

Weekly Country Report

Thailand

25 August – 31 August 2008

The news in Thailand was dominated by the anti-government protests that have spread from the capital. The situation in Bangkok remains tense. Over the last couple of days, government supporters have arrived in Bangkok, hoping to match the number of People's Alliance for Democracy protesters. The potential for clashes is high.¹

The Thai south has also been affected by the protests, with airports in Songkhla, Phuket and Krabi seized and closed by anti-government protesters.² There have also been protests held in southern Thailand.

For now, the southern Thai insurgency is not as important to Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej as political survival is.

Narathiwat

A bomb was detonated near a school on 25 August 2008 in Narathiwat's Tak Bai district. Six soldiers were slightly injured in the explosion. The bomb had been detonated by mobile phone.³

¹ 'Bangkok tense', *The Straits Times*, 1 September 2008,

http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/SE%2BAsia/Story/STIStory_274072.html

² 'Hat Yai airport reportedly reopened to flights', *Bangkok Post*, 29 August 2008,

http://www.bangkokpost.com/breaking_news/breakingnews.php?id=130140

³ 'Bomb explosion injures six soldiers in Narathiwat', *The Nation*, 25 August 2008,

http://nationmultimedia.com/2008/08/25/national/national_30081425.php