

## **Weekly Country Report**

### **Thailand**

**4 May – 11 May 2008**

A number of attacks occurred on 4 May 2008 but were not reported until much later the next day. Following an increase in violence at the end of the previous week, it was a quiet week from 5 May to 11 May 2008, with the Thai press preoccupied with the humanitarian crisis in Burma.

#### **Narathiwat**

A bomb exploded at the annual charity Thai Red Cross Fair. Twelve people were injured in the incident at Narathiwat Municipality Park, which took place on the night of 4 May 2008. The bomb had been hidden inside a milk container left in a garbage can.<sup>1</sup>

On the same night, two schools and six roadside pavilions were torched by suspected insurgents in the Rueso district of Narathiwat. They also blew up a high voltage transmission tower in Rangae district, with a bomb detonated by cell phone.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Pattani**

An automobile showroom was torched by suspected insurgents on the night of 4 May 2008. Four men wearing ski masks were caught on CCTV burning five cars in a three-minute operation.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 'Red Cross Fair Bombed, Attacks in South Increase', *Bangkok Post*, 5 May 2008, [http://www.bangkokpost.com/breaking\\_news/breakingnews.php?id=127487](http://www.bangkokpost.com/breaking_news/breakingnews.php?id=127487)

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*

## **Yala**

A villager was shot dead by insurgents in the Muang district of Yala on 7 May 2008. Wichai Sri-ngarm, 36, had been on his way to work when two insurgents on a motorcycle ambushed him and shot him in the back.<sup>4</sup>

## **PM's land purchase offer**

Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej said on 11 May 2008 that the government would buy land from people in Southern Thailand if they offered it for sale. He said that this would prevent land from falling into the hands of the insurgents. He also said that the Thai government is now in control of the situation in Southern Thailand.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>4</sup> 'Insurgents Kill Worker in South', *Bangkok Post*, 7 May 2008,  
[http://www.bangkokpost.com/breaking\\_news/previousdetail.php?id=127521](http://www.bangkokpost.com/breaking_news/previousdetail.php?id=127521)

<sup>5</sup> 'Govt to Buy Land in Deep South', *The Nation*, 12 May 2008,  
<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/breakingnews/read.php?newsid=30072761>