

CONCLUSION

Since January 2004, a wave of attacks sparked increased violence in the south, which has seem to cause thousands of death. Two significant incidents which occurred in Krue Se and Tak Bai are described as national tragedies.

Most studies show that the insurgency in Southern Thailand is rooted from the ethnic conflict in the area of the three southern provinces Yala, Narathiwat, and Pattani between the Thai and Malay. These three provinces originally formed part of an independent entity called the Pattani Kingdom which was slowly subsumed by the Thai state from the late 18th century onwards. Identity, nationalism and history are rooted deeply in the psyche of Southern Muslims. Not only ethnicity is a basis for identity that can influence beliefs and behaviour, it also provides legitimacy for a wide variety of activities and policies. The ethnic consciousness can occur when there is the interaction between minority- group aspirations and government policy objectives. The emergence of ethnic Malay identity as well is caused by the policies of the Siamese government, the growth of Malay nationalism and the economic inequality and deprivation.

The grievances stemming from those factors have led them to form groups in order to receive recognition of their culture and religion, access to employment opportunities and special subsidies and the opportunity to participate in state government. Their ultimate goal is to be independent from the nation-state of Thailand and have right to govern themselves. In order to achieve their objectives, Thai-Malays form their own organized groups and conduct insurgence in the South of Thailand. One lead organization is (Barisan Revolusi Nasional-Coordinate (BRN-C).

In a period of globalization, the perception of people toward the conflict in the South has changed. In the modern world, access to radio, television, newspapers, and other information channels plays a critical role in the ability of minority groups to develop and sustain support for their causes and to command attention from the state. In addition, the global religious revival of Islam as political and militant factor has in

the case of Thailand. The conflict is therefore viewed to have the impact from Islam instead of ethnonationalism. The ethnic groups in the Southern Thailand are viewed to have a linkage with or influence from transnational religious/terrorist groups. There is also the awareness of greater Muslim Ummah (the brotherhood of Muslim community or people).

Most scholars agree that insurgents in the South have no direct linkage to transnational terrorists. The reemerging of the insurgency in Southern Thailand is more likely to influence by radical Islamic Ideology of Ummah in the context of globalization and transnationalism. For a long time, the southern Thai crises had been conducted primarily on the basis of Malay ethnic nationalism. However, Islam resurgence from the Middle East to all parts of the Muslim world has had a transformative impact on Muslim world including Thailand. It has led to the increasing stress on the role of religion as part of solution to various conflicts concerning Muslims.