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| ISBN | 9812104445 |
| Title | Conflict and Terrorism in Southern Thailand |
| Specifications | 152 mm X 227 mm, 212 pp, Perfect Binding, 400 gms |
| Authors | Rohan Gunaratna, Arabinda Acharya, Sabrina Chua |
| Target Audience | Political and security analysts, policy-makers, academics, researchers, and the informed public interested in security in Thailand and in Southeast Asian security environment. |
| Price (SG) | S\$ 29.00 |
| Price (US) | US\$ 22.00 BUY NOW |

Since January 2004, the southern provinces of Thailand is a cauldron of swirling discontent; with the threat of boiling over facing Thai PM Thaksin in the eyes. Numerous attacks were carried out against security forces and

government officials. The security forces have also responded in kind, killing insurgents in large numbers. Up to early November 2004, almost 430 persons on both sides have died in the simmering violence. After the Tak Bai Riots on 25 October 2004, in which about 78 Muslim protesters were taken into custody and subsequently died of suffocation, the conflict has taken a whole new turn. Some separatist groups have threatened to bring the violence, which so far was largely localised to the south, to other parts of the kingdom.

The book gives an assessment of the conflict in southern Thailand from the following perspectives: (1) a short history of the conflict, (2) an overview of the major groups operating in the south and their intra-regional and international connections, and (3) a probable escalation scenario. This analysis not only makes a prognosis of the conflict in the south, but also makes a series of policy prescriptions which would be useful for security agencies and policy-makers in understanding the threat better and thus respond more effectively.

This analysis will use the 'adversarial analysis matrix' used for threat assessments, especially in the context of asymmetric conflicts. This involves consideration of issues such as the intention and the capabilities of the adversary, and the opportunities available to carry out attacks.

There is as yet no comprehensive study on the insurgency in southern Thailand. Conflict and Terrorism in Southern Thailand aims to fill this gap by providing a timely analysis on the conflict as it presents itself today and how to manage the threat that has since emerged.

About the Authors

Rohan Gunaratna is Associate Professor and Head of the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU); Senior Fellow at the Combating Terrorism Center at the US Military Academy at West Point; and Honorary Fellow, International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism, Israel. Previously, he was Principal Investigator, UN Terrorism Prevention Branch; Co-Director, UN University Project on Managing Contemporary Insurgencies; and Principal Investigator, Qinetiq Project on Terrorist Information Operations, Ministry of Defence, UK.

Dr Gunaratna is a consultant to the World Terrorism Encyclopedia, contributed over 100 papers and reports on terrorism; and is the author of eight books including an international bestseller, Inside Al Qaeda: Global

Network of Terror (2002)

A Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts, he holds a MA in Peace Studies from the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame, USA, and a PhD in International Relations from the University of St Andrews, UK. In 2002, he was appointed the Chairman of the NATO-PFP Working Group on Counter Terrorism.

Arabinda Acharya is Associate Research Fellow and Manager of Strategic Projects at the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, IDSS, NTU. He is also the Research Coordinator for Centre for Peace and Development Studies, India. Previously he worked as an External Research Associate at York University, as well as at the Joint Centre for Asia Pacific Studies, University of Toronto. He was also Visiting Research Fellow at the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Mr Acharya has contributed a number of articles and reviews to journals, such as Asian Defence and Diplomacy, Georgetown Journal of International Affairs, Harvard Asia Quarterly, Pacific Affairs and, Contemporary Southeast Asia, and Asia Pacific Review. He has also contributed to book volumes such as SAARC in the 21st Century: Towards a Cooperative Future and The Making of a Terrorist: Recruitment, Training, and Root Causes, edited by James JF Forest (Westport, CT: Praeger, 2005).

His area of research includes conflict, political violence and human security.

Sabrina Chua is Research Analyst with the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, NTU. She is currently pursuing a Master of Science in International Relations at the same institute.

Ms Chua graduated with a BA (Hons) in English Language from the National University of Singapore. She then joined Channel NewsAsia, a regional news broadcaster, working as a broadcast journalist for three years. She was part of the team in charge of the station's special coverage of the US war in Iraq.

Her area of research includes political violence and terrorism in Indochina, with a special focus on Thailand.