. Does Thaksin confirm the reds' fight is holding the principle of non-violence any longer?

Middle: Surely!! He still holds the principle of non-violence.

Right: At this moment he is doing shopping in Paris and he shops like doing a meditative walk.

Update on the *Komchadluek* cartoon – May 28, 2010

Navin explains: *I'm not sure what causes confusion, since you have translated everything correctly but here is my take on it.*

*The word "Aa-hing-sah" is a principle in Buddhism stating that resorting to violence is not an option. For example, a buddhist who follows "Aa-hing-sah" principle is usually also a vegetarian which does not involve killing of other beings. The cartoon is making fun of the red shirt rebels who blindly believe that Thaksin is a righteous man. Even his shopping in Paris looks like a meditative walk to them, indicating that Thaksin must be a good Buddhist and therefore he must holds the principle of non-violence.*

*I think you're right that the cartoon is meant to be ironic but many Thais would find this irony quite funny. People who're anti-Thaksin like to make fun of the red shirt's demand for greater social equality by pointing out Thaksin's luxurious lifestyle compared to the rural poor.*

[6 undetonated carbombs found at Rajprasong, meant to completely blow up the area](#) – *TAN*, May 22, 2010

[Canadian journalist critically injured in Thailand now able to speak](#) – *Vancouver Sun*, May 22, 2010

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



# Red Protests – May 24, 2010

May 24, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

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



(Source: *Komchadluek*, May 24, 2010)

From *Komchadluek*, May 24, 2010

The caption reads: Sleeping in different rooms, why does the bed seems to be the same? – Catching mistakes – The picture that blogger ‘Khana’ presented in the website oknation.net showed some marks on beds of UDD leaders. The pictures were used by the police to show that the UDD leaders stayed in separate rooms. However, the similar marks on beds generate doubt and shows that the scene was set.

[Nuttawut and other Red Shirt leaders living in luxury in government detention](#) – *Pantip.com*, May 22, 2010

[Surrendered leaders ‘not living comfortably’](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 21, 2010

...He said that the five red-shirt core leaders who surrendered on Wednesday were put in the same room because of the limited space...

[Red-shirt leaders’ internet phones confiscated](#) – *TAN*, May 22, 2010

Police Major General Prawut Thavornsiri admits that the initial imprisonment of the red-shirt leaders did not go as smoothly as they had expected...

[Damage control: New photos](#)

[to show Red Shirt leaders are not living in luxury](#) – *Tweeted photo*, May 22, 2010

[Why did so many civilians die in Bangkok violence? Rights activists want international investigation](#) – *The Star*, May, 2010

... “Who is watching to ensure these people are not being beaten, tortured or killed? Who will know their fate? The risk of ‘disappearances’ is real. We hold grave fears for their safety.”

*Amsterdam said international human rights agencies must be allowed in to act as observers to ensure that human rights are not abused...*

Editor surrenders – *The Nation*, May 24, 2010

*Somyos Prueksakasemsuk, leader of a leftist redshirt faction and editor of the [Voice of Taksin magazine](#), surrendered to police Monday after the Centre for the Resolution of the Emergency Situation (CRES) issued an arrest warrant against him for violating the emergency rule...*



From *ThaiRath*, May 24, 2010

The headlines read: Car bomb revealed – interrupted before bombing Ratchaprasong – diplomatic military attachés invited to witness munitions from mob – Police hurry to clarify the released photos revealing police work on controlling UDD leaders

6 month pregnant woman savagely shot on the head by militants





From Komchadluek, May 24, 2010

The headlines read: Network members urge to use reality show with VIP terrorists – Revealing the set scene of detention – Clarifying the separate detention case but sleeping on the same bed – Rumor of Arisman's arrest

Ambassadors shocked by the armament cache – many dangerous munitions – shocking 4 sets of car bombs intended to set fire to Ratchaprasong – Team to support victims set – Merit making ceremony for Bangkok on May 26



From Daily News, May 24, 2010

The headlines read: Mistakes observed on the use of same bed – photograph taking to show – scene set for UDD leaders' detention



CRES presents Red Shirt's munitions store in front of diplomatic attaché teams from more than 50 countries, revealing 4 car bombs prepared – Dead toll reaches 85 and injury toll of more than a thousand

[‘One moment in my city’: Alcoa exchange student urges Thai protest understanding](#) – *Daily Times*, May 24, 2010



Punch to punch – From *Thai Rath*, May 24, 2010

Left: Former Prime Minister Banharn Silapa-archa: Passing this to Thaksin who cannot dismiss involvement in this. Listen to my suggestion, come and talk about everything. We have known each other for a long time, but today the nation is being totally destroyed.

Right Former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra: I am not a terrorist, never ordered someone to do anything, especially by the use of violence. I believe in the principle of peace and non-violence and deny violence.

[Filipino activists denounce crackdown in Thailand](#) – *GMA News*, May 24, 2010

*Filipino activists called on the Thai government Monday to take full responsibility for the violent crackdown on Red Shirt protesters in a picket outside the Thai Embassy in Manila...*

[Bitter Thai ‘Red Shirts’ promise further rallies in north](#) – *AFP*, May 24, 2010

*...“I am happy Bangkok was in flames. Let the rich feel what suffering means. Abhisit must tumble,” she said, referring to Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, whose government the Reds say is illegitimate and army-backed...*

[Finale to Thailand protest stuns veteran correspondent](#) – *The Australian*, May 24, 2010



From *Thai Rath*, Cartoon by Zia, May 24, 2010

The cartoon headline reads: Mass tragedy of the century

The words on the collars of the three masked figures: Independent organizations, Two standards law, Press

The very small word close to the arrow at the top right read: Soidao Mountain

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

# Cannes Film Festival: 12 Thai films that wowed in Europe

May 24, 2010

Categories: Film and TV

[Cannes Film Festival: 12 Thai films that wowed in Europe](#) – CNNGo, May 2010

*As Apichatpong Weerasethakul takes another crack at the Palme d'Or this week, we run through all the Thai films that have competed at the famous festival...*

[Thai director wins top Cannes prize](#) – Bangkok Post, May 24, 2010

[Thai director slams censors during Cannes fest](#) – AsiaOne, May 22, 2010

*... "Thailand is a violent country," he said. "It's controlled by a group of mafia..."*



# Nana Hotel Reviews

May 25, 2010

Categories: Humor, Tourism

[Nana Hotel](#) – *Trip Advisor*, May, 2010

# Red Protests – May 25-26, 2010

May 26, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

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



(Photo: *Khaosod*, May 26, 2010)

Skytrain snipers and the temple

Above: From *Khaosod*, May 26, 2010

The caption reads: Picture reveals – The picture shows 2 soldiers stationed at the BTS station and pointing guns at Pathumwanaram Temple which is designated as a safe zone. The picture was taken on the evening of May 19. Deputy PM Suthep dismisses the claim that the CRES dispatched soldiers to stay at the BTS Station



(Photo: *Khaosod*, May 26, 2010)

From *Khaosod*, May 26, 2010

The caption reads: Stationed until morning – The picture taken at around 8 am on May 20 which shows that the soldiers stay on the BTS rail route in front of the Pathumwanaram Temple. Meanwhile the team of police, interior officials and Public Health ministry inspected the dead bodies of 6 people. Witnesses insisted that the bullets came from the direction of the rails.



(Photo: *Khaosod*, May 26, 2010)

From *Khaosod*, May 26, 2010

The caption reads: Loss – The facial expression of parents of Kamonked Akharn and father of Mongkol Khemthong, volunteer rescuers who both died in the shooting attack at Pathumwanaram Temple on May 19 in the evening. The PM sent a flower wreath for the funeral. The cousins of the deceased did not show the flower wreath from PM in front of others at the ceremony. A source says that the family wanted to avoid political conflicts or had private reasons for this.





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

May 25, 2010- The banner reads: Confidence in Thailand, Together we stand for better future



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

May 25, 2010 – Security precautions: Soldiers dismantle a sandbag bunker after the Bangkok governor leaves.



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

May 25, 2010 – The banner reads: Together help clean Bangkok – Together we can – Date May 23, 2010



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

May 25, 2010 – Singed sign on Rama IV





On the forum: [“The Head” at Ratchaprasong](#)

[As Bangkok burned, the Head watched](#) – *Business Standard*, May 26, 2010

[Reconciliation in Thailand ‘very far away’: Thaksin](#) – *AFP*, May, 2010

[Thai office describes report on Thai politics as ‘groundless’](#) – *focustaiwan.tw*, May 26, 2010

...The letter was in rebuttal to an op-ed piece published May 19 in the *Taiwan News*, titled "The Warning for Taiwan in the Thailand Crisis." The Thai courts were impartial in their guilty verdicts against former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his allies for corruption and electoral fraud, and it was Thaksin himself who jumped bail and fled overseas, rather than the Thai Supreme Court confiscating his bail and ordering his arrest...

[Fugitive ex-leader denies financing Thai protests](#) – *NYT*, May 26, 2010

[I would not come back to France: Thaksin](#) – *Straits Times/Asia News Network*, May 26, 2010

[Thailand is on the brink](#) – *The Japan Times*, May 26, 2010

...How would Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama have reacted if Okinawan protesters against U.S. bases sat in the Ginza and stopped 65,000 people from going to work for two months while roving rebels surrounded the Diet, threatened to lynch the prime minister and threw blood at his official residence?

...To Abhisit’s credit, he is seen as the cleanest Thai politician in a blue moon. He is also probably the most intelligent and thoughtful leader that Thailand has seen for a generation. His government has begun measures to address the grievances of poorer people through farm support, reducing the grip of moneylenders and combating corruption, all of which have been put to Parliament — an institution that Thaksin ignored except when he needed it as a rubber stamp.

Abhisit dithered and failed to clear out the protesters early on. Now he has to rediscover his backbone and walk the fine line between being a strong leader and one who listens and tries to ameliorate the genuine



*grievances of his people. At some point soon he needs his own election victory to show that he is his own man, not a puppet of the elite.*

[The failure of Thailand's democracy](#) – *New York Times*, May 25, 2010

*... "Thailand is not really in such bad shape," he said. "There's no ethnic conflict; there's a strong sense of national identity; it's got a lot of economic promise. As bad as Thaksin was, after a cooling off period, it has no choice but to go ahead with new elections, and to let the chips fall where they may."*  
*But Thailand may, Mr. Kaplan allows, be a weaker, less certain and less confident country than it has been in the past, and that is not good for the prestige of the political path advocated by the United States.*  
*In this sense, it's easy to imagine what leaders in places like Beijing have been saying to each other as the events in Bangkok have unfolded: something like, "There but for the grace of Chairman Mao, go we."*

[Army task force denies role in killing 6 at temple – Questions raised over 'skytrain special forces'](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 25, 2010

[A battle over spin](#) – *The Nation*, May 25, 2010

*We have to watch out for the Reds' spin. The Reds have been quite effective in the international front. This spin is not a recent phenomenon. Rather, it is a carefully crafted manoeuvre, one that has been going on over the past three years...*

[Aussie arrested over Thai protests](#) – *news.com.au*, May, 2010

[Jailed Aussie 'braved bullets' for Thai peace](#) – *ABC*, May 25, 2010

*...Purcell said he was a liaison for the military because he was the only one prepared to run through the bullets, an act he says earnt him two wounds from silicon bullets.*  
*He also maintains he is only facing a charge of breaking the government-imposed curfew, which can carry a penalty of two years in jail.*  
*But this is at odds with what Thai newspapers and Australian officials are saying, which is that Purcell may well face charges of inciting violence as well as immigration offences...*

[Conor David Purcell and his 15 minutes of fame, Thailand](#) – *isaanstyle.blogspot.com*, May, 2010

[The curious case of Conor David Purcell](#) – *saiyasombut.wordpress.com*, May, 2010

# **A guide to the perfect Thai idiot**

May 26, 2010

Categories: Humor

[A guide to the perfect Thai idiot](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May 26, 2010

## **‘Fishing’ for gold remains popular among con men**

May 27, 2010

Categories: Scams

[Thieves cast a line for greedy victims – ‘Fishing’ for gold remains popular among con men](#) – *Bangkok Post*, May, 2010



# Teens Thai-ed to cellphones by chains of love

May 28, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Teens Thai-ed to cellphones by chains of love](#) – Sapa-DPA, May 28, 2010

*Almost a quarter of Thai kids rate their cellphones on par with relationships, a survey published on Tuesday found. Asked about the importance of cellphones in their life, 23 percent said it was like a friend and lover they could not live without...*

# Sculpture cartoon causes offense

May 28, 2010

Categories: Stephff's Cartoons

[Sculpture cartoon causes offense](#) – The Nation, May 28, 2010

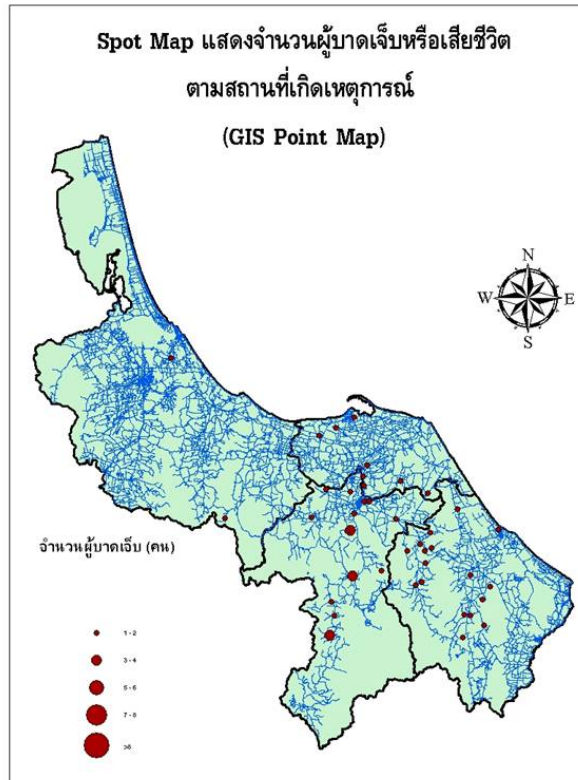
*...We demand a public apology from the cartoonist and The Nation. We request that The Nation withdraw the cartoon and publish the apology immediately.*

*...I am very sorry, I honestly didn't know this was a piece of art.*

# Southern Violence Statistics – May 2010

May 30, 2010

Categories: Deep South Violence Statistics

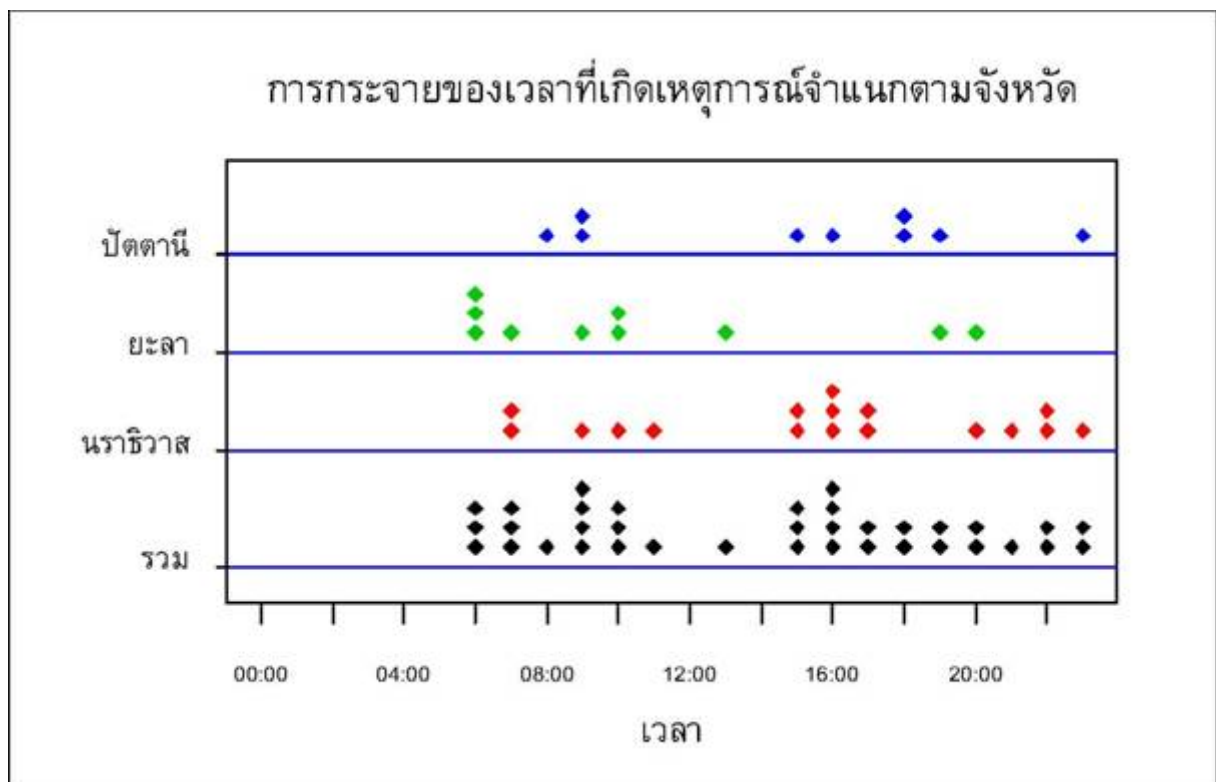


Map of four provinces in the deep south (Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat) showing numbers of the dead and injured by location.

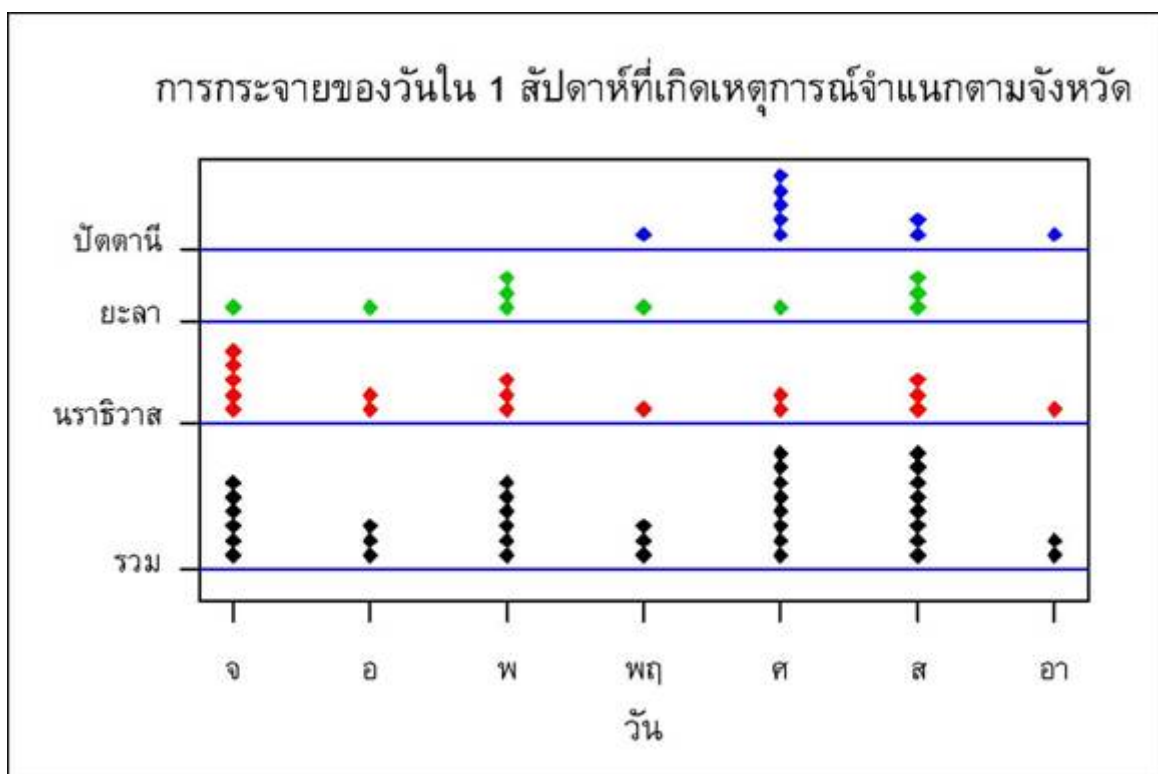
**Southern Violence Statistics – May 2010**

[Index of violence statistics for the Thai Deep South](#)

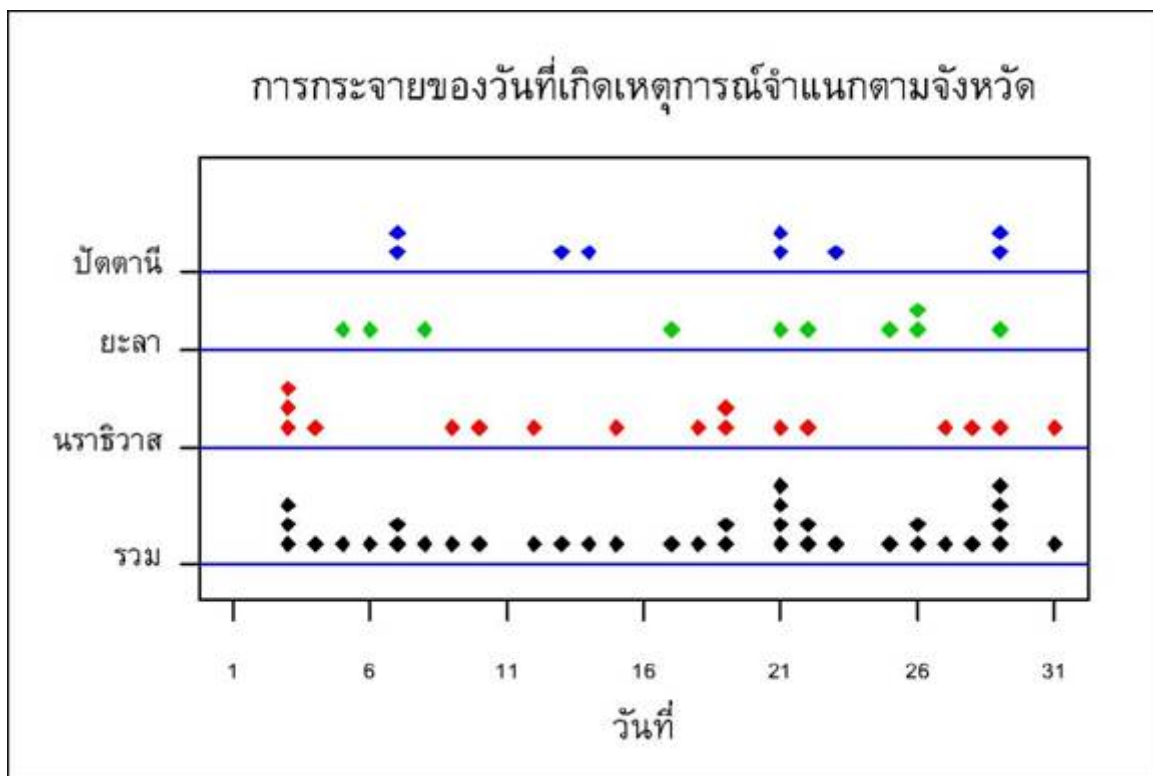




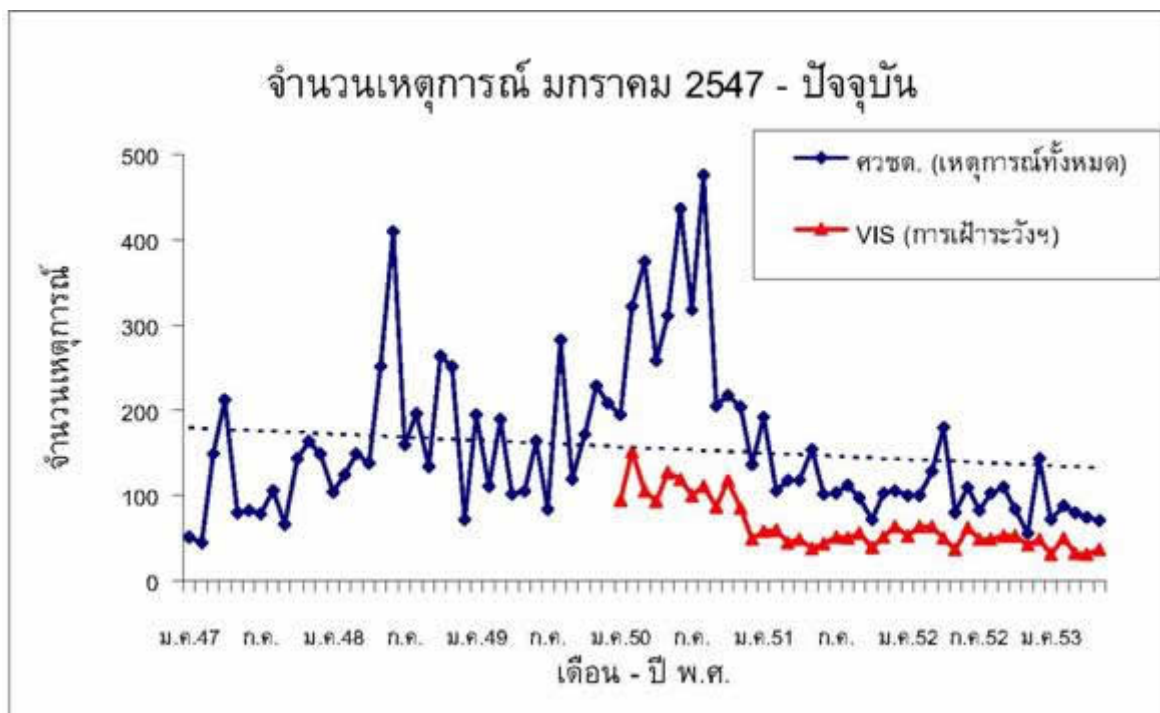
This chart shows violent incidents classified by the hour of the day (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black



This chart shows violent incidents classified by day of the week (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). The days of the week start with Monday on the left. Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black



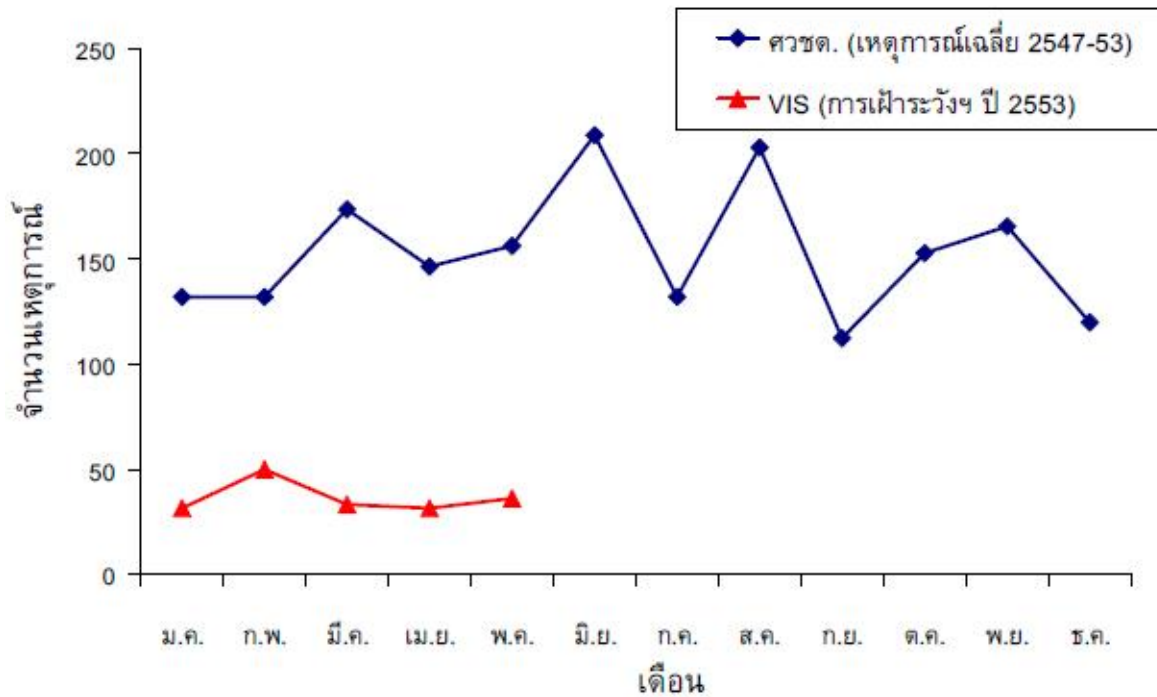
This chart shows violent incidents classified by day of the month (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black



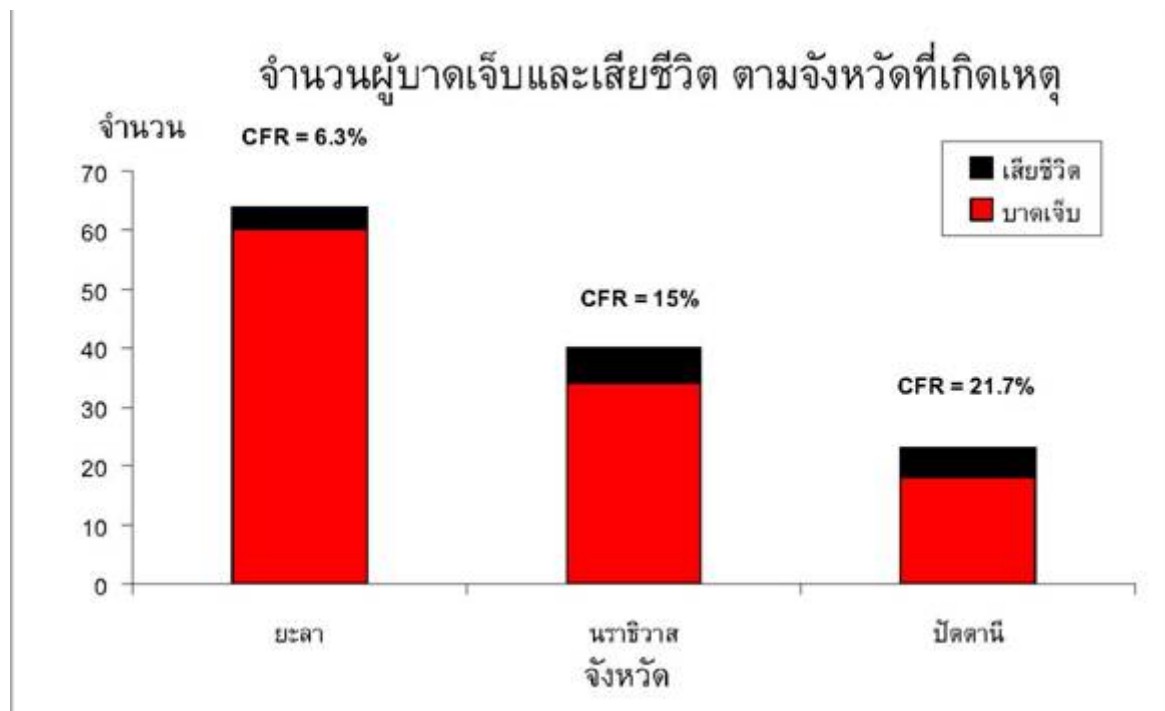
Numbers of violent incidents since January 2004. Across the bottom are the years (2547 is 2004, 2548 is 2005, 2549 is 2006, 2550 is 2007, 2551 is 2008, 2552 is 2009, 2553 is 2010).

The blue line shows the number of all violent incidents that took place as reported by the Deep South Coordination Center (counting all incidents both injury and non-injury). The red line shows data according to the Violence-related Injury Surveillance (a form that hospitals, doctors and clinics are supposed to fill out to report violent incidents).

## จำนวนเหตุการณ์ร้ายเดือน มกราคม 2547 - ปัจจุบัน

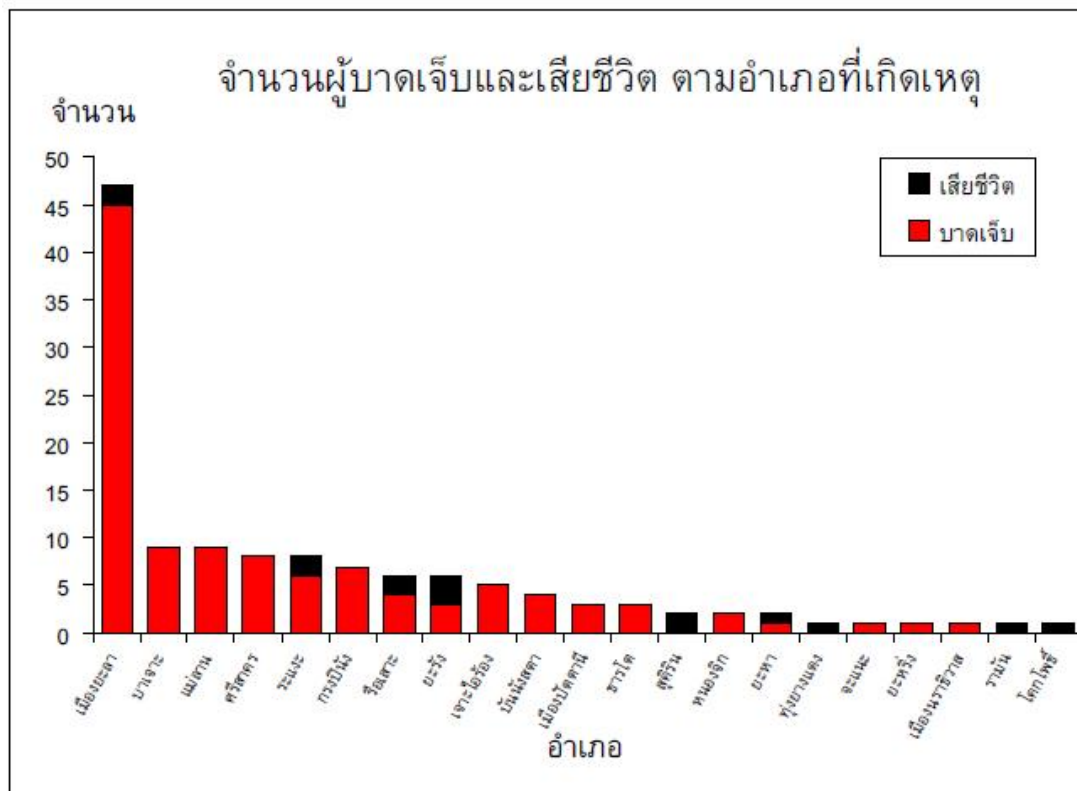


The blue line shows the average monthly level of violent incidents from 2004 up to the present. The red line shows the information provided to the Violence-related Injury Surveillance in the present year. The y-axis shows the numbers of events from 0-300. The x-axis shows the months of the year from January to December (left to right).

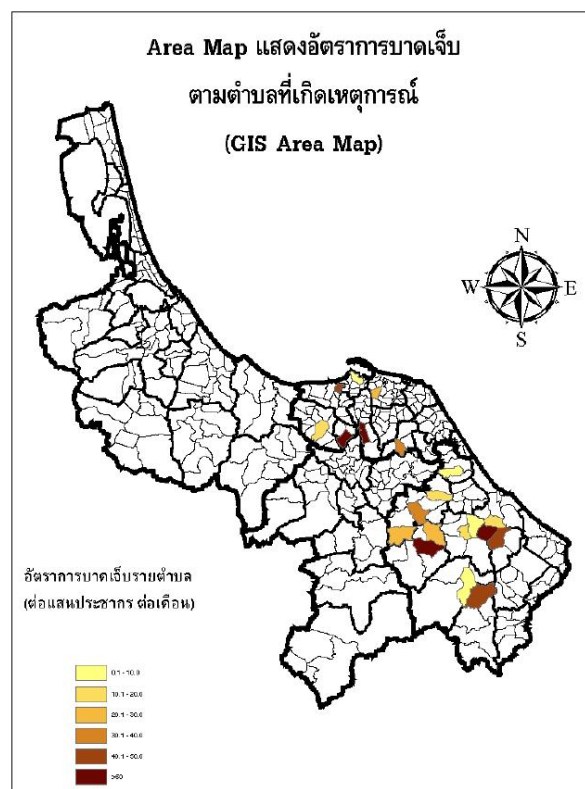


The numbers of injured and dead reported from each province where the events occurred (Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and Songkhla). Black= dead, red=injured. The CFR (Case Fatality Rate) of each province is above each bar.

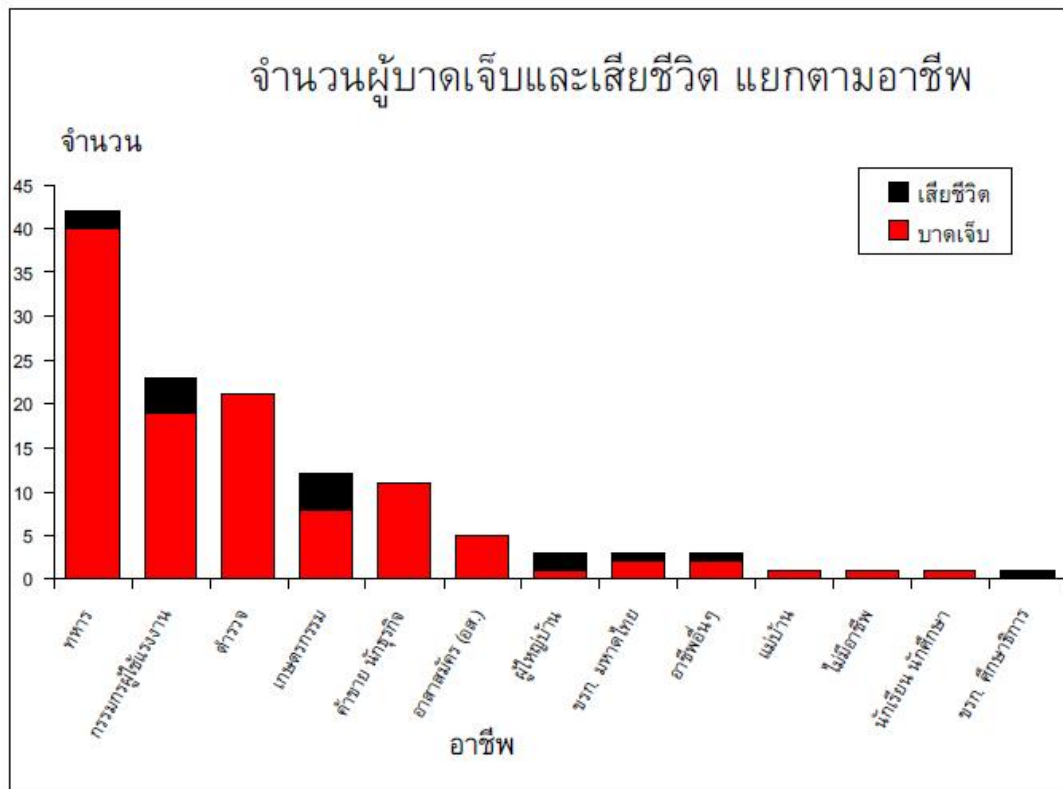




The toll of dead and injured (y-axis), classified by the districts where the incidents took place (x-axis). Black= dead, red=injured.



Map of four provinces in the deep south (Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat) showing the number of violent events by tambon (village). Starting at light yellow, the levels are 1-10, 10-20, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, and greater than 60.



The numbers of dead and injured, classified by the victims' profession. Black= dead, red=injured.

From left to right: Soldier, labor, police, agriculture, merchants and businessmen, volunteer, village chief, Interior official, others, unemployed, student and college student, education official

Source: Deep South Violence-related Injury Surveillance statistics

# Thaksin lobbying in May 2010

May 30, 2010

Categories: Robert Amsterdam

[Statement: War crimes expert joins investigation of Bangkok deaths](#) – robertamsterdam.com, May 31, 2010  
...*"The Thai junta's crackdown against its own people has not stopped," Mr Amsterdam said. "At least 140 people have been arrested. Most have been held for more than a week without charge and have been denied access to a lawyer, in breach of basic human rights and international law. The military-backed Abhisit regime is flagrantly breaching its obligations as a member of the international community and the United Nations Human Rights Council. It is thumbing its nose to the international community and trampling on the rights of its people..."*

[Thaksin lawyer prepares war crimes case](#) – abc.net.au, May 31, 2010

...*PETER CAVE: Can I take you up on just one point, the use of weapons. The Thai Government says it faced an armed uprising – that the Red Shirts were shooting at them.*

*ROBERT AMSTERDAM: That is completely bogus and I can tell you as a witness who was in their compound, that is completely bogus and you can ask any of the independent observers that were there and that is why they went around murdering journalists...*

More press releases from Thaksin's lawyer

[Thailand and the Criminalization of Dissent](#) – robertamstersam.com, May 25, 2010

...*This kind of conduct drags Thailand down to the level of countries like Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe, where the criminalization of protest reigns supreme. The Red Shirts risked their lives and suffered considerable casualties because their democratic choices and popular will had been repeatedly disqualified and stolen. Until that central grievance is addressed, all other accusations are only distractions...*

[Statement from Former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra](#) – robertamstersam.com, May, 2010

[Statement: The Mask Comes Off the Thai Junta](#) – robertamstersam.com, May 25, 2010

[Thaksin: Thailand must observe rights of arrested protest leaders](#) – RobertAmsterdam.com, May 20, 2010

...*I resolutely reject all allegations with regard to any illegal or violent activities in the Kingdom of Thailand, and underscore the fact that this heroic and inspiring grassroots movement is completely autonomous and independent from myself. Let me state this clearly: the struggle of the red shirts is a struggle for the democratic rights of the citizens...*

[Former Thai PM's lawyer condemns crackdown](#) – BBC, May 19, 2010

[Red Shirts had good reason to protest](#) – The Australian, May 19, 2010

...*The unlawful deployment of force used by the Thai authorities against the protesters, their flip-flopping on the issues of elections and their unwillingness to meet the protesters' pleadings for negotiations to avoid violence speaks volumes about their legitimacy to govern...*

Thaksin should ask for his money back – May 19, 2010

We are still waiting for some world-class pressure to be delivered by Thaksin's lobbyist Robert Amsterdam. So far it has been bland blog posts ([A Sense of Injustice in Thailand](#)), sloganeering [tweets](#) ("It's not too late to avoid this human rights atrocity through principled intervention. There exists a choice for govt."), and [an interview with Al-Jazeera](#) in which he was clearly unprepared for the reporter's questions. Not surprisingly, the interview is not highlighted on his blog.

It may be that a poor or simplified understanding of the situation combined with being hired too late (the first advice spin doctors always have is "you should have called me sooner") have resulted in this anemic performance so far.

[Thailand Report: Big firms shutter Bangkok offices and Thaksin hires Amsterdam](#) – AM Law, May 19, 2010

...*As for Amsterdam, he's trying to muster international support for the Red Shirt cause after the group's leaders turned themselves in to avoid more casualties...*



*Amsterdam says he flew to Hong Kong early Wednesday (EST) with several of Thaksin's Thai lawyers because "we could no longer function in Bangkok."*

*"The government is going to use these protests as a pretext to try to go after my client, because they are just deathly afraid of him," Amsterdam says. "Now we are going to investigate and document the absolutely extra-legal behavior of the Thai government and military."*

*Amsterdam says the Obama administration has been "incredibly quiet" about what is unfolding in Thailand. "The writing is on the wall that this government is not long for this earth," Amsterdam adds. "Abhisit has to resign and they have to call for elections."*

[Statement of Thaksin Shinawatra](#) – [robertamsterdam.com](#), May 19, 2010

[Thailand has a chance if Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva can stop the killings](#) – [CSMonitor](#), May 18, 2010  
*...Dissolve parliament now and give Thailand a chance to reset itself before it is far too late.*

[Al-Jazeera asks: Is Thaksin funding this protest, Mr Amsterdam?](#) – [blog.nationmultimedia.com](#), May 18, 2010

Surprisingly tough questioning of Robert Amsterdam by Al-Jazeera. Before Amsterdam comes out again to breezily meet the press, he will have to be ready with better responses to any tough or skeptical Thaksin-related questions. Among other thing he says Thaksin is both "absolutely not" funding the protests and later that he has "no idea."

Among the points he returns to: "international tribunal," "random attacks on civilians," "international mediator" and "international third parties brought in." These would be things to stall the cessation of the rally, but at the same time they are things no nation would normally assent to.

We are not sure if the Al-Jazeera questions are representative of the international press' understanding and view of the situation. If they are, Thaksin's lobbying effort will have to become more sophisticated. It may not be possible for a Thaksin-appointed lobbyist to have the expectation that he can avoid mentioning Thaksin while trying to reduce the present situation to a government shooting innocent people.

Here comes the lobbying – May 17, 2010

As we had previous noted, get ready for a lot of aggressive "analysis" from Amsterdam in an attempt to reframe this debate as government violence against peaceful protest. At the same time they will rebooting Thaksin's image to be a wronged elder statesman railroaded by false charges.

[Video: CNN interview with Robert Amsterdam in Bangkok](#) – [CNN via RobertAmsterdam.com](#), May 16, 2010

[The temporary Thai-ification of this blog](#) – [RobertAmsterdam.com](#), May 16, 2010

*Given the serious political crisis unraveling in Thailand and the fact that Robert Amsterdam is currently on the ground in Bangkok, we are planning to publish quite a lot of related content on this space in the coming days until a new platform is decided upon.*

[Statement from Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra](#) – [PRNewswire](#), May 16, 2010

*...I call for the United Nations to immediately engage to act as facilitator for this negotiation. That organization should not allow itself to be silenced by a prime minister who failed to understand that a right to life is a core universal value that unites us all as one.*

Thaksin sending his lobbyist to Bangkok: ["Press Release: Time for International Community to Act on Thai Political Crisis, says Thaksin Lawyer"](#) – May 15, 2010

*...Observing events in Bangkok, Amsterdam stated that the use of live ammunition without warning on unarmed, peaceful protestors represents "a disproportionate response" in violation of the Thai constitution and basic human rights under international treaties...*

# Art in the new Siam

June 1, 2010

Categories: Art

[Art in the new Siam](#) – *artinamericamagazine.com*, June 1, 2010

# Will Thai Airways become a pariah in Phuket?

June 2, 2010

Categories: Tourism

[Will Thai Airways become a pariah in Phuket?](#) – *Phuket Gazette*, June 2, 2010

*... the Thailand chapter of the Pacific Area Travel Association (PATA) blasts THAI Airways for its authorship of a “self-defeating tourism recovery strategy for Thailand” which some stakeholders in Phuket see as designed more for the recovery of THAI Airways than the recovery of Thailand...*



# Crisis in Thailand leads to net crackdown, censorship

June 3, 2010

Categories: Censorship

[Crisis in Thailand leads to net crackdown, censorship](#) – PBS, June 3, 2010

*At least 80 people were killed during the latest clashes in Thailand. But the confusion and danger that are present in various parts of Bangkok do not explain why several Thai and foreign journalists have been shot since April. Two are dead. The tense political situation also doesn't justify the leadership's blocking of more than 4,000 anti-monarchy websites...*

## 60th anniversary coin

June 4, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News



From *Komchadluek*, June 4, 2010

The headline reads: The 60th anniversary coin open for order reservation on June 3 – The Treasury Department opens for taking orders for the 60th anniversary of the King’s Coronation Day, gold, silver or copper types, produced by order numbers, on June 3

On the front of the coin:

“I shall reign with righteousness for the happiness and benefit of the Siamese people”

On the reverse: 60th year anniversary of the King’s Coronation Day, May 5, 2010

# Tony Jaa

June 4, 2010

Categories: Film and TV

Tony Jaa – June 4, 2010

[Tony Jaa Rides His Elephant Away from the World of Film](#) – *filmschoolrejects.com*, June 1, 2010

*...Currently, Jaa is under a ten year exclusive contract with Sahamongkol, a contract he's clearly not happy with. And in order to escape the legal and financial clutches of his contract, he's entered the monkhood. This is the abridged version, of course. A more fleshy theory resides over at Twitch, where Todd Brown expertly maps out the dispute between Jaa and those who pay the bills on his film projects...*

[Ong Bak's Tony Jaa leaves movie business](#) – *denofgeek.com*, June 1, 2010



# Stuck Crocs

June 4, 2010

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Stuck crocs – June 4, 2010

The sign reads: Notice – caution – Be careful for escalator steps clinging with your shoes – for safety, do not place your feet too close to the escalator steps

# Gunman's Thai hookers sex film

June 5, 2010

Categories: Crime

[Gunman's Thai hookers sex film](#) – *The Sun*, June 5, 2010

[Hooked on a hooker](#) – *The Sun*, June 5, 2010

# Purse snatching at Victory Monument

June 5, 2010

Categories: Crime, Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Purse snatching at Victory Monument – June 5, 2010

The red word on top is read Are you watchful? your bag? – Asset robbery, mobile , necklace snatching take place in this area very often – Informing information at radio channel – Phyathai Police station fast service call 02-354-6961 – Public Relations Police, Phyathai Police station.

# June 6 election posters

June 6, 2010

Categories: Elections



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

## June 6 election posters

The above poster reads: Pheu Thai Party – for strong Thailand and harmonious Thailand – 6 June, please vote Chatuchak district representatives – all team – Number 10-17 – Contained with quality, experience, ready to serve Chatuchak development

[Andreas](#) corrects our earlier headline: *The June 6 elections are not by-elections for vacant seats in the national parliament, they are the regular elections for the district councils in Bangkok, taking place every 4 years. On June 6 it will have them in the 14 northeastern districts, which include Chatuchak, in the other districts they will take place in end of August or beginning of September. [I wrote about them on my blog earlier...](#)*





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The poster reads: Democrat Party – Please vote Chatuchak district representative – Number 2 to 9 – Fast – patient – skillful – Hotline 02-690-1447-8 – Sunday, June 6, 2010

# Thailand's other protests: Pro-sustainable food

June 7, 2010

Categories: Food and Drink, Protest

[Thailand's other protests: Pro-sustainable food](#) – *The Atlantic*, June 7, 2010

*...Du Lang also showed me clippings from a staggering 170 varieties of rice he grows—sticky and long grain, short and stout and white and black and red—and explained his mission to reintroduce types of rice that farmers have given up on here...*

# Tom yam link to Thai bombings

June 7, 2010

Categories: The Thai Deep South

[Tom yam link to Thai bombings](#) – AsiaOne, June 7, 2010

*Several Thais suspected to be involved in a series of bombings in the three southern provinces of Pattani, Narathiwat and Yala were believed to be posing as tom yam restaurant workers in several states in the peninsula.*

*Thai authorities have identified several tom yam restaurants in Malaysia who were working in cahoots with the suspects by hiring them, most of whom hold both the Malaysian and Thai citizenships...*

# Consequences of Thaksin's botched foreign policy

June 8, 2010

Categories: The Thaksin Years

[Consequences of Thaksin's botched foreign policy](#) – Bangkok Post, June 8, 2010

*...American academic Michael Montesano is right when he said: "Thaksin's approach to international relations in an era of globalisation confused vision with gimmickry, ambition with crudeness, dynamism with greed, national with personal interests, international with domestic politics, dreams of leading international organisations with contempt for those organisations, and the timely democratisation of the Thai Foreign Ministry with its cancerous politicisation..."*



# US puts Singapore, Thailand on human trafficking watch list

June 8, 2010

Categories: Crime

[US puts Singapore, Thailand on human trafficking watch list](#) –

AFP, June, 2010

*...The State Department added a number of Asian nations to its watch list — Afghanistan, Brunei, Laos, Maldives, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.*

*Bangladesh, China, India, Micronesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka remained on the list, unchanged from a year earlier...*

# **Protest by disabled vendors dispersed**

June 8, 2010

Categories: Protest, Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Protest by disabled vendors dispersed](#) – *The Nation*, June 8, 2010

# Falling off the toilet

June 9, 2010

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Falling off the toilet – June 9, 2010

Sign in a bathroom near the Victory Monument area reads: 2000 baht fine for infringement – The result of using the toilet stall by standing on it

# **Two off-duty BA cabin crew 'caused fatal inferno at Bangkok hotel after lighting candles in their room'**

June 9, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Two off-duty BA cabin crew 'caused fatal inferno at Bangkok hotel after lighting candles in their room'](#) – *Daily Mail*, June 9, 2010

*Two off-duty British Airways cabin crew in Bangkok were involved in a fatal late-night fire when 'mood-setting' candles in a hotel bedroom caused a blazing inferno.*

*A member of the hotel staff died in the tragedy – believed to be from smoke inhalation – after trying to rescue a BA steward from his blazing room in the middle of the night.*

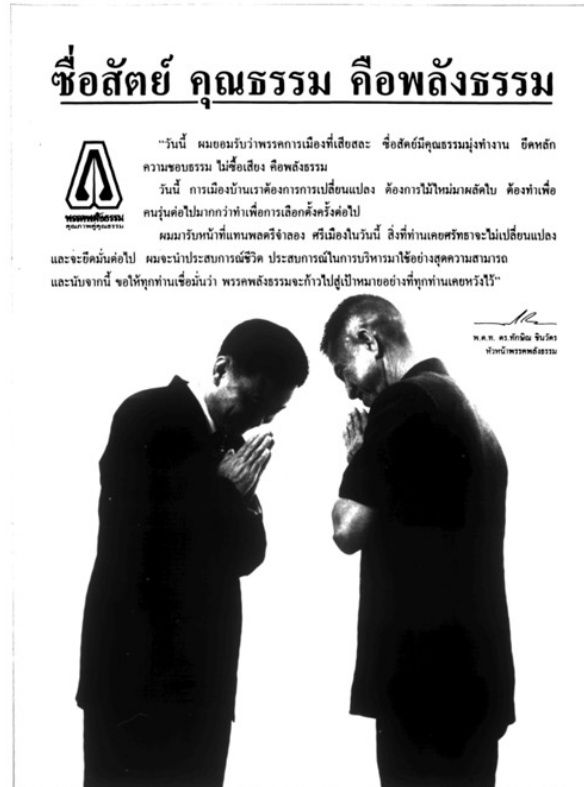
*Another female stewardess, who is believed to have raised the alarm, was also rescued from the smoke...*



# One of the strangest moves ever: Thaksin takes over the Phalang Dharma Party

June 9, 2010

Categories: The Thaksin Years



(Source: Full page ad in *Bangkok Post*, June 1, 1995)

Thaksin takes over – June 9, 2010

These are full-page ads from the *Bangkok Post* in 1995 introducing the public to Thaksin's leadership of the Phalang Dharma Party, a party founded by Chamlong Srimuang (at right above). The party views included anti-corruption and had a leadership that followed an offshoot of Buddhism that included many ascetic beliefs.

This handover was one of the strangest moves ever in Thai politics. How Chamlong, an eccentric and austere religious vegetarian, could have seen a crony capitalist like Thaksin as his natural successor is still debated. Within ten years Chamlong himself was in the cross-hairs of Thaksin's government: [Chamlong becomes an enemy – Thaksin hits his political mentor with land encroachment charges](#)

Above: from *Bangkok Post*, June 1, 1995

It reads: Honesty, morality is Phalang Dharma – “Today I admit that the political party that is devoted, honest and concentrates on the work holding moral principles with no vote buying is the Phalang Dharma – Today national politics needs change and the next generation must rejuvenate and devote more for the next generation for the next election –

I take the role on behalf of Chamlong Srimuang today. What you have faith in will not change and will be maintained further. I will bring my life experience and my administration experience from now on. I hope every one of you believe that the Phalang Dharma Party will step forward to the goal as you have expected.”

– Police Lieutenant Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra – Phalang Dharma Party leader.



(Source: Full page ad in *Bangkok Post*, June 5, 1995)

From *Bangkok Post*, June 5, 1995

The ad reads: Change Thailand's political face so the country can compete with the world – Police Lieutenant Dr. Thaksin Shinawatra, Phalang Dharma Party leader, quality and morality

# Red Protests – May 27-June 10, 2010

June 10, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

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



From *Komchadluek*, June 2010

The title reads: Notes of the reporters in the midst of the bloody battlefield – from Ratchadamneon war to Ratchaprasong chaos – Cruel May – Komchadluek

[Rally billions uncovered](#) – *Bangkok Post*, June 17, 2010

...Some 4.23 billion baht was withdrawn from the bank accounts of Thaksin's son Panthongtae and 6.63 billion baht from the accounts of his daughter Pinthongta starting from April 28...

Also: [The World's Worst Daughters](#) – *FP*, August 4, 2009

...*Bad behavior: When Pinthongta Shinawatra became the richest stockholder in Thailand in 2004, few observers were surprised. Before Thaksin was deposed in a military coup in 2006, his family benefited tremendously from the rampant nepotism during his five-year term as prime minister, with his own children netting millions. Along with her brother Pangthongtae, she made a large profit by buying 329.2 million shares in a Thai communications company for 1 baht each from one of the family's offshore holding company, and selling them for almost 50 times their value to a Singaporean company. The ensuing transaction netted \$464 million, and Pinthongta's father kept the transaction hidden from Thai tax officials...*



Watermelon soldiers – from *Vote*, June, 2010  
 The main headline reads: Beware! Hired watermelons to revolt



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: The shrine at Rajprasong was removed when Red Shirts occupied Rajprasong—presumably to protect it from vandalism as Chirathivat family holdings were known to be Thaksin targets.

Cursed intersection – June 17, 2010

From a [history of the Rajprasong area](#) (from 2003-2004): *Central World Plaza (formerly World Trade Center) – Massive shopping center and highrise office tower built on the former site of the Phetchaboon*



*Palace (home of Prince Juthathuj's family). There was controversy over whether it was proper to build a highrise next to Wat Padumavanaram. Part way through the construction of the highrise, the developers (Wang Phetchaboon, owned by the Wanglee family) went broke, leading some to speculate that building a structure over a wat caused the bad fortune. Others blamed the 'curse' on constructing a shopping center on former palace grounds. The agency that holds the title to the land, the Crown Property Bureau, ended up suing Wang Phetchaboon. The entire site was recently taken over by Central Pattana (owners of the Central chain of department stores). The large plaza (for Bangkok) outside the center makes it a prime location of new year's eve countdowns. This is the location broadcast from Thailand to the rest of the world on new year's eve. The site is 'protected' by gigantic shrines on either end of the site....*

Also: [The unprotected intersection](#) – March 22, 2006

[Thailand's anti-government protesters laying low](#) – Voice of America, June 15, 2010

*...Retired policeman and political organizer Kamolsil Singhasuriya has already been questioned by authorities and says the Red Shirts are under intense pressure. He says another movement is bound to start once the emergency degree is lifted. But he said it will be a non-violent democracy movement...*

[Buying back Thaicom, and claims of profiteering](#) – Bangkok Post, June 15, 2010

*... "It doesn't matter much if they are on a stage trying to incite a crowd of about 10,000 people, but national security is threatened when they're making the broadcast , " the deputy premier in charge of security affairs said.*

*When the government asked Thaicom to disconnect the signal, it was not easy to do. The signal was eventually disconnected because of the enforcement of emergency decree caused the red-shirt protesters to raid the Thaicom station in April, Mr Suthep said...*

[Smoke \(and mirrors\) behind Bangkok fires](#) – AsiaTimes, June 17, 2010

*...Some believe that if the UDD was truly engaged in a rich-versus-poor class struggle, then it would have also symbolically torched the more upscale Gaysorn Plaza shopping mall, the other main commercial edge of its Rajaprasong protest stage directly opposite CentralWorld. Controlled by the local Srivikorn family, Gaysorn Plaza also owns the nearby Amarin Plaza shopping and office tower where the McDonalds – that stayed open throughout most of the protest – became a popular, air-conditioned gathering spot for UDD leaders.*

*Indeed, a number of terrified red shirt protesters sought shelter in the upper floors of the Amarin on May 19. The family – different members own different bits of the sprawling empire – also owns the two five-star hotels behind Gaysorn Plaza and some nearby condominiums. The Srivikorns were badly bruised by the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis and Pimol Srivikorn joined Thaksin's Thai Rak Thai (TRT), a political party that on the campaign trail capitalized on popular anger over a slow economic recovery. He was banned from politics by for electoral malpractice along with 110 other TRT MPs in May 2007...*

[Trial of Aussie to start in Thailand](#) – Sydney Morning Herald, June 16, 2010

*An Australian man is to face a Thai court on Thursday on charges of violating Thailand's emergency laws by addressing anti-government rallies in May...*

[Jakrapob in Europe; Arisman and Suporn remain at large](#) – The Nation, June 16, 2010

[Lessons for Singapore from the Thai turmoil](#) – Sin Chew Jit Poh, June 15, 2010

*...Can a socio-political contract that did well in the first 50 years of our independence serve us equally well in the next 50 years? And will our HDB heartland continue to accept this old contract? Or will it at some point demand more? Who knows?...*

[Thai government cracks down on protest media](#) – VOA, June 16, 2010

*... "At one point they just announced for their viewers to capture prime minister's wife and prime minister's children and kill them. And, at one point they also announced that if prime minister traveled to provincial places they just kill him. And, this certainly cannot be allowed in any country – in a democratic country at least," said Panitan...*

[Thailand reveals names of arrested Red Shirts](#) – ABC News, June 12, 2010

*... "I think my son is not dead yet; I think he's not dead, otherwise he would come as a ghost to let me know," he said...*

[Thai government tells US it's in charge](#) – AFP, June, 2010

*...Kiat recalled Thailand's reaction to the September 11, 2001 attacks when "our friends were in trouble." "Do we have concern that from now on we should advise our people not to come to the United States? Are we concerned that the United States government cannot handle the situation? Certainly not," he said...*

[Thai economy 'thriving'](#) – Straits Times, June 12, 2010

*Thailand's economy is thriving despite the recent political unrest, with unemployment at an almost record low...*

[Drought edict turns farmers against Thai government](#) – Sydney Morning Herald, June 12, 2010

*Farmers in Thailand's drought-stricken north have been told by the government they cannot plant any more rice, further fuelling anti-Bangkok sentiment in the Red Shirt-loyal region...*

[Thai PM reopens probe into Thaksin's 'war on drugs'](#) – AFP, June 10, 2010

[EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS – Killings were 'crime against humanity'](#) – The Nation, June 12, 2010

*... "First, police made arrests, then made announcements welcoming the dealers' surrender," he said. "But according to what was widely reported at the time, most of them were shot dead mysteriously after they gave themselves up..."*

[Government shuns 'peace talks' of Thaksin's legal adviser](#) – MCOT, June 10, 2010

[Thaksin's tweets today](#) – The Nation, June 9, 2010

[Thailand cites plots against king for clampdown on red-shirt dissent](#) – Christian Science Monitor, June 8, 2010

[Turmoil in Thailand](#) – [tribunemagazine.co.uk](http://tribunemagazine.co.uk), June 8, 2010

*...Trade unionists, student activists, NGOs and anti-sweatshop organisations responded by forming the International Solidarity for Thailand Campaign, the avowed purpose of which is to see the political crisis in Thailand resolved peacefully. The campaign has called for an end to violence by all parties; an independent internationally mediated inquiry into extra-judicial killings with all those responsible for the death of civilians to be held to account by a criminal court; an end to state censorship and the state of emergency and the freeing of all lese majesté and political prisoners; the dissolution of the current government and the holding of immediate elections...*

[The end of brand Thailand](#) – Newsweek, June 4, 2010

*...The failure was obvious. Thailand's scores on the TOEFL exam, the test of English skills for students heading to university, now consistently rank among the lowest in Asia. No Thai-owned companies have emerged that compare with the Taiwanese computer giant Acer or the Indian IT giant Infosys. And as China gobbles up more and more low-end manufacturing, high-tech firms ignore Thailand...*

[Many Thai workers, now out of poverty, are in dissent](#) – NYT, June 9, 2010

[The Worldwide Governance Indicators \(WGI\) project](#)

On the forum: [Manager scuttlebutt about the plan to appoint Thaksin's wife prime minister](#)

Also: [Manager notes khmerization.blogspot.com](#) is now blocked within Thailand.

[Video of men preparing to burn buildings on May 19](#) – *oknation*, June 6, 2010

[Australian and Briton Appear in Thai court](#) – *english.ntdtv.com*, June 4, 2010

....

*"We are political prisoners. Land of smile, land of trial. This is Abhisit is a killer. Abhisit, you are murderer."*

:

*"I was in agony, I was paralyzed at night. My body was in massive spasm. I was kept in the jail with criminals in massive security, 31 people to a room..."*

[Thais abused riot suspect, embassy says](#) – *Phnom Penh Post*, June 4, 2010

... "Mr San Moniphet informed the representative of the Royal Embassy of Cambodia who visited him in police custody that he was only standing near the scene and watching the burning building when the police arrested him," the statement reads...

[Aussie protester in Thailand applies for bail](#) – *ABC News*, June 4, 2010

... "Seven armed people beat the crap out of me in jail so that they could move me to maximum security," he said...

[Australian's outburst in Bangkok court](#) – *ABC News*, May 28, 2010

... As Australian consular officials attempted to calm him Purcell yelled: "This country has no authority over me. I'm not under Thai law. I'm only obeying international law. I'm head of the red gang..."

[What happens to Thailand's sex tourism during the riots?](#) – *Slate*, June 3, 2010



The title reads: Bloody dangerous time – Reds at the boiling spots in the city 2010 – Collection of the historical events from the red fight in the bloody time – from 11st infantry division Mark-Sansern – Collection of burning pictures of Central World

Memory magazines – June 3, 2010

Immediately after every major political crisis, Thai newspapers print magazine collections of photos documenting the events. Here are three of them for the current crisis...





The title reads: Naewna recording the historical event – terrorism – Red city torching – 19 May 2010, the day of sabotage

[Raising a red flag in Thailand](#) – Time, June 7, 2010

...Even more chilling, everyone from matronly teachers to small-business owners is openly calling for armed insurrection. “I fear Isaan is going to become a base for an underground movement against state power,” says Sutin Klungsang, a former member of parliament for a party aligned with Abhisit’s nemesis and Red Shirt spiritual mentor, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. “People are filled with hatred, and we must be prepared for a campaign of terrorism...”

[Phnom Penh denies Thai red shirts trained for unrest in Cambodia](#) – Earth Times, June 2, 2010

...The Thai commander, identified by the Cambodian government as Vivalit Chhonsomrit, then alleged that the training was a step towards declaring that north-eastern Thailand was under opposition control. The Cambodian government said foreign military bases were not permitted on its territory, and called on the Thai media to refrain from distributing “baseless information, which would mislead national and international opinion...”

[Baby koala becomes namesake of Thai peace effort](#) – AP, June 3, 2010

[Mantras, misperceptions and mutual acrimony in Thai MP debate](#) – The Irrawaddy, June 2, 2010

...Focusing on Deputy Prime Minister Suthep, Jatuporn said that the government “accuses us of paying people to die.” He added that, “If I can hire someone, I would pay for Suthep to die...”

ผลลงมติ ไม่ไว้วางใจ รัฐมนตรี						
	นายอภิสิทธิ์ เวชชาชีวะ นายกรัฐมนตรี	นายสุเทพ เทือกสุบรรณ รองนายกรัฐมนตรี	นายกรณ์ จาติกวณิช สว. กสอ	นายชัย ชิดชอบ สว. ต่างประเทศ	นายชวนรัตน์ ชาญวีรกูล สว. มหาดไทย	นายสุเทพ เทือกสุบรรณ สว. คชนา
ไว้วางใจ	246	245	244	239	236	234
ไม่ไว้วางใจ	186	187	187	190	194	196
งดออกเสียง	11	11	12	15	14	13
ไม่ลงคะแนน	21	22	22	21	22	22



Result of the censure debate – from *Komchadluek*, June 4, 2010  
The headline reads: Result of vote – No confidence – Ministers

	Abhisit Vejjajiva, PM	Suthep Thaugsuban, Deputy PM	Korn Jatikavanit, Finance Minister	Kasit Piromya, Foreign Minister	Chavarat Charnveerakul, Interior Minister	Sophon Zarum, Transport Minister
Confidence	245	245	244	239	236	234
No confidence	186	187	187	190	194	196
Silent	11	11	12	15	14	13
No vote	21	22	22	21	22	22

[Thai opposition accuses politician of royal insult](#) – *Reuters*, June 1, 2010

*... "This rhetoric of yours means our institution needs to be reformed. It's a very wretched and vile thought," Chalerm told Kasit during Tuesday's televised debate.*

*"How could you say you want to reform the monarchy? You are audacious..."*

[Suthep says 4 monks arrested and defrocked properly for assisting armed red-shirt gunmen](#) – *AsiaOne*, June 1, 2010

*Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban Monday explained that four monks were arrested for assisting gunmen who fired at the authorities on May 19...*

[The death of tolerance in Thailand](#) – *Wall Street Journal*, May 31, 2010

*In northern and northeastern Thailand, the security forces have begun a program of surveillance of ordinary citizens...*



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: May 28, 2010 – Reporters from Thaksin’s Voice TV channel ask a vendor if he feels safe on Silom Road



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Above: May 27, 2010 Reporters from Suvarnabhumi channel ask passersby to comment on the arson in Bangkok.

The reporters wear shirts that read: Lucky the King—Thais love this land

On the back of the shirt it reads: Thailand variety program, the satellite TV station – Suvarnabhumi channel





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Wreath in front of burned Siam Theater – The signs read: The year 1969, the first Khai Boutique at Siam Cinema, 2nd floor—Somchai Khaewthong – Mourning Siam



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The banner reads: Dindaeng Bridge closed for checking infrastructure from the long time burning





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The words read: Ai Mark, the tyrant



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Sign at Siam Theater: Dangerous fire zone, do not enter





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Targeted banks – June 5, 2010

Several specific banks were specifically targeted as Thaksin foes by the Red Shirts. Here are some banners hung in front of the burned out branches directing customers to other branches.

The above banner reads: Siam City Bank – The Siam City Bank (PLC), Siam Square branch, moved to Samyan branch office – Tel 02 215-1549, 0-2215 4225, 0-2215 4199



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

The top banner reads: CIMB Bank Thailand (PLC) – Attention: banking service is available for customers at Maboonkrong Center branch Tel 0-2686-3964-6 – Further information at CIMB Thai Care Center Tel 0-2626-7777 ext 0

The lower banner reads:

Dangerous fire zone, entrance not allowed – Asset Administration Office, Chulalongkorn University

Who's under fire?

[Thai PM under fire over deadly crackdown](#) – AFP, May 31, 2010

Thailand's prime minister faced accusations Monday of violating human rights by ordering a deadly army crackdown on opposition protesters, during a heated no-confidence debate in parliament...

[Pheu Thai under fire](#) – Bangkok Post, May 31, 2010

A lawyer for the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) on Monday filed a petition with the Election Commission (EC) seeking the dissolution of the opposition Pheu Thai Party and the banning of its leader and executive committee members from politics...

[Western media perverts information about Thailand](#) – worldpress.org, May 30, 2010

... "What is going on now is a kind of white terror, pay back and disappearances and the entrenchment of a de facto military government. Of course big business and the West will look the other way. It was the Australian foreign minister who congratulated Abhisit on his near bloodless solution..."

[Unmasked: Thailand's men in black](#) – AsiaTimes, May 29, 2010

... These were not the regular black-attired security guards employed by the United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship, or UDD, anti-government protest group who generally didn't carry guns. These were the secretive and heavily armed agent provocateurs whose connections, by their own admission, run to the top of the UDD, also known as the red shirts...

[Spreading money as the only salve](#) – Bangkok Post, May 29, 2010

... Among them were the twins of rhetoric, one wearing a Gandhi T-shirt and the other a Pheu Thai member of parliament. How they whipped up a frenzy. Bangkok's citizens clearly saw red but couldn't stop the momentum.

"Burn! I'll take responsibility!" one blared on stage, while the other described the kind of panic the military-backed government was inducing among their Isan brethren. "Many of us, when in panic, will reach for brandname handbags, some will rush for gems and jewellery," he said, giving owners of upscale emporiums a heart attack at the prospect of looting.

(Afterwards, soldiers checking the bundles of homeward-bound protesters who had gathered in a temple, retrieved many expensive watches and bracelets.)...

[Billionaire convicts and inmates](#) – Forbes, May 28, 2010





From *Komchadluek*, May 27, 2010

The headline reads: 'Maew' facing terrorist charges in tumult – Protests for being charged falsely –

Attorney – MFA seeks for –

Curfew shortened to end this coming Friday

Security tightened around government house – Mark worries about security – Revealing sniper involved with Aussie, crazy for war

Support for employee by paying 7,500 each – Cabinet support small entrepreneurs – A million baht loan is granted without guarantor required

Terrorism law – the weapon to tackle 'Maew' page 8



From *Komchadluek*, May 28, 2010

The headlines reads: 'Maew' claims fear for returning to Thailand – worried about assassination!

Tumultuous explanation given to the media – Seeks petition to the World Court – Mark replies by the event of drug dealers killings – Foreign Ministry seeks discussion with Montenegro

Four red police commanders transferred due to the arson

Ammunitions store under close watch to guard against sabotage – tavo guns seized after checking two red leaders

[Social disparity leads to conflict in Thailand](#) – *People's Daily*, May 29, 2010

... "It is a lesson for all developing countries, not just Thailand, to learn how to manage social inequality," said Surin. "It is not about being democratic or undemocratic, but about effectiveness of social-management agencies..."

[Ex-Thai PM now 'richest Montenegro'](#) – *edmontonjournal.com*, May 28, 2010

...First, due to the less than transparent investment policies of the Montenegrin government, any foreign investor who strikes a deal with the prime minister and his immediate family and does that through the bank they own could count on a substantial and speedy turn of profit. As long as the relationship between the foreign investor and the Montenegrin prime minister is mutually beneficial, no one asks difficult questions about the source of funds invested.

Second, the Montenegrin Constitution does not allow extradition of its citizens. Those deemed suitable to acquire the Montenegrin citizenship could, therefore, leave all potential legal troubles behind once they get the passport of this first and only ecological state in the world...

[Cruise call in Bangkok canceled after violent political unrest](#) – *Cruise Critic*, May 28, 2010

[Thailand tries to go after financial backers of 'red shirts'](#) – *Washington Post*, May 28, 2010

*...When Bangkok lurched toward anarchy last week, mostly pro-Thaksin red shirts turned with fury on property owned by rich families they viewed as hostile or lukewarm to their movement. Police stood by as rioters torched branches of Bangkok Bank and the country's biggest shopping mall, CentralWorld. The arson attacks mirrored, albeit with far more violence, a campaign launched in early 2006 by opponents of Thaksin to boycott businesses close to the then prime minister. Six months later, the military removed Thaksin and set up a commission to investigate his business network...*

[Dark shadow over the Thai smile](#) – *The Globe and Mail*, May 28, 2010

*In the era of globalization, underdevelopment breeds insecurity and shared identity no longer assures unity...*

[Thai war of words on the web](#) – *Asia Times*, May 28, 2010

*...Usage of Facebook in Thailand, which has 16 million Internet users, has doubled in the past six months as political tension has escalated along with government censorship of websites, radio stations and television. This week alone has witnessed the banning of three more publications and Thai newspaper Thai Rath claims that up to 500 websites per day are also disappearing from screens in the country...*

[Thai troops step up watch on Red Shirts in north](#) – *Boston Globe*, May 27, 2010



From *Khaosod*, May 27, 2010

The caption reads: Bitter suppression – Pro-democratic activists in Indonesia stage a protest in front of the Thai Embassy in Jakarta to simulate the events when soldiers used weapon against protestors. A similar protest also occurred in the Philippines.





From *Khaosod*, May 27, 2010

The caption reads: Accused arsonists – Police Major General Decha Chuayboonchum, Udonthani Police Chief, shows photos of many accused with arrest warrant, allegedly involved in the burning of the town pavilion and the Udonthani Municipality Office while the rally was being dispersed in Bangkok.



From *Khaosod*, May 27, 2010

The caption reads: Touching – Jatuporn Prompan turns himself into the DSI and is granted a temporary release due to MP status. Many red shirts come to give moral support. He is in a tearful moment

[Thai Foreign Ministry spokesperson addresses the concerns of Human Rights Watch](#) – Ministry of Foreign Affairs, May 27, 2010

[How Thailand can avoid a new insurgency](#) – Time, May 27, 2010

This week's most depressing statistic comes courtesy of an unnamed Thai government source quoted in the *Bangkok Post*. The source reveals that the military had been willing to kill "between 200 and 300 people"

*and injure “several thousand” in its operation last week to storm the Red Shirt protest site in Bangkok’s commercial district...*

# A Phuket Death: The Abject Loneliness of Gabriella

June 11, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[A Phuket Death: The Abject Loneliness of Gabriella](#) – *phuketwan.com*, June 11, 2010

*...But for Gabriella Rose-Marie Strand, a luckless Swede who spent the last years of her life as an international freeloader, a tropical island holiday hobo, no mourners came today...*

# PNP's most wanted nabbed in Thailand

June 11, 2010

Categories: Crime

[PNP's most wanted nabbed in Thailand](#) – ABS CBN News, June 11, 2010

*The Philippine National Police's (PNP) most wanted man has been arrested in Thailand, more than 7 years after killing two men in Calamba, Laguna...*



# From the Golden Mount

June 12, 2010

Categories: Old photos and films



(Source: Unknown)

From the Golden Mount – June 12, 2010

Vintage photo from the Golden Mount looking towards [Phan Fa Bridge](#)

# Taiwanese arrested in Bangkok for alleged swindling from Chinese mainland

June 12, 2010

Categories: Crime

[Taiwanese arrested in Bangkok for alleged swindling from Chinese mainland](#) – People's Daily Online, June 12, 2010

*...Liao, 43, was found to have 53 ATM cards with him. The police later searched his room at the World Inn Hotel and found 61 more ATM cards and a bank account with more than 1 million Thai baht ( about 30,000 U.S. dollars).*

*According to tourist police, the man was an alleged member of the so-called Call Center gang in Taiwan, which lured Chinese people on the mainland to transfer money to their accounts and then came to Thailand to withdraw the cash...*

# **Joren Van Der Sloot tattoo: ‘No Worries’ in Thai**

June 12, 2010

Categories: Crime

[Joren Van Der Sloot tattoo: ‘No Worries’ in Thai](#) – *style.gather.com*, June 12, 2010

And a photo [here](#)

# Vendors fight for space at rally sale on Silom Road

June 13, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News



(Photo: Tanasinsakul)

[Vendors fight for space at rally sale on Silom Road](#) – *The Nation*, June 13, 2010

[Walking Street to expand after Silom vendors clash](#) – *Bangkok Post*, June 13, 2010



# **Two men arrested for stabbing death of Apichat Sudsaneh of Thailand**

June 13, 2010

Categories: Crime

[Two men arrested for stabbing death of Apichat Sudsaneh of Thailand](#) – *Oye! Times*, June, 2010

# Struggle between parents and passion

June 13, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Struggle between parents and passion](#) – *post-trib.com*, June 13, 2010

...*Would you rather be a doctor than a biologist?*

*“I would rather not be both. My passion is to be a costume designer ...”*

# **I charge 10 and the kinky stuff is always British men—Prostitute called Ploy**

June 14, 2010

Categories: Crime

[I charge 10 and the kinky stuff is always British men—Prostitute called Ploy](#) – *The Sun*, June 14, 2010

*...The Sun spoke to a working girl called Ploy, who told how this tawdry industry is almost entirely sustained by British sex tourists.*

*...It is a seedy, fluorescent-lit nightmare...*

# **“Thai citizen Pad Supa (aka CPP land thief-senator Ly Yong Phat) controls the Kampong Speu court?”**

June 14, 2010

Categories: Cambodia, Crime

[“Thai citizen Pad Supa \(aka CPP land thief-senator Ly Yong Phat\) controls the Kampong Speu court?”](#) – *KI*,  
June, 2010



# What's keeping Thailand out of the World Cup?

June 14, 2010

Categories: Sports

[What's keeping Thailand out of the World Cup?](#) – CNNGo.com, June 14, 2010

*...But excuses have constantly been made by supporters and the Thai Football Association. Defenses like “we’re too small” or “we’re not strong enough” have been regurgitated time and again. But for long time followers of Thai football the excuses just didn’t add up. Countries like South Korea and Japan, which share similar ethnicity, gradually built up their teams until they were regularly competing for the top prizes at the top tournaments. So what’s the problem?...*

# US RFID passports manufactured offshore at a huge profit, transported by unsecured couriers

June 15, 2010

Categories: Security

[Report: U.S. passport risk persists](#) – UPI, June 15, 2010

*...Despite offering assurances production of passports would be moved to the United states, a government contractor is still assembling the electronic component in Thailand, ABC and the CPI reported Monday. Clark Kent Ervin, a former Department of Homeland Security inspector general, called the report “extremely troubling.”*

*“Something like that ought to be produced only in the United States, under only the most rigorous security standards,” he told ABC News...*

Earlier: [New US RFID passports manufactured offshore at a huge profit, transported by unsecured couriers](#) – BoingBoing, October 23, 2008

*...After the computer chips are inserted into the back cover of the passports in Europe, the blank covers are shipped to a factory in Ayutthaya, Thailand, north of Bangkok, to be fitted with a wire Radio Frequency Identification, or RFID, antenna. The blank passports eventually are transported to Washington for final binding, according to the documents and interviews.*

*The stop in Thailand raises its own security concerns. The Southeast Asian country has battled social instability and terror threats. Anti-government groups backed by Islamists, including al Qaeda, have carried out attacks in southern Thailand and the Thai military took over in a coup in September 2006.*

*The Netherlands-based company that assembles the U.S. e-passport covers in Thailand, Smartrac Technology Ltd., warned in its latest annual report that, in a worst-case scenario, social unrest in Thailand could lead to a halt in production.*

*Smartrac divulged in an October 2007 court filing in The Hague that China had stolen its patented technology for e-passport chips, raising additional questions about the security of America’s e-passports...*

Earlier: [Outsourced passports netting govt. profits, risking national security](#) – Washington Times, March 26, 2008

*...After the computer chips are inserted into the back cover of the passports in Europe, the blank covers are shipped to a factory in Ayutthaya, Thailand, north of Bangkok, to be fitted with a wire Radio Frequency Identification, or RFID, antenna. The blank passports eventually are transported to Washington for final binding, according to the documents and interviews.*

*The stop in Thailand raises its own security concerns. The Southeast Asian country has battled social instability and terror threats. Anti-government groups backed by Islamists, including al Qaeda, have carried out attacks in southern Thailand and the Thai military took over in a coup in September 2006...*

Earlier: [Congress, watchdog probe passport security](#) – Washington Times, March 27, 2008

*...The Times reported yesterday that the GPO chose two European computer chip makers over U.S. manufacturers to make tens of millions of electronic passports. The passports are being assembled in Thailand by one company that was a victim of Chinese economic espionage.*

*“If true, these allegations raised in today’s press reports are extremely serious not only to the integrity of our e-Passport program, but also to our national security,” said Mr. Dingell, chairman of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.*

*...One of the companies involved in passport production in Thailand, Smartrac, charged in a court filing in the Netherlands last year that its technology was stolen by China...*

Earlier: [Smartrac, issuing inlays, opening fourth factory in Thailand](#) – Contactless News, November 29, 2006

*Smartrac, a provider of inlays for electronic passports, has obtained a major order to supply several million ePassport inlays for the new U.S. passports, Security Document World reports.*

*Since 2004, Smartrac has been a certified supplier for the U.S. ePassport program, and produces one million*

*inlays a month.*

*In order to meet the increasing worldwide demand for high security inlays Smartrac is planning to open a fourth factory at the company's location in Thailand as early as January 2007.*

# **Pornthip cannot defend her claim, court told**

June 15, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Pornthip cannot defend her claim, court told](#) – *Sin Chew Jit Poh*, June 15, 2010

[MACC attacks Pornthip's credibility](#) – *The Malaysian Mirror*, June 14, 2010



# Gay sex on film? No problem. Baring political rifts, problem

June 16, 2010

Categories: Film and TV

[Gay sex on film? No problem. Baring political rifts, problem](#) – *GlobalPost*, June 16, 2010

*...One man is Buddhist, one is Muslim and both are gay. Before they become intimate, the film presents footage from the “Tak Bai” incident, a 2004 military crackdown on Muslim protesters. More than 80 men, detained and piled into the back of an army truck, died from suffocation in the heat...*

# Rally Billions Uncovered

June 17, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Rally billions uncovered](#) – *Bangkok Post*, June 17, 2010

*...Some 4.23 billion baht was withdrawn from the bank accounts of Thaksin's son Panthongtae and 6.63 billion baht from the accounts of his daughter Pinthongta starting from April 28...*

Also: [The World's Worst Daughters](#) – *FP*, August 4, 2009

*...Bad behavior: When Pinthongta Shinawatra became the richest stockholder in Thailand in 2004, few observers were surprised. Before Thaksin was deposed in a military coup in 2006, his family benefited tremendously from the rampant nepotism during his five-year term as prime minister, with his own children netting millions. Along with her brother Pangthongtae, she made a large profit by buying 329.2 million shares in a Thai communications company for 1 baht each from one of the family's offshore holding company, and selling them for almost 50 times their value to a Singaporean company. The ensuing transaction netted \$464 million, and Pinthongta's father kept the transaction hidden from Thai tax officials...*

# Perversion of paradise: Thousands of British men fuel a vile sex trade in Thailand

June 17, 2010

Categories: Crime

[Perversion of paradise: Thousands of British men fuel a vile sex trade in Thailand – but who's really exploiting who?](#) – Mail Online, June 17, 2010

*...Si says she tried working as a labourer and looked for jobs in one of Thailand's huge electronics factories, but only sex pays a living wage. She claims she's been with only three men since she came to Pattaya two months ago because she hates it so much.*

*'If most girls are honest, they hate it, too. I'd like to find a foreigner to be my partner so we can care for each other,' she says, as tears well up in her eyes. It's probably true, but unfortunately it sounds just like a line from her little book...*

# Detainee death probe urged

June 17, 2010

Categories: Human Rights, The Thai Deep South

[Detainee death probe urged](#) – *Straits Times*, June 17, 2010

*A leading rights group called on Thai authorities on Thursday to investigate the death in military custody of a 25-year-old suspected insurgent in the country's troubled southern region...*



# Now the whole Democrat Party is in tension

June 17, 2010

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From *Manager*, June 17, 2010

The figure is thinking: If the party faces dissolution.. party executives face political ban for 5 years, will the party logo face the ban!?

The caption reads: Now the whole Democrat Party is in tension.

# The cat does not bite the hand of the one who cradles it

June 17, 2010

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From *Manager*, June 17, 2010

Sondhi Limthongkul is pointing to a bite mark on his hand and saying: Thus, I like cradling the cat... as the cat does not return to bite the hand of the one who cradles it.



From *Manager*, June 17, 2010

The two figures in the window are PM Abhisit and Deputy PM Suthep.

Abhisit is saying: Let them stay outside for a month, if they survive and return to see us they can fight and be messed up until they cannot move further .

# **During Red Shirt rally, Thaksin children withdraw more than 10 billion baht**

June 17, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Rally billions uncovered](#) – Bangkok Post, June 17, 2010

*...Some 4.23 billion baht was withdrawn from the bank accounts of Thaksin's son Panthongtae and 6.63 billion baht from the accounts of his daughter Pinthongta starting from April 28...*

*Rally billions uncovered*

*Accounts of Thaksin associates very active*

*Published: 17/06/2010 at 12:00 AM*

*Billions of baht were withdrawn from the accounts of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra's family during the recent anti-government protests, the Department of Special Investigation has found.*

*Large sums of money were also found to have been transferred into and out of accounts held by Puea Thai Party MPs and red shirt protest leaders and supporters over the past nine months.*

*A DSI source yesterday said investigators traced the financial transactions of 86 individuals and companies on suspicions they funded criminal activities during the red shirt protests.*

*The inquiry covers the period from September 2009 to May this year.*

*Thaksin's family members withdrew large sums from their accounts from April 28, when the anti-government United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD) rally intensified after soldiers fired on protesters on the outskirts of Bangkok.*

*Some 4.23 billion baht was withdrawn from the bank accounts of Thaksin's son Panthongtae and 6.63 billion baht from the accounts of his daughter Pinthongta starting from April 28.*

*About 4.56 billion baht was also withdrawn from the accounts of Thaksin's brother-in-law, Bannapot Damapong.*

*About 140 million baht was withdrawn from the accounts of Thaksin's younger sister, Yingluck, on April 28.*



Above: Bangkok Post graphic from the original article.

Money has been flowing into and out of the accounts of Puea Thai politicians who represent the home provinces of red shirt protesters since last September. Most of the money was withdrawn, although some was kept in the accounts.

The accounts of Somsak Pongpanich, former MP for Khon Kaen, received about 14 million baht and 13 million baht was withdrawn.

About 14 million baht was deposited in the accounts of Puea Thai MP for Chaiyaphum Charoen Chankomol and about 6 million baht was withdrawn.

Puea Thai MP for Samut Prakan Pracha Prasopdee's accounts received deposits of about 16 million baht while 14 million baht was withdrawn. Deposits and withdrawals were made almost every day.

The accounts of Puea Thai MP for Bangkok Karun Hosakul, who often joined the red shirt protests, received 24 million baht and 22 million baht was withdrawn.

Puea Thai MP for Bangkok Anusorn Panthong deposited 18 million baht in his accounts and 14 million baht was withdrawn.

The accounts of Thaksin political ally Khunying Sudarat Keyuraphan received or had 167 million baht withdrawn, while the accounts of another Puea Thai MP, Santi Prompat, received and released 21.5 million baht over nine days during the intensified protests.

In several cases, withdrawals from the accounts of red shirt leaders were made via ATMs.

During the same period, 14 million baht was transferred to the accounts of red shirt protest leader Kwanchai Praipana, 10.5 million baht to those of red shirt leader Veera Musikhapong and 1.4 million baht to the account of red shirt leader Weng Tojirakarn.

Aree Krainara, a UDD guard chief, paid 500,000 baht in March to finalise the purchase of his new Toyota Fortuner, despite owing another 48 months of installments.

Adisorn Piengkiet, chief executive of the red shirt People Channel satellite TV, deposited 50,000 baht in cash into his account every day for a certain period.



*These people have been asked by the Centre for the Resolution of the Emergency Situation to clarify their transactions, Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban said.*

*The CRES has frozen their bank accounts pending interrogation.*

*“We will give them a chance to explain why some of them withdrew huge sums of money and why 100,000 baht was withdrawn from ATMs every day,” Mr Suthep said. “Was that money funding a terror attack?”*

*“Officials have evidence from the accounts of other suspects. Those who had nothing to do with terrorism will be allowed to live a normal life, but they must present evidence. Those who are found to have supported terrorism will be prosecuted.”*

*The CRES has decided to continue to impose the emergency decree in some provinces including Bangkok.*

*Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said yesterday the CRES will review the security situation and will consider lifting the emergency decree on an area-by-area basis.*

*Mr Abhisit said he had held talks with tour operators about their request for an end to the emergency decree and they shared his view that the national peace secured by the emergency decree was better than the violent protests the decree had prevented.*

*But they did not want the emergency decree to be extended indefinitely.*

Earlier: [Shinawatras withdraw B1bn cash – Accounts siphoned ‘to avoid tax levy’](#) – Bangkok Post, March 29, 2010

*Almost one billion baht has been withdrawn from several commercial bank accounts held by the Shinawatra family since the Feb 26 Supreme Court verdict on the assets seizure case, Finance Minister Korn Chatikavanij says...*

Earlier: [The World’s Worst Daughters](#) – FP, August 4, 2009

# Cannes-winning Thai seeks ‘freedom, not stardom’

June 18, 2010

Categories: Film and TV, Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Cannes-winning Thai seeks ‘freedom, not stardom’](#) – AFP, June 18, 2010

*... "Fear is the key word," he added, likening Thailand's current situation to Eastern Europe in the in the Thai northeast where Apichatpong grew up...*

# Stem cell tourist dies from treatment in Thailand

June 19, 2010

Categories: Health, Tourism

[Stem cell tourist dies from treatment in Thailand](#) – *Slashdot*, June 19, 2010

[Danger, stem cell tourists: Patient in Thailand dies from treatment](#) – *Discover Magazine*, June, 2010

[Stem cell therapy ‘damage’ seen in kidney disease case](#) – *BBC*, June 17, 2010

[Angiomyeloproliferative Lesions Following Autologous Stem Cell Therapy](#) – *JASN*, June 17, 2010

# **Riyadh: Recruiters mount campaign to hire Thai domestic helpers**

June 19, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Riyadh: Recruiters mount campaign to hire Thai domestic helpers](#) – *Thailandnews*, June 19, 2010

*A campaign to hire domestic workers from Thailand instead of Indonesia has gathered steam in the wake of the steady increase in recruitment costs for Indonesian manpower...*



# **If you're nervous about Thailand, try Bali**

June 19, 2010

Categories: Tourism

[If you're nervous about Thailand, try Bali](#) – *Winnipeg Free Press*, June 19, 2010

# What's the real cost of a trip to wizarding world?

June 19, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[What's the real cost of a trip to wizarding world?](#) – WFTV Orlando, June, 2010

*...Brothers Poomrata and Poomrerk came all the way from Thailand with their credit card. "We come all the way from Thailand to try this butterbeer! Yeah!..."*

# **Bahrain, Thailand bust international trafficking rings**

June 19, 2010

Categories: Crime

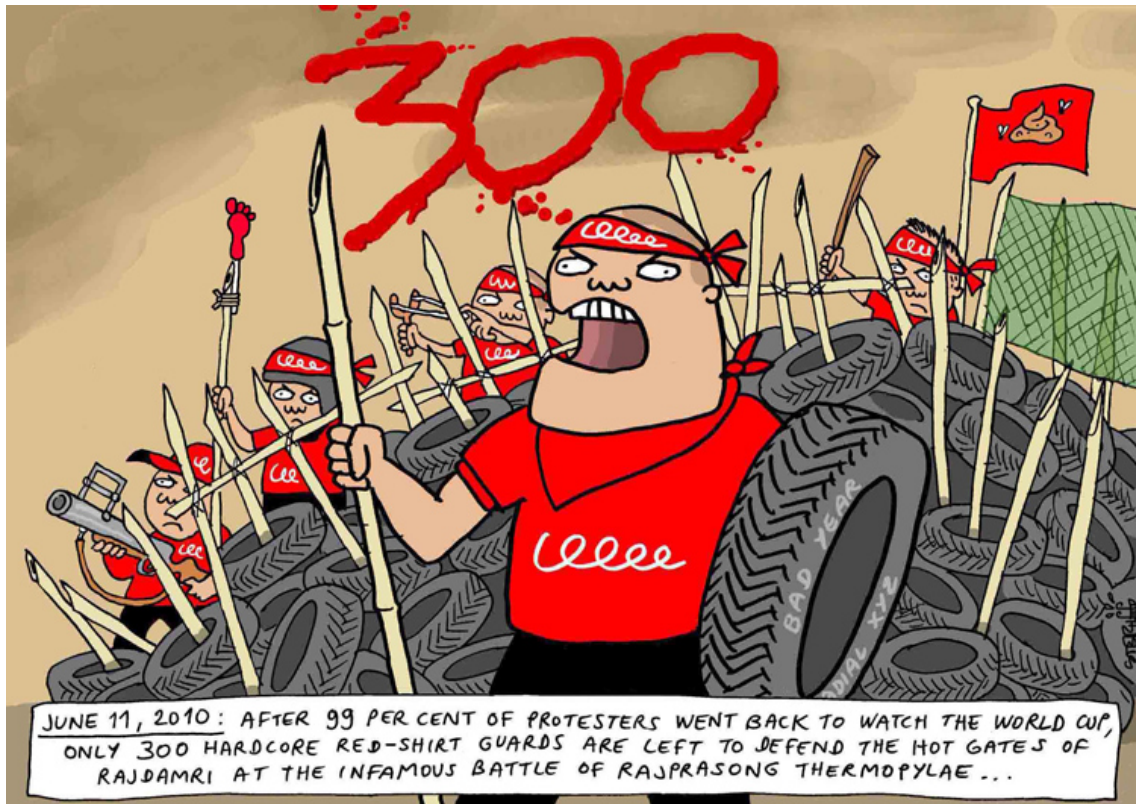
[Bahrain, Thailand bust international trafficking rings](#) – *Gulf News*, June 19, 2010

*Gang is believed to have used various methods to lure Thai women to Bahrain to work as prostitutes against their will...*

# Cartoon by Stephff

June 20, 2010

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Stephff's Cartoons



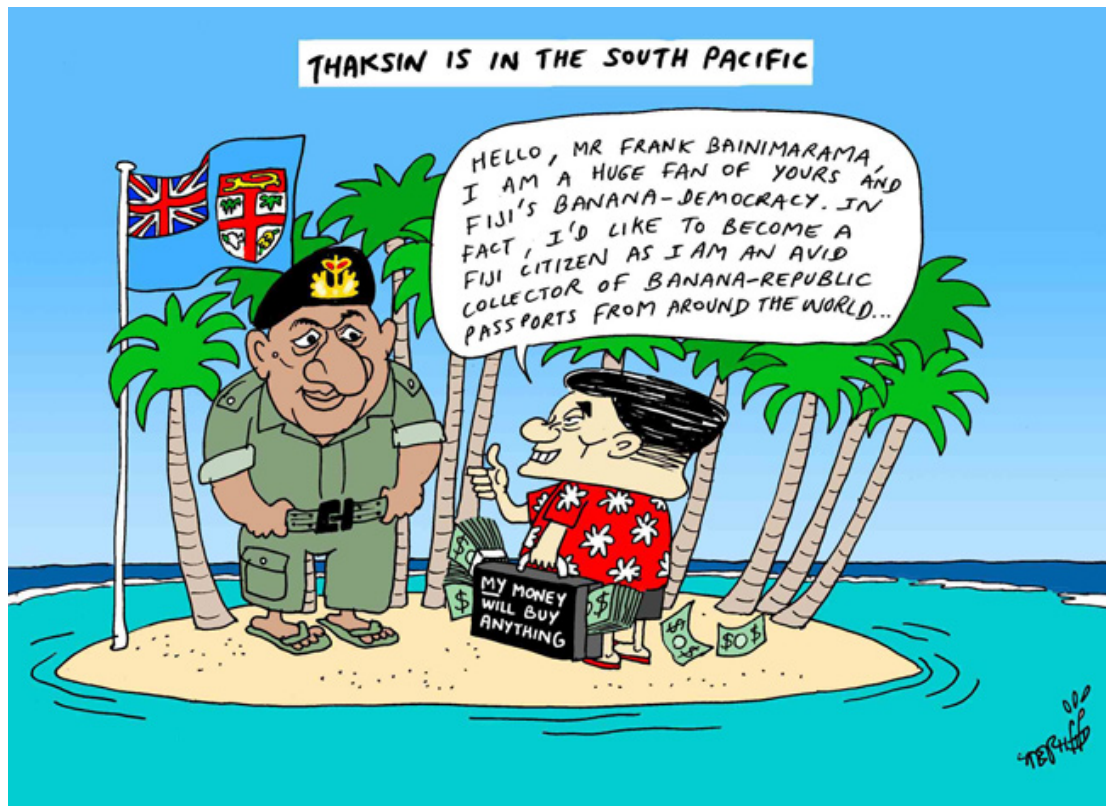
(Source: Courtesy of Stephff – *The Nation*)



# Cartoon by Stephff

June 20, 2010

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Stephff's Cartoons

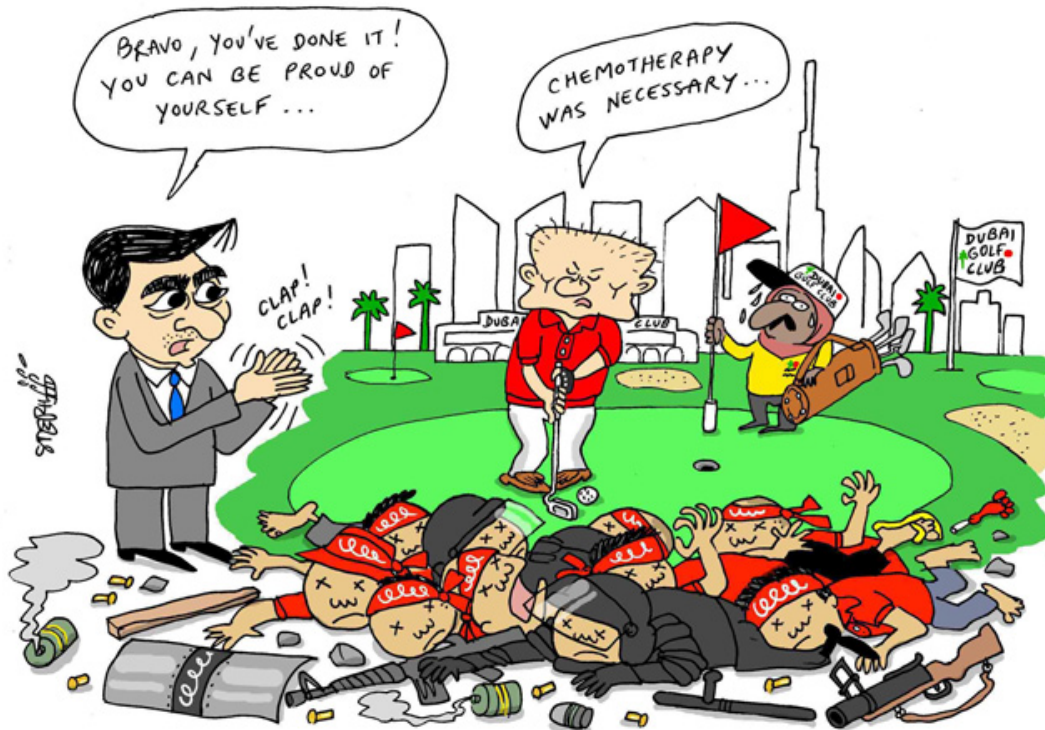


(Source: Courtesy of Stephff – *The Nation*)

# Cartoon by Stephff

June 20, 2010

Categories: Editorial Cartoons, Stephff's Cartoons



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

# Tesco in Thailand

June 20, 2010

Categories: Business

[Tesco drops £1.6m libel claim against Thai columnist](#) – *The Guardian*, June 20, 2010

*...He conceded he had made an error in one calculation, inflating Tesco's income in Thailand by a factor of 10 – he said it generated 37% of its revenue from Thailand; the true figure is 3.7%...*

[Journalist settles multi-million libel suit with retail giant Tesco](#) – SEAPA/IFEX, December 2, 2008

*...Tesco Lotus filed a THB103-million (approx. US\$3 million, £1.9 million) libel suit against Nongnart after she wrote in January 2008 in her business gossip column in "Bangkokbiznews", "Buzz," that the global retailer did not "love" Thailand.*

*The agreed wording, to be published in a short statement for three consecutive days, will express the author's apology that her readers may have taken the wrong meaning from her story.*

*...A second Tesco Lotus case against another of the newspaper's columnists, Kamol Kamoltrakul, also for US\$3 million, was due to go for arbitration on 27 November.*

[Tesco continues spress of libel suits](#) – SEAPA/IFEX, April 22, 2008

[Giant retail company's legal action against newspapers "harassment, pure and simple," says SEAPA](#) – SEAPA/IFEX, April 17, 2008

[Retail giant files absurdly large defamation lawsuits against columnist and former MP over criticisms](#) – SEAPA/IFEX, March 19, 2008



Tesco Lotus promotes Thai farmers and the national economy – *Thairath*, September, 2008

It reads:

Tesco Lotus promotes Thai farmers and the national economy- In 2008, Tesco Lotus offer to buy mangosteens, rambutans, longkong and farm products from more than 300,000 tonnes valued more than 1,800 million

---

[Thai Tesco 'won't silence me'](#) – *BBC News*, April 29, 2008

---

[Tesco sues a second Thai journalist for libel](#) – Guardian, April 18, 2008

*Tesco in Thailand is suing a second columnist from a Bangkok business newspaper for £1.6m in libel damages.*

*The global retailer, trading as Tesco Lotus, claims the business gossip writer for Bangkok Business News damaged the company's reputation when she said the company did not "love" Thailand.*

*The offending article in Nongnart Harnvilai's tongue-in-cheek "Buzz" column was part of a collection of short stories on page 28 of the paper, and ran to just a few sentences...*

**Earlier:** [Tesco sues critic of its expansion in Thailand for £16.4m damages](#) – Guardian, April 8, 2008

...Free speech campaigners are outraged by Tesco Lotus's "heavy-handed" tactics, that they believe are designed to intimidate and silence critics alarmed over the company's growth in Thailand.

"Defamation suits of this nature and of such absurd proportions are clearly meant to harass legitimate criticism, intimidate independent media, and stifle discussions and debate over legitimate public concerns," said Roby Alampay, of the South-east Asian Press Alliance (Seapa). "Seapa sees the Tesco Lotus suits as harassment, pure and simple."

...A Tesco spokesman said: "Tesco is of course not trying to intimidate Mr Kamol or Mr Jit, but we do have a right to defend our company and our colleagues against false allegations. We took this action reluctantly but felt we had no choice after a sustained campaign of misinformation spread by the two individuals over many months."



Thai email forwards: Anti-Tesco pdf – January 26, 2008

Here is an [Anti-Tesco pdf](#) being forwarded via email.





(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

"We are a good partner" – Tesco public relations campaign – January 25, 2008

This is a full page ad from the inside cover of the Thai-language *Nation Weekend* news magazine.

It reads: Tesco Lotus. We care about you.

Creating business opportunities for the community.

We are a good partner.

Tesco Lotus has more than 7,300 partners and is provides more than 35,000 goods items. The goods and services Tesco Lotus purchases from our partners is worth more than 98 billion baht per year, 98% of which are from Thai companies and about half of which are from small- and medium-sized enterprises.

# 1908: Twentieth century impressions of Siam

June 20, 2010

Categories: History

[\*Twentieth century impressions of Siam: its history, people, commerce, industries, and resources \(1908\)\*](#) – *archive.org*, June, 2010

# Thai 'banquet bandit' likes to eat and run

June 20, 2010

Categories: Crime

[Thai 'banquet bandit' likes to eat and run](#) – *Thailandnews.net*, June 20, 2010

*Police arrested a Thai man for allegedly conning luxury car salesmen out of USD 4,844 in expensive meals at posh Bangkok restaurants...*

# More photos of the Feng Shui adjustment at Government House

June 21, 2010

Categories: Local Beliefs, Thai Politics

[More photos of the Feng Shui adjustment at Government House](#) – *Manager*, June 21, 2010

[Feng Shui at Government House adjusted](#) – *The Nation*, June 21, 2010

This sort of thing has been done before: [The turning of the cannons](#) – June 5, 2004



# Drug smuggling into Thailand soars ahead of Burma elections

June 21, 2010

Categories: Drugs, Myanmar/Burma

[Drug smuggling into Thailand soars ahead of Burma elections](#) – *The Guardian*, June 21, 2010

*...Elections promised for Burma this year have sparked an explosion in drug trafficking into Thailand, as rebel armies, fearful of a final, pre-poll crackdown by the ruling junta, trade heroin and amphetamines for guns...*

# Old Thai Recipes

June 21, 2010

Categories: Food and Drink

[Old Thai recipes](#) – *tatnews.org*, June, 2010

*The first Thai recipes ever printed appeared in a series of five magazine-style books published in 1889 and 1890. These were collectively known as Patinnabutr Lae Jod Mai Het...*

# **Princess Cruises scraps Bangkok as embark/debark port due to unrest**

June 22, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Princess Cruises scraps Bangkok as embark/debark port due to unrest](#) – *Cruise Critic*, June 22, 2010

*...Princess representative Susanne Ferrull says, "the port is not currently deemed unsafe by our security department, but it is considered unpredictable because of sporadic periods of unrest..."*

# Thailand recruits Martha Stewart to draw female tourists

June 24, 2010

Categories: Tourism

[Thailand recruits Martha Stewart to draw female tourists](#) – *EARTHtimes*, June 24, 2010



# The most clueless article on Thai politics ever

June 26, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[The Thai crisis –  
History repeats itself](#) – NYT, June, 2010

*...Why and how have they been able to show such determination? It's simple. The army is taking its cue from the palace, not from the government that rules in Thaksin's name. So it all but openly permits the chaos that has for the present ruined the travel industry and slowed down the economy.*

*...Just wait – the king will wave his magic wand and the crisis will be over. The army – or some other appropriate delegate – will take power, and the country will find the patience to wear out the endurance of an expiring Thaksin, who in exile loses wealth and legitimacy by the day...*

# Thailand join RIMPAC naval ‘war games’ with Malaysia

June 26, 2010

Categories: Thai Military

[Thailand join RIMPAC naval “war games” with Malaysia](#) – Pattaya Daily News, June 26, 2010

*Thailand and Malaysia have, for the first time, joined in the major US-led exercise in the Pacific Ocean known as RIMPAC or Rim of the Pacific Exercise...*

# British paedophile Gary Robcoy kicked out of Thailand

June 26, 2010

Categories: Crime

[British paedophile Gary Robcoy kicked out of Thailand](#) – *Mirror*, June, 2010

*...He is the first to be kicked out in a drive by the Thai government which has been liaising with UK agencies...*

# The BKPD blues

June 26, 2010

Categories: Thai Police

[The BKPD blues](#) – Bangkok Post, June 26, 2010

*If you see two policemen sitting on a motorbike together, it's not because they are best buddies and have vowed to fight crime together, pelvis to pelvis. It's because they put the down payment on the motorbike together, so they won't have to take the bus to catch criminals.*

*If you see a policeman with a World War Two era side-arm strapped to his belt, it's not because he likes antiques. It's because he can't afford to buy a pistol, so he's using his grandfather's.*

*If you hand over a 100-baht bill to a traffic policeman during a traffic stop, it's not just because he's corrupted. It's also because you are corrupted and meant to corrupt him. The money will most likely go to pay for his rent, or other family necessities...*



# Dutch murder suspect shows different faces on TV

June 27, 2010

Categories: Crime

[Dutch murder suspect shows different faces on TV](#) – *montereyherald.com*, June, 2010

*...It's unclear how he supported himself when he wasn't in jail. He is an avid gambler, and reportedly spent much of the last two years in Thailand, where De Vries claimed in 2008 Van der Sloot was recruiting Thai women for the sex trade in the Netherlands...*

# **Court upholds verdict for ‘magical’ fraudster ‘Nain Ae’**

June 28, 2010

Categories: Local Beliefs, Scams

[Court upholds verdict for ‘magical’ fraudster ‘Nain Ae’](#) – *The Nation*, June, 2010

# Thai crash boat linked to 2005 fatal capsized

June 28, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Thai crash boat linked to 2005 fatal capsized](#) – ABC Online, June 28, 2010

*One of the boats involved in a crash off the Thai island of Koh Samui on the weekend is the same boat that capsized in 2005 killing 15 people, including two Australians...*

*Police say the boat's registration and the skipper's licence expired in March...*

# Thailand pips Taiwan to world's third biggest 7-Eleven base

June 28, 2010

Categories: Business

[Thailand pips Taiwan to world's third biggest 7-Eleven base](#) – *EARTHtimes*, June 28, 2010

*Thailand has overtaken Taiwan as host to the third-largest number of 7-Eleven convenience stores in the world, behind only Japan and the USA, media reports said Tuesday...*



# Berkeley Billboard

June 29, 2010

Categories: Signs and Billboards



(Photo: 2Bangkok.com)

Berkeley – June, 29, 2010

Sign on the highway coming into Bangkok from Don Muang Airport.

# A Mandela solution for Thai troubles?

June 29, 2010

Categories: Red Shirt Protest 2010

[A Mandela solution for Thai troubles?](#) – Sin Chew Jit Poh, June 29, 2010

*...Varney called for the Kanit panel to be protected by a new law to give the panel's members immunity against possible legal action from those affected by their findings. He also suggested panel members show their transparency by disclosing details about their assets and proving they were politically neutral...*

# Future looks sunny for Bangkok's tuk-tuks

June 29, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Future looks sunny for Bangkok's tuk-tuks](#) – *AFP*, June 29, 2010

*...The solar machines would have a price tag of about 320,000 baht — almost 10,000 dollars — against 180,000 baht for a regular tuk-tuk, but Morakot hopes that eventually government subsidies would make them more affordable...*

# **Plan to hold an ‘Anger Day’ against Thai invasion**

June 29, 2010

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

[Plan to hold an “Anger Day” against Thai invasion](#) – KI, June 29, 2010

*Cambodian NGOs plan to organize a meeting to commemorate and to express the anger against the 2nd anniversary of the Thai invasion of Cambodia along the border near Preah Vihear temple which took place on 15 July 2008...*



# Thailand recognizes its mistake in the shooting an...

June 29, 2010

Categories: Border Issues, Cambodia

[Thailand recognizes its mistake in the shooting and killing of a Cambodian citizen](#) – KI, June 29, 2010

*...He indicated that Thailand paid 30,000 baths (\$927) in compensation to the family of the victim after it sent back the victim's body to Cambodia on 24 June...*

# Thaksin is saying: I can eat only fish bones!!

June 29, 2010

Categories: Editorial Cartoons



From *Daily News*, cartoon by Palungkorn, June 29, 2010

The cartoon title reads: Fish owner?

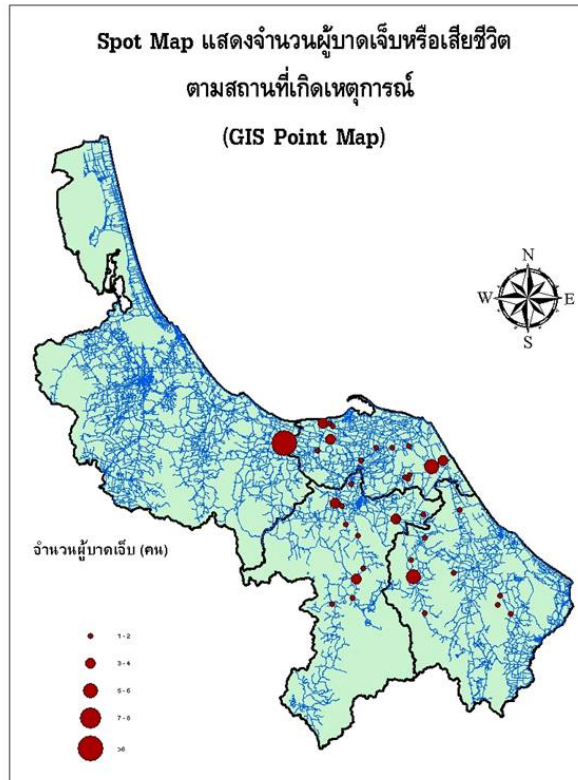
Thaksin is saying: I can eat only fish bones!! Ok, there are plenty, I am the farm owner

Hands are offering various fish dishes to Thaksin labeled: “UDD”, “Pheu Thai” and “leader”

# Southern Violence Statistics – June 2010

June 30, 2010

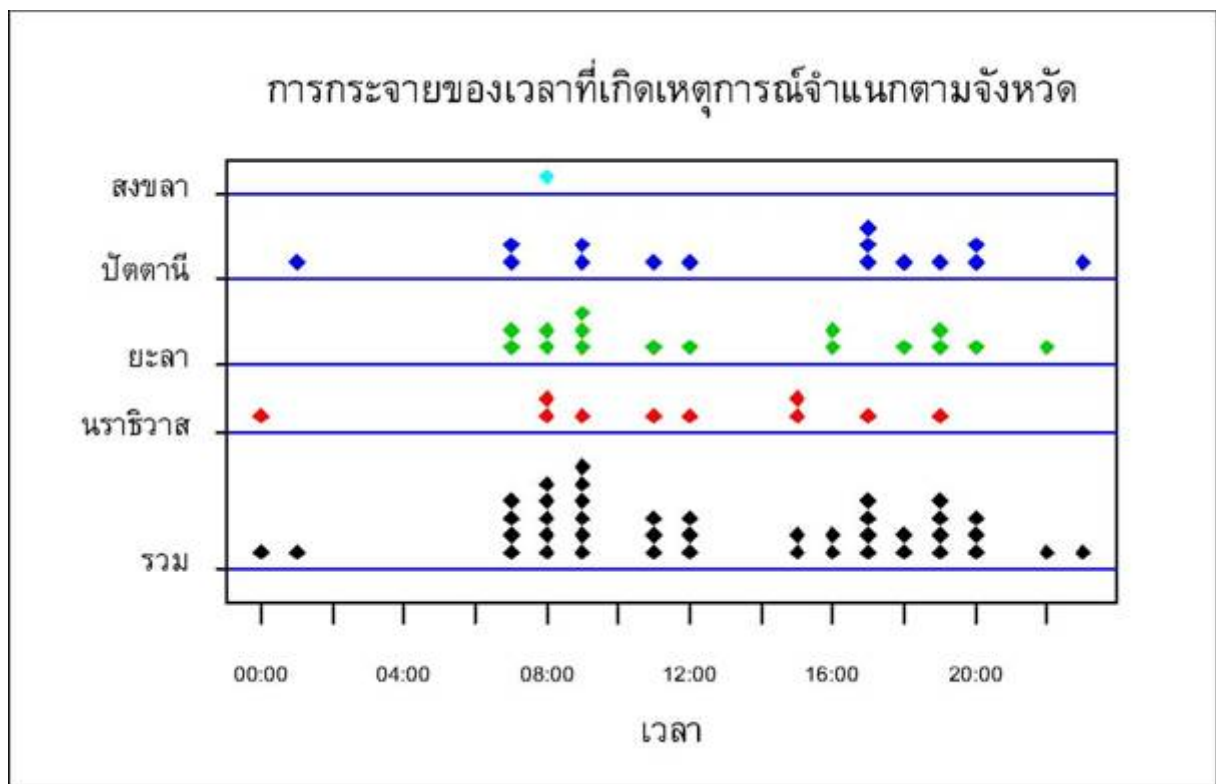
Categories: Deep South Violence Statistics



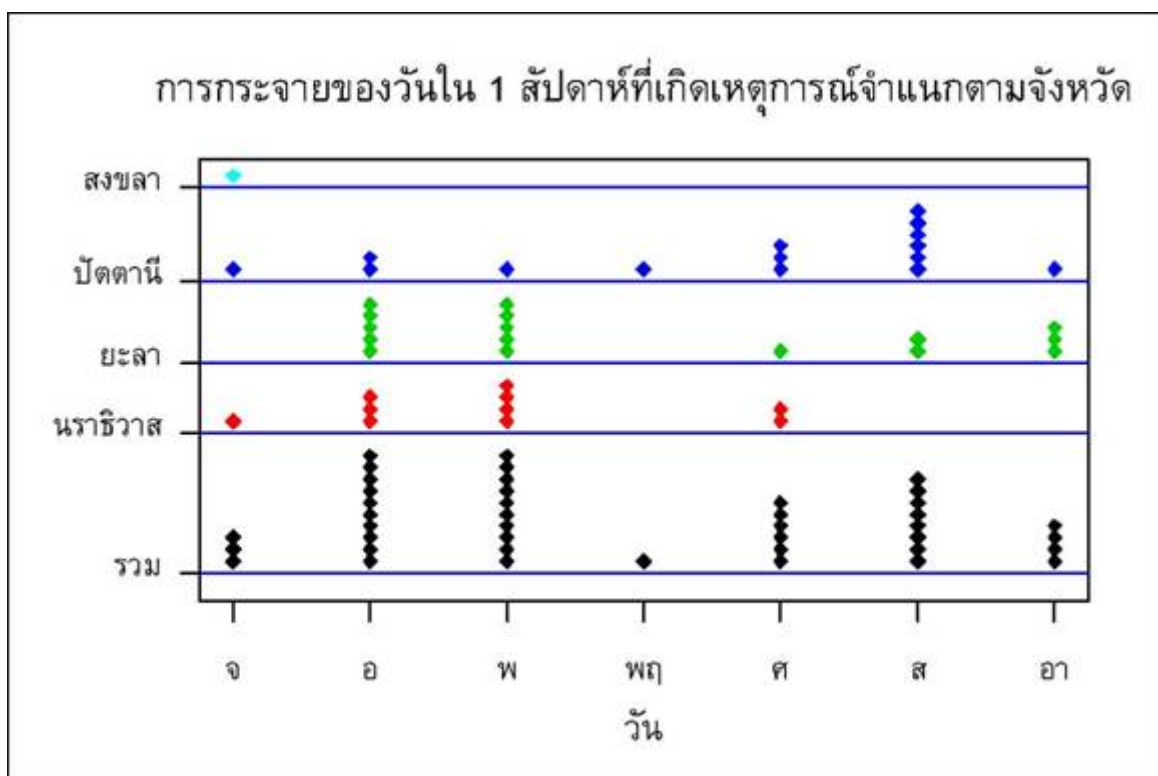
Map of four provinces in the deep south (Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat) showing numbers of the dead and injured by location.

**Southern Violence Statistics – June 2010**

[Index of violence statistics for the Thai Deep South](#)

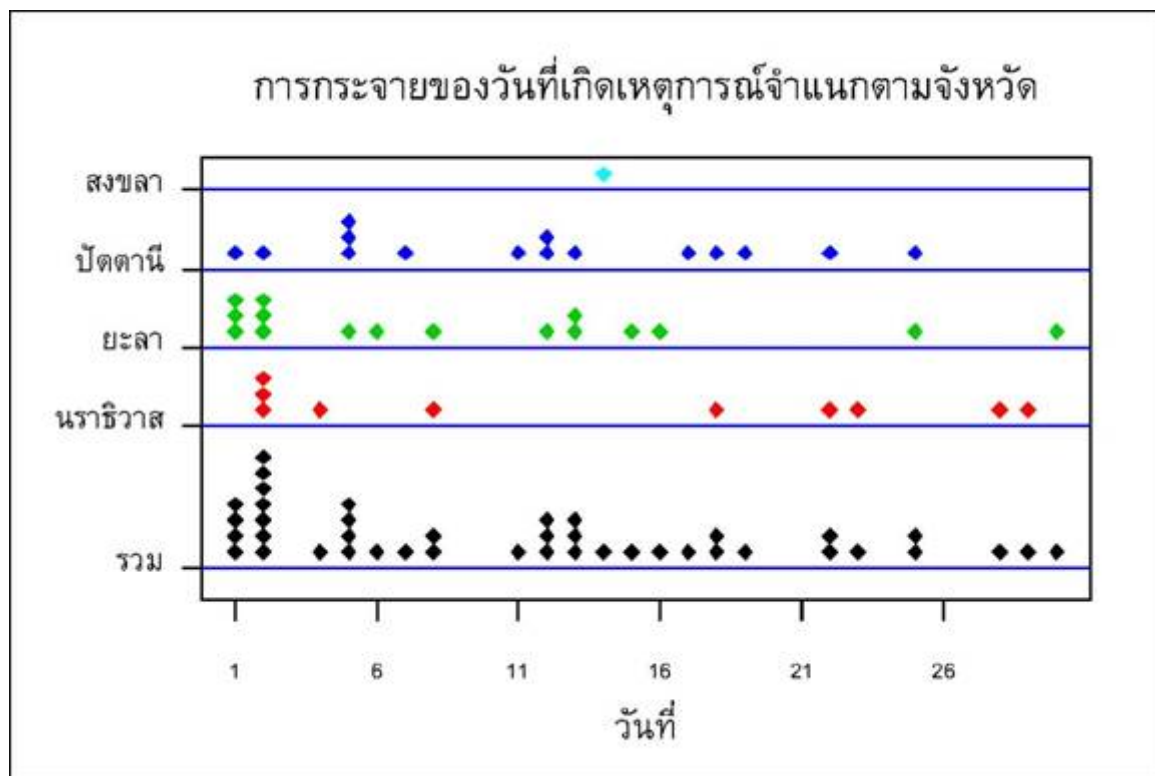


This chart shows violent incidents classified by the hour of the day (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black

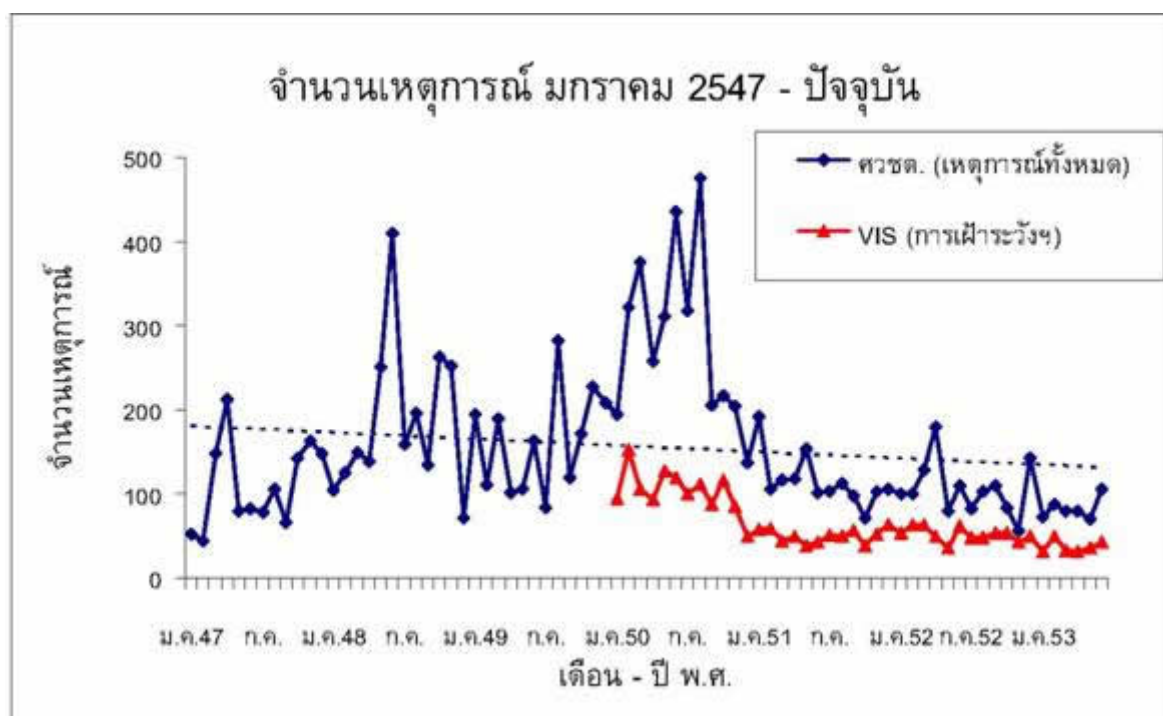


This chart shows violent incidents classified by day of the week (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). The days of the week start with Monday on the left. Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black



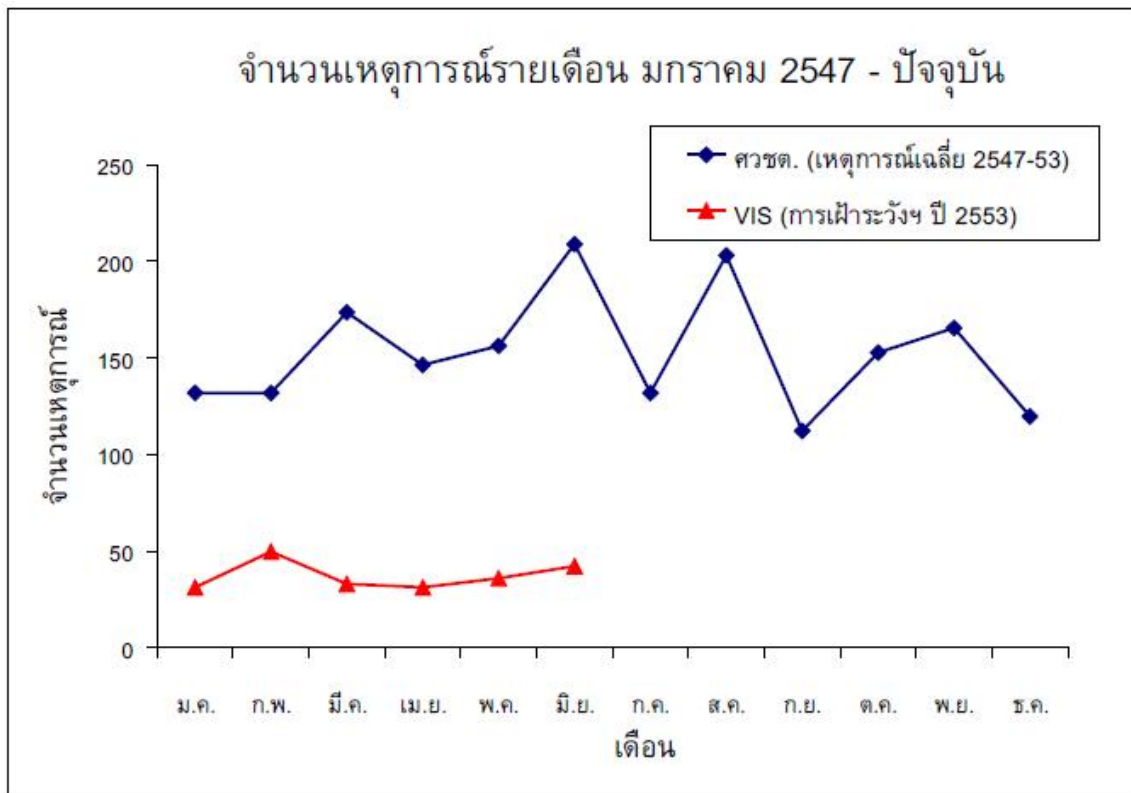


This chart shows violent incidents classified by day of the month (x-axis) and the province (y-axis). Songkhla=light blue, Pattani=blue, Yala=green, Narathiwat=red, total events=black

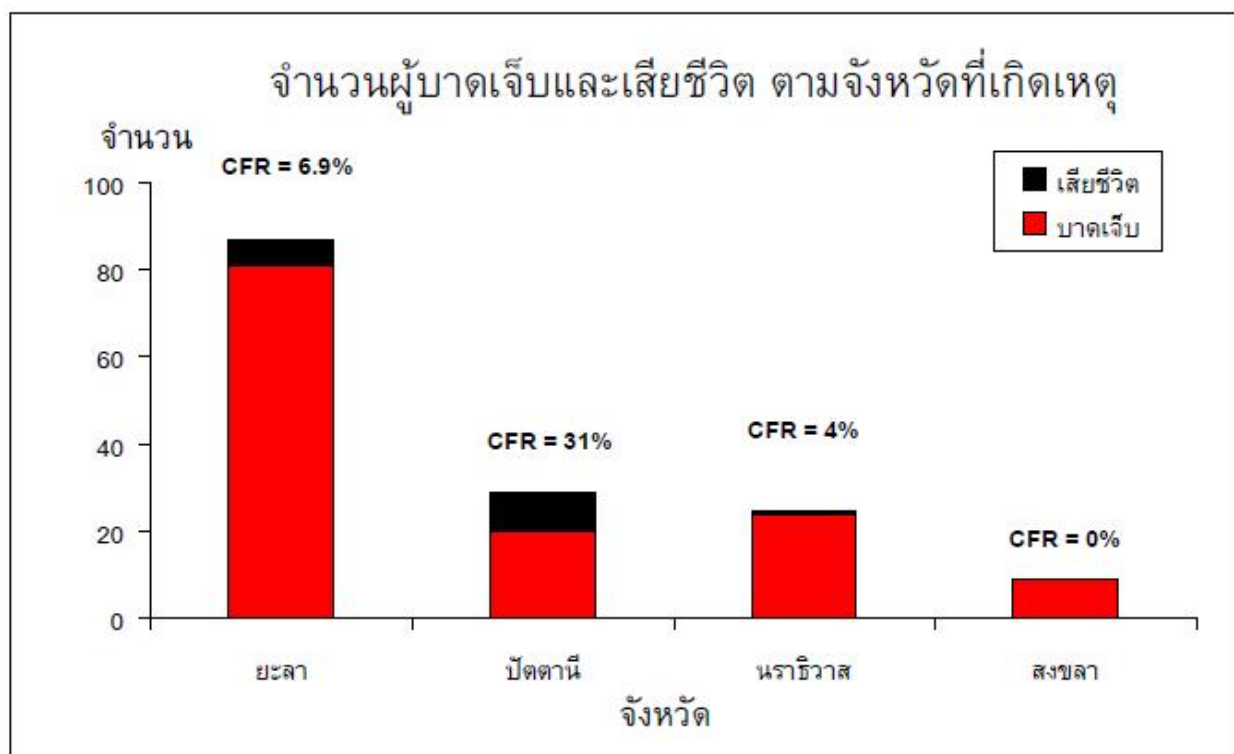


Numbers of violent incidents since January 2004. Across the bottom are the years (2547 is 2004, 2548 is 2005, 2549 is 2006, 2550 is 2007, 2551 is 2008, 2552 is 2009, 2553 is 2010).

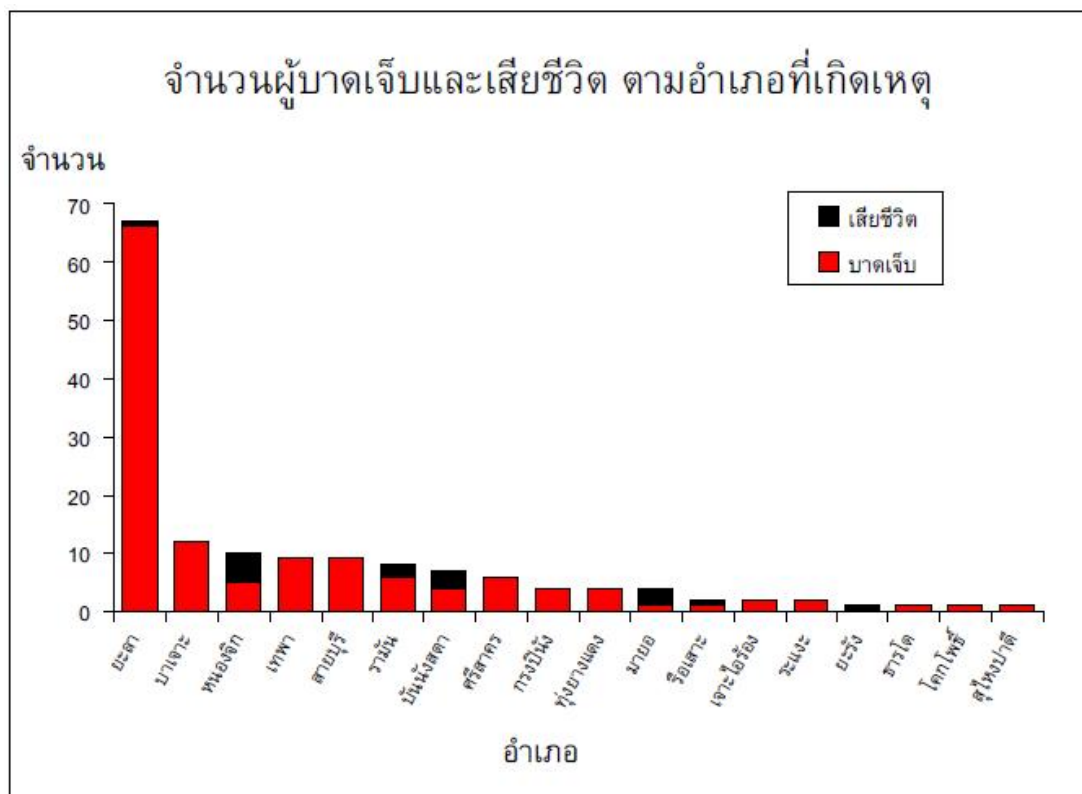
The blue line shows the number of all violent incidents that took place as reported by the Deep South Coordination Center (counting all incidents both injury and non-injury). The red line shows data according to the Violence-related Injury Surveillance (a form that hospitals, doctors and clinics are supposed to fill out to report violent incidents).



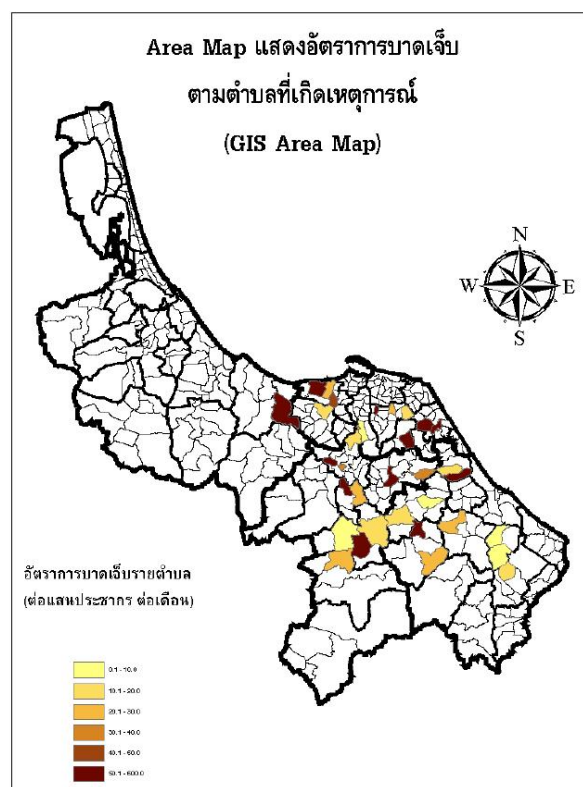
The blue line shows the average monthly level of violent incidents from 2004 up to the present. The red line shows the information provided to the Violence-related Injury Surveillance in the present year. The y-axis shows the numbers of events from 0-300. The x-axis shows the months of the year from January to December (left to right).



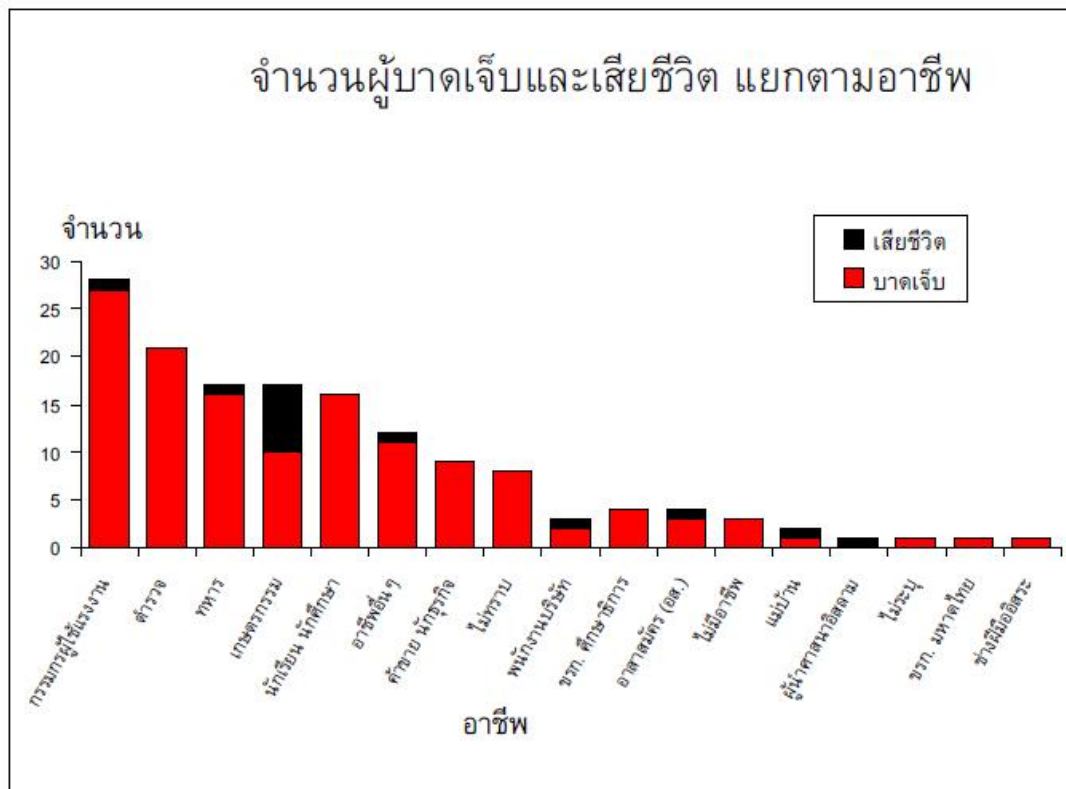
The numbers of injured and dead reported from each province where the events occurred (Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and Songkhla). Black= dead, red=injured. The CFR (Case Fatality Rate) of each province is above each bar.



The toll of dead and injured (y-axis), classified by the districts where the incidents took place (x-axis). Black= dead, red=injured.



Map of four provinces in the deep south (Songkhla, Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat) showing the number of violent events by tambon (village). Starting at light yellow, the levels are 1-10, 10-20, 20-30, 30-40, 40-50, and greater than 60.



The numbers of dead and injured, classified by the victims' profession. Black= dead, red=injured.

From left to right: Laborer, police, soldiers, agriculture, student and college student, others, merchant and businessmen, unknown, company employee, education official, unemployed, housewife, Islamic religious leader, unidentified, Interior official, freelance craftsman

Source: Deep South Violence-related Injury Surveillance statistics



# **“Two Young Women Die at Laleena Guest House on Phi Phi”**

June 30, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[“TWO YOUNG WOMEN DIE AT LALEENA GUEST HOUSE ON PHI PHI ISLAND – Owner disregards human life....as does the Thai government” – \*phiphiislanddeaths.com\*, June, 2010](#)

# **Thailand must lift emergency rule, hold polls: think-tank**

June 30, 2010

Categories: Analysis, Red Shirt Protest 2010

[Thailand must lift emergency rule, hold polls: think-tank](#) – *AFP*, July 6, 2010

# Thaksin lobbying in June 2010

June 30, 2010

Categories: Robert Amsterdam

[Response to Statement of Buranat Samutarak](#) – robertamsterdam.com, June, 2010

*...I wish to clarify for the record that absolutely no statements were made with regard to the Thai royal family during this series of press briefings in Tokyo. Cameras and reporters were present at every moment, and any examination of the transcripts will disprove Buranat's libelous allegation. Any discussion at the press conference in Japan was limited to discussing the odious lese majeste laws and their abuse by officials of the Democrat Party and its militant wing in the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD), used to intimidate and harass not the opponents of the monarchy, but rather their own political competition who may pose a challenge to their power in a free and fair democratic election...*

[Letter to Thai Authorities Demanding Investigation and Access to Evidence](#) – robertamsterdam.com, June, 2010

*...That you immediately commit to facilitate interviews by our clients' legal counsel of: All military commanders and sublevel commanders that took part in any operations relating to the Protests; All political leaders within the military chain of command relating to its addressing the Protests; and All expert witnesses relied upon by the Thai Authorities, including but not limited to forensic experts...*

[Thaksin's lobbyist refused entry?](#) – thailandnewspaper.asia, June 26, 2010

*...Mr. Buranat has said that an explanation should be sought from Mr Thaksin regarding the numerous false statements made by his lobbyist. Certain parts of Amsterdam's interviews with foreign press are even, quite deliberately, offensive to the Thai monarchy...*

[Suthep: Thaksin lawyer not allowed to probe Red Shirt unrest](#) – MCOT, June 26, 2010

*... "I would like to note that when Mr Thaksin was premier, many international organisations were seeking to probe the alleged extrajudicial killings of 2,500 people during his 'war on drugs' and also the killings during the unrest by insurgents in the three southernmost provinces. But at the time Mr Thaksin did not allow these agencies to enter the country and spurned the call for United Nations intervention, saying 'The UN is not my father!' ...*

[Govt urged to ban Thaksin lawyer](#) – Bangkok Post, June 24, 2010

*...The lawyer also attacked the Thai government's imposition of the emergency decree, saying it was contrary to the rule of law.*

*He said Mr Amsterdam intentionally made these remarks in Japan because a Japanese reporter was killed in the cross-fire on April 10 during the violence between soldiers and red-shirt protesters...*

[INTERVIEW – Thaksin wants Thai probe to be international-lawyer](#) – Reuters, June 22, 2010

[Robert Amsterdam Thailand – Perspectives on politics, international law, and human rights in Thailand](#)

[This](#) is Amsterdam's [ghost-blogged](#) site (like his [main page about Russia](#)) with links to articles bolstering Thaksin's claim that the Thai government is anti-democratic and purposely intended to murder Red Shirt protesters.

[Karl Rove/Robert Amsterdam: can PR experts really save the day?](#) – nowpublic.com, June 22, 2010

*...Mixing true and false information in an attempt to attract media attention to his clients (and ultimately to him) made Robert Amsterdam a lot more than a spin doctor: it made him a propagandist.*

*This strategy is a dead end. Mikhail Khodorkovsky is still in jail in Siberia and Thaksin lives in exile. But Amsterdam regularly makes headlines.*

[Robert Amsterdam, Human Rights lawyer in Japan on June 23, 2010](#) – FCCJ, June, 2010

*For an update on events in Thailand, who better than human rights specialist Robert Amsterdam?*

*Robert Amsterdam has been retained by former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to keep the outside world up to speed on the still tense situation in Thailand...*

[Response to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand](#) – robertamsterdam.com, June 18, 2010

*...The de facto government of Thailand needs to worry less about casting undue blame upon individuals, and concern itself with answering a number of the questions outlined above and working toward restoring the minimum semblance of compliance with local and international law.*

[Secretary to the Foreign Minister clarifies misconceptions in Robert Amsterdam's statements](#) – MFA, June 17, 2010

*...But there were also those armed with lethal weapons who resorted to violence, sometimes indiscriminately, to create havoc and to try to bring down a legitimate government. The rule of law must therefore be enforced. It was therefore regrettable that Mr. Amsterdam had conveniently overlooked the facts about the illegal and violent nature of the protests and made many baseless, falsified and truly outrageous allegations against the Thai government, much to his own discredit...*

[Thailand's duty to investigate Bangkok killings under international law](#) – robertamsterdam.com, June 15, 2010

*...A credible argument can be made that Thailand's failure to investigate these recent killings is an even further step away from democracy, rule of law, and basic legitimacy of the state...*

[Thailand brings in Podesta Group](#) – PR Week, June 10, 2010

*The government of Thailand hired the [Podesta Group](#) to "help protect the international reputation" of Thailand, according to a federal filing. The firm is providing message development, media relations, and media training. The three-month contract has a monthly budget of \$80,000...*

[List of Podesta clients](#) and [Podesta on Wikipedia](#)

[Thai PM Seeks Confrontation, Not Reconciliation](#) – RobertAmsterdam.com, June 10, 2010

[Thailand Lacks Creditability to Investigate Bangkok Killings](#) – RobertAmsterdam.com, June 10, 2010

[Shinawatra wants to return home](#) – lejdd.fr, June 9, 2010

*...They fear an election. They fear having to be accountable for the murders of 90 Thais during the demonstrations. They fear being accused of arbitrary arrests and crimes against humanity. They have plenty of reasons to be afraid!*

*...Other countries have remained silent for a crime against humanity was in progress! This silence must end. The issue is well beyond the simple person Shinawatra. In Thailand, there has been a deliberate campaign to destroy the people because of their political affiliation. In the 21st century, it should not exist...*

[The provincial lawyer who is helping plot an emirate coup](#) – Guardian, June 6, 2010

*...The plot, led by British solicitor Peter Cathcart, involves the use of Washington political lobbyists, PR agencies writing fake blogs and Twitter accounts, and a newspaper advertising campaign in the US. The coup attempt is remarkable in its choice of modern communications and political lobbying, rather than the traditional resort to violence...*

[Thaksin's last option to topple the Abhisit government](#) – Bangkok Post, June 5, 2010

*...This is consistent with Thaksin's hired gun, Mr Amsterdam, who told the media he wanted the United Nations, as a neutral party, to mediate between the government and the red shirts after the clashes on April 10 at Khok Wua intersection, which resulted in 25 deaths and many hundreds of injuries. It seems Thaksin has conveniently forgotten his famous remark, "The UN is not my father", uttered as he rejected attempts by critics who had called on the United Nations to investigate his regime for the more than 2,000 extrajudicial killings under the umbrella of his war on drugs...*

[The hyperreality of Thai propaganda: A response to the Nation](#) – robertamsterdam.com, June 2, 2010

*...But luckily everyone is free to read the full text of this editorial, because no draconian government has ordered for it to be blocked. Luckily everyone can hear about the innocence of the smiling military and the Oxford-educated unelected Prime Minister because no one is sending regular death threats to his lawyers*



*and publishing their addresses to hate groups. Having worked in Russia, Nigeria, and Venezuela, I've never seen more thuggish incivility...*

[EDITORIAL: Thaksin lawyers' probe will have credibility issues](#) – *The Nation*, June 2, 2010

*...If Knoops is what Amsterdam says he is, then the Dutch lawyer should know the difference between "lobby" and "legality". If he wants to become a lobbyist for Thaksin, then that's fine. But he should have the integrity to say so and not hide behind another profession just to hoodwink the public.*

# Bigger earthquakes expected

June 30, 2010

Categories: 2Bangkok News

[Bigger earthquakes expected](#) – *The Nation*, June 30, 2010

WHEN EARTHQUAKES ARE PREDICTED TO SHAKE THE WORLD			
Date	Coordinated Universal Time	Local time	Richter Scale
July 8	2200 hours (+/- 2 hrs)	5am	7.0-8.0
September 9	1800 hours (+/- 2 hrs)	1am	7.5-8.5
September 21	1000 hours (+/- 3 hrs)	5pm	7.0-7.5
October 7	0400 hours (+/- 2 hrs)	11am	8.0-9.0

*...In an interview with Channel 3, Smith talked about the huge quakes predicted by Kongpop U-yen, a Thai engineer who works for the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa).*

*He said Kongpop had sent him dates between July and October when he predicted that quakes of 7-9 Richter-scale magnitude would occur...*

(Source: *The Nation*)

# Do not let them see our home!

June 30, 2010

Categories: Editorial Cartoons - Thairath - Sia



From *Thai Rath*, cartoon by Zia, June 30, 2010

The cartoon title reads: Do not let them see our home

The word they are cleaning on the wall reads: Cruel-crazy and People massacre

The word on the back of the man reads: Tasteful food and great music

The word on the signs outside the room reads: Thaksin's lovers, UN, Justice, World Human Rights Watch, and UN

Deputy PM Suthep Tuaksuban is holding the door closed.