

## Appendix A

The Photo of the Bangkok Post Online: Web Page

The Bangkok Post Online: Share Your Thoughts Page

# The Bangkok Post Online: Web Page

Bangkok Post: Abhisit vows to defy reds - Windows Internet Explorer provided by Yahoo!

http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/politics/35883/abhisit-vows-to-defy-reds-Soldiers%20retake%20Thalcom%20station

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## Abhisit vows to defy reds

### - Soldiers retake Thalcom station

Published: 10/04/2010 at 12:00 AM  
Newspaper Section: NEWS

Embattled Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva has vowed to defy mounting pressure on him by the red shirts to force a House dissolution.

Last night he said his government will mobilise all forces and legal measures necessary to put an end to their protest.

The prime ministers TV address came hours after columns of the red-shirted United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD) protesters broke through lines of troops and forced thousands of them to withdraw from the Thalcom Pic ground

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# The Bangkok Post Online: Share Your Thoughts Page

**Bangkok Post: Abhisit vows to defy reds - Windows Internet Explorer provided by Yahoo!**

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Bangkok Post: Abhisit vows to defy reds

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For more candid, lengthy, conversational and open discussion between one another, use our Forum Report objectionable comments click here. Include: discussion #, commenter name, comment date / time as it looks on the page. Example: discussion 15: 09:01/2009 at 10:00 AM.

to

**Discussion 49 : 10/04/2010 at 05:39 PM**  
 "He said he was so overwhelmed by what the red shirts had done he wanted to cry."  
 And the oscar goes to....

Mark

**Discussion 48 : 10/04/2010 at 04:52 PM**  
 Discussion #47 (OC).  
 Thank you. You bring it to the point. It's really and only about that. Nothing to add.

SARIT

**Discussion 47 : 10/04/2010 at 04:48 PM**  
 Do you really need an education in GB to start a civil war?

Scaris

**Discussion 46 : 10/04/2010 at 04:25 PM**  
 "highly-respected figures have sent a signal to the prime minister and Gen Prayuth to end the demonstration"  
 Who are these people who can order the Prime Minister and deputy army chief what to do? Isn't that one of the points the red shirts have been making? Who is really in charge of the country? Clearly not Abhisit or the government.

to

**Discussion 45 : 10/04/2010 at 04:11 PM**

## Appendix B

The Dates and Number of Topics and Comments in the Bangkok Post Online

**Table 1**

*The Dates and Number of Topics and Comments in the Bangkok Post Online  
"Share your thoughts" in April Selected to be Studied*

Date	Topic No.	Topics	No. of Comments
10/04/2010	1	Abhisit vows to defy reds	49
11/04/2010	2	Sad Thaksin: Let the reds decide	44
11/04/2010	3	House dissolution: 'Only option'	59
12/04/2010	4	PM: Terrorists caused Saturday violence	46
12/04/2010	5	Democrat Party faces dissolution	65
12/04/2010	6	Govt weighs earlier dissolution	69
13/04/2010	7	Red shirts reject latest offer for a dissolution	73
14/04/2010	8	Govt faces difficult task locating killers	61
14/04/2010	9	Puea Thai: Gen 'P' planning a coup	49
15/04/2010	10	Military admits firing at reds	68
15/04/2010	11	Red shirts consolidate forces	67
15/04/2010	12	Poll: 51% support government's action	41
17/04/2010	13	'No colours' rally against red shirts at army base	80
18/04/2010	14	Red shirt march on Silom to be blocked	77
18/04/2010	15	Yellows may show up in 15 days	58
19/04/2010	16	Reds 'use women, children as shields'	40
24/04/2010	17	'Multi-colours' pledge to gather every day	45
24/04/2010	18	PM rejects softened red-shirt demands	100
24/04/2010	19	UDD says army attack likely	92
25/04/2010	20	PM rejects dissolution offer	70
26/04/2010	21	UDD takes battle to provinces	50
26/04/2010	22	PAD to govt: Get tough with UDD	41
30/04/2010	23	PM reaches out to police	61
Total	23		1405

**Table 2**

*The Dates and Number of Topics and Comments in the Bangkok Post Online*

*"Share your thoughts" in May Selected to be Studied*

Date	Topic No.	Topics	No. of Comments
01/05/2010	24	Reds criticise hospital evacuation	56
01/05/2010	25	Red-shirts to fight till the last minute	47
02/05/2010	26	Cabinet holds emergency meeting on crisis	43
03/05/2010	27	Armoured cars, plus a roadmap	53
04/05/2010	28	PM proposes Nov 14 poll date	61
05/05/2010	29	Army chief's tactics force election offer	64
05/05/2010	30	Reds call for clarity on dissolution date	69
05/05/2010	31	Weng: Reds must back Puea Thai	43
06/05/2010	32	PAD condemns PM's roadmap	51
07/05/2010	33	PAD rejects road map	43
07/05/2010	34	PAD calls for martial law	40
08/05/2010	35	'Guilty' Seh Daeng faces dismissal, stripping of rank	47
09/05/2010	36	Thousands of red shirts arrive in city	63
09/05/2010	37	Thai PM demands clear answer on end of protests	69
09/05/2010	38	PM urged to take action against UDD	42
11/05/2010	39	US official's 'meddling' angers Kasit	41
12/05/2010	40	Irked PM says 'rally ends today'	84
13/05/2010	41	Govt revokes election offer	58
13/05/2010	42	Stay out of our affairs, says Kasit	53
14/05/2010	43	Seh Daeng shot	50
14/05/2010	44	UDD leadership in disarray as Veera is said to have quit	42
14/05/2010	45	Thaksin calls for talks, reconciliation	44
15/05/2010	46	Parties deny role in hit on Seh Daeng	49
15/05/2010	47	War Zone	57
15/05/2010	48	UDD: Govt pays money to army	40
15/05/2010	49	UDD demands army cease-fire	42
15/05/2010	50	Poll: 51% support government's action	41
Total	50		2797

## Appendix C

### Timeline: Thailand's Political Crisis

### **Timeline: Thailand's Political Crisis**

The violent clashes between anti-government protesters and government troops in Bangkok follows years of political instability and unrest in Thailand:

September 2006: Military seizes power in a bloodless coup while then-Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is out of the country.

December 2007: Thaksin's allies win democratic elections under the People Power Party banner.

May 2008: Anti-Thaksin protesters, known as the Yellow Shirts, stage protests for several months.

November 2008: Yellow Shirts occupy two airports, stranding thousands of passengers as flights are canceled.

December 2008: Thailand's Constitutional Court dissolves the ruling party after finding the party committed electoral fraud; Parliament chooses Abhisit Vejjajiva as the country's new prime minister while Red Shirts protest outside.

April 2009: Two people are killed and at least 135 wounded in riots when anti-government protesters clash with demonstrators supporting the government.

February 2010: Thai Supreme Court finds Thaksin guilty of abuse of power and votes to seize his assets.

March 12, 2010: Red Shirt protesters take to the streets of Bangkok, demanding new elections and saying Abhisit was not democratically elected.

March 14, 2010: Tens of thousands of Red Shirt protesters pour into the center of Bangkok, bringing the city to a virtual standstill in an effort to topple the Thai government.

March 16, 2010: Red Shirts organize a blood drive and spatter donated blood on government buildings and the prime minister's residence.

March 28, 2010: Abhisit meets with Red Shirt leaders, but no agreement is reached.

April 7, 2010: Abhisit declares a state of emergency in Bangkok and nearby provinces after anti-government demonstrators stormed into the country's parliament.

April 10, 2010: Military and police forces use tear gas and rubber bullets to contain protesters who are trying to break into military barracks; the clashes injure more than 850 people and kill 25.

April 16, 2010: Abhisit hands security operations over to the military after three Red Shirt leaders escape from a hotel surrounded by security forces.

April 18, 2010: Thai military stations about 1,500 troops along a Bangkok road as Red Shirt protesters occupy a downtown shopping district and threaten to expand into they city's financial center.

April 22, 2010: A series of grenade attacks at protests kill one person and wound dozens.

April 28, 2010: Troops fire on anti-government protesters gathering on a major highway; one soldier is killed.

May 3, 2010: Government offers to hold elections in November if Red Shirts end protest in commercial center.

May 7-8, 2010: Two Thai police officers are killed and eight people are injured in overnight violence in areas where Red Shirt protesters are camped out.

May 12, 2010: Government says it will shut off power, cut supplies and seal off the central Bangkok intersection where Red Shirt protesters have amassed after demonstrators disregard an ultimatum from Abhisit to vacate the area

May 13, 2010: Militant anti-government faction leader Maj. Gen. Khattiya Sawasdiphol--a renegade general better known as Seh Daeng, which means Red Commander--is shot in the head while talking to reporters, sparking clashes that kill one person.

May 14, 2010: Troops and protesters continue to clash; at least seven are killed.

May 15, 2010: In his weekly televised address, Abhisit says extremist protesters are trying to foment civil war; standoff continues, with at least 16 more killed.

May 16, 2010: Intense gunbattle breaks out in Bangkok's Lumpini Park, where Red Shirt protesters have amassed by the thousands; Hospital officials say one soldier is among the 11 killed in Sunday's fighting.

May 17, 2010: Hospital officials announce that Khattiya has died; government orders protesters to leave the demonstration area by 3 p.m., warning that those who do not will face a maximum sentence of two year's imprisonment for violating the order.

May 18, 2010: Protesters hold their ground even as some are arrested; the U.N. pushes for negotiations but the government says it will only talk when opposition ends protests.

May 19, 2010: Security forces surge into Lumpini Park in the largest offensive on protesters since demonstrations began; At least 2 people, including an Italian, are among the dead, prompting some Red Shirts leaders to talk about ending the protests.

## Appendix D

Some Samples of Commentator's Point of View

Analyzed in Chapter 4



## Samples of Commentator's Point of View

### News Context Has Been Cut

#### Topic 1 Abhisit vows to defy reds

Bo Discussion 49: 10/04/2010 at 05:39 PM 49

"He said he was so overwhelmed by what the red shirts had done he wanted to cry. "And the oscar goes to...."

Mark Discussion 48: 10/04/2010 at 04:52 PM 48

Discussion #47 (OC).

Thank you. You bring it to the point. It's really and only about that. Nothing to add.

Siam Discussion 47: 10/04/2010 at 04:48 PM 47

Do you really need an education in GB to start a civil war?

Sooths Discussion 46: 10/04/2010 at 04:25 PM 46

"highly-respected figures have sent a signal to the prime minister and Gen Prayuth to end the demonstration"

Who are these people who can order the Prime Minister and deputy army chief what to do? Isn't that one of the points the red shirts have been making? Who is really in charge of the country? Clearly not Abhisit or the government.

OC Discussion 45: 10/04/2010 at 04:11 PM 45

The gaps between the rich and the poor, the rural and the urban are only derived from lack of proper education. Unless any future Thai governments make good education a priority, this divide will never cease to exist. I am Thai and have lived in many developed countries. The same major perk they share is equal opportunity for education for their people, wherever they live. You think Bangkokians want to look down on their fellow Thais? It is because they see a lack of good reasoning that could have been brought on by education. People who follow others blindly tend not to have a developed system of thinking themselves. We only have the by-products of the past governments to blame...

Peace Discussion 44: 10/04/2010 at 04:09 PM 44

About a week ago the PM gave the Reds their request, too dissolve the house. Now it may of not been to the time frame the reds where demanding but something is better than nothing! Now a week later when you could of all been at home savouring your victory that your requests had been met in 8 to 9 months time. But NO!! You want it all your own way and now look you have yet again spoiled Songkarn for all Thais. When will this nonsense stop! The world is laughing at us!! We are acting like an immature children!! We dont get want we want so we all get upset and stamp our feet like children!! Lets grow up!

Spider Discussion 43: 10/04/2010 at 03:55 PM 43

Hey John, are you Taksin?

I think that's too easy to win, as Taksin did, because of paying for the votes... and the red T-Shirt are paying

now for protesting (how much? 5000 baht for each car and 500/1000 baht daily for each one who want to protest): what an idealism, what a democracy!!! If Taksin stop paying, no one will continue to protest in Bangkok suddenly, and no one will vote for him even in Chiang Mai. Taksin democracy is a democracy by corruption. I like more the "Bangkokracy" and no, the party it's not now ended!

Obs Discussion 42: 10/04/2010 at 03:53 PM 42

I asked a red shirt what they wanted if there was a dissolution of parliament the girl said she didn't know. ummm she thinks 'want an election'She is asked who you vote for? She replies don't know. Just want election.These are the smart people of the red shirts.All that they think is Abhisit is bad but can't answer why.

Bkk Discussion 41: 10/04/2010 at 03:41 PM 41

The situation is embarrassing now. I came back from HK and on Rama IV loads of ordinary people are having to walk to hotels with luggage etc. The country is a laughing stock to other Asian countries and if not careful will never recover or be seen in a good light. Currently the outside world sees this as a free for all....very sad indeed

Julia Discussion 40: 10/04/2010 at 03:21 PM 40

The legal argument is a funny one. Especially for a government that uses crooked courts to come into power and to apply laws retroactively.The distorted information comes from the government they lie that they will get a majority but refuse to hold elections.

John in Canada Discussion 39: 10/04/2010 at 02:44 PM 39

Thailand is fast becoming the laughing stock of East Asia. Bangkok wants to rule, and the rest of the country be damned. Bangkok considers the North, Northeast and the South vassal states, and not intelligent enough to participate in its own interpretation of democracy (in other words, Bangkokracy).Well Bangkok, I have news for you... The party's over!

Michael Discussion 38: 10/04/2010 at 02:33 PM 38

Abhisit is the Pinocchio PM....As the Military pulls the strings the nose grows longer and plunges Thailand into civil chaos

Michael Discussion 37: 10/04/2010 at 02:22 PM 37

I am Thai and Patrick is correct...The Thai Pm must resign for the good of Thai people....The majority have spoken and his support dwindles day to day...It seems Corboz has no plan to fix the problem and would be happy to allow to current PM remain at the cost of worsening Civil Unrest...not us Thais..

Truth Discussion 36: 10/04/2010 at 01:28 PM 36

Are brains getting baked in Thailand? In my upcountry village, they just held an election for Boo Yai. A young man was running against the current old Boo Yai. It turns out the old Boo Yai won again, as he offered more baht per vote than the new guy. 700 baht per vote... OPENLY!!!! Isn't this illegal??? When will Thais learn that any vote buying/selling defeats democracy. Yet it's being done in full view and the winner is proud he paid

more than the loser... and the police think nothing of it! Are Thais simply too stupid to see that when they do this THEY are the losers? ANYONE buying/selling a vote should be put in prison. What don't Thais understand about that?

Otherwise, they might as well scrap elections and just hold an auction! ARGH!!!!

Adrian Discussion 35: 10/04/2010 at 01:17 PM 35

What ever happens, we all know that sooner or later this will happen again.

If Aphisit does quit, which I would understand as unless like Thaksin he steals loads of money, there really is no point in having a job with this amount of stress! So if Aphisit quits and the reds take power, then six months down the line the opposition will do the same, but better managed and less primitive for the world media

Peter Discussion 34: 10/04/2010 at 01:13 PM 34

Quote from above: "Highly respected figures have sent a signal to the prime minister and Gen Prayuth to end the demonstration before the Songran festival". Who are these "highly respected figures"? The Burmese junta? All joking aside, that is the direction Thailand is heading if it is not careful. If true, this report lends credence to the widely held suspicion that the Abhisit government is merely a puppet on the strings of extra-Parliamentary powers.

Omega Discussion 33: 10/04/2010 at 01:00 PM 33

What is wrong with you Thai people? Look at all the advice you are being given by us farang as to what is wrong with your country and what you should do to solve your problems. Some of the best advice is given by people who have lived here for over two or three years! Some really good advice is given by people who are thousands of miles away so they can really look at things without being influenced by what is happening here. Why won't you listen to us and do what we say...I just don't understand?! Actually, after living here for over 18 years, my only real opinion is that you use too much MSG and sugar in your food, and please remember not every body likes 'peppery hot' in food. Your education system needs lots of improvement, and the Army should stay out of the Civil government's affairs unless called upon to maintain order. Judges should slam hard on lawbreakers and corrupt politicians. Other than that, I haven't got a clue.

Corboz Discussion 32: 10/04/2010 at 12:44 PM 32

To Patrick (Discussion 31)

Can you give us a road map which the next prime minister will follow after Abhisit would've resigned. Will the risks of civil war be lowered after Abhisit resigns? You are meddling in a topic unknown to you, because of your unwise statement. There'll be more to come if he resigns and you will see. Anyway what's the reason of going to polls while 2011 is already here? The democrats too had people's ballots in the last polls, so after the wrongdoers have been disbanded, Abhisit has full right to govern. Don't forget that 90% of Southern voters chosed the Democrats.

Patrick Discussion 31: 10/04/2010 at 12:08 PM 31

This opinion that the Thai PM has majority support is not accurate...His days are numbered and by hanging on to power he only puts Thais and Thailand at greater risk....He must resign or risk Thailand being exposed to a Civil uprising...

Michael Discussion 30: 10/04/2010 at 11:58 AM 30

The army commander doesn't want to make decisions on this matter, but he still wants to be the army commander. What a joke this guy is. Abhisit should have kicked him out last Songkran, together with the defence minister and Suthep.

@ A Thai: No, the majority does not give full support to Abhisit. The majority is going cowardly after their daily routine, pretending nothing is happening

Conman Sense Discussion 29: 10/04/2010 at 11:47 AM 29

C'mon kids, behave. Worse than a playground in gradeschool. Arrest all anarchist leaders past and present red and yellow alike. Clear the streets in 24 hours or suffer the consequences. If gov. can't handle, let military dictatorship rule. No more voting rights for next 10 years. Children shouldn't have the right to vote anyway!

Spouse Comment Discussion 28: 10/04/2010 at 11:25 AM 28

My wife is one of the 14,084,265 Thai people who voted for the democrats (not one of the 14,071,799 Thai people who voted for the PPP) in the 2007 Thai election. We believe Abhisit is a good man, and he will act to avoid injuring Thai people as best as he can while upholding the interests of the majority of the country.

Ivy Discussion 27: 10/04/2010 at 11:23 AM 27

Monk vs women. TIT

ah J Discussion 26: 10/04/2010 at 11:23 AM 26

Abhisit stating that they will win the day. However, this is not the matter of winning or losing, it is about bringing justice and peace to Thailand. Red shirt will be more determine to dissolve the government.

Ozman\_Bkk Discussion 25: 10/04/2010 at 11:23 AM 25

There seemed to be a general reluctance to face this red rabble by the police and the military. Hopefully this new statement by the PM will get them more motivated than they have been up until now. These reds DO NOT represent the majority of Thai people. They represent the man who is paying them to demonstrate. When the payments end so will the demonstrations. A paid mob can not bring democracy to Thailand. Elections bring democracy. Now all we have to find is an Opposition with policies. Sadly lacking in Thailand at present. The Opposition only has ONE. "Bring back Thaksin".

Ninetwo Discussion 24: 10/04/2010 at 11:22 AM 24

T is money crazy and A is power crazy. neither are good for the country.

thai-abroad Discussion 23: 10/04/2010 at 11:02 AM 23

Abhisit just has made a very wrong decision; real wrong! there will be the following consequences and that apisid alone will and can never shoulder them: -there will be more people coming to join (they are coming now) as there's nothing to loose! -the apisid government will be more hated by the protesters and people of the provinces, especially the redshirts. in thailand he will be able to travel freely only to the south. he should move there to the prachawibat party's stronghold (and of course to help solve the violent problems in the 3 deep southern provinces)! -should the protesters be dispersed successfully, they will regroup and come back again after the songkran.and it will be more serious than ever to deal with. apisid will have no time to work (or he will be flying working! -if he disperses the redshirt violently, he assures the more and deeper division among thai population-the privileged and the unprivileged. he confirms aristocracy exists in thailand. -lastly, in the next election (if it be), the prachawibat party will loose more seats than what they expected. the mp house is not dissolved appropriately, the redshirt movement will go on and get stronger, weakening the popularity of the ruling party. he know what he should do, but he does not want to do ! Please repost your comment using double paragraph spacing.

LOBO13nnDiscussion 22: 10/04/2010 at 10:57 AM 22

It way past due Take action and keep the presure on the red shirts.

Andrew Discussion 21: 10/04/2010 at 10:55 AM 21

The Thai PM reminds me of a fireman..Putting out the fires but never doing anything to fix or prevent the fires...I dont know how much longer Thai people are prepared to put up with this inept Leader that is more concerned about his own political face than looking after the best interests of the country...he clearly cant have both!!!Resign PM for the good of Thailand.

Tony Discussion 20: 10/04/2010 at 10:55 AM 20

If the Red mob try and storm the Thaicom building again betcha the police and army turn and run away, like they did before. Agree with "So Funny", it's like the Keystone Cops movies

Jack Discussion 19: 10/04/2010 at 10:48 AM 19

So then once side (red) may use force, but not the other (govmt). Uh ... isn't this a double standard?

Kasper Discussion 18: 10/04/2010 at 10:39 AM 18

To Roby, discussion 4.

You red shirts keep talking about a million? Is that the 10.000 or so brainwashed fools running about in Bangkok you are referring to?Regarding this "the world is watching" statement you guys always bring up, can you name me just one western democracy, whose police force would not have shut down such a protest with force long ago? And to choice, discussion 2. You mention "The people are rising and only gaining strength everyday." Is that why there red shirts are leaving the protest, and they have less and less supporters each day?

Foreign National Discussion 17: 10/04/2010 at 10:16 AM 17

This is ABSOLUTELY bias! This act by the Government is seen as restriction on freedom of speech and expression of differing political views. Whilst the Government closed down the PTV and related websites, what has the Government done to ASTV which has also incited hatred?????

Jenny Discussion 16: 10/04/2010 at 10:11 AM 16

Abhisit, get out. You are losing this battle. The red shirts are winning every feet, the military and police support them, and you are looking weak and ineffective. You are done!

TheTruth Discussion 15: 10/04/2010 at 10:09 AM 15

What a disgrace B.P. Media blackout? Cowtowing to the governments propoganda machine. What happened to freedom of the press? Be ashamed for it is your bias that lessons your humanness.

Samai Discussion 14: 10/04/2010 at 09:27 AM 14

A priceless moment at the Thai Police Hospital yesterday evening. The redshirts sending out a line of monks thinking the police will not fight against monks . .and the police sending out a line of policewomen. .stopping the monks in their tracks. Amazing Thailand!!

T.C Discussion 13: 10/04/2010 at 09:22 AM 13

They were promised PTV would go back on air. Gen Prayuth had been assigned by army commander Anupong Paojinda to be in charge of handling the UDD protest because he did not want to be the one making decisions on the matter. What a joke. You have a general who does not want to do his job (time to retire) and are only able to remove an illegal crowd by "promising" them they would get their joke or a station back..??? Nice job by the police and military... Almost as many of them hurt as the crowd. Indonesia here I come...Actually..anywhere but there is better.

Truth Discussion 12: 10/04/2010 at 09:14 AM 12

I just read that the Thai government cancelled Songkran in Bangkok. I suppose the military will crack down hard on anyone with a squirt gun or water hose... while the reds pillage the city. That noise you hear is my head beating against my desk!

thai 1932 Discussion 11: 10/04/2010 at 08:47 AM 11

Are you kidding? 15,000 troops from the 2nd and 3rd armies, would come to Rachaprasong OR just another propoganda. The Red Shirt would love to see this deployment to help them clogging up the Commercial area sharing the fun and put on a show to the tourist how we, THAI SHALL NOT hurt each other for MAD ORDER/MEASURE imposed on the ARMY who main function to defend the COUNTRY NOT shooting their fathers/mothers/cousins/friends/and their neighbours THAI countrymen.

Frequent Visitor Discussion 10: 10/04/2010 at 08:38 AM 10

If PM Abhisit resigns or dissolve Parliament, there is only one loss, that is PM Abhisit. But if the current stand off persists, the risks of loss of many lives is inevitable, judging by the storming of Thaicom and the possible crackdown on protesters at Rachaprasong.

Ned Discussion 9: 10/04/2010 at 08:09 AM 9

Thaksin Shinawatra does not know how to spell democracy, let alone know the substance of democracy. 'He wanted to cry' -Yes over the fate of his stolen billions.

A Thai Discussion 8: 10/04/2010 at 08:04 AM 8

Dear prime minister Abhisit: You are the best choice to lead modern Thailand right now. We, majority of Thai people give you our full support.

Bystander Discussion 7: 10/04/2010 at 07:56 AM 7

Is this the impression to what is to be expected from this piece of shock news? It is terrible as it appear here that if Abisith is given the order to use force so that hopeful to receive well wishes during SongKran holiday. We are afraid that many people may die.hopefully this is not the case

Bambooyid Discussion 6: 10/04/2010 at 07:45 AM 6

Now let the game begin.

just the facts Discussion 5: 10/04/2010 at 06:48 AM 5

Before signing off, he said he hoped to see democracy and justice returned to the country in a few days. To start the justice process, may I suggest you turn yourself in Mr. Convicted convict on the run.

Roby Discussion 4: 10/04/2010 at 06:30 AM 4

Bringing the army to fight the unarmed red shirts who represent the majority of people in Thailand would be a grave mistake. Violence against a ground swell of Democratic protesters a million people strong? The worlds newspapers will read "Military cracks down on Democracy movement in Thailand" Does Abhisit and Thailand want to look like the Burma Junta to the rest of the world? Obviously Abhisit is on the wrong side of history. I feel sorry for the guy. Maybe he waiting for the world's pity but will not get it with those headlines

Laohaklao Discussion 3: 10/04/2010 at 06:30 AM 3

Using force, in my humble opinion, would draw a road map for Thai civil war. This is clearly a political problem;therefore, we need a political solution. Because mouting pressure from Thai military junta, old Thai camp, Thai PM is walking on tighrope as of now. Making one wrong move would be a disaster for the country.

Choice Discussion 2: 10/04/2010 at 06:07 AM 2

Speaking tough and getting tough are two very different truths. It appears clear to me that this government is finished. No support, no justification for its actions. The people are rising and only gaining strength everyday.As a great Greek philosopher said, "it is better to be poor in a Democracy than to be wealthy in Tyranny." Chew on that one coup lovers.

So funny Discussion 1: 10/04/2010 at 06:01 AM 1

This is hilarious. Better than watching cartoons.

### **Topic 2 Sad Thaksin: Let the reds decide**

Ajahn Discussion 44: 12/04/2010 at 05:34 PM 44

Wish Thaksin could be like Chuvith years ago, when he confessed his involvement in 'bath tub' business and told the public he was sorry. In stead of smashing a bath tub, he could publicly burn his money?

John Galt Discussion 43: 12/04/2010 at 12:35 PM 43

This is NOT and has NEVER been a fight for Democracy, it is, and will continue to be a quest for power. Thaksin knows how to use and abuse power and the intent of the demonstrations was to bring about violence that could be blamed on his opposition. There's much more to this than what is implied by the stories we're presented.

PM Abhisit Vejjajiva would like to focus on rebuilding the economy, and with the worlds economic problems, Thaksin is taking full advantage to keep Thailand in turmoil both economically as well as politically. Democracy is just another form of corruption when applied to governing a Nation. Democracy belongs only in the villages, and the Central government should only referee and pass laws which prevent one village from taking advantage of another village. Democracy does not advance freedom, but instead allows for a simple majority view to constantly oppress the minority view, regardless of right and wrong.

Chang Rouge Discussion 42: 12/04/2010 at 10:14 AM 42

Today was a day for mourning and yet the PAD and yellow supporters on these increasingly sickening lists spend their day ranting about how much the red shirts deserved to die or were led to it by some invisible hand - it is time you all realised that the country belongs to all thai citizens and not just the pampered and privileged few. we marched and protested simply to fight for democracy and justice and this is a fight for all of us.

Nev Discussion 41: 12/04/2010 at 09:02 AM 41

These are paid terrorists, I was stopped in Pattaya and offered two thousand baht to join on their bus to go to Bangkok

Obs Discussion 40: 12/04/2010 at 05:27 AM 40

Everyone, go watch the videos at youtube...from an independent videographer...it clearly shows the red terrorists hurling molotov cocktails and other stuff at the soldiers which only stand till...this is proof that the red's are a bunch of hired terrorists who's only means of talking is through violence!

david shiel Discussion 39: 12/04/2010 at 05:25 AM 39

Really, Thaksin could care less about the human cost. The head stock of the children of the corn.

Tim Discussion 38: 12/04/2010 at 12:22 AM 38

You have to be kidding me. What did Thaksin expect to happen. He should be feeling guilt and shame for this because he has stirring this up from afar. He is safe and should have known this would happen. It was obvious. It is sad there were any deaths at all. Shame on you Thaksin.

A Thai Discussion 37: 11/04/2010 at 09:58 PM 37

Edward: Are you an Isaan in law? Fighting for democracy? Please don't make the world laugh.

Edward Discussion 36: 11/04/2010 at 08:15 PM 36

Thaksin is doing the right thing. While he cannot call the Reds to fight and it will cost lives. This is because he loves the people, (or at least know that he should care, or pretend to care) But deep inside, he would want the fight to go on, so would I, as I know, no changes come easy, especially Abhisit should want to power crazy. The only way to take back what belongs to the people will be to continue fighting. People here are fighting with bare fist, against military's automatic rifle. I salute the Red shirts. This is the first step for democracy.

Steve Jones Discussion 35: 11/04/2010 at 08:13 PM 35

"Sad Thaksin"... are we supposed to feel sorry for him? To hell with him.

fed up Discussion 34: 11/04/2010 at 07:44 PM 34

Twenty deaths and more to come. All caused by one persons greed for power and money. Enough is enough. Back off Thaksin!!

Peter Discussion 33: 11/04/2010 at 05:04 PM 33

Mr. Thaksin suppose to be joker, you pay them to fight against own people, you make division among thais. now you saying it is up to them. you don't have faith with yr own judiciary but what about those peoples who has got Judgement from same court like death penalty or life prison. if every one say same as you, than Thailand does not need any jail. and judiciary. or come to the country and fight along with them. you took your whole family out of the country at same moment. you should be charged for murder of innocent peoples. shame to you Mr. Thaksin

Mike Discussion 32: 11/04/2010 at 04:16 PM 32

"Thaksin would like the red-shirts to use their own discretion whether they want to carry on fighting or end the protest," the opposition Puea Thai Party MP said. What a joke, is there any thai citizen that didn't know you paid all the protesters to be there? You put the Thai against the Thai yet, you sit in your comfy hotel drinking wine and watch it all go down, come back to thailand and stand beside the reds if you dare.

David too Discussion 31: 11/04/2010 at 04:12 PM 31

Discussion 27 The People Channel is very boring watching , but only available to those with Satellite TV. Compared with other TV channels , that offer the most incredibly awful soaps , it may be seen as a favourable alternative. Thailand does not have any serious news channels or political discussion of either home or

international affairs . What about some informative documentaries ; or would that risk educating both city and country people too much ?

Kasper Discussion 30: 11/04/2010 at 04:10 PM 30

"Thaksin would like the red-shirts to use their own discretion whether they want to carry on fighting or end the protest"Thaksin claims he is not in command of the red shirts. If that is the case, then why is the above statement necessary? Did they not use their own discretion all along?

Ken Discussion 29: 11/04/2010 at 03:49 PM 29

PM Abhisit..You have the respect of the decent Thai community,and foreigners like my self who love and call Thailand their home.I beg you to stay strong,I beg General Anupang to stand with you side by side...Bring the real murderer,thief,liar to his deserving justice.Bring his estranged wife to justice.Let them serve their prison terms and go into exile.The Thai people are the best. Support your PM and allow Thailand to move forward with honesty and a common goal for all Thais.My prayers are with you all.

Somchai Discussion 28: 11/04/2010 at 02:55 PM 28

Khun Thaksin, you sent your Red Shirts, many of whom are just simple, poor farmers who wanted and needed your 500-1,000 Baht per day, into a confrontation with soldiers, knowing that they would use tear gas and rubber bullets. You had your Seh Daeng & Co. fire grenades and live bullets at the soldiers. What did you expect would happen? All this just to get your corrupt money back. Now carry on with your caviar!

Jackso Discussion 27: 11/04/2010 at 02:41 PM 27

Well verse Thaksin, how could they (reds) make rational decisions if they only allowed to watch PTV and read your twitters.

Bangkok-ian Discussion 26: 11/04/2010 at 02:36 PM 26

Now Thaksin has what he wants-hes the lone man to blame here hes nurtured the red shirts to start this confrontation and is gloating on the deaths of Thais-why-because he was thrown out for human rights abuse-gagging the press-embessling funds and a myriad of other crimes against Thailand-hes wanted in Germany, UK, Dubai and Thailand-still he cannot stop his ego from hurting others-send a death squad to Slovenia to kill Thaksin and trhe problem ends

BKK Farang in Exile Discussion 25: 11/04/2010 at 02:32 PM 25

Thaksin is sorry, why he has paid for the REDS to be there, its totally his fault, it calls for the magic bullet!

Wombat Discussion 24: 11/04/2010 at 02:06 PM 24

"Thaksin would like the red-shirts to use their own discretion whether they want to carry on fighting or end the protest," So having led his Red Army to the point of conflict, he now backs away and washes his hands of the consequences? What a leader! What a coward.

Colin Discussion 23: 11/04/2010 at 02:00 PM 23

Thaksin Shinawatra, 'sorry'?...Hahaha he's delighting in causing the deaths and injury of scores of people! He should be charged with murder..After inciting the uneducated farm folk of the north to commit crimes (which of course he will never be brought to task for) over a period of many months he finally gets some 'real' blood on the streets...Well done Shinawatra, you can now officially claim you are 'to afraid for your life to return' which neatly ties a few loose ends up for yourself, as you lie in the lap of luxury, wandering foreign countries under the guise of 'exile' with your family. As a matter of interest why arn't your children standing at the front of the protest marches?Afterall they have no convictions hanging over them ,like yourself.. We already know why they arn't defending your 'honour' in Thailand. Because like you, they have no moral scruples and are also cowards. Come back Shinawatra, the good people of Bangkok and Thailand await your return with baited breath!There's a man in uniform with handcuffs and a setof keys dangling by his side..(can't think who they might be for..) Primeinister Abhisit is a million times the man you will ever be! Not some greedy scumbag, who doesn't know when to take his nose out of the trough like yourself!

YellowRed Discussion 22: 11/04/2010 at 01:35 PM 22

He said the ousted premier will also gather funds to help the victims besides the Puea Thai Party and the UDD.Gather funds from whom? He's been funding the redshirts all along. As if we didn't know.

Fletcher Christian Discussion 21: 11/04/2010 at 01:34 PM 21

If you had spanked the children a month ago the money would not be fleeing to border towns with Malaysia next thing on the agenda is Thaksin he is the cause of the current unrest or atleast a contributor and needs to be brought to justice along with the twenty some odd people under indictment Its not Abhisit fault 15-18 people are dead and 600-700 injured its Thaksin Shinawatra's fault and the UDD ...bring them all to justice. Its time to spank the children

Harryon Discussion 20: 11/04/2010 at 01:32 PM 20

Poor Mr. Thaksin feels traumatised, while relaxing on his island in the Adriatic Sea. Maybe he would feel less traumatised if he spent his money supporting education and advancing farming methods in Northern Thailand. His feelings of guilt could originate with his selfish exploitation of Issan farmers, by paying them to stand between solders and his ex-military Red Shirt Thugs. Mr. Thaksin, I reccommend you be arrested, tried in a Thai court of law for treason and imprisoned for the remainder of your life. And if you avoid my favoured result at least I am comfortable in the knowledge you feel the guilt for your abuse of these poor people. Ron Harrison

Brian Discussion 19: 11/04/2010 at 01:29 PM 19

It's unfortunate that one man's meglomaniac has led to this tragedy. It's also unfortunate that he's such a coward that he wasn't willing to stand in the front-line and take a bullet, like his paid goons.I think many would gladly

trade all those killed and injured for Taksin's body lying on a slab in one of those hospitals now tending the wounded.

Corboz Discussion 18: 11/04/2010 at 01:19 PM 18

Lord Thaksin has realized that dividing the nation will not clear him from the charges he faces. Don't stop, go and incite unrest, isn't it your favourite game ?

NOQ Discussion 17: 11/04/2010 at 01:15 PM 17

Thaksin Shinawatra.....SHUT-UP and BACK-OFF...All of these deaths and injured ARE YOUR DOING.....you happy now you mongrel lowlife. Stay in exile where you belong. NOBODY but NOBODY wants to hear from you again.

Enough Discussion 16: 11/04/2010 at 01:14 PM 16

He is traumatized by the violence he has been calling for since last April? Someone please bag this depraved animal. Don't shoot the protesters, shoot the UDD leaders on stage directing the violence.

kon\_siajai Discussion 15: 11/04/2010 at 01:08 PM 15

Mr. Thaksin, how do you feel? Sad?

Jerrold Discussion 14: 11/04/2010 at 01:06 PM 14

how about him paying for the damage caused in HIS name to this country?

Peace4Thai Discussion 13: 11/04/2010 at 01:06 PM 13

What hypocrisy? Just yesterday when the crackdown started, Thaksin sent an SMS to ask for more protestors to go to the street. His children should go to the street to fight for his father. I do not agree with violence but it seems there is no other choice.

ROBERT Discussion 12: 11/04/2010 at 12:55 PM 12

Well mister, fugative, former prime minister were all of these deaths worth getting your money back? Was your financial support and encouragement worth causing Thais to kill Thais? Please, for the sake of those you claim to love, call off this demonstration and be satisfied with new elections in November.

Lol Discussion 11: 11/04/2010 at 12:55 PM 11

So Thaksin is setting up "teams" to ensure no one lies about the casualties? Sort of like how he lied about THOUSANDS dying last April when the only two people that died were gunned down by UDD "non-violent" protesters.

Prallo Discussion 10: 11/04/2010 at 12:51 PM 10

Thaksin is traumatized ? What do you expect when the reds throw grenades after grenades in the last weeks.

Dale Discussion 9: 11/04/2010 at 12:48 PM 9

Dear Mr. Thaskin You are a lucky man If I were in charge you would be dead by now inruns

Bandrew Discussion 8: 11/04/2010 at 12:47 PM 8

After egging the Redshirts on to where many have been killed, Thaksin now understands for sure that there will never be reconciliation in the country as long as he and his family are involved in any way with Thailand politics. The ultimate manipulator's strategy is now to shed a tear and deflect criticism away from himself onto the Redshirts. I wish the Redshirts well in finding honest, hardworking leaders to help in achieving their long overdue goals.

Lol Discussion 7: 11/04/2010 at 12:45 PM 7

So Thaksin is setting up "teams" to ensure no one lies about the casualties? Sort of like how he lied about THOUSANDS dying last April when the only two people that died were gunned down by UDD "non-violent" protesters.

Ysia Discussion 6: 11/04/2010 at 12:37 PM 6

Mr. Thaksin tell the reds to stop and save more lives. You're being sorry isnt enough,we're talking about lives in here. You have affected Thailand in general and our lives in particular admit it or not.Just stop inticing people. You may be their "leader", and as a leader you shouldnt put their lives of your followers in joepardy. The Reds became so unreasonably annoying.How I wish you were here to witness everything that has been happening since the very first day of the protest.you would always talk about DEMOCRACY. In a democracy, you should also respect the rights of others specifically the general public who have long suffered from the chaos resulting from the protest. Dont we have rights as ordinary citizen? Think about that Mr. Thaksin.

Darika Watchalottaporn Discussion 5: 11/04/2010 at 12:30 PM 5

All of this death is sad and could have been avoided. Thaksin is "sad" but this is not the first time he has had blood on his hands. Peasant uprisings lead by the wealthy and powerful seldom work out well for the peasants. Meanwhile, get used to the Reds playing the role of innocent victims. I admire the Abhisit government for showing so much restraint for so long. On Saturday they had little choice.

Tonyg Discussion 4: 11/04/2010 at 12:23 PM 4

Spare us the crocodile tears! As if we believe that he is handing discretion for violence back to his generals. Thaksin's hands are now stained with the blood of yet more Thais.

How sick Discussion 3: 11/04/2010 at 12:18 PM 3

What did the past PM now fugitive expect to happen. Why did the red shirts have weapons and bombs? The government must make sure they clear the streets of Bangkok and all of Thailand of those that want to ignore law and order so that the Thai people can live in a peaceful society.Thaksin makes me sick to my stomach, were is his family when this is happening oh yea safe in another country just like him. Fight for me, I am so lonely and I want to come home but I must get amnesty, the money I earned by abusing Thailand with my power as their PM and of course I want to run the country the rest of my life. But you will not have to stand in line waiting for me to pay you to protest each day.

How come he did not feel bad for all the people he had killed under the guise of a drug war and when they had a protest in the south, he said they broke the law so it is their fault. Well the red shirts are breaking the law so I guess if you believed Thaksin then it is their fault but I do not believe that I believe it is Thaksin fault using people once again for his personal gain. What we are experiencing has absolutely nothing to do with democracy. I hope for all Thais that the red shirts go home and the government continues to improve the countries economics as they have done a great job considering what they inherited and I do hope that this government will also help to get the people of this country educated and of course corruption will have to be cleaned up at so the country has a chance.

Geoff O Discussion 2: 11/04/2010 at 12:16 PM 2

Hypocrite. He called for civil disobedience, he said I wish I could be there to fight with you and he made dozens of similiar exhortations including yesterday by SMS. Now he is saddened. He will help fund the red injured but nothing for the soldiers. What a hypocrite.

Kasper Discussion 1: 11/04/2010 at 12:10 PM 1

How fortunate for Mr. Thaksin that neither he nor his family were anywhere near the battle. I guess now the red shirts know they will get paid even more by Mr. Thaksin's fund if they die, the fighting will continue.

### **Topic 3 House dissolution: 'Only option'**

Miss Bella The Bkk resident Discussion 59: 12/04/2010 at 01:27 PM 59

It was really sad that the clash led to the tragedy but I think the PM should not dissolve the House. It will be the same old cycle. If some minority people aint happy with the gov, come to protest, cause troubles to the country and thats it, they win. The Bkk residents have been patient with the demonstration all over Bkk. If the gov fails in running the country, people will decide in the next election when its time comes. I hope that this will end soon.

Double D Discussion 58: 12/04/2010 at 09:40 AM 58

Tell me what would you do if this happened in your country, would you stand up and fight against the Coup leaders and the goverment that was installed by them or would you take the apathetic way out and just accept it, the passion that most of you waste here would be better championing for a real cause of protecting the peoples constituion. Hang the Military and the perpertrators of the 2006 Coup for the treason they commited and restore the laws of the previous peoples constitution. Remove the military completly from politics any one with military service should not be able to enter Politics. Ban them all together. Had the military not been ordered to disperse the Red Shirts no of these people would have died. the Blame clearly lies on the military. they started it and now they are scared of what they gave birth to.

Sonnie Discussion 57: 12/04/2010 at 08:28 AM 57

This is no longer a political demonstration with democratic principles. Once the first grenade was thrown and casualties resulted it was a war. My praise to the military for using restraint so far in maintaining what peace

there is however temporary. No negotiating with "urban terrorists" now. Finish the job and remove them from bangkok.

As I see it Discussion 56: 12/04/2010 at 03:42 AM 56

Thaksin is guilty of murder, insurrection and mayhem. And so the Red Tshirts got what they were begging for. This is what happens when someone from any country defiantly breaks the law, antagonizes, taunts and dares the Military. Anybody remember Jim Jones and the Jonestown Massacre? And here we have yet another case of a psychotic sociopath leader taking his lambs to slaughter. Except in this case the self proclaimed divine leader Thaksin (pronounced "Toxin", a Telecom Billionaire turned fugitive) has fulfilled his agenda in having brainwashed and led his sheep to slaughter, in hopes of regaining more power and wealth by overturning the current Government that exposed and deposed him, without then having to turn the sword on himself. It's a pathetic and sad case... he's taken the "Red Tshirt" gang, the majority being rural poor, not a very educated nor bright lot, and through extreme lies and relentless propoganda, led them to believe that if they can return him to power, he will deliver them from all that is challenging and difficult in their lives. He's now for the second year in a row orchestrated and led them into a half-baked, half-wit uprising fueled by blind hysteria and ignorance. So now after holding the city of Bangkok hostage for nearly a month with their endless threatening tirades and the occupying of tourist centers, the "Red Tshirts" have been orchestrated to challenge and attack the military troops on guard. Not a very clever thing to do in any country and the outcome is guaranteed to be unpleasant and certainly bloody. Anyone would know this. The Red Tshirts have been waiting for and pushing for this bloodshed to happen (they even went so far as to throw their own extracted blood around the streets of Bangkok a few weeks ago, a true showing of their troglodyte intellect). Thaksin & his cronies must be held responsible and tried for mayhem, insurrection and of course murder! But of course, this isn't the first time Thaksin would be guilty of murder...

Jim in Auburn Discussion 55: 12/04/2010 at 01:26 AM 55

The PM cannot dissolve the house. This we just show that mob rule can overturn the government. What would happen next? Which ever party lost the election would bring a bunch of protesters in the street. They would call for a new election. Using the logic of the people saying that they should have a new election, then the new government should have elections again. Then after the next election, whoever lost, would protest and call for another one... It would go on forever, knowing that if you lose the election, you can just protest and get a new one. People that say that the current government is not legitimate, because Samak and Somchai were kicked out of office by the courts. Do you not want to punish those that cheat in the elections? If another election was called, and the winning party was found to have cheated, would you not want them to be kicked out? And if that created a different coalition government, then it is still a legitimate, elected government. To those that say that the case against the democrats is dragging on in the courts, then that is what you protest over. You demand that it is finished quickly. If the courts rule against the democrats, then you will get a new election. You cannot just

protest because you do not like the elected government. I seem to remember that was what the PAD and yellow shirts were protesting against, and occupying the airports over. To press the courts to do their job and finish the case. Not to just have the government call a new election because they did not like them.

Soiari Discussion 54: 12/04/2010 at 01:05 AM 54

Although I don't have right to say to Thai (because I am not Thai, I am Japanese), I hope this conflict will be solved with democratic way...

A Williams Discussion 53: 12/04/2010 at 12:20 AM 53

the solution is when its election time vote for who you want .. mob rule is pathetic.. gordon brown in the uk will be out of office in may this year, I dont see any mobs demanding it but the people will

alfa1 Discussion 52: 12/04/2010 at 12:17 AM 52

Media is a powerful weapon. Would you agree? Now, the red shirt leaders have been using PTV as a tool to amplify the hate around Thailand. It's sad. ASTV did the same. We are facing moral problem as the nation. Our government must stop the hatred information now. Enough death already. Dissolution of the government would not help. It's ok to hold anybody hostage. "Mai Pen Rai" no more.

Eckstatik Discussion 51: 12/04/2010 at 12:12 AM 51

Discussion #32: "An election 9 months from now is no good as the military re-shuffle will take place in September"...this comment has to epitomize the worrying state of Thai politics right now!! In what other democratic nation could such a comment be comprehended or even stated?? Clear proof as to why Thailand may simply not be ready for true democracy; the entire process revolves around the military! Will new elections therefore really be able to achieve reconciliation of the classes in Thailand?

Eckstatik Discussion 50: 11/04/2010 at 11:51 PM 50

Abhisit was damned if he didn't and now that he has taken action he is damned that he did. It is interesting reading the reversal of opinion in most comments; two days ago the government was branded weak and indecisive and today they are tagged dispicable. My sincere condolences go out to all those tragically killed or injured, from both sides, but is it really any surprise that this was going to happen when such pent-up anger clashed in such vast numbers? RIP

Sadden Discussion 49: 11/04/2010 at 11:44 PM 49

I am so disgusted to see this democrat party in office now. It made me want to vomit at their face after they used violence against the people. This is so sad. They need to get the butts out of office immediately.

Joe Discussion 48: 11/04/2010 at 10:44 PM 48

Discussion 20: very intelligent comment. And who are Somchai and and Chaturon alligned with?

hahahahaha.....



Les Discussion 47: 11/04/2010 at 10:37 PM 47

Can anyone imagine what would have happened had it been the yellow shirts who suffered 600 injured and many killed by gunfire? All the academics that would've called for the dissolution and resignation....all the business leaders.....those in the high institutions would've come out.....Bangkok would all be in black, etc, etc, That says it all. One life is more equal than others. But I honestly believe that Abhisit is not worthy to be called a human.

Bystander Discussion 46: 11/04/2010 at 10:23 PM 46

Dont be fool by such statement.....

However, Deputy Prime Minister Sanan Kachornprasart said dissolving the House was not the government's only option. You will be left high and dry to face the problem yourself. better dissolve and move forward to ensure no more death. Nothing to be ashamed to accept the fact that you have no mandate to govern.

Jason Discussion 45: 11/04/2010 at 10:21 PM 45

Abhisit had no morale authority to lead a crack down after rewarding the PAD for their highly disruptive protest at the airport by making one of their leaders the foriegn minister. He has even less authority to be PM after using rubber bullets at short range and firing into the chest rather than the legs (which is now the advised part of the body to aim for) and live bullets. Abhisit says no live bullets were used but they were. This is a complete lie. Even the doctors have said they've found live bullets. Abhisit himself admitted that they were used "in self defence". There is ample footage of guns firing live bullets. The sound is different too. The reds have a lot of empty shells.

Kuldeep Discussion 44: 11/04/2010 at 10:12 PM 44

It is the right time for a change. Thai politics, Thai scociety needs a make over.

InTheMiddle Discussion 43: 11/04/2010 at 10:07 PM 43

The fact is that there were deaths and lots of injuries as a result of the government's action. It was a risk that the government chose to take, and the govenment has to be responsible for the consequence. The prime minister is the leader of the government, and he is responsible. At the least he can resign and the Democrat can nominate a person who can better deal with this problem and be specific about when and how to dissolve the house.

Foreign National Discussion 42: 11/04/2010 at 09:17 PM 42

I fully agree with you, jock USA (Discussion #39)!!! Both Abhisit and Suthep must resign to assume FULL responsibility over the fatal incident last night! There should be NO DOUBT about this. There should NOT be "if here" or "if there" for their resignation!!! They must also be prosecuted for "murder" too! The Government must also dissolve the Parliamnent for a fresh election!

Foreign National Discussion 41: 11/04/2010 at 09:11 PM 41

Both Abhisit and Suthep must resign to assume FULL responsibility over the fatal incident last night! There should be NO DOUBT about this. There should NOT be "if here" or "if there" for their resignation!!!The Government must also dissolve the Parliament for a fresh election!

See Discussion 40: 11/04/2010 at 09:02 PM 40

I heard that Abhisit will propose this national government idea rather than dissolve the house. However, I disagree. I don't think that the yellow shirts will be a problem going forward as they will have to stand in the election under their new party "New Politics" which won't win many seats being a minority party, a new party and competing with the Democrats for all their seats whether here or in the South. Therefore, a party that perhaps will only win a couple of seats can't justify protests.

jockUSA Discussion 39: 11/04/2010 at 08:33 PM 39

Kun Abhisit you were placed into a difficult situation when you were placed into power but you accepted the responsibility that comes with the office. Having done so now you must accept responsibility for the deaths. Based on eye witness accounts by foreign tourists and international reporters on the scene real bullets were used by your second line backup at Democracy Monument. People were killed. One person had his skull shot in half. Now you have committed murder against innocents who were not guilty of more than civil disobedience. I have lost respect for Kun Abhisit and he and the general and the soldiers must be brought to justice. This is just my opinion but it will also be the world's opinion.

Khunandre Australia Discussion 38: 11/04/2010 at 08:18 PM 38

Rectification..my comment 25 was not referred to discussion 2...but to discussion 22 regarding dual citizenship of Abhisit..that makes me laugh much..silly silly.

Khunandre Australia Discussion 37: 11/04/2010 at 08:13 PM 37

Some people are dreaming when they said that the Fugitive Convicted Criminal Thaksin wanted his paid red shirts to protest peacefully..but same time bombs were thrown many places in Bangkok (of course that was not from peaceful red shirts 555). The red shirts were very peaceful in April last year when they stormed the Asean Summit in Pattaya, they were provoked they said. They are always like little angels who are provoked by the devil. Last night we saw how peaceful the red craps are. I am sure that the reds will say that the people throwing bombs at the soldiers were not their people, they were other people wearing red shirts to discredit those peaceful protesters 5555. Abhisit should not resign, he should stand firm and get rid of those violent people for good. Please BP, post my comment.

Déjà vu Discussion 36: 11/04/2010 at 08:07 PM 36

It was reported in Bangkok Post that high influential figures want the rally to end before Songklan, that's why the government cut off news and discussion channels that opposed them and go ahead with the crackdown. Abhisit and Suthep appointed Gen. Prayuth to lead the crackdown knowing his hardline stance and hate for

the red shirts. Abhisit must dissolve parliament and return the power to the people. If the majority wants him back, he'll win, otherwise, accept the rule of democracy, waiting for the military and govt. Official successions in Sept will only prolong the administration life a little longer.

Troeal Discussion 35: 11/04/2010 at 07:56 PM 35

At its peak this demonstration represented about 0.15% of the Thai population. When called on by the red leaders about 1000 in all of Thailand showed up at provincial offices. This is not a national uprising.

Fiona Discussion 34: 11/04/2010 at 07:56 PM 34

Why all the tears now when there was ample time to retreat and not let this get out of hand? The PM has said that he will hold the elections in due time, but that doesn't seem to be good enough., like spoiled children, they want their way now!! And now when push came to shove, everybody is upset with the PM and his government, when I think he was patient and handled things in a very correct and diplomatic manner. And it's true, what will dissolving this house serve? Just another few months of quiet before another upheaval over something or another.

Perplexed Discussion 33: 11/04/2010 at 07:53 PM 33

Abhisit has done his best to preserve the system and the rule of law. An investigation must be held as to why the operation caused so many casualties. The red shirts carried war weapons as well. They are not totally peaceful protestors. PM Abhisit had showed his courageous and integrity. He did sacrifice his image and future career. He is one of a kind politician, man.

Reality Discussion 32: 11/04/2010 at 07:38 PM 32

Life is tough and there are many nearly starving in the North since such a high proportion of the population in Thailand is poor whilst a few rich elite rule it. That is why they are demonstrating! They had their PM Thaksin in power. He was ousted by a coup because he was getting too many rights for the poor and the elite felt threatened. He had won two landslide victories by the way in the two previous elections. When they held new elections, his party won again. That leader, Samak, was ousted for cooking on TV. His successor was ousted when the yellow shirts held the country hostage taking over the airports and government. Then Abhisit takes control by a shaky election and he was never elected. He won no votes before for his party. Even his name means "privileged" in Thai. Now the red shirts have spent 18 months trying to get a say in politics and a vote and Abhisit has refused. They rallied peacefully for a month and still he refused to listen. An election 9 months from now is no good as the military re-shuffle will take place in September. So now you see the frustration and do you wonder why there is violence? Try living in poverty and being told you are too stupid to vote! That is how they have been treated like slaves in the 21st century... Let's not get distracted from the real facts and blame one person, Thaksin. This is about social inequality and the fact that a few have abused the many for too long. Many countries have been though it but Thailand has resisted for too long and now it is paying the price...

Rory Discussion 31: 11/04/2010 at 07:26 PM 31

Such a high proportion of the population in Thailand is poor whilst a few rich elite rule it. That is why they are demonstrating. They had their PM Thaksin in power. He was ousted by a coup because he was getting too many rights for the poor and the elite felt threatened. He had won two landslide victories by the way in the two previous elections. When they held new elections, his party won again. That leader, Samak, was ousted for cooking on TV. His successor was ousted when the yellow shirts held the country hostage taking over the airports and government. Then Abhisit takes control by a shaky election and he was never elected. He won no votes before for his party. Even his name means "privileged" in Thai. Now the red shirts have spent 18 months trying to get a say in politics and a vote and Abhisit has refused. They rallied peacefully for a month and still he refused to listen. An election 9 months from now is no good as the military re-shuffle will take place in September. So now you see the frustration and do you wonder why there is violence? Try living in poverty and being told you are too stupid to vote! That is how they have been treated like slaves in the 21st century... Let's not get distracted from the real facts and blame one person, Thaksin. This is about social inequality and the fact that a few have abused the many for too long. Many countries have been through it but Thailand has resisted for too long and now it is paying the price...

TC Discussion 30: 11/04/2010 at 07:25 PM 30

It's so easy to deny responsibility of this bloody operation. Mr. Abhisit should dissolve the house now and call for a new election. I have heard many have said dissolving the house will not solve the problem, but isn't going to the poll the first step to democracy. We need to count 1 first and 2, 3... will follow. So Mr. Abhisit don't waste any more time. Just do it and save the country from further turmoil. TC

Laohaklao Discussion 29: 11/04/2010 at 07:09 PM 29

Discussion#15. Why did you blame Gen. Payuth for this atrocity? He just wanted to be a hero. He did it just to please Ammat military right wing wackos in the king camp. In other words, he is our beloved SADDAM HUSSEIN of Thailand.

Tom Hanks Discussion 28: 11/04/2010 at 07:05 PM 28

Thaksin wanted the red shirts to protest peacefully, but Abhisit provoked them by using heavy-handed methods to disperse them, resulting in the deaths of more red shirts than soldiers. Abhisit did not care about the deaths of the red shirt civilians and the economic losses caused by the violence. He is only interested in holding on to power, even if it costs lives. If he had cared about having no bloodshed, he would've called for a fresh election. If Abhisit thinks that the majority of Thais support him and not the red shirts, what is there for Abhisit to fear about calling for fresh elections? The truth is probably that except for most Bangkokians, many outside Bangkok probably do not support a Thai-military-supported PM.

ThaiFlyGuy Discussion 27: 11/04/2010 at 07:02 PM 27

This happened on Abhisit's watch, and that alone ultimately makes him responsible.

Rab Discussion 26: 11/04/2010 at 07:00 PM 26

Those who seek absolute power, even though they seek it to do what they regard as good, are simply demanding the right to enforce their own version of heaven on earth. And let me remind you, they are the very ones who always create the most hellish tyrannies. Absolute power does corrupt, and those who seek it must be suspect and must be opposed.

Khunandre Australia Discussion 25: 11/04/2010 at 06:58 PM 25

Discussion 2...you make me laugh, never heard such silly thing.

Antonio Discussion 24: 11/04/2010 at 06:50 PM24

Oops lots of foreign media will be closed soon. They all seem to spread false information. Live rounds were used! No denial possible. I understand that Prem has instructed them to tell otherwise but Prem is old and does not understand how information travels nowadays.

Clown Discussion 23: 11/04/2010 at 06:50 PM 23

this coming from a p.m. that used deadly force at a whims notice...very convincing

Ricky, Newcastle Discussion 22: 11/04/2010 at 06:48 PM 22

Abhisit has dual citizenship. Therefore he could be prosecuted in the UK. The UK judges will always consider an arrest warrant against him if anyone Thai or foreigner files a complaint.

Prem Discussion 21: 11/04/2010 at 06:45 PM 21

Sanan needs a few more weeks to collect his money I suppose. Given the fact that the army went in with thanks and luckily lost them in the battle it shows that this bunch of people are ruthless. Let's see if the palace sends someone to the funeral this time. If not we know where they stand and who they support.

Julia Discussion 20: 11/04/2010 at 06:45 PM 20

Sanan is just another democrat party member. Let's not forget that he had the honor to be the first politician to be banned for 5 years for CORRUPTION!

james banister Discussion 19: 11/04/2010 at 06:31 PM 19

In my humble opinion the PM is a courageous and honorable man. He is also highly educated-well versed in political history.If the many of those being used to protest had only read but a little contemporary history then they would know that they are but pawns in a power struggle. Did not Mao turn against his 'Red brigade' on achieving his aims when he knew they had become dangerous due to thier indoctrination.Ofcourse, should the prevail, the village heads etc., will receive tribute and future funding-to suppress the red beast should it turn on its master. The red masses will remain the red masses!

Tony Discussion 18: 11/04/2010 at 06:30 PM 18

"At times of war the truth is the first casualty"Was the Parliament dissolved after 2300+ alleged drug traffickers were systemically executed by Thaksin during his notoriously corrupt reign? The redshirts have been prodding, provoking, verbally intimidating, physically insulting and insisting the government take arms up against them

so they can all cry "foul". The ploy was predictable 4 weeks ago, and we all know exactly why. The truth is not for the Thai people. The system does not allow critical analysis of anything Thai using the 'truth'.

Gunner Discussion 17: 11/04/2010 at 06:19 PM 17

So Thaksin's brother in law says Abhisit must resign, and obviously this is his "objective" conclusion based on what??? Enough is enough. Arrest them for treason, put them in jail FOREVER.

Kasper Discussion 16: 11/04/2010 at 06:17 PM 16

Mr. Somchai is right, Mr. Abhisit should take responsibility for the actions of the army and police yesterday. He sent them to confront terrorist, as he should, and as any good leader would. To those who oppose Mr. Abhisit, I suggest you name just one civilized country, where the red shirts would not have been dispersed long ago, with force if necessary.

Paul 1 Discussion 15: 11/04/2010 at 06:09 PM 15

Channel 7 TV has shown soldiers firing on protesters, not in the air as claimed by Gen Payuth. The blood is on him and Abhisit and the need to be held accountable. Abhisit for issuing the orders and the general for carrying them out. Dissolve Parliament immediately and all this will stop instantly. If you do not, you need to be impeached, immediately!

Gary Discussion 14: 11/04/2010 at 06:08 PM 14

Aussiebob is going to need to remind us of when yellowshirts used M79's, AK47's, petrol bombs and lit gas canisters in their protests. What actually happened was that the yellowshirts (not that I support them in the slightest) were the victims of random grenade attacks, and were attacked by the government whilst unarmed. How is that analogous to this situation last night where the redshirts were very heavily armed for conflict? In fact, they were more heavily armed than the security forces.

Time to get some perspective.

Serge Discussion 13: 11/04/2010 at 05:53 PM 13

Lessons from history: Remember bloody Sunday? 1972, A divided Northern Ireland, the army sent to quell a protest using live bullets resulted in 28 people dead and 3 more decades of violence.[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bloody\\_Sunday\\_%281972%29](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bloody_Sunday_%281972%29)As ever, the army claims it was not their fault, suggests IRA snipers shot their own people, that the protesters were looking to die as martyrs. All familiar narratives repeated on this board. Dissolve, have an election VS stay in power and shoot protesters?

Steve Discussion 12: 11/04/2010 at 05:51 PM 12

Due to bloodshed happened in Bangkok, I felt deeply sad about the incidents. Violence is not a solution. What happen to the Human Rights Commissioners (HRC)? Do not tell me that HRC is just watching it only.

Gobi de garuda Discussion 11: 11/04/2010 at 05:50 PM 11

re : aussiebob Don't you think that deaths at dispersing a crowd and deaths in a gun battle are different? However I'm just trying to draw reasonable causes in this fiasco and we might need to roam around other news agencies for a neutral report.

Jane Discussion 10: 11/04/2010 at 05:24 PM 10

The government should dissolve the house and restore peace. 20 people already died, the government has gone too far dis time

John in BKK Discussion 9: 11/04/2010 at 05:15 PM 9

I would like to remind my fellow readers that former PM Somchai had to appear in court and was disciplined for ordering the use of tear gas on protesters. The tear gas was the faulty chinese type. I believe the firing of live rounds and rubber bullets at close range would qualify Mr Abhisit to a court date. But, double standards, so it won't happen when he's in charge.

Aussiebob Discussion 8: 11/04/2010 at 04:41 PM 8

20 deaths: This is incredible. Former PM's and government officials were in trouble when only 2 deaths committed when police were trying to do their job against the thuggery of the yellow shirted PAD. The only way out is for the inept PM and the inept government to resign. This is the very least they can do to restore peace to this great country. Then who ever wins the election let everyone red, yellow, academics, business, elite journalists and officials all get behind them and get Thailand on the move again to a great nation.

Pointman #2 Discussion 7: 11/04/2010 at 04:31 PM 7

This man Chaturon Chaisaeng, sounds to me like he has a lot of common-sense. I believe I'd be listening to his advice. In my opinion, the mistake made was using soldiers to put-down the demonstrations.

Realistic Discussion 6: 11/04/2010 at 04:30 PM 6

Redshirt leaders never had idea of no-violence demonstration, they have prepared a civil war...PM Abhisit cannot resign now, he have to finish his job: evict the redshirt demonstrators from Bangkok, put in jail the reds leaders and secure some city halls upcountry. Otherwise Thailand will be in the hands of gangsters.

Dissolve the House, why not? But the PW have to finish his job !!!!

Chiang Mai Man Discussion 5: 11/04/2010 at 04:14 PM 5

Anybody remember Jim Jones and the Jonestown Massacre? This is yet another case of a psychotic sociopath leader taking his lambs to slaughter. Except in this case the self proclaimed divine leader Thaksin (Telecom Billionaire/former Prime Minister, turned fugitive after being convicted on multiple corruption/graft charges) has fulfilled his agenda in having brainwashed and led his sheep to slaughter, in hopes of regaining more power and wealth by overturning the current Government that exposed and deposed him, without then having to turn the sword on himself. It's a pathetic and sad case... he's taken the rural poor, not a very educated nor bright lot, and through extreme lies and propoganda led them to believe that if they can return him to power, he will

deliver them from all that is challenging and difficult in their lives. He's now for the second year in a row, he's orchestrated and led them into a half-baked, half-wit uprising. And after holding the city of Bangkok hostage for nearly a month with their endless threatening tirades and occupying of tourist centers, they have been orchestrated to challenge and attack the military troops on guard. Not a very clever thing to do in any country and the outcome is guaranteed. The Red T-shirts caused this to happen and Thaksin & his cronies should be held responsible.

Now Discussion 4: 11/04/2010 at 04:12 PM 4

How can anyone's job be worth so much. There is only one thing to do unless we will see more of the same from yesterday. I am not a rocket scientist but I can see clearly the correct step to take here. When you credit is washed up it is time to move on.

Wondering Discussion 3: 11/04/2010 at 04:10 PM 3

When politicians publicly offer financial assistance to casualties, I always wonder if that's followed-up by real financial support. Talk is easy.

Sam Discussion 2: 11/04/2010 at 04:05 PM 2

How about the videos showing 2 red security guards firing live rounds in to the crowd

Ramon Discussion 1: 11/04/2010 at 04:02 PM 1

PM is duty-bound to keep the laws. The only problem he has is how he came to power. Somchai and other law enforcement officers were sentenced for exercising their duties to keep the laws against the mob which resulted in 2 deaths. Abhisit has done nothing wrong, except associated with the yellow mob.

### **Topic 7 Red shirts reject latest offer for a dissolution**

Thong Discussion 73: 20/04/2010 at 03:42 PM 73

The reason is simple-the democrats will not keep their words.

Meow Meow Discussion 72: 19/04/2010 at 09:13 AM 72

While it could be thought that by negotiating with all the involved party will simply need to more protesting, consideration must be given to the fact that it really couldn't get much worse without actually desolving into a civil war. There are power brokers controlling these protest that don't care about Thailand, only about winning from their point of view. These are very complex issues and continued protesting will not resolve the problems. Only honest negotiations with a desire on all sides to make Thailand better and to reunite Thailand into a unified Kingdom will resolve the issues. Everybody seems so busy looking for reasons to continue to protest that they have forgotten that the very survival of the country may be at stake.

Bemused Discussion 71: 19/04/2010 at 08:31 AM 71

This country is crazy-you do not 'negotiate' with demonstrators (red or yellow) otherwise mob rule becomes the norm. As we are seeing now!!! Enforce the law, throw them in jail and get corruption out of the system-which is hard when Thai politicians have a poor reputation for public rather than personal service!!

Jonas Discussion 70: 19/04/2010 at 03:16 AM 70

I am all for the cases against yellow shirts going to court (a lot of them are). One difference is that the yellow shirts did not come and bring violence to Bangkok. They did not threaten to burn down BTS stations or drag the BTS drivers out of the trains so the trains would have to stop. As an outside observer I feel that the yellow shirts protested in a way that tried to hurt the then government but not inconvenience the lives of the people living and working in Bangkok. Whereas the red shirts seem hellbent on disrupting the lives of Bangkokians as much as possible in the hope it will turn them against this government.. They are sadly finding out that the opposite is true and Bangkok does not support them 90% like they claim. But mob leaders that are breaking any possible law up until insurrection have nothing much to lose as they will almost certainly spend their life in jail... so they are willing to let the law of the jungle prevail instead of the rule of law. Trying to win by number of protestors and not by negotiation. That is NOT democracy. The Red Shirt leaders are not the sole owners of the country. The government has already offered them to resolve the house as they want within 9 months and now 6 months. What has the UDD offered in return? NOTHING. This clearly shows that they don't have the best interests of their people-so called proclaimed democracy-at heart, but are pressed for time for a whole different reason..... the 46 BILLION BAHT that was reclaimed from Thaksin by the government and that will be transferred to the government coffers soon..... This is the real reason of why 24 people have died and 800 were injured ... By hook or crook, ... Thaksin wants his money back.

Laokabot Discussion 69: 18/04/2010 at 11:31 PM 69

I do agree with Discussion # 65 wholeheartedly. The argument has a merit point in which the Red should be considered. Let's give peace a time to work.....Continue to have dialogue with Thai government rather than if we have government in gridlock..

To Reality Discussion 68: 18/04/2010 at 06:40 PM 68

There are many ways to buy people, and not with just money. Perhaps a guarantee or a promise of a certain something?? Plus try putting yourself in their shoes, would you really dare defy them? Seriously man try going to one of their stage, you'll see it's all filled with foul languages, and no real productivity.

Question Discussion 67 : 18/04/2010 at 06:23 PM 67

If a house dissolution did happen and a new election is about to take place. Will all the charges against Thaksin, Red core leaders, and Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, who i've heard ordered the crackdown on the Yellow shirts, be dropped?

Josef Discussion 66: 18/04/2010 at 04:24 PM 66

These Reds will not accept anything even if the PM would say the dissolution would be in 30 days. They insist only on their demand "at once"! They want "real democracy" but they have neither any idea how democracy is working nor do they know democratic rules. They make only their conditions to their rules and extort the government. In any real democracy people can change the government by elections after the government's period ended. Now don't say PM Abhisit came to power by the coup the army made in 2006. He was elected LEGAL by the parliament in 2008. So he has the right to govern and end his period or if he knows he has no support in the house any more, he CAN dissolve the parliament by his own. After that the people can elect a new government. Extorting the government with violence like in "banana republics" is no democracy at all. That are the rules of Thaksin's dictatorship! If the Reds say they would go home at once, I would not believe it, same as they said before they were peacefully demonstrators. But they broke the law x-times everyday and even their leaders were equipped with hand grenades. This people are only liars. I hope this people with no idea of democracy will never see the parliament from inside! And think about this: Who would like to work together with Thaksin anymore????????? May be only those who will be paid by him. PM Abhisit is a very good and intelligent PM for Thailand if he could do his work without the red trouble, but it seems many people don't recognize this. He is well educated in politics and can cooperate with any important international politician. International relationship is important for every country, politically and economically. And I'm sure, he will take measures to support the poorer areas in Thailand also. He said, after he became PM, that he wants to be a PM for all Thais. But the red areas did not give him any chance as to kick him out. They did NOTHING else since the beginning of 2009, even they have forbidden the PM to visit their areas. Very sad! I hope PM Abhisit will be strong and continue his work until the next elections in time. Then maybe he will be reelected, if some more people open their eyes.

Good luck PM Abhisit!

COMMEE Discussion 65: 18/04/2010 at 10:12 AM 65

The REDSHIRT should reconsider the six or nine month offer. They need to actively talk with the negotiators and work towards a compromise. We're all Thai. Are all sides involved too corrupt to work towards a solution? Mr. PM must keep his promise if this is too work for the common good.

An Alien Discussion 64: 18/04/2010 at 04:14 AM 64

Abhisit is the prime minister who lowered himself to discuss with the UDD leaders twice without success, he later offered to shrink the House dissolution to six months and was rejected by the UDD leaders. Abhisit is time to be firm and decisive for the sake of 62 million people.

Jim in Auburn Discussion 63: 14/04/2010 at 02:16 AM 63

@Reality #57,

I have seen video on youtube of the protesters being signed up and receiving their money.



Jim in Auburn Discussion 62: 14/04/2010 at 02:11 AM 62

To all of those that say that you should not use force to remove peaceful protesters; Can you please send me your address. I would like to come and sit in your living room for a couple of months, and bring all my friends. How long do you think you would ask me nicely to go home and quit protesting in your living room before you would either forcibly remove me, or call the police to do it for you?

Civil War Discussion 61: 14/04/2010 at 02:06 AM 61

Anarchy & Civil war become more real with each passing day.

Think First Discussion 60: 14/04/2010 at 02:05 AM 60

For all those that oppose the red actions? What do you think when the yellows occupied the airport for a week, destroyed the government house and pressed the army to step in? The number of the yellow demonstrators were less than 100'000 as well. But guess since they came from Bangkok and not from the north, they do count more or what? If you did support the yellow movement-what is wrong with supporting the red one? Different colors-same actions-same goal-getting rid of the government. Don't fall for the anti-thaksin propaganda-it's no longer Thaksin against the yellows. It's a question of elite/moron controlled government against those people that are in the majority in this country. And by the way: most of the red protesters are farmers that provide food to the arrogant people of Bangkok. So treat them with respect.

Ede Discussion 59: 14/04/2010 at 02:04 AM 59

"World peace, like community peace, does not require that each man love his neighbor-it requires only that they live together with mutual tolerance, submitting their disputes to a just and peaceful settlement."

Hobiecat Discussion 58: 14/04/2010 at 12:47 AM 58

Chang Mai Skipper: Your absolutely right!

Reality Discussion 57: 14/04/2010 at 12:23 AM 57

How do you suppose these protesters are being bribed? By the really expensive fans, clappers, and lack of shelter during protest? Of course! I guess the reason for Taksin's loyal supporters wouldn't be because of the 1st time in history the poor could afford healthcare? Or the poor started becoming middle class. I guess my working class family in Thailand is uneducated and are sellouts...? I think not. Don't feed into propaganda.

Hobiecat Discussion 56: 14/04/2010 at 12:09 AM 56

I still can't believe it!.....The army chief says the house may have to be dissolved soon? The stinkin' military has been in on almost every political change in Thailand for the last thirty years dictating what is going to happen. When are they just going to shut up and do as there told by the government that is in office and stay out of political issues like they do in any other democracies. Is Thailand really a democracy? Do the military have too much power? Shouldn't the military commanders be changed every 4 years like the government? Only a thought!

Tilly Discussion 55: 13/04/2010 at 11:42 PM 55

compromise is not democracy, Thailand is the land of compromises and sabai sabai. Justice is a joke. This is the origin of problem. Time to change Tilly

wood pigeon Discussion 54: 13/04/2010 at 10:51 PM 54

Amazing isn't it? Unseen Thailand .....

Jamie Discussion 53: 13/04/2010 at 10:50 PM 53

Hey yes let's call an election today, but voters should be told they have to take a lie detector test. If they answer yes to the question, 'have you accepted money to protest?' then they should be banned from voting as their vote has been bought. Also I guess we have to disolved Phea Thai now, as the red shirt leaders are members of this organisation, hasn't Taskin funded this protest? Doesn't that mean they have broken the rules on donations? So lets report them to get them disqualified as well... How can we have a fair election when 30 million have been bribed?

Chiangmai Skipper Discussion 52: 13/04/2010 at 09:45 PM 52

This is beyond comprehension. The government of a country that represents 65 million people is being dictated an ultimatum by a group of 100,000 thugs who are being paid by an ex PM fugitive. That there is any compromise at this point boggles the mind. Be strong, decisive and start governing. A very dangerous precedent could be set here. At this point in time the government must prevail or this behavior will become common place. Name any other country that would have tolerated this hooligan behavior; none. This is not about democracy but one man's drive to win and seek revenge. Duh.

Mr. Maliner Discussion 51: 13/04/2010 at 09:08 PM 51

Sir; Don't you rather think it strange that it is enough to have a fortnight of 80 000 (??) shouting PAID bolsheviks including some (probably BETTER paid) snaiper assassins to change the government in this country? Just because one rich man can pay and LIKES NOT the way the country is run?

A Thai Discussion 50: 13/04/2010 at 08:54 PM 50

Why do we have to negotiate with Thaksin's thugs? Is there any government in this world will let them get away from this? Thai people always want to compromise, now we see the result of it. You gave them an inch, they want to take the whole arm. You ask yourself, who they think they are. ARREST THEM NOW!

Isan Discussion 49: 13/04/2010 at 08:40 PM 49

Make me want to laugh when I see the face of Suthep HAHA!! He should be held accountable for the Saturday killing along with a few other including Abhisit

wood pigeon Discussion 48: 13/04/2010 at 07:47 PM 48

To Ken Discussion #40

6th May is on Thursday rather than Sunday. This means there expected to be a low turn out which in favour of PM's party, Labour.

Outside Discussion 47: 13/04/2010 at 07:08 PM 47

Some of the comments shown here are sounded like puppets of Thaksin, so what do you want Thailand to do? Let citizens choose their own government? May be we can split this place into North-Thailand & South-Thailand so there will be 2 different definitions of democracy. If the majority of thais only know how to eat fish instead of fishing then this land definitely deserve no democracy-this can only work in places where have some "common-knowledge" foundation-we should know it's wrong to give police money because they try to accuse us for changing lanes, look at those kids on the trucks today!!

Truth Discussion 46: 13/04/2010 at 05:33 PM 46

Thaksin is perceived as a bad and corrupted guy who never do anything good for Thailand (Or is it?) Reds are perceived as poor, rural, uneducated, stupid, farmers and easily manipulated. (Or is it?) Abhisit is perceived as a good guy, speaks excellent English, clean (Or is it?) Yellows and pinks are perceived to be loyal, rich, educated, smart (Or is it?) Eliminate double standards, biased reporting, involvement of the military. Let people's vote decide and all should stick to the results of the elections.

rpt777 Discussion 45: 13/04/2010 at 05:13 PM 45

I agree with Discussion #38, except I would move Abhisit up the list as with his education he sould know better.He is now only hanging on to the golden goose as long as possible....mayby spending his nights looking for a government contract to plunder.

Peter Discussion 44: 13/04/2010 at 03:02 PM 44

I do share the view here that Abhisit (and/or Anupong) lost their cool last Saturday and that his is the main problem. Abhisit already knew that this would be a trap but he continued to take the gamble and lost.Abhisit should learn from the late Khun Samak who was PM from Jan-July 2008. When protestors took Makkawan intersection he said that area was no longer a strategic location so who cares? (some schools later scolded him).Then when they took over government house he came out with that lovely comment about it just "an old building"!! I guess Samak had lived through it all.

Pitty PM Discussion 43: 13/04/2010 at 03:00 PM 43

I am so bored of all these..which ever ways, this will have to be ended soon! I don't want to loose my JOB!!

Setta Discussion 42: 13/04/2010 at 02:32 PM 42

William, I do agree that Abhisit does share commonality with Gen. Suchinda and Gen. Thanom but perhaps not for the reason you state which is a I guess I future even that you're assuming. Both Gen. S. and Gen. T. lost patience with their peaceful supporters at Sanam Luang. They simply couldn't stand having their authority compromised. Abhisit is actually the same as Gen. S. and Gen. T. in this respect. The bottom line is that both Abhisit and Gen. Anupong repeatedly said that they wouldn't crack-down on peaceful protestors. However, then on Saturday they changed their minds ("we will clear the site this evening"). Abhisit lost his patience just as Gen. Suchinda and Gen. Thanom did which is why I agree to your comparison with these two evil men.

Personally I think Abhisit spent too long in the UK and is ignoring Buddhist principles. He's also thinks that he's God's gift to Thailand when actually he should just accept that he's ordinary.

my G Discussion 41: 13/04/2010 at 02:12 PM 41

I have no idea why even bother to propose a new time frame to the UDD, it's quite obvious that they'll reject anything proposed to them because they conceive their side as having the upper hand. Also I believe Anupong seems a bit fishy in all this. Another point i don't understand, if the UDD believes that the military is behind all this, and is the only institution with the highest authority in this country. Then why support and urge for a house dissolution, it totally seems unrelated. Plus Thaksin once he returns will also be backed by his own set of Military officials who are just waiting for the MONEY from Thaksin. Ultimately we're back where we left off; another military backed double-standard society. Oh right, it's different some may argue, because Thaksin has a populist policy that benefits the poor, but i remind you that those policies are and will never be the solution to a sustaining change for the people.

Ken Discussion 40: 13/04/2010 at 02:11 PM 40

The Government of Gordon Brown announced this week the dissolution of the UK Parliament after a 20 minute meeting with HM the Queen.

The date for the election has been set for erm... 6th May 2010. 4 weeks is needed for the UK, a country of over 60 million people to organise national elections in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

closed look Discussion 39: 13/04/2010 at 02:06 PM 39

Abhisit show no remorse whatsoever...look how he interrupted people channel from airing. What exactly he is afraid of? His show to all Thai he is dishonest and not sincere with the people.

William Discussion 38: 13/04/2010 at 01:21 PM 38

"We want to call for all innocent people not to join the movement or become a tool of the movement," Mr Abhisit Vegetable said. So in other words the "people" left will be the terrorists. Well, Abhisit you now rank along side the likes of Gen. Thanom Kittikachon and Gen. Suchinda Krapayoon.

**WORST PEOPLE IN RECENT THAI HISTORY:**

1. Thanom Kittikachon; 2. Suchinda Krapayoon; 3. Abhisit Vegetable

Sot Discussion 37: 13/04/2010 at 12:41 PM 37

Recent developments have shown, ONCE AGAIN and in front of the whole world, that there is NO WAY one can trust this illegitimate govt. Mr. Abhisit is a PROFESSIONAL LIAR and NO NEGOTIATION, NO COMPROMISE are possible with such a LIAR. If UDD accepted the offer and red shirts left Bkk, within 3 days Abhisit would fabricate some new story and say the promise to dissolve was extorted etc.etc...

**RED SHIRTS, FIGHT UNTIL THE END!!! GO AHEAD JATUPORN !!!**

ML Discussion 36: 13/04/2010 at 12:27 PM 36

The army is responsible for this, for screwing it up. They could have used tear gas, and rubber bullets. Instead they fired live rounds and killed people. The army is disorganized and the generals useless. They don't act and when they do they start firing live rounds. They are useless and Anapong should be fired. The same idiot or allowed the yellow shirts into the airport. It is because of him the Government has no more cards to play.

Murphy Brown Discussion 35: 13/04/2010 at 12:19 PM 35

It really is ridiculous for the army chief to be sitting there with the politicians and saying that politics should decide everything. Well at least he's making his position clear. How can Abhisit take out the terrorists within the red shirts if he cannot even arrest the 17 UDD leaders who are clearly identifiable?

Lek Discussion 34: 13/04/2010 at 12:07 PM 34

If the Redshirt leaders keep insisting on immediate elections, the only option may be for the Military to take over and install martial law. Is this what the Reds want to happen? The Army will be far tougher on the protestors under martial law.

Siripan Discussion 33: 13/04/2010 at 11:32 AM 33

I think the time has come for The dissolution of Parliament and Abhisit's immediate resignation. Not on the grounds of the Political Issues that have dogged Thailand for the last few months. But the way Saturday was handled. At the end of the day as the man in charge-Abhisit killed his own people Saturday Night. The 250+ Bhat his Party received was a greater corruption than the TRT had ever been accused of. Has Thaksin been persecuted by the Government of the Day. Only History will tell.

Julia Discussion 32: 13/04/2010 at 11:26 AM 32

There is no way in the world that the Reds should accept a term shorter than 2 or 3 months. If they do they are screwed with general Prayuth Chan-Ocha who will take over. He is the man with blood on his hands. He is bloodier than Sonthi who killed scores of people in a temple row in the South. The kind of killing Abhisit now wants to put in the shoes of Thaksin. If there is a new government before August Prayuth can take his place on the steps of Central World and start taking care of the shoes of shoppers.

John p Discussion 31: 13/04/2010 at 11:26 AM 31

Ok PM. Dissolve parliament soon, but on one condition. the red shirt leaders all sign a statement that they renounce Thaksin and will send people to arrest the criminal. I think we all know the response.

Anthony Discussion 30: 13/04/2010 at 11:22 AM 30

I do not know whether is it safe for me to travel to Bangkok this coming Friday.

a Vietnamese Discussion 29: 13/04/2010 at 11:20 AM 29

who is holding the power in Thailand? I know him, anapong. If this gov. fall, a new gov will be fallen as same. I'm bored to your country.

Kasper Discussion 28: 13/04/2010 at 11:11 AM 28

"Mr Abhisit said the government considered armed assailants attacking security forces on Saturday night to be "terrorists". The government would move to separate the "terrorists" from innocent demonstrators." Innocent protesters who are not physically distancing themselves from the terrorists are terrorists as well. Terrorists should be shot and killed, simple as that.

Marquis Discussion 27: 13/04/2010 at 10:51 AM 27

PM Abhisit should launch a national referendum on house dissolution. Let the Thai people decide.

Majoritythai Discussion 26: 13/04/2010 at 10:45 AM 26

The later the house is dissolved, the more Thailand will lose and the more the current rulers of Thailand will take advantages of the state and the people. I wonder if everyone here is sincere enough to accept this fact!

Yun Discussion 25: 13/04/2010 at 10:21 AM 25

I don't understand the govt, now they cannot separate the terrorists from the innocent protesters but they keep telling to use the security forces to end the unrest again, how about the innocent one. Why don't the govt won't think about their safety. I think it's thoughtless.

John in BKK Discussion 24: 13/04/2010 at 10:06 AM 24

This is what happens when you negotiate, make promises, then change your mind. After the ThaiCom negotiation a few days ago, who would trust a promise from the Democrats? Abhisit has lost all credibility to the UDD. That said, 3 months minimum is required to properly setup and hold fresh elections in Thailand. An immediate dissolution isn't such a good idea.

fair and balanced Discussion 23: 13/04/2010 at 10:05 AM 23

A picture really does say a thousand words

General Anupog, the real power behind the government!!!

Everybody knows we need new elections before he retires in September. 3 months from now, would seem a reasonable time frame.....thats if the Dems are still going of course???

PLEASE POST

jj Discussion 22: 13/04/2010 at 09:59 AM 22

Here we go again.

The military chiefs getting involved in politics. Have they learnt anything about democracy or do the military chiefs still think that they are running the country. A: They have have learnt nothing & they do control the country. How sad.

Majoritythai Discussion 21: 13/04/2010 at 09:53 AM 21

besides buying time so to steal more from the state and the people, what else the rulers of thailand are capable for? i guess a number of thai educated people know the answer but they enjoy such an old political environment and uncivilized society whereby the poor are kept uneducated and easily fooled by their peers in power.

Unfortunately to the current rulers and their so-called educated alliances, they can not stop the world and democracy from moving forward.

Chiuchick Discussion 20: 13/04/2010 at 09:06 AM 20

Knowing-I am sure thats a fact-Thaksins a marmite character all right-people seem to love him or hate him-not so sure he is safe now in any country in the world-I bet he is glad Thailand doesnt have á Mossad

Syd Discussion 19: 13/04/2010 at 09:01 AM 19

i dont know why Taksin has to stay in other country, as he is the main of this problem, why he doesn't come back and solve the problem together, as we are Thai, if there any problem, we should solve together, it is not like this, set up a problem and let other people solve it, it is not a good leader, we should call him something which is not human.

Maprow Discussion 18: 13/04/2010 at 08:59 AM 18

6 Months?!?! Those red-shirted fools can't wait 6 freaking months? What about time to plan, campaign, etc?

Knowing Discussion 17: 13/04/2010 at 08:50 AM 17

Thaksin will never again be P.M. as he knows his life is forfeit should he return to thailand. To few friends and many many enemies now.

A Thai Discussion 16: 13/04/2010 at 08:47 AM 16

Let the final showdown begins!

No more negotiation, no more talk to these paid thugs. The government has to stay for majority of Thai people!

Frequent Visitor Discussion 15: 13/04/2010 at 08:42 AM 15

PM Abhisit, said "Once the "terrorists" are clearly separated from innocent people, the government will be able to map out appropriate measures to end the unrest". So how does PM Abhisit define "terrorists". I guess that this strategy is more applicable to the deep South. PM Abhisit, do not try to hold on to your chair. It will make you fall harder. Bow out gracefully to return to fight another day.

SoSad Discussion 14: 13/04/2010 at 08:37 AM 14

Hilarious. So backward and dysfunctional.

Chiuchick Discussion 13: 13/04/2010 at 08:24 AM 13

Simply order all military to report to barracks immediately. Those who are missing unless there is given information, for example, wounded in hospital, are presumably dressed in black.

Lucky Luke Discussion 12: 13/04/2010 at 07:56 AM 12

So, after Parliament dissolves, then what? What is the UDD's longterm plan for Thailand? It seems as though dissolution of Parliament is UDD's only platform.....

Greg Discussion 11: 13/04/2010 at 07:51 AM 11

All we want is for Mr Abhisit to dissolve the House and call new general elections urgently," Mr Jatuporn, a Puea Thai Party MP, said.

Since when do the Red Shirts speak for all of Thailand...?

K. Jaeb Discussion 10: 13/04/2010 at 06:44 AM 10

Interesting to see the terms armed insurrection being used all the time while there was absolutely no violence until the army stepped in. The days of this government are numbered anyway. And I would consider accept such a large payment for business favors (the payment was made to get the investment approved in MapTaPhut that were later declared illegal) a lot worse than appearing in a cooking programme for a couple of thousand baht expenses.

Pidtha Discussion 9: 13/04/2010 at 06:41 AM 9

One more example of "the Curse of Thaksin's Money".

Kev Discussion 8: 13/04/2010 at 06:39 AM 8

There is never was such thing as Democracy in Thailand, every political party here is corrupt. The red shirts claim to be fighting for democracy, yet everyone's real plan is to get Thaksin to be PM, sound more like a dictatorship to me.

PEACE Discussion 7: 13/04/2010 at 05:52 AM 7

Unfortunately Thailand will never have democracy because in general you don't abide by the fundamentals. Every one has difference of opinions and values which every one is entitled to have. The biggest problem facing Thailand that there is too many chiefs and not enough Indians as they say. If the chiefs don't get their way then God help anyone who stands in their way. Point and case the Yellow Shirts in 2008 and now the Reds. Now it is looking like the current government may have to dissolve anyway because of the EC findings. This is all looking like a carbon copy of what happened in 2008 with the previous government with having to be dissolved. This merry-go-round will never stop unless you understand democracy in its true form. Respecting each other's values and opinions but above all you cannot always have your way!!

PEACE

Gery Discussion 6: 13/04/2010 at 05:51 AM 6

First of all, why is the Army Chief discussing politics? That is because the military overthrew the civilian government under Thaksin. Don't the Thai people realize that the military is in charge and that the constitution and rule of law is meaningless? Sad, so sad.

SWS Discussion 5: 13/04/2010 at 05:31 AM 5

The nature of red protest has changed to armed insurrection and terrorism. And as such, the situation needs to be handled accordingly. The government is entitled to use all possible means to disarm, arrest and neutralise the armed combatants mingling with the demonstrators. On top of that, in-depth investigation should be followed up

and punishment meted out accordingly. For now, house dissolution and dissolution of democratic party is not going to help. The immediate task is to restore the rule of law and quell the protest, which is now becoming an insurgency and terrorist operations. Only after this, should the concerned people settle the issue of dissolution within the framework of existing legal system.

Nok Discussion 4: 13/04/2010 at 05:22 AM 4

New: The Election Commission told a press conference that it voted 1:4 to request the Constitution Court's order to dissolve the Democrat Party. The party was accused of having unlawfully obtained donations from TPI Polene. In the next step, the EC will pass on the case to the Office of the Attorney-General to consider before sending the case to the Constitution Court. Matter still needs to go to the Constitution Court and then there are two key issues: (1) will court uphold the dissolution of the Democrats?; and (2) ban all executives for 5 years? We will have to wait and see. Will we get proposals to amend the law? So the Democratic party is over anyway. Mr. Abishit and other democratic congressmen will be banned from politics for at least 5 years for corruption.

SPICEMAN Discussion 3: 13/04/2010 at 04:41 AM 3

Democracy in Thailand is no longer possible. Regardless of the result of the next election, the losing Color will take its cause to the streets protesting (again). A "2-states" Thailand now officially exist, and is inching ever closer to a civil war.

Next time, neither sides will repeat Apisit's stupid mistake of "taking knife into a gunfight."

Jocky Discussion 2: 13/04/2010 at 04:36 AM 2

It's anarchy at the hands of the red shirts, they aren't interested in negotiating, only overthrowing the govt, this is treason. The army should do Thailand a favour, take control, impose strict martial law for six months while a new all inclusive election is held, anyone causing trouble or organising protests should be locked up. When it's all calmed down they should lift SoE and retire to the wings for good. The Reds get their election, the army back out of politics, law and order should then be left to sort things out. Enough damage has been done to this country by protestors, time to crack the whip.

Rational Discussion 1: 13/04/2010 at 04:01 AM 1

Isn't it obvious? UDD demands immediate dissolution. It's been made quite clear that it's non-negotiable. The government well knows that their 6 month time frame would not be accepted. I suggest they use their time more productively and stop wasting precious time and taxpayer's money. The media already predicted that it wouldn't be accepted. Not only that, when the EC ruled that the TRT party had to be dissolved, was the TRT party given 6 months to dissolve?

**Topic 9 Puea Thai: Gen 'P' planning a coup**

Bob Discussion 49: 21/04/2010 at 09:35 PM 49

Peua Thai needs to be investigated for its support of unrest and disorder and it's role in UDD. What a mess of governing they'd make; best they keep still and show they have some sense.

Ivy Discussion 48: 21/04/2010 at 03:25 PM 48

Which is better? Mop rules or Army rules?

Col Discussion 47: 20/04/2010 at 01:40 PM 47

Let the military control the red mob, coup or not it doesn't matter. PT complained use of excessive force by government, didn't the mob threw pipes, stones and fire bomb at the soldiers. When the military intervened decisively, the mob would surely disperse. It is good to have the military watching over them.

Raimund Discussion 46: 19/04/2010 at 05:14 PM 46

There is no way for a fair election now. The reds are a mob. The only way is to arrest the leaders and charge them for treason.

Runaway Discussion 45: 19/04/2010 at 03:53 PM 45

Thailand is trying to set the world record of numbers of coup... The PAD finds way for a coup to oust the elected government... UDD dislikes the unelected government that PAD prefers... What kind of Democracy PAD and UDD are looking for the land of smile... As far as i know, the beginning of Democracy is election... Then there will be other steps followed up later...

Geoff O Discussion 44: 19/04/2010 at 12:44 PM 44

#41 rpt777 makes a good point about settling this through an election however the #1 problem is that no Dem or coalition member can venture into Issan now due to Red intolerance.

Sadly , a fair election seems to only be a dream

David Wood Discussion 43: 19/04/2010 at 11:08 AM 43

It's all very sad. I remember a CNN reporter saying at the time of the Yellow Shirt occupation of the airport.. "This is the first demonstration I've ever seen where the demonstrators are calling for less democracy".

The Thai's have to find some way to ensure a stable elected government is in power that represents the view of the majority that elects it. I'm not suggesting that's easy.

Bill W Discussion 42: 19/04/2010 at 09:06 AM 42

Excellent! Have another coup and show the world you can be just like Mynamar! The junta in Mynamar will be so proud that you follow in their footsteps. What is wrong with you people? You act like spoiled brats who, if they lose, take their ball and bat and leave the playground! Grow up! For a country that cares so much about "saving face" it sure doesn't look that way to the global community.

rpt777 Discussion 41: 19/04/2010 at 05:06 AM 41

An election is the only way to settle it, but this government is not ready for another loss and thus will never be in favor of elections. I think elections within 60 days are very do-able and they should have international monitors and both sides should respect the results.

A Thai Discussion 40: 15/04/2010 at 08:10 AM 40

What do you expect from the Puea Thai Party?

Thaksin gave them 20 million baht each for the last election. What can you expect from these unfit, unqualified and dinosaur mentality. Do you expect them to run Modern Thailand? I think they will drag Thailand to the dark age.

Geoff O Discussion 39: 14/04/2010 at 11:16 PM 39

The coup removed Takkie unlawfully. Since that time however there have been two lawful elections. Takkie was found guilty under an existing law forbidding elected officials from any action that allowed their spouse to profit. He was found guilty and had 30 days to appeal. The appeal would not have been heard until the afternoon of his next life. Takkie choose to run, his wife choose to appeal and lives here.

The army showed themselves as incompetent but they did what they promised and handed control back to elected officials. This is not the same as Burma at all

Traveler Discussion 38: 14/04/2010 at 10:54 PM 38

A coup would be another " Gun Point Control " to the Thai people, and would lead Thailand to Burma regime.

Here Discussion 37: 14/04/2010 at 10:18 PM 37

Just look at where the country is now. All this could have been avoided if the PM had just stepped down like the reds demanded. Why is he holding on to this job so stubbornly. The political position holders are elected or put in place for solving problems for the country. This bunch of officials has done a terrible job handling all things. The BP should do a survey on how well do you think the government has handled things lately. Surely the PM can find another job paying just as much. He should step down for the sake of the country and the people. Why make the people and country suffer anymore. If he is gone this will all stop and the red protestors will be off the streets. Time for peace.

JJ Discussion 36: 14/04/2010 at 09:23 PM 36

#27 he probably would if there hadn't been a coup against the courts (he did offer to go to international court).

The problem is the "system" in Thailand is corrupt and easily manipulated (as we saw by the EC's abrupt decision to recommend dissolution of the Democrat Party).

Chavalit Discussion 35: 14/04/2010 at 08:21 PM 35

I don't think that the Gen "P" needs to do Abhisit any favours. The army aren't going to launch an extremely risky, dangerous coup for the sake of either Abhisit or the Democrat party. This is just propaganda and figure hate. If they do a coup it's because they've invested so much effort into keeping the opposition out (i.e. 2006

coup, constitutional change, PAD and supporters, coercing Bumjumthai party, judiciary interference) and they're not ready to waste that effort and risk losing a lot of power. Also, Gen Prem would surely want a coup before a house dissolution to keep to keep his last years in prestige. I'm still hopeful that Abhisit still has focus left to realise that a coup isn't the best thing for the country even if it's best for him in the short-term. Sometimes you just have to accept the things that you can not change.

Mot Dang Discussion 34: 14/04/2010 at 07:50 PM 34

Traveller (22), you must be very new to Thailand. What a daft idea, "maybe a coup is not a bad idea". Where have you been over the last couple of days? This issue has been hot enough to get quite a few people killed, what do you think will happen if a coup does come about? Obviously you don't have Thai family or friends to worry about.

Wills Discussion 33: 14/04/2010 at 07:39 PM 33

Always seems important to the army for them to have amnesty. It was one of the conditions of the Gen Suchinda government before that government was finally dissolved. The last military government even wrote it into the constitution, providing amnesty for all soldiers who took part in the coup. I can well imagine it being a reason for a coup. Also, I notice that Banharn and Chidchob are saying that they would prefer constitutional changes before an election and don't forget the army owes Chidchob a favor. Abhisit won't have enough time to make these changes himself as he's already a goner.

So I put a coup at 60%, house dissolution at 30% and an unknown factor at 10%.

Thinker Discussion 32: 14/04/2010 at 07:29 PM 32

The 2 reasons given by Prompong justifying a coup are baseless, since the dissolution of the Democrat party will take more than 9 months, and in that time the military reshuffle will already have taken place (Sept/Oct). That reshuffle will put General P in the top position of Army chief. Prompong's second reason is also invalid, as General P's subordinates will not be punished anyway because the Emergency Decree was in effect at the time of their actions, effectively making them immune from prosecution (same as in the South).

Pointman #2 Discussion 31: 14/04/2010 at 06:11 PM 31

Discussion 27, The defiant Wo: You're right about the machine-gun law. Actually, the law is a little more-explicit than that, but I get your point. My interpretation of international law is correct. Why did PM Thaksin fail to come back to Thailand, and to be tried in court? Very simple. He would be returning under a military supported government that removed him from power and therefore, his chances of clearing his name under a military backed government, would be in the least, hopeless. I'm not for, or against the Thai Government. I believe, it's up to the Thai people to resolve their political problems. That can only, be done through a democratic process called "elections."

A soldier's responsibility is to follow orders. This doesn't include the undisciplined act of firing a weapon at one's own discretion. Demonstrations will have no effect on the Thai economy. Since Thailand, is the world's

leading exporter of rice, the Thai GDP will not suffer. Tourism is only a small percentage of the Thai economy. Furthermore, the demonstrations in Thailand, aren't viewed worldwide, as critical.

Balu Discussion 30: 14/04/2010 at 05:55 PM 30

insider Discussion 3, your probably right, it's not a rumor. My mother in law's sister in law also told me so. She learned it from her cousin!

Peter Quinlan Discussion 29: 14/04/2010 at 05:40 PM 29

While I don't doubt that it is perfectly possible, some would say likely, that a coup may be in the offing, nevertheless, what kind of rubbish behaviour is this from supposed people's representatives. If he has any real information, it should be passed to someone who can and will do something about it. If not, then it is just self-serving rumour mongering of the worst possible kind. It is easy to get very tired of the whole "Mr M" and "Gen P" nonsense that all Thai politicians indulge in. This behaviour simply perpetuates a climate of rumour, innuendo and half truths. I, for one, am heartily sick of it.

Richard Collins Discussion 28: 14/04/2010 at 05:24 PM 28

Where are all the soothsayers, fortune tellers and tea leaf readers? They have been keeping quiet on what will happen next!

theDefiantWon Discussion 27: 14/04/2010 at 05:15 PM 27

pointman #2: did you know that according to the geneva convention an m60 machine gun is not to be fired upon people? it's an anti-equipment weapon. why then is it one of the leading killers in war? canteens, uniforms, helmets, etc, are all classified as equipment. there's a loophole for everything. military coups are only illegal if they don't succeed. in my opinion, a soldier's responsibility is to protect his country from all enemies, foreign and domestic. and pardon me but your legal opinion just dropped for failure to recognize one tiny little detail: "In fact, based on my legal opinion, former PM Thaksin has a legal right to restore/clear his name through legal proceedings in the courts of Thailand." ....you're right. and he still has the right to return to thailand and stand trial for that which he's being accused. so, ummmm, where is he? why hasn't he come back? i don't think he ever had cause to fear for his life by returning to stand trial. the only thing he had to fear was the accusations. does he need really to fear them? perhaps then they aren't baseless. perhaps then this is the reason why the thai economy is going to the toilet again so the FUGITIVE can find a way to weasle his way back into thailand. it doesn't take a law degree to figure this out, just a little common sense.

Garth Discussion 26: 14/04/2010 at 05:14 PM 26

WoW said "He (Thaksin) openly undermined Thailand's institutions and its sovereignty, making him an enemy of the state." Actually, he did the opposite. He began to give sovereignty to the people, where it belongs. So he didn't become an enemy of the state, he became an enemy of the oligarchs who want to keep sovereignty for themselves.

Mom Discussion 25: 14/04/2010 at 05:08 PM 25

@WoW "Rule of law must be reinstated."

Hahaha. RE-instated? How about introduced? When did Thailand ever have rule of law?

WoW Discussion 24: 14/04/2010 at 04:56 PM 24

Pointman, everyone in the international community, including the US intelligence and Western think tanks were all in agreement that Thaksin was turning into an autocratic despot, guilty of buying elections and creating a massive vote buying political machine in Isan. You cannot remove a man from office through elections HE OWNS. He openly undermined Thailand's institutions and its sovereignty, making him an enemy of the state. Enemies of the state are referred to the Army who did a bang up job tossing this pile of garbage to the curb. Since then he has sown nothing but division and violence in this country and has now instigated a bloodbath the likes of which the Kingdom hasn't seen in over a decade. No he doesn't come back, and yes he is a terrorist. Nothing the army did justifies what he is doing now. You must be depraved if you think anything justifies trying to instigate a war in a nation of 65 million souls.

Lek Discussion 23: 14/04/2010 at 04:54 PM 23

By my reckoning there are probably no more than 2000 Redshirt hardliners in Bangkok who would be willing to hurl themselves on the barricades. The rest are just paid camp-followers. If the military really wanted to bring the armed insurgency to an end they could. It would mean more bloodshed, but it would be over in hours. Remember, the Redshirts do not represent the people of Thailand, only the interests of an exiled convict. The numbers just aren't there for a civil war.

Traveler Discussion 22: 14/04/2010 at 04:51 PM 22

I must admit, maybe a coup is not a bad idea if they manage to get people to change the constitution and then put that to a referendum to the people, then when that is sorted, call an election so that the politicians follow the rules the PEOPLE want!

Sith Discussion 21: 14/04/2010 at 04:41 PM 21

If another coup occurs now, Thailand definitely earns the label of "Banana Republic" and is sure winner of biggest laughing stock of all S.E.Asia

Khunandre Australia Discussion 20: 14/04/2010 at 04:33 PM 20

Better a military coup than being ruled by the Fugitive Convicted Criminal.

Pointman #2 Discussion 19: 14/04/2010 at 04:31 PM 19

Discussion 17, WOW: Come on now let's be realistic. All anyone wants is an election. Tell me one thing. How difficult is it to have an election and establish a free democracy? Frankly speaking, I don't consider Former PM Thaksin a fugitive. PM Thaksin, was an elected PM removed from office under a military coup. In fact, based on my legal opinion, former PM Thaksin has a legal right to restore/clear his name through legal proceedings in the courts of Thailand. Charging anyone with treason and/or of being a terrorist is out of the question, because

under international law, the world court regards military coups as unlawful acts of aggression and unlawful, suppression of human rights. As I said before, an election is the correct way and only way, to restore democracy in any country.

farang1973 Discussion 18: 14/04/2010 at 03:47 PM 18

Hahaaa .... great story. All this does is shows, if more proof is needed, that the PT is complicit with the UDD and the DAAD in bringing about this whole mess. I will ask everyone again: what is SO important about an election now rather than in 18 months that it has to cost people's lives? These reds don't know how lucky they are compared to people who are really oppressed in the world. What a joke.

WoW Discussion 17: 14/04/2010 at 03:34 PM 17

#11, I fully agree with you. Rule of law must be reinstated. Those who have broken election laws must face the music. Similarly those aiding and abetting a fugitive must be criminally charged and tried, and those participating in open treason and terrorism, including the entire UDD leadership, needs to be immediately arrested and denied bail until their court dates.

Sherlock Holmes Discussion 16: 14/04/2010 at 03:19 PM 16

Prompong (starts with "P") the actor must be bored not being in the limelight. So why not spread some mysterious rumours. By the way I'm convinced except the reds nobody would oppose another coup. People are sick of the political scenery here.

YoYo Discussion 15: 14/04/2010 at 03:06 PM 15

It is the old Thai game again-this and this guy

whose name starts with xyz.....has done that and that! Jeez-don't they even know their own laws. If you have knowledge of a crime or a plan for it-and a coup is a crime-you have to report it to the police otherwise you will be abetting it. The government should immediately report Mr. Prompong for exactly that reason. Then we would find out what is true and what not. I am not for a coup but compared what we have now Thailand might be a safer place to live.....

Majoritythai Discussion 14: 14/04/2010 at 03:05 PM 14

Uncivilized people do uncivilized things. If Thailand is really a civilized and democratic country, then another coup (an uncivilized act), if really takes place now, should not be endorsed. And I believe whoever stages a coup based on whatever excuses will end up having no place to live in Thailand or to find refuge in any other democratic country.

Mango Man Discussion 13: 14/04/2010 at 03:00 PM 13

Anyone know where I can get a list of Thai names beginning with "P for pillow"? Grow up!



Geoff O Discussion 12: 14/04/2010 at 02:59 PM 12

# 3 Insider, yours is the best answer of all of our comments, good for a chuckle. The girlfriend of the son of your maid maybe knows a lot more than Khun Prompong the PT spokesperson anyway or at least as much. If you had said the somtum lady in your soi also confirmed the story then that would be serious.

thai 1932 Discussion 11: 14/04/2010 at 02:46 PM 11

Watch the Stock Market react to this news. It would be worse than the April 10th. crashes. And a long term Negative will play a major role on the Future of THAILAND in all areas. Another Coup D'etate is surely not an answer, only Freedom and Justice could lead the country future.

Carlos Discussion 10: 14/04/2010 at 02:42 PM 10

I agree with Geoff If Puea Thai spokesman Prompong Nopparit is sure or even suspicious of a coup in the making then he needs to say more than someone beginning with "P" for the sake of the country its not a game of "I spy with my little eye". I tend to believe the rumour starts here with Mr Nopparit but I'm sure some folk would like a coup and I think his name starts with the letter "A"!

Peace4Thai Discussion 9: 14/04/2010 at 02:33 PM 9

This is just what the red shirts are good at, spreading fears and nonsensical rumours about everything that will benefit them but damage the country's image. Even if there was a coup, the Peau Thai should be happy about it. Isn't this what they want all along, to instigate violence and provoke the authorities so that there was no other way but to start a coup? And if this happens, they can then come forward and claim that they have been right all along and rally people to trust and believe them. To all the red shirt leaders, your tactics are old methods that have been used by many other people. Sometimes they work but at the expense of causing a lot of damage. Then you all can come forward and claim that you all have the solution when in actual fact, you all are the problem.

Michael Discussion 8: 14/04/2010 at 02:33 PM 8

How do you know when a Phuea Thai spokesman is lying? Yeah that's right. Dissolving the Democrat's wouldn't be a big issue for them, they would move into a new party and that's it. But there could be another reason to stage a coup—the military becoming fed up with incompetent or criminal civilians ruling Thailand.

Chrisp Discussion 7: 14/04/2010 at 02:28 PM 7

Fair comment Craig. I was Thailand during the last coup, and whilst it was a very peaceful affair the potential for trouble was there.

Luckily the colour of the troublemakers shirts were yellow and they welcomed the coup. This time the colour is red and I doubt they'll be putting flowers in the barrels of the troops guns! Another coup following so quickly on the back of the previous one will destroy the last fragments of respect Thailand holds in the world, so please everyone sort this out politically.

Paul Discussion 6: 14/04/2010 at 02:22 PM 6

if there is another coup, the international community should turn their backs to any administration formed by the coup makers. peace to Thailand not force on any side.

Peter Discussion 5: 14/04/2010 at 02:20 PM 5

This general must consider his decision carefully otherwise his name will go down in the wrong side of history. Why? because the whole country will oppose him.

Tarric Discussion 4: 14/04/2010 at 02:20 PM 4

So we have been reduced to playing guessing games as to what tomorrow will bring? This once great beacon of common sense in the politically rough seas of South East Asia seems it will once again fall into the dark.

Insider Discussion 3: 14/04/2010 at 02:08 PM 3

This is not a rumour.

The girlfriend of the son of the maid there told me so !!!

Geoff O Discussion 2: 14/04/2010 at 02:06 PM 2

If K Promprong is sure of his information why doesn't he name General "P", anyone who has been here for more than a few days will guess who he is talking about.

Libel is making a false accusation. The fact that he avoids naming the person confirms this is gossip to start a rumour.

Craig Discussion 1: 14/04/2010 at 01:59 PM 1

Hasn't anyone else seen this coming? Nobody is doing the Democrats any favors. He who plots the coup gets a piece of a National Park. Honestly, a coup at this point would cause blood to flow in the streets. If you think public opinion about Thailand is bad now, a coup would make Thailand just another banana republic, the economy would crumble and you can kiss tourists goodbye for a long, long time.

### **Topic 10 Military admits firing at reds**

Anny Chan Discussion 68: 17/04/2010 at 11:40 AM 68

What has to be done, has to be done.

The conclusion is The UDD Leader brings the red-shirt people to die.

SiameseCat Discussion 67: 16/04/2010 at 11:37 PM 67

Dear ricefieldradio, Discussion #66

The ruling of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ruled that the Ohio National Guard did indeed have the right to disperse the demonstrators is still stand, 40 years on.

Based on your info on Kent State demonstrator shooting, you might just help the Thai Army prove its claim that most of the bullets were fired into the air on the night of the 10th.

Let's do a little math. At Kent State, 67 bullets were fired and 4 unarmed students were killed. That is the kill

ration of 15 to 1, say. You mentioned that many thousands bullets were fired by the Thai soldiers. Applying the same kill ratio then there must be many hundreds of protesters killed, given the higher number of protesters and concentrated area that they are in. But the protester casualty is less than 20.

So it might just be true that most of the bullets were fire into the air, after all.

Ricefieldradio Discussion 66: 16/04/2010 at 06:04 AM 66

Farang-UK - Search ruled by law which is what is happening in Thailand at the moment. Rule of law is spouted but Rule by law is used. SiameseCat-Kent state happened in 1970, 40 years ago. They fired 67 rounds over 14-15 sec. 67 rounds BTW is less than 3 full clips. The Thai army fired many thousands of rounds over a number of hours. There, in a nutshell, is the difference.

SiameseCat Discussion 65: 16/04/2010 at 12:26 AM 65

Dear Chang Discussion #57 1. If you consider the United State of America one of the others democracies, then you might want to look up Kent State University shootings of demonstrating students by the Ohio National Guard. Live ammunitions were used. 2. You might also want to look up the Thai constitution, again, here is the excerpt:

"Part II Freedom of Assembly and Association Section 62. A person shall enjoy the freedom of peaceful and unarmed assembly and association. Restriction of such freedom under paragraph one is prohibited except by virtue of law, specifically enacted in the context of public assembly and to secure convenience for the people using the public place, or to maintain public peace and order during war or a state of emergency or when martial law has been declared." Clearly, the constitution does not give the protestor a carte blanc to be an anarchist. The aggression of the demonstrators of the last few weeks necessitated the declaration of state of emergency. This so-called demonstration has not been constitution-bound for quite a long while. 3. The rule of engagement was clearly announced by the government that live ammo will be used in self-defense. So given the gravity of the situation, the protestors still choose to continue impinging on the right of other citizen of the capitol and choose to challenge authority with arms confrontation in defiance of the rule of laws. Then, there are and will be consequences that they have to face.

Farang-UK Discussion 64: 15/04/2010 at 11:25 PM 64

Discussion 49. It is the future of your country I care for. This country needs strong economy which will create jobs. That is the way to get people out of poverty. Not empty promises. I regret loss of lives. Soldiers are also sons and fathers. You clearly divide dead people. To me they are all Thais. Shame on you.

Farang-UK Discussion 63: 15/04/2010 at 11:18 PM 63

Discussion 53-53. I worry about future of your country more than yourselves. The economy is the key factor to get poor Thais out of poverty. People need jobs. Thaksin is even worse. Urging you to fight for him while he and his family are enjoying themselves. Shameless coward.

Gordy Discussion 62: 15/04/2010 at 10:56 PM 62

Farang uk..you write like a Thai person educated in Usa English.....never mind eh..Most farangs support the working classes in Thailand cos we have been there and bought the t.shirt...

Farang-UK Discussion 61: 15/04/2010 at 10:44 PM 61

Discussion 50.How about dead soldiers? They are also sons and fathers.They are all Thais.I believe in the rule of law. The rule of law makes any country civilised. Soldiers were there to uphold the law. Red mob is consistently breaking the law. Why demonstrating outside allocated areas? Why bringing down your own economy?

Kkk Discussion 60: 15/04/2010 at 10:38 PM 60

at last the cat is out of the bag.

Jonas Discussion 59: 15/04/2010 at 10:37 PM 59

How can you have an election if Red Shirts are constantly telling lies on stage and calling for violence? If they lose (and even though they claim they will win, I think people are fed up with them and they will lose)... they will not accept it again and will go back on the street.They will only stop when they are in power. That's the problem. Some of their claims are valid but you cannot destroy a country to have it your way. How can you expect people to later accept the law when you are in power if you break all the laws now?You can't. Unless the Red Shirts stop their holding the people of Bangkok hostage, nothing can move forward.Maybe it's time to all boycott our leisure and business trips or dealings with the N/NE of Thailand and boycott all Red-affiliates businesses? Is that what is needed? More hardship for the people while the red shirt leaders see their bank accounts grow fatter each day?

Prettyboy Discussion 58: 15/04/2010 at 09:05 PM 58

They sai they shot live bullets to get the terrorists hidden behind the red shirts protesters, so they did shoot into the crouds.

My God. HOW CLUMSY THIS ARMY IS!!!

Will anybody be going to prison for this murders?By the way...where are the terrorists?

Chang Discussion 57: 15/04/2010 at 08:53 PM 57

Why did the army even have live rounds at the demonstrations. You don't see other democracies shooting protestors.

Francis Discussion 56: 15/04/2010 at 08:02 PM 56

"Col Sansern Kaewkamnerd said yestersday the soldiers had no choice but to open fire at terrorists" .... how many terrorists did they hurted or killed? This affirmation seems rather childish, it's not ?

Trev Discussion 55: 15/04/2010 at 07:57 PM 55

This is why I oppose censorship, because all these videos and more were available on foreign news. Yet the Thai news was talking as though the reds were shooting their own people.If I cannot trust the Thai news, how

can I trust the Thai election? Censorship of news must stop, we must be free to see both sides claims in full and come to the truth.

No Violence! Discussion 54: 15/04/2010 at 07:43 PM 54

Dear Viking (25), You call me (15) stupid and write: "Even if the red shirts where running wild setting cars on fire, it would not justify sending military with live ammunition against them." Really? Maybe the Bangkok Post should make a poll on that and we can see how many people would support shooting criminal vandals. What does the red disobeying of laws and supporting black snipers in their middle have to do with democracy? If people want democracy, the same rights for everyone and no double standard then they should do this in democratic ways and not by paying poor people money to join demonstrations and block Bangkok streets. I am sure there are peaceful red shirts who really want democracy but as long as they support criminal fugitive Thaksin and militant Seh Daeng how can they expect that intelligent people support them?

Kees Discussion 53: 15/04/2010 at 07:28 PM 53

Farang-UK(49) the red shirts ARE the poor, that is why they are protesting. Also littlebit short memory: yellow shirts were the FIRST to disrupt Bangkok, the FIRST to occupy airports and the FIRST to do serious damage to Thai economy. Forgot also the pictures of yellow shirts with handguns?

Prog Discussion 52: 15/04/2010 at 06:47 PM 52

Farang-UK 49, our PM has gone into hidding for the past 5 days and refused to give any interview. The reason given, because of his own safty! 24 death so far, 800 plus injured, and our PM ony cares about his own safty after the killing? And here we have someone only thinking and care about how much US dollars and money lost? You are unbelievable!!! No longer in Thailand, but still love it!

Discussion 51: 15/04/2010 at 06:35 PM 51

So do we have.... we didn't shoot.... we maybe shot.... oh yes, we shot but we "had to"????????? It is very interesting to read the evolving Thai news - when not the point of view desired the truth of matters only seems to surface when the truth can no longer be hidden!!!!!!!!!!

John Discussion 50: 15/04/2010 at 06:34 PM 50

discussion 49, Farang-uk, if your daughters and sons were one of the 24 killed and 900 injured, you wont be talking like that. Is money what you care for?. So dont tell us Thais how to do our Maths! PM, sadly, was educated in Oxford, that's why he is thinking and behaving like you. If you have no clue about what this Nation is going through, would apprecaite you keep you views to UK. As a matter of fact, you guys often stab each other and riot over simple football matches in UK, so may I ask you which is worst!

Farang-UK Discussion 49: 15/04/2010 at 06:00 PM 49

48... You are unbeliavable. Your PM is trying to protect the law and order. Last year Thailand lost 5 billion USD because of red mob. This year Thailand is going to lose around 15 billion if not more. Do your math. Poor will

pay the price. Hundred thousands of jobs will be lost as a direct result of red mob actions. You don't love Thailand.

TEE Discussion 48: 15/04/2010 at 04:23 PM 48

Not again (discussion 44)! Ahbisit does not seem to learn from his mistake on Thaicom (one after another). After tainted his hands with blood, he still think he can threaten and restrict the interent community with his fist? Sadly Myopic!

Wake UP Discussion 47: 15/04/2010 at 04:14 PM 47

JohninBKK does it bother you even slightly that even the UDD leaders have admitted there were terrorist gunmen firing on the troops first?

Pointman #2 Discussion 46: 15/04/2010 at 03:58 PM 46

How did whoever who fired the shots, differentiate between Red-shirts and terrorists?

John in BKK Discussion 45: 15/04/2010 at 03:46 PM 45

This is one of the videos:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXXKGQVIDzQ>

I'm trying to figure out how a simple 'clearing operation' turned into what looks more like a war zone to me . . .

Steve Discussion 44: 15/04/2010 at 03:45 PM 44

"BANGKOK, 10 April 2010 (NNT)-The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology has now been strictly curbing all defamatory internet contents that likely pose serious threat to national security with an aim of preventing further division in the society.

Permanent Secretary for Information and Communication Technology Sue Loruthai said that the Ministry had been instructed to take a close watch and curb all allegedly defamatory internet contents which possibly instigate the hatred of the people and might cause further conflict in society. Meanwhile, the internet users have been warned to use the internet in the right way or with appropriate purpose and avoid disseminating information that could create misunderstanding or instigate violent actions among the public. Also, all popular websites and social networks such as facebook, twitter, hi5 and my space will be under thorough watch.

Violators will be prosecuted by law with no compromise.

News ID: 255304100026"

<http://thainews.prd.go.th/en/news.php?id=255304100026>

John in BKK Discussion 43: 15/04/2010 at 03:33 PM 43

They should allow international media into the hospitals. I'm really curious how the other 900 were injured. My bet is gunshot wounds, rubberbullets at too close range, and head injuries by teargas canisters. Try blaming that on 'terrorists'! If you read the Thai-language forums, you'll see that most Thais eat up whatever they see on TV as the unquestionable truth. Definitely a primed population for a 1984 style government.

Kanidta Discussion 42: 15/04/2010 at 03:25 PM 42

It is very sad that Thai red shirts are irrational act like bullies.but Thai society need to be fixed also.open and talk directly and solve the problems.Education and science knowledge should give more to Thai people.Medias must help ,show them how damage that have done and give them about real images that can happen to Thailand,we might no land to live.Good people turn to go to temples and do not want to involve,but that is not helping please helping.Honestly should bring red shirts to see detention center or take them in to the boats like asylum seekers,I support Thai people ,I empathy to Thai PM,Force is not the way out,but must protect good people.Where are yellow shirts ,I think government need your support.( in peaceful way) Kay

Possible Discussion 41: 15/04/2010 at 03:23 PM 41

People who blame the government completely should reconsider their perspective, because it is quite obvious, while the commotion was spiraling out of control, it is more than possible that the casualties could've been caused by collateral damage. It is not correct to say that the army had their sole intention set at shooting at the protesters, because there were firing from the protesters side as well. So what should be done is to interview people and try to lay out the picture as clearly as possible.

Ben Discussion 40: 15/04/2010 at 03:08 PM 40

just reading again the title of this article..."ONLY SINGLE shots fired to MINIMISE casualties".... have everyone read the same? it is a joke!!! there should not have been ANY casualty! the spin doctors of this illegitimate PM should be more careful when choosing their words....

Hammerharry Discussion 39: 15/04/2010 at 02:20 PM 39

We all knew it was going to happen, but the good old Prime Ministers spin doctors are throwing this back without realizing just how much foreign news footage showing the shootings is on the internet, of course it contradicts what the government are saying why does this surprise everyone. Every Thai knows the army will turn on them, Thai history tells you that - so much for the army generals words of taking care of Thais, good old fashioned cheap words. So they buy thousands of Rubber Bullets and then open up with real ones. Ah the Fruits of Fascism are making there way to the fore front now of real Thai ELITE politics.

Kees Discussion 38: 15/04/2010 at 02:00 PM 38

Half an hour ago I watched TV. ALL thai channels were used by the government to defend their actions of last saturday. The recorded material was selected to their benefit and some army boss was very busy to hide all the incompetence. I saw fully armed soldiers hit by people with a stick and they stopped so that other soldiers could help the man. This was presented as "a very bad terrorist action".I can only say 5555 (ha-ha-ha-ha in Thai).

What group of soldiers of any quality and proper training would let that happen.Are we living in North Korea, Iran or such a country that the government thinks it is right to order all channels to broadcast their pathetic effort to clean their own frontyard ?By the way: they have a very short memory also. When 1 (ONE) teargass grenade was thrown at the yellow shirts, Abysith and friends stumbled over each other to appear for the camera's

and tell how very VERY bad that was and that you could not treat Thai people that way. Now they give the orders themselves and tear-gas is sprayed from helicopters while the army is firing real bullets.

Am I stupid or what?

Doode Discussion 37: 15/04/2010 at 01:59 PM 37

Well, every side shot. Now blaming each others is normal...but the red's supporting troops of S.D. were snipers and more dangerous than the military. These guys are cowards!! Abhisit, announce Dissolution and new elections in 4- 6 months (now is impossible), than everybody should be happy. I'm tired of this story!!!

Senna Discussion 36: 15/04/2010 at 01:50 PM 36

The sad thing is that had this footage not existed, then the government would've continued to lie and say no live bullets.

Foreigner in Bangkok Discussion 35: 15/04/2010 at 01:20 PM 35

Motherland is crying to see the incident on 10 April 2010. There is no smile anymore in Thais. Thais become brutal people. One of the frightening people in the world.

Jester Discussion 34: 15/04/2010 at 01:02 PM 34

Jeff ( Discussion 27 ), you left out the tear gas cannisters that were "dropped" from the helicopters onto the protestors !!! I really feel sad !

Wanchai Discussion 33: 15/04/2010 at 01:02 PM 33

Discussion #29 Very well said and I totally agreed with you.

Lek Discussion 32: 15/04/2010 at 01:00 PM 32

The security forces on Saturday night were there to maintain law and order on the Bangkok streets. They were entitled to use reasonable force to disperse the mob. "Reasonable force" can be defined as like meeting like. In other words, if the mob is hurling bottles or stones (i.e. with non-lethal potential) this can be legitimately met with water cannon and teargas. But if individuals within the mob choose to use petrol bombs, grenades and firearms which threaten lives then the security forces are well within their rights to use lethal force in self-defence. This is acceptable under international law. But note that this rule is not reversible-the mob could not use the excuse to use weapons in response.

Zerocool Discussion 31: 15/04/2010 at 12:50 PM 31

Ruber bullets can cause a lot of pain, and could have been effectively used to subdue demonstrators even when they had attacked the soldiers. Why the hell did the army have to fire live bullets other than to kill? Those who support the government are either too stupid or too cold-blooded not to ask that question. And please stop the uphold-the-law crap. This government did not do a damn thing to prosecute PAD, which had broken every criminal law in Thailand.

Goo Discussion 30: 15/04/2010 at 12:47 PM 30

Indeed there are many loose cannons among the soldiers that had shot at protesters under the pretext of self defence. The army and government jolly well know that once the soldiers are issued live rounds, there is no way you can control them. Investigation should also be carried out on those injured. I believe many injuries were caused by M16 (sniper dont use M16) and brutal strikes. It was reported that many death and injuries were inflicted at close range.

Jack Discussion 29: 15/04/2010 at 12:43 PM 29

I live right next to where the protesters are occupying and they are not violent, in fact many are women, children and families. You don't shoot at civilians EVER. You don't use the army to break up a protest, the army are trained to kill people not to manage civil disobedience. You use riot police to manage protests who never carry loaded weapons. I think Thailand should just drop the whole democracy name from their political system and replace it with a more appropriate name...DICTATORSHIP. In a democracy people have the right to protest as it tells the government when they are doing things wrong. All the good things in Western culture have come from the people demanding change via protesting and union action not sitting back and hoping things will change. Abhisit is an employee of the people and should act as such, he has done a lot of harm to his employer (The People).

Goo Discussion 28: 15/04/2010 at 12:28 PM 28

i got my previous description wrong...the protester's back was facing the soldier and not the protesters(as claimed by CPAES). Focus at his leg as his body was partially hidden, he was shot while turning facing his fellow protesters....it could be a stray bullets from the soldiers...

Jeff Discussion 27: 15/04/2010 at 12:24 PM 27

First it was we fired rubber bullets only.Next it was we fired live rounds up into the air.(where they fall is of no concern)Now live rounds fired at terrorists in self defenseWho does the government think they are fooling? They know they are illegitimate and will lose in an election, why do you think they are resisting allowing the people to choose?

Trust Discussion 26 : 15/04/2010 at 12:17 PM26

First they said no live bullets, then they said only fired in the air, then they said only fired at terrorists, now they say fired at anyone if they had to...So either they have no idea or they are lying as usual!I would not trust this government any more.

All the aggressive accusations form them accusing terrorists etc was all to cover up the blood on their hands.

Viking Discussion 25: 15/04/2010 at 12:15 PM 25

"If the red shirts would have demonstrated peacefully and if they would have obeyed the law then all this would not have happened."This is the most stupid excuse that are around these days. Even if the red shirts where running wild setting cars on fire, it would not justify sending military with live ammunition against them.

The only reason there is 24 dead now is because the leadership of this country is unprofessional. Because the army commanders responsible for the crackdown are unprofessional and because the soldiers armed with live ammunition were unprofessional. Look at the France24 clip. There is no one returning fire when the soldiers were hurt and dragged away. Only later are the soldiers firing back. It looks like shots fired in anger and to revenge - not to protect. The government is responsible for letting heavily armed troops even near a by most standards relatively peaceful protest.

fair and balanced Discussion 24: 15/04/2010 at 12:14 PM 24

As Buddhism teaches us.....

'Three things cannot be long hidden: the sun, the moon, and the truth'.

Goo Discussion 23: 15/04/2010 at 12:06 PM 23

I wonder why we all arguing about the details on who shoots who. There are 24 death (and the number is expected to continue rising) and close to 900 injuries. Whatever valid justifications and excuses, the fact remains that these death and injuries were resulted from the crackdown. Indeed there are many people (red shirts, government and army) should be accountable for their actions, however, as a state leader, PM should take full responsibility for his instruction for crackdown. His instruction might be valid but it was indeed a wrong judgement call. When the army retreated to avoid confrontation with the reds in Thaicom, they got a bashing from PM. So I don't think the army should be fully blamed, they were reluctantly following orders (although they controversially didn't do the same to the yellow shirts) In the past few days, PM has gone into his turtle shell. That is not what a respectable state leader should behave. In my opinion, I feel that PM should stand up for his wrong judgement call, face the music and gracefully step down while the government continues to work out a solution to end the crisis.

OMG Discussion 22: 15/04/2010 at 11:53 AM 22

Military Supporters are in denial. Denial, pure and simple. This is Suchinda 1992 all over again. Military shoots protesters. Then denies they used live ammo until they are forced to admit in the face of overwhelming evidence that proves otherwise. The only difference this time is that many in the Thai Media are sadly complicit and we have to rely on the foreign media to shame local media into admitting the military atrocities.

The facts speak for themselves. The military has shot 100's of protesters. So far 18 have died. On the other hand there are a lot of wild conspiracy theories out there conjuring up terrorist connections to red shirts. This smacks of desperation and is only a ploy to gain time. Despite the best efforts of some contributors here to convince us to accept the govt propaganda reruns that show ONLY soldiers being killed, the truth is that many more protesters than soldiers were injured and killed. Fact. This is 2010, eventually the truth will come out.

RIP.

Deftiger Discussion 21: 15/04/2010 at 11:47 AM 21

Where do bullets go after they have been fired into the air? Why is that OK? Do they just disintegrate in the air or do they fall down and land on people?

dom dunn Discussion 20: 15/04/2010 at 11:35 AM 20

I don't know who is to blame, time will tell. For the present two things stick out. First, the UDD suffered more deaths and injuries than the army. Second, the army has admitted today that they did fire live rounds at the protesters, in self defence, which seems a good enough reason. So why have they spent the last two days denying it?

Su Discussion 19: 15/04/2010 at 11:32 AM 19

In this case the situation was critical and the soldiers were doing the right thing for self-protection. On the other hand the outlaw reds, with clubs, bombs, guns, etc. will hurt them or even kill them. The reds' activities are endangering the stability of the country. Before they came to the point of violent (criminal act), they have violated many articles of civil law until the degree that they are 'dangerous'. more ++

Jay Discussion 18: 15/04/2010 at 11:24 AM 18

You don't fire at civilians if they don't harm you. In this case, the civilians were running toward wounded soldiers with sticks and bottle bombs. If you shoot into the sky, will they stop? If you were the soldiers, would you shoot at the sky and let them beat you to death?

Goo Discussion 17: 15/04/2010 at 11:21 AM 17

I watched the video clip taken by siampost (second footage) several times again and again. Watch closely, the protester was shot at the back of his head while he was turning around facing the soldiers instead of facing the protester as claimed by CPAES.

Tom Discussion 16: 15/04/2010 at 10:53 AM 16

Military and Police are upholding the law as best as they could. It is not right that thousand of people force their demand on the government while the rest of the nation are held hostage. If the police and the soldier had a real intention to harm the demonstrators, with hundreds of machine guns the death tolls on the demonstrators could be in hundreds. I totally praise the military and the police for showing great restraint even when their lives are in the harms way.

No Violence! Discussion 15: 15/04/2010 at 10:44 AM 15

If the red shirts would have demonstrated peacefully and if they would have obeyed the law then all this would not have happened. Abhisit offered a new election in nine month in an orderly civilized fashion. The red shirts rejected that offer. Probably their pay master wanted his investment back sooner than that. The reds did not unblock the streets as ordered by the emergency degree. Who is violation the law here?

Oh, I forgot the hooligans and shooters are only fake reds the real reds can obviously not be held responsible for them. TiT

Fair Discussion 14: 15/04/2010 at 10:42 AM 14

If we are talking about law, why the PAD who broke the same law 2 years ago are still free (only few died with fancy funerals). If the people who keep crying out loud to enforce the law, then the same justice MUST be enforced to both sides. STARTING with PAD. Regardless of color, this government who does not thing according to the law that they hold dear to the ones that broke it for 2 years, that why the red does not care about the government's excuse about the law. By this action alone, it discredits the government completely. So this is not democratic government but dictatorship, the same as in Iran. Go red.

Aussiebob Discussion 13: 15/04/2010 at 10:30 AM 13

In Afghanistan the USA army is not allowed to fire the rifles if there are civilians around even if they no the terrorists are shooting at them. But you say the Army fired real bullets at the Red Shirts who were unarmed and civilians were running around in chaos. After denying all week that hey fired real bullets but now the videos prove it they will have to come up with a better explanation. I respect all who are in the army as they risk their lives for all but this is not looking good foe the army at this time.

Phea Discussion 12: 15/04/2010 at 10:29 AM 12

So what about those who fight real war, will they have a chance to be promoted?

Gary Discussion 11: 15/04/2010 at 10:20 AM 11

By firing at the terrorist to protect themselves?? How would the soldiers know who is who, there were so many civilians running around during that chaos, Thats a PLAIN STUPID excuse !!

SPICEMAN Discussion 10: 15/04/2010 at 10:05 AM 10

To fire weapons in self-defense is perfectly justified. We should all stand up to support those who uphold the Law.

JJ Discussion 9: 15/04/2010 at 10:04 AM 9

We could offer a substantial reward for the arrest of the 'terrorists'.

How about US\$1million.

All Thai like money (even the Red Shirts) so I reckon that you would have them behind bars in no time at all.

Troebal Discussion 8: 15/04/2010 at 09:45 AM 8

So let me get this straight. What most of you are saying is that soldiers shooting back, possibly in self defence, is bad. Red shirts throwing hand grenades and shooting soldiers it OK. Don't you think there should be an investigation and some fact before you start charging anyone with a crime.

George Discussion 7: 15/04/2010 at 08:59 AM 7

Very sad: this Abhisit Government has lostall credibility and should go now. It is time for the Thai people to choose their Government in free and fair elections.

Seang Discussion 6: 15/04/2010 at 08:56 AM 6

Maj Gen Khattiya, Thai Armed Forces need to chart you with the high treason of your words and your actions against your comrades and country. you wear uniform, you understand exactly what I am talking about, specialty you are in the commander position.

P. Amphon Discussion 5: 15/04/2010 at 08:51 AM 5

"shot in the head from behind" could be from snipers on the roof top. The Japanese camera man gunshot wound was on the chest because his skull was partially hidden by the camera he was carrying. The firing angles on the skulls of all victims are to be disclosed.

pu.c Discussion 4: 15/04/2010 at 08:50 AM 4

Very poor. they simply take people live! very shame Thailand!

Amran Discussion 3: 15/04/2010 at 08:17 AM 3

At first the govt said they only fire into the air. Now they admit the fire at the protester to cover their fallen comrade. Next, they'll admit they KILL the protesters just to protect their own life.

Brainard Locke Discussion 2: 15/04/2010 at 07:56 AM 2

With all this lawlessness going on it's ok if I overstay my visa right? No one obeys the law here anyway.

Isan Discussion 1: 15/04/2010 at 06:48 AM 1

Finally they admit killing the civilians with real bullets.

### **Topic 11 Red shirts consolidate forces**

Dietmar Discussion 67: 16/04/2010 at 05:52 AM 67

One more reason why a new military crackdown must be avoided is to consider the consequences. Once the protestors are dispersed, they surely won't change their minds but tactics. Violent attacks as seen in the South on an almost daily basis could ensue. Is it really this what some columnists want for all of Thailand?

Geronimo Discussion 66 : 16/04/2010 at 01:06 AM 66

Hi whatever #62, the Democrats do not banned the MPs, it the the court that disqualifie them and banned them. You are right it is not hard to get 50% , but that is how democracy works. Get the majority and you can name PM and run the country, this happen in 60% of Europe.

Whatever Discussion 65: 16/04/2010 at 01:04 AM 65

Jim in Auburn #64 Mugabi won elections that the entire world knew were not fair and free. Thaksin won two elections with landslides, that the international community, including the United Nations deemed to be extremely fair. To compare the two is absurd and barely warrants a reply but if other people read what you said they may believe you if they don't know the truth.

Jim in Auburn Discussion 64: 15/04/2010 at 11:08 PM 64

@Whatever #51,"Ask the people in Australia if they would like the elected government overthrown by the military because it suited a wealthy elite."I say ask the people in Australia if they would like a corrupt PM, that controlled the courts, the media, had killed thousands in extra judicial killings, had massive vote and election buying, had major corruption, paid no tax, enriched himself and his cronies to be overthrown by the military so that the country could start fresh. Followed 6 months later with democratic elections.Ask the people of Zimbabwe if they would like the military to overthrow the government of Robert Mugabe and then hold democratic elections that he did not control. I bet most would.

Tommy Discussion 63: 15/04/2010 at 10:47 PM 63

I don't see what the different it will make..already 2 meeting didn't amount to anything. Soon after they met, Abhasive ordered a cracked down on UDD and kills 24 people so far. Just take a look of propogandas which putting everything on channels TV, only presenting one side only which is government sides. I don't know whose is brain washing whose...I think this Abhasive government have much to show to Thai citizen. If they have nothing to hide, why turn of UDD PTV off the air? The action showing to the world Abhasive government is bias, double standards, and it is controlled by Elite! Another issues worth mentioned is that when news medias focus on injured individual in the hospital..why only focus on soldiers? Is there protestors that current in the hospital are not citizen of Thailand? Or they are too uneducated and poor to be recognized as human being?

Whatever Discussion 62: 15/04/2010 at 10:43 PM 62

Hi Geronimo #57 many of the elected MP's were banned from office if they had not been the Democrats would not be able to form a government. It is not hard to get 50% if you ban your opponents. Many independent observers would say there were double standards in operation to ban these politicians. There is little doubt that if an election was held the Democrats would have almost no hope of winning an election.The military overthrew a popular elected government and now you have an unpopular government.

Winner takes all Discussion 61: 15/04/2010 at 10:26 PM 61

Red Yellow or Pink, no matter who gets what power there will always be a difference of opinion fueled by the thirst for power the greed takes over. I don't believe that the Red shirts demonstration will end positively but it will end and end in blood, who ever gets to say how Thailand is run and how its run has a hard job to do. If yellow is the power and force you may wish to view there policy about foreign workers, in short they are pushing for all foreign workers to be removed from Thailand, there is already evidence of this happening around the Kingdom, the hoops dear friend are getting smaller to jump through. Red or Yellow? Choose life, Choose sitting indoors and not having to worry about your investments, Choose a single pricing system,Choose a quality health system for you and your family, choose wisely, Choose another Country is becoming top of my list.

Dietmar Discussion 60: 15/04/2010 at 08:41 PM 60

Observers who see the ongoing conflicts as a mere demonstration rather than a revolution and a case between 2 politicians (Abhisit-Thaksin) are short-sighted, almost blind. The country is deeply divided between the mainly poor and rural North/Northeast, the highly developed and industrialized center (Bangkok, Chonburi, Rayong etc.) and the partly Muslim dominated and terror-struck South. Now the fight for redistribution of wealth has irreversibly started. Thaksin, though corrupt and selfish, was among the first to recognize and use this for his own greedy purposes. Learning from history means to know that a civil war will be inevitable for almost sure. This however will not happen between the yellow-shirt supporters and their red-shirt rivals as these will prevail rather soon because they have the majority. It will be between the factions of the Reds' movement as they are united for only

one goal, to bring down the current government. The commentators who blame them for not providing clear political alternatives are right, because there are different groups inside, one fighting for Thaksin (paid or not), one for true democracy against corruption and one for a Laos-style communist-like transformation of Thailand. Maybe even more factions are existing or developing later. These internal differences will finally bring the country to a long-time violent crisis and I am convinced neither a party nor a single politician will be able to divert the looming course of history.

Michel Discussion 59: 15/04/2010 at 07:47 PM 59

I love Thailand and Thai people. Please think peace and harmony, because fights and blood had never resolved any conflict situation. I am patiently waiting to come back visiting the city of angels. Pacifist

mr frustrated Discussion 58: 15/04/2010 at 07:43 PM 58

I have planned to visit Bangkok with my family this month but have to cancel due to the uncertain security. To all the red guys, we know what is in your mind but please, don't force for another election. This is not the way for satisfaction. The time will come. Be patient. Things done only make things worse. It is not a solution. It makes a silent cry for your small traders who really need the tourists dollar and cents like me and family. Adios.

Geronimo Discussion 57: 15/04/2010 at 06:35 PM 57

Hi #51 I think you are wrong, the Abhisit government is democratic elected, even they do not have a majority, but if PT have the majority to form a government they will do but they did not. In any democratic country you can form a coalition and have majority over 50% and run the country what is wrong with that???

Aby Discussion 56: 15/04/2010 at 06:28 PM 56

hey reds for d love of god stop it...im from india n we love ur country so pls dont make it another pakistan...and to the lovely people of thailand take care and our prayers are wit u...may god bless u all.. c ya soon

Geronimo Discussion 55: 15/04/2010 at 06:16 PM 55

The Reds do not want to negotiating anything, in any democratic country they all have to go to jail! Take hostage is not a democratic right and asked for ransom (in the form of palament dissolution) is a criminal act that must be punish in all extend of law in this case.As a normal citizen you do that you go to jail right away.

Mukulein Discussion 54: 15/04/2010 at 06:05 PM 54

Mr. Abhisit is right and too kind to the riot protesters, if it where in Iran or Libya the riots would have been since long time crashed down. I dont understand how in a democratic country the riot protesters are allowed to carry weapons and occupied public spaces and disturb the citizen and business of the city. The way they do it is not democratic its anarchic. The best way is that the army arrests the red shirt leaders and then the mob will dissolve by itself. Red shirt protesters are mislead and lied by their leaders in order to fight, when the solution should be a peacefull solution.

Tamas Discussion 53: 15/04/2010 at 06:02 PM 53

Civil disobedience is a legitimate and well known tactic to achieve political aims.As long as they don't turn violent a negotiated settlement is the way forward. The PM could actually garner a lot of cudos and future electoral benefits by dissolving the Parliament sooner rather than later.Business will start blaming him for putting of the inevitable which are detrimental to their survival. Business only knows one thing,that is profit. The sooner the red shirts go home the economy will start improving. Time to give a temporary "victory" to the Reds and fight another battle at the ballot boxes.

m.j lionel Discussion 52: 15/04/2010 at 05:55 PM 52

Hey reds! no hard feeling ,guys! But could you please go home and let ppl in Bangkok get to work to build things up (peace, economy and reputation, being most preferred tourist destination etc. etc.) what you've just successfully and ignorantly destroyed?? I mean, you are big guys so you should be able to really think of other's sake as well and hey! you know what , you can always come back and try to save the country from corruption like after two decades. But for now , please go educate yourselves first and try not to be so thick. No offence but thailand still needs to be lead by educated and more sensible person like the current PM.

Whatever Discussion 51: 15/04/2010 at 05:48 PM 51

I can't believe how many foreigners come on this forum and support this unelected government. Either you believe the Government controlled press, which is extremely naive or you support the subjugation of the poor by the rich. Please look at news reports from other countries which have no political interest in Thailand.

Khunandre #47 in the last opinion poll the PAD had 1.7% of the vote compared to the majority of the country being against this government. Ask the people in Australia if they would like the elected government overthrown by the military because it suited a wealthy elite.

Any color Discussion 50: 15/04/2010 at 05:47 PM 50

You are all too divided, like the country itself. Whatever color we refer to, you all brought the country to a standstill. We should be more united and go back to the diplomatic table and be patient. The reds have the right to call for fair elections but simply need to be more patient, change will come.

PeeWee Discussion 49: 15/04/2010 at 05:32 PM 49

A crime is a crime of that moment. It doesn't matter what happened in the past. For example, just because someone was not caught robbing a bank or killing someone before doesn't make it OK to commit a crime now. Its the same excuse school kids use when they get in trouble "everyone else is doing it". But Maria, YOU are the one that I caught, and its not OK NOW. As for Thai blood. Once someone becomes violent, they are not just Thais, but criminals. Criminals should be dealt with firmly, else others will think its OK to do the same...oh by the way, wasn't that the logic you just gave me?

jake the ape Discussion 48: 15/04/2010 at 05:27 PM 48

umm, holding the hert of city as a hostage?? hmm, too childish and really annoying. Don't you see you are hurting the people, and remember without people support, you are nothing.Red3!!! sorry to break your bubbles but have to let you guys know that you might have meant well and your theories might sound good, but you guys are not good enough to lead the countries nor have the abilities to decide in whose hand the country should be in..

R Discussion 47: 15/04/2010 at 04:48 PM 47

Deep South of Thailand seems quite from trouble at the moment strange any relation? anyone knows how much the reds get paid per day to protest? where has Taksin been over the last year or so - jet setting around the world.....Thailand is based on Tourism which gives the Thai people a living, hotel occupancies must be non existant...this is hitting the Thai people as well and the people who are protesting!!!!

Dograk Discussion 46: 15/04/2010 at 04:47 PM 46

Should be re-phrased the final blackmail, hope the business in Ratchaprasong have the patience to finally let the Red shirt dig their own grave. How ironic...[Thaksins old shopping, wining and dining haunt!!!! While the poor under his regime get some scraps!

Maria Discussion 45: 15/04/2010 at 04:26 PM 45

@ PEEWEE..and SAIPANMAN

YOU are fully right but....they are only copying what the PAD did 2 years ago...no ? And in 2008 , what were your reactions ??

Khunandre Australia Discussion 44: 15/04/2010 at 04:10 PM 44

I believe it is time for the PAD to start their mobilisation....

Mr. Mildew Discussion 43: 15/04/2010 at 03:59 PM 43

I cannot believe that anyone could want any group or individual to have control of Thailand after they have orchestrated the recent mayhem here that has resulted in dividing this country and leading Thai brothers to kill their Thai brother. I was thought this was a Buddhist country.

The Foreinger Discussion 42: 15/04/2010 at 03:57 PM 42

The redone are losers and scare. To move to the shopping steerts, so the police cab do nothing. This is hostage of innocent people who want to buy there food. If the police do something, they go stay behand the shopping people. What a hero's (so not)And the are responsible for losing a lot of income for those who want to work, because the RED-ones are not working but living on the money of the dictatot Thaksin.

Runaway Discussion 41: 15/04/2010 at 03:45 PM 41

The Reds are doing at Thailand's standard... In Thailand; if you don't like government, you can mob and create problems to economic and public... Then the government has no more choice, but to crackdown or resign... The problem is some people in Thailand do not accept the result of Election (Free and Fair at certain standard)...

Omegon Discussion 40: 15/04/2010 at 03:41 PM 40

Discussion 36: I think that the red shirts and yellow shirts have different ideologies. The reds just want Thaksin back and they are more to the left wing while the yellow shirts believe in something around the start-middle of the right wing.Just a question, it seems like some people do not know what they are fighting for, if I pay a red shirt say 3000 baht, to stop protesting, do you think they will???

A Discussion 39: 15/04/2010 at 03:03 PM 39

Wow, it's so incredibly insulting to say Thailand is not ready for democracy.

Ben Discussion 38: 15/04/2010 at 02:59 PM 38

After the crackdown of last week, the government is shameless to remain in power, he killed its own people and this is the bottom line. In any other country, the PM would have taken responsibility and resigned.

Saipanman Discussion 37: 15/04/2010 at 02:29 PM 37

The Red Shirt movement is no longer about democracy....its simple majority mob rule...shame on the red shirts for spilling the red blood of my brothers....wars for democracy are not fought against democratic govts...what they are doing is criminal....

Withheld Discussion 36: 15/04/2010 at 02:01 PM 36

I am a tourist from Australia, and have been in Thailand since 1st April. Numerous times, I have walked past and sat in the red shirt demonstrations in Ratchapasong and other areas in BKK.I am not afraid of the red shirts at all, actually they are friendly. However, a number of them are opportunists (selling souvenirs and fashion accessories) and some others are just show offs and have no self-respect by hooning on their vehicles and making loud noises.I think Thailand should give the current Government a chance. You have to start somewhere and currently at it stands, Thailand is not ready for a fully democratically elected Government.



A rhetorical question, why can't the red shirts and yellow shirts band together and fight against corruption on all levels, instead?

PeeWee Discussion 35: 15/04/2010 at 01:57 PM 35

These protesters are criminals as they are breaking the law for illegal assembly. Why should criminals be allowed to set up a stage, TVs, and have free access to publicly paid for toilets? Cut the power to the stages so they can't continue their hate mongering, stop all food and water into the area, and lock the place down like a prison. Who would send in food and water to kidnappers while they are holding someone hostage? It won't be long before they are begging to get out or negotiate or they will all be so weak as to not be able to resist. Guess what? Non violent approach by the government and and trouble started by the red shirts should be decisively dealt with.

Sam Discussion 34: 15/04/2010 at 01:27 PM 34

Why wouldn't the security forces be able to move the protesters out of Ratchaprasong area? The protesters are locked in, there is no way to go if the government dedides to clean them out. Just leave one side open and have the trucks waiting to bring them to jail. Just get some riot police in from any European country, they have a lot of experience with moving protesters out of city areas. Thai authorities are obviously in-capable of moving them out.

A Thai Discussion 33: 15/04/2010 at 12:23 PM 33

The final showdown before going to jail.The caravan of shame that nobody have paid any attention.

Bob Discussion 32: 15/04/2010 at 12:22 PM 32

Discussion 16-FDA. The Baht is obviously being supported. To let it fall would invite economic collapse. Realistic answer.Takki is depositing millions of bht into the set so that when it collapses he make a bid for Thailand maybe a few million bht and own the country outright and do what he wants.

Huahin Discussion 31: 15/04/2010 at 12:18 PM 31

The reds use same tactics like Mussolini did with his fascist movement in Italy. Time to study history nothing new under this blue sky. Worthwile perhaps to read the history of Cosa Nostra as well.

RSH Discussion 30: 15/04/2010 at 12:10 PM 30

Can I assume that the violence in Bangkok / Pattaya has ended and I can visit the country for leisure once again? Please advise. I am due to travel my beloved Bangkok and Pattaya on 29th April.

Weeping for Thailand Discussion 29: 15/04/2010 at 12:02 PM 29

The Red Shirt leaders' arguments would not fool a seven-year-old. I mean, honestly, read this:"The government said it wanted the Phan Fa area back but never said it wanted Ratchaprasong intersection. So we returned Phan Fa and moved to Ratchaprasong intersection because we do not want another clash," UDD co-leader Natthawut Saikua said.So Natthawut is moving his mob because the government asked him to move? What a nice fellow! And he doesn't want another clash? Well, why not start negotiating then? I'm afraid the visting political scientist

has a little to learn - "No one would like to see more casualties." I doubt that is true - the Red Shirts see their cause as being furthered by violent clashes. Is it going too far to say that they saw last Saturday as some kind of a victory to be celebrated? At last they had bodies they could parade on stage.

Dietmar Discussion 28: 15/04/2010 at 12:00 PM 28

@ 26: Yes. But this helps only for a short time. Later the markets are going their way.

Tia Discussion 27: 15/04/2010 at 11:54 AM 27

I think the shopping centers should launch a sale discount now. Take advantage of the potential walk in. Perhaps if the reds run out of money they'll go home :)

Lek Discussion 26: 15/04/2010 at 11:45 AM 26

Discussion 16 - FDA. The Baht is obviously being supported. To let it fall would invite economic collapse.

Dietmar Discussion 25: 15/04/2010 at 11:43 AM 25

Why is the Bath still high against the dollar?. In any normal country the local currency would have plummeted! By now the Bath should be around 39/42 for \$1. Can someone explain? The markets are not trading the present, but the future (6-9 months) and they probably predict an end of turmoil and an economic recovery all over Asia. And you never know: Maybe without the current problems the Baht would be considerably higher by now already.

uh-oh! Discussion 24: 15/04/2010 at 11:27 AM 24

Do the reds even realize that their honorable leader Taksin and his folks are the biggest bangkok elites ever? Is it a battle to take the corruption down or up-root the elites? If it's for kicking arses of elites for personal hatred, then they should start with their beloved leader first.

Bandrew Discussion 23: 15/04/2010 at 11:20 AM 23

"I hope the government won't demand the return of another area as another excuse for gunning down people again." This statement is obviously for the ears of the hardline Redshirts, whose only source of information is what they hear from the UDD leaders. For everyone else following what's going on, Nattawut forfeits any semblance of credibility he may have had.

Myopic Discussion 22: 15/04/2010 at 11:19 AM 22

Dear comment #16 ... the Bath is so high because you forgot to turn off the water! I am annoyed, my reading glasses are ready at Central World and I have been kept waiting for 12 days so far to collect them. Plus, I'm dying for a Mos Burger. Reds go home and let us get our retail therapy.

theDefiantWon Discussion 21: 15/04/2010 at 11:12 AM 21

what was true for bush is being tested for thaksin: get all the idiots on your side and you can take over the world.

Enough=Enough Discussion 20: 15/04/2010 at 10:52 AM 20

Agreed with #7. Government: start acting tough! Close these rabble rousers in, starve supply lines, cut electricity, harass protesters with water and teargas for a prolonged period of time and arrest all that come out. Especially the leaders, for whom warrants are out for a very long time already. Enough already. Oh, and leave the guns at the barracks, along with assorted watermelons. No need for those.

Somchai Discussion 19: 15/04/2010 at 10:50 AM 19

I think that the UDD has made a strategic mistake by collecting at Rachaprasong. If you know the area, there are few ways to get out and it would not be hard to block them in with heavy army vehicles. The sois are very narrow. As #7 points out, it is not hard to think of what the Army will do, including when the UDD's guards start firing real bullets. The Army may even attack them from helicopters above. It will become very scary and messy as the Army cannot be seen to fail again. I hope that the simple people who are there for Thaksin's per diem payments will go home before they are caged in.

Bang Bang Mancini Discussion 18: 15/04/2010 at 10:11 AM 18

Dear #12 - not to shatter your illusions about 'Bangkok Elites', but guess who I saw strolling through Gaysorn about 6 or so weeks ago? Clue: She had big, BIG hair, a smug grin, and two daughters in tow - and, yes, they were shopping for Gucci. You should never, ever, meet your heroes. (I have a witness to this event, lest you doubt me.)

Fatigued Discussion 17: 15/04/2010 at 09:38 AM 17

The ease in which criminals can take over this country is testament to how corrupt the entire system is. The government needs to stand up and take control, more people have been killed on the roads during this years Songkran period than were killed in the lastest showdown. Get in there and disperse the crowd using water cannons for an extended period they will soon leave, if they destroy buildings they will be replaced by insurance, if people get injured so what thats the price they pay....in the end they hurt themseleves and the wider community.

FDA Discussion 16: 15/04/2010 at 09:29 AM 16

Why is the Bath still high against the dollar?. I any normal country the local currency would have plummeted! By now the Bath should be around 39/42 for \$1.

Can someone explain?

Geronimo Discussion 15: 15/04/2010 at 09:20 AM 15

Did the Reds ever negotiated with the Abhisit government? I think 'stepping down' and 'dissolution of the palament' is an ultimatum for my understanding. Negotiation is like talking about more money, better school, medical care, better road and many things more...but not like 'stepping down now!!'

Bob Discussion 14: 15/04/2010 at 08:56 AM 14

I saw in the photos in one of our newspaper in Australia a red shirt guy carrying a poster "Down with corruption" Does he not realised that Thaksin is probably the most corrupted politician in Thailand history. If he is protesting against corruption he is in wrong side and wearing the wrong colour T shirt. It is therefore obvious that these guys do not know what they are protesting. They are paid and given a poster.

Pitanu Discussion 13: 15/04/2010 at 08:53 AM 13

their numbers are dwindling that's why they moved to the "last stage". but how can we allow a minority, reds & yellows, to hold the country hostage?

Laokabot Discussion 12: 15/04/2010 at 08:52 AM 12

A). National reconciliation, b). Put the country first, C). Regardless of what color you are, we all are Thai, one country, one people under God. Learn how to forgive and how forget otherwise Thailand would be DIVIDED into a small pieces

loke a SLICE OF PIZZA...

go\_reds Discussion 11: 15/04/2010 at 08:34 AM 11

How long can the Bangkok elite be kept out of Gucci's and Dolce Gabbana? When the rich shoppers are missing their favorite shops too much, then the 'government' will negotiate.

Geronimo Discussion 10: 15/04/2010 at 08:31 AM 10

The Reds will get ATM cards from Taksin and than they can buy rice in the shop, no need to grow it. Free medical care, but I still wonder who will pay the bill. I don't understand why they stay at Ratchaprasong, maybe for later shopping tour after they win this battle.

K. Tossaporn Discussion 9: 15/04/2010 at 08:29 AM 9

Smart move, but with tens of thousands of red shirts it will be difficult to keep the logistics up for food supply. Don't worry about the owners of these shopping malls. They are the same families that supported the yellow shirts with millions of baht to pay their people. Unfortunately they won't be the ones suffering but the ones that rent space from them. After Songkran there will be many thousands of red shirts coming to support. Abhisit having lost all his legitimacy should start to listen to the voice of the people and not to only those in Bangkok who think that they are so much above anyone else in our country.

Nicky Discussion 8: 15/04/2010 at 07:38 AM 8

I just feel sorry for the little people who have shops around there plus the people who can't go to work because of this problem and the people who live around there... I think the army and united front for democracy need to come to some arrangement and say okay we will not use hardcore weapons like they use at the weekend... Let there be no more bloodshed

Lomsakpeter Discussion 7: 15/04/2010 at 07:28 AM 7

Thats good news for the government. Now wait and then use the helicopter and ground forces to fill the area nonstop with tear gas and smoke and dye. Rain the area with water cannon. But, don't do it for an hour try 24 hrs plus. Gate in the main exits. Arrest everybody who comes out! They are now enclosed themselves, remember building damage can be repaired. GO FOR IT NOW!

Owlbear Discussion 6: 15/04/2010 at 07:24 AM 6

Sawasdee Pi Mai! The Thais are a great people and Thailand is great country. I hope they can resolve their differences without more bloodshed.

j2rbkk Discussion 5: 15/04/2010 at 07:12 AM 5

"Here we are in the heart of the business quarter. If the government remains defiant, it risks dragging down the national economy, she said."

What?? You're the one (UDD) who are holding hostage the economy and now blame it on the gov't? Crazy!

PeeWee Discussion 4: 15/04/2010 at 06:58 AM 4

Why doesn't the government just starve out the protesters from the site by prohibiting food and water to be brought into the site? Also once the people leave (i.e. to go home for the night), don't let them back in. Eventually, those inside the camp will find there is nothing there for them to sustain their 'army' and go home. As they say, an army marches on its stomach...and the protesters are looking like they eat better than the Thai Army...

WoW Discussion 3: 15/04/2010 at 06:51 AM 3

Desperate act by these criminal leaders. Openly they admit they are preparing to use violence again should the Army, within their rights, and protecting the rights of the majority of this country, try and disperse the protesters again. Last year the Army proved they can disperse the mobs peacefully and without loss of life, provided that the protesters aren't armed with machine guns. UDD is now flip flopping on their story regarding the bloodshed. Shameless. Despicable. Futile, as their original comments are a matter of public record. Noose is tightening.

SoSad Discussion 2: 15/04/2010 at 06:10 AM 2

Beyond pathetic. The place is going to the dogs.

chih chen Discussion 1: 15/04/2010 at 06:08 AM 1

Nice move. Brilliant! Exactly what is needed. Focus on Abhisit. I am very surprised he has held power this long. Does he know anything about problem solving the current political crisis or is he just very stubborn and selfish?

**Topic 12 Poll: 51% support government's action**

Beegordon Discussion 41: 16/05/2010 at 02:44 PM 41

Lies, damned lies and statistics all are manipulated to show the reader exactly what the editor wishes them to see.

P Discussion 40: 16/05/2010 at 11:45 AM 40

Number make different? I doubt. Look at our deep south where our muslim country men n women minority? Have those killing n bombing stop? And now we shift the theater to BKK. Now the big city ppls understand what the war zone are like. If we Thai wont give peace a chance ...Who will? No party is right, we are all wrong.

Simon Discussion 39: 16/05/2010 at 09:12 AM 39

You editors are incredible. The headline of 51% supports government actions does not reflect the details in the report. e.g. over 53% of respondents support negotiation, 51% favor the Govt in cutting off power etc. Not killing people. You guys are just another mouthpiece of the Government propaganda machine.

Ram Samudrala Discussion 38: 16/05/2010 at 08:40 AM 38

The poll 51% support and 40% don't support-it's not a 50/50 split (there must be about 9% undecided or didn't answer). I don't think after the red shirts turned down the road map and started making inane demands ("do this and we'll go home", "do that and we'll go home") that there was going to be anything else. Plus there was the daily violence, like the police being bombed in Silom, etc.

Sam Discussion 37: 16/05/2010 at 08:25 AM 37

re Dis#29 If one has chances to examine the opposition medias one should realize that they, exp People channel and some community radios, are not normal and not really professional and neutral medias. They are just propaganda programs for the benefit of their own interests and not for the national interests. Suan Dusit Poll has a long good reputation for her political poll results! I tend to trust the results.

EI Discussion 36: 16/05/2010 at 07:43 AM 36

TooColl4Sko (Discussion 27) extracted the deeper meaning of this poll, assuming its validity: That is, the respondents were pretty much evenly divided between those who support and those who do not support the Government's current actions, and that therefore regardless of how the current standoff ends, the country will remain deeply divided. To paraphrase a character in Shakespeare's Prince Hamlet of Denmark, "Alas, poor Thailand, we knew you well."

Pich Discussion 35: 16/05/2010 at 07:09 AM 35

The government may win in ending this clash but without resolving deep dividing forces within the people and leaders and partiality in the institutions, a more dangerous and larger scale of conflict may follow. It's just a matter of time. Of course injustice in the society can go on forever. It's an irony the country claims to be civilised as Thailand allows such violence and killing and can't find viable solutions without loss of lives and resort to means that provoke further violence.

A Thai Discussion 34: 16/05/2010 at 07:02 AM 34

Support Abhisit and support the government to stop this madness created by Thaksin and his paid redshirts.

Unknown Discussion 33: 16/05/2010 at 06:47 AM 33

its just a poll I won't take it too serious because there are errors.

Ron Discussion 32: 16/05/2010 at 05:38 AM 32

The survey involved 1,387 respondents" An overwhelming support for the elite then as a % of 60 million plus then it doesn't seem that overwhelming to me. Or may I say from people overseas from what they say from coverage in the press and TV the government is fast becoming a military one till I told it was one anyway except the puppets wore suits instead of uniforms. Also you now have one guess where they won't be coming for a holiday.

Pro Discussion 31: 16/05/2010 at 03:36 AM 31

If the protesters have to die then they have to die to search for their justice and democracy. UDD protesters not only have around 10,000 people but more than 100,000 people. If the government can kill them all to bring peace to the country then it is ok to kill them all but making you bring peace to the country.

Bangmodken Discussion 30: 16/05/2010 at 02:50 AM 30

Today on tv 3-4 red-shirts light up tyres near the "Indra" in Pratunam. Visible to anyone who cares to watch it, at least one of them has a gun in his hand. Footage from Al-Jazeera. This is just today's example, but there is plenty of other footage of armed red-shirts/black-shirts. Innocent, peaceful unarmed pro-democracy demonstrators?

You must be joking! Of course our PM has to take serious action. He should have done this weeks ago, but better late than never.

Keep it up, PM!

Geoff Discussion 29: 16/05/2010 at 02:33 AM 29

Of course this is not a poll result anyone can put much trust into. The government has shut down all media for the opposition. If you ask people around the the country if they believe that is according to democratic values, you surely would get 100% no-answers. Who did they ask? Was there a representative selection for this survey?

Probably not!

NEILL Discussion 28: 16/05/2010 at 02:26 AM 28

The army say they are only using live rounds in self defense. But how can a sniper fire in self defense if they are in an undisclosed location? the red shirts are brave.

TooCool4Skool Discussion 27: 16/05/2010 at 02:15 AM 27

50% support and 50% are against...interesting! So, in other words...the cycle will continue no matter the outcome. Enjoy!!!

Jho Discussion 26: 16/05/2010 at 02:01 AM 26

Re: #16 "This shows that the army just fire at people even without weapons" How did you come up with the conclusion that the government did it? For all we know, redshirts are in possession of weapons too.

NoColor Discussion 25: 16/05/2010 at 01:16 AM 25

The REDs forget, or maybe do not care, about the 5000 people killed by Mr T in his "war" against drugs. He used this to get rid of people standing in his way, and help the drug generals in Burma

Geoff Discussion 24: 16/05/2010 at 12:14 AM 24

Re #6 "Take another poll now... and not just in Bangkok". The poll was nationwide, probably accurate +/- 3%.

Re #3 "More than 50% support the killing of unarmed protesters. How disgusting". Nobody said that but you.

Can't you read and comprehend a simple article without twisting it to fit your peculiar views?

Geoff Discussion 23: 16/05/2010 at 12:06 AM 23

Re #19 Luc, in Thailand the police are only good at taking bribes. They are not much use for anything difficult.

G baby Discussion 22: 16/05/2010 at 12:00 AM 22

It is about time! To say that the red shirts are not also responsible for the deaths of many is absurd. They are as much if not more to blame for them. Go government!

Patriot Discussion 21: 15/05/2010 at 11:29 PM 21

The government have taken a right step, but a bit late. Had this crisis happened elsewhere in the world, be it Asia, Europe or America, do you think the government would have tolerated this long? Never. The government have taken too long to decide to end the protest. It should have been done a lot earlier.

Eagles Discussion 20: 15/05/2010 at 10:45 PM 20

So we have some nice people still supporting government commanding to kill their own brothers... No wonder they forgot what Buddha taught them...

Luc Discussion 19: 15/05/2010 at 10:36 PM 19

Any government setting up the army against its own people is a dictatorship. This is a riot police job!

bangkok-ian Discussion 18: 15/05/2010 at 10:23 PM 18

All they have to do is go home red shirts have wanted this for a long time the red shirt movement is a disgrace!!

John Phillips Discussion 17: 15/05/2010 at 10:23 PM 17

Gor Ecki. you may be speaking too soon. The cameras might tell a different story from what you believe

Horrified Discussion 16: 15/05/2010 at 10:04 PM 16

The government is responsible for the deaths of many people. Journalists are also shot. This shows that the army just fire at people even without weapons.



Santo Discussion 15: 15/05/2010 at 09:46 PM 15

Those who support the Govt action is nothing but a murderer using deadly war weapon on the unarmed protester. are you nuts?? or blind?? lol

Dodgy Dave Discussion 14: 15/05/2010 at 09:41 PM 14

Isan & Crazy man.....Please go back to your cots. You obviously don't have any idea on what is happening. I back the governments actions 100%.

Somchai Discussion 13: 15/05/2010 at 09:36 PM 13

"The survey involved 1,387 respondents across the country." Were 80% from Bangkok or maybe 70% from rural areas? When polls like this don't break down the percentages of the people polled by location it automatically loses credibility.

Annoyed Discussion 12: 15/05/2010 at 09:22 PM 12

Whether it is rational for the soldier to open fire or not is open to debate but we should not deny that the protestors, at least some of them are armed and they use them too to shoot at the soldiers.

Ursus Discussion 11: 15/05/2010 at 09:20 PM 11

Isan, disc. #1

Can you tell us what you mean with deadly weapon? Molotow cocktails, grenades, handguns and rifles are no weapens for your understanding? Soldiers have been killed as well from the red shirts!

Kyaw Discussion 10: 15/05/2010 at 09:09 PM 10

I fully support Abhisit.

This kind of action need at least 3000 lives (Like in Burma). But Abhisit is too generous and keep the casualties at very low (only 22 to today), I praise Abhisit for his patient.

Bangkokian Discussion 9: 15/05/2010 at 09:02 PM 9

Good job, it's too late now. How many bombs went off? Just arrest the leaders who try to brainwash their people. Justice have to be done!

Thai Discussion 8: 15/05/2010 at 09:02 PM 8

Pls open your brain to the real world. Red-shirt movement is the cooperation of bad politicians, terrorists, and the willing-to-be-fooled human shield. Wake up!!!!

Gor Ecki Discussion 7: 15/05/2010 at 08:49 PM 7

Now Thai government duplicates the style from neighbour Myanmar... too bad for them that in Thailand there are a lot of people with camera's... witness reports cannot be denied...

Brian Discussion 6: 15/05/2010 at 08:47 PM 6

Where are you Abhisit? Show your face and take responsibility for your army's murderous tactics.

I have seen the footage and I am Disgusted at the death of unarmed people. Take another poll now... and not just in Bangkok....

Jeff Discussion 5: 15/05/2010 at 08:46 PM 5

Election is still the best way to see if the current government is doing what the citizen want. The longer the govt stay in power, more lives will be lost. Not only the protester, but also the lives of soldier, police, foreigner, medic and many others.

Lizard king Discussion 4: 15/05/2010 at 08:37 PM 4

This headline is very misleading given the current situation. "51% supports government's actions" implies that people support the government's violent dispersal of red shirts, whereas the poll was asking about the earlier plans to cut off water & electricity, not to start shooting people.

absolutely disgusted Discussion 3: 15/05/2010 at 08:35 PM 3

More than 50% support the killing of unarmed protesters. How disgusting.

Crazyman Discussion 2: 15/05/2010 at 08:27 PM 2

BRUTAL Government!!! Why are people being shot dead yet many video and photo shows no dangerous weapon next to the body? You are simply playing computer games, shoot on site and free for all style. Inhuman.

Isan Discussion 1: 15/05/2010 at 08:18 PM 1

Those who support the Govt action is nothing but a murderer using deadly war weapon on the unarmed protester. Bottom of Form

### **Topic 15 Yellows may show up in 15 days**

Moto Discussion 58: 25/04/2010 at 02:52 PM 58

PAD will need to pay their protesters more this time than at the airport, don't think many students will want to face up to the RED MARCH and them "men in black" for a measly 1000 baht

Brit Discussion 57: 25/04/2010 at 01:57 AM 57

khun buzz last time he said something it fell on deaf ears!! they care about money and power more than anything else!

KhunBuzz Discussion 56: 24/04/2010 at 11:32 PM 56

Please take off your shirts and work this out!! I just returned from TL 2 days ago and this beautiful country and its amazing people deserve better!! I know the king is Ill but he needs to do/say something!!!

dj217 Discussion 55: 24/04/2010 at 08:13 PM 55

Thaksin won the elections fair and square TWICE. he should have been allowed to finished his term in office. but no, we remember the coup. the yellow shirts with sonthi stole the power. this is not a democracy. It is a dictatorship.

Gwats Discussion 54: 24/04/2010 at 09:47 AM 54

Watching this new development closely. Just managed to get out of Thailand before the PAD shut down the Airports two years ago. If they get active again, I'll never set foot in the LOS again... Ever! And I won't be alone in this thinking. FIX THE PROBLEM!!!!

Wake Up Discussion 53: 23/04/2010 at 08:26 PM 53

#52, could it be because elections don't automatically equate to democracy, especially when elections are rigged, bought, and otherwise manipulated? Could it be because the only opposition to the Democrats is a party pledging allegiance to a fugitive?

Pointman #2 Discussion 52: 23/04/2010 at 04:17 PM 52

Discussion 51, Fred Arthur, is 100% correct.

Firthermore, why would the yellow-Shirts claim to be fighting for democracy and not want elections?

The PAD should chage its name.

Fred Arthur Discussion 51: 23/04/2010 at 02:29 PM 51

I cant believe that yellow shirt and friends claim to protect the country... if they really wanted to protect the country, they should respect Democracy ! This country need immediate election to have its problem solved.

Mike Discussion 50: 23/04/2010 at 04:02 AM 50

Here comes another airport closure, worked before, will work again.

An Alien Discussion 49: 22/04/2010 at 05:37 AM 49

Jatupon Prompan and Natawut Saikue are true "Prai" Sandan prai, these two do not deserve to be member of parliament. They speak like prai, they act like prai, their parent don't want to associate with them, go figure that one out. The Isaan people were fool by these three southerners "Veera, Jatupon, and Natawut". Sad sad and very sad. Can anyone name one person that can do better job than the young lad Abhisit???

Bangkokian Discussion 48: 19/04/2010 at 02:52 PM 48

With a State of Emergency declared how could the PAD hold a political rally of more than 5 people? Why wasn't Chamlong arrested? Also, threatening civil disobedience in 15 days must be a crime as well surely?

Peace101 Discussion 47: 19/04/2010 at 12:27 PM 47

The yellow shirt presence at this point would make the problems more complicated rather than "protect the country."

Rational Discussion 46: 19/04/2010 at 11:31 AM 46

Aren't these the guys who can't seem to respect the outcomes of elections, fought to protect the drug dealers, and are violent prone? Their group should be renamed "People AGAINST Democracy"....

dano56 Discussion 45: 19/04/2010 at 10:57 AM 45

red shirts, yellow shirts, who cares. In six months you will have your election and the thai people will pick their new leaders. Can't we just all get along until then?

mkkuma3 Discussion 44: 19/04/2010 at 10:53 AM 44

It is time for those participating in rallies realized that this whole thing is a battle between the old haves and the new haves. The poor have-nots are left out of any decision making and used only as pawns, while the thin middle class is pretty much indifferent because they are too small of a constituency to make any difference. Can anyone name a single MP in Thailand "ever" to truly come from the mass population? The only "democratic" effort I have seen in the past five years in Thailand is that of Abhisit, and he miserably failed. Conclusion: Thailand is not ready for democracy.

Stonky Discussion 43: 19/04/2010 at 06:31 AM 43

Sondi is not allowed to take part in this or any other major rallying event. These are words from high up. What happened to the 2-3 les majeste charges against him?

Hu Discussion 42: 19/04/2010 at 02:38 AM 42

The unsolved Multiple Choice Question for PhD political science (Asia Studies) students at Harvard University. Who is governing Thailand?

(1) Ahbisit coalition (2) UDD, Pro-Thaksin (Red-Shirts Protesters) (3) PAD, Enemy of Thaksin (Yellow-Shirts Protesters) (4) All of the above (5) None of the above

yaay\_PAD Discussion 41: 19/04/2010 at 01:42 AM 41

So the 'yellow shirts' are 'pro-govt,' even though they supported a military coup d'etat in 2006 and the illegitimate ejection of Thaksin's party from the House in 2008 after seizing the airport. And the 'red shirts' are 'anti-govt,' even though they really only want a new election by ALL Thais to establish a legitimate House elected by Thai people, not mere puppet representatives of a military junta. Which color shirt wants which type of govt ... hmmm ...

Sy Discussion 40: 19/04/2010 at 01:18 AM 40

Reds,yellows = bloodshed. Sad but true.

Democratic Dude Discussion 39: 19/04/2010 at 12:37 AM 39

Bangkok Ian- You must not have been in Thailand two years ago. The PAD ran police over with trucks and shot at the police too. They did exactly the same things and the military didn't even step in to help the PPP government. Please do a little researching to see what the PAD did two years ago to the airports, police and tourism. Arrest the YELLOW PAD then you have a right to arrest the red.

K Discussion 38: 19/04/2010 at 12:36 AM 38

Abhisit can say good bye to his premiership already. Think about how the PAD and Red bring their guns,knife, and fist fight in to Bangkok street. Thailand will be known as Land Of Protest and Blood. Lets see... the RED blocked the major streets, and the Yellow blocked the airport or maybe some major street nearby and paralyze the whole city. What a team work! AMAZING THAILAND..

Nick Discussion 37: 18/04/2010 at 11:55 PM 37

Nice to se many yellow shirt again! :-)Goodluck

Toni Discussion 36: 18/04/2010 at 11:19 PM 36

Say good-bye to the Thai tourism industry. Let us know when you are done protesting and we will review if we ever come back...some day!

Pupsi Discussion 35: 18/04/2010 at 10:56 PM 35

Discussion 18: 18/04/2010 David Brown

... "ask them why Thailand should not have a government chosen by free and fair elections!" I Think I can help you here - If Thais had a better general education, if they were really interested in their country, feel responsible for it, want to bring the country forward not their own high-life, not sell their vote for 500 Baht=T H E N, we could have free and fair and honest elections. (As the people in Europe =for example= have) A question, was **Thaksin** the winner in a free-fair-honest-clean election a few years ago?? Hardly !

bangkok-ian Discussion 34: 18/04/2010 at 10:48 PM34

I dont remember yellow shirts killing unarmed police and soldiers with machine guns and grenades. I applaud the yellow shirts for getting rid of Thaksin and his evil dictatorship so I sincerely hope they DO free Bangkok of the red terrorism that is currently taking place!@!

judge dues Discussion 33: 18/04/2010 at 10:41 PM 33

I thought the yellow fascists were already blocking traffic at "Victory" monument for the last two weeks? When they take back their city they can start to really hire Burmese slave labour to clean their toilets and run their businesses, if they have any business left by then. Who grows their exports? Bangkokians will have to import their food from Malaysia. LOL

citiboi Discussion 32: 18/04/2010 at 10:39 PM 32

It is totally ludicrous that it is not the Abhisit administration who is handing down ultimatums but instead, the Red shirts and now the Yellow shirts who are brazen and giving the Government deadlines to comply with!! It really makes me wonder who is really in charge. Is it Abhisit V? Or is it Anupong? Or is it the leader(s) of any mob who can galvanise a few hundred or a few thousand people who is ultimately in charge.

Well, as they say, AMAZING THAILAND!!!

Astropoeia Discussion 31: 18/04/2010 at 10:29 PM 31

INJUSTICE INJUSTICE!!! How can the yellows even DARE to complain about the Reds protest when they protested for how long and seized what? International Airport? Ask the yellows to go fly kite!

Andrew Discussion 30: 18/04/2010 at 10:21 PM 30

In other words PAD is saying stop the Red Shirts from demonstrating or we will demonstrate and cause a Civil War....can you believe whats happening? Thailand is so messed up.

loud.minority Discussion 29: 18/04/2010 at 10:17 PM 29

"The country belongs to everyone of us but there are some people who are destroying the country to gain personal benefits," univesity rector Arthit Urairat said." sure, sure, but you forgot to add that the goverment belongs to the yellow. there WILL be new elections, sooner or later. we will see then, who the country chooses.

Gerd Discussion 28: 18/04/2010 at 10:11 PM 28

Discussion 24: 18/04/2010 RAYCO + PAUL

It's a small wonder that Thais in general are fed up with the bought servants of Thaksin.

To further the interests of the Shinawatra Clan, can not possibly do the people of Thailand any good. Slowly Thais are fully fed up with the senseless and stupid pranks of the Thaksin rabble.

... and Thank God, Thaksis is now more or less Passè.

Capealava Discussion 27: 18/04/2010 at 09:52 PM 27

OH NO !!!!!!!!!!! Not the yellow shirts again. They have done more damage to the Thailand than Red shirts ever even thought about, by closing a international airport for 7 days. I no respect for these people or idiots like yellow shirt benefactor Kasit. I certainly hope they stay off the streets

Khunandre Australia Discussion 26: 18/04/2010 at 09:00 PM 26

Some people say that Yellow and no-colour are the same. Yellow and n-c had their rallies same time in Bangkok..so, if we take the number of people attending both rallies..it is a good threat to the red craps...I like that..

PeterB Discussion 25: 18/04/2010 at 08:58 PM 25

#10. "The most ex pats and foreigners are working in Thailand would like to see an end to the red shirt rally.

They are mostly of the side of the government"..... so that they continue to exploit cheap Thai labour.

Rayko Discussion 24: 18/04/2010 at 08:57 PM 24

here comes those PAD barbarians once again to destroy Thailand and bring it back 100 more years. Lets see if they will get any jail terms this time or will it only be the reds that get arrested, teargased and shot at?

Phaem Discussion 23: 18/04/2010 at 08:48 PM 23

When the Red Shirt leaders said about civil war, please all Thais remember about the Civil War in Cambodia. How many people, who were living in Phnom Penh and other privincial towns in Cambodia that were living inside Lon Lol territory, were killed by the Khmer Rought (RED) due to support Lon Nol. My fater, brother in-law, sister were killed and I was a victim about to kill by the Khmer Rough or Pol Pot regime. Please think before you say about Civil War.

Paul Discussion 22: 18/04/2010 at 08:40 PM 22

So the yellow (pink nowadays) rats are smelling blood. More then 20 deaths seems to be not enough. Thailand will be soon, if not already, like Birma, a country where the military rules and the poor suffer.

Bloom Discussion 21: 18/04/2010 at 08:13 PM 21

If this happens, then it WILL be CIVIL WAR.

The alternative? ELECTIONS and respect for the winners - whoever they will be.

Ple Discussion 20: 18/04/2010 at 07:38 PM 20

Arthit is right about one thing, the country belongs to everyone of us but at least the UDD version of democracy is more inclusive than the PAD/NPP version, which is nothing less than blatant discrimination.

jay Gatsby Discussion 19: 18/04/2010 at 07:16 PM 19

The neo fascist yellow shirts formed a paid mob closed the airport down and got rid of a democratically elected government I find the yellow shirt xenophobia being ba foreigner these tiny minded people would take thailand back 1000 years.

David Brown Discussion 18: 18/04/2010 at 06:59 PM 18

some of the things they say are true... "The country belongs to everyone of us but there are some people who are destroying the country to gain personal benefits" the military retired and active generals and their puppets are riding on the backs of the vast majority of the Thai people, stripping the country for their own benefit and are desperately trying to stop the ordinary people from having the right to choose their own government. ask them why Thailand should not have a government chosen by free and fair elections!

BangModKen Discussion 17: 18/04/2010 at 06:57 PM 17

A private business-partnership that turned sour between Thaksin & Sondhi, created both the UDD & PAD. Send them all to jail, throw away the key to their cells and lets move on from there.

John in BKK Discussion 16: 18/04/2010 at 06:49 PM 16

"or else the yellow-shirt supporters will come out to protect the country" What method of protecting the country did they propose?

Unknown Discussion 15: 18/04/2010 at 06:39 PM 15

They can't do anything except taking over state compounds. They don't have bombs or weapons unlike reds which they are supported by extremists and insurgents. But really have to agree with them that the reds are trying to divide up society into two groups of different social class.

Kok Discussion 14: 18/04/2010 at 06:25 PM 14

Feel sorry for the reds. They are no match against the yellow, pink and multi colour. These people are funded by the invisible hands behind, the same 'third hand' that pulling the same strings that continue to make Abhisit dance and laugh while the nation bleed.

Doy Moeuy Discussion 13: 18/04/2010 at 06:19 PM 13

Oooh, they come out to protect the country. Beware, the airport authority and tourists, the airport may be shut down again.

Soosak Discussion 12: 18/04/2010 at 06:11 PM 12

The yellow is not protecting thailand. They are dividing the country and bring it to civil war.

Slmon Ong Discussion 11: 18/04/2010 at 06:04 PM 11

I am still confusing why none of yellow shirt protesters have been arrested until today for their fraud and guilts two years ago. And I wonder why Mr. Sondhi, the noise maker and chaos creator stays silent to date, maybe he had been betrayed by incumbent government who is not recognising his contribution in the power transition???

Why nobody queries about this??

Norb Discussion 10: 18/04/2010 at 06:00 PM 10

The most ex pats and foreigners are working in Thailand would like to see an end to the red shirt rally. They are mostly of the side of the government.

Majoritythai Discussion 9: 18/04/2010 at 05:58 PM 9

What the PAD (under pink cover this time) are going to seize this time? Hopefully, they will not seize airports, again, as their venues for BBQ and concert. Just a suggestion to the PAD, they should, instead, join their gang member, Kasit, at the MoFA to share the good food and music with him there.

rpt777 Discussion 8: 18/04/2010 at 05:45 PM 8

yes, they plan to hire thousands of old ladies and children like last time to go and confront the reds

Rod B Discussion 7: 18/04/2010 at 05:43 PM 7

Just what the country needs; another ultimatum from another potential mob! What needs to happen is for the Government, UDD leaders and PAD leaders to sit down and mull this out.

Merah Merah Discussion 6: 18/04/2010 at 05:32 PM 6

Looks like the biggest show is coming town. Brace yourselves for the aftermath.

Insider Discussion 5: 18/04/2010 at 05:32 PM 5

The situation is grave enough as it is, we don't need other colours rooming the streets or starting a fight. Start talking, discussing.

Equality Discussion 4: 18/04/2010 at 04:53 PM 4

I am confused is this the people with the pink shirts on the front and the people with yellow shirts down the back? I heard from a foreigner these people wrote articles on the internet saying they did not need help from US and England, if they sent observers they would do horrible things to them. And that they wanted all foreigners out. Does someone know if this is true? I have looked on the internet?

Wake Up Discussion 3: 18/04/2010 at 04:50 PM 3

PAD proves anyone can field a mob on the streets, that a crowd alone doesn't constitute "the people's voice." If it accomplishes anything, it will prove what a joke UDD leaders are and their claims that thousands of people on the street = voice of democracy.

Voice of Thaksin is more like it.

fair and balanced Discussion 2: 18/04/2010 at 04:49 PM 2

'PAD co-leader Chamlong Srimuang said the UDD were divided into three groups - the MPs who work in the House of Representatives, the demonstrators and the insurgents'. What MPs work for the PAD??? The PAD have only recently formed a political wing (NPP), which according to a recent BP survey, would obtain only 1.7% of the popular vote.

PeterB Discussion 1: 18/04/2010 at 04:44 PM 1

Did anyone ask what form of 'protection' that they had in mind?

### **Topic 16 Reds 'use women, children as shields'**

Dietmar Discussion 40: 21/04/2010 at 05:38 AM 40

@ #39: That's right.

Rational Discussion 39: 21/04/2010 at 02:26 AM 39

What's disgusting is to see up to 150000 protesters at one time asking for new elections and it falls of deaf ears. Now we have a merely 3000 yellow shirt group who claim they are for democracy (People's Alliance for Democracy...yet they won't adhere to any election results) come out to COMMAND the government for a crackdown and the government quickly acts. This is the injustice, the double-standards that these Reds and others are fed up with.

Disgusted Discussion 38: 20/04/2010 at 05:24 AM 38

I truly feel sorry for the average protester, duped by the UDD leadership who are all themselves actually elitists in their own right-who dare wear shirts with the word "prai" on it, and who serve not the poor people under them, but a billionaire living abroad who seems intent on destroying the entire country for his and the foreign investors that are supporting him own goals. Its disgusting hypocrisy and very telling that none of the UDD leaders on stage actually have come from the rural poor. It is a blatant example of human exploitation at its worse. I hope sincerely that the protesters make it home, and the UDD leaders end up at the end of ropes for treason and premeditated murder of their own supporters.

Auntie true-neutral Discussion 37: 20/04/2010 at 12:04 AM 37

I can honestly say im a true neutral here - but Im changing my mind slowly-have to say after visiting Sukhothai and Tak over Songkran i found NO support for the red shirts there-everyone i spoke to justs wants them to go home!! If I add to this the fact that Thaksin is a wanted criminal I would have to ask is it democracy to bring him back for 150,000 red shirts when 61 million dont want him-seems to me the red shirts will do anything for 2000 baht - what a jolly cheap lot they are!!

Kaufman Discussion 36: 19/04/2010 at 11:34 PM 36

Ya right. The yellow shirt are all warriors but the redshirt are terrorist and coward that hide behind woman, old folks and children. Everything the current governement do is right. While the redshirt in power, one yellow shirt



injured by the police is considered inhuman. The current government causes 24 death yet label the redshirt as terrorist. What is going on here.

Steve Discussion 35: 19/04/2010 at 07:49 PM 35

Wesley Nelson (#32): "While all the photographic evidence says that red sympathiser's threw a grenade, and shot automatic weapons into an unarmed group of Thai military." Please let us know where we can see this "photographic evidence". I have been looking through stills and videos since April 10 and have seen no such thing.

Nick Discussion 34: 19/04/2010 at 07:26 PM 34

Do you remember when Tax-sin came back and had 2 young Man City players with him-no meaningful marketing reason - just a couple of famous human shields in case anyone took a pop at him. Kasper Schmeichel was one of them.

Telly Discussion 33: 19/04/2010 at 07:13 PM 33

The government seem unable to comprehend that women and elderly people might actually want to demonstrate against the government. And these people want to continue to rule the country!! Time for a reality check Mr Abhist!

Wesley nelson Discussion 32: 19/04/2010 at 06:47 PM 32

Huh...."faithful reproduction of fantastical army lies".....you're got to be kidding me man....what planet are you on??? The government and army indulge in hyperboly for sure.....but the reds have a lock on first place for Thai kingpins for lies and misinformation. How about the repeated playing (from the rally stage and on red TV) of the obviously doctored audio tape of Abhisit supposedly advocating the killing of red shirt demonstrators? And how did they respond when Abhisit confronted them on national TV with that FACT? They said absolutely nothing. Complete Silence. How about calling Abhisit a "murderer"? While all the photographic evidence says that red sympathiser's threw a grenade, and shot automatic weapons into an unarmed group of Thai military. Get a clue DAN.

Jonas Discussion 31: 19/04/2010 at 06:33 PM 31

Piju... I also have seen your so-called unarmed friends carrying rocks, sticks and petrol bombs.... There is plenty of evidence on youtube about that.A lot of people at the Red Shirt protests probably don't want violence... but maybe at 20% do... and that is the whole problem... Their credibility is totally gone because they allow the violent group amongst their midst and with all of the hate speech of killing this person or hunting down that person, ... they are just proving to the whole world that they are worse.Don't think because the protest rhetoric is in Thai that foreign press can't understand what is being said. Enough people speak Thai language and I have started seeing some UDD speeches with accurate subtitles of what is being said and it is nowhere near what anybody would say striving for Democracy. It is rather rooting for Anarchy.Maybe they can rebrand themselves as UFA: The United Front for Anarchy

Trevor Discussion 30: 19/04/2010 at 06:32 PM 30

He can claim the reds are hiding behind women and children, but the photos don't back the army on that, and if women and children are shot it means the army are firing guns at the reds indiscriminately. Red women have the right to protest too and also should not be shot at for protesting. To me, this is nasty, the army spokesman is preparing an excuse for when they shoot women and children. Which means he anticipates this. The biggest threat to the long term stability of Thailand should not be it's own army!

Dan Discussion 29: 19/04/2010 at 06:13 PM 29

The usual impressive work by Woodward and Bernstein of the Post - faithful reproduction of fantastical army lies without the faintest shred of supporting evidence. Top work. Keep it up.

Ursus Discussion 28: 19/04/2010 at 06:03 PM 28

Red-shirt leaders have never been ashamed hiding behind children and old People and use them as a shield, nor has their big boss Thaksin.

Prasit Discussion 27: 19/04/2010 at 05:29 PM 27

Yeah Tomo... because the Army certainly doesn't have the clean truth reputation that someone like Jutaporn has right?

Piju Discussion 26: 19/04/2010 at 05:12 PM 26

Even in a "normal" situation like a football game hundreds people could be killed if panic breaks out and people are cornered and cannot escape, without any weapon required.

It was a big mistake by the leader Mr. Abhisit to send the troops (the army) into the scenario, even if he only wanted to create panic to dissolve the demonstration. Only one shot or one stone from one mad man on both sides can start a mass killing as we have seen. Machine guns, tanks, helicopters, rifles etc. should be used in war only. There was no violence before the army attacked, and I believe there will be no violence if army stays home. This is better for the army, too, because otherwise they will have no support in the future.

thai 1932 Discussion 25: 19/04/2010 at 04:43 PM 25

The Army spokeman ought to hold a PRESS CONFERENCE instead of one sided Statement. Such work is not only productive, but creates more resentment on the other side. Democracy needs a OPEN Society.

Josefino Discussion 24: 19/04/2010 at 04:33 PM 24

What was the goal of red-shirts since the beginning?

to create chaos , and provoc more and more; It is incredible that a minority want to impose to everybody their ideas ; how many people on bloody saturday? 8000 or 10 000? how many are they , today ; millions , no just a few thousand in Ratchaprasong .Who is going to believe that the red-shirts are not armed and not prepared?

Tomo Discussion 23: 19/04/2010 at 04:21 PM 23

Another Nonsense from the Military. AT first they did not shoot at protesters two weeks ago and then admitted shooting. How can we believe in Army. Army consists of bunch of top liers.

Pointman #2 Discussion 22: 19/04/2010 at 04:21 PM 22

Thailand, is a wonderful country and it's sort of a shame everyone can't agree on holding elections within 90 days. I'm not an authority on who's to blame here, but cooler heads should prevail and an agreement reached for an election. The Thai soldiers look young because Thai people look younger than their age. Frankly speaking, the deployed soldiers, look pretty darn good and in good physical condition.

Jay Gatsby Discussion 21: 19/04/2010 at 04:19 PM 21

I seem to remember when the odious Yellow Shirts occupied the airport there were hundreds of children there. The army nor police never lifted a finger to stop the Yellows, but why would they when they were being paid by the army to topple a legitimate government, unlike the one Thailand has now.

UnSpin Discussion 20: 19/04/2010 at 04:17 PM 20

#13 Lets compare than shall we? The PAD had old, young, female, male & infants so your comments should be applicable to them as well yes? And the governments statements of "terrorists" "women & children shields" "riots (when peaceful but provoked by the army)", etc. is not propaganda and these "spokespersons" are able to be questioned by reporters or opposing viewpoints allowed equal air time? As for silent majority: 2000 PAD plus 5000 No-colors is not making any statement compared to the 50,000 plus average daily for over a month. Lets extrapolate those numbers across the nation and you may catch a glimpse of the majorities leanings. Take a visit anywhere outside of Bangkok and you will see red flags going up on cars, motorcycles, homes, businesses. Facts not spin please! Finally, you must mean red tinted glasses not yellow correct?

Girlnextdoor Discussion 19: 19/04/2010 at 04:02 PM 19

Stop all this madness.

Get for once and for all those terrorists and punish them severely. If the "red leaders" are behind them, catch them too. Put an end to all this that has gone for a very long time already. I feel sick and tired of the same bla bla from guys that pretend to be revolutionaries and hide behind innocent people and use the "service" of terrorists. Those "red revolutionaries" sleep in soft beds, aircon rooms, eat good food in some hotels in Bangkok while innocent people (women, old people, even kids) are in the streets. Those "brave red revolutionaries" that run away when things get hotter than expected, almost ridiculously climbing down a rope... They are clowns. I am sure they are being paid for causing all this mess in the country.

"Revolutionaries"....YEAH SURE!!

Piju Discussion 18: 19/04/2010 at 04:01 PM 18

Mike, I have some friends demonstrating just now in Bangkok for democracy. They are not armed for sure, but I have seen many soldiers on youtube shooting with guns on them. You should not believe or make propaganda. Even if there are some people among the reds who have arms or take arms from attacking soldiers, if army would not have attacked them there would not have been anybody dead. 25 people killed, 800 injured, billions

of Bath lost, what a price for the chair of Mr. Abhisit. Why he cannot call an election as any serious leader would do in such a situation? Everybody knows the answer...

Jonas Discussion 17: 19/04/2010 at 04:00 PM 17

piju/unspin We all know how "effective" the police are... knowing that Mr T was their paymaster for years after virtually marrying into the whole police establishment....If the red shirts want to be seen as non-violent as was described by their paymaster to fight in "ghandi" style ... then they would do away with sharpened poles and sticks.... Unfortunately "non-violent" to UDD means: sharpened sticks, stones, broken bottles and war weapons... If the Red Shirt leaders, instead of jolting people up by their hate speech, had talked to them to remain peaceful at all times, they would have "disarmed" the ronin fighters amongst their midst... They did not, because the UDD is trying to instigate violence and then play the victim. A truly sad type of leadership! How can you ever accomplish anything if you can only play on the pitiessness of sympathy of the people, but don't have anything to bring to the table or no ideas on how to create a better future. A simple sentence to you UDD: Stop destroying Thailand, Start creating instead...

Jerrold Discussion 16: 19/04/2010 at 03:59 PM 16

Those who condemn the Red Shirt Democracy Movement on the basis of this report seem to have no shame, or are seriously lacking in something. To buy into this blatant propaganda shows some real intellectual limitations

Rhythmanculture Discussion 15 : 19/04/2010 at 03:58 PM 15

I've heard this kind of news back then when the U.S. military attacked Iraq. The news all reported that Saddam used his civilians (especially mentioned women & children) as weapons shields. Redshirts are unlikely to do as accused, however the PAD, pinkshirts also known as no colorshirts had done that in 2008 at the House of Parliament and both airports.

Setha Discussion 14: 19/04/2010 at 03:57 PM 14

Silly. Of course there are old people and woman and (I've not seen children there in the last few days and I doubt the military have bothered to look). They are all protestors. They are not shields. They are protestors. PAD had a very similar make up and age range to the reds. Why should only men protest? Woman vote too....

Silent Majority Discussion 13: 19/04/2010 at 03:51 PM 13

Goodness!! Unspin (Discussion #4), please remove your yellow tinted spectacles, put on untinted ones and read the article carefully. BP reports that Col Sansern has called on the UDD leaders "not to hide behind children, women and old people—describing it as a shameful act". BP did not make any remark about the women not being valid protestors and should not have an equal voice and that the women are simply pawns to the men to be used as shields. You may question the veracity of this statement but do not criticize the BP recklessly. Even if this statement is untrue, BP is merely reporting what Col Sansern said. By your argument, I guess the children are valid protestors and should have an equal voice as well? So, I suppose these children should be entitled to vote at an election as well. In any event, bringing these children to a potentially violent protest is TOTALLY

callous and irresponsible of their parents, irrespective of whether their parents had a choice of leaving them behind at home.

IQ Discussion 12: 19/04/2010 at 03:51 PM 12

OK, we believe that the government and army is very concern about the terrorist harming the protester. Especially from the last experience, they notice the gentle protester could be harmed and have requested upon the Red Shirt leadership to allow army to join the Red and mingle with the protester. This will to ensure their safety. In addition to this, they realise that they lost many anti aircraft "rubber bullet" and is more worried.

Mike Discussion 11: 19/04/2010 at 03:47 PM 11

Piju, what are you talking about?? The Reds are an armed Militia. A Military is used precisely for this type of situation, once a Militia is formed you are at war with the Military and the Red Leaders are well aware of this, they also broke their agreement and protested in Pedestrian Areas.

Peuv Discussion 10: 19/04/2010 at 03:38 PM 10

The military is in a desperate situation. They are trying to find any piece of evidence that paints the Reds the Devil. This is an indication that a major crackdown is imminent.

Insider Discussion 9: 19/04/2010 at 03:35 PM 9

Obviously spokes-people need to say something regularly even when they have nothing to say. Makes them earn their salary :-)

M150 Discussion 8: 19/04/2010 at 03:27 PM 8

Thaksin Army against Thai Army. Civil war?

Observer Discussion 7: 19/04/2010 at 03:27 PM 7

'The government will continue employing soft to hard measures in accordance with international standards,' Wake up pls & get a proper team with professional spokesman you cannot take care of the Thai standard and we are talking of International standards. Has the spokesman taken any questions from the media or general public on daily or weekly basis. It just shows a group of administrative people deciding what they believe is good for them or country? Pls look beyond the box & do not feed filtered informations to the decision maker. Open the press and take decisions from the input in your comfortable aircondition rooms that benefits the country. Any colour shirts doesn't change the level of patriotism as the love for motherland remains the same.

Mike Discussion 6: 19/04/2010 at 03:25 PM 6

Its about time these red shirt leaders are arrested for crimes against humanity. why is it they keep calling the shots (no pun intended!)

Loonytune Discussion 5: 19/04/2010 at 03:24 PM 5

A brilliant strategy but not original. Shame on the Reds for copying the Yellow.



UnSpin Discussion 4: 19/04/2010 at 03:16 PM 4

So now the women are not really valid protesters and should not have an equal voice in their nations future but are simply pawns of the men to be used as shields. When will the governments propaganda cease?

Piju Discussion 3: 19/04/2010 at 03:12 PM 3

In almost all countries except some "evil" states mentioned by Mr. G. Bush, the use of army against protestors is illegal for good reason. The army should be used only against foreign armies, the soldiers are not trained and not equipped to dissolve "illegal" demonstrations. Such job should be done only by the police, using only "harmless" means and not with snipers and machine guns like is has been done last week by the army. That can lead to disaster only as we have seen.

Mike Discussion 2: 19/04/2010 at 03:08 PM 2

The reds have no shame, they are a paid Militia and took advantage of the soft, nice Bangkok people.

A Discussion 1: 19/04/2010 at 03:05 PM 1

Haha, they won't tell the number because they don't want to make people panic. That seems like a better scare tactic than actually giving a number, it lets the imagination run away with itself.

#### **Topic 18 PM rejects softened red-shirt demands**

Mr Mildew Discussion 100: 25/04/2010 at 08:25 PM 100

Terry In Korat; Discussion 99: You propose "each person get one vote, plus one vote for every say \$100 in taxes they paid last year."

Have you lost the plot?

Terry In Korat Discussion 99: 25/04/2010 at 04:55 PM 99

Jim In Auburn #91: You asked: "What kind of country calls itself a Democracy, but has more than one vote per person?" Well...The USA does the same with Electoral College votes. It doesn't have a clean 1:1 system either. And as long as a nation like Thailand lets the buying and selling of votes happen... control gets simply sold to the highest bidder.

I'd like to point out something here. Why should a deadbeat 'bum on the street' of Any City, USA be given equal vote power to that of any hard working, high contributing and high tax paying person there? We need a better system. I propose each person get one vote, plus one vote for every say \$100 in taxes they paid last year. Some formula along those lines correctly distributes the voting power to those deserving... and negates the deadbeats and those who evade taxes. What are your thoughts?

Steve Discussion 98: 25/04/2010 at 03:06 PM 98

Harryon (#93) can go on repeating his mantra and it won't change the results - the complete and certified figures for the total voting are there for all to see. On constituency voting being susceptible to gerrymandering - through ALL the local power-brokers ranging from Democrats in Surat Thani to BJT in Buri Ram to PT in the

north/north-east - I agree. A complete switch to 100% national party "list" voting might well reduce that substantially - but it's a system that introduces a swathe of other disadvantages (not least the loss of "local" representation and accountability) which explains why it's so rarely adopted. No system will be perfect but that's not an excuse to dismiss the results of the one that's in place - or, as I should say, arbitrarily dismiss just the part of the results a poster doesn't like.

Bangkok resident (#97) says I deceive myself "that the Red shirt protesters speak for the VAST MAJORITY of Thais in Thailand". He/she seems rather confused-I've said (and believe) no such thing.

Bangkok resident Discussion 97: 25/04/2010 at 10:19 AM 97

Steve (Discussion 86)-You are forgetting the other parties which agreed to form a coalition with the Democrats. Together, the Democrat led coalition government HAS more than 50% of the votes and the seats in Parliament. So, do not parrot the Red shirt protesters and deceive yourself that the Red shirt protesters speak for the VAST MAJORITY of Thais in Thailand because any way you look at it, THEY DO NOT!!

Bill Canada Discussion 96: 25/04/2010 at 09:44 AM 96

"No, I reject it. Because they use violence and intimidation I cannot accept this," Abhisit said. Not the best response for any negotiator, especially when your side lost five victims vs. the 20 on the other side on April 10, 2553 and your spokesman has just announced a threatened dispersal confrontation to intimidate the reds.

Harryon Discussion 95: 25/04/2010 at 08:08 AM 95

-93 StevePlease review the following statement carefully and I repeat."More people voted for the Democrats than the PPP in the 2007 election"The problem with the constituency votes has everything to do with their allocation and susceptibility to gerrymandering.

Miracle Discussion 94: 25/04/2010 at 02:15 AM 94

Aung San Suu Kyi on the perils of having the military's constitution Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi has been reported as commenting that "Thailand's political crisis shows that a constitution drawn up by the military can never deliver stability...".NLD spokesman Nyan Win said that in a meeting he had with Suu Kyi, "she discussed the situation in Thailand, which has been wracked by crises since a 2006 coup ejected Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra." He cited her as commenting: "A new government coming to power under a constitution drawn up by the military will never be stable.... We do not need to see very far. We just see Thailand.... Thaksin was an elected person. The military seized the power from an elected person. The constitution was drawn up by the military.... After that, what happened with the first (government)? It was not stable.... This was a result of the constitution being written by the military."Readers may recall another Nobel laureate speaking a few days ago. Jose Ramos Horta essentially supported the government's interpretation of things without considering any context. Suu Kyi's comments will send some yellow shirts into a low orbit.

Steve Discussion 93: 25/04/2010 at 02:03 AM 93

Harryon (#92) -what's to review? Call the constituency votes what you like-they are still VOTES. Quite why you choose to now dismiss them and label them as "part of the current electoral problem in Thailand" is not clear; if it's anything beyond you simply not liking them-feel free to explain.I already did the "math" -and so can you. Total valid votes cast were actually just over 107 million-76 million is just the total for the two leading parties. Noted in the table of official election results published at Wikipedia\* you will find the following: "As constituencies elect between one and three MPs, some people have two or three votes". That together with the combination of constituency PLUS party "list" votes always produces a total vote count way over the eligible electorate total-i.e. it is NOT "one person one vote". Are you really not aware of that? Faranf-UK (#93) -ALL Thai political parties have engaged in vote-buying. For the rest, feel free to produce your evidence and show how it affected the overall results. While you're at it, consider the mass deployment of the military in the 2007 election to [cough] "guide" the electorate into voting the "right" way - in spite of which, sufficient voters voted as they did to produce the results in the table. \*[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thai\\_general\\_election,\\_2007](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thai_general_election,_2007)

Airbus Discussion 92: 25/04/2010 at 01:26 AM 92

Adhisit never want to peace talk or make a deal with RED shirt. Otherwise he would not arrange the army at all. And now, he has anti-red shirt people on street now, so why should he need a peace talk. I don't see any reason at all.

Jim in Auburn Discussion 91: 25/04/2010 at 01:19 AM 91

You can always tell what people are really protesting for by what they are willing to settle for. The red shirt leaders can spew talk about equality for the poor, and wanting to help the poor, and about the yellow shirts not getting presecuted. But in the end, they are willing to settle for a new election, so that they can try to get back into power and bring Thaksin back. What is this about constituency votes? What is that? What kind of country that calls themselves a democracy has more than one vote for one person?

Harryon Discussion 90: 25/04/2010 at 12:50 AM 90

-87 StevePlease review your arguement. farang 1973 correctly states more people voted Democrat than voted PPP.The constituency votes are additional votes and part of the current electoral problem in Thailand. You have 76 million votes in the 2007 elections, in country of 65 million people.You do the math.

IsanSon Discussion 89: 25/04/2010 at 12:26 AM 89

If you want Thailand to break up into different countries, then go ahead crack down hard on the Reds.

Peter Discussion 88: 24/04/2010 at 11:39 PM 88

Steen-I only partly agree with you. There are, I think, 2 major reasons why Abhisit does not want an early dissolution of Parliament. The first is because, as you say, the successor to Anupong will take charge of the army in September. But the second is because the budget will be fixed in a few months and Abhisit wants to make sure his arrangements are in place before he goes.

Alex Discussion 87: 24/04/2010 at 11:34 PM 87

the red warriors are ready battle coming for live in democracy judgment day for warriors

Steve Discussion 86: 24/04/2010 at 11:00 PM 86

farang 1973 (#57) rightly ridicules the absurd notion that land mass be considered a factor. Obviously enough, the test must be the number of votes cast and thereby the number of seats allocated-all according to the electoral system of a given country. Thailand operates a combination of constituency and party "list" voting-so both types of vote count in the allocation of seats. The TOTAL (i.e. constituency + proportional "list") votes cast for the two leading parties in Thailand's December 2007 election were as follows:

PPP-40,365,255 (seats allocated 233) Dem-35,829,961 (seats allocated 165)

farang 1973 may choose to ignore the constituency votes in order to claim (falsely) that the Democrats received more votes than PPP, but the Thai electoral system doesn't. What part of that 4.5 million difference in votes does he not understand? Does he think PPP were allocated 68 more seats than the Democrats by mistake?

live.long&prosper Discussion 85: 24/04/2010 at 10:55 PM 85

the greatest thing thug-sin has given the thai people was 37 coup d'états ...

Wise one Discussion 84: 24/04/2010 at 10:53 PM 84

Those who like sausages and respect the law would lose all appetite and respect for either if they saw how they were made. -Unknown Source Where you find the laws most numerous, there you will find also the greatest injustice. -Arcesilaus If you have ten thousand regulations, you destroy all respect for the law.

-Winston Churchill That government is best which governs the least, because its people discipline themselves.

-Thomas Jefferson, Third President of the United States of America Censorship in any form is the opening wedge for fascism, since it places arbitrary and unwarranted power in the hands of individuals. -Jack Parsons from the book "Freedom Is a Two-edged Sword." An oppressive government is more to be feared than a tiger. -

Confucius All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing. -Edmund Burke

Wee Discussion 83 : 24/04/2010 at 10:48 PM 83

Abhisit is backed into a corner now. Who is it that is forcing him to remain in power. This is not about the welfare of the country or about democracy. It is about a dictatorial power refusing to relinquish it's power structure. Abhisit is the corner stone to this structure and if he falls the dictator and all will fall with him. This is a confrontation between dictatorship and democracy. This same thing has been raising it's head for a long time in Thailand but the little people have always suffered the crushing blow of the dictatorship. Maybe this time the little people will prevail.

Dick Farang Discussion 82: 24/04/2010 at 10:43 PM 82

The Bangkok upper circles go on to ignore the lessons of history: the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution, the Vietnamese Disaster, ...

Zerocool Discussion 81: 24/04/2010 at 10:41 PM 81

Some people here claim the reds are not the majority of Thais. How stupid and dangerous is the claim. They are from northern Thailand, and even from Bangkok. They are the majority. The yellow and the rich living in Bangkok like Bangkok Post readers here are the minority. When a prime minister decides to use violence against the majority of the people, he is doomed. And those who support him deserve a place in hell.

An Alien Discussion 80: 24/04/2010 at 10:37 PM 80

Discussion 53 The Swissman: Most Isan people especially the bread winner are working in Bangkok! When they go home, the street in Bangkok are empty.

OK Discussion 79: 24/04/2010 at 10:34 PM 79

10 out of 10 for persistence Thaksin; most billionaires would have retreated to their private islands by now, but then again, most billionaires don't have various court cases pending, having to fund a revolution to try to acquit themselves. A fine mess, congratulations, you must be really proud of yourself as I'm sure your 'family' and 'friends' are! If you really want to see who still loves you why don't you stop paying them?

IV Discussion 78: 24/04/2010 at 10:27 PM 78

At this point any negotiation with the red shirts would be very wrong, . Give them a deadline and stick to it this time! Short term losses for long term gains.

IB Discussion 77: 24/04/2010 at 10:19 PM 77

"Truth today" the red shirts say. Well, as time passes and evidence of their real agenda piles up against them it's becoming more and more apparent that the truth is not their friend. Indeed, the real truth is becoming much clearer (even to the foreign media (shame on the BBC!)) and will leave them scrambling for excuses as they will try to claim that Thaksin deceived them!!!

Observer Discussion 76: 24/04/2010 at 10:15 PM 76

to Swissman Discussion 53 you misunderstand or you don't want to see the reality... I agree that 90% of redshirts are from North and E-san, but I disagree that 90% people from North and E-san are redshirts

Somchai Discussion 75: 24/04/2010 at 10:11 PM 75

Abhisit is making all the right calls. Dissolution of parliament because of a terrorist mob will not bring the country forward. Difference must be resolved in the parliament but Puea Thai has decided to hide behind the red shirts. PT is the real problem not the government.

Citiboi Discussion 74: 24/04/2010 at 10:07 PM 74

@Unspin (Disc 31), I have read your comment several times but I am really confused. With an aggregate number of votes of 29% (18% for Democrats and 11% for minor coalition partners), the Democrats led coalition could muster enough seats to form a majority in parliament, thereby forming the government????

WOW!! Thaksin's stooges must have done a TERRIBLE job drawing the electoral/constituency

boundaries!!!For your information, if there should be any adverse changes in Bangkokians' lives, do not blame the Abhisit administration... blame the Red shirt protesters for their TERRORIST tactics!!!

what\_if Discussion 73: 24/04/2010 at 09:58 PM 73

So after yet another massacre and 'dispersal' of poor disenfranchised Thai people, the civil war will go slightly underground, as the civil war is being waged in the South. Abhisit is an idiot who doesn't understand that the red shirts will retaliate 'guerilla' style, and that it is far better to negotiate a new election NOW than turn Bangkok into a civil war battlefield where guerilla style attacks occur because public demonstrations are prohibited.

Truth Discussion 72: 24/04/2010 at 09:52 PM 72

#53... You are SO wrong. Isan is NOT a red state! There are people here with minds. The minority are these red puppets. If the UDD has 'a policy of non-violence' they sure haven't stuck to it. Sad to say "fighting till death" may be the only way to decisively lower the ignorance factor. For reasoning has failed. So be forewarned: If you are a red shirt protester and you are not willing to die for Thaksin's greedy, corrupt ways, then stay away from Bangkok. It's that simple. For you are causing a war. Don't underestimate it's finality. Millions in Isan support this government.

Elay Discussion 71: 24/04/2010 at 09:52 PM 71

If they cracked down the yellow protests some years ago, they will have the full right to crack down the red protests at this moment. Instead of that several yellow shirt leaders are enjoying priviledges with the democrates and until now no leader is sentenced for blocking the airport or other damages. Although I don't agree with the red's, I can understand their feeling of injustice. The best way will be new elections and sentesing of yellow and red shirt leaders by a neutral court. Any new protests after elections, nomatter the outcome,will be stopped the hard way, problem solved.

Bystander Discussion 70: 24/04/2010 at 09:37 PM 70

Sorry to pour cold water to this anxiety. The powerful Thai army decide who come and go, regardless of which political party is in power. Do not need to be alarmed as this show is reaching the end for Abhisit and his fellows.

Sceptic Discussion 69: 24/04/2010 at 09:35 PM 69

~57 Farang1973, I think you haven't listened closely enough to the grass roots!

Mr Mildew Discussion 68: 24/04/2010 at 09:34 PM 68

Wilaiwan; Discussion 41: Way to go, tell it as it is. It is that simple.

Julia Discussion 67: 24/04/2010 at 09:21 PM 67

Of course Abhisit has to reject it. The baby face PM must listen to his boss Suthep. Suthep, newin, the banham family, sanan, that is the mafia who is still waiting for the ten percent kickback on thei economic stimulus package.

Sick of IT Discussion 66: 24/04/2010 at 09:18 PM 66

Wow, when I see that picture of (bamboo stake and tire) 'barricades,' I can't help but to think of a fire hazard. Tires and sticks together are just a recipe for disaster should they catch fire; all of the people in the middle of the two ... could be incinerated within minutes of an outbreak. If the UDD were smart, they would take all of that down immediately and replace it with sandbags and barbed wire for their own safety!

See Discussion 65: 24/04/2010 at 09:17 PM 65

Remember this Thailand, the world is watching. Abhisit said "No, I reject it. Because they use violence and intimidation I cannot accept this. So a crackdown on the protestors which could lead to untold deaths and injuries is not the same thing. Now it is the PM that does not want to settle the conflict with dialogue. The army spokesman said, "At the appropriate time, it would not be a dispersal, it would be a crackdown on those terrorists. At the moment the conditions are not right but I'm convinced that at some point we can crush them all." Someone in the army is hell bent on destroying these people for personal reasons.

Boon Discussion 64: 24/04/2010 at 09:06 PM 64

Abhisit and democrats has no moral right to tell people about rule of law-they loosed it. They were hand in glove with PAD armed rallies-with also ping pong bombs and explosive. He has even a criminal who broke international law on his cabinet. 25 peoples' blood already in his hands and he wants more. He has been ignoring the recommendations made by 'reconciliation committee'. He started the violent. Now the taped messages that he ordered the use of force is not doctored. He has driven people to take up arms.

A Thai Discussion 63: 24/04/2010 at 09:02 PM 63

Thank you Khun Wilaiwan for opening some foreign Liberals eyes, who do not know the real truth or pretend not wanting to know.It is all about Thaksin. He is fighting for democracy, please do not make me laugh!

Khunandre Australia Discussion 62: 24/04/2010 at 09:00 PM 62

I would never choose a corrupt at any price..because I am not corrupt.

Johnny Discussion 61: 24/04/2010 at 08:55 PM 61

Well, this answers the question, "Does Abhisit care about Thailand or just his own political power?" Easy answer. He doesn't care about Thailand at all. The city is paralyzed. Businesses are losing millions of dollars a day and he refuses to talk. Let's face it, he never will. Because he knows when Parliament is finally dissolved, and it will be, he's DONE as Prime Minister.

Sceptic Discussion 60: 24/04/2010 at 08:47 PM 60

Is this Abhisit's last throw. He is motivated by such a visceral hatred of Thaksin that I am afraid he can no longer see the wood for the trees. I fear he is going to cause Thailand tremendous - and avoidable - pain.

Jim Discussion 59: 24/04/2010 at 08:23 PM 59

just get on with the crack down,no talking to thugs,red or yellow will drag thailand back to the gutter,sad but it snever going to end,

crystal ball Discussion 58: 24/04/2010 at 08:22 PM 58

The crystal ball say that if Anupong take order to crack down, it will no longer be a political problem but civil war for Thailand. However if he stage a coup, he will succeed temporary but it will be difficult to remove all the against. The crystal ball indicate that it will be best to allow time to pass without action for now as the difficult moment will subside for better solution and reasoning.

farang1973 Discussion 57: 24/04/2010 at 07:54 PM 57

Am I reading this nonsense correctly. Having lost the argument about the popular vote, the reds on here are now claiming that 71% of the LAND MASS voted TRT (or do we mean PPP in the last election?). I can't believe the nonsense I am hearing ..... I know for a fact that my front garden voted for the Democrats.

Corboz Discussion 56: 24/04/2010 at 07:52 PM 56

Now reds promise to use guerilla war to bring about democracy to Thailand. The Chavalit army and Sae Deng's weapons are all ready I guess. Thailand is going towards Asia's Nothern Ireland. (My comments are being rejected whenever I mention Sae Deng, I don't what the reason is)

Somsak Discussion 55: 24/04/2010 at 07:49 PM 55

Fai; The people behind what has been going on for years are envy; envy; is a bad sickness so many people has been murdered so far, regretfully worse are to come.

Khunandre Australia Discussion 54: 24/04/2010 at 07:47 PM 54

Bravo PM Abhisit, never bow to those people, they are not the majority in Thailand. Continue with your good job as PM.

The swissman Discussion 53: 24/04/2010 at 07:42 PM 53

The reds are representative of isan and north of Thailand , where the majority of thai people leaving! What is it if you don't accept their voice so Thailand is no more a democracy! Democracy give the possibility of their people of speaking and listening! For me now Thailand seems a dictature of a prime minister hanging at the power! And of course you have to fight again the dictature. But i'm trustful , the end will arrive ... unfortunately there will be deaths because this man...

Trade Discussion 52: 24/04/2010 at 07:19 PM 52

According to the Agence France-Presse and to the french radio station FIP (about 45' ago), the Prime Minister has rejected the UDD' demand.

Tom Discussion 51: 24/04/2010 at 06:41 PM 51

Wilaiwan - in that case, there is no need to rush because the cases would not be hurried through the court system within a couple of months anyway.

Steen Discussion 50: 24/04/2010 at 06:38 PM 50

Discussion 40 I am not allowed to cite quotations here. But it is common knowledge that at present the successor to Anupong is meant to take over in September-it is most likely to be Prayuth, a close friend of



Anupong's (sorry, my mistake-not relative). Do a few searches on the internet and you will see that it is commonly accepted that the successorship is a major concern regarding whether to dissolve Parliament early. Abhisit came to power supported by the army and Anupong is the one really pulling the strings-he wants to make sure that his successor can establish himself before any new general elections occur.

Fai Discussion 49: 24/04/2010 at 06:28 PM 49

Let us not forget that traditionally, the Democrats are AGAINST the military. They are in cahoots with the military now only because it is the military that is propping them up with power. A coup is not a solution. The only way out is to return the power to the people and hold an election. Thaksin did pull Thailand out of the 97 financial crisis. He did return Thailand's debt to IMF within a very short time. Overall, did the standard of living of an average Thai improve? Yes it did. All these that happened today is all because of the military coup in 2006. Otherwise we would have been so much better off, regardless whether Thaksin was corrupt or not. If I were to choose between the military and Thaksin, I will choose the latter.

Geoff Discussion 48: 24/04/2010 at 06:22 PM 48

Some of you seem to have forgotten that Thaksin made a policy of putting his relatives and cronies into every senior position in the police and the army he could. It was part of his scheme to remain in power for a very long time - but then life doesn't always go according to plan!

Wilaiwan Discussion 47: 24/04/2010 at 05:12 PM 47

Tom, there are several more cases in the process. I've forgotten the number. It's over 10 more anyway. The court system hasn't finished with Thaksin and his family yet by any means.

Equality Discussion 46: 24/04/2010 at 04:50 PM 46

Disc #33 & #35 To hand over the general's job to one of the friends of the so called rich & elite, I had read somewhere Gen P. From what I have read and heard that would be going the same way as our neighbour. Also the budgets are cleared and the financial bonuses from this can be distributed or kickedback according to the NY Times. So both sides want their general and the finances. I say what about the people? By the way I don't think there was in 6 months to dissolve ever confirmed only talked about.

Tom Discussion 45: 24/04/2010 at 04:45 PM 45

To discussion 40 - the corruption cases have already gone through the court system, so I'm not sure about your logic there. But I agree with you that there is no pure democratic agenda here on ANY side-either on the red side or the yellow side. It's basically all about power-mongering. But don't kid yourself into believing that Abhisit and his cronies have any moral superiority in this. They are all as bad as each other.

Arthur Discussion 44: 24/04/2010 at 04:43 PM 44

The UDD already reveals it's way of thinking just be their choice of name. "against Dictatorship". Why not pro-peace? It would give a totally positive twist to their image. As now it expresses some sort of aggressive association (combined with their actions) Don't blow up negative thoughts. Focus on something good! This

situation is probably simply a matter of incomprehension for each other. Both sides believe they are doing the right thing.

Frank Discussion 43: 24/04/2010 at 04:38 PM 43

A lesser shade of absurd is still absurd. Reds need to think about this: Considering Thaksin was a billionaire entering politics as the PM, how morally corrupt and how black his heart must be before he would even considered stealing a single baht from the people-and is this the person you want to rally behind?If so, no one but yourselves can take you seriously.

Sign Discussion 42: 24/04/2010 at 04:29 PM 42

Just arrived in Thailand and now wondering what was all the protest for? A better Thailand? After one day talking to taxi drivers and night time workers, maybe the government should just build a house for the red shirts there for them to get 500-2000 baht / day and move the central world to somewhere else. Whats democracy when people get paid to protest. Just talked to a cab driver who has to get loans from the black market with 60 / 100 rate cuz income reduced by more than 1/2. Shouldn't the government start doing something?

Wilaiwan Discussion 41: 24/04/2010 at 04:25 PM 41

The Red Shirt leaders have to follow Thaksin's instructions. He needs an immediate dissolution because his corruption cases are in the court system; the budget will be finalized in 3 months or so, and he needs to "play" with it; his 47 billion will soon go into the state coffers; etc. It all has absolutely nothing to do with restoring democracy, justice, fighting corruption, etc. It's all about Thaksin's needs. I'm sorry to upset the foreign Liberals and Social Democrats. This is Thailand.

Farang-UK Discussion 40: 24/04/2010 at 04:23 PM 40

Discussion 39. Can you supply any evidence for your claims? You are making serious accusations here without a shred of evidence.

Steen Discussion 39: 24/04/2010 at 03:54 PM 39

To discussion 35-read my comment in discussion 33. There are reasons why the government was willing to offer 6 or 9 months and there are reasons why that would be unacceptable, as basically it is once again an example of Abhisit giving power to the army (since Anupong can then go ahead with his plan of handing over his position of army chief to his relative in September under a favourable government).

Steen Discussion 38: 24/04/2010 at 03:49 PM 38

To discussion 34 The damage basically started with the coup in 2006. That non-democratic act has led to a series of other non-democratic acts, as illegal demonstrations are conducted year after year without concern for the consequences. If you want to ask who started the precedent for such blackmailing, ask the yellows. Their blockade of the airport debilitated the country - and the perpetrators have still not been brought to justice. Two wrongs do not make a right, but you have to appreciate the context in which these demonstrations are happening.

Ursus Discussion 37: 24/04/2010 at 03:45 PM 37

I cannot see any advantage of an election in 30 days compared to 60 or 90 days. The red's demands are still absurd and stubborn. Or what's the problem with even 8 months the government offered first? Does everybody know what's 8 months in our lifetime? Now there's a risk of a civil war, just because the one group wants 15 or 30 days the other one 60 or 90 days. Ridiculous and sad. Wake up People and work for the future of all Thais.

Lost Discussion 36: 24/04/2010 at 03:43 PM 36

Okay im kind of lost at the moment, someone refresh my memory. So what's the Red leaders supposedly fighting for??

Where's the compromise Discussion 35: 24/04/2010 at 03:38 PM 35

I don't see a middle ground here, considering the two sides initial proposals for the schedule of house dissolution. I honestly believe, because it's quite obvious that the Red leaders are quite egotistical and selfish in their demands, that the Red Leaders are seeing everything from their perspective alone. Let's recalled the negotiation, from the Red leaders they demanded a house dissolution in 15 days, while the government proposed 9 months. Then the government softened its stance to 6 months, but the Red proposed immediate house dissolution after the crackdown had occurred. Ultimately the Red offered a 30 days house dissolution time table, that's like 15 more days. How is that fair? The government subtracted approximately 90 days from their original time table, but the reds proposed for a plus 15 days from their original schedule. What is so urgent that you need to dissolve the government in 15 days, immediately or within 30 days?? Why in so much of a hurry? If a house dissolve in 6 months, that's way better than 9 months. And there will be a brand new election regardless. So what is up with that and where's the compromise in your demands. It's like my way or no way.

Bo Discussion 34: 24/04/2010 at 03:33 PM 34

Do you have an idea of the unbelievable damage all this is causing to the country?

Steen Discussion 33: 24/04/2010 at 03:13 PM 33

To discussion 24 - Do you have any idea why the reds rejected Abhisit's offer of 6/9 months? It is because the ONLY reason for that timeframe is that Abhisit wants to help his army friend, Anupong, who wants to hand over his role as army chief to a relative in September (i.e. within 5 months). See how easily you have swallowed the media view that Abhisit is all sweet and gentle! He's as manipulative as the rest of them-and clearly totally manipulated by the army.

SPICEMAN Discussion 32: 24/04/2010 at 02:35 PM 32

Election in Thailand doesn't go by landmass, but by the size of population. So E-San as a whole has only marginal majority over Bangkok and the rest of the country, assuming every person in E-San vote for Maw's Power in whatever version it may be. However, if half of the North vote for Maw's Power, the two combined are unbeatable.

UnSpin Discussion 31: 24/04/2010 at 01:59 PM 31

Forget the total vote results of 50/50. The proportional area of the votes cast tells it all... 71% of Thailand's land mass voted majority TRT while only 18% voted Democrats with the remaining 11% the minor coalition partners. The reason is that Bangkok region voted 6:1 Democrats and that is the reason for the rural masses claiming "elitism" and crying foul. Doesn't that ring of truth when total votes are 50/50 but the area of TRT support is 71% to 18%? Now I hope you coup loving supporters will stop the propaganda and become part of the solution by jumping on the "new election" wagon so as to avoid a major civil implosion throughout Thailand that will change the lives of all Bangkokians forever.

David Discussion 30: 24/04/2010 at 12:39 PM 30

Peter, You got to give it time to solve. Its unreasonable to blame Abhisit that he doesn't have a solution. Nobody in the world has a solution to this. Tell me who has a solution for world peace? Resolving such conflicts always take time.

Clarification Discussion 29: 24/04/2010 at 12:28 PM 29

Twisted #25The statement about the vote is factually correct AND so is your statement that "that they need to make it fair for everyone". [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thai\\_general\\_election,\\_2007](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thai_general_election,_2007) The table in the page tells us that out of a population of over 65 million (65,068,149) Thais in 2007, over 35.5 million (35,535,767) Thai people cast their votes in the election of 2007. Out of the 35.5 million Thai people who cast their votes, over 14 million (14,071,799) Thai people voted for the PPP and over 14 million (14,084,265) Thai people voted for the Democrats.

Lek Discussion 28: 24/04/2010 at 12:21 PM 28

In any negotiation you can bet that the UDD will insist on an amnesty for the Red leaders, and you know what - Abhisit will probably grant it!

Peter Discussion 27: 24/04/2010 at 12:15 PM 27

PM Abhisit rightly says he has a duty to solve this problem and that if he can't he shouldn't be here. The problem is he has not told anybody how he is going to do it. Parrot type repetition that he will not be "intimidated" into finding political solutions serves no useful purpose.

The new proposals from the Red Shirts offer a glimmer of hope. It is up to him to seize it.

Izzy Discussion 26: 24/04/2010 at 11:21 AM 26

As we say in Finland, life is learning and you get what you order, just letting you know reds...

Twisted Discussion 25: 24/04/2010 at 11:19 AM 25

Geoff you did say peoples vote but as you are aware the figures you have quoted are proportional votes not individual peoples votes big difference. Your statement or propaganda "Put another way, 14,084,265 Thai people voted for the Democrats, that is 12,466 more people than voted for Thaksin's proxy PPP." is so wrong. They need to make it fair for everyone. When you are in Govt or opposition, just because you are in a different

party what the other party does is not always wrong, you should be working to help the people and your country irrelevant if you think they are buffalo or not.

a-nony-mouse Discussion 24: 24/04/2010 at 11:02 AM 24

The game is up boys. You painted yourself into this corner when you rejected Abhisit's offer with the usual same old stance. You have failed miserably in winning the hearts and minds of Bangkok citizens and have actually succeeded in doing the opposite. The numbers you claimed never showed up despite the incentives on offer. Now its time to quietly accept the obvious and go home. Then the true winner will be Thailand.

Equality Discussion 23: 24/04/2010 at 11:01 AM 23

Geoff & 2007 Elections Geoff you did say popular vote but as you are aware the figures you have quoted are proportional votes big difference. PPP did very well in those elections didn't they. They won very unfairly I do have to agree with you. The junta did everything they could to ensure a democrat win by banning TRT and their politicians for 5 years. And suppressing PPP activities plus many more things. One of the popular PPP members a former democrat party member was assassinated just before the elections. Over 200,000 army and police supervised the elections. Every party had a disqualification from those elections Yes i was suprised the junta gave the democrats one as well.

Chaze Discussion 22: 24/04/2010 at 11:00 AM 22

Agree with # 16. People are just blinded by the Thaksin's cry against the government. Re-election is not a solution of the problem because we don't know how well he is in running the government, how honest and supportive he will be for the people...what these people (red team) should is to support whoever is in the current administration...their support will motivate the government to do their best for the people.

Shame Discussion 21: 24/04/2010 at 10:36 AM 21

Now can switch the job with non-color, pay job can continue, free lunch, free dinner, just dress any color except RED.

Taxpayer Discussion 20: 24/04/2010 at 10:34 AM 20

2007 Elections - #16 Well said. I have struggled to understand if the request for majority rule is based on a lack of understanding of hte difference amongst on popular vote, parliamentary rules and mob rule.

MOO MOO Discussion 19: 24/04/2010 at 10:29 AM 19

What does it mean to dissolve the parliament? What happens after parliament is dissolved?

Kevin Discussion 18: 24/04/2010 at 10:21 AM 18

They can have as many re-elections as they want. Simple re-elections do not change anything at all. There will be Thaksin (resp. his shadow), there will be vote-buying and corruption. Then its just going back to the airport and so on and so forth.

Sick of IT Discussion 17: 24/04/2010 at 10:14 AM 17

If what sunnyjim said ["The same man who last night claimed the unsung Ronin warrior heroes were responsible for the attacks on Silom and were now safely away from Bangkok."] is true, than this is an inconsistent and insincere stance: "He said that UDD leaders had reached a consensus on a new time frame out of concerns for the safety of the public following Thursday night's M79 grenade attacks in Silom which killed one woman and wounded more than 80 others." The real truth is that they are losing support and causing the general public to turn against them, which puts their own lives in grave danger. The UDD is afraid of the hornets' nest they stirred up on Thursday!

2007 Elections Discussion 16: 24/04/2010 at 09:57 AM 16

Wanadee @1 Regardless of the political process that actually did make Abhisit PM, his party won 39.63% of the popular vote in the 2007 election (compared to 39.6% for the PPP). We should all know that the election laws of Thailand require the votes to be counted for constituency seats, so the popular vote should only be seen as an indicator of how many people like that party. Put another way, 14,084,265 Thai people voted for the Democrats, that is 12,466 more people than voted for Thaksin's proxy PPP. As we all should know the PPP did win the election based on house seats, where they won 233 seats versus the 165 won by the Democrats. However, regardless of the judicial process that invalidated the PPP's house seats, when it comes to street protests nobody would care if it were just those seated or unseated politicians out there waving their hand clappers in the air. It is the people who go out and protest, and based on the 2007 figures above a 100% capacity turnout on both sides would leave the reds short by over 12,000 protestors. The government knows this, so how can you expect them to give in to the demands of a relatively few loud people? Let's not forget the less popular parties that made up the coalition and affected the final outcome. Prior to the 2007 election Banharn Silpa-archa of the Chart Thai party had promised voters not to form a coalition with the PPP, but after the votes were counted, they did join the coalition. How does the fairness of that compare to the fairness of the coalition formed by the current administration? Regarding the process it doesn't seem to matter, but it should make voters more cautious about who they trust at the next election. The real situation is a far cry from all the 'non democratic', 'puppet government', 'minority usurpers', 'dictatorship' rubbish that is constantly posted by the Thaksin shells.

Geoff Discussion 15: 24/04/2010 at 09:43 AM 15

RE#1 No party won a majority at the last election. The PPP won more seats than the Democrats but the Democrats actually received slightly more votes. I think Wandee may be surprised and disappointed after the next election is held. Many Thai people have had enough of Thaksin and his street mobs now.

Drey Discussion 14: 24/04/2010 at 09:20 AM 14

Now we're getting somewhere. Government 5 months vs. UDD 1 month. Lets all split the difference and make it 3 months and all go home and breath a sigh of relief! And everyone can leave behind the Thaksin, Coup,

Elections, Courts, etc.. matters and together move the country forward for all.ps. 3 months is enough for all parties to campaign and establish their platforms. Lets have neutral UN election monitors ensure the results are accepted.

Marty Discussion 13: 24/04/2010 at 09:12 AM 13

Gen Anupong makes a smart move! The hot potato nobody wants to hold, but thrown to the hand of Anupong. He probably realised that the govt asks army hand to clean the mess, while Suthep is incompetent. On the one hand, moving to clean up the reds, the triumph will be on Apphisit's side, and on the other, standing idle and observing would be ideal until the time retire in few months time. Then onward he becomes a clean man.

Scott Discussion 12: 24/04/2010 at 08:55 AM 12

"Abhisit Vejjajiva said he would not be "intimidated" into finding political solutions." -So, it is clear, he doesn't even want a political solution. This explains his lack of ability to actually negotiate. He needs to be removed.

Sy Discussion 11: 24/04/2010 at 08:47 AM 11

Lets get it done, cause my family are coming to Thailand this July.

A Thai Discussion 10: 24/04/2010 at 08:34 AM 10

The final curtain is coming near for the red shirt leaders, jail is waiting for them. That will be the payback time by many, within the prison's cell.

Army man Discussion 9: 24/04/2010 at 08:09 AM 9

If Gen Anupong dose not want to do anything and just want to keep himself clear, he should resign or be transferred to non-active post.

Sunnyjim Discussion 8: 24/04/2010 at 07:42 AM 8

I find Mr. Nattuwats words very hollow when he expresses that the UDD had nothing to do with the deaths. This is the same UDD and UDD supporters that were clamoring for the signatures of Sah Deng when he showed up at the rally stage a couple of weeks ago. The same man who last night claimed the unsung Ronin warrior heroes were responsible for the attacks on Silom and were now safely away from Bangkok. Nothing to do with the deaths-Utter rubbish.

As for the army. Well Cambodia must feel very embolden by the words of Anupong. The Thai army is scared to fight.

Geoff Discussion 7: 24/04/2010 at 07:22 AM 7

Maybe it is best just to contain and ignore the redshirt mob until it rains upcountry. Then, those of them who actually work, can go home and wait for the next election to sell their votes.

Brainard Locke Discussion 6: 24/04/2010 at 07:21 AM 6

Could it be that they need the extra time so people will forget what happended last thursday night? They did have an generous offer proposed to them and it was elections in 6 months.



Khunandre Australia Discussion 5: 24/04/2010 at 07:15 AM 5

An army source said that about 400 of the red shirts were armed and several thousand were trained in combat. So, in such a case what to do, just sitting and let them kill innocent people like Thursday night at Sala Daeng??. I congratulate the multicoloured group for their courage and hope their numbers will increase during the week end.

Amazed Discussion 4: 24/04/2010 at 07:08 AM 4

Terrorist and blackmailers are in no position to make demands of any kind. Such weakness would put the legally recognized govt. in very bad position if confronted with similar groups in the future.

Harryon Discussion 3: 24/04/2010 at 07:03 AM 3

Khun Veera Musikhapong's "concerns for public safety" are suddenly convenient and should be interpreted as concerns for public opinion. The selfish arguments of the UDD are obvious manipulation which amazingly are tolerated by so many. I recommend closing the door on negotiation and prepare the country for an election in October.

Observer Discussion 2: 24/04/2010 at 07:00 AM 2

If "UDD had stuck to a non-violent approach" as said Nattawut Saikua, the redshirts cannot hold in their hands even a stick of wood. In reality, the redshirts are ready for a violent approach... The followers of Gandhi, Martin Luther King had nothing in hands, they were true non-violent protesters... Violent attitude of redshirts is giving reason for a violent repression by government...

Wandee Discussion 1: 24/04/2010 at 06:54 AM 1

While the government has yet to formally react, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said he would not be "intimidated" into finding political solutions. "I have a duty to solve the problem. If I can't I should not be here," he said. (Quote End) Looking at the outcome of the last 2 elections in Thailand Mr Abhisit the people voted that you should not be there! Does that not tell you something!!

### **Topic 19 UDD says army attack likely**

Khun Discussion 92: 02/05/2010 at 02:54 AM 92

Hey Discussion 88, Bangkok is not the only place that Thai people live. Reds are grassroots, I don't agree with your comment. They are not fighting for stupid ex prime minister anymore. Got it ?

Sombat Discussion 91: 01/05/2010 at 06:44 PM 91

#9 it is more likely Thailand will be another Burma, even Aung San Suu Kyi are worried

Pam Discussion 90: 27/04/2010 at 10:21 PM 90

Thailand will be ended up just like Cambodia. I hope not.

A Thai Discussion 89: 27/04/2010 at 09:20 AM 89

Geoff. Thank you for all your answers. I hope they can enlighten someone! Man, how low can it go. Gee

Samai Discussion 88: 27/04/2010 at 09:20 AM 88

Just DO it already! Clear them out and lets get back to peace. Govt waits too long. These are anarchists and terrorists . . .take back our city and our country from the ignorant reds!! Please

Helmut Buchberger Discussion 87: 26/04/2010 at 07:59 PM 87

Geoff you are absolutely right about the fighters for democracy against dictatorship and one more thing: Fights for freedom and revolutions etc. have taken place in many countries around the globe, however I never have heard of a revolution (fight for democracy) where the demonstrators have been paid in cash to fight for democracy! Amazing!

Leo Discussion 86: 26/04/2010 at 03:23 PM 86

Reds go on against illegal elected Abhisit!!!! . Red is the majority of Thailand lets get election

Viktor Discussion 85: 26/04/2010 at 09:20 AM 85

the reds are communists and they want to destroy Thailand. send them back to laos or communists china where they belong these gooks

Riv Discussion 84: 25/04/2010 at 11:00 AM 84

what took it so long? just launch the crackdown or prepare new election. end this.

Geoff Discussion 83: 25/04/2010 at 10:00 AM 83

Re : #71 Over, if you really believe this is a fight for democracy against dictatorship then you must be very naive and have little understanding of Thai politics. The current government is supported by a majority of elected MPs, it is totally legal, not a dictatorship, and an election will be held this year. The redshirt leaders work for Puea Thai and Thaksin, who have no interest in democracy, only in more abuse of power to make money. Major social, structural and educational reforms will be needed to change this and it won't happen with a Puea Thai government.

Geoff Discussion 82: 25/04/2010 at 09:50 AM 82

Re #80 To all Thais, which PM and Deputy PM (and Finance Minister) presided over and precipitated the Asian economic crisis in the 90s, who devalued the baht by 50% (and made huge personal gains from insider trading this). Answers: surprise, surprise... current leader of Puea Thai (Chavalit) and a certain Mr Thaksin.

I am afraid elim demonstrates how dangerous a little knowledge can be. Good try though.

Wake Up Discussion 81: 25/04/2010 at 09:43 AM 81

Sorry, red shirt leaders represent corporate fascism, just like in Europe. The reason they have "socialist" tones is because a dependent population is an easily manipulated population. The last thing Thaksin and the corporate fascists want is a well educated and independent society that will hold them accountable for the laundry list of crimes they have planned for Thailand.

Elim Discussion 80: 25/04/2010 at 07:47 AM 80

to all Thais, may i know which PM to date brought Thailand out of IMF loans? I think it is Thaksin. may I know also which PM till today is 100% corrupt free?

Hmong USA Discussion 79: 25/04/2010 at 04:30 AM 79

The Democrats party co-leader Khun Chuan Likphai, Khun Banyat Banthathan, and other co-leader met on Friday, they call the red shirts included Gen Chavalit Yongjaiyut and other are the terrorists and rebellious, what they call the yellow shirts

and Gen Chamlong and other leader?

MaleFromEurope Discussion 78: 25/04/2010 at 04:14 AM 78

The ideas Red Shirts are close what European socialdemocrats have. So in general, not so bad. They want free education, free healthcare and to stop rich people's power.

A Thai Discussion 77: 25/04/2010 at 03:46 AM 77

A small group of 60,000 paid red shirts continue to disrupt the daily life of over 10,000,000 Bangkok residents, without respecting their rights and liberty, over a month now in the name of faked democracy. In reality it is all about Thaksin. Without shame and dignity, they still cry to the world that they are not fairly treated, when guns and grenades were shot and thrown from their side which caused many dead.

George Discussion 76: 25/04/2010 at 03:21 AM 76

Upcoming multicoloured rally in BKK, the threat by PAD leaders (Yellow Shirts, specialized in seize airports) to mobilize their forces... things look really ugly.

DREAMING ? Discussion 75: 25/04/2010 at 02:58 AM 75

Discussion # 72 BIG S... Abhisit was not PM when PAD occupied the Airport. Wake up and get the facts straight.

Discussion # 67 CONFUSED.... Please don't be confused. None of what the Redshirts did was meaningful or justifiable. They only want Takki back to be New Thai State President. Not for the poor, not for the people and not for the country. Just for HIM and his dirty money.

Ice Discussion 74: 25/04/2010 at 02:53 AM 74

I don't think you can compare the yellow shirts to the red shirts that easily if your not thinking. The yellow n red shirts are both at fault, but if the grenade was launched by the red shirts. heres the difference the bomb K I L L E D a human and injured many people.

Ggg Discussion 73: 25/04/2010 at 01:13 AM 73

I can bet with my last Baht if there is any insane it will never be the general for sure.

Anan Boonjindasup Discussion 72: 24/04/2010 at 11:39 PM 72

This is what Jatuporn said. What did the Government say? Please report both sides. The newspaper put all the questions to the readers again. Please report both sides.

Over Discussion 71: 24/04/2010 at 11:25 PM 71

This is not the first time Thai peoples have faught for democracy over dictatorship. If they are crushed it will not be the first time. Democracy has always been defeated in Thailand by coups or corrupt governments.

SOLUTION Discussion 70: 24/04/2010 at 10:42 PM 70

Readers have been critical of both sides but non has offered any constructive solution to the present situation. Here is what I believe will end the protest, avoid bloodshed and make people happy with the exception of Thaksin and his cronies. Here goes: The Government should announce a special economic incentive program to give say Bt. 10,000 to farmers for the next rice planting season. However, they must register within 7 days at the local office where they farm. Bht. 2,000 to be given at the time they register and the rest as credit to buy seeds, fertilizer or other farming needs on one condition that they will not be involved in any violation of the law when rice planting season comes. The Government can also expand this concept into larger interest free loan amounts with repayment over 3 years. This will definitely help the farmers and get the protesters off their butts in a hurry with no bloodshed. The Government will have to help farmers anyway. Why not take advantage of killing two birds with one stone.

Bystander Discussion 69: 24/04/2010 at 10:27 PM 69

K. Anupong, for those who ask you to kill for whatever reason do not care if you sleep well after your retirement. These politician will come and go but your life is decided by you. Like everyone, a soldier should be allow to fade away and not disappear as the politician want.

THINK Discussion 68: 24/04/2010 at 10:26 PM 68

Yellow = Red. Yellow closed the airport. Red caused the hotels to close. Both were damaging to Thailand. Thai loves Thai slogan turned out to be not the case at this moment. All the politicians sound phoney to me at this juncture.

Confused Discussion 67: 24/04/2010 at 10:25 PM 67

James (Discussion #49), I am confused... Didn't K Abhisit win the last elections and form an alliance with the other parties in order to have sufficient number of seats to form a coalition government? That being the case, wasn't K Abhisit elected as the Prime Minister through a democratic process?? If you agree with me, shouldn't the Red shirt protesters respect the outcome of the democratic elections and allow the present government to continue until the end of its term? By insisting that the present government should be dissolved before its term, aren't the Red shirt protesters acting against democracy??

Equality Discussion 66: 24/04/2010 at 10:15 PM 66

Peh (Disc 56), can you please provide some statistics to support your comment? Are you saying that the North and Northeastern provinces do not have internet access? Further, a recent BP article reported that some 70% of the Red shirt protesters are Bangkok residents. Strangely enough, I communicate with my friends from the North and Northeast provinces by email over the internet.

Soosak Discussion 65: 24/04/2010 at 10:03 PM 65

Its time now for the army chief to detain the PM and dissolve the parliament. Set up a national government to run the country until a fresh election is conducted.

Believe it or Not.. Discussion 64: 24/04/2010 at 09:50 PM 64

UDD Leaders must give up instead of fighting at the dead end. It better to save more life than yourselves.

Nobody know what will happened next when the Red Shirts are being crackdown. Think for your comrades then yourselves..go home to stay with your family coz they need you badly too.

Dan Discussion 63: 24/04/2010 at 09:35 PM 63

@Johnny discussion 42: Do you think that Malaysia has a real democracy? Looks like you haven't been living long enough in Asia. Malaysia is divided into 3 ethnic groups and discrimination is their daily bread. the government is supporting only one group with huge benefits over the other 2 groups. you think that is democracy? wake up. what do you think about the developed USA? They are forcing people to adapt to their value system when invading half of the world.its not a question of being developed or not. yet, your point the use of liverounds against citizens is questionable. In my opinion the government of Thailand shouldn't do that. The red people have a point, but the way how the go about it is questionable. Its not helping the country and its economy. When you observe carefully though the yellow groups' activities in the past (blocking the airports) have not been of better nature.As a foreigner don't get involved into local politics that we don't understand entirely even though we have been living in this country for while. It's hypocritic to believe that we can.... only new fair elections can solve this.

Canada John Discussion 62: 24/04/2010 at 09:30 PM 62

Austin Dis 48 What country have you been looking at? You state " The red shirts have been very well behaved up till now ". All I can say is look at the grenades, black soldiers with guns, molotov cocktails, shooting a police with shields and batons only etc, etc. Have a look at the info on the internet & elsewhere before you state something so stupid.

Natalie Discussion 61: 24/04/2010 at 09:19 PM 61

when the head of red shirt gave a new conditional, why not the prime minister not listening to them or try to make good deal that both side are agree with. Maybe the prime minister want to see people die more under his power.however, i think if the prime minister do think that the majority of people want him to stay. why dont he just end up everything within a month and let's people votes for him. that is very fair for both side from my opinion.

Troeal Discussion 60: 24/04/2010 at 09:15 PM 60

No. 56. I would agree with except for one thing that the poor red shirts don't get. The people of Bangkok pay for what ever government service they get. Roads, water, power, medical care, government subsidies, schools

are all paid for largely by the people of Bangkok as they make up the vast majority of the taxpayers in the country.

Erik Discussion 59: 24/04/2010 at 09:04 PM 59

The word democracy comes from the greece. Do you watching the news! Greece is bankrupt and they have to save money now. Increase oil prices, increasing taxes, drop wages. The people there demonstrate too and the police crack them down, and whole Europe agree with the crack down. Greece is a democracy. But all democracies has to keep law and orders.

Mot Dang Discussion 58: 24/04/2010 at 08:58 PM 58

#30 - Now we can understand genocide in Cambodia, the redshirts use the same hate! only politicians play this game!It is disgraceful to compare the country folk of Thailand (read red-shirts), with those people that caused the Cambodian genocide. Yes they are angry, but to descibe there attitude as hateful is so very wrong. For 30 years I have lived with the people of Issan, they are not hateful. You know nothing about Thailand, nor probably the history of the Cambodian genocide.

Haha Discussion 57: 24/04/2010 at 08:47 PM 57

johnny..dis 42 pls go to malaysia and do not come back to thailand if u think malaysia is more democratic than thailand which i doubt it. believe me they are as corrupted as thailand and if u are not 100% malay, they treat u like 2nd class citizen

PEH Discussion 56: 24/04/2010 at 08:40 PM 56

Do red-shirts really care if people in BANGKOK like them? The city with money. The majority of people in Thailand are poor. Think about it. No matter what people are saying, this is basically a war between poor and rich. The reason the internet seems filled with pro-yellows is because wealthier Thai people speak English and have access to the internet.

Worried Discussion 55: 24/04/2010 at 08:39 PM 55

Hello is anybody out there? - No new news reports since 3.45pm - has the government blacked out the news media - what is happening? The time now is for peaceful negotiation - not for a crackdown which would cost more innocent lives.

P Discussion 54: 24/04/2010 at 08:35 PM 54

No war is a good war.Its avoidable n should never started it at all. If ever the army start to kill their own ppl's Bkkians should b prepare for the worst to come.Dont they ever learn how communist was formed?

This will surely turn Bkk into SE asia Bagdad.Are you ready for car bombs in BKK?Who will b safe if its like our deep south.Please give peace a chance.



Rory Discussion 53: 24/04/2010 at 08:24 PM 53

Never forget...these red shirts attacked the ambulances taking seriously injured people to hospital. That is the sickest thing i have ever heard. People died because they could not get to hospital in time. These people are animals

Rory Discussion 52: 24/04/2010 at 08:19 PM 52

Johnny do you consider the US and the UK to be developed countries? They were quite happy to carpet bomb foreign citizens in Iraq in a fake war. Is that ok? Get off your high horse. Abhisit and many of his government are seriously educated people.. having to deal with terrorists. The British shot dead IRA terrorists without warning..what is the difference?

Horrified Discussion 51: 24/04/2010 at 07:58 PM 51

I am shocked that the PM still want to use force to disperse the Reds after the failed attempt on 10 April 2010. There will definitely be bloodshed again. Much more blood. This is very sad for Thailand. All eyes will be on the army chief for now.

cyrstal ball Discussion 50: 24/04/2010 at 07:52 PM 50

This is a political problem not created by you and staying away from taking away human lives provide you peace of mind into your good old age. Peace will fall into place as time passes.

James Discussion 49: 24/04/2010 at 07:51 PM 49

the civil war is not too far away ...abhisit is selfish...why doesnt he try to win votes democratically for the people and by the people ...not the other AMAT!!!!

Austin Discussion 48: 24/04/2010 at 07:47 PM 48

The red shirts have been very well behaved up to now. It is great to see the ordinary people standing up against years of discrimination. The years of being exploited by the ruling classes are coming to an end.

Scarycat Discussion 47: 24/04/2010 at 07:42 PM 47

See all sane people in Malaysia-I'm off too. Had enough of the arrogance, bigotry and racism we all have to endure here and now when you see the dictators at work on the ordinary rural people, it is scary to have anything to do with Thailand!

Bystander Discussion 46: 24/04/2010 at 07:27 PM 46

Army chief Anupong should remain calm and not allow blood thirsty people to pressure you to share their wrong in killing another Thai. Even if you are pressure to be sacked, at least we Thai appreciate and remember you as the hero for not killing fellow Thai.

Robert Thomas Discussion 45: 24/04/2010 at 07:15 PM 45

It's amazing to me how the red shirts can know what's happening in the government secret meeting but can't see grenades being fired from Lumpini Park and rifles being fired at military personal. I guess you see what you want to see.

Somsak Discussion 44: 24/04/2010 at 07:04 PM 44

Even this is going to civil war in Thailand, they will all be accountable to the international court of law, to call it other terrorist is only a try to prevent jail terms outside Thailand.

Greg Discussion 43: 24/04/2010 at 06:43 PM 43

To Discussion 35 JECKO Why did the US justice not "" speak good, speak softly "" to Mcveigh, who killed 250 people in the USA a few years ago. But instead killed him too. Would he have learned something? Could Abhisit convince Jatuporn/Thaksin to be peaceful? Wait one year for the next election?

Me2 Discussion 42: 24/04/2010 at 06:30 PM 42

I didnt know a watermelon was considered a reliable source of information. Watermelons are also Yellow (ref. PAD) inside, not just Red (ref. UDD).

Johnny Discussion 41: 24/04/2010 at 06:27 PM 41

And Thailand likes to think of itself as 'developed'? No way would any developed country use live ammunition against its citizens. I'm thinking its about time to move to Malaysia. Now THERE'S a 'developed country' that really has a democracy.

Advisor Discussion 40: 24/04/2010 at 06:21 PM 40

The government should outbid the corrupt fugitive: give the people inside the red shirts money to go home and tend their fields: there is a barshaa (rainy) season coming up and work to be done to get rice on the table. If they refuse the government's help. they are bad farmers and only looking for trouble.

Harryon Discussion 39: 24/04/2010 at 05:50 PM 39

Another Jutaporn statement becomes news. Never any names. Never any follow through. "The sky is falling. The sky is falling. A little birdie told me."

Unknown Discussion 38: 24/04/2010 at 05:47 PM 38

To discussion 18. Some people are actually pro-red, and mostly anti-yellow. Its because that eveyrone is sick of the political problems in the country and want an end to this problem. The red movements were judge by most readers here to be undemocratic, so you probably mistakenly thought that everyone is pro-PAD but actually most people don't like them...

Tonguethaid Discussion 37: 24/04/2010 at 05:41 PM 37

And if the Redshirts NEVER stand down????

Paul Discussion 36: 24/04/2010 at 05:40 PM 36

Abhisit has a lot of possibilities to negotiate with the reds, who are fair in their demands, but he don't take them. It looks likes he wants to see more blood. Too many die akready. I think it is time for him to leave. He can only think about his own position and not about the future of Thailand.

Jekko Discussion 35: 24/04/2010 at 05:34 PM 35

Why is it that all you people want to see violence. These are Thai people we are talking about not cattle. If there was a similar protest in your countries do you really think the army would use live ammunition against its people?? I agree with Bill, this is a massive failure of the government to negotiate a peaceful outcome.

Hugh M.C. Discussion 34: 24/04/2010 at 05:34 PM 34

Discussion 18 =Rick= Are you surprised that so many people here are Anti-Red/Taksin. Why are you surprised ????? Discussion 15 =K TUM= Yes, We fear that somehow the democrats will loose power, the Reds will be the government. Of what we've seen, WE FEAR THEM. !!!!!

Sven Discussion 33: 24/04/2010 at 05:32 PM 33

I can't understand why so many signatures (maybe same person uses many signatures) in this forum is in favor of a civil war.

Dave Discussion 32: 24/04/2010 at 05:26 PM 32

Jean - are you sane? What has your deluded belief in a supreme being got to do with anything?

Faranginasia Discussion 31: 24/04/2010 at 05:25 PM 31

Discussion #15

You are absolutely correct. I keep reading everyday from commentors that the red shirts are a minority group. B.S. They are the majority of Thai population and if elections were held tomorrow they would win that is exactly what the Demos are afraid of.

Dograk Discussion 30: 24/04/2010 at 05:24 PM 30

Now we can understand genocide in Cambodia, the redshirts use the same hate! only politicians play this game!

Insider Discussion 29: 24/04/2010 at 05:11 PM 29

Don't complain about the BP. They just wrote here what K. Jatuporn has said and claimed. They also post what CRES, etc. say and claim. Fair's fair.

Soeny Discussion 28: 24/04/2010 at 05:10 PM 28

rick .... You are so right. I think these people dont know much about what is really going on. They had been fed with Bangkok Post only!

Commons Discussion 27: 24/04/2010 at 05:08 PM 27

folks calm down. this is jatuporn spin. it's a pr-stunt. it's just noise for media and public realm. in morning they offer talks and in afternoon they try to manipulate public perception. yawn...

Pay Back Time Discussion 26: 24/04/2010 at 05:04 PM 26

It time for pay back to those who suffered losses during the Red Shirt Mob. All business who are affected by Ratchpasong areas can filed their claim again UDD and the fugitive guy for all their losses. Even small retailers situated near the site who file their claim to civil court for their losses..PAY BACK TIME....

Rory Discussion 25: 24/04/2010 at 05:04 PM 25

I think that Abhisit knows his days are numbered because of the inevitable Democrat party disbanding (within 6 months). He has nothing to lose. He should seriously challenge Anupong to do something with these terrorists. If it means a military coup.. well that is much better than a terrorist one (i.e. Red shirt victory).

Lek Discussion 24: 24/04/2010 at 05:01 PM 24

I thought that the high court had prohibited the use of force to break up the rally. Another false claim from the Reds?

Jean Discussion 23: 24/04/2010 at 05:00 PM 23

Gen Anupong, stand firm in your belief and dont let external forces influence your conviction. Follow your heart and follow the good teaching of your God while he watches you from above. You will be judged by him and not by your fellow human being. Do what is right as a citizen of Thailand and son of God. Do not be used as an instrument by those hanging on to power. You have been granted the ability to prevent any more bloodshed among your brothers and sisters, use them wisely. You have done well, do not waiver, and may the blessings of God be with you and all Thais.

GraBkk Discussion 22: 24/04/2010 at 04:57 PM 22

Firstly, time and time again, everything that Jatuporn says is total lies aimed at keeping the crowds interested .... Call me stupid BUT as annoying and frustrating as this situation is (not to mention casualties and countless economic damage), if the army were to use excessive force it would ultimately prolong the social division and violence. If ANY reds were killed or injured in any 'crack down' further hatred for a relatively COMPETENT government they are led to believe is a dictatorship would be confirmed in the minds of your average 'Sombat' and 'Somchit' sitting in the masses!

This CANT go on forever BUT Abhisit and Anupong are right to avoid using force WHILE THE REDS ARE NOT CAUSING LOSS OF LIFE. After all, why should the mis-led majority be the recipients of force for the lies and crimes of their leaders who will surely move to the safety of a nice hotel room in the event of any crack down? I'm happy for you you to take your time Abhisit :)

Dograk Discussion 21: 24/04/2010 at 04:52 PM 21

now we'll see all the weapons they hide...hostage democracy!!!!

bangkok-ian Discussion 20: 24/04/2010 at 04:47 PM 20

There are too many under the pay of The corrupt Fugitive to allow the clearance that needs to be done!! The Bangkok post has shown itself to be pro red shirt and as such I have cancelled my own daily copy and the 8 copies purchased by my wifes family and the companies that I order for. Too few good postings from anti-reds who i know send in postings and too many of the same old lies from reds are being posted BP. Bet you dont print this posting!!

The swissman Discussion 19: 24/04/2010 at 04:43 PM 19

So ok Thailand welcome in the CHAOS for a lot of time

Violence for resolving is never a good thing , is Mr Abhisist a bouddhist and every people writing here?

Did you go in temple for praying each morning and giving food for monk , so you need giving more and more because your karma will come very bad !

Rick Discussion 18: 24/04/2010 at 04:42 PM 18

are all the people reading the bangkok post all pro-PAD ???? i'm not thai but from what i've been reading ...you are all yellow ....why soooo one sided ????

Dograk Discussion 17: 24/04/2010 at 04:42 PM 17

It's about time!Democracy should never be held hostage to a lawless mob.

Kevin Discussion 16: 24/04/2010 at 04:39 PM 16

It would be very easy to disperse the Red shirts from their tent city during the day as it is mostly peopled with old ladies cooking. It just required a plan which the police and army seem to lack. They do not need to use firearms either just some will power to return the city back to its citizens.it is a human right to work and travel freely. Those who have damaged private or public property should be given the bill or else stay in jail until their rich backers pay for the loss of income and the cleanup for which tax payers will be expected to pay . That is justice. Let the people go back to their villages and start a genuine grassroot movement for social change without being used as pawns by a disgruntled deposed elite temporarily prevented from gorging themselves on corruption. I will be the first to join them at the barricades.

K. Tum Discussion 15: 24/04/2010 at 04:38 PM 15

Why are many of you writers so convinced that these reds are thugs. Be careful as they represent the majority of the Thai population. That is the fear for an election, the democrats will loose power and the reds will have to provide the prime minister

Nick Discussion 14: 24/04/2010 at 04:31 PM 14

Send the red so far away as possible! so they not make more problem for the country.

noell francis Discussion 13: 24/04/2010 at 04:30 PM 13

The Red Shirts deserve no place at the negotiating table...they 'demand' this and 'demand' that... Excuse me, but what right do they have to demand the government resigns? What right do they have to cause such violence and chaos...

Their leaders are aggressively provocative and should be arrested and brought to justice as quickly as possible.

Jack Discussion 12: 24/04/2010 at 04:29 PM 12

I'm sure this post will not published 'cause Bangkok Post, that was a newspaper that I respect is now full of red shirts. On 10 comments 9 are pro-red!! This when I talk the major part of the people I meet and they totally

disagree with red policy, I want see if this problem still persist who will visit Thailand again..... Oh I forget that you don't need farang's money, Mr. Taksin the knight of the poor will provide to every poor will be rich!

Totty Discussion 11: 24/04/2010 at 04:22 PM 11

Bill, surely you know by now that the Police are mostly controlled by Mr. Thaksin, who is financing the redshirts ?

Db Discussion 10: 24/04/2010 at 04:17 PM 10

Can you really believe any thing that Jatuporn says? He is just trying to keep the Red protesters motivated because the Red leaders are finally starting to realize they are not welcome or supported by Bangkok residents. These leaders need to be thrown in jail for creating a climate of conflict and death.

Me Discussion 9: 24/04/2010 at 04:17 PM 9

Abhisit should get rid of the red mobs. This has been going on too long and would NEVER be tolerated in any country on this planet. Law and order needs to be restored before we become a FAILED STATE + BANANA REPUBLIC. Abhisit needs to stop talking and get into action. People have suffered too long from these red thugs who think they can do anything they want!

Jampee Discussion 8: 24/04/2010 at 04:16 PM 8

A wrong decision to make things worse. Watch out for the moves of Chamlong, remember when he drove demonstrators in the arms of the army of a dictator.

Tong Discussion 7: 24/04/2010 at 04:16 PM 7

i totally disagree with the pm to order a crackdown on the protesters as lives will be lost. how can he have any feelings to thai peoples lives .while talks to end the political crisis is in the talking stage again. i totally disagree with the use of force. save lives not end them pm. peace to thailand for everybody.

UnSpin Discussion 6: 24/04/2010 at 04:16 PM 6

Will be the end of Abhisit and his party in the next elections if the army forces their way into the reds protest.

Somtarn Discussion 5: 24/04/2010 at 04:14 PM 5

Great news but since Jatuporn never tells the truth I guess its too early to order the champagne.

Tommy Discussion 4: 24/04/2010 at 04:14 PM 4

OH YES! A reputable source of information, Jatuporn! What a joke. REALLY Bangkok Post! Do you EVER consider your sources before you print this stuff????? This is like getting stock market tips from Bernis Madoff!!

Insider Discussion 3: 24/04/2010 at 04:14 PM 3

When k. Jatuporn says something like this, it probably means the UDD leaders are running out of new, fresh ideas. Maybe their numbers are also dwindling.

Bill W Discussion 2: 24/04/2010 at 04:07 PM 2

What is wrong with this government that they can't sit down (behind closed doors) and negotiate an outcome? It looks to the civilized world like another case of "keep them stupid and keep them scared" mentality the elites

hold over the common man. Also why is the army supposed to disperse the UDD? Isn't that supposed to be the job of the police?

Gee Discussion 1: 24/04/2010 at 04:02 PM 1

the sooner the better!!

### **Topic 22 PAD to govt: Get tough with UDD**

Unknown. WHAT IS DEMOCRACY? Discussion 41: 28/04/2010 at 08:17 AM 41

If the UDD are on the streets demanding for democracy... does this mean that the previous election is illegitimate? Please need an answer from someone.

Citiboi Discussion 40: 27/04/2010 at 09:33 AM 40

Welcome to Thailand Bally (Discussion #11) -the land of mai pen rai and dtam sabai!!

Kevin Discussion 39 : 27/04/2010 at 02:20 AM 39

At Boonthong. You are right! With their actions. They all probably in prison now. However, they're rich and have good connection with the current Government. About Reds, I also hope them to stop the situation soon. We've have been suffering a lot.

Boonthong Discussion 38: 27/04/2010 at 12:07 AM 38

WHy are these terrorists not in jail? Their criminals acts of government house, airports invasion, attacking police HQ etc do not need court order. They should be arrested without bail. This is one of the reasons that redshirt/UDD peaceful protest escalated into violent confrontation.

Ricefieldradio Discussion 37: 26/04/2010 at 11:45 PM 37

Ramus-You are right but times are changing and more and more rural people are becoming very interested in politics. As more Rural folk become better educated, with no help from any government, the younger people are becoming more influential in the family. The old system is changing and no longer do kids follow what their parents or the village heads tell them often they have the ideas that are now followed.

feel fool Discussion 36: 26/04/2010 at 11:41 PM 36

When are this Group of Yellow shirt stop talking and go back home? You have done much damage then good.add more fuel to a fire is not a good Thai attitude. now you want to see a civil war in our own Country...

Please stop all this PAD's

Ramus Discussion 35: 26/04/2010 at 11:05 PM 35

It's never ending story. Political power is an inherited from ancestor to descendant. There's no political ideology for most of Thai politicians. They just grow up and follow their ancestor. Most of them have never concerned in democracy.



Craig Discussion 34: 26/04/2010 at 10:17 PM 34

Isn't it always the case for those who seek to destroy the order of society to invoke the law to protect themselves? They are grabbing at straws. I took a journey through the Reds' Rama VI compound this morning, and it was astonishing. Their fire has gone out. They are tired and miserable. Since I live nearby I can hear the brainwashing propaganda marching going on all night. The government should offer each of them a non-refundable one way bus ticket and 1000 baht to go home. I think many of them are so disheartened and exhausted that they would look upon this as a great way out.

powerful Pierre Discussion 33: 26/04/2010 at 08:28 PM 33

So yet again the question is why cant everyone wait until the elections in accordance with the constitution or as the PM has offered i.e 6 to 9 months or so? Can anybody sensibly answer this question?

Pointman #2 Discussion 32: 26/04/2010 at 08:17 PM 32

discussion 25, Sam: I would never support a military backed government. I like the People's alliance for Government acronym PAG, it fits well for the PAD. Why should anyone use the word Democracy in their logo, if they don't stand for democracy and free-elections?

Santa Discussion 31: 26/04/2010 at 07:34 PM 31

PAD are no angels themselves and neither their tactics to get the current government to power. Now they are getting a taste of their own medicine. I think it is fair to set a timetable for elections to let the people once and for all whether red or yellow.

PH Discussion 30: 26/04/2010 at 07:19 PM 30

Frustrated Thai's (discussion 16): If Thailand were to fight another country there wouldn't be any tomato soldiers. They would fight 100%. This is a different kind of war. Many soldiers and police SUPPORT the red shirts.

Ben Discussion 29: 26/04/2010 at 07:18 PM 29

discussion # 28 - poor Sandy and her friend.... suggest that you look at alternative option of transportation then.... in 2008, could you get out of Thailand when the airport was blocked?...

Sandy H. Discussion 28 : 26/04/2010 at 07:01 PM 28

When is the protesting going to end?! One of my best friends can't come to school and it's all because of the red-shirts!!!

rpt777 Discussion 27: 26/04/2010 at 06:56 PM 27

Discussion 20 Yes they should not take sides. And the government has not right to ask them to take their side when most of them do not agree with the government, and think the government came to power in not so legitimate ways.

Question Discussion 26: 26/04/2010 at 06:02 PM 26

Y'all who believe a house dissolution and a new election are the answers, please explain why (please make it detailed)? i'm lost for answers. Need help.

Sam Discussion 25: 26/04/2010 at 05:46 PM 25

Pointmen, are you trying to be funny with the new name for the PAD? People should ALWAYS support their government. So there is nothing wrong with it. Better than supporting Thaksin.

Doode Discussion 24: 26/04/2010 at 05:43 PM 24

Yellows or Reds...all the same!

The Gov. must show that they are the law, not any group which may dislike the other. Announce new elections in August, settle this date in the news and thats it. New elections is what the reddies want, isnt it??I doubt they will win !

Jack Discussion 23: 26/04/2010 at 05:40 PM 23

The yellow terrorist has not yet been prosecuted for any offense they have done including seize the airport damage the government house, and murdering police officers yea it look like the have the government and court system on their side, one of them even got a minister position

Pointman #2 Discussion 22: 26/04/2010 at 04:41 PM 22

It sounds like the People's Alliance for Government (PAG) is actually, a part of the government and doesn't want free-elections in Thailand.

John in BKK Discussion 21: 26/04/2010 at 04:35 PM 21

And if the government doesn't do what the PAD says, what are they going to do about it? Take over government house or the airport?

Sam Discussion 20: 26/04/2010 at 04:24 PM 20

How can the government get tough with the UDD (Ultimate Destruction of Democracy) supporters if both the military and the police are boycotting the orders from the government. A police man wearing a red hankerchief should not get paid anymore by the government. Soldiers and police work for the government. They are not supposed to take any sides.

Wake Up Discussion 19: 26/04/2010 at 04:23 PM 19

PAD closing the airports with union help is much different than roving violent anarchy and armed gunmen blowing the heads off of soldiers and protesters. If you can't tell the difference, something is seriously wrong with you.

Democracy Discussion 18: 26/04/2010 at 04:21 PM 18

So the PAD have issued demands to the Government and are now doing so to the Army. This illustrates the difficulties and complexities of Thai political life. In the words of Aung San Suu Kyi referring to Thailand's sad situation this week when she reportedly said through a spokesman that this is what happens when the military

take over by a Coup and then draw up a constitution.

The army and police look increasingly paralysed as matters begin to take another course. What next a Yellow camp? That will help a lot!

Joe America Discussion 17: 26/04/2010 at 04:20 PM 17

PAD can take their demands out to the airport and catch the first plane out of this mess of a country they made. What a bunch of fools they are to point at the red shirts and make demands on the government & talk about unlawful protest. These so called educated Thais need to learn what a democracy is so they can understand it's not what they really want.

Frustrated Thai's Discussion 16: 26/04/2010 at 03:57 PM 16

If the Army & Police cannot protect our Nation how can they fight our enemies when we have war with our Neighbours. Our Neighbours know our weakness now that the Army is not strong enough to fight our own local peoples and protect our country. Shame of themselves if they dont want to help our nations when we have crisis now.

PLEASE WAKEUP NOW AND DO YOUR DUTIES TO PROTECT OUR NATION AND COUNTRY.

Pointman #2 Discussion 15: 26/04/2010 at 03:54 PM 15

The Pad needs to change its name to People's Alliance for Governemnt (PAG).

LoneVoice Discussion 14: 26/04/2010 at 03:53 PM 14

PAD is shameless to even dare open their mouths to comment and suggest actions to be taken against Red Shirts. Thanks to PAD for starting the circus in Bangkok!

Siam Discussion 13: 26/04/2010 at 03:52 PM 13

PAD, you are terroists and should be in jail

P Discussion 12: 26/04/2010 at 03:51 PM 12

Like terrorists ask government to suppress another would b terrorists. What a joke!

Bally Discussion 11: 26/04/2010 at 03:51 PM 11

I am a regular visitor to Thailand over many years. I cannot understand how the government can allow itself to be held to ransom by a small minority of protesters. Some of the latest acts would be taken as treason in many countries, who would not sit back and allow the police and army units to be "hijacked" without taking action. Untold harm is being done to the economy and image of Thailand.

Boon Discussion 10: 26/04/2010 at 03:50 PM 10

Great, threats from the people that brought us Airport take over part 1. PAD is the reason why an elected government needs to be able to stay in power.

farang1973 Discussion 9: 26/04/2010 at 03:48 PM 9

I am not particularly red or yello, but I hate bullshit. And you Boo are full of it. Do you understand the definition of terrorism? Terror? Don't be so stupid. And you PH. Paperwork? I would imagin anyone in Rajaprasong when the army starts will be a target no matter what they are wearing after the last time. So what is your problem? And Tomo. Snobs and aristocrats? I suppose you are one of the people saying the reds aren't all farmers. Don't generalise, it's so childish. The first three comments on here are worthless, anyone with any real contribution to the debate?

SPICEMAN Discussion 8: 26/04/2010 at 03:47 PM 8

The Reds can't make themselves any clearer of what they stand for and will not hesitate to use any means at their disposal to achieve it. What we still don't know is what PM Apisit stands for. Is it the same Rules of Law that convicted Thaksin of the worst corruption scheme Thailand has ever seen? If PM Apisit decides to stand for the Rules of Law, he better sticks with it all the way. If not, get out.

Hello Discussion 7: 26/04/2010 at 03:39 PM 7

Hello for get about the PAD All Hotel Staff in Siam area 2800 Thais WANT THE GOVERMENT TO GET THE RED SHIRTS OUT NOW  
BEFORE WE ALL LOSE OUR JOBS

Troebal Discussion 6: 26/04/2010 at 03:36 PM 6

This really is getting comical now. I have written here several times and expressed my dislike for the action of the Reds but the idea of the PAD lecturing the government on how to forcefully handle a demonstration is more than I can take. Bring the Yellow leaders to court, complete their cases and put them in jail where they clearly belong. Do the same for the Reds. No country should tolerate either of them.

Tomo Discussion 5: 26/04/2010 at 03:33 PM 5

PAD bunch of snobs and aristocrats.

Noina Discussion 4: 26/04/2010 at 03:30 PM 4

During your action by closed airports and the government at that time has issue the ISA, why didn't your group accept the law. Your group destroyed the country.

Konthai Discussion 3: 26/04/2010 at 03:28 PM 3

PAD is terrorist 100% still they have voices and formed political party! They are criminal and still running loose...they have no valid creditability left..9 Leaders should be in jails by now but court kept delayed the decision..WHY!?

PH Discussion 2: 26/04/2010 at 03:27 PM 2

Thais love paperwork. The red shirts are no longer wearing red shirts. Good luck at stopping them.

Boo Discussion 1: 26/04/2010 at 03:25 PM 1

Why are these people not in jail for their act of terrorism?



#### Topic 24 Reds criticise hospital evacuation

guy from USA Discussion 56: 02/05/2010 at 03:07 PM 56

Invading a hospital, has drawn much criticism from around the world. It has also lost many supporters for the red shirts. The international community has been watching what has been happening with the situation for awhile, and it has been deteriorating rapidly. If the prime minster really loved thailand, he would step down and call for re-elections, to stop the violence. Or he could have re-elections, and have his name on the ballot. That way the thai people will know who they really want, as a country, to be their leader. That way it prevents a back and forth protest (yellow shirts, and red shirts) They must come up with a solution to relax this situation soon, unless Thailand wants international mediators to go into their country.

Unknown Discussion 55: 02/05/2010 at 04:17 AM 55

Well they can't deny that they invade the hospital right... Lets look at it this way... say if red shirts invade your home wouldn't you evacuate your children and people inside?

Nick Discussion 54: 02/05/2010 at 03:25 AM 54

Go home red shirt! you only make problem for the country. every people tired of the violence you make many of you not peaceful. Let Abhisit give a chance to show he,s a good man!

Richard Discussion 53: 02/05/2010 at 12:56 AM 53

"a ploy to make the anti-government group look bad", do they really need any thing more, they already look horrendously bad, irresponsible, dare I say, stupid and totally self serving.

rollo tommasi Discussion 52: 02/05/2010 at 12:27 AM 52

Maybe it's just me but these Red Shirts sure know how to utilize public relations tactics to win the hearts and minds of Bangkok over to their cause.

IAN WENSOR Discussion 51: 02/05/2010 at 12:17 AM 51

Pointman # 2, discussion 43 ... From 'my vast experience' I think your self opinionated ego far outweighs your powers of observation.

Chaos Discussion 50: 01/05/2010 at 10:56 PM 50

Wow. If this is any indication of how a Red government will be run, the country is doomed. Completely reactionary, no sense of leadership, and the leaders sleeping in hotels while the poor lay in the streets. Sound familiar? Keep wearing those masks Red Shirt leaders...soon you too will exposed for what you really are...unorganized cowards.

Mattias Discussion 49: 01/05/2010 at 10:32 PM 49

What is needed in Thailand is a new election, less corruption and a democratically controlled military force

Poy Discussion 48: 01/05/2010 at 10:29 PM 48

The hospital is a Holy thing , shouldn't disturb from anything , the patients and doctors want peace. The red shirts why do you do that? This is very bad thing. The peoples will not forgive you anymore.

Poy Discussion 47: 01/05/2010 at 10:28 PM 47

The hospital is a Holy thing , shouldn't disturb from anything , the patients and doctors want peace..... The red shirts why do you do that? This is very bad thing. The peoples will not forgive you anymore.

Jesse Discussion 46: 01/05/2010 at 10:24 PM 46

Good calls #43 (& 39). You are right, the hospital, tall building that it is, is so close to the red encampment that one could literally "rain" grenades or other weapons with minimal effort on them from the windows. I've been there almost everyday recently, but one only needs pictures to see how close it is. With all the mysterious sniper attacks since April 10th & 22nd, those on the ground can't be too relaxed.

DOM Discussion 45: 01/05/2010 at 10:07 PM 45

Invading a hospital to look for enemies! we had seen that in Iraq with Al Qaeda, but here in Thailand it seems that this is not a political protest, it is an insurgency that does not know or respect the minimum standards of decency. Where is the police when 100 men enter a hospital? 100 men not 10,000. the red shirts fail to realize that, if ever they come to power, it will be the same inefficient and unwilling police that will (not) protect them.

Standards Discussion 44: 01/05/2010 at 09:07 PM 44

The issue here is about standards, or should I say the absence thereof.

I broke a leg a year ago and the hospital was happy to take a large sum of money from me to pay for the repair.

They failed, and now they have the cash I am being ignored, unless I get more cash out, of course.

So if you can't trust a doctor, how can you trust a red shirt? I gnoring all the previous unfortunate incidents,the bottom line is that it's always about the bottom line! Cui bono?

Pointman #2 Discussion 43: 01/05/2010 at 09:03 PM 43

From my, vast experience and from studying the pictures, I agree, "the hospital evacuation is in my opinion, dramatised." I base my opinion on study of the scene/pictures and sense of urgency displayed.

Evander Discussion 42: 01/05/2010 at 08:59 PM 42

@ rural darkie Discussion 33. You say there is no sense in talking to the yellow shirts and still you leave a comment!!! I like how you use the same sort of logic as all the red shirt leaders. Btw. how is it helping the poor people that tourism will go down because of all your protets? Do you have a logic answer for that as well?

Outsider Discussion 41: 01/05/2010 at 08:51 PM 41

The UDD have asked the UN, USA, UK and the EC to send in observers. Had those observers been there and seen the 'storming' of a hospital they would have been appalled. If there was a reason red-shirts thought a search needed to be done, it still can't be a good enough reason to justify their behavior in the hospital.

Still waiting for further details as indicated by #19 & #27

Mark Discussion 40: 01/05/2010 at 08:49 PM 40

Discussion 25: You are an uninformed fool. Your avatar and psuedonym are a very good indication of who you are. Please keep your idiotic comments to yourself.

Pointman #2 Discussion 39: 01/05/2010 at 08:33 PM 39

I don't like the scene of an older lady in a hospital bed and many people standing around taking pictures. It appears, the evacuation is pre-planned/staged and there's really no sign of urgency. I believe, the picture I referred to, will do more harm to the government than to the Red-shirts, simply because the first look at the picture gives the impression of someone creating a scene to gain sympathy and not urgent involvement in a hospital patient evacuation.

WakeUp Discussion 38: 01/05/2010 at 07:43 PM 38

UDD leaders have moved into a whole new area, even beyond high treason and atrocious behavior. In fact, their movement is really breaking ground for new levels of despicable behavior the likes of which NO Thai has ever seen before. Are they even eligible for running in an election now even if they got one tomorrow?

Outsider Discussion 37: 01/05/2010 at 07:41 PM 37

Re #19 & #27: details please, not unfounded rumours. Which reminds me, rumour has the the barricades are not only for keeping police/army at bay, but also to keep the 'normal' reds in.

Haha Discussion 36: 01/05/2010 at 07:28 PM 36

someone should ask the EU or human right groups to judge on this issue.....since the reds shirts always think they are fighting for demoncracy

Robert Nicholson Discussion 35: 01/05/2010 at 07:20 PM 35

I think people should be criticising the Red for invading a hospital in the first place. Sorry but these are sick people at hospital and they shouldn't have to be moved because somebody wants to make political points. I hope the punishment is severe.

Tandath Discussion 34: 01/05/2010 at 06:48 PM 34

Will you Redshirts criticise as well the evacuation of the Supreme Patriarch today ?

rural darkie Discussion 33: 01/05/2010 at 06:29 PM 33

There's no sense in talking to you yellow shirts. No one got hurt, not even a scratch. You blow this up into something it never was to have an excuse to go in and kill lots of people. Oh yes, do you remember? You killed nearly twenty people. You didn't seem to be so outraged on the 10th as you are now...hmmmm?

What? Discussion 32: 01/05/2010 at 06:29 PM 32

@ discussion 25 so then...the grenades just randomly went off, and all those soldiers who are now dead obviously are faking it for media attention. Take a look around you, and realise that they are sharpening bamboo sticks and throwing grenades.

No Face Discussion 31: 01/05/2010 at 06:14 PM 31

Hello Ling @ Discussion 19

Some of us are waiting eagerly for your apparent inside information. You could at least give us a hint. We know "Ling" in Thai means monkey; in English it is the name of a type of cold slippery fish. Over to you.

Frank Discussion 30: 01/05/2010 at 06:00 PM 30

The leaders of red shirts are just foot soldiers for higher authorities with much different plans. They slowly realize , that they are not really in charge. They never have been , they have just been used to create chaos for the grey eminence behind the scenes. One man, who went with others to Dubai some weeks ago, gave them a little clue last night, whom he represents and who is really in charge. I am not talking about Thaksin .

Amuzed Discussion 29: 01/05/2010 at 05:58 PM 29

Would it not be wise to consider that the Government did in fact have a plan to place Police/Soldiers inside the hospital, and that was leaked to the Reds. So was the Government just setting them up, or should we consider that that is a greater crime for for such a powerful institution to hide behind others sufferings??? But of course the Reds will get condemned for protecting themselves. The contradictions are as endless as the bias.

Dr. Germany Discussion 28: 01/05/2010 at 05:45 PM28

This whole incident is ridiculous. Fact is that the reds storm a hospital with alleged indications that soldiers are stationed inside. Fact is they have disrupted hospital operations and forced it to evacuate and to close due to fear of potential threats and safety of their patients. Fact is they tried to blame this to the hospital management. Should have thought of the consequences sooner. But sadly no red (especially the leadership) apparently is educated enough to do such a task.

Dirjel Discussion 27: 01/05/2010 at 05:44 PM 27

No mention here of the evidence found at the hospital by the reds. Listen to the red leaders version and then decide for yourself. Gov and army trying to be clever but caught out again. And yes the gov does use the media as its tool to brainwash the people. All media have orders from gov and military to print or show only what the gov says. If not they also will be shut down

Em Peror Discussion 26: 01/05/2010 at 05:36 PM 26

In Hans Christian Anderson short story titled "The Emperor's New Clothes" two weavers make a most fabulous suit which was so magical that it was invisible to those unfit for their positions or incompetent. It takes a young boy without fear to shout out the words "But he isn't wearing anything at all!" Thailand where are your brave men and women? Those who will shout out that these yellow shirts, these red shirts, these generals, these police, and these politicians "Are not wearing anything at all!" We can see through the lies, arrogance, the greed, and the fear and we want and deserve more for our great people and country. We are Thai.

Notsodumb Discussion 25: 01/05/2010 at 05:36 PM 25

But the reds are innocent people!! They are the victims! Can't anybody see???

Poor reds. All this time, they have only been showing HOW PEACEFULL AND DEMOCRATIC they are. Very unfair for the reds all this.... They never used grenades, or sharpened bambu sticks, or other intimidating/terrorist like ways. THEY ARE JUST NICE PEOPLE.

Joan Discussion 24: 01/05/2010 at 05:17 PM 24

Good afternoon, Ling (disc. 19). Would you be kind enough to share with the rest of us the important information you have obtained? Thank you.

Tom Discussion 23: 01/05/2010 at 05:07 PM 23

The Red Shirts need to know that "Blaming the victim" is very bad PR. They now appear, at minimum, foolishly led, and at worse, a group of vigilantes. They need to go home.

Satit Discussion 22: 01/05/2010 at 05:02 PM 22

I would like to assure discussion 19 that the government has very little control over all the media. This government only has control over the government's media, eg NBT. The government does not have enough influence and power to distort facts in respectable newspapers like Bangkokpost, posttoday...

Fox Discussion 21: 01/05/2010 at 04:40 PM 21

Discussion 19

Do you want to tell us that the video which has been seen by millions of people was a movie staged by the government with Mr. Payap as star actor trying to win the Oscar next time? just a question

Massimo Discussion 20: 01/05/2010 at 04:34 PM 20

for all the place you can protest, why on earth at the hospital, I think that the red plan was to occupy the hospital if crack down by military, easy access to hospital if some one get shot or injure, but then again nobody will work at the hospital to treat you.

Ling Discussion 19: 01/05/2010 at 04:24 PM 19

It's become obvious that a lot of people have forgotten who censors the media. There's more to the Chulalongkorn incidence but you won't know/don't care to know at the moment.

Gimme A Break Discussion 18: 01/05/2010 at 03:37 PM 18

What a very sick lot these Red Tshirts... They are all as deranged as their fallen idol, Toxin, dragging their beautiful country through the mud while showing their offensive, blatant disregard for anyone else's civil rights. It's all too pathetic and painful to continue watching. They deserve nothing but quick oblivion and the Government needs to move in and break it up by whatever means necessary. It's what ANY other First World country would have done within the first 48 hours so don't cry any of this "Peaceful" hogwash! What the Red Tshirts have proven is that this is anything BUT that.

Who's on First Discussion 17: 01/05/2010 at 03:12 PM 17

Good point Joe (#6), It's becoming more apparent each day that the red camps are splintered and no one is really in charge. Seh Daeng's mobs do the outrageous, Weng apologizes. Barricades go down, Seh Daeng puts them back up. Weng apologizes and says that Seh Dang does not speak for the Reds. Jatuporn pipes in with a childish statement saying that it's all the governments fault for making us look bad.

You have to wonder about these guys. Weng is a medical doctor. Jatuporn a member of parliament (ok, a party

list MP, but a member nonetheless). Seh Daeng rose through the ranks to become a general (ok, that's not saying much in Thailand). But if these guys who are supposed to be semi-intelligent are behaving this way, what does that say about the rank and file. If there wasn't so much at stake here, you would just like to sit down and laugh till it hurt.

Robocop Discussion 16: 01/05/2010 at 03:09 PM 16

"We have been made to look like terrorists...". Wrong! You have not been made... you made it yourself. This action showed the world again the simple truth that the reds are terrorists and not peaceful demonstrators.

Disgusting! No respect, not even for sick people in a hospital. Just keep on going. One day will be payday at the court. The system may be slow but it works.

John Discussion 15: 01/05/2010 at 02:58 PM 15

Jesse, discussion 8. I assume we can agree that the hospital arrived at the site before the protesters did? I also assume that we can agree that the hospital cannot just move. Afterall concrete and steel is heavy.

In other words, the red shirts brought the "war zone" to the hospital, not the other way around, and now you are blaming the hospital management for not being prepared for war? What do you suggest they do then? Wait and see if the war escalates and patients get killed, or evacuate the hospital? Or would it be better for the image of the red shirts, who, unlike the hospital, have proven to be very mobile, to simply move the war zone elsewhere?

riding out the storm Discussion 14: 01/05/2010 at 02:57 PM 14

"...and very soon the crackdown will begin," he added. If I had 100 baht for every time Jatuporn has predicted the imminent crackdown, I would be almost as rich as Mr. T. How long does it take for the street protesters to see that their leaders are crying wolf about everything.

Mister Flaggy Discussion 13: 01/05/2010 at 02:51 PM 13

Who does not respect a hospital, its patients and personel forcing entrance to a medical institution, frightening and scaring patients, set their health at risk is not a peaceful demonstrator exercising his constitutional right! those people are just a mob, they are just thugs. Which they prove themselves again, by blocking Chulalongkorn Hospital's entrance again!

Fox Discussion 12: 01/05/2010 at 02:39 PM 12

Yes. They see this right. Only terrorists storm hospitals and of course it was an understandable move to evacuate. I think Thaksin and his red leaders lost control. They should give up and surrender because they are completly out of arguments now. Violating human rights: can you imagine what would happen if they would be in power?

John P Discussion 11: 01/05/2010 at 02:36 PM 11

That's it Jesse, blame the hospital. It was all their fault for being there!! Your red shirt friends are blameless.

John Discussion 10: 01/05/2010 at 02:28 PM 10

The Prime Minister "vows to prosecute those involved in the hospital incident". Ha, you're kidding right? Prosecution typically is preceded by ARREST, something which seems to be an alien concept in The Land of Delusions.

Chuck Discussion 9: 01/05/2010 at 02:25 PM 9

Even if you assume for the sake of argument that the hospital evacuation WAS a ploy to make the UDD look bad (I have a hard time accepting it myself) the fact remains that the UDD brought this on themselves!!! It was a very STUPID thing to do and now a claim can be made that they have lost the moral high ground.

Jesse Discussion 8: 01/05/2010 at 02:17 PM 8

Good job to the Post for reporting the other side, I was afraid they wouldn't. The hospital is a stone's-throw away from the Reds' camp-underhanded toss really-and for days on end they have been worried about a potential attack from the nearby buildings. With Chula hospital right in the war zone, the hospital management should have had the responsibility enough to see this was coming.

Joe Discussion 7: 01/05/2010 at 01:55 PM 7

In a related article, the red shirt leaders, as usual, said they didn't order the hospital raid. If that is true, there must be some red shirts who do not follow orders, and if that is the case, how can the red shirt leaders guarantee that there won't be another raid? If there is another raid, how can the red shirt leaders guarantee that noone will get hurt, afterall they are not in control of the raid. The very possibility of another raid is more than enough reason to evacuate. Do not forget that a hospitalized patient is not an ordinary citizen. He or she cannot defend him or herself from even the slightest attack, and any disruption to water, power or any vital equipment, whether on purpose or not, may spell the death of such a patient. Also, hospitalized patients are usually advised much sleep as part of their recovery, try that with red shirt loudspeakers blaring 24/7 just outside the window. Last but not least, I have yet to see an apology by the red shirt leader who was actually behind the raid? Not that an apology would do any good anyway at this stage, but it might improve the image of the red shirts just a little bit. I assume "face" will prevent any form of apology.

G Discussion 6: 01/05/2010 at 01:55 PM 6

Every statement like this buries their credibility. A hospital, whose primary function is to care for their patients, over-reacted in the care of their patients to make redshirts look bad? What utterly delusional propaganda. Mr Prompan-your illegal army invaded the hospital and caused fright to the sick people residing there who have had to listen to your vengeful propaganda for weeks. Of course they were scared, because your organisation is acting like terrorists. This is adding insult to injury, literally. Mr Prompan is not fit for office.

Lek Discussion 5: 01/05/2010 at 01:35 PM 5

The Redshirts made themselves look bad. The evacuation of patients from the hospital by the management was a sensible precaution, given the known psychotic behavior of the Reds.

Joan Discussion 4: 01/05/2010 at 01:29 PM 4

This is not going to help the red cause. Mr. Jatuporn, Mr. Weng and other leaders allowed the barricades to be rebuilt along Chulalongkorn Hospital fences in spite of their promises. Their loudspeakers and the grenades thrown at innocent civilians have frightened patients including children (some of whom are fighting for their life). And Mr. Jatuporn claims the hospital overreacts...

Uneasy Discussion 3: 01/05/2010 at 01:21 PM 3

Jatuporn you and the UDD leaders should never have allowed the storming of a hospital. And the government should proclaim they will not use safe havens, such as hospitals, temples and churches, as staging areas for soldiers and police. Everyone should respect hospitals as neutral and vital in any battle.

Angry Now Discussion 2: 01/05/2010 at 01:20 PM 2

It doesn't need a ploy to make the Reds look bad, just reporting the facts will do it.

angry citizen Discussion 1: 01/05/2010 at 01:18 PM 1

Listen nobody need to make the red shirts look bad. They are managing that very well by themselves. Ptesting is one thing, but behaving in a thuggish, intimidating way to the public is not acceptable. Whilst I am an opposition supporter I am seriously concerned that we would have leaders like this in control of the country.

### **Topic 25 Red-shirts to fight till the last minute**

Puzzled Discussion 47: 02/05/2010 at 01:37 PM 47

Marcel de Korte (Discussion #36), enough already about the 2006 coup. Correct me if I am wrong but we had two democratic elections after the coup. So, what is your point? So, if Puea Thai Party (or any party nominated by Thaksin) does not win an election and form the government, such election shall become undemocratic and void???? If not, why should the previous general election be undemocratic and why should the next general election be more democratic than the previous one? The Red shirt protesters and leaders should learn to be gracious losers!! Maybe then, they will have a chance to win the next general election on a date which the Democrat led coalition government shall decide exclusively, which they are fully entitled to do under the rules of democracy!!

Rod B Discussion 46: 02/05/2010 at 01:06 PM 46

Of course, Jatuporn will be watching THEIR blood spill from the safety and comfort of his hotel room; with escape artist Arisman at the ready dangling from ropes off the balcony, and Kwanchai holding his wad of amulets and chanting immunity rituals! Save face and return to the negotiating table.

Terry Discussion 45: 02/05/2010 at 11:57 AM 45

The quote in the article was nearly right. It should have read, "We will fight to the last drop of YOUR blood".

Dao Discussion 44: 02/05/2010 at 11:19 AM 44

I wonder if Jatuporn or any of the leaders of the UDD will give their lives ? I think not .

Hello Thailand Discussion 43: 02/05/2010 at 10:16 AM 43

To Vicky (Discussion 24)

If reds are in majority in Thailand than why UDD is too scared for a national Referendum. UDD real motivation is 500 to 200 bahs per day.

Ds Discussion 42: 02/05/2010 at 10:02 AM 42

the best thing to do is to bring taksin back and put him in front of the red shirt protesters, otherwise he is nothing but a coward using the poor uneducated people to his benefits. where is his ex wife, children now...shopping at some countries from the money they took form their poor people

Farang cop Discussion 41: 02/05/2010 at 09:39 AM 41

Disc.22

Because it is true. Yes, I would stand in the front line. And this mess would have never happened because we do our job even though politically we may vote for different parties. No tolerance for people breaking the law. What the reds call true democracy makes me wonder whether they just mean demo crazy and don't know the Thai translation.

Ke9slnd Discussion 40: 02/05/2010 at 09:26 AM 40

When a government can only operate with the force of the military and police as it's presuassion then it is time to change the government. If there is no respect for the governments laws then it is time to change the government. Thailand has a serious problem and it is time for a change.

Boomer Discussion 39: 02/05/2010 at 09:05 AM 39

Reds are NOT a majority, a short sighted, violent minority, and the saddest thing is that with the police refusing to protect citizens, or even patients in a hospital, where do people turn to for protection against these thugs? Poor farmers are scapegoats, Reds leadership is not poor, nor farmers, just power hungry demogogues.

Spartan51 Discussion 38: 02/05/2010 at 09:01 AM 38

The Red Shirt leaders all "talk the talk, but don't walk the walk". I don't see these esteemed leaders sleeping on the pavement every night at Sala Daeng or Ratchaprasong. The "Isan Rambo", if he is so caring, why didn't buy McD's for everybody! The "leaders" are just using the poor for their own greedy, corrupt, financial gains. At the end of all this the poor will be no farther ahead, just less of them? Spartan51

Narmtal Discussion 37: 02/05/2010 at 08:56 AM 37

Red shirt leaders have been watching too many Thai soapies on TV. What a lot of drama queens...

Marcel de Korte Discussion 36: 02/05/2010 at 08:52 AM 36

Quid Pro Quo is right: "You don't make up the rules as you go along to suite yourself. THAT is true democracy." I have only one questions: The coup of 2006 fits in your opinion?

Khunandre Australia Discussion 35: 02/05/2010 at 08:34 AM 35

To Vicky-discussion 24.

Can you tell how you conclude that the red shirts are the majority in Thailand. Can you cite figures to prove that. Please look at the vote results of the last general elections, you will see that the PPP did not get 50% of the votes.

Puzzled Discussion 34: 02/05/2010 at 08:17 AM 34

aaa123 (Discussion #22), while I emphathize with the police/soldiers, I cannot agree with you. Ever single profession has a code of ethics to subscribe to. For the police and soldiers, it must be to serve and protect the society and country. They have a difficult job but THEY MUST DO THEIR JOB!! Otherwise, Thailand will be ruled by the mob (as it is fast becoming) and the whole country will be in a state of anarchy!! There are no two ways about it!

Citiboi Discussion 33: 02/05/2010 at 08:04 AM 33

Unknown (Discussion #30), how ignorant you are!! Read up on your Democracy 101!! It is TOTALLY legal to form coalition government!! There is NOTHING wrong with that!! Puea Thai Party tried to do that as well but they lost fair and square!! Not happy with the government's performance?? There are PROPER channels to voice your discontent. Ultimately, vote them out during the next elections. We should act in a civilised manner and NOT behave like hooligans and barbarians, as employed by the Red shirt protesters!!

Sigh Discussion 32: 02/05/2010 at 07:51 AM 32

Okay, then let it be! The battle of Bangkok...whoever wins, Thailand is already stained. What happened to the famous tourist destination now?

isan farang Discussion 31: 02/05/2010 at 05:29 AM 31

Mr Jatuporn and the other red shirt leaders are so brave and will stand up to authority so much that they will escape down ropes at hospitals or run away once the trouble starts at Vibhavadi. Just like the real boss, the "smart man" in exile, they are always ready to lead, from the REAR.

Unknown Discussion 30: 02/05/2010 at 04:23 AM 30

To all people who thinks majority wins: Having a majority of votes doesn't mean you can become the overnment. You need coalitions as well that is the way of democracy.

Quid Pro Quo Discussion 29: 02/05/2010 at 03:35 AM 29

I dont know where you get your vaunted information Vicky, but the red tshirts are NOT the majority in the country. And even if they were, there is no snap election simply because these Mo-mo's demand it. The next election is not scheduled for at least another 8 months. Get used to it. These red tshirt crybabies need to understand that just because you don't like who's in power, doesn't mean you can call an election at will. True democracy means you wait for the next scheduled election and cast your vote then. Period. You don't make up the rules as you go along to suite yourself. THAT is true democracy.

A Thai Discussion 28: 02/05/2010 at 03:34 AM 28

The redshirt leaders must be arrested now by breaking all the laws, and by using these poor farmers as their pawns. The real dark power is hidden behind these poor farmers and waiting to grab the power if they won.

Nick Discussion 27: 02/05/2010 at 03:01 AM 27

Good writing!!! No faan of red. You write the true :-)

Hobiecat Discussion 26: 02/05/2010 at 03:00 AM 26

I have stopped buying your newspaper along with many other people. You should be replaced in 10-15 years. Bring on the internet and free speech! My password rightfull says: loafer Get with it you guys? Stop editing posts. Your NOT GOD and you never will be.

Ralf Discussion 25: 02/05/2010 at 02:53 AM 25

How stupid can people be to 'fight until the last drop of their bloods' just to move the election 3 or 4 months earlier?

Vicky Discussion 24: 02/05/2010 at 02:27 AM 24

The reds are a majority in the country. Ignoring a country majority the way this government has can only end in a very bad way. Before the government takes to weapons they should ask themselves what will happen when the reds do. Revolution.

go\_reds Discussion 23: 02/05/2010 at 02:24 AM 23

Both the rural poor and working urban poor were disenfranchised following the 2006 coup and 2008 airport seizure by the yellow shirts. Their PM and all elected representatives were removed by a military junta. In a democracy, there is nothing to fear from a vote. However, Abhisit, his yellow shirt supporters and the current military do fear the results of a legitimate election. The reds are fighting so that Thailand doesn't become Burma II. Their cause is righteous.

aaa123 Discussion 22: 02/05/2010 at 02:09 AM 22

All those who complain about the police/soldiers not doing their job... why don't you volunteer to stand in the front line? Most of the soldiers are forced to be soldiers anyway.

Jim Discussion 21: 02/05/2010 at 01:50 AM 21

the red leaders will leg it the minute there any sign of them being caught,just like monsson said he was hiding,if cant stand the heat get out of the kitchen

Mungo Gubbins Discussion 20: 02/05/2010 at 01:36 AM 20

Has anyone noticed how most of the red-shirt sympathisers who post on this forum endlessly repeat the same mantra without any consideration of the consequences of the current turn of events? Anything that reflects negatively on the protestors is instantly condemned as an establishment lie in the grand conspiracy against 'democracy' and the poor. The 'truth' has been pre-ordained and the rightness of the cause is unquestionable. It is pointless debating with these people. Blind belief is also deaf. Tourist waiting for the dictator to resign

Discussion 19: 02/05/2010 at 12:43 AM 19

Mr Abhisit Vejjajiva should step down NOW! If not it will be civil war and he'll lose anyway and be prosecuted. The best for Thailand and even himself and the corrupted elite is to step down NOW!

Ted Discussion 18: 02/05/2010 at 12:38 AM 18

I agree with No Fan of Red. Lets git on with it.

Expatboy Discussion 17: 02/05/2010 at 12:05 AM 17

The reds are using tactics like islamic militants. Talk to the poor, look a little after them (=cash in hand...), instigate them against the middle class and the rich, brainwash them and finally incite a proper conflict.

There just one differene-the islamists do it out of religious idiocy, the red shirt leaders do it for future profits.

Have the followers of the reds never asked themselves how their leaders want to get the money back which they invested in this conflict?

Mungo Gubbins Discussion 16: 01/05/2010 at 11:50 PM 16

This protest has been a play for martyrdom from the outset. The only people who can gain political capitol from the deaths of ordinary red-shirt protestors are the red shirt leadership. A cynical and cruel exploitation of poorer people and their genuine greivances.

Martyr Discussion 15: 01/05/2010 at 11:27 PM 15

Yes, the redshirts would die to bring back true democracy (whatever that means)but not you Khun Jatuporn and leaders because you are the first ones who duck whenever there is trouble. Remember how cowardly leader Kwanchai left his men to do the dirty job for a bowl of noodles before his apparition at the stage? Still wondering what they want to waste their life for.

Ben Discussion 14: 01/05/2010 at 11:25 PM 14

Goood to hear this as I've short the market.

But probably untrue. Also, crack down won't happen any time soon. Why bother with all the rumors of Thaksin being dead, the red shirt leaders disagreeing with one another?

Geoff O Discussion 13: 01/05/2010 at 11:19 PM 13

Is this guy serious, he will lead just like the Great Leader did when he said he would be return at the first shot. how does it go, "Trust me, I will be right behind you every step of the way" This is a cold blooded plan to get out of the trap he got himself into. First, though he has to check with his new big boss SD who talks directly to T.

Subin Discussion 12: 01/05/2010 at 11:10 PM 12

This is the most irresponsible statement coming out from Jatuporn. If he is really a responsible leader, he wouldn't think of putting his followers' lives in harms way. Hope you-the Bkk Post-would post this. As many of my posting were not allowed in the past.



Ben There Discussion 11: 01/05/2010 at 11:07 PM 11

I used to be sympathetic to the reds. Not anymore. The true motive is obviously not protection of its people or democracy. Their leaders now remind me of a little guy known as Mao who claimed to be for the people and liberation only to seize power and became a worse oppressor than the ones he claimed to liberate from.

Monsoon Discussion 10: 01/05/2010 at 10:56 PM 10

During the Vibhavadi shootout, the red leader Kwanchai was seen hiding behind a truck and then fled back to Ratchaprasong, leaving his mates behind. Jatuporn must have meant the red leaders will fight until "the last minute" of McDonalds opening hours.

Sam Discussion 9: 01/05/2010 at 10:53 PM 9

I just love Jatuporn's sense for theatrical statements. Does he think he is something like a nobleman who frees the country from evil? He is just doing the opposite and runs against the wall. Jatuporn - please realize that you will NOT be in the history books of the future! If at all people will talk about him amongst others who brought the country down!

Nathan Discussion 8: 01/05/2010 at 10:26 PM 8

The type of government Thailand has descended into, and the type of government the red shirts will impose is not a democracy. It is an idiocracy.

timely guy Discussion 7: 01/05/2010 at 10:22 PM 7

"ready to sacrifice their lives"

Please hurry so that INNOCENT lives may be saved...

these guys are like a bad soap opera with a bad script. do they actually plan to say this stuff?

Highlander Discussion 6: 01/05/2010 at 09:53 PM 6

Why doesn't Thai government arrest generals and police officials who don't want to enforce the law? In next move they should arrest Red shirt leadership even if few people die while doing this. If this is not done, than there will be civil war in Thailand and a lot of people will die. And every one will become a little poorer. But the one who will really suffer will be the poor

WakeUp Discussion 5: 01/05/2010 at 09:47 PM 5

UDD leaders sound like broken records, insisting there will be a crackdown, insisting they will fight to the "last drop." Obviously the government doesn't intend to give them that satisfaction. They are thinking about upcountry and the future of this country, obviously more than the UDD leaders are.

no fan of red Discussion 4: 01/05/2010 at 09:45 PM 4

Seems like the red-shirt leaders know there is no going back (after all their hate speech and illegal acts), so they are setting themselves up to be martyrs. Seems very very dangerous. No one should listen to them.

Highlander Discussion 3: 01/05/2010 at 09:43 PM 3

Why doesn't Thai government arrest generals and police officials who don't want to enforce the law? In next move they should arrest Red shirt leadership even if few people die while doing this. If this is not done, than there will be civil war in Thailand and a lot of people will die. And every one will become a little poorer. But the one who will really suffer will be the poor.

Peace Discussion 2: 01/05/2010 at 09:37 PM 2

A broken record... They could set an example for challenging justice in surrendering-at least the persons who have arrest warrants against them. And if sentences are put down they have the right to appeal-what the big boss did not do after his 2 years sentence. And this democratically elected MP named Jatuporn could have worked for more democracy in the parliament which he is avoiding now for some times. A wrong sentence does not become right with permanent repeats.

JojoB Discussion 1: 01/05/2010 at 09:35 PM 1

Martial law should have been invoked a month ago. The reds are just lucky Abhisit is too patient and too reluctant to use force. It's just about damn time this useless demonstrations be stopped for good!

### **Topic 26 Cabinet holds emergency meeting on crisis**

queen na Discussion 43: 02/05/2010 at 09:14 PM 43

After all these bad moves and getting the country to the brink of civil war, Mr. Abbi still refuses to step down as pm, I therefore would like to nominate him as the guy with the thickest skin and without a heart for his country. It is hard to find someone in this region to match him.

Disgusted! Discussion 42: 02/05/2010 at 08:51 PM 42

Good grief Martin Oliver (Discussion #40), if democracy is to prevail, then the Red shirt protesters should respect the outcome of the previous democratic elections, pack up and go home!!!!

Brian Discussion 41: 02/05/2010 at 08:48 PM 41

Could I compliment the Bangkok Post for its honesty in reproducing AFP reports in its pages...

Without an outside source such as AFP it would be impossible to know in Mainstream Thai media of the UDD claims regarding the Apr 22 bombings linking it to Chula Hospital. It would be great to read it firsthand in the Post, but we all know that the current emergency laws make it difficult to publish such reports.

Martin Oliver Discussion 40: 02/05/2010 at 08:27 PM 40

The only way to resolve the current situation is to have fresh elections. Democracy must prevail. The military must be held accountable for the current unrest by sweeping democracy under the table by way of the military coup. Abhisit & Taskin need to support the people of Thailand by acting in a responsible manner with some sort of dialog to move forward.

Paul Discussion 39: 02/05/2010 at 08:23 PM 39

PM Bhisit can not handle this situation. He is only asking for more time and nothing is happening. The police is not listening anymore and the military are shooting each other. The military can only now make karaoke on Shumkuvitroad, disgusting to see them dance and sing. There is only one solution: elections very soon and Abhisit has to go back to school.

Cyril Bored Discussion 38: 02/05/2010 at 08:10 PM 38

ICG = top global think tank? Never heard of them.

Disgusted! Discussion 37: 02/05/2010 at 07:48 PM 37

The ignorance of the masses is indeed alarming!!! Simon yee (Discussion #25), care to explain why you feel that his (K Abhisit's) party was not even elected in the first place. Pray tell how he became the Prime Minister instead of any of the Puea Thai Party MPs?? Jack (Discussion #22), where do I begin... what the dickens are you talking about??

Linda Discussion 36: 02/05/2010 at 07:36 PM 36

The anti-government is from the rural and middle class peoples. Their living economic is low, therefore, when Taksin came in. He is a pro-poor. However, these people are being used by his motive (and \$\$\$\$). The government has to find a strategy to solve the current situation. The reasons that these people came to Bangkok is because of their class economic.

Jane Discussion 35: 02/05/2010 at 07:34 PM 35

Please end this crisis as soon as possible, i don't care what it takes..

L S Davies Discussion 34: 02/05/2010 at 07:16 PM 34

Thanks Henry-and how did you conduct this poll of Bangkok residents?

Let me guess? In your mind...

Paul 1 Discussion 33: 02/05/2010 at 06:50 PM 33

For 27/28 et al. Naturally Bangkok polls would indicate support along with both of you! Most of Bangkok are yellow shirts, therefore side with Abhisit! In addition, to the fact that this government is illegal (a fact which you apparently conveniently forget) he has done absolutely nothing for Thailand except put the country in debt, with no results Wake up to the facts!

PkC b Discussion 32: 02/05/2010 at 06:41 PM 32

Paul@5:28pm: Are you saying it is unfair that Thais be treated preferentially in their own country. Perhaps the government should do as in my country and allow mexican illegals to decide which laws they want to obey and which ones they want to ignore.

Kris Discussion 31: 02/05/2010 at 06:31 PM 31

Abhisit is doing a great job. He is on the right and only possible way/ Am just another farang but he is doing a Really great job for Thailand and Thai People. Don't step Down A

John Discussion 30: 02/05/2010 at 06:15 PM 30

Henry d 19 I assume you have some statistics or at least a survey to site to support your numbers that 95% of the people in Bangkok support Abhisit.

Timjack Discussion 29: 02/05/2010 at 06:03 PM 29

Are we allowed to say; Many readers comments have warned about this very story for months now. Why is the government so surprised?

Henry Discussion 28: 02/05/2010 at 05:39 PM 28

Abhisit is doing a good job! Not giving into violent terrorists. 95% of Bangkok residents support Abhisit.

Vee Discussion 27: 02/05/2010 at 05:37 PM 27

1st PM Abhisit is doing a great job. He is on the right and only possible way. 2nd Thaksin is sentenced to jail because he is corrupt. He has stolen a huge amount of money from Thailand but uneducated people can't see and understand what he did. Now people are fighting for democracy but 90 % don't even know what that is. They should have accepted the election at the end of this year, an offer from PM Abhisit. But they did not understand and rejected the offer. This was very ignorant, selfish and shows the world that Reds are on the wrong way. To carry weapons, storm hospitals, built barricades is bad. This is terrorism. This is illegal and against the laws. In other countries this demonstration would have an end after the first clash. All terrorists would face jail for a long time. If there will be a civil war it is the demonstrators falt. They shot in their own foot. Education is the solution for the problem.

Paul Discussion 26: 02/05/2010 at 05:28 PM 26

Sorry Doom no can do as most western countries allow protest weather against the government of the country or another government overseas it's called civilisation where immigrants and people born in the country are treated the same under the law. Unlike the government here where us aliens are second class citizens with no rights.

simon yee Discussion 25: 02/05/2010 at 05:28 PM 25

he should call for fresh elections as his party was not even elected in the first place. lets be fair and democratic!

Scott Discussion 24: 02/05/2010 at 05:12 PM 24

Abhisit's strategy is completely flawed. He first wants to remove the protesters, then discuss when HE things parliament should be dissolved. No. (1) First, as our PM, you must find a political solution (ie. when to dissolve the house), then second (2) you must deal with the protesters if needed. You also shouldn't have said no when the UN offered help. Mistake after mistake. Your mismanagement is creating a situation which could turn into civil war. We have you to thank for this.

Siri Discussion 23: 02/05/2010 at 04:42 PM 23

"He who receives stolen goods shall face a consequence." That what Abhisit is facing.

Jack Discussion 22: 02/05/2010 at 04:41 PM 22

Mr. Abhisit his activitise like a village leader. He is not expert for MP of Thailand, may be expert for village leader. Thats why he did not come to MP of Thailand by election. Thailand's economic is going stong to week and innocent people going crazy. Personally if you are a good man, you should resign from your post for the Thailand interest, or you should clean all political problem but without kill more 1 people, I think.

John in BKK Discussion 21: 02/05/2010 at 03:49 PM 21

The UDD believed the grenades were launched from Chula because ASTV interviewed a witness that said grenades were seen launched from the 5th floor.As for being launched from Lumpini Park, if you stand in the park you can't even see Sala Daeng station. It is however within range, and possible.

Roger007 Discussion 20: 02/05/2010 at 03:39 PM 20

@ Jono Discussion 9:

"Half of the population cannot add 53+42 without a calculator, or tell you what 5% of 200 is"

You must be talking bout Europe and America ... Couple of years back America even had a President who cannot these mathmatical queries of yours..

Bubba Discussion 19: 02/05/2010 at 03:03 PM 19

"...I talked to the premier of Timor and I listened to his advice that we need two ways to solve the problem," Mr Abhisit said in his television address. "The first is that the government must stop anyone who acts against the law. The second one is the government must not ignore the needs of the people." Yes....as the illegal and anti-democratic coup of September 2006 was against the law and should never be allowed to be repeated. And yes again, ever since the coup nobody has given a hoot about the poor.Thailand may need to be turned upside down and shaken up before a new country can emerge that begins to act like it belongs to the 21st century and not have one foot continuously and firmly planted in its feudal past.

Andy A Discussion 18: 02/05/2010 at 03:02 PM 18

Disc 11Do you live in the same Thailand as me? Or in fact, on the same planet. If you can't fix something, then you get an expert to fix it (if it's worth fixing). Clearly Thailand doesn't have the expertise or Abhishit is too arrogant to acknowledge them. There needs to be outside help in this case. Do we have a government or a Junta????

Somchai Discussion 17: 02/05/2010 at 02:54 PM 17

Humans are inherently selfish. Everything happening in Thailand is a product of selfishness. People only care about themselves individually, not themselves as a collective. It's not just Thailand. It's everywhere. Until you can change the people's mindsets, there will be no change.

K.Chiew Discussion 16: 02/05/2010 at 02:53 PM 16

the probably inevitable show-down that is now approaching, probably in a matter of days, perhaps even hours, is not about Thaksin Shinawatra. His name and his image are just among the rallying cries and they are

diminishing rapidly. The people of Thailand-men and women-who came to risk their lives, blocking major intersections in the commercial district, are here to demand justice. Their color is red and red stars now decorate their hats. There are more red stars on the streets controlled by them than images of the deposed Prime Minister. This is another fact widely ignored by foreign media. Protesters may not know it themselves, but what brought them here are the same grievances and hopes that brought people to the streets of Santiago de Chile in 1970, celebrating the victory of Salvador Allende; the same hopes and grievances that brought Hugo Chavez and Evo Morales to power a few decades later. They want free medical care and free quality education for their children. They want subsidized housing. And they don't want to prostrate at the feet of superiors as they were long forced to do. There is nothing more powerful than to see Thai peasants camping in front of Chloe, Dior, Gucci and other luxury stores, to claim their space and offer their lives for this badly defined but spontaneous revolution. This rebellion may be crushed tomorrow, coloring Bangkok's river and canals red with protesters' blood, but it can also change the course of the history of all Southeast Asia, a region where neo-colonial interests combined with brutal and feudal inertia held entire nations in thrall-a state of affairs supremely comfortable for expatriates, representatives of foreign companies, sexual tourists and a servile press, but degrading for the majority of inhabitants.

Doom Discussion 15: 02/05/2010 at 02:31 PM 15

@ Truly Thai "I don't need a foreign mediator." "It's a sad state of affairs but this is HOME".

Well, you forgot to take into account that Thais living abroad exports their conflict there. A lot of yellow or red shirts groups are mushrooming in Western countries sponsoring their respective movement at HOME.

Our Western governments should remind Thais they are just foreign guest barely tolerated on our soil and by no way authorized to be political activists. If necessary, their work permits and visas should be canceled and all this colored people sent back HOME.

Mike Discussion 14: 02/05/2010 at 02:22 PM14

Disc 6 '...He is not a demcatically elected leader'. C' mon does this need to be hashed again and again? Your ignorance is outdone by your spelling. This coalition is in government through a majority of lower house seats, go study the facts mate

Piggy Discussion 13: 02/05/2010 at 02:21 PM 13

The whole world condemned what happened with the PAD was taking over the airport. It was really a quiet coup supported by the military. Many military officials were there, supporting the PAD members, who wore yellow shirts. That was made clear when the government instructed the military to clear the airport and the military was reluctant. They were part of it. This was really a coup. If we are a mature democracy under rule of law, these things would not have happened. Those who violated the law must be prosecuted



Mame Discussion 12: 02/05/2010 at 02:19 PM 12

I am sorry,#11, that I can not agree with you any more. I the beginning, I was sure this thing could be hadled by the government. Since then, too much has happened that has shown it is all out of anybody's hands. I think #10 comes quite close to the point. Probably at least a try of foreign help by independt international organizations should at least be considered gravely. AS it is now (and has been for many many weeks)it only looks it is escalating. I do love Thailand and wish all of this turmoil will be over soon.

Suku Discussion 11: 02/05/2010 at 02:09 PM 11

Hi, 74 Changwats/Provinces have no emergency attention but 1 Changwat/Bangkok Province gets the emergency meeting of the PM !

Truly Thai Discussion 10: 02/05/2010 at 01:57 PM 10

I don't need a foreign mediator. Yes, there is a national crisis but we, Thais, are intelligent and patient enough to sort out our own problems no matter how long it takes. Let the whole world laugh at us but we know what "Mind your own business" means. Lives may be sacrificed but that's how democracy functions considering the current circumstances. CNN and BBC are no different from our local stations. They should live here and let's see if their news sales will peak. It's a sad state of affairs but this is HOME. WELCOME TO THAILAND THE LAND OF SMILES.

Jono Discussion 9: 02/05/2010 at 01:29 PM 9

Whats the point of voting and elections, if most of the country does not understand the consequences of their vote. Half of the population cannot add 53+42 without a calculator, or tell you what 5% of 200 is.

I know it sounds elitist, but the widespread lack of knowledge/intelligence means that you may as well roll a dice instead of having an election.

Swedenfarang Discussion 8: 02/05/2010 at 01:22 PM 8

There are only two ways to act for PM Abhisit.

He hits very hard on The Red Shirts and clean up the streets. Then he has all the problems left for next time and have to start from no 1 again. Then maybe the whole Thailand will be the same as they already have in The Southern provinces. He dissolves the parliament and call for fresh elections. Then he has started the process of democracy. The military has to keep their fingers away from the country's politics.

Jim in Auburn Discussion 7: 02/05/2010 at 01:20 PM 7

@Isieh #2, The red shirts, UDD, and PT are in the minority. If PT was in the majority, it would have chosen the PM. But because there are more MPs that are for the Democrats, Abhisit is the PM. Why do you have to wait for another election for the minority to accept it and move on? PT and UDD should do that now, and wait for the next election.@Ikens #5, You can't be talking about the current government. The people voted for the current MPs. And a majority of the MPs chose the current PM. So the current government is not in the minority, but the majority. PT is however in the minority, so I guess they need to be watched.

Farong Discussion 6: 02/05/2010 at 01:18 PM 6

Disc 4 Mike.... Sorry mate, you must live in another Thailand. Intelligence and honesty your wrote, PM Abihsit demonstrates.... Well todote he has NOT come up with anything constructive to end this crisis. If you can find anything positive the PM has done, then please post them...He is not a demcatically elected leader.He is only there because the PAD did not have the numbers to form government intheir own right after the Dec 2008 fiascos.

Ikens Discussion 5: 02/05/2010 at 01:02 PM 5

When a minority is in control of the country there are certain things that must happen for it to be effective. They must have the constitution and laws suited for their protection only. They must eliminate any opposition to their rule. They must keep their party and partners in the majority with whatever means. They must seat there chosen personnel in the upper ranking positions throughout all services including the military and police. They must control all media outlets to ensure censorship of all reports. They can never allow elections unless they have election laws in place which favor themselves and they have totally discredited or removed any opposition. If in the event they do have an election and loose they immediatley move to a coup to regain power. This is often called a dictatorship rather than a democracy.

Mike Discussion 4: 02/05/2010 at 12:50 PM 4

It is not charisma that is needed, it is intelligence and honesty which are exactly what PM Abhisit demonstrates. He needs our full support. Both CNN and BBC were only poaching for news sales and were fawning as i cant believe the newscasters could be so ignorant.

Khun Jaye Discussion 3: 02/05/2010 at 12:49 PM 3

My heart cries and cries for the beautiful people of Thailand... The men, women, and children you see around you ARE YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS! I wish that kindness and understanding were enough but it seems as though unscrupulous characters, AND I DO NOT CARE WHAT COLOUR T-SHIRT THEY WEAR, insist selfishly upon behavior for which all citizens of the world must suffer consequences... THAIS CAN AND WILL FIND A SOLUTION!

I;sieh Discussion 2: 02/05/2010 at 12:46 PM 2

Need to stop looking at the small incidents and try to politicize them. Need to start looking at the big picture. The entire country is ready for a change in government and a fresh start to a better society. Everybody knows the system in place now needs cleaning out and a new system installed. What we have now is not working and will never work as there are simply too many in opposition. Need to face up to the fact that the old way of doing things will not work anymore and it is time to give the country to the people. A quiet civil war is here already. A loud civil war is very near if dramatic change is not taken soon. An election will give the majority the right to govern the country and the oppositions will have to accept and move on for the betterment of the nation. If the minority cannot except the results then they will have to move out or be removed. Time for a clean up.

Neutral Discussion 1: 02/05/2010 at 12:33 PM 1

I have recently watched PM Abhisit's appearance on both CNN (Amanpour) and BBC (Hard Talk). Besides his uninspired outlining of solutions for Thailand this person lacks any kind of Charisma required to solve such a deep political divide in Thailand. Would you as an opposition movement trust this PM to solve the CT's problems? What is required here is leadership and it seems that Thailand does not have one single person who is willing and qualified to solve this stand-off. The International Community is right to propose mediation from outside the Country for Thailand being much to important to let it slide into the abyss. And it would only be for the benefit of the Thai society as a whole if the so called leadership on all sides of the color spectrum would welcome this proposal.

### **Topic 27 Armoured cars, plus a roadmap**

BLACK Discussion 53: 10/05/2010 at 05:09 AM 53

T.I.T. This is Thailand!

Ricefieldradio Discussion 52: 04/05/2010 at 03:34 AM 52

Armored cars, plus a road map but without a moral compass to steer the ship.

Jim in Auburn Discussion 51: 04/05/2010 at 02:49 AM 51

@Charles #50, I guess that is another good reason that the PPP was disbanded and that the democrats are in power now. The PPP was unable to deal with the yellow shirt protesters at the airport. Maybe this current government will show that you do not give in to mob rule.

Charles Discussion 50: 04/05/2010 at 01:50 AM 50

Pity they couldn't be equally forceful with the criminals that took over the airports and ruined the country's reputation!

Confused Discussion 49: 04/05/2010 at 12:46 AM 49

Is anyone in the government communicating at all?? I appreciate that the PM is trying to come up with a road map to reconciliation, however, CRES contradicted the PM by getting these vehicles ready. So what is the real intention of the government??? Who's in charge here???? I'm confused...

Demos kratia Discussion 48: 03/05/2010 at 11:40 PM 48

41 and 36... do you understand the meaning of democracy? It's from the Greek meaning the rule of the people, which is a majority rule. The red shirts are hardly a majority.

Please show me majority rule in the Western world re the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq. Go further back if you need to in order to support the view of democracy.

You have the right to vote. You do not have the right to chose.

Jim in Auburn Discussion 47: 03/05/2010 at 11:34 PM 47

@Pointman #29,Fair elections? That include sanctioned vote buying? What kind of democracy allows and condones vote buying? You have no idea how democracy works.

Jim in Auburn Discussion 46: 03/05/2010 at 11:30 PM 46

@pointman #23,No it is you that is not listening. All of the MPs were elected by the people. Whether they were initially elected, or elected after PPP was disbanned because of election fraud. The replacements were voted on by the people. The MPs chose the current PM and government. That is called democracy. Being upset that your party is not in power and creating chaos on the streets until the government resigns and new elections are held is called mob rule.

Jim in Auburn Discussion 45: 03/05/2010 at 11:14 PM 45

@Piggy #15,Please identify any MPs that were not elected by the people. The MPs chose the PM and the government. So which MPs were installed by the military, and not elected by a vote of the people?

Rooney Discussion 44: 03/05/2010 at 10:09 PM 44

"Bubble bubble,toil and trouble,cauldron burn and cauldron bubble"[Macbeth opening lines from the three witches]Let's all hope Abhisit's wizard plan to avert this explosive situation works!A peaceful spell would be most welcome.

Musang Discussion 43: 03/05/2010 at 10:09 PM 43

BP is really not helping to promote tourism with photo. Its just trying to show how powerful the army is. What if that guy in the Armoured vehicle is a watermelon soldier.

Michael HKT Discussion 42: 03/05/2010 at 09:45 PM 42

Discussion #33 and #30 relax. It does send an aggressive message to show that picture but considering that it clearly was taken in the south and not Bangkok the blame for that lies with the Post and not the government. I sincerely doubt the PM picked that picture for the article as stated elsewhere it is a file photo.

Alai na? Discussion 41: 03/05/2010 at 09:42 PM 41

John's comment in #36 is spot on. Western-style democracy is not for all countries of the world. Only a handful deserves it and can sustain it. Thailand is not one of those countries.

Wantmymoney Discussion 40: 03/05/2010 at 09:33 PM 40

You only send armoured humvee into bagdad or sudan or kabul, but bangkok? A civil war in the making?

moo ba Discussion 39: 03/05/2010 at 09:31 PM 39

Amazing Thailand!!!

Armoured vehicles are being readied for use in the dispersal of the prolonged anti-government rally at Bangkok's Ratchaprasong commercial district, spokesman for the government's Centre for Resolution of the Emergency Situation (CRES) Col Sansern Kaewkamnerd said on Monday.So this COL did not learn much from his army training how he got promoted??? Army Chief pls explain???Armoured vehicles are suppose to be use

for protection of one's country not for killing fellow Thais plsssssssss ??? Or you just want to brand yourself for life???

Seang Discussion 38: 03/05/2010 at 09:27 PM 38

Did one leader has said in order to keep peace, have to be ready for war, the otherwise other side would thinks you are weak? is that correct #30!

Trade Discussion 37: 03/05/2010 at 09:26 PM 37

Armored bulldozers will be required to clear the barricades before the armored cars can move in.

John Discussion 36: 03/05/2010 at 09:08 PM 36

I feel great pity for the masses of poor people who are being paid to protest and fight for something they will never achieve; thats real democracy, respect for their rights and honest election. Thailand is entering a period of serious instability, I can see no hope of a traditional political solution, Thailand had has some very successful military governments over the past few decades, it may need one for a period to settle everyone down. Democracy is not the answer when the rules are corrupted.

John Discussion 35: 03/05/2010 at 08:59 PM 35

The problem is that far too many Thais do not understand that their vote is more important than the 200/500 baht that the politicians pay for them. There will never be a solution to conflict in a society that accepts minor and major corruption as being normal, this is about super rich people fighting for power, nothing to do with what ordinary people want.

Spike Discussion 34: 03/05/2010 at 08:56 PM 34

Hey Pointman Why in all true democracies, including Thailand, are there laws against buying votes?

Pointman #2 Discussion 33: 03/05/2010 at 08:44 PM 33

Dis 30, Bill Canada, has a point. Looking at a picture of 200, 7.62x51mm Nato rounds, in an ammo box, being fed into an automatic weapon, doesn't look too peaceful.

Herb Discussion 32: 03/05/2010 at 08:42 PM 32

Using force may ignites a civil war and if you look at your neighbor country's, you can see this isn't great. Let them sit there, start with things they matter like free and good education for everyone, raise the minimum wages..Once the government shows it is serious and really has ideas to improve living for the people, than the red shirts go away.

Ducky Discussion 31: 03/05/2010 at 08:04 PM 31

I don't want Aggressive Power. I don't want Coup d'etat. I don't want Civil war. I want peace.

Bill Canada Discussion 30: 03/05/2010 at 07:58 PM 30

"This conflict and the situation cannot simply be resolved through force," said PM Abhisit. A picture is worth a thousand words and a gunner behind an automatic weapon loaded with live rounds from a 200 round ammo box is not an image of a roadmap to peaceful settlement of differences.

Pointman #2 Discussion 29: 03/05/2010 at 07:33 PM 29

Dis 26, Outsider: I can answer your question about how to have fair elections. In order to have fair elections you guarantee each individual casts one ballot. You also invite international observers to oversee the elections. Since every voter is required to register, there's no way, a person can vote more than once. When a voter is entitled to "one vote," The excuse, some voters will vote for whoever gives them the most money, isn't a valid crutch/excuse to lean on, simply because a voter is entitled to vote for whoever he/she desires to vote for.

HRR Discussion 28: 03/05/2010 at 07:22 PM 28

#26, Yes, the weak constitution is the big problem for Thailand to move forward on a respectable democratic government which protects people's rights. How many times has Thai constitution been rewritten? A strong constitution should not be something that is written on toilet paper and thrown away when a new political party is put in charge.#25, you really do not know anything about this. First, consider how the military is divided. Second, consider the border countries with Isan. How arms may possibly get into the country. Third, consider population numbers and support. Forth, consider the south. I hope K. Abhisit and the red shirts come to agreement on the 6 month proposal because a war between Thai people would be a very sad event for such a beautiful country and people to go through.

Ginjoe Discussion 27: 03/05/2010 at 07:22 PM 27

Disc 4. If you replace these corrupt MP's with the same old corrupt MP's as before & your back to square 1 again.Let the reds keep taking Thaksins money until it dries up & then the problem will die a slow death.It's easy to talk how to fix the problem, but damn near impossible to actually physically fix the problem.The greed of human nature nowadays doesn't allow common sense into the equation.

Outsider Discussion 26: 03/05/2010 at 05:51 PM 26

As usual the comments range from 'crackdown now' to 'dissolve cabinet now'.Even if K. Abhisit steps down today and announces new elections in 1-2 months time, there are issues not addressed:- what constitution- how to do the process to have fair, honest elections- who may be voted for, and who may not - should K. Thaksin be allowed to escape his prison term (bad example for Thai youth)- amnesty for yellow and red shirt leaders- and so on, and so forth

Knowing Discussion 25: 03/05/2010 at 05:29 PM 25

Isan stands no chance...don't wish for civil war

Apaul Discussion 24: 03/05/2010 at 05:27 PM 24

It is completely irresponsible and sensationalistic of the Bangkok Post to use a file photo and the headline they have used. The armoured cars are not on the way. They are being readied. Label the photo as file.

Pointman #2 Discussion 23: 03/05/2010 at 05:14 PM 23

Dis 16, Uthai: I said the same thing but no-one appears to be listening.

Another Farang Discussion 22: 03/05/2010 at 05:02 PM 22

To all of you, why not just let the government finish their term and if most of Thai people are not happy after that, they are free to chose another party. This is how it works in most of other countries. This is no way for the future, because if you push the government out like that, the next color will come and do the same thing the next time, because is was working before and it will go on and on. Just stop this nonsense. since nearly 3 month this government is not able to run the country, they have to deal with crazy people on the street who try to destroy the Thai economy.

P Discussion 21: 03/05/2010 at 04:55 PM 21

6-8000 not human being?Try to drive up north north east you ll see red flags everywhere.Better think twice if this government want to avoid civil war. You may win this battle but if force are use this country will surely go in flame. MR Abisit please dont let the next generation to pointed at you as the one who ignite this war. This disaster is avoidable.Try your best n give peace a chance no matter how many times you had blown it away.

Piggy Discussion 20 : 03/05/2010 at 04:48 PM20

Discussion 15Because this Government did not come through the ballot boxed but by the military and the yellow blockage of the airport.

Edward Discussion 19: 03/05/2010 at 04:48 PM 19

What double standard. Abhisit wants the reporters to paint a bad picture of the Red-Shirts by asking if they want to go home.Yet he prevented new Red-Shirts from joining the rally site. Abhisit gets to hide in the army barrack and sleep on the bedThe government army and police gets to go home everyday and rest.Yet the Red-Shirts do not get new replacement, no bed to sleep and now he wants reporters to ask them "are you tired", "do you miss home?" etc...This is so unfair.

Bangkok Resident Discussion 18: 03/05/2010 at 04:41 PM 18

Abra kadabra (#4) and Sombat (#5), all the Red shirt leaders and the Puea Thai Party MPs have done to date is to whine, criticize and complain about the Abhisit administration.If you Red shirt leaders and Puea Thai Party MPs really want to be taken seriously and respected as worthy adversaries, prove your salt!! Come up with a shadow cabinet, plans and ideas on how you will eradicate corruption, address the inequality between the commoners and elites, stamp out the alleged military influence and stranglehold in Thai politics and so on. I shudder when I think of the possible candidates whom the Puea Thai party will propose as the next PM!!! I certainly do not see any promise, especially since you are content to use despicable and terrorist tactics in your attempt to subvert the government.

Piggy Discussion 17: 03/05/2010 at 04:39 PM 17

Discussion # 8.you have a lively imagination,

Uthai Discussion 16: 03/05/2010 at 04:24 PM 16

It is time to get rid of this military dictatorship and get a properly elected government.

Bil Discussion 15: 03/05/2010 at 04:24 PM 15

Some guys like to see house dissolve and new election? Why can you guys just let the government complete its term and then let the people to decide through the ballot boxes in the next general election. As simple as that..

Piere Discussion 14: 03/05/2010 at 04:23 PM 14

Joan, yes it is safe to travel in Bangkok (Bloody big place!). Just stay clear of the areas affected, and use common sense. If in doubt, I find the best people to ask are Taxi drivers.

Mike Discussion 13: 03/05/2010 at 04:23 PM 13

Don't worry, be Happy !

Marcus Discussion 12: 03/05/2010 at 04:22 PM 12

If anyone here has some influence on those 8000 people please try your best to persuade them to go home safely. It doesn't matter who is wrong or right when there are lives at stake. Rightly the government must have right to all territory so please keeping them there is a wrong and inhumane decision if anyone has influence. May peace prevail and it will.

Cityboy Discussion 11: 03/05/2010 at 04:22 PM 11

Joan #9. Yes, just stay well away from the protest area. I live in the city.

Wandee Discussion 10: 03/05/2010 at 04:16 PM 10

Ranking Points

2008 124 Thailand 34, 50 Asien 2010 130 Thailand 44,00 Asien/Pacific Source (<http://www.reporter-ohne-grenzen.de/index.php?id=438>) That is the ranking of Thailand as far as journalism goes seen from the outside. Higher points less freedom and ranking in the list of countries that step on free journalism. Maybe the previous governments have not been as evil as Abhisit tries to make them out?

Joan Discussion 9: 03/05/2010 at 04:07 PM 9

is it safe to travel in Bangkok?

Leo Discussion 8: 03/05/2010 at 04:03 PM 8

As a foreign resident of Thailand it is clear to me that Thaksin will employ an means to regain his control of the country; his intentions have been clear and they do not include the well being of the people; he has shown clearly by his manipulation of the UDD that he will stop at nothing to obtain his agenda including using women and children as shields; endangering their lives for his own gain; there was a fascist who took over Europe in the 1930s who displayed similar behaviour. If the red shirts knew the truth about this man they would rethink their position. I believe Thaksin is paying these people to participate in civil disobedience; cut off his money and the trouble will stop.

K.Tossaporn Discussion 7: 03/05/2010 at 03:58 PM 7

There are only 6-8,000 there not because they don;t have many many more supporters but because the army did not let anybody in. In case of a crackdown many of those who could not get in will come to help.

Nick Discussion 6: 03/05/2010 at 03:54 PM 6

Red shirt go home now and stop make problem for the country! everyone tired of you. Abhisit is a good man:-) but red shirt never lett he show that only make protest with problem.

Sombat Discussion 5: 03/05/2010 at 03:54 PM 5

Why don't this government not just step down, many people are tired of all the corrupt faces, have a close look at them.

abra kadabra Discussion 4: 03/05/2010 at 03:50 PM 4

I see the game Abby is playing.Show muscle and threat, but make vague so called roadmap for peace without concrete steps.Can't wait to see if this will work.This whole mess will go away Abby if you would just dissolve gov't and call new election.

Karoshi Discussion 3: 03/05/2010 at 03:43 PM 3

Better late than never. Get to work, guys!

Neo Discussion 2: 03/05/2010 at 03:35 PM 2

Do this clean up NOW! In many cases, internationally organizations are waiting to access Bangkok with assurance that this mess is GONE and their people will not be victims of some recklessness by the UDD. And, have some compassion for Bangkok's poor who have been deprived of livelihood through the UDD's mindless selfish havoc!

Sven Discussion 1: 03/05/2010 at 03:34 PM 1

This is really crazy! The respond can very well be a civil war. The conflict can only be solved through negotiations, maybe its time to accept international help.

### **Topic 28 PM proposes Nov 14 poll date**

Bangkok Resident Discussion 61: 04/05/2010 at 07:55 PM 61

Wanchai (Discussion #58) -And what happened to PPP after the elections in 2008 which led to the formation of the Democrat led coalition government? If the Democrat coalition government did not have the majority number of seats in parliament, do you think the PTP would have thrown in the towel and allowed a Democrat to be the PM?

Of course you will argue that the military was behind some alleged defection and that even the Constitutional Courts acted with bias but the fact remains, there is no smoke without fire and PPP was dissolved for electoral fraud.In any event, all these discussion is becoming irrelevant as it looks like the Red shirt leaders are about to give up their rally anyway...

Real Real Discussion 60: 04/05/2010 at 06:12 PM 60

So good Nov 14 High season that will delay high season for a month. As if the tourists have not had enough this will further blanket tourism.

Mod Discussion 59: 04/05/2010 at 05:30 PM 59

Good

Wanchai Discussion 58: 04/05/2010 at 05:15 PM 58

Discussion #55 Get yourself educated, this are the previous general election results PPP 233 seats Democrat 165 seats Motherland 24 seats Who said Democrat is the major winner if not being supported by military and PAD?

Discussion #34 was absolutely correct

Skip Discussion 57: 04/05/2010 at 04:58 PM 57

Make peace--give Bangkok back to the residents and those who work there.

Sombat Discussion 56: 04/05/2010 at 04:56 PM 56

Discussion # 48 You are right then the yellow vandalism are back on the streets again, They ought to be prosecuted for what they did to show there is law in the country

Bangkok Resident Discussion 55: 04/05/2010 at 04:38 PM 55

Pizza (Discussion #34) -Replace the government with minor parties as per military choice? Are you talking about the Democrat led coalition government? You mean they did not win majority votes but was actually instated by the military?? Wasn't there a general elections where the PPP contested?

Khunandre Australia Discussion 54: 04/05/2010 at 04:19 PM 54

Hope the road map does not provide amnesty for Fugitive Convicted Criminals.

Yebaw Discussion 53: 04/05/2010 at 03:26 PM 53

i want to give grade "A" to Marks for his answers for the problem of "How to pull ot the country from political crisis?"

Dietmar Discussion 52: 04/05/2010 at 02:53 PM 52

@#40&41: Agree.

Dietmar Discussion 51: 04/05/2010 at 02:48 PM 51

@#34: Absolutely correct.

Paul Discussion 50: 04/05/2010 at 02:13 PM 50

If this offer is accepted, Abhisit and the military have another six month to fill their pockets. After that it will be exit for this lousy PM.

His periode of being a PM was a big disaster and a major step back for Thailand. And more then 25 unnecessary death.

Marc T Discussion 49: 04/05/2010 at 01:25 PM 49

With the ongoing media censorship the opposition can't possibly expect to win the next elections. And then there's the fact that the passing of the increased Army budget and the military reshuffle are done BEFORE



November. So in case the Reds actually DO win in November, there will just be another coup as soon as they attempt to do anything the the Yellow's don't approve of...

Marco T Discussion 48: 04/05/2010 at 01:20 PM 48

With the ongoing media censorship the opposition can't possibly expect to win the next elections. And then there's the fact that the passing of the increased Army budget and the military reshuffle are done BEFORE November. So in case the Reds actually DO win in November, there will just be another coup as soon as they attempt to do anything the the Yellow's don't approve of...

KK Discussion 47: 04/05/2010 at 01:16 PM 47

This should not be happening...The Reds 'Wanted' this... and its going according to their plan...A New start...yes it is, but it could be a bad one...What was wrong in this House of Representatives???

Puzzled Discussion 46: 04/05/2010 at 12:53 PM 46

It is amazing how people blame the government for not calling for snap elections at the demand of the Red shirt protesters and thereby causing the deaths. Why don't we just take one step back. If the Red shirt protesters did not act like terrorists, invade and occupy the Rachprasong intersection, NONE of these would have happened. Everyone was comfortable (and even support their cause) when the Red shirt protesters held their rally at Phan Fa Bridge. But of course, they had to become foolish and insolent when the government didn't react to their rally.

Honest John Discussion 45: 04/05/2010 at 12:27 PM 45

Economic disparity can be quickly alleviated by redistributing the 49 billion baht confiscated from Thaksin to the poor of Isaan, partly as cash and partly as improvements to education and medical care. They will understand that.

Peter Discussion 44: 04/05/2010 at 12:14 PM 44

On the face of it, this proposal from PM Abhisit has a lot to offer and should be welcomed by all sides. By including a specific date for a new election which is not too far away, Abhisit has paved the way for reaching agreement with the Red Shirt protesters over their primary demand. Talks will be needed to hammer out the details of Abhisit's five conditions. Hopefully, there will not turn out to be anything in the small print which any reasonable person could not be expected to agree to.

Fedup Discussion 43: 04/05/2010 at 11:40 AM 43

'UDD leader Veera Musikhapong said the reconciliation road map was "interesting" but UDD leaders wanted to hear the views of several parties such as' Mr. Taksin Shinawatra.

Harry Discussion 42: 04/05/2010 at 11:37 AM 42

It's also a very interesting decision for Thaksin. He says he is not a part of the struggle for democracy and that it's the Thai people's fight. In that case, he'll have to accept Aphisit's offer. I hope that the government will

make a rule that any party caught buying votes will be dissolved. That will perhaps stop Thaksin flooding the North and North-East with his money.

Peewee Discussion 41: 04/05/2010 at 11:36 AM 41

Abby's so called road map is purely one sided, not much of a compromise is there? Red shirts, this plan is a pie in the sky. You have this gov't in a corner don't give up so easily. Abby wants to appear he is in control. He haven't offered anything resembling a compromise. Did any of the Yellow shirts serve jail time for their terrorist acts in 2008? We'll have justice when Kasit serve jail time.

Kelsne Discussion 40: 04/05/2010 at 11:35 AM 40

I am afraid it is all a waste of time and effort here as this gov and whom it protects has already done to much damage to the people. These protestors all over the country will not just simply stop and go home and they will not accept this plan that does not include them. This is all about the gov trying to hold on to power as long as possible for their bosses.

Stuart Discussion 39: 04/05/2010 at 11:20 AM 39

Sounds like a well thought out plan. But all sides need to adhere to it. The red shirts would be crazy not to take it.

John Discussion 38: 04/05/2010 at 11:10 AM 38

I don't think Mr. Abhisit could give amnesty for criminal offences, even if he wanted to. After all the victims have families, who may want justice to be served. The courts will have to handle this issue. On the other hand, the red shirt leaders keep saying that they have not broken any laws or committed any crimes. If they truly believe that, then they have nothing to worry about.

Mark Discussion 37: 04/05/2010 at 11:07 AM 37

Completely agree with Redsunset, why did it take Abhisit so long to offer this solution since it was just a disagreement on timing? Why did he have to let these economic damages and losses of life take place before making a bold decision making? Did it stem from his underestimation of the Red Shirts (as per his interview given to BKK Post on 26 April)? At his age and given his skills, he is supposed to have a long way to go in political career. But his ambivalence and lack of leadership this time has not only cost the country, but his political future, too.

Trirat Petchsingh Discussion 36: 04/05/2010 at 10:54 AM 36

Nothing new, except for the "independent" fact-finding panel. Every other point is rather meaningless, as the government--any government--should be promoting them, anyway. Abhisit could have saved lives lost unnecessarily if he had sooner scheduled snap elections unilaterally. The Reds would hum and haw but they would have to agree unless they want to erode their already fragile welcome at Rajprasong and elsewhere in Bangkok.

Jack Discussion 35: 04/05/2010 at 10:47 AM 35

PM given offer is good. so UDD should must accept this offer. If take a wrong decision may be UDD loss their supporters showly.

Pizza Discussion 34: 04/05/2010 at 10:46 AM 34

Sequence of some criminal acts since 2007 Military Coup; Remove Elected PM due to TV Cooking exhibition Vandalize Government house; Block Airports Remove Elected Government; Replace Government with minor parties as per military's choice Drug traffic up and running again; underground lotteries reinstalled Emergency decree not respected by any group; Attack protesters with live ammunition (International Court);

MOO MOO Discussion 33: 04/05/2010 at 10:43 AM 33

The PM's proposals seem very reasonable and should be acceptable to all parties if they really care about the Kingdom. It is time for healing and for Thailand to get back to normal so that the economy can start to grow again and people can start working again.

Swedenfarang Discussion 32: 04/05/2010 at 10:37 AM 32

"the media must refrain from reports which exacerbate social or political conflicts" Maybe PM Abhisit not like the The Media report about realities. Like he told from the beginning: We have no problems in Thailand. When the hole World know that he has problems now the hole period he been sitting in the PM chair. Maybe report like they do in China?

Auntie K Discussion 31: 04/05/2010 at 10:31 AM 31

This is good news. I think Abhisit has a great plan for national reconciliation. I pray that the red shirts will agree and I pray for peace and a new start for this beautiful nation!

Keele Discussion 30: 04/05/2010 at 10:16 AM 30

Why does everyone assume the UDD has to answer to this set of ideas made up by the PM. This is not addressed to the UDD for an answer it is only ideas with stipulations all over it. The UDD does not even have to answer to this as it is not addressed to them and I am sure they were not included in this think tank.

Notsodumb Discussion 29: 04/05/2010 at 10:10 AM 29

Any reasonable plan to put an end to this situation should be welcomed by everybody. However, there should not be any amnesty as the reds want, particularly for those who instigated or participated in acts of violence. Terrorists and instigators must be punished accordingly.

Citiboi Discussion 28: 04/05/2010 at 09:44 AM 28

Redsunset (Discussion #20), K Abhisit DID!! He first proposed 9 months and then six months. The Red shirt leaders not only scoffed at the proposal but changed their demand for dissolution from 15 days to IMMEDIATELY!! Talking about being unreasonable and intransigent!!

Puzzled Discussion 27: 04/05/2010 at 09:39 AM 27

Same same (Discussion #18), one crisis at a time please. I agree with you but contrary to what the Red shirt leaders believe, these problems cannot be resolved immediately. These problems must be weed out over time with a stable government which can succeed over a few election to ensure strength and stability.

Observant Discussion 26: 04/05/2010 at 09:31 AM 26

What a bunch of unrealistic requests. Economic disparity is what the unrest is all about and it is not something that will be fixed in our lifetime which is convenient if you want to hold power forever. Why should the action of the media have any effect on whether the people should have a vote? A fact finding panel is a good idea but shouldn't delay a vote. The last item is reasonable. Both sides should agree unfortunately agreements are different from decrees. This is a silly list with the only purpose of delaying a vote and the ouster of the democrat party.

Redsunset Discussion 25: 04/05/2010 at 09:29 AM 25

Everyone reds, government, public-is tired of this whole charade. Everyone wants to go home. Now is a good time to broker peace, if only temporarily. We all know that a true democratic process, where there is no vote buying is impossible, so we have to "jury-rig" fairness. November at the next election will be another circus where people accuse one another of "non-democratic values" and we have more disruptions. You just wait and see...

Chazthai Discussion 24: 04/05/2010 at 09:25 AM 24

With reference to the photo accompanying this article: With most of the hospital staff apparently out on the street, who is taking care of the patients? Haven't they been neglected and abused enough?

FDA Discussion 23: 04/05/2010 at 08:58 AM 23

Lets see if Boss Toxin is going to approve the deal. Which I doubt...

Harry Discussion 22: 04/05/2010 at 08:46 AM 22

Interesting choice for the Red Shirt leaders: 1. The Red Shirt leaders may say, "We agree" and then go to jail, while expecting Thaksin's vote-buying capacity to win the next election so that they will be free and even richer men afterwards with powerful positions. 2. They may say, "We don't agree." because they don't want to go to jail and because this doesn't help Thaksin, their Paymaster, to achieve his goals. Also, by bringing about an Army crackdown, they might get back some support. Whatever they do, it will surely be for their personal interests.

Bangkok Resident Discussion 21: 04/05/2010 at 08:34 AM 21

GOOD MOVE K Abhisit!! Bravo!! Now we will really see if the UDD and the Puea Thai Party are really proponents of peace and democracy or terrorists in disguise!! This puts the UDD leaders under pressure, especially with the threat of a crackdown in the background. I am not hopeful that the UDD will accept this as

the government has stressed that no amnesty will be granted to those who have committed crimes, which of course must include the UDD leaders!!

Redsunset Discussion 20: 04/05/2010 at 08:30 AM 20

It ridiculous that this whole mess is the result of a timing difference of only six months. I'm shocked that Abhisit did not think of this earlier. Why did it take so long for him to offer six months instead of nine? Some say he had to wait till the red shirts ran out of options and got tired out. A poor way to run a country. Abhisit lacks the guts and courage to take hard decisions. He defaults to the so-called Thai culture of avoiding conflict and therefore prolongs problems. That is one reason why Thailand is stuck in neutral. We need more decisive action, some brains, some more risk taking.

Samutprakan Discussion 19: 04/05/2010 at 08:29 AM 19

Perfect Mr. Abhisit, you did good work and got my support always in this matter. Amnesty for the out-laws who break the law and damage lots of shops, attacked the hospital is for me out of the order! When you break the law, you know there will be a punishment, so never amnesty.

Same Same Discussion 18: 04/05/2010 at 08:14 AM 18

This plan only fixes the current crisis. It does nothing to address the problems which allowed this to happen in the first place. Which is not the red shirt or yellow shirt protests, but the military coups and the multiple dissolutions of government. I don't say this to be critical of the PM's plan to address the current problem. I give him credit for attempting to resolve this issue without further deaths. Just pointing out this does nothing to stop the cycle of coups and re-writing almost worthless constitutions for Thailand. Do Thai people want to see this happen over and over and over again?

Dale Bailey Discussion 17: 04/05/2010 at 08:10 AM 17

The government's primary task is to provide security. I can not drive my car down certain streets without being stopped by thugs and searched. I can not walk in the main shopping, business areas or major park without fear of assault. The yellows were never made to pay for their lawbreaking. The reds used every yellow trick and added to them. The next round of political monkey business will see greater lawlessness unless the gauntlet is thrown down. Leaders and violent members of the mob, those who committed violence, must be brought to court. The PM MUST stop the cycle of violence and return security to the streets for now and the future.

Neutral Discussion 16: 04/05/2010 at 08:09 AM 16

A number of conditions are open ended target and when nearer to election date, I am sure the government will come up with all sorts of excuses and reasons to extend its life span. Nothing new. A lot of promises and many likely to end up as lip service.

no fan of red Discussion 15: 04/05/2010 at 08:05 AM 15

No amnesty for criminal offenses. BRAVO!!! Let the majority of the red-shirt protesters leave and be proud of their civil disobedience (that was, on their part, peaceful). For the non-peaceful protesters, they will have to account for their words and actions.

This gusted Discussion 14: 04/05/2010 at 07:47 AM 14

In my opinion, the headline on the front page is incorrect. Five ways? MAYBE five objectives. But as they are (more or less) interrelated, they are not five ways.

Jackso Discussion 13: 04/05/2010 at 07:25 AM 13

I doubt UDD would accept PM's proposal, this will not pave way for Thaksin's return.

Geoff Discussion 12: 04/05/2010 at 07:17 AM 12

No amnesty for Redshirt leaders who have caused Thais to die and be maimed in return for their personal profit. Put them in prison where they belong. Quote from an ordinary protestor "At the rally site, red-shirt leaders are always hiding behind us. Common people like my husband and I always had to stand in the front line," Booncha lamented.

Pointman #2 Discussion 11: 04/05/2010 at 07:15 AM 11

PM Abhisit is making the right decisions. I've always said, "without an election being agreed upon, the political problems in Thailand, will never be solved." PM Abhisit isn't being soft as some would claim. Instead, I see this as an act of courage on part of PM Abhisit, and the right solution to the problem. Blanket amnesty is also, a good idea. For the government to announce blanket amnesty as to where no-one is charged for any crime that happened during the demonstraitons, will boost PM Abhisit's standing and his popularity will skyrocket. Let's face another fact. The Thai economy under PM Abhisit, has always had positive growth. He has an outstanding record to campaign on.

Ward Discussion 10: 04/05/2010 at 06:57 AM 10

Seems a fair and balanced proposal. But amnesty for the gangsters that terrorize the city for the last 2 months should be out of the question.

Tired Discussion 9: 04/05/2010 at 06:55 AM 9

Correct me if I'm wrong here, but was this not what Abhisit's offer before all the trouble started and innocent lives were lost, dissolve the lower parliament and new elections in 9 months this is only 1 month less than the original offer and now the "red shirts" find it interesting...if they found it interesting in April would the people already dead today be still alive....I'm lost for words.

Buy Time Discussion 8: 04/05/2010 at 06:50 AM 8

He originally offer December. now Nov, what's the difference? It's like a bargaining between 300 and 295...

Hmmm Discussion 7: 04/05/2010 at 06:14 AM 7

As long as the election is after September, it is not a give-in since army position reshuffle and the budget would have been done by that time. The fighting for the date for election is only about this matter.

will smith Discussion 6: 04/05/2010 at 06:05 AM 6

PM Abhisit is bending over backwards to work this out without bloodshed. If the udd leaders reject this offer it can only mean they want mob violence so they can bring thaksin back. The udd leaders should face charges for all the crimes they committed and for ruining many lives .

Boon Discussion 5: 04/05/2010 at 05:49 AM 5

Finally some common sense coming out of all of this. Hopefully the UDD will take this offer and the focus can move to elections.

Ursus Discussion 4: 04/05/2010 at 05:43 AM 4

The chance has come for the red-shirt protesters to brush up their image. They will also be winners when they accept PM Abhisit's roadmap and head back home. This is in fact an offer they can't refuse, but if they do refuse, then nobody can help them anymore. PM Abhisit is not as bad as you were told by your leaders. TAKE THE CHANCE! For the sake of your country.

wood pigeon Discussion 3: 04/05/2010 at 05:25 AM 3

Why November 14th? It is strange. I have more questions than ever before. Every move they make, their weakness is revealed. Don't other ordinary people like you or me have any voice at all? Perhaps we are not UDD leaders. PM is supposed to be working for people, not fugitives or criminals (The government has recently stated that these UDD leaders are criminals and wanted them arrested). Soon Takki will be back as PM, then the yellow shirts will come out again... What goes round comes round.....

Jim in Auburn Discussion 2: 04/05/2010 at 05:25 AM 2

Of course the red shirt leaders want blanket amnesty. They really only want it for themselves, they do not care about the regular proteter. They want amnesty for the murder of soldiers, the murder of peaceful protesters, the treason, the armed insurrection, the trespassing... They want to be able to walk away from this and join the government so they can get their share of the profits.

wood pigeon Discussion 1: 04/05/2010 at 05:09 AM 1

It's so shameful. The PM is too soft and finally giving in for just large group of thugs. The protesters had made it clear that they are working for the fugitive. They will try to do everything to bring the fugitive back to power. Come on, even they have succeeded in their propaganda, brought in perhaps as much as 100,000 people scaterred around Bangkok, but it does not mean majority of Thai people agree with them. There was not even a single national strike so far. PM seems to have forgotten what the UDD did very recently. Imagine these thugs become leaders for Thailand. What is Abhisit doing here as PM anyway?



### Topic 29 Army chief's tactics force election offer

Frank Discussion 64: 06/05/2010 at 05:30 AM 64

The problem in Thailand is, that most of its citizen do not accept or allow their governments, police, and military to use force against their fellow Thais, for whatever reasons. If a government does, it might be considered as a dictatorship with blood on their hands. Every government in Thailand is therefore very carefully, if not to say handcuffed when it comes to this matter. But if a government gives in on mob rule and intimidation just to avoid bloodshed and to meet the demand of ordinary people, there will be a repeat of what just happened in Thailand. Mob rule will challenge future governments again, because they got away with it. The Thai people themselves have to change their attitude. But as Khun Suthep has said "Foreigners do not know about Thai politics, only Thais do".

Tik Discussion 63: 06/05/2010 at 01:36 AM 63

Our PM has already made it clear that he will proceed according to his proposal no matter what the redshirts think about it. However if they do not leave Ratchaprasong area before the end of this week we expect the military to do their duty.

WakeUp Discussion 62: 06/05/2010 at 01:05 AM 62

#55, get real. That is not how it works. This class warfare myth is a creation of Thaksin and his propaganda rags. Plenty of poor hate and oppose the reds, its not a matter of being rich, simply a matter of being civilized.

Life worth living Discussion61 : 06/05/2010 at 12:16 AM 61

The general will have access to reliable information regarding who is good or bad for the country. Obviously he wants to support the right man as much as possible with out ruining his perfect retirement. If he supports abhisid too much, Thaksin will come after him when he is most vulnerable...But I only respect someone who does the right thing even if it costs him his career or his life...like Prime minister Abhisit; this is the man who has lived his life fully. Unlike Thaksin, who will feel empty and meaningless in his death bed, as he has done nothing but running and serving himself.

Wantmymoney Discussion 60: 05/05/2010 at 09:53 PM 60

The role of a army is to defend the country from invaders outside, it is used to help in disaster relief operations Just look at china military, they are there to serve the country and the people, the help in earthquake, help in flood control, the last time they did kill their own citizen was during Deng era in Tiananmen Incident. It was a mistake they regret to this day and will never use it again. Thailand has used military to kill its own citizens many times for past few decades, all for personal politicians gain. This make thai army a dog unit told to sit, it sit. There was no dignity for being in a army unlike other militaries in the region, they dont even have proper uniform or equipment because of corruption. Just look at the modern army of singapore and australia and now indonesia, they can outgun any forces in the region. Anupong will probably be the only general that will never allow his pride, prestige and honour be drag through dirty political mud, the only true shining 5 star general.

Reality Discussion 59: 05/05/2010 at 09:31 PM 59

# 50 With new elections the reds get at least 60% of the votes, like before.

Ray Ong Discussion 58: 05/05/2010 at 09:07 PM 58

General Anupong was involved in the coup that removed Thaksin and has probably decided that it was a mistake. Their man, PM Surayud, was ineffective. He showed restraint with both yellows and reds when various PMs asked him to intervene. He wants a political solution. Shooting people really will not provide a manageable long term solution.

John in BKK Discussion 57: 05/05/2010 at 08:09 PM 57

Just to be fair, Abhisit never ordered a second crackdown. Anupong never needed to act, as the order never came. Both sides were afraid of taking the blame for the deaths that would follow, so nothing happened.

Mike Discussion 56: 05/05/2010 at 07:46 PM 56

I would say that Gen Anupong is the smartest Chief of Staff I have ever seen. He will be loved by the people of Thai after he retired. He is not controlled by the YS/RS, or any other parties. He acts independently and by his own vision. I would say that he got a good wisdom and is not gripped by blind obsession as shown in many people around the world with great power. Great Respect for your Wisdom, General Anupong!!!!

Kalle Discussion 55: 05/05/2010 at 06:26 PM 55

The generals had no other choice but to refrain from ordering the soldiers to shoot their sisters and brothers. Reason is that if they did, the soldiers would most likely point their guns at the officers belonging to the 5% of Thai population controlling 95% of the economy. Then the yellows would have to flee like happened in Indonesia 1997. Only one man on vote will prevail, face it and do the best of it, the days of a feudal system is coming to an end.

Ehday Discussion 54: 05/05/2010 at 05:48 PM 54

Is the general of the army behind the protest? Is he working for himself? Why does he not follow instructions from the PM? In all other countries that is the chain of command....after all, he is the one that caused the trouble back in 2006...not so?

Kanada Discussion 53: 05/05/2010 at 05:46 PM 53

Wow ! who's running this country the PM or Army chief Anupong Paojinda ? Perhaps the PM's office should charge him with dereliction of duty.

Jayz Discussion 52: 05/05/2010 at 05:29 PM 52

This is not a way to resolve the political crisis in Thailand, because Thailand has already divided among the poor and rich people. When the pro-redshirt wins the election and becomes a part of government, there will be a mass yellow shirts or whoever will go on street and shout for the government or PM step out again..

Haha Discussion 51: 05/05/2010 at 05:13 PM 51

I might be wrong but i think these generals are planning for their own election soon after they retire...they dont wanna to take responsibilities and being blame.

Kutjebu Discussion 50: 05/05/2010 at 04:41 PM 50

The order to kill is easily executed because soldiers have guns. But what will happen afterwards?

Yes what happen afterwards???? A civil war on two fronts.In the south already 4 years and then in the north and north east.Thailand is falling apart then.These generals are right. With new elections the reds get at least 60% of the votes,like before.That's the reality or you like it or not.

Michael Discussion 49: 05/05/2010 at 04:26 PM 49

Actually, PM Abhisit has had an other option. He could have sacked General Anupong, and that is what he should have done Songkran 2009 already, together with the defence minister and Deputy PM Suthep.

R. Hood Discussion 48: 05/05/2010 at 04:16 PM 48

Bangmodken, How can you be so arrogant to think they are all stupid? How can you order someone to vote one way when the ballot is secret? My red shirt neighbor joins the rally every night after work then comes home again, Why do you lie saying they can't leave? There are plenty of statistics to show growing income and better healthcare for the poor under Thaksin. Why do you lie about this? Why do people like you write rubbish here to further your own goals?

Tirrat Petchsingh Discussion 47: 05/05/2010 at 04:05 PM 47

Khun Wassana, you are my hero. You're the only columnist at Ma Post who can write anything without putting an anti-Thaksin spin on it.

Monk Discussion 46: 05/05/2010 at 03:50 PM 46

General Anupong and the Arm Forces have shown professionalism n deserved all the credits. In every democratic country, Army always stay out of the political complicit.

Bangmodken Discussion 45: 05/05/2010 at 03:43 PM 45

How can the red-shirts be fighting for democracy,when they don't have a clue as to what democracy means? Why do UDD leaders order the common red shirts to vote PTP, when they claim they want free and fair elections? Why do the UDD leaders and "guards" prevent common red shirts from leaving the protest-site,if their movement is made up by volunteers? Why are so many poor people in Isan afraid of UDD/PTP, if UDD/PTP represents their plight as they continuously claims? Why hasn't conditions in their provinces improved the last 12-15 years while TRT/PPP/PTP alias Thaksin has been all-powerful there? Why does farang red sympathisers always ignore facts in their comments in BP and elsewhere?

Suparb Discussion 44: 05/05/2010 at 02:54 PM 44

#34 -Well said, I think Gen Anupong deserves so much credit not using force. Unfortunately, Abhisit will be the one getting credit for not using force. Everyone knows this isn't true. His fan base is very small and it will

show when it's time for elections. Perhaps in 20 years, he'll make a good PM? #32 -Try getting a clue. Get off the Liberal Pelosi/Reid/Obama bandwagon which is going downhill fast. President Bush was elected by the majority of electoral votes, Supreme Court swore him in. I was proud of the job he did during a difficult time in history.

Becoming Discussion 43: 05/05/2010 at 02:39 PM 43

"After the red shirts are defeated, those still with weapons will go underground (Sound like Terrorist much?) and launch operations in other areas (so why not do something before it happens? knowing what they're capable of is enough to call them terrorist to be)," he added. "Soldiers will become their targets after the crackdown (Is that the real reasons for the military reluctance? Afraid of not being able to live a happy and easy life ever again?). That will bring the country closer to civil war (That's because the supposed state department responsible for this duty, are dysfunctional). And there will be more red shirts coming out in other provinces.(If you want your personal interest to succeed in the name of political movement then follow what the Red does, a guarantee of success)" The reluctance of the military chiefs to act means all the government can do is threaten the red shirts with the use of force.

They are literally becoming more like al quaeda terrorist group everyday. This is sick.

Protect our Nation (Anger Maj.Thai's) Discussion 42: 05/05/2010 at 02:34 PM 42

If the Army is doesn't want to crack down terrorist who killed innocent peoples,so what is the army for to protect themselves for being blamed. How can try protect our National security if they dont want to crack down terrorist who are invading our city. Disappointed Majority thai's think it their duty to perform to protect our Nations from being intimidated by Red Shirt Thugs infirirated with terrorists.

obvious, dubious Discussion 41: 05/05/2010 at 02:30 PM 41

"We must gradually contain them [red shirts] by using military tactics. The attack has to come at the right time to keep the loss of lives at a minimum. The government should not rush, demand a time frame or use words to goad the military." Pretty obvious from this sentence that Thailand's military is its own man, can't be messed with or forced (even if it's appropriate). If you want to run a country you need to limit the leadership role to just one instutution and that should naturally be the Government. Unless this change, then we'll never get anywehre. nobody of consequence Discussion 40: 05/05/2010 at 02:29 PM 40

I have traveled the world, even living a number of countries and find Thailand to be one of the countries where its laws are arbitrarily followed. The problem is that this is viral so it is better not to have made a law than to make a law and not uphold it. To me this is the major issue at hand with a group who, as it was said earlier, "throw a tantrum" in order to get things changed. They then do so with no consideration of law and make up their own rules. It is UN-democratic to have mob rule to force change. Protestors should get support of the people and vote for chance, not force change to vote. If Thailand wants to be democratic they should not dissolve their government based on this mob, rather call a vote to decide if the majority of Thai people even

want change. If the majority of Thais (In a vote) agree for change, then that is the way to go, otherwise the few are deciding for the many. This is a sad moment because we know this can and will probably so easily happen again when a few people are not happy with the way things are going.

p Discussion 39: 05/05/2010 at 01:52 PM 39

Both generals certainly have experience from war with comunists n recently our deep south.Right move to avoid more loss of life at all cost.

WakeUp Discussion 38: 05/05/2010 at 01:42 PM 38

A crackdown would have been a disaster. It would have given the UDD exactly what they wanted, a precedence for civil war.

Denying them a bloodbath, wearing them down, and now cornering the leadership with stacks of grievous criminal charges, was a brilliant tactic. The UDD and PTP have no way to escape what they've done now.

Mungo Gubbins Discussion 37: 05/05/2010 at 01:40 PM 37

Bubba #21 I think you're being a bit tough on VNN there. I don't really get his CNN point, but Arisaman and other red-shirts stormed the seat of government during this protest. What would be the outcome if a protest group stome the house of representatives? "the military does not overthrow elected governments with coups."

Not so far in the USA, but elsewhere?

Hujan GCL Discussion 36: 05/05/2010 at 01:31 PM 36

A piece of well-written article with good analysis.

Tom Discussion 35: 05/05/2010 at 01:12 PM 35

agree absolutely with discussion 14.if anybody thinks what happened is democracy,they are sadly mistaken.mob rule yes.democracy no.the mistake here was that the pm was afraid to replace the general,who was clearly on the side of the reds by not doing his duty to maintain national security. Abhisit should have known better,especially after the bomb detector fiasco.

R. Hood Discussion 34: 05/05/2010 at 12:33 PM 34

The army under Gen. Anupong has made a determined effort to stay out of this political problem. I am amazed by the people who say in one sentence they should stay out of politics and in the next that they should do something.I always thought the army were for protecting the country from outside aggression, they are not trained and not meant to do policing duties, the result when they do is nearly always bloodshed.

In this topsy turvey country we have a government wanting to use the military against the people and the military wanting to use politics to settle a civilian problem.Maybe they should all swap jobs.I think Gen.

Anupong deserves a lot of credit for staying out of this mess and those that speak of treason don't seem to realise that some orders are illegal and quite simply wrong as the Nazi generals found out at Nuremberg after world war 2.

RUInformed Discussion 33: 05/05/2010 at 12:33 PM 33

#27 - In any other democratic country the military would not be allowed to stage a coup when the PM is out of the country. We do not need people like you coming to Thailand who have not taken the time to research the lack of democratic process and politics which has taken place over the past 4 years that allowed this happen in the first place. Please do go to Indonesia. We do not need you here.

Marcus Baxtor Discussion 32: 05/05/2010 at 12:30 PM 32

Bubba says: "4) If this were the USA after a coup there most of the population would be on the streets of the capitol and not just people from the countryside." True for a military coup. However, the Supreme Court performed a coup when they handed the Presidency to Bush and people weren't out on the streets. The results of that court-appointed coup still haunt the world today and resulted in untold numbers of lives lost. Many would contend that it would have been better if the military did remove him knowing what we know now. But to get back and address your comment: if this happened in the U.S., Thaksin would never have become President in the first place, he would have been convicted of hiding his wealth and convicted of intimidating and bribing the judges in the case. But in truth, he would just not have broken those laws because he would know that the result would be prison. So your answer rests on a ridiculous assumption and is thus totally irrelevant.

Straight Up Discussion 31: 05/05/2010 at 12:30 PM 31

Discussion 24 :Nexus--> This would never be allowed in US. I have been a member of A National Gaurd Unit and have first hand knowledge of Roits. FYI in Chiago Mayor Daliy gave an order of Shoot to Kill and protest were keep low key.

TJ Discussion 30: 05/05/2010 at 12:24 PM 30

Those being critical of Prawit Wongsuwon and Anupong Paojinda should be thanking them instead. They have the intelligence to see the path of military force would be inviting civil war. You should be commending them for working with the PAD political leaders to come up with a plan that shows the red shirts they are willing to provide a reasonable non-violent solution to the current situation.

Peter Discussion 29: 05/05/2010 at 12:17 PM 29

An interesting perspective. Assuming it is a correct interpretation, Abhisit must surely bear a significant part of the responsibility for the failure to follow the rule of law. He has not delivered on his promise on taking office that the Yellow Shirt leaders would be held accountable in the courts for their law breaking at Bangkok's airports and Government House. He therefore is himself partly responsible for setting the precedent which forms a key element in his current predicament. As the old saying goes: " He only has himself to blame". However he is to be greatly commended for now offering a realistic and most welcome way forward.



Fanny Discussion 28: 05/05/2010 at 12:05 PM 28

I believe the army chief did the right thing even though he was pressurised by the PM. April 10 is already a sad day. If he ordered to use force again, a lot of people will die and there will definitely be a civil war. Lastly, there must not be any military coup again. This destabilises the country.

Gwats Discussion 27: 05/05/2010 at 11:40 AM 27

In any other Country on the Planet, the Army would have to be hosed down daily to stay out of the fighting! Not Thailand. The Army leaders are so lazy they want to hit the snooze button and return to Barracks without firing a single shot. In the rest of the 'Democratic' World, these Reds would have been locked down and locked up three weeks ago when the first soldier died @ the hands of traitors. I'm canceling my Thailand retirement plans. Indonesia, would you like \$3000 USD in vacation \$\$?

Ethan Discussion 26: 05/05/2010 at 11:36 AM 26

# Discussion 21: The USA have plans for all sort of things in the drawer, in particular how to contain riots. And they have learned a lot from the past: To help end the Detroit 1967 race riot, Governor George Romney ordered the Michigan National Guard into Detroit, and President Lyndon B. Johnson sent in United States Army troops. The result was 43 dead, 467 injured, over 7,200 arrests.

The National Guard was sent in during the 1992 Los Angeles riots as well.

Samutprakan Discussion 25: 05/05/2010 at 11:19 AM 25

Well here we have at once the biggest problem in Thailand. Actually more we don't have to say :) Thailand calls itself a "democracy" but actually doesn't know the meaning of that word. For your information. Parliament is the "boss" in a democracy. The cabinet have to ask approval from the Parliament unless there is an emergency for the country, the cabinet can act at once. In that case they can inform the Parliament afterwards. The Military have NOTHING to tell, but have to listen to the Parliament (i.e. cabinet). Did we all wake up now? So when a general don't listen to his supervisor, he should be at once replaced and give back his fat monthly paycheck. Let us be clear about the fact that no one is waiting for violence is the last couple of days and it should be avoided, but we have to be clear that the military sector in Thailand have actually no reason to exist when they do what they want. It's clear that the generals in Thailand likes to sit on the seat of politics. U can't imagine this situation in real democratic countries like Europe, where military officers give an oath to the Head of State and to the Parliament. With other words... at once a change of the constitution about the military sector. But what I can see is that Thailand still have a long way to go... and don't use the word "democracy" anymore unless Thailand is really acting like it :)

Nexus Discussion 24: 05/05/2010 at 11:10 AM 24

If this was US they would call it the American Revolution, write a new constitution and praise it for the next 200 years. US citizens didn't exactly follow the law when they opposed the English rule did they? What we've seen from red shirts is less violent then what european governments face on regular basis.

HUGH Discussion 23: 05/05/2010 at 11:07 AM 23

Our red "Weisenheimer"

Discussion 21: 05/05/2010 (BUBBA says:

"CNN is a very biased, cowardly international media that caters to superficial and commercial-based news"

Well, BUBBA should know who here speaks the truth. As for me, I do'n't know anymore.

Jerry.Lester Discussion 22: 05/05/2010 at 10:57 AM 22

But finally we know who is running the country. It's the army with the help of the Reds (Thaksin). No doubt they will recommend to vote a Red party in any upcoming election. Thaksin gives the money, the army the recommendation. Final winner is -> the Thaksin Clan The Yellows will be dissatisfied with the way things are going, the wheels will start going around again. I am sorry for a good honest man's talents wasted.

The talents of Abhisit-

Bubba Discussion 21: 05/05/2010 at 10:47 AM 21

VNN #18: "If this red behaviors happened in the USA, it would have been cracked down by the police/army from government orders. You saw it on CNN." What on earth are you talking about? Three things:

1) The last time the military (actually National Guard) were used against the people was at Kent State university, when soldiers shot down unarmed students demonstrating against the Vietnam war. That could hardly have been on CNN. 2) CNN is a very biased, cowardly international media that caters to superficial and commercial-based news. 3) The "red behavior" would not have happened in the USA because as flawed as its democracy is, the military does not overthrow elected governments with coups. 4) If this were the USA after a coup there most of the population would be on the streets of the capitol and not just people from the countryside.

Jack Discussion 20: 05/05/2010 at 10:41 AM 20

>Ummm ... the Thai infantry and artillery who served in South Vietnam don't count? Something like 320 Thai soldiers died fighting the VC and NVA. And isn't it odd that Chamlong once commanded Thai volunteers fighting against the NVA in NE Laos? I suppose the US military bases at Ubon, Udon, Sattahip, Khorat, Takli etc don't count either. My 73 year old neighbour was a young conscript who volunteered to serve in RVN for adventure. I'll tell him he just thought he was there. :)

Yeo Discussion 19: 05/05/2010 at 10:32 AM 19

Hi VNN (#18), stop comparing Thailand with the US. US is not the ideal for democracy. Requiring soldiers to take direct command from the Commander-in-Chief is not democracy. At least the soldiers here has the gut to defence their right. That I think is true democracy.

VNN Discussion 18: 05/05/2010 at 09:59 AM 18

Thai people, whatever colors as a whole, do not really understand the meaning of democracy. The Army should should be a nation's army. It is dangerous that the army has it's own will. Yet, it won't surprise me when

lookingf back at Thai history in the 20th century. Do not trust the military figures. Apparently, the Thai army are taking sides based on it's upmost benefits. This is really bad. If this red behaviors happened in the USA, it would have been cracked down by the police/army from government orders. You saw it on CNN.

CLanka Discussion 17: 05/05/2010 at 09:41 AM 17

Discussion 1: Thailand gain favor from other countries, Thais are patient people if you comapre with many other countries. Be sensitive to the human lives. Everyone wnants to live and serve the world, just not be killed because of different openions. Wait and see, those who opposed, tomorrow will serve the country and be friends of the other parties. Keep up your good works, Thais!

Paul Discussion 16: 05/05/2010 at 09:26 AM 16

Good thinking Gen. Anupong, but next time a few days earlier. Now the army has shot unnecessary at least 26 people dead and some posters want to forget that by praising the army. In fact it is very clear who is running this country and that is not the government.

Jack Discussion 15: 05/05/2010 at 09:12 AM 15

Well, I am not a fan of the military but at least someone has the sense in avoiding deaths of hundreds or thousands of people. I am constantly surprised by the aggressive nature of some of the comments in this site - especially from westerners who come from countries where the government would be immediately sacked if they dared use the military to kill citizens that were protesting. I agree with the red shirts that the five point plan looks OK but has little substance yet. I would also like to see the Thai media forced to report "FAIRLY" on both sides of an argument and an independent body set up for complaints.

Absalon Discussion 4: 05/05/2010 at 06:59 AM 4

Well done General Anupong. It reinsuring to see that in all this mess, somebody still see clearly a way for the future. You deserve all respect for what you're doing for you country.

rpt777 Discussion 3: 05/05/2010 at 06:49 AM 3

I will say that the Army is at least consistent as they also refused to use force to dislodge the yellow shirts from the airport.

A friend to Thailand Discussion 2: 05/05/2010 at 06:21 AM 2

The Thai army during the 60's and 70's were smart enough to keep Thailand out of the war that raged through SE Asia. The armies stance at the moment has prevented the current situation turning into open warfare. I just hope that all parties concerned can see the reality of the situation and agree that all sides can maintain face with this offer.

Paul Knight Discussion 1: 05/05/2010 at 06:21 AM 1

The Army refusing to obey direct orders from the Government, that is treason. But then as this is Thailand, anyone can flout any law, now see what has happened. Thailand is losing all credibility in the world .

**Topic 31 Weng: Reds must back Puea Thai**

Dr. Who Discussion 43: 05/05/2010 at 09:15 PM 43

Will Dr. Weng assure me that Democrat politicians can travel freely to Chiang Mai to put forward their policies? Or will the TRT remnants block the roads around the airport again? Will I, living in rural area around Chiang Mai, be free of intimidation if I put a large poster of Mr. Abhisit in front of my house? I thought not. Dr. Weng understands bullying, mobs, and intimidation very well. Democracy...I don't think so.

A Thai Discussion 42: 05/05/2010 at 06:02 PM 42

Don't worry. It won't happen. The only way this party can win is by massive vote buyings, as always. They will be caught and disqualified at the end.

Citiboi Discussion 41: 05/05/2010 at 05:18 PM 41

Just one question.... does that mean that the Red shirt leaders will not surrender themselves on 15 May 2010 anymore??

Chiangmai Skipper Discussion 40: 05/05/2010 at 04:49 PM 40

Silly me. What was I thinking? All this chanting about democracy and rights sucked me right in. I actually thought there might be some campaigning, discussions on issues of importance with business, academia, and economists invited, village and "town hall" meetings where the voters could partake in a question and answer period. Maybe an impartially moderated and televised debate between candidates? A mutually agreed upon invitation for a world rights body to oversee and insure all sides play fair during the entire process.

But, alas, I was way wrong, because UDD co-leader Weng Tochirakarn tells the reds they MUST back Puea Thai Party ," to win at least 300 seats of constituency MP and more than 70 party list MPs to enable it to form a one-party government. Groovy! In other words, right back to total dictatorial control minus any checks and balances as we witnessed before with Thaksin who is still very much in the picture and ready to return as the savior Emperor of Thailand. Wake up voters.

Silent Majority Discussion 39: 05/05/2010 at 04:49 PM 39

Noelle Francis (Discussion #36), as much as I agree with you and wish that the Puea Thai Party will not have significant support, money talks in Thailand; especially in the poorer provinces where the system is more feudalistic. However, I am pretty sure that due to the Red shirt protesters'/leaders' terrorist behaviour, they will definitely lose a lot of supporters amongst the thinking Thais!!

Puzzled Discussion 38: 05/05/2010 at 04:42 PM 38

Well Outsider (Discussion #37), you have got it right!! PTP will spend the money and probably win some seats... that is so ironical isn't it?? The Red shirt protesters talking about double standards, "true" democracy, the inequality between the commoners and elitists... all these are just red herrings because at the end of the day, Puea Thai Party will just use money to buy votes in order to TRY to win the elections!!

Outsider Discussion 37: 05/05/2010 at 04:01 PM 37

Re #36: I can see PTP winning, it may cost a bit of money, but they can win. All under the assumption no other group will be appalled by the audacity of Dr. Weng and starts a counter-measure. Open-minded discussions I had in mind. Keep dreaming.

Noell Francis Discussion 36: 05/05/2010 at 03:47 PM 36

Suparb [Disc 20] are you really serious? Do you truly believe what you've said? Really truly?

If that is so, then I fear you have not been able to see clearly what has happened in the last few weeks. The Red Shirt movement reminds me of the Brown Shirts that ran amok in Germany in the 1930s...just look at the history of that period of non-democratic brutality, bullying, violence and intimidation...It was mob-rule and thuggery gone mad...which is exactly what has happened in Thailand during the past few weeks. All I can say to you is: dream on! There is absolutely no way whatsoever that the Peua Thai party [or whatever name they might come up with] and it's Red Shirt faction will win the next election. Believe me, a Democratic coalition will form the next elected Government with an absolute majority. Guaranteed, 100%. I promise you. So Red Shirt supporters, you all might as well go and sulk now!

Outsider Discussion 35 : 05/05/2010 at 03:35 PM 35

Re #33: The UDD/Reds didn't loose any money, it was others. I heard a Thai say 'under Thaksin it was better', forgetting about a global economic crisis and hoping for more hand-outs.

Dodgy Dave Discussion 34: 05/05/2010 at 03:24 PM 34

If the Puea Thai Party achieve a landslide victory in November, it will show the world what a backward country Thailand really is

Nel Discussion 33: 05/05/2010 at 03:21 PM 33

Finally, the truth comes out clearly. All this destruction, the billions of Baht lost were all part of the PT election campaign.

Would you vote for a part that cost millions of Baht, thousands of jobs, hundreds of afraid hospital patients and dozens of dead people?

Outsider Discussion 32: 05/05/2010 at 03:09 PM 32

A majority for PTP will be like returning to 2006. Do you really want to forget all what happened after 2006 ? Do you really want to make Ratchaprasong camping a yearly event ?

Bangkok Farang Discussion 31: 05/05/2010 at 02:59 PM 31

Let's look what the reds 'officially' want: -no double standards-no corruption-fair election-fair press- ...Let's compare this list with the policy of the next government. If the TRT (or whatever the name is now) will win: fine. We will see how they will fight against corruption, double standards, etc.If they don't deliver then maybe the same people will go to the street again and ask for a new honest government. This whole process will take some time but sometimes I think this is the only way people will learn-not only in Thailand.



Outsider Discussion 30: 05/05/2010 at 02:52 PM 30

The idea was to have this plan which is just a framework filled-in through open discussions. Items would be 'what constitution', 'if/how const. amended', 'who is electable', 'who controls/supervises the election', etc. To just say 'make sure OUR side wins a majority' doesn't sound open-minded. It sounds like replace current ruling elite by our own beloved PTP elite and continue living from hand-outs. With a PTP majority we are indeed back to square one. Thank you, Dr. Weng

Dreynot Discussion 29: 05/05/2010 at 02:49 PM 29

Gosh, I am shocked, just shocked! The reds support Thaksin's political party! Whoever would have guessed? Shocking!

Nuff Discussion 28: 05/05/2010 at 02:44 PM 28

#18: Why are you complaining, you sold your votes and got paid for them.

Fedup Discussion 27: 05/05/2010 at 02:36 PM 27

mr. weng is so confident. if mr. weng runs for the prime minister i will vote him.

MCos Discussion 26: 05/05/2010 at 02:34 PM 26

I fully support vote buying. It's the only realistic chance that there will be any wealth redistribution in the Kingdom. In fact the more elections the better. Have one every month! Better still forget about elections & just give out the money. Just means that the rich people will be able to buy a few less Benz & BMW's.

Citiboi Discussion 25: 05/05/2010 at 02:32 PM 25

Jooster (Discussion #21), you are asking for too much!!! For the past two months, have you heard of any constructive ideas or plans on how to tackle the alleged problems with Thailand?? All you hear is bellyaching from the Red shirt leaders!! Why need to hear policies, manifestos, etc?? If don't like the outcome, take to the streets again!! That seems to be their quick fix for the problems in Thailand!!

Unknown Discussion 24: 05/05/2010 at 02:15 PM 24

Discussion 11 and 10 so true, so true. People who love their country vote for parties with the best policies and parties which support the country as a whole. PT will definitely not win the next fair election, I tell you. What Weng just said is enough evidence to conclude that the reds are basically PT on the streets.

Bangmodken Discussion 23: 05/05/2010 at 02:14 PM 23

One good outcome of these past months of protests and violent acts is that it has opened peoples eyes to what UDD and PTP is all about.

Red-shirts are fighting FOR dictatorship AGAINST democracy. They are a disgusting, power-crazed, money-hungry violent mob which should be dealt with as such. It's so sad that they are allowed to bribe, intimidate and threaten Isan-people into submission. It's time to free the Isan-people of this menace. A serious crack-down on PTP/UDD leaders is needed to break their iron-grip on north-eastern provinces ASAP.

Vote Buying (Isaan Village Majority) Discussion 22: 05/05/2010 at 02:11 PM 22

If Isaan and northern province vote for communism they can go ahead but not Majority of thai's here. We will not give our vote to these type of peoples who ruined our country and Nations. Stop Dreaming...Maybe next life...

Jooster Discussion 21: 05/05/2010 at 02:06 PM 21

Mr. Weng, before you "order" the redshirts to vote for PT, maybe better wait to hear all the parties's policies, analyse them which best benefits the country and then let everyone for himself decide who to vote for....or is that too much of democracy for you??? And please educate me as for why the 1997 constitution is so much better then the current one? One reasson i know already ..... being caught for election fraude doesnt carry much penalties, do you have any other reasons Mr. Weng???

Suparb Discussion 20: 05/05/2010 at 02:06 PM 20

Disc 18; Many people have had their votes wasted because of the 2006 coup. Thailand would be one of the best countries in the world right now had the coup been stopped, but, no one wants to hear that. Most people who make negative comments about Dr. Weng or the UDD have not taken time to listen to what they have to say. Yes, they've made some mistakes like the hospital fiasco, however, they will win the next election by a landslide because they are tired of being pushed around.

Savvy Discussion 19: 05/05/2010 at 01:57 PM 19

Just from observing the outcomes of this mess caused by the leaders of the UDD, PTP, "reds", etc., it seems like the common "reds" should back anyone but those who BUY THEM. These crooks, have caused much harm to the economy and the common "reds" suffered most and will continue to do so. They were led into uncivilized and corrupt behaviors which brought ridicule and shame to their names. NO ONE HAS TO VOTE FOR ANYONE ELSE'S DEMANDS ( even if they are paid to do so). Politicians don't own Thai people's morality.

Khwan Discussion 18: 05/05/2010 at 01:43 PM 18

I agree with Dr Weng. Two times in a row my vote was abused, first by the disastrous coup 2006 and then by the dissolution of the PPP party. It is of utmost importance that the people's 1997 constitution is reinstated. I thank the Reds for their big sacrifices to bring justice to Thailand. It is also important to keep up the pressure and not to trust the coup mongers and their polical allies.

PaddyMac Discussion 17: 05/05/2010 at 01:41 PM 17

Disc 6. Singapore probably doesn't have rampant corruption & vote buying like here???

P Discussion 16: 05/05/2010 at 01:38 PM 16

Everyone should accept the out come.Choose whoever you think suitable.But certainly no Yellow or Red for me.Too sick for this 2 colors.

Idea Discussion 15: 05/05/2010 at 01:36 PM 15

The only way to reduce votes buying is to implement certain measures. 1) People who pay more tax can cast more votes. Someone who contribute more to the government spending should have more voice. 2) It now costs 500 baht to cast a vote.

Somchai Discussion 14: 05/05/2010 at 01:36 PM 14

#6: Singapore is lacking both democracy and freedom of the press.

Anti-red Discussion 13: 05/05/2010 at 01:35 PM 13

Mr. Weng. So now the reds will use bullying tactics to get votes for Puea Thai Party. And if they do not achieve the target, will you use your bullying targets on another people too. We have all had enough. Please go home. If you want to be somebody, stand for the next election and see how many people actually support you and your wretched goons.

Jean-Paul Patrick Discussion 12: 05/05/2010 at 01:27 PM 12

Elections with foreign inspectors at every booth especialy in Esan

Lucky Discussion 11: 05/05/2010 at 01:25 PM 11

It must be so nice being a leader of Puea Thai or UDD.

You don't have to campaign for your supporters to vote for you, and you don't have to make any election promises, political arguments etc. All you have to do is order them to vote for you, and if that is not enough to convince them, then a bribe certainly is. I think many political parties around the world envies Puea Thai/UDD. Have a good election everyone, and don't forget the Puea Thai election slogan: "Vote Puea Thai - because Khun Weng said so!"

Abhsisit for Thailand Discussion 10: 05/05/2010 at 01:24 PM 10

Landslide victory...dream on! People are sick of them, even some of the reds. PT and the reds have no leaders, no vision, no professionell people, no policy, no contribution to benefit the country, no nothing. They are just hiding behind the reds to pave the way for them and Thaksin to buy them the votes or just forcing their members, as mentioned above. Anybody who is not deaf and blind or greedy will not vote for them.

Abhsisit together with the other parties will win the election. Read my lips!!! Only Abhsisit can lead Thailand into the future if people let him work.

Andybule Discussion 9: 05/05/2010 at 01:23 PM 9

No Vlord, if several party are in the poll for election and one party or coalition win majority that's DEMOCRACY.

Tik Discussion 8: 05/05/2010 at 01:17 PM 8

The Puea Thai Party with support of United front against Democracy for Dictatorship can not win any election without buying the votes.

Amazed Discussion 7: 05/05/2010 at 01:10 PM 7

"The UDD core leader said red-shirts must back the opposition camp to win at least 300 seats of constituency MP and more than 70 party list MPs to enable it to form a one-party government, he added." Is that how Mr. Weng interprets democracy and free and fair elections? Telling his supporters who to vote for? I was under the impression that the rural poor were smart people who could make their own decisions regarding who to vote for?

Changi man Discussion 6: 05/05/2010 at 01:08 PM 6

Singapore has been ruled by one party for decades and everyone has seen its success in economic development. Has anyone here been to Singapore ?

Puzzled Discussion 5: 05/05/2010 at 12:58 PM 5

VLord, apparently not if that one party is Puea Thai Party!! Seriously, my dear Weng... Landslide victory?? We shall see...

Ajam Discussion 4: 05/05/2010 at 12:54 PM 4

"The UDD core leader said red-shirts must back the opposition camp to win at least 300 seats of constituency MP and more than 70 party list MPs to enable it to form a one-party government." Another one-party government...exactly what this country needs. When will they realize that all parties need to be represented and listened to at all times in order to prevent these seemingly annual protests that put everything to a halt?

Straight Talk Discussion 3: 05/05/2010 at 12:51 PM 3

Dream On. The only way they can win Majority is to continue to buy votes or intimidate voters . Is this their vision of Democracy. Majority of the people of the people do not support their movement and actions.

People should vote from their hearts not the ATM.

Jack Discussion 2: 05/05/2010 at 12:49 PM 2

And if PT does not win a clear majority, the red shirts will take to the streets to demand another election and try again? :p

VLord Discussion 1 : 05/05/2010 at 12:45 PM 1

...One party government? Isn't that Communism?

### **Topic 35 'Guilty' Seh Daeng faces dismissal, stripping of rank**

Govin Discussion 47: 09/05/2010 at 05:41 PM 47

discussion 37- you must be pretty dreadful to look at paying 2000! haha. Often the evil villains are admired no doubt (Che and Mao and Stalin)

Straight Bill Discussion 46: 09/05/2010 at 11:45 AM 46

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva Sunday named suspended Army specialist Maj Gen Khattiya Sawasdiphol as the mastermind and chief terrorist who tried to undermine the road map to bring about political reconciliation

Xontaya Discussion 45: 09/05/2010 at 02:38 AM 45

Maj Gen Khattiya said he had no idea why the army wanted to fire him while the allegations against him were waiting to be heard by a military court. To all who missed this sentence. Please read it and use your democratic brain. The writer is trying to light fire against him. It is day-to-day business of Thai journalists. I just like him, because he knows what is the right things.

VVV Discussion 44: 09/05/2010 at 02:21 AM 44

No matter what people say about Seh Daeng, he has guts and is a true soldier unlike a spineless desk soldier like Anupong. Too bad he chose the dark side but don't underestimate him. He may very well be the next Army Chief under the Reds leadership.

Wantmymoney Discussion 43: 09/05/2010 at 12:42 AM 43

Jesse James was a famous midwest American arm robber but he was idolised as a hero running away from corrupted law enforcers. Robin Hood was despised by many of the rich merchant but he was loved by the poor peasants. Frankly, no Isaan would turn Seh Daeng away when he visit their homes. He may live down in history as a folk hero who help poor farmers and red-shirt to get back their vote and democracy. Every hero past and present all have dubious background, you cant be a hero if you are ordinary. I am getting his franchise rights.

EX-JAG Discussion 42: 08/05/2010 at 10:23 PM 42

If Seh Daeng goes through a Military Court for his blatant violations of the law, he stands a good chance to be put in jail. He can further be stripped of his rank if the government so desires. To ease the pain, so to speak, stripping him of his rank now seems to be a gentler and kinder choice as the Thais are well known for. Question is will Abhisit have the guts to do it and will this government last long enough to see it through. If not, the next Thai Army Chief awaits to be his as Thai politics would dictate. A calculated risk that Seh Daeng must have known all along !

Puzzled Discussion 41: 08/05/2010 at 07:04 PM 41

This man is dangerous. Instead of protecting the country against subversive elements, he is actually teaming up with them!! The worst part of all it that he does not see anything wrong with what he had done!! Not only should he be stripped of his rank, he should be prosecuted for his crimes... well, som nam na....

Bob Medrala Discussion 40: 08/05/2010 at 04:39 PM 40

To Discussion 38 Khwan, Seh Daeng's main role as a general of the Royal Thai Armed Forces is supposed to be the protection of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Thailand and the defence of the people and the Monarchy against all threats both foreign and domestic. Instead, he has chosen to serve the interests of a man [Thaksin] who was well on his way to becoming a dictator similar to his buddies Hun Sen in Cambodia and the generals in Burma. Seh Daeng is a dangerous man and a disgrace to the Royal Thai Armed Forces. He and his "black soldiers" must be brought to justice for their role in the killings of April 10th.

Victor Meldrew BKK Discussion 39: 08/05/2010 at 04:16 PM 39

bangkok-Ian; Discussion 37: 2000 Baht? you're being ripped off.....

Khwan Discussion 38: 08/05/2010 at 03:26 PM 38

I am pleased to notice that the Thai army has a senior officer standing up against the shameful and criminal coup 2006 and the mess it has created for Thailand. The mess consists of a totally flawed constitution and disrespect for The Thai peoples voting. The red shirts have all reason to stay put until justice is achieved fully. They are Thai heroes and if I have been in Thailand as a Thai citizen I have joined them.

bangkok-Ian Discussion 37: 08/05/2010 at 02:35 PM 37

Thailand is known throughout the world for graft, corruption and political instability.

Wrong Ian Wensor-Thailand is known for 2000 baht a night ladies and Somtam!! I hate the events that have happened here since March 13th my baby was taken out of Chulalongkorn because of red shirt intrusions-but i feel "sabai" now because Thailand is such a small backward 3rd world country. Dont ever forget that!!

Tactiodian Discussion 36: 08/05/2010 at 02:19 PM 36

In any country an army general helping others to commit acts of violence against his fellow troops would be dealt with instantly and comprehensively. Treason would be the reason. End of story!

RodB Discussion 35: 08/05/2010 at 02:08 PM 35

"To strip Maj Gen Khattiya of his rank, Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwon would have to approve this and forward the case to Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva. If Mr Abhisit has no argument, he would have to seek royal approval for Maj Gen Khattiya's dismissal." What an incredibly bureaucratic process! It's no surprise then that no one before him has been prosecuted! With so many levels of authority involved, Thai cultural compassion will no doubt mean that someone pardons him. Shouldn't this be handled by the military court, with the final verdict being just that... "final"?

bigbird10900 Discussion 34: 08/05/2010 at 02:01 PM 34

It is high time the sash daeng get thrown in jail for having done what he has done. Its is shameless he doesn't listen to his superiors and now threatens to join the red shirts. Don't you think he will get the red shirts to go rogue and cause more problem to the road map? The red shirts will do well to get rid of him if they hope to make a success of their achievements

Dao Discussion 33: 08/05/2010 at 01:39 PM 33

Why is it so hard to fire someone? Why is it someone is transferred to an inactive post , gets a slap on the wrist or receives 3 months pay when they should just be fired or in Sh Daeng's case put in jail .

Wombat Discussion 32: 08/05/2010 at 12:56 PM 32

This must be one of the few countries in the world where this maniac has been allowed to strut the stage for as long as he has. Get rid of him, charge him and lock him up. He not only brings shame to the uniform he wears but to the country he pretends to serve. Good riddance.

Tu Wit Discussion 31: 08/05/2010 at 12:26 PM 31

It's about time, this should have been done last May when it was reported that he was training UDD. Having said that, shouldn't Gen. Anupong be investigated for his role prior to the election of a new government by the house back in Dec. 2009?

Egon Discussion 30: 08/05/2010 at 12:25 PM 30

Dismissing seh-daeng. Finally. Would be a marvellous example. A proof that justice exists in Thailand in spite of its slowness.

Victor Meldrew BKK Discussion 29: 08/05/2010 at 12:22 PM 29

Until this country stops the "they did that so we can do this" it will never get out of this mess and will only escalate the deadly violence going on now. Those letter writers harping on about double standards regarding PAD etc are correct but bleating on about it is not a solution and it's getting a bit boring and childish. We all know that elections won't work in the present climate and that this chaos is all going to start again when the vote buying begins. Most of the world has economic inequality problems but they are not heading for civil war because of it. Maybe because they don't have someone as powerful as the red's boss spending millions to cause unrest. This countries economic inequality problems are not down to this government, it has been going on for years and will always be present. The reds don't get their share because their red shirt village leaders etc don't let the money dribble down to them so why aren't they protesting against the corrupt officials in their own camp?

lead dogg Discussion 28: 08/05/2010 at 12:05 PM 28

Sounds more like he should be called Major Embarrassment than Major General.....

prettyboy Discussion 27: 08/05/2010 at 11:47 AM 27

Guys like this showed nos respect and no honour at all for the country they were suppose to defend and reprerent. They are a disgrace for they have betrayed their own country and institutions.

Khun Discussion 26: 08/05/2010 at 11:41 AM 26

Seh Daeng is a disgrace to the entire Thailand, even worse is the Thai law system that has no power to enforce the simplest of the laws. Any army general in thailand can start a civil war if they want to. Money speaks here

IAN WENSOR Discussion 25: 08/05/2010 at 11:24 AM 25

Thailand is known throughout the world for graft, corruption and political instability. That view is reinforced by the present situation in Bangkok and only does the Kingdom harm. It will only change if and when people put self interests to one side and revert back to the true teachings of Lord Buddha and not what their cravings dictate. As the sage once said: "Know when to let go of those things that do not serve you-but force you to serve them"!



Tom Discussion 24: 08/05/2010 at 11:19 AM 24

major daeng is the problem and now he is listening to no one, not even the reds. The reds are too close to striking a deal so they would probably have had nothing to do with what happened last night. This rogue military man has to be taken out at all cost. It could be him that's preventing the reds to pack up and go.

justice? Discussion 23: 08/05/2010 at 10:14 AM 23

Everyone is working for someone. I'm pretty much convinced that Seh Daeng will be reinstated by the new government and probably become commander in chief of the army because of his loyalty towards them. But again we will have the yellows to make a problem, it's a never ending story. Amazing Thailand where the corrupt are the leaders. from iPhone application.

IAN WENSOR Discussion 22: 08/05/2010 at 10:08 AM 22

Seh Daeng has been retired for years but still struts round in full army regalia. Maybe he's trying to relive the past with aspirations now beyond his station. 'VANITY, VANITY ALL IS VANITY'!

Robert Discussion 21: 08/05/2010 at 10:04 AM 21

Bet you he has been promised a top position if the election is won by the red shirts. from iPhone application.

Mike Discussion 20: 08/05/2010 at 09:37 AM 20

Discussion 12 Such easy referral to 'double standards' Maj. Gen Chamlong retired from the military in the 1970's. Nothing more comical than misinformation.

Rooney Discussion 19: 08/05/2010 at 09:36 AM 19

Thinks he's the Thai Rambo, this very dangerous member of the lunatic fringe! Really unbelievable that military authorities have done nothing to stop this loose canon!

Ron Discussion 18: 08/05/2010 at 09:22 AM 18

Kick him out, strip his rank, take away his retirement and try him in a military court. Set an example of him for the others to see.

Raj Discussion 17: 08/05/2010 at 09:17 AM 17

Well said Patrick, no doubt whatsoever about the double standards being followed by the govt, block people channel but allow ASTV, call red shirt protesters as 'terrorists' while no action against people who seize airport, etc.. etc...

Ray Discussion 16: 08/05/2010 at 09:17 AM 16

Patrick, have you been in a coma for a while? General Chamlong has been retired for years!!!

Straight Up Discussion 15: 08/05/2010 at 09:08 AM 15

Why have they not sacked Seh Daeng from the army after a Defence Ministry panel found him guilty in "military criminal cases". Accepted accountability of your present and past destruction, deaths and chaos. Not to mention actions against his own Military

If you do the crime DO THE TIME

Excuse me. How is it possible that a senior repres

Discussion 14: 08/05/2010 at 09:03 AM 14

Excuse me. How is it possible that a senior representative of Thailand's military establishment is allowed to serve as a security consultant to a political movement? Strip him of his military status and put him before a court of law. That is more justice than Mr. Daeng would provide his political rivals in the street court he holds on Rajaprasong. Just ridiculous.

Noell Francis Discussion 13: 08/05/2010 at 08:34 AM 13

Bubba, as you are a self-admitted supporter of the Red Shirt faction, at what point will you ever accept that their 'fight' has caused such dreadful + historic harm to the Thai nation? Yes, the Yellow Shirts were almost as bad, but at least they never allowed the extreme violence to erupt as it has so often with the Red Shirts. Lastly, Seh Daeng: in no other major democratic nation would he ever be allowed to roam freely with such arrogance + indiscipline...nor would he ever be allowed to organise the 'black shirt' militants in the way he has. The sooner the Thai Army, and the government, strip him dishonorably of his rank and arrest him, the better for the possibility of a peaceful solution to the problems of political unrest in Thailand.

Intothefuture Discussion 12: 08/05/2010 at 08:29 AM 12

The key problem is that Red Shirts can break laws and use violence and intimidation of regular citizens with impunity. The police do nothing. This is lawlessness. In most Democracies the police and military uphold the Rule of Law, regardless if they agree or not with the protesters.

Stone Discussion 11: 08/05/2010 at 08:07 AM 11

The scary thing here is Mr. Khattiya is a man with honor and principles, he got a huge arsenal and people behind him, he will not go down easy,,,careful with Mr. "Red".....He got eyes like a devil and sworn to bring Thaksin back,,,this can turn ugly.....

geopan63 Discussion 10: 08/05/2010 at 07:59 AM 10

go reds go, elections should of taken place in the begining and not appointed

Bubba Discussion 9: 08/05/2010 at 07:48 AM 9

NGUHO #4: Just out of curiosity I want to ask you something. In September 2006 the generals toppled an elected government. That putsch was clearly anti-constitutional, anti-democratic and illegal. The military then wrote their own immunity into law through the government it appointed, so they would be prosecuted. Now...would you also consider those generals to be traitors to their country? Or do you only think "red generals" are traitors? You either abide by the law and the constitution or you do not. The reason for carrying out an illegal and anti-constitutional act is not the deciding factor. Having said that, I dislike Seh Daeng and would not buy even a used car from the man. And, as I support the res' cause my advice to them is to stay away from him and keep him as far away from their movement as possible.

Nick Discussion 8: 08/05/2010 at 07:41 AM 8

crazy red shirt go home! stop make problem for the country.so many people is tired the problem you make.  
abhisit is a good man give he a chans to show it :-)

David Hawaii Discussion 7: 08/05/2010 at 07:22 AM 7

Has Thailand lost its mind?

SPICEMAN Discussion 6: 08/05/2010 at 07:19 AM 6

Gen Anupong can't even deal with his own bad apple using the military codes of justice, how can we expect him to do anything at all. All he thinks about is kicking the can down the road until after his retirement,so it will become somebody else's problem.

SPICEMAN Discussion 5: 08/05/2010 at 07:05 AM 5

Anything short of long prison term, I don't think he'll give a damn, knowing full well that Thaksin will give him a whole lot more money than what his meager military salary would otherwise gives him.

Nguhao Discussion 4: 08/05/2010 at 07:02 AM 4

I think he is a traitor to his country. He has taken up arms to fight against the government and he should not only be fired but prosecuted for treason.

SoSad Discussion 3: 08/05/2010 at 06:31 AM 3

Hilarious!! In a civilized nation, this person would already have been court-martialed and serving time in a military prison. Thailand=Land of the Lawless.

isan farang Discussion 2: 08/05/2010 at 06:28 AM 2

This loose cannon needs to be totally dismantled.He is just one of the red shirt leaders that appear to have a few loose screws in their heads.He has been a disgrace to his uniform, probably knows who is behind the "men in black" and those launching grenades and is just another man in uniform whose intelligence has nothing to do with their rank.

Amazed Discussion 1: 08/05/2010 at 06:27 AM 1

This man sees himself above the law and answerable to no one. If he doesn't spend a good number of years in prison he will be in front of and behind the scene with his threats and intimidation. His followers will be a major disruption to the election process.

### **Topic 36 Thousands of red shirts arrive in city**

Traveler Discussion 63: 10/05/2010 at 02:16 PM 63

we want to visit your country-for the vibrancy, the food and the people & in staying on the streets you are just driving us away-Abhisit is a good leader!

Nestordfermin Discussion 62: 10/05/2010 at 12:29 PM 62

I would like to see the police arresting each red shirt protester in Bangkok. There they go again starting another mess. This is the prize of having too much freedom in this country. I wonder if the Thai Constitution has something about the people's surrendering some kind of freedom like "freedom to disrupt peace".

Winphet Discussion 61: 10/05/2010 at 04:19 AM 61

@Brian #55

Good analysis. It's the true

Jim Discussion 60: 10/05/2010 at 01:14 AM 60

well said Steve,

Andysand Discussion 59: 10/05/2010 at 01:00 AM 59

Does anyone with any brains honestly think there is a better man than Abhisit to lead the country. If there is please tell us. He is educated, sensible and has steered the country through a very bad period of Global downturn which other countries have failed. One vote one rule is not democracy. (If it is please tell me another Democratic country, and that counts out UK and USA.

Thailand has a good Democracy. What would happen under the red shirts is BURMA ,,yes thats what would happen . red shirt leaders want to rule by thuggery..GO AHEAD FOLLOW THEM AND THE RUE THE DAY YOU VOTED FOR THEM ,,Abhisit can make Thailand smile again

Spend It Discussion 58: 09/05/2010 at 11:46 PM 58

@36 ... fully agree with you. Instead of paying the 50'000 soliders a daily extra allowance and giving away 300 millions to the police for trying to work a little bit harder. Why not give away the money to the people up north. And even distribute the money they took away from Thaksin ... now that would make their life easier and no one would be here to protest. That would be a much better investment longterm than giving it away to the brown and green guys.

Steve Discussion 57: 09/05/2010 at 11:41 PM 57

Roddy #43. Please answer this question? What difference does having an ACTUAL date make? You wanted an election, you've got one. You have been told when dissolution will happen, ITS YOUR LAW! This constant request for a specific date just swells the suspicion that the UDD have a hidden agenda and are planning something on or after dissolution.If you truly want democracy, goggle it, learn what it means and how it works!

Steve Discussion 56: 09/05/2010 at 10:45 PM 56

Discussion 41.....You just don't get it! Freedom and liberty doesn't mean you can do whatever you want, especially when your actions affect others. You have your freedom and liberty because you have laws which the majority of Thais respect, if you take away the rule of law you have anarchy!How much freedom and liberty do you think you will have if this country falls into anarchism? How much freedom / liberty and justice do the UDD's actions give to the people of Bangkok in the areas that have been unlawfully occupied, or to those that

have been killed or injured? The UDD are imposing their will on others without understanding or caring about the consequences. They may have justifiable reasons for their actions but their actions are WRONG, they go beyond the law and beyond that allowed in a civilised society. You want justice for ALL but ALL don't want your justice! WHEN will you understand?

Brian Discussion 55: 09/05/2010 at 10:40 PM 55

31, 33, and 37 are all correct. My experience in 13 years of working in Thailand is that:

1/ Thais are inherently lazy. 2/ Isaan people are a hundred times worse, complain all the time, and want to be bailed out because they have a major sense of entitlement without putting in the effort (Thaksin recognized this and fed off of it). 3/ Thais basically hate each other.

Farang-UK Discussion 54: 09/05/2010 at 09:48 PM 54

Discussion 40...Spot on. There are also Cambodian henchmen amongst redshirts. They don't mind killing Thais. The more the merrier for them.

Dao Discussion 53: 09/05/2010 at 09:16 PM 53

Funny how you dont print any comments with the word Thaksin in them considering he is the whole reason this protest is happening .

Wake Up Discussion 52: 09/05/2010 at 09:07 PM 52

Reds are paid. They were paid last year, I watched them with my own eyes handing money out to taxi drivers to block up intersections. They are paid this year. These people have no clue how the government works or why they need elections "now" instead of November. I haven't heard a good answer yet. Please stop insulting our intelligence. This is about money and power. Nothing more.

Roddy Discussion 51: 09/05/2010 at 06:54 PM 51

IF the PM was going to dissolve the Parlimentary then he would have announced a date already. This is obvious

Putty Discussion 50: 09/05/2010 at 06:52 PM 50

Steve, I don't think your iPhone types correctly the way you think it types. Can you try again? I didn't catch that

LookMoo Discussion 49: 09/05/2010 at 06:33 PM 49

Ha ha ha.. imagine these people running the country..

Discussion 1 -Don: 249 MILLION BAHT (That is 80 Million US dollars).

thai 1932 Discussion 48: 09/05/2010 at 05:42 PM 48

They come to express their birth right Freedom, Liberty, and Justice for ALL.

Paul is wrong Discussion 47: 09/05/2010 at 05:25 PM 47

Paul discussion 29 is WRONG! I know a guy who works as a chauffeur who ventured in to the Red protest site. He speaks their dialects and found out MANY things other people would not be privy too. They are IN FACT PAID and many are actually from Cambodia. They received about 1,000bt a day but it had dropped down to

500bt-still much more than they would be earning at home.I'm neither a red nor yellow supporter, but let's call it like it really is! A huge handout in the guise of democracy!

Rico Discussion 46: 09/05/2010 at 05:11 PM 46

Dis#35 You are Farang. I'm not a Thai also. My husband's family is Issa also. That give me many chances see how uneducated of the rural people. If using violence and horrible action to affecting normal citizens lifes for making the future government to aware of the problems of their largest but poorest province, I don't see there'll be any hope of the future in Thailand. Also, I have not said that the rural people are stupid. I'm just saying they're uneducated as you agreed also. That's the point that why they are admiring someone stolen their country's money as a hero (Thaksin). They don't have the wisdom of mind to judge things fairly.

Dis#37 Agreed. Yes, Thais not love Thais and not love their country also. So sad!!!!

Kato Discussion 45: 09/05/2010 at 05:03 PM 45

"more red shirts is a worry for the government" gee ya think so?

Harryon Discussion 44: 09/05/2010 at 04:24 PM 44

37 –Steve Rock on, Steve. Please go easy in the future. Most BP commenters aren't ready for the truth.

Steve Discussion 43: 09/05/2010 at 03:47 PM 43

Why are they coming to Bangkok?

There are only 2 agendas behind the UDD protest, MONEY and POWER. The protesters are either receiving money now, OR trying to get the people in power who have promised them money in the future.

Are proteaters being paid? YES. Are ALL protesters being paid? NO. Are the leaders being paid? YES they get millions, FACT! UDD, your benefactor will not be there forever. If your want a better life, don't waste your time waiting for someone else to change it, it won't happen, and stop holding out your hand for short term gain, it's your life, your problem, deal with it.

The PAD & UDD are selfish and will do anything to get what they want. They are the most undemocratic, democratic movements the world has ever seen. The actions of the PAD were wrong, the actions of the UDD are worse, and if this or future governments don't put a stop to these lawless fanatics, the next democractic (555) protest WILL be worse. Forget elections, the people of Thailand need to be controlled until they grow up and learn about they realities of life. Thais love Thais! NO they don't, most only care about themselves. UDD and PAD have proved that beyond doubt! from iPhone application.

Loic Discussion 42: 09/05/2010 at 03:37 PM 42

ok,so many people here think the reds are paid and that is there only reason to protest.

I read here 500 bath a day? so, now the government has the control of 40+ billions bath from thaksin they can propose to pay the poors reds shirts to disperse and we will see if money is really there main goal!!

Mick England Discussion 41: 09/05/2010 at 03:18 PM 41

Thaksin needs a bullet in the head, if only these protesters could see the bigger picture, foreign investors pulling out, the bad exchange rate, tourist going elsewhere for a holiday, these farmers think thaksin was helping them out of poverty, he's actually sending them back 30 years, when he disappears, with his cash, no more 300b a day to protest, they're going to really be up shit creek without a paddle!! from iPhone application.

YoYo Discussion 40: 09/05/2010 at 03:00 PM 40

re disc 11 -agree with you fully and should have been done long time ago seems AV is blue-eyed pussyfooting round with Reds just because they in principle agreed on his road map. He should never have let thru the couple of thousands reinforcements-the rally is still illegal! Maybe was time for him to tell them that for every day they delay he will postpone the date for dissolution by a week. Also that if they have to be dispersed by force that evtl. loss of life is on their conscience and that dissolution is off! re disc 28 and 29 -we heard all that before and although many of us commenting here are Farangs does not mean we are stupid. I come to

Thailand since 35 years and live here since 12. Maybe yr attitude has to do with the fact that many Thais only see what they want to see. Many of us are married to Thais (many from Isan) and they and their families and our Thai friends tell us that they are paid. So just forget it - a lie does not become truth if you repeat it again and again. This is also valid for the so called 'leaders' of the red shirts who are stalling and bidding time to get an amnesty for their crimes. disc 31 and 33 also agree with you but that maybe the only good thing coming out of this mess = future governments being aware of the problems of their largest but poorest province. re disc 34 you are unfortunately right in some things you say but that should be changed as per disc 31 and 33 They are not stupid up there but uneducated. My wife has 6 years elementary school but speaks better English than most with university degrees and is a full and very competent partner in our business

Real Discussion 39: 09/05/2010 at 02:35 PM 39

simple fact: people upcountry are uneducated, greedy, and want easy life. They are living a lie. They don't even know what they are doing is effecting the whole country and society by supporting this so called red shirt movement that is actually a step backwards for the country. give an esan person money they smile very widely, its all about money, nothing about values and society. these are the majority of Thai's goodbye Thailand!

Rico Discussion 38: 09/05/2010 at 01:30 PM 38

Dis#31, totally agreed with all your points. The rural people with no or limited educational background are just want free money all the time. So improve education is one of the main task for government instead of only give money to them. It is much more important to help them have the skills and technology to earn for their own. We do not need a PM (THAKSIN) to pay the people and get people vote him. Dis#29 I had seen your comments since yesterday stressed that the red did not get paid for the mob. You are just asking hundreds of people but there got few thousands of them. Secondly, who will tell you the ugly truth that they take money for mob? I do see and many of friends' relatives are getting paid for the mob. So no need to post everything again about the

red not being paid. This is only the truth that you do not want to believe. BTW, the innocent people like us lost all the income more than them.

John in BKK Discussion 37: 09/05/2010 at 01:14 PM 37

500 baht/day? Where do you guys get that from? Four trips to the protest sites and I've not once seen anyone getting paid. The money you're talking about is a one time only payment for anyone driving UDD members to Bangkok to cover expenses. And all this about people getting inspected before they enter is a joke. No police or military anywhere inspecting anyone. Not even the UDD guards themselves will inspect you, or even look at you funny, despite what you're led to believe. Stop making up lies and go see yourself. If you're right, maybe you'll get some money from a man you hate ;)

Tom Discussion 36: 09/05/2010 at 01:08 PM 36

the reality is that the commercial district is under red rule and there is nothing the govt can do.its better that this ineffective pm dissolves house immediately.that way the reds get what they came for and have no more excuses for remaining in bangkok.the good thing thats come out of this protest is that now the world knows what a weak pm thailand has.since he is anyway going to step down in 6 months,he might as well do it earlier,and save some money for the country.

G Discussion 35: 09/05/2010 at 12:55 PM 35

what Thai people need to realise is that no leader (especially Thaksin) is going to solve their financial situations... (in fact Thaksin made in worse by allowing farmers and low income workers borrow millions of baht from the government with no solution as to how they will pay it back... so now they are all in debt and angry that Thaksin isnt there to save them) the truth is that we need to provide them with education and better opportunities.. not feed them money with no long term solutions. Thailand is a beautiful country with beautiful people but being blind and gullible to an idiot like Thaksin will only hurt us more. economy is going downhill .. everything is going downhill and Thai people get more angry while Thaksin sitting on his a\$\$ is probably enjoying every minute of this.

Govin Discussion 34: 09/05/2010 at 12:51 PM 34

Discussion 29: I don't believe that for one second. They can't afforded that without help and sponsership. They act out of self interest. Keep quiet? They have rocked the city with violent acts and disruption. Get a clue.

Farang-UK Discussion 33: 09/05/2010 at 12:50 PM 33

Discussion 29. You are so naive. They get paid. Some of them handsomely. Get your facts straight.It's all about money. This is Thailand.

Paul Discussion 32: 09/05/2010 at 12:08 PM 32

All the anti-reds are quiet now, because the reds show how much support they have. And for once and for all: NOBODY get paid anything to show up. I visit the demonstration site every day and I know hundreds of red shirts supporters over there. NOT ONE get paid, but instead losing money by lack of income.

Puzzled Discussion 31: 09/05/2010 at 11:52 AM 31

Even if a very few of those making comments about money know something, 95% of the comments about money are being made by people who don't have a clue if there is any truth to it at all. One of my udon friends who just came down to take a job at B7500 a month told me it is not so cut and dry. Besides, if he could get 15000 a month for protesting, why is he taking a job for 7500 and only four days off per month. So his wife got a job at the same place (a bank) so together they will work six days a week for that 15000 and they had to leave their for-year-old at home with gma so they could do it. Maybe this kind of stuff is why people can be found who are willing to protest for some equality.

Khunandre Australia Discussion 30: 09/05/2010 at 11:43 AM 30

Why the PM wants to reconcile with the red craps??.. he should force them to disperse by any means and cancel the road plan. Cannot make a pact with the devil.

Straight Up Discussion 29: 09/05/2010 at 11:42 AM 29

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva Sunday named suspended Army specialist Maj Gen Khattiya Sawasdiphol as the mastermind and chief terrorist who tried to undermine the road map to bring about political reconciliation

Puzzled Discussion 28: 09/05/2010 at 11:42 AM 28

Even if a very few of those making comments about money, 95% of the comments about money are being made by people who don't have a clue if there is any truth to it at all. One of my udon friends who just came down to take a job at B7500 a month told me it is not so cut and dry. Besides, if he could get 15000 a month for protesting, why is he taking a job for 7500 and only four days off per month. So his wife got a job at the same place (a bank) so together they will work six days a week for that 15000 and they had to leave their for-year-old at home with gam so they could do it. Maybe this kind of stuff is why people can be found who are willing to protest for some equality.

Dragan Discussion 27: 09/05/2010 at 11:39 AM 27

Mary, I agree that no specific date has been posted. But the fact that elections have to take place within 45 - 60 days after the house is dissolved makes it clear that this will happen mid to end September. I think a fixed election date is what everybody should be focused on. No election, no change. And that date has been provided from iPhone application.

John-Cat Discussion 26: 09/05/2010 at 11:33 AM 26

Re. Discussion 15 It is very funny But Thaksins ill gotten gains are being put back into Thailand's economy via the Reds blood money Tax free ? Of course!! There will be a lot of parties when the Reds return home boosting the local economy for a little while

Lek Discussion 25: 09/05/2010 at 11:27 AM 25

The UDD may have decided that they want to make their own terms for the Roadmap and are building up their rally in case of a military crackdown.

t.j. Discussion 24: 09/05/2010 at 11:26 AM 24

#1 Get your calculator out. It is 8 million not 80, still a lot of money but do you need to ask the question!! This is Thailand!

Wake Up Discussion 23: 09/05/2010 at 11:24 AM 23

JohninBKK we've been watching your posts. You have a loose grasp on reality, not to mention, "visiting twice" really means nothing.

All these people are doing is calling for immediate elections. They have not articulated any sort of policy or demand beyond that- which means they probably have no idea what they are fighting for.

@Peter.bkk Discussion 22: 09/05/2010 at 10:57 AM 22

Welcome to Bangkok

Bob Discussion 21: 09/05/2010 at 10:39 AM 21

@ Discussion 15 As said before, 500 baht a day is ALOT compare to what they get back home during the idle farming season. Do the math, they don't care about this country, just their empty pockets. I don't blame them, it's easy money.

John-Cat Discussion 20: 09/05/2010 at 10:21 AM 20

Discussion No. 15 500 Baht is a fortune to most of these Reds How much do you think they earn a day back home ? They are having a very good standard of living whilst in Bangkok They don't want it to end

Egon Discussion 19: 09/05/2010 at 10:18 AM 19

Disc15: Indeed these people are really committed and truly believe in their money (500 baht a DAY in a period where the farmers are idle). When you went to the side why didn't you ask why they are protesting? The answers would open your eyes. Egon

Sceptic Discussion 18: 09/05/2010 at 10:17 AM 18

Building up protest numbers now is not inconsistent with agreeing to the "Road Map" (Should that be "Red Map"?!). Clearly the UDD leadership will want to end the protest on a high and not with a whimper.

Sceptic Discussion 17: 09/05/2010 at 10:12 AM 17

Government talk about checking the identities of all protesters and searching them when they leave the site is pure spin and hot air. They do not have the logistic capacity to do it. I have walked into and out of the Rajaprasong protest on several occasions over the last few days and I have seen many "reds" both on foot and in trucks come and go. Any one of them could have been taking weapons into or out of the site, if that was what they had wanted to do.

Mary Discussion 16: 09/05/2010 at 10:09 AM 16

Dragan, Abhisit stated that the re-election will occur in November 2010 in his road map. However, the reds asked for a specific date and in contractual agreement of when the house will be dissolved. Abhisit refused to give them the date. This is like an empty promise to the reds.

John in BKK Discussion 15: 09/05/2010 at 09:49 AM 15

CRES is a propaganda machine.

I went to the protest site twice. The first time was around April 16th, I estimated about 6000 people. The second time was last week, I estimated about 10,000 people. Neither time was at night, but typically the redshirt protests double around 8pm (I've been to two others at night). These people are committed and truly believe in their cause. To think that people would quit work for 2 months for only 500 baht shows ignorance among the elite of what this is really about. I still remember many of the posters claiming this will putter out within days . .

.MCos Discussion 14 : 09/05/2010 at 09:45 AM 14

Re #9 - From the way things have been going thus far I don't think the government has much say in what the red shirts will or can do. Same for the previous govt when the yellow shirts were rampaging round. Good luck to the next govt if they think they can control the police & army.

Macshil Discussion 13: 09/05/2010 at 09:44 AM 13

That is Democracy as it follows its logical ways. Wake up Thailand!!!!

Screaming Eagle Discussion 12: 09/05/2010 at 09:37 AM 12

The adorable and lovable Ren & Stimpy could do a better job running the country. Given that the red leaders publicly accepted the road map and now are bringing in more protesters -read skirts to hide behind-and working on the red map what kind of government will these "leaders" provide. Please, please red leaders (and current government) think things through FIRST, then speak instead of speaking then thinking.

Intothefuture Discussion 11: 09/05/2010 at 09:37 AM 11

Regardless of politics, road maps and politicized opinions.. To uphold the rule of law...and to protect citizens and the business community in Bangkok...and to avoid bloodshed... the police/military...should reverse the barricades and contain the red shirts within the area...no one in or out...no food or supplies in or out...no electricity within the barricade...If this is done...the protests will end within a few days.

Chino Discussion 10: 09/05/2010 at 09:29 AM 10

Road Map is for the Reds to find the way to Bangkok and not get lost!

John-Cat Discussion 9: 09/05/2010 at 09:22 AM 9

Re: Discussion 6 Can anyone give me a logical explanation as why thousands of new protesters are arriving in Bangkok when the reds are discussing to leave the rally site in a couple of days?

In a word MONEY !! The Reds want to spin this out for as long as possible so they can get as much money as possible The only way to end this is to bribe the Reds to go home

Wes Discussion 8: 09/05/2010 at 08:49 AM 8

At this point, why are they coming and why is the government letting them through?

P Discussion 7: 09/05/2010 at 08:37 AM 7

Why reinforcement? If we thais dont trust each other now..when? For the sake of the country, for the sake of peace thru all this mess any other oppotunity??Both Government n UDD,please don't blow this chance away.

Dragan Discussion 6: 09/05/2010 at 07:23 AM 6

Can anyone give me a logical explanation as why thousands of new protesters are arriving in Bangkok when the reds are discussing to leave the rally site in a couple of days? from iPhone application.

The Ancient Mariner Discussion 5: 09/05/2010 at 07:00 AM 5

Why are the protesters mainly from Khon Khaen and Udorn? Any reasonable explanation?

Edward Discussion 4: 09/05/2010 at 06:11 AM 4

Burning up the truck of a outspoken Red Leader is simply provocative. Some just want him really fired up. With all the bombing going round, someone seriously does not want Abhisit's reconciliation plan to work.

Amazed Discussion 3: 09/05/2010 at 05:27 AM 3

What a brilliant move!! Just when things MAY have a chance to wind down, the reds make a show of force and lend credence to all the other colors' warnings. Too many people with childlike behavior for democracy to work.

Naïve Discussion 2: 09/05/2010 at 05:16 AM 2

Abhisit you are super naive. Your "Road Map" will never work. It should be defined as Road Mad not Road Map.

Don Discussion 1: 09/05/2010 at 05:06 AM 1

I was under the impression that the police were given 249 MILLION BAHT to stop the entrances and exits of the Ratcha Prasong area of more protesters and new supplies. What happened to the money??? (That is 80 Million US dollars)

### **Topic 37 Thai PM demands clear answer on end of protests**

Rico Discussion 69: 10/05/2010 at 07:59 PM 69

Dis#surin Actually, what a shame of you! Only understand a part of the story and then comment at your own. I won't beleive any so-called democratic countries will give a gang of people who are being paid and violence to the human rights of people to stay in the prime center of the capital. You should be the one to stop posting here instead of others. Mr. Farang

Dragan Discussion 68: 10/05/2010 at 02:38 PM 68

Surin Farang: your racist comments don't help in solving the problem. Think before you post something and stop insulting other posters! from iPhone application.



Stanley Discussion 67: 10/05/2010 at 03:25 AM 67

The PM is trying to lie! Why can't the PM just give a firm date for dissolution. He demands the reds to give firm dates but he refuses to give one himself. This is simple lying, everyone know this!

Anan Boonjindasup Discussion 66: 10/05/2010 at 12:12 AM 66

Declaration of state of emergency did not work. Road map does not work. 24 hour demand will not work. Weak Government who cannot uphold the laws of the land, negotiation is the not the way anymore. By Monday midnight, there will be a new plan which will not work again. This is my opinion.

Anan Boonjindasup Discussion 65: 09/05/2010 at 11:39 PM 65

O.K. We will see that the next 24 hours the Government will enforce the laws of the land or not. So far, in the last sixty days, it seemed that the Government was just talking and no action. The REDS were talking and having many actions. This fight, the REDS won all the way. We might as well leave this ring. It is so pitiful for Aphisith and I am taking him out of my favorite web now. He is compromising so much, the REDS got the whole house.

Anonymous Discussion 64: 09/05/2010 at 11:19 PM 64

This RED-Shirts are Terrorist put them behind the bars. In the name of Democracy they are terrorizing people and the country, making Billion Dollar loss in the Business sectors. Just shoot those bloody arrogant leader and their servants.

Mike Discussion 63: 09/05/2010 at 11:06 PM 63

What is all this about Abhisit, Abhisit, pull your heads out, he is the only one in Thailand who is doing anything constructive, all the others just have their hands out.

Thaibob Discussion 62: 09/05/2010 at 11:04 PM 62

Discussion #26 09/05/10 22:21.

Hey Aussiebob ! Thought you would have known better !The fact that the circumstances at the time put Khun Abhisit, and others, in a position to run for the vacant Prime Ministership, is irrelevant ! The fact that, under due Parliamentary procedure, he was legitimately voted in by the MP's of the day, who by the way, were voted in by the public for the public for a 4 year term, is VERY relevant !! Just as it would be in Australia if there were a hung Parliament, a "carried" vote of no confidence in the Government, etc, etc. No different ! Not withstanding the fact that we are guests of this country and are in no position to take a political stance one way or the other, I think it would be more prudent to give a bloke (Khun Abhisit) a fair go !

wood pigeon Discussion 61: 09/05/2010 at 10:51 PM 61

The reds won't move because they know that whatever Abhisit wants to deploy the army won't follow the instruction. So the red shirts will still be there.If they don't: Abhisit will probably ask for another negotiation date and/or bring the election date forward a little bit closer. This government is unsure about everything, only just buying time.

Sick of IT Discussion 60: 09/05/2010 at 10:41 PM 60

govin (Discussion 16) leave the horses and dogs out of this; it's not their fault. On the other hand, it might not be a bad idea to bring in a herd of elephants. After all, they have been used for this sort of thing for hundreds of years in Thailand. Let's see the reds try and push around those beasts the way they have the police and military.

Hmong Discussion 59: 09/05/2010 at 10:40 PM 59

Your Thai People scolding our People that Maew Crazy such like this. Don't Thai People know that all People around the World know clearly that Thai Regime to lead the Country so NASTY. Thai Regime today is ( NASTY Regime Xadeena Dictatorship ) NASTY Regime XADEENA TERRORISM KILLING YOUR OWN PEOPLE. ( CRIME)

Airbus Discussion 58: 09/05/2010 at 10:33 PM 58

with more than a month rally from RED, PM lack of proposal, when he has one, he want fast food, fast delivery, why. Just don't understand him well. Try to create problem again, so how can you manage our country. Should let him back to school, man.

Ursus Discussion 57: 09/05/2010 at 10:31 PM 57

I think the intention of the red-shirt leaders is obvious. All they want is a military intervention because they think they can improve their bad image. What a mistake!

aussiebob FO Discussion 56: 09/05/2010 at 10:24 PM 56

aussiebob. what you are saying is downright utter tripe. READ and LOOK AT other media OPEN your eyes or get back to the pit where you came from

HMONG Discussion 55: 09/05/2010 at 10:20 PM 55

Hey!!!! Thai People, Who are Sing Scolding the Hmong (Maew Crazy and ect.) What's Wrong with your Thai Crazy? is that the Hmong do better than your crazy people right? If we say your people crazy and nasty from bottom to the top is that right? We know your people so well. Khun rap khuam BAB pai nai sing thi khun tham?

Farang-UK Discussion 54: 09/05/2010 at 10:01 PM 54

Discussion 24. Redshirts fascists toatally lost credibility when they barged into Chula Hospital. The world definitely took notice of that. As for road map the world fully backs up PM's approach. Redshirts fascists have been exposed again.

Govin Discussion 53: 09/05/2010 at 09:46 PM 53

discussion 24: you mean START non violent protests rather than "try to continue doing as they are" they have been both violent and useless in their attempts.

JXD Discussion 52: 09/05/2010 at 09:44 PM 52

Abhisit sure bark alot of noice when it comes to making demands on the Reds. Yet he himself gave no clear detail about his socalled road map to peace.Red, hang on tight. It may gets tougher as this wears on. Abhisit is cornered, he'll say anything to get out of the delima.

Wake Up Discussion 51: 09/05/2010 at 09:26 PM 51

#24, non-violent? Are you joking? They were so desperate to spill blood that when the army refused to gun down the protesters, they UDD leaders told them to bleed themselves. They still haven't gotten their bloodbath yet. That's what they are holding out for. The goal isn't elections, it is across the board take over.

Outsider Discussion 50: 09/05/2010 at 09:25 PM 50

I feel sorry for the PM. He can't dissolve the house and have the EC declare an election within 45 days. It would be under the current constitution, no choice there. This would be unacceptable to the PTP/UDD/reds, BUT lawful. So, start talking about how rather than when.

Democracy Discussion 49: 09/05/2010 at 09:19 PM 49

Ominous warnings suggest that Abhisit is not in full control of events here and matters could yet develop into a new confrontation. The agenda is set for a peaceful outcome, which some clearly do not want to see. I hope wise heads prevail on all sides and there is a quick peaceful outcome. The eyes of the world are again turned to Bangkok.

Peetaker Discussion 48: 09/05/2010 at 08:52 PM 48

But the 5000 redshirts told us they just wanted to go buy some noodles!

Outsider Discussion 47: 09/05/2010 at 08:44 PM 47

Re #19: If the plan was fully detailed by the PM it would be rejected. The plan needs discussions with all concerned, no details imposed! Not that it seem to matter, with some extra reds, the UDD is more determined to continue with their actions. What they really want apart from 'democracy' it really unclear to me.

Paul Discussion 46 : 09/05/2010 at 08:29 PM46

It looks like PM Abhisit has not so much to demand for.

He wanted to be PM so badly that he didn't realise that without the majority of voters behind him this can only go wrong. Now he comes with worried parents. The reds also have children and that is what they are fighting for.

Ron Discussion 45: 09/05/2010 at 08:08 PM 45

Well, well . . . the worms are out. Look at the quality of comments here. Condemning the Reds, but barbaric suggestions. When the Yellows does the same again hope you will push for similar elitist violent suggestions.

Commonsense Discussion 44: 09/05/2010 at 07:47 PM 44

In Medicine, if you want the cancer cells to die, you need to cut off the blood supply. By the same token, the red illegal gathering will cease when the food and water supply is not allowed to be replenished. No need for forceful eviction. The government must take action wisely and expeditiously before the "cancer" become inoperable or metastasize.

KHOMPOON Discussion 43: 09/05/2010 at 07:41 PM 43

Solider are train to kill and destroy our enemy not yours or mine enemy. Commentor take note

Mike Discussion 42: 09/05/2010 at 07:26 PM 42

the PM should fire the police chief & all the "watermelon" cops if he the courage & power to do so.

bangkok-ian Discussion 41: 09/05/2010 at 07:15 PM 41

Sometimes a big stick is needed to support democracy-Abhisit should use one now!! For those not sure of the reds democratic colours-try walking through their camp with a T shirt on saying "I love Abhisit" and see how democratic they are!! A red backed Government would be a disaster for Thailand

Steven Tayler Discussion 40: 09/05/2010 at 07:13 PM 40

funny guys! I would like to hear your opinions about a government in Europe or the USA that exclaims emergency law even before a demonstration startet, shut down radio, tv and hundrets of webpages, concentrates 100000 soldiers in the capital, orders to dissolve a (until then defeninitely) peaceful demonstration and allow even life ammo, soldiers shooting without any warning... Nobody would talk like you do, except you are working for the government or the PAD!

Edward Discussion 39: 09/05/2010 at 06:54 PM 39

Abhisit can say the objectives are not reached. We need another 6 + 6 + 6 months to reach it... If he is really concerned about the school children, just dissolve the parliament right away. Else, give something firm. The Reds will simeply say, we will remain here, and we will be VERY PEACEFUL until something concrete is obtained from Abhisit. WHAT NEXT??

Aussiebob Discussion 38: 09/05/2010 at 06:46 PM 38

The PM is inept and has no authority to demand anything. When is going to dissolve parliament? When he gives that assurance and not maybe then the Red shirts will start to believe him. But he came to power through thuggery of the PAD and the Betrayal of the friends of Newin and he wants to stay in power through threats and intimidation but it will not work. If his popularity as the Bangkok Post will have us to believe is so great throughout the country he would call an election now but he knows if he has an honest election he will join the unemployed.

thai 1932 Discussion 37: 09/05/2010 at 06:32 PM 37

Sound like Khun Abhisit is being pressured to abandon his Road Map. The Red Shirt ought to hang on their current approach...Non Violent Resistance. The world starts to take notice about the violence on April 10th., and Moody would consider the Cradit Rating on elevated Risk in Thailand investent soon.

Surin Farang Discussion 36: 09/05/2010 at 06:29 PM 36

God I hate this imbecile farangs, that just want this to end with voilence and bloodshed .Now John, your officially appointet a bad person by me ....What goes for those who wanted to derail the roadmap by killing policemen, just shows something I knew already about the type of people that live in Thailand ..That goes for farang too ..just caring about themselves and their businssesses here ..Try to evolve some humaness guys ...Your

really a shame to the white race ...You would not that easy use violence, if it was in YOUR OWN COUNTRY this would go on! Think of that, and let the shame sink in ... And stop posting such moronic stuff ...

Wantmymoney Discussion 35: 09/05/2010 at 06:14 PM 35

For a salesman, abhisit is sure lousy. If he was selling a refrigerator to a housewife, he selling his looks not the product. He cant explain clearly what special feature this refrigerator has, how much electricity it consume or even its warranty period. Its no wonder no smart housewife would buy it. Just list down the conditions and rules that both will stick to, both will sign a contract. Learn from Carrefour salesman.

Wombat Discussion 34: 09/05/2010 at 05:56 PM 34

Yes Khun Abhisit; and if they don't?

Looking Inn Discussion 33: 09/05/2010 at 05:55 PM 33

Simple solution. The PM signs the decree dissolving the House on such and such a fixed date and the UDD announces the end of the rally, dismantles the barricades and goes home. Announcements and signings made simultaneously, if appearing together to do it is impossible. Setting impossible conditions into the roadmap before the dissolution (like everyone agreeing to respect the election decision, especially in the face of already vocal opposition) means there is a good chance there may not be a dissolution. The UDD is wise to hold its ground until the PM takes firm irreversible action. This impasse can no longer be solved by words; only by actions. Let's hope it's not the actions espoused by the PAD and the multi-color fascists, but the actions of the roadmap already accepted in words by the PM and the UDD leaders.

Siamgoody Discussion 32: 09/05/2010 at 05:53 PM 32

My best GUESS is this. Things will go out of hand, the PM can do nothing. The police are paid by the opposite side. This is quite normal as the police always get pocket money by many means. The military will sit tight. As Anupong is to retire later this year, the quieter he is the more easy for him to be taken over by some political party. Then Abhisit will finally realize that he is cornered and run away from the country. 5-10 years from now, Anupong now the head of some policial party will be arranging a deal to bring Abhisit safely back to Thailand. Call me an idiot, and you have only proved me right. This idiotic deal is going to get idiotic results.

Woo Discussion 31 : 09/05/2010 at 05:41 PM31

Thailand will be crippled shortly by lack of revenue from tourism and many businesses that rely on tourism will be lost.

Laughable Discussion 30: 09/05/2010 at 05:24 PM 30

Re: Discussion 7: 09/05/2010 at 12:52 PM 7

Disc 2 -The reds have to take action because they are the only ones that continue to destroy the country. Every one else is looking for peace.

You wrote that as a joke, right? If not, then you are delusional. Neither PAD nor the "Multicolors" want peace, they want POWER, and they want things THEIR way, and to hell with anyone who disagrees with them. WHO

is now screaming for the PM to step down and the enforcement of Martial Law? While the Reds have agreed to the Roadmap, PAD and Multicolors are rejecting it and wanting more violence so the Army has no choice but to stage a coup, or so they hope, because they know that is the only way they can maintain their elite grip on things.

Re: Discussion 13: 09/05/2010 at 01:59 PM 13

How clear of the Reds' answer does PM Apisit want to hear? If three M-79s, many more bullets, two deaths and many wounded is pretty clear to me! I'm sure that everyone, especially the government and police, would LOVE to know where you get your information that conclusively proves the Reds are the perpetrators of the latest violence.

Karoshi Discussion 29: 09/05/2010 at 05:23 PM 29

The PM is a nice man, but nice people don't get the dirty work done. Send in troops from the South who hate the reds, and chase the mob back to hell.

BackPacker Discussion 28: 09/05/2010 at 05:18 PM 28

Dear PM please wake up! You are dealing with highly dangerous elements to this country.

Kato Discussion 27: 09/05/2010 at 05:00 PM 27

as Elmer Fudd once said..."be afwaid, be vevy vevy afwaid"

They let 5000 more into the Red Square? I thought the idea was to get them out? There are no laws here.

John Discussion 26: 09/05/2010 at 04:44 PM 26

Their boss does not want to stop, cos he knows after that he will be history. I say bring the troops and clean up the rabble

Concerned Chiang Mai Discussion 25 : 09/05/2010 at 04:42 PM 25

Perhaps the PM would get a clearer answer if his roadmap didn't contain such vague and subjective conditions.

John-Cat Discussion 24: 09/05/2010 at 03:55 PM 24

If the government can't get the reds out They should build barricades and turn their camp into a big prison camp. Not allow anyone to leave until they agree to go straight home like naughty spoilt children Cut power and water too

Marcus Baxtor Discussion 23: 09/05/2010 at 03:35 PM 23

I love the EU's statement: "We call on all sides to...with full respect for the rule of law..."Full respect for the law? Why is the EU home to so many galavanting fugitives? Go fly a kite EU, bloody hypocrites.

RodB Discussion 22: 09/05/2010 at 03:00 PM 22

I'm dumbfounded! The security authorities are surely their own worst enemy! How can they simply allow another 5000 red-shirts into Rajaprasong?? Red-shirts can stop Police movements, but the reverse is not possible? Now they can expect problems!

Govin Discussion 21: 09/05/2010 at 02:50 PM 21

time to bring in the horses or dogs to disperse the remaining. The reds had enough time to do somethign already. they have repeatedly proven they cannot win the heart of many through brains and charisma, they resort to violence and threats. please shut it down so we can get on with it here.

A Neutral USA Discussion 20: 09/05/2010 at 02:06 PM 20

I think that, one day, there would be a movie/drama based on the 2005-? Thai political crisis.

Let's hope that Thais can give this one a happy ending.

Rico Discussion 19: 09/05/2010 at 02:01 PM 19

Dis#2 If you are not smart enough to understand why the red need to take action first, you better shut up. It's simple to understand that the reds now are the source of problems. I'm not stay with any colours but it's so annoying that the reds to harm the country again and again. Let me get you clear that there will no winner to continue harming the country like this. Everyone will be loser and who the colour win can only get an awful mess of the country including your loved reds.

SPICEMAN Discussion 18: 09/05/2010 at 01:59 PM 18

How clear of the Reds' answer does PM Apisit want to hear? If three M-79s, many more bullets, two deaths and many wounded is pretty clear to me!

for shame Discussion 17: 09/05/2010 at 01:44 PM 17

the yellow-shirts who are calling for elections soon should think very carefully about what is right and what is wrong. ever since a political party has been setup, they have forgotten they stood for and no longer think for the good of our country. shame on them.

J C Wilcox Discussion 16: 09/05/2010 at 01:43 PM 16

Peter Quinlan speaks of wisdom that can only be understood by those with such a mind; a thinking mind. We are in a 'might is right' situation. Might has to be met with might. A fleet of Canadairs on a sea water run would soon clear the reds and negate their pyro barrier. We have all seen these guys on TV quelling a forest fire. Salt water is an irritant in the heat. They would not put up with that for long. They have been offered a way forward even though they, the UDD have no rights politically when there politicians, Puea Thai, ignore parliament. Stop the killing and avoid civil war, which is technically where we are now, and wash this nonsense away in the interests of Thailand. Sea water is the answer.

Ali Discussion 15: 09/05/2010 at 01:38 PM 15

hello

Okene Discussion 14: 09/05/2010 at 01:36 PM 14

This is not what is best for the country anymore it is what is best for me and my buddies. The PM cannot give a date for dissolution because there will not be one and he knows this. He is simply trying to buy time to stop the ineviatble. If he steps down the dictatorship and PAD fall with him and this is life threatening. If he stays the

reds continue and he or someone will have to make the big mistake of attempting to remove them. He is stuck and there is no way out. If the reds cave in to his demands and leave then what would their purpose of coming to BKK have been for.

Felix Discussion 13: 09/05/2010 at 01:20 PM 13

I think P.M Abhisit is a nice guy, the red should stop the rally, and the yellow should support PM Abhisit road map.

Harryon Discussion 12: 09/05/2010 at 01:14 PM 12

I am very surprised by the comments critical of the Prime Minister. IMO, PM Abhisit has proceeded in a patient and thoughtful manner. The weakness in Thailand lies with the police forces. I expect the people critical of the PM lack the courage to condemn the police.

SPICEMAN Discussion 11: 09/05/2010 at 01:08 PM 11

In this critical time, we need someone like Abraham Lincoln, not Apisit Moron!

What a shame Discussion 10: 09/05/2010 at 01:03 PM 10

Discussion 2 The PM does not give a fixed date because something will creep up and allow him to postpone the election.

That's his way of moving forward. When elected he said give me 6 month to sort out the economy-and he did. After that he said give me a year to bring harmony back to the country-and he did. Now he says give me six month before I will hold elections-and he will.

The foreign press has already seen through him and mentioned that Thailand has dropped in the ratings of the freedom of press scale from place 65 to 130. 65 that was under the dictator Thaskin and 130 under the democrat Abhisit. What a joke.

John Henry Discussion 9: 09/05/2010 at 12:55 PM 9

"we need a few more days to come up with our own proposals" -What's that all about? They've been protesting for months now and finally they're trying to figure out what they are protesting for!

John Henry Discussion 8: 09/05/2010 at 12:52 PM 8

Disc 2 -The reds have to take action because they are the only ones that continue to destroy the country. Every one else is looking for peace.

Henry Discussion 7: 09/05/2010 at 12:37 PM 7

There is a Thai way to do things and a Western way, which we see on the TV, such as in Greece at the moment. Aphisit does not have to copy the Western way even though many on this Forum would like him to do.

Anan Boonjindasup Discussion 6: 09/05/2010 at 12:30 PM 6

With more than fifty bombs in the past two months, the Government cannot do anything. I think the ROADMAP is just the words. We have been listen to Government nice words for a long time. The ROADMAP is another one of them and cannot be accomplished. Government words or Thai words usually are not operable,

they all just adjective which at the end do not mean anything and cannot do or make someone to do anything like the Thai Laws.

Tim Spooner Discussion 5: 09/05/2010 at 12:30 PM 5

Perhaps he should threaten to hold his breath until he turns blue? That works for some 5 year old kids.

Ying Discussion 4: 09/05/2010 at 12:19 PM 4

I don't understand. The carrot and stick was ready. The reds were surrounded by Police and Army ready to break up the rally. After Chulalongkorn Hospital fiasco they were ready to quit. And then the PM TOOK AWAY THE STICK. Now there are thousands more pouring in from the North, Khattiya has begun his bombing again, the reds have NOT accepted any plan but are busily working on a completely "NEW" plan of their own. Please PM, please I BEG you - stop listening to the BS and just enforce the law. Unless you do that we are all screwed.

Peter Quinlan Discussion 3: 09/05/2010 at 12:07 PM 3

"The Seven Blunders of the World is a list that Mohandas Gandhi gave to his grandson Arun Gandhi, written on a piece of paper, on their final day together, not too long before his assassination. The seven blunders are: \*Wealth without work \*Pleasure without conscience \*Knowledge without character \*Commerce without morality \*Science without humanity \*Worship without sacrifice \*Politics without principle This list grew from Gandhi's search for the roots of violence. He called these acts of passive violence. Preventing these is the best way to prevent oneself or one's society from reaching a point of violence." Something there for us all in the current situation?

Ilene Discussion 2: 09/05/2010 at 11:55 AM 2

The PM is trying to get the reds to help him out of all this trouble. Ask the PAD to back off. Ask the multi colors to back off. Ask the army to back off. Ask the police to back off. Why is it just the reds to take action. Also why can't the PM just give a firm date for dissolution. He demands the reds to give firm dates but he refuses to give one himself. If the reds agree and leave and then get double crossed, then what.

Siangoody Discussion 1: 09/05/2010 at 11:37 AM 1

As usual the lame duck approach from the government. He wants a firm answer by tomorrow. And what if the reds do not give that firm answer by tomorrow? If we go by the past, Abhisit will give them more time to consider, as much time as they want. He will put back his head in the sand and wish for some other magic deal to come up. This man does not care about schools, students, office goers or even businesses. He has no support from the army or police, he can do nothing except hold secret talks with shady people. We have waited for several weeks for a solution for a dispersal of the reds. By putting forth this road map, he can now no longer take forced actions against them. The reds always said the democrats only talk, we now sadly agree that it is very true. They have also started making secret deals with people they themselves labelled as terrorists. With people who have court warrants for their arrest.

**Topic 38 PM urged to take action against UDD**

Frequent Visitor Discussion 42: 10/05/2010 at 11:47 AM 42

"The Alliance of Patriots may join the potential PAD rally if both sides share a common purpose," Dr Tul said. So, will it be alright if the Government use force to disperse your rally-if it takes place? Dr. Tul's suggestion of blocking supply to the Reds does not make sense where there are so many outlets and lanes leading to and exiting from the rally site. Dr. Tul's suggestion will work as in the case of the PAD when they occupied Government House because the whole Government building area can be sealed off. The only way in or out will either be by helicopter or dugged tunnels. And with regards to penalising and punishing security forces, Dr. Tul need to understand that this is a war amongst Thais and not against foreign enemies. I am sure our security forces has emotions too. It will definitely help if Dr. Tul come up with more constructive suggestions to ease the situation rather than aggravating the reconciliation process.

LEMON Discussion 41: 10/05/2010 at 10:35 AM 41

Everybody have right to demonstrate, not only yellow.

nowhere thai Discussion 40: 10/05/2010 at 09:52 AM 40

About 50 per cent of his group's supporters were supporters of the yellow-shirt People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD), he said.

That said it all!! The multi color are just as illegitimate as the reds given their occupation of the airport. Take the yellow element out first before talking about the reds. BTW, I am neither a red nor a yellow supporter.

Bill Discussion 39: 10/05/2010 at 05:56 AM 39

Too late. The Thai government should never allow such huge political groups to "set up camp". A time limit has to be followed. These huge groups that end up occupying government land, the hub of business, or airports would MOT be allowed in other countries, including democracies. The Reds are begging for the government to use force now which will make Abhistit look like the "bad guy". I say ignore the Reds and with the lack of attention, they'll go home. Question: Who gives them their electricity? Who allows the people in and out of their ?

Mike Discussion 38: 10/05/2010 at 02:23 AM 38

The PM must do something positive to end this chaos,it is undermining the Thai economy and causing so much distress to ordinary Thai people

Tit4Tat Discussion 37: 10/05/2010 at 01:33 AM 37

Given that no action was taken against the criminals who held travellers hostage at Thailand's airports, why should action be taken against anyone else? Any lawlessness at the present time springs directly from the inaction of the Thai authorities when they allowed criminals to decide whether or not airports could function.

Coolman Discussion 36: 09/05/2010 at 11:32 PM 36

The PM must ignore the Yellows and Multi- coloured. (This is because they are the same.) They do not want the roadmap to succeed. The PM must focus on the roadmap, give an exact date of dissolving the House and confirm the date of elections. The PM must not be vague on this matter. The PM and the Reds must sign an agreement if they agree on the roadmap and the Reds must agree to end their rally and go home. The Reds must also give an answer soon. Prolonging this matter will hurt Thailand's economy even more.

PEACE Discussion 35: 09/05/2010 at 09:43 PM 35

The problem lies with the leaders of red, yellow, and multi-coloured shirts. Whoever won the election again in Nov, the cycle of violence will start again. So the current govt should bring all these idiots to reach a compromise otherwise it will never and ever resolve the current political situation. Worst if the current govt is the yesman of the Bangkok elites. The only viable option is for the Puea Thai and The Democrat Party to reach a power sharing agreement.

John Discussion 34: 09/05/2010 at 09:30 PM 34

On 13 April, a group of about 100 people led by Dr Tul Sitthisomwong, a lecturer at Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Medicine, gathered at the Victory Monument. They waved Thai flags, played propaganda songs, and called on silent forces to come out to oppose the red shirts and support the government in not dissolving Parliament. They sang 'We Fight', an anti-communist song whose melody was composed by HM the King in 1970s...Tul Sitthisomwong was appointed by the People's Alliance for Democracy to sit on the Committee of the Strength of Land, the meaning of HM the King's name, on 24 July 2008, according to a PAD statement (7/2008)...

On 24 Nov 2008, Tul led a group of Chulalongkorn lecturers and students under the name of Siam Intellect to a rally at the Army Headquarters to call on Gen Anupong and the military to take a leading role in maintaining peace and order in society and maintain loyalty to the monarchy. Soldiers were the hope of the people in the protection of Nation, Religion and the King, he said at the time. Later, he went on to speak on the stage of the PAD, attacking the then Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat, saying that a jail sentence was not enough for him, because he who had ordered the killing of other people should also die [Tul referred to the 7 Oct 2008 incident in which the PAD clashed with police after the PAD surrounded and closed the Parliament compound]. Somchai must be severely punished after he was removed from office. Tul went on to say that, speaking as a doctor, love for the country and the king was embedded only in Thais' DNA, not that of other peoples. It was a pity that many Thais had mutated and did not have the love for the king in their DNA and should not be called Thai, he said. The only shirt group this guy deserves to lead is a black & white striped one

John Discussion 33: 09/05/2010 at 09:25 PM 33

Why are so many people giving Abhisit credit for 'his' road map? He didn't want to compromise, he ordered the army in. Only after they refused did he come up with this plan to try & look like a reasonable, peace loving PM. Makes me want to vomit.

khun seua Discussion 32: 09/05/2010 at 08:29 PM 32

Why doesn't the PM set a date for dissolution? What is the big deal about not setting the date other than to allow for an "out" once the time comes? This smacks of waffling and is disingenuous. The multi-shirts and the PAD are advocating action that will kill their fellow Thai people. Shame on them. The government and the respective parties need to take the time to work things through. Loss of life is not an option. The people who are going around blasting of grenades need to be captured. Why does this not happen?

RIP Discussion 31: 09/05/2010 at 08:17 PM 31

If Government has any respect for the dead they will let the red people pay respect on Monday. PTV should be allowed on to air the ritual. Then area should be cleared by both sides. Use of humane force if necessary

David Brown Discussion 30: 09/05/2010 at 07:57 PM 30

Abhisit is wrong about Seh Daeng. The reds, Thaksin and Seh Daeng have nothing to gain from killings or disruption to the roadmap. The PAD and related groups are openly declaring their opposition to the roadmap. They are waiting on military approval and funding for them to take action but meanwhile they are the ones that are motivated to spoil the progress. It's the military and its factions that are behind the violence on both sides. Send the military back to their barracks and forbid them funding militias. Then the government, the reds, PAD everyone else can negotiate progress forward like civilised human beings.

Siamgoody Discussion 29: 09/05/2010 at 07:47 PM 29

The PM has proved that he will finally cave into every demand of the reds if the reds just hold firmly to their ground. The PM would have already started the process of talking to Thaksin since the reds will not close their protest. He has no guts to start the protest of checking for weapons in the protest site. Actually NO government official or personnel have ever entered in the heart of the protest area or near the stage. The police and soldiers need to get trained by the red guards on issues related to security. It is time that we all started finding ways to adjust our lives to what is happening.

Ideaman Discussion 28: 09/05/2010 at 07:37 PM 28

Must be really tough to be a government with no support from the police or military. Thailand looks very weak to all of its neighboring countries and must begin to enforce law and order at some time or will always be a 3rd world country.

Ben There Discussion 27: 09/05/2010 at 07:17 PM 27

When you posters start remembering how similar the PAD was in their actions I will give you an applause. However, the PAD that started all this mess wants to forget itself and get away with its crimes. The reds are



modeling their protest after yours but at least the tourist have the option of still coming. Where as the PAD gave no option, was just as violent, and lied also. Now they have taken power like a bunch of rebels and say shame on you, do as we say not as we do.

Bill W Discussion 26: 09/05/2010 at 07:17 PM 26

I also like the PM but he has proven himself so indecisive and ineffective as to inconsequential. It still appears the military has the say in this country. By the way, what color shirts are these new "Patriots" wearing? Not much left in my closet that is a neutral color anymore!

bangkok-ian Discussion 25: 09/05/2010 at 07:05 PM 25

Yes I agree Abhisit is Thailand's best hope- he has a good PM-ironically he needs to use non democratic methods to support democracy- and personally I feel the army and police won't support him - his only option is to let Thailand turn to the anarchy and fascism of the red shirt mob

tik Discussion 24: 09/05/2010 at 06:39 PM 24

The solution is for the redshirts to go home and all political parties, including Puea Thai, to sit down in parliament and sort things out in a democratic way. That is why we have elected them, but instead Puea Thai choose to hide behind a mob of red shirts.

Wantmymoney Discussion 23 : 09/05/2010 at 06:21 PM 23

When abhisit took in PAD he effectively sign his own death warrant for politics. Now he has to pay back what he owe to PAD with interest, a huge mistake to commit. He already ordered the death of 29 innocent thais, he will live with this reputation for the rest of his life. He should not make it any worst by obeying to PAD or multi-colour orders.

A Thai Discussion 22: 09/05/2010 at 06:19 PM 22

The redshirt leaders hold the poor farmers: women, children and elderly hostages. They know damn well that as soon as they let them go, the redshirt leaders will be arrested immediately. That is why they are still holding on.

Ilene Discussion 21: 09/05/2010 at 06:18 PM 21

Try it this way. The PM tells the PAD and Multi Color to back off. Then he gives the reds a date to dissolve and the reds go home. The PM dissolves the house at the given date and elections in Nov as promised. What is so bad with this way.

Bo Discussion 20: 09/05/2010 at 06:11 PM 20

The situation gets worse instead of better; the UDD's real leaders want nothing but control and they achieve this only when they reek havoc on us all.

Khun Abhisit has done an excellent job exploring every channel and being conciliatory. But face the facts; the UDD is a rebel force not able to control it's own paid henchmen; the Thai people are the ones suffering. This is not a demonstration--it is a rebellion. It needs to be treated as such with martial law and shutdown of all activities.

Larry Discussion 19: 09/05/2010 at 06:11 PM 19

All our comments are almost useless There are a lot of negotiations taking place secretly between god know who and who, we need just to wait and see

Magicafe Discussion 18: 09/05/2010 at 06:07 PM 18

From my viewpoint, I don't think the PM is weak. But, He is powerless and can't get the security forces to disperse the protesters. Anupong and his deputies should all resign and let others to do the job. from my viewpoint, it might be major seh daeng is more powerful than than army chief in term of dark influences after their retirement.

Rpt Discussion 17: 09/05/2010 at 05:58 PM 17

PAD only do not want any election as they can win nothing. There can be no re-conciliation until there are honest elections.

Nong Anne Discussion 16: 09/05/2010 at 05:56 PM 16

The real problem now is the newcomer "Dr Tul". How can he call himself a "Dr" and in the same time say "block all roads leading to the protest venue in an attempt to cut food supply" Is he on "ja-baa" or what?

Anyhow he can't be much normal anyway and I hope the God will cut of his own food supply so at least he can't say much anymore. Funny my code to post this is "repair" haha

Wombat Discussion 15: 09/05/2010 at 05:51 PM 15

.... and the PAD leaders who held the city and airport to ransom? Still strutting around as free as mynah birds!

Lek Discussion 14: 09/05/2010 at 05:40 PM 14

It is unfair to blame PM Abhisit for the continuing UDD blockade of Bangkok. The police and army no longer answer to him and are just not prepared to get heavy-handed with the protestors. The fact that the Reds have an armed contingent in their midst makes it all the more obvious that negotiation is the only viable way out of this mess.

Bubba Discussion 13: 09/05/2010 at 05:32 PM 13

JENNY #3: I have to smile that you felt uncomfortable. What on earth could have happened in a public toilet? Are you from NY? the mess does need to be sorted out but not so that tourists can feel comfortable urinating in the public toilets. This conflict is about three quarters if a century of the poor being sidelined and deprived of their fair share of the country's wealth. Now they have even been robbed of their votes because they do not vote according to how the wealthy and powerful want them to vote.

Please try to see things in perspective. Try to understand the underlying social problems and tensions. Have you ever even considered visiting isan as a tourist? Only 2% of all visitors to Thailand ever see Isan, always staying either in Bangkok, Pathaya or Pukhet or the islands. I encourage all visitors to spend a week traveling in Isan to see the poverty and get a better vision of why the poor are struggling to re-establish democracy and have some hope for their children.

Alex Discussion 12: 09/05/2010 at 05:28 PM 12

People like Jenny wouldn't mind a few Thais being killed for the sake of tourists' safety. Wow, Jenny, such a profound, deeply-thought analysis of the current political situation in Thailand. Thank you, really.

thai 1932 Discussion 11: 09/05/2010 at 05:24 PM 11

Khun Abhisit has learnt an expensive lesson on April 10th, that as a Nation Leader, using force to stop freedom of expression causing LOSS of LIFE, is not an option.

Karoshi Discussion 10: 09/05/2010 at 05:09 PM 10

The besieging of a city centre for 2 months by an upcountry mob is an occurrence of historic proportions ... and letting it go on for this long is a sign of incompetence of idiotic proportions. The loss of reputation and business opportunities will haunt Thailand for many years.

alfie thai Discussion 9: 09/05/2010 at 05:06 PM 9

OK SEVEN ,THE REDS CAN GET 500,000 SUPORTERS,BUT THAILAND HAS A POPULATION OF 63 MILLION,SO WHO WILL WIN THE ELECTION ??I WOULD SAY THE GOV. AS THE RED BACOME CRIMINALS AND TRY TO BLAIM OTHERS OUTSIDE WHAT TO THE KILLING.BUT IT COMES BACK TO THEM

Sceptic Discussion 8: 09/05/2010 at 05:04 PM 8

Use a bit of common sense. Why would Abhisit want to take any precipitate action now against the protesters unless he wanted to sabotage his own road map? The ball is certainly in the UDD's court, but they do still have a littlr time to decide just how they are going to play it. Anyone sugeesting the government should act now clearly has no interest in seeing the road map succeed. We all know who they are.

Tom Discussion 7: 09/05/2010 at 04:47 PM 7

the pm really only has two options.one is to send in the troops,the other is to negotiate directly, with big boss, khun thaksin.the so called red shirt leaders cannot make decisions, they are the polical wing.the security and armed wing are under major daeng.both wings directly report to the big boss.its obvious major deang does not take instructions from the red shirt leaders.more the other way round.so if thailand really wants peace,there has to be a settlement with the big boss who has bankrolled this protest.

Felix Discussion 6: 09/05/2010 at 04:33 PM 6

He's a best P.M in thailand, he just don't want to see thais kill thais.. give him sometimes..\*\*\*Year ago i don't really like him, but not i think his a nice guy.

Mike Discussion 5: 09/05/2010 at 04:31 PM 5

An election will prove nothing and solve nothing at this time.

Mike Discussion 4: 09/05/2010 at 04:27 PM 4

It is quite obvious that the Gov should block them from entering and stop the Reds from reinforcing those who have already caused so much trouble, they have no business to come there, those who have businesses and jobs there, belong there.

Jenny Discussion 3: 09/05/2010 at 04:25 PM 3

As a tourist who has just returned home from two weeks in Bangkok I agree that the Govt needs to sort this mess out. I did venture into the protest area to use public transport but was on edge the entire time. I am pleased I returned home safely. This situation is doing Thailand a lot of damage and must be stopped now.

Sven Discussion 2: 09/05/2010 at 04:20 PM 2

It's 1 group not 2 and the election will show how big they are

Peace4Thai Discussion 1: 09/05/2010 at 04:19 PM 1

Honestly, I have always supported the PM. I always thought that he was the best PM in recent history of Thailand. But in this case, I really think he is just too weak. Isn't it obvious that the UDD is trying to buy time? Isn't it obvious that the UDD is not sincere about the reconciliation? Send in the troops already and disperse them. If this goes on, the PM will lose the support from the reds (which he never had anyway) and now the multi-coloured and the other ordinary citizens. He will lose miserably in the next election because of his indecisiveness. But well, I am sure he has his own reasons. The military and the police are just useless and wasting the tax payers money.

### **Topic 39 US official's 'meddling' angers Kasit**

exUK Discussion 41: 12/05/2010 at 11:35 AM 41

The US army take orders and never ask questions. Right-that's why the world is becoming a worst place to live in with more invasion of other countries under the so called civilized western countries.

JC Discussion 40: 12/05/2010 at 09:44 AM 40

Discussion 39 "The US built Thailand's infrastructure and army during the Vietnam period, so the US has been involved for quite some time. "They didn't do a very good job did they? Thailand has an army and police force that are incapable of following orders and supporting the government and their country So what good are these hotheads The Americans should know the Army is supposed to follow orders and not question them

Max Discussion 39: 12/05/2010 at 01:03 AM 39

The US built Thailand's infrastructure and army during the Vietnam period, so the US has been involved for quite some time.

Bill Canada Discussion 38: 11/05/2010 at 08:49 PM 38

C'mon you posters, think outside the box once in a while. Perhaps, FM Kasit is the meddler by trying to tell the U.S. Ambassador to Thailand with whom he can have breakfast.

PRL Discussion 37: 11/05/2010 at 04:46 PM 37

Thailand has own character/culture/and tradition, particularly the way of life living that is difficult for foreigner to understand, therefore US should step aside and don't even try to do anything that they didn't understand. Otherwise just make it worst.

Greg\_B Discussion 36: 11/05/2010 at 04:18 PM 36

Sure, blame the Americans for your problems Like we haven't gotten other issues to take care of (oil spill, unemployment, racial tensions, etc) Keep dreaming that we held a meeting about your problems...!

Andrew Discussion 35: 11/05/2010 at 03:53 PM 35

Thailand was not so resistant to US support or advice when Japan was about to invade during the war and took up occupation...Thailand should be grateful for its concern and understand Thailand needs the US much more than it needs Thailand...Thats a fact.

Takrit Discussion 34: 11/05/2010 at 12:44 PM 34

wasnt the seizure of Govt House and the 2 airports acts of terrorism too and to overthrow a duly elected govt?

Farang-UK Discussion 33: 11/05/2010 at 12:06 PM 33

Keep Americans out of your internal affairs. Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam...etc...etc...Thailand doesn't want to follow that route.

Expatboy Discussion 32: 11/05/2010 at 12:02 PM 32

Mr. Kasit's remarks that the political stand-off in Thailand is a Thai internal affair and then rebuffing US officials' talks with several parties sound like they come from Myanmar's regime. Any conflict that also threatens the security of foreign nationals and investors IS an international affair. The least that foreign diplomats want to gain is information and insight. Get real Mr. Kasit - your so-called interal affair does have international implications, whether you want that or not.

John Discussion 31: 11/05/2010 at 12:02 PM 31

Kasit comes off as being a cry baby in his actions. "whaa, how can the US do this?" Thailand is lucky that we did not treat Thailand's military coupe in the same maner we treated the Honduras coupe. That would have really got Kasit crying.

Kram Roi Discussion 30: 11/05/2010 at 11:43 AM 30

Good point Somekid (#23) Please read the last sentence everyone. BOTH parties were invited and accepted, but the government representatives backed out 'abruptly' the night before. I think people reading this article were just reacting to the headline of 'Meddling' and didn't bother to reading past the first few sentences. If a 3rd party tries to get people together to help find a peaceful solution, the parties agree, then one party doesn't show up, how is that a bad thing for those trying to help?

Joe America Discussion 29: 11/05/2010 at 11:15 AM 29

Kasit is right to be worried about US involvement. They might make a deal without him and cut him out or worse make him pay for his activities while hijacking the airport. Who knows they may be planning to bring back the USAF and Army bases, forget about Okinawa Thailand is a much better strategic location to bring democracy to Asia. Lol

Uncle Samchai Discussion 28: 11/05/2010 at 10:47 AM 28

Just more posturing by the Thai gov't, to line up more scapegoats when this thing finally boils over. The US is just trying to see where all parties stand, probably to ascertain the viability of this "peace process". I have no doubt other countries' diplomats have made similar overtures. I am sure the Thai gov't would have rather given the US their own doctored version of the status of the Red Shirt movement, than have the US officials go straight to the source.

NTsam Discussion 27: 11/05/2010 at 10:47 AM 27

The big bro USA trying to help? Like they did in Afghanistan and Iraq? Big plans for Asia Big Bro but Big Boss China can do the helping in Asia. So please step aside SAM.

Girlnextdoor Discussion 26: 11/05/2010 at 10:13 AM 26

If that breakfast was desinged for BOTH PARTIES and one pulled out, it should have been called off right away. But the americans thought they could have their breakfast anyway... What for? What was the purpose of it? Who on earth asked the americans to mediate in anything? Americans should be more carefull. Nowadays they are dealing in a totally new international scenario that is no longer that of last century. They are not alone "in the top" anymore.

Chan Discussion 25: 11/05/2010 at 10:10 AM 25

No matter what the real intentions are... this is very bad move by US government. I am terribly disappointed, though not totally surprised, by this event.

SAM Discussion 24: 11/05/2010 at 08:55 AM 24

First of all US has no interest in Thailand as far as the political situation. They are just trying to help. Second maybe thailand should ask for help because they sure in heck cant do it themselves thats very obvious. In any civilized country this never would have gotten started to begin with. There never would have been allowed to infringe on peoples rights that the red shirts have done or the yellow shirts and the no color shirts. They have no right to do what they have done to the buisness of thailand You all are a laughing stock to the rest of the world very childish and foolish . This is nothing but a power struggle The Red shirts are wannbes. They want the power and money the yellow shirts have.

Somekid Discussion 23: 11/05/2010 at 08:52 AM 23

The breakfast was for BOTH SIDES until the government pulled out the night before. The US has simply been the latest party made to look unfair by the petty games of the bratty figures at the forefront of Thai politics.

Brainard Discussion 22: 11/05/2010 at 08:43 AM 22

For those of you who really do not know there is very little and I mean very little US military aid given to Thailand. The Thai Military has lots of money deposited in US Banks to be used for purchases under the Foreign Military sales program (FMS). Check for your selfs. And it's not Russian but Chinese equipment that will be bought, just ask Gen Chavalit.

Eric John (want to be) Discussion 21: 11/05/2010 at 08:38 AM 21

what is it US's business to go and do such a meeting? Why always them? and they wonder why Europeans don't like Americans.

CD Discussion 20: 11/05/2010 at 08:29 AM 20

So who was there from the UDD? Not wanted 'terrorists' I hope. That would indeed be a major clanger on the US part and another missed opportunity for the Thai police to nab them?

Astonished Discussion 19: 11/05/2010 at 07:56 AM 19

I suppose if asked, the ambassodor would've said the working breakfast was "fun" and the "food was good too". #12, it would seem as long as the current administration is in power, NEVER...and thus a major reason for the current state of affairs.

dano56 Discussion 18: 11/05/2010 at 07:43 AM 18

i agree 100% that US should stay as far away from thailand as possible. let the thai people take care of their problems.

nahm roo Discussion 17: 11/05/2010 at 07:29 AM 17

Discussion # 5, Ron; If memory serve me right, Thailand did not accept any moneys from any government in the wake of 2004, they took only private donation money.. It seems that monies were offered with strings attached..

El nino Discussion 16: 11/05/2010 at 07:25 AM 16

Americans always have an excuse to interfere in others countries'own affairs or to invade other countries. See discution 8 : because America is supposed to have asked, nearly 70 years ago, the British not to occupy Thailand, America seems to have a "right' to interfere in Thailand's own affairs. supposedly forever ? What kind a joke is that ?

nahm roo Discussion 15: 11/05/2010 at 07:23 AM 15

I am surprised that the Secretary of State Hillary Clinton allowed this meeting.. Not meeting with the Government Official first, unless this meeting was requested by the PM.. Clinton was big on not recognizing the President of Iran for fear it would give credence to his government.. So the State Dept gave credence to the actions of UDD..

SPICEMAN Discussion 14: 11/05/2010 at 07:00 AM 14

KHUN SEUA #11, US military aid is nothing but a form of Corporate Welfare for US defense contractors, as the money go right back to buy US weaponry. If the US is not careful, we will be buying the fabulous Russian stuffs soon.

a-nony-mouse Discussion 13: 11/05/2010 at 06:50 AM 13

Re #10. ASEAN? You are of course joking. Remember this organisation believes that the elections in burma are going to be free and fair. And despite the banning of the opposition, and the winner is already certain, what has ASEAN done. NOTHING. So dont expect them to show any real interest in whats going on here.

Isan Discussion 12: 11/05/2010 at 06:26 AM 12

When will this criminal be arrested for the 2008 airport seizure?

khun seua Discussion 11: 11/05/2010 at 06:25 AM 11

Maybe Thailand should decline to accept any additional military aid from the US as a symbol of it's independence. I would think that considering the present intractable situation in Thailand. any and all attempts to bring this situation to a close would be welcome.

Ideaman Discussion 10: 11/05/2010 at 06:01 AM 10

Please do not meddle in Thailand let us figure it out ourselves. We have only had our airports seized, government house seized three PM's and of course city center seized and a hospital surched over a thousand people injurred and over 25 people killed but the Thai Government does not need anyone to meddle. Thailand is not even close to a resolution but let them handle it on their own it should be over in about 100 years. Also the next time Thailand has a problem look to ASEAN for assistance not to the USA

Puzzled Discussion 9: 11/05/2010 at 05:58 AM 9

Nobody knows what democracy is. That is the truth. However, there are a few signs to look for. There are elections with the results accepted by all. The elections must have real choices for people to make. And when change is needed either because of a schedule or made necessary by other circumstances-it happens. But it is always based on the will of the majority and, in theory, for the good of all. To make sure the system does not get out of balance, a strong and impartial justice system is required.

Howard Discussion 8: 11/05/2010 at 05:38 AM 8

It seems that alot of people know nothing about Thai history, including Kasit. During WW2 Thailand was an ally of Japan and Germany. After the war Britian wanted to occupy Thailand. The US told Britian no and it did not happen. I guess it was ok for the US to meddle in Thai affairs then.

KiowaApache Discussion 7: 11/05/2010 at 05:31 AM 7

This is a typical bad attituded from unelected thai goverment official. Hey ya, hey ya, hey ya

SPICEMAN Discussion 6: 11/05/2010 at 05:29 AM 6

RON #5, if that's the case, please, don't. Our sovereignty is not for sales.



Ron Discussion 5: 11/05/2010 at 05:08 AM 5

Yes I agree, America should mind its own business. The next time a tsunami hits Thailand, please tell America to mind their own business.

Kit Discussion 4: 11/05/2010 at 05:05 AM 4

The US's meddling anywhere has led to no good. Especially since Thailand is an ally and a friend, the US owes Thailand's duly elected government respect in regard to internal matters. Bad judgement on the part of the US; appropriate response on the part of Thailand!

Frank G Anderson Discussion 3: 11/05/2010 at 04:48 AM 3

If I hear one more immature mind speaking about foreigners interfering in Thailand I tend to feel sorry for these fearful and ignorant persons. If they knew how many times Thailand interfered, and continues to do, in the affairs of foreign nations they would probably say, "Well, we have a right." Uh-uh, you do not. US officials coming to Thailand is interference already to some minds, or mindless.

SPICEMAN Discussion 2: 11/05/2010 at 04:21 AM 2

I find it laughable for a nondemocratic country to try to promote Democracy else where.

If the US is a Democracy, Al Gore would have become the 43rd US President, instead of George W Bush, since Mr Gore won the most popular votes.

Now, imagine Thaksin was Al Gore, and Apisit was George W Bush! This would rip Thailand apart, but not the US. Why or why not?

Independent Thai Discussion 1: 11/05/2010 at 03:44 AM 1

I hope The American's official must not get involve in politicalL problem in Thailand.This is 21th century, it isn't 20th or 19th century.I have the confidence that Thai people can decide what is the best for Thailand by themself.We don't need any foreigner to interfere with our own problem.We are creating our own problem, then we can find the solution by ourself.

#### **Topic 41 Govt revokes election offer**

Harryon Discussion 58: 13/05/2010 at 03:15 PM 58

48 -PeterWe are in full agreement. The UDD lacks a manifesto. Easing the plight of the rural poor is an honorable objective, but there are no methods proposed.The mantra "dissolve Parliament" is simplistic at best. The leaders negotiations on bail terms are their most evolved arguements. Chok dee, Thailand. We pray this ends well.

max muller Discussion 57: 13/05/2010 at 03:02 PM 57

Pure anarchy, since Thailand has obviously no government who can do the job. I think the Thai government (after they have one)must install a own armored troupe which is directly under the prime minister because it is obvious that whether the military nor police is listening to the government, this is as mentioned before anarchy.

Whatever Discussion 56: 13/05/2010 at 02:57 PM 56

John Bull #39, your name says it all. You denigrate Blair and Brown saying they had a lust for power, you don't mention that the UK now has a coalition government between two parties that despise each other, now that's a real lust for power. That statement puts the other nonsense you wrote into perspective. A truly ignorant post well done.

Bystander Discussion 55: 13/05/2010 at 02:54 PM 55

If the government stop more red from joining the rally at Ratchaprasong,perhaps, they will start another one at Silom?

RAVIOLI Discussion 54: 13/05/2010 at 02:52 PM 54

Nice photo. But, ins't that guy steeling? I mean, water supply has a cost...doesn't it?

Ricefieldradio Discussion 53: 13/05/2010 at 02:51 PM 53

Discussion 49 -you are mistaken while there was a big problem under Thaksin the situation has escalated since the coupe. Figures support this.

Gedeon-It's so obvious when you take a step back take a deep breath and think. I agree with you 100%

be nice Discussion 52: 13/05/2010 at 02:49 PM 52

Why is everyone saying the government is doing a bad job? Just last month I heard two protesters went back home. I'm sure by now at least one more has gone back as well. Good job guys!

Penen Discussion 51: 13/05/2010 at 02:48 PM 51

Bangkok Resident disc 49. You miss my point entirely. Look at the effort being delivered in an attempt to disperse and end this red rally. Look at all the manpower, equipment, governmental time, \$\$\$\$\$ being spent on this single effort. Just imagine if the government were this proactive in dealing with the other problems I had mentioned. I guess it depends on what matters to you the most.

Gedeon Discussion 50: 13/05/2010 at 02:15 PM 50

I thought the PM was talking about long term stability... So if he plays with his offer, then we can conclude that his offer was not for long term plan... It was only to ease this ongoing problem... Probably the Reds know what is behind the road map... that's why they still resist to government's demand.../// One problem i notice is that protesters are not allowed to join the rally... I don't understand how can this kind of things happen under Democrat-led leadership...// protesters are against government, and it doesn't always mean they are the problem... There must be something that brought them to street... If you block people from joining the rally, you do not stop the rally... but you encourage people to come with bigger force when there is time for them...

bangkok Resident Discussion 49: 13/05/2010 at 01:52 PM 49

Penen (Disc #46), so when Thaksin, Samak and Somchai were the PM, there was no drug and corruption problem? If you are unaware, the insurgency in the South was aggravated by Thaksin's indiscretion!! More importantly, do you think all these problems will be solved by fresh elections?? Assuming that the Puea Thai

Party wins, who do you think should be the PM??? Weng? Or Jatuporn? Or Ariman? Or (heaven forbid) Seh Daeng?

Peter Discussion 48: 13/05/2010 at 01:51 PM 48

Unfortunately the Red Shirt leaders have let themselves and their supporters down very badly.

Their main demand for an early election has been met and now another demand for Suthep to face criminal charges has been introduced and put on the same level. Jatuporn has badly lost his sense of proportion and now looks like someone who is more concerned to negotiate to save his own skin than to move the country towards a more genuine democracy. He and his fellow Red Shirt leaders should rethink their position and request that PM Abhisit's roadmap is reinstated in return for a swift end to their rally. If they fail to do that the Government will have no choice but to ask the army to proceed with its plan to clear the area. Moreover, it will be fully justified in doing so too.

Dao Discussion 47: 13/05/2010 at 01:27 PM 47

Jatuporn wants Suthep to answer for the killings on April 10th. The black soldiers on that day were most likely either Chavalit's or Seh Dang's so shouldn't they report to the police. One of them already has an arrest warrant.

Penen Discussion 46: 13/05/2010 at 01:21 PM 46

Like it or not this government is in power at this time with the country in the mess it is in now. Is this what the government and its supporters want. Just look at the problems other than a few protestors in BKK. Drugs flooding in, corruption everywhere and getting totally out of control, troubles with neighboring countries, bombs exploding everyday with loss of life, in debt up to the neck and still borrowing money, empty promises and lots of talk. The list goes on and on. A shake up would do some good and someone strong enough and with enough respect to speak and have the laws and rules adhered to immediately.

Sammy Discussion 45 : 13/05/2010 at 01:07 PM 45

Congrats on the government to finally take the steps required to remove the red shirt movement from Bangkok. If only all the red shirts had access to YouTube, they'll be able to see why the red shirts are responsible for the April 10th murders and not the government. When you throw home made bombs, rocks and start taking hostages... do you think the army and police would stay still and keep getting killed?

Unknown Discussion 44: 13/05/2010 at 12:56 PM 44

They should've accepted the offer and go home. If they accepted the offer, that means there is guarantee that there will be elections in November. They just wanted to blame the government for the April 10th bloodshed but they have to understand these things go into court not on the streets because Thailand is a democratic country.

K.Tossaporn Discussion 43: 13/05/2010 at 12:52 PM 43

As it was probably never Abhisit's real intention to go ahead with the elections it is the right call of the reds to ask for an exact election date. Some might remember the agreement that Chuan's government made with the

forum of the poor. After they went home the agreement was conveniently cancelled. Reds stay at your place, get all the support, water and food in that you can and don't give up this struggle. Climb the barricades, it is time for a real change in how this country is governed!

Expatboy Discussion 42: 13/05/2010 at 12:43 PM 42

A good friend of mine and marketing lecturer at a tourism college plans her trip to Thailand in September. With ongoing protests she will cancel, as will so many tens of thousand other travelers. Where do the red shirts have their brains (if they have any)? Leverage for a solution in their interest was present a few days ago and they wrecked it like idiots. Congratulations.

Allthai Discussion 41: 13/05/2010 at 12:39 PM 41

Plumbers, farmers or whatever don't have the time to protest... they are at work. Plumbers, farmers or whatever don't usually carry war weapons with them if they feel the (legitimate) need to protest. And they certainly don't wage war on their innocent fellow Thais.... THUGS do.

P Discussion 40: 13/05/2010 at 12:36 PM 40

What strikes me is the PM told the world he would stick to his roadmap even if it gets no support from all groups, this PM likes to talk big and then comes down mostly like a fool.

JohnBull Discussion 39: 13/05/2010 at 12:28 PM 39

Reading comments on here from the anti government of Abhisit falangs & Thais it is almost like the same uneducated crowd in the UK who wanted to keep the Labour party in office despite them destroying the very fabric of the nation with their corruption and manipulation of the voting parameters. They, just like Thaksin are only interested in power and getting rich and "stuff the country". Well they are wrong to think that there is no patriotism left as proved by the growing "multi-colours". For Thaksin as that other leader who "was for the people" BLAIR are from the same mould both talking about their love and support of the poor downtrodden only to cynically fill their own coffers of millions while having no feelings for the cannon fodder in both the illegal wars - in Iraq for Blair and in Silom for Thaksin. With the world in economic meltdown and under untold pressure Abhisit has boosted Thailand's economy and brought respect around the world. Those dreaming of a socialist utopia under Thaksin should remember the words of a great leader more than 2000 years ago "for the poor ye shall always have with you".

John in BKK Discussion 38: 13/05/2010 at 12:26 PM 38

Who here actually thought Abhisit would ever even hold an election? He just called off his own road map and convinced everyone it's the fault of the UDD.

Ron Discussion 37: 13/05/2010 at 11:05 AM 37

I don't know about the UDD, but if I were really protesting for "democracy" I would've accepted the PM's offer and called his bluff. The fact that they did not (and instead called for the arrest of a government official) shows that they are only playing party politics, not hoping for whatever they think democracy is.



Akim Discussion 36: 13/05/2010 at 10:36 AM 36

this is just non sense. the government and the rest shirt are behaving like kids.. maybe they have no place to sleep that is why they still wanna keep protesting

Alan Discussion 35: 13/05/2010 at 10:28 AM 35

I wonder if, given the changed circumstances, Thaksin has increased the rate of pay that red shirts receive each day?

Jimbo Discussion 34: 13/05/2010 at 10:14 AM 34

A Thai @ Discussion 19: Spot on! It seems most people are unable to see this whole mess for what it is. It's all about Thaksin and his lust for power and money.

Abdul Discussion 33: 13/05/2010 at 10:13 AM 33

i think now is not easy to live in bangkok is too danger better i go back home leave everything here can not carry alot of lost

Tommy Discussion 32: 13/05/2010 at 10:04 AM 32

Listen Jutapron, if ANYBODY should be entering the justice system, it is YOU and your band of criminal friends who lead the UDD! The absolute audacity of you to suggest that you are innocent of any responsibility for the April 10th mess is a joke. In any other civilized country with a TRUE democrsacy, you would have been in jail weeks ago! You should thank the PM for his soft dealing with you and your criminal rabble who have held the nation hostage for weeks! HYPOCRITE!

Stones for Breakfast Discussion 31: 13/05/2010 at 09:45 AM 31

Well Abhisit we always knew that your election call was a bluff, so its no news. As for cutting off water supplies or any supplies, its impossible cause the majority of the Reds are people who are plummers and electricians and farmers as well. Without them you would not have electriciy, water or food. Imagine no farmers, you would be having stones for breakfast.

Brainard Discussion 30: 13/05/2010 at 09:27 AM 30

I wonder if this will qualify in the Guniess Book of Records as the longest Block Party ever held?

nick chan Discussion 29: 13/05/2010 at 09:13 AM 29

how are the troops gonna arrest the protesting monks and old ladies? force is unlikely to happen

amazed Discussion 28: 13/05/2010 at 08:57 AM 28

Farangs that are critical of Abhisit are judging him as they would a leader in their own countries while the Thais are not assessing the situation objectively. This man has not had any of the normal support that leaders in other countries would enjoy. He can't come out and make the accusation because it would greatly harm the precarious position he is in. As a result, his best option is a delaying tactic. He has actually done a very effective job when you think about it. Even his so called allies are not trustworthy.

Bang Bang Mancini Discussion 27: 13/05/2010 at 08:48 AM 27

I like the new photo feature. Is "Thief of the Day" going to be a regular item? Maybe we vary the theme: a carjacking, a shoplifting, a mugging, some expense fraud ... all in clear, crisp color and broad daylight. Please add some personal details to the models photo as well, for human interest.

Inaccurate Discussion 26: 13/05/2010 at 08:47 AM 26

Also puzzling, the inaccuracy of news...Soldier who left from Saraburi are not coming for a crackdown, but coming for changeover, as schedule. "Operation Rajprasong"?...Another "psychological" war?...

A.R. Perry Discussion 25: 13/05/2010 at 08:47 AM 25

Serious question. Given the history of Thailand/Siamis it possible that Abhisit and Suthep could eventually face the death sentence for their actions? Perhaps not as inconceivable as some may think.

Michael Discussion 24: 13/05/2010 at 08:42 AM 24

There should be a military intervention in Thailand. The Thai military is a corrupt and lawless institution and the civilian leaders are also corrupt and lawless. The only solution is for the E.U. Japan, and the United States to form a coalition and give Thailand a government and arrest and put on trial the corrupt Thai military and civilian leaders.

Jack Discussion 23: 13/05/2010 at 08:34 AM 23

I'm starting to understand why some older Thais tell me how much they miss the days of Sarit Thannarat. :(

Robert Thomas Discussion 22: 13/05/2010 at 08:29 AM 22

Again with the empty threats by the government. At one time I thought the prime minister could handle the protest but I guess I was wrong. The government needs to grow some teeth since they can't grow huevos.

observer Discussion 21: 13/05/2010 at 08:18 AM 21

Re #18 'water is a powerful force' Sometimes, the simplest ideas are the best. With water : 'soft force' not perceived as violent so more actionable by police, tyre barricade all drenched and decreased risk of fire, all power generators and loudspeaker systems non functional, the old and feeble and children would have to be shipped away by the leaders as you cant stay wet for more than a few days .

Sceptic Discussion 20: 13/05/2010 at 08:00 AM 20

The idea of the government graciously granting an November election was ridiculous anyway. What is now quite evident is that they are simply incapable of running the country - a view which is endorsed not just by the red shirts, but by those on all sides of the argument. That is why they should resign - and now, not later.

A Thai Discussion 19: 13/05/2010 at 07:23 AM 19

Up until now, you all still think that the redshirts come to Bangkok to search for democracy. You must be dreaming. They are all hired hands paid by Thaksin to overthrow this present government. So, they can install their own cronies, if they win the next election. Thaksin will be pardoned and his assets may be returned. That is

the whole thing. It is so annoying reading all the comments either by Thais or foreigners that they are struggling for democracy. It is all about the crook Thaksin, my friends!

no fan of red Discussion 18: 13/05/2010 at 07:21 AM 18

Water is a powerful force. Instead of turning the water off, I suggest turning the water on, way on. Use water cannons to wash out the barricades, wash out the encampments, and wash out the protesters, all into one big wet pile. Then, move in to clean up the mess, charging the red-shirt leaders for all the expenses. Class-action civil law suit anyone against the red-shirt group? (They must be liable for at least a billion Baht by now, maybe much more.)

Gary Discussion 17: 13/05/2010 at 07:13 AM 17

If the plan to surround the red shirts does eventually happen the red shirts will probably light their barricades and burn as much of Bangkok as they can. Leave the water on.

Mumblinmuch Discussion 16: 13/05/2010 at 06:54 AM 16

Less talk and act more!

A Williams Discussion 15: 13/05/2010 at 06:46 AM 15

Ever heard the story of the Boy that cried wolf only to find eventually no one listened

Well Thailand is that Boy .. The world is just laughing and the tourists are going and making everywhere else richer .. Thails is fast becoming the best joke of 2010

SH Discussion 14: 13/05/2010 at 06:46 AM 14

"Mr Suthep should bow to our condition and turn himself in to police as a suspect. After that we can all go home and prepare for elections," said red shirt co-leader Korkaew Pikulthong. Who do you think you are Reds. Mr Suthep is a government officer who is set on building Thailand not ruining it like Thaksin and his UDD hooligans want to do.

Khunandre Audtralia Discussion 13: 13/05/2010 at 06:22 AM 13

Siphon water from a public or private water supply is not a criminal act in Thailand???? the person doing it seems not afraid at all..it is really anarchy.

Rpt Discussion 12: 13/05/2010 at 06:19 AM 12

I agree with many here that the PM's offer was never very sincere anyway as it had too many escape clauses that he would have used to make excuses before November 15. As you can see now the government will announce policy after policy plans for the Poor in the north in order to win there support at the ballot box, but they already know that this will not be enough to change any one's mind before Nov 15.

Dodgy Dave Discussion 11: 13/05/2010 at 06:13 AM 11

This whole thing is getting tiresome. The country does not deserve a democracy. I'd much prefer to see all political parties banned and for the army to take charge. The political stalemate between the Reds and Democrats will continue until their messiah (Thaksin) is pardoned and returns to Thailand.

Khunandre Australia Discussion 10: 13/05/2010 at 06:12 AM 10

BRAVO...BRAVO...for the decision not to have election in November..hope the government will not come back on that decision.

Jake Discussion 9: 13/05/2010 at 06:05 AM 9

why can't they just agree on something, this has gone on long enough

A Thai Discussion 8: 13/05/2010 at 05:55 AM 8

Well, The redshirt leaders received at least Baht 50 millions each from Thaksin for the mission of bringing him home, but failed to accomplish so far.So, Thaksin will never let them get out of the hook easily, with the enforcing of that Seh Daeng from behind.They thought it would be an easy money, but now oh no! The redshirt leaders are dying to go home and use that money but they can't.Thaksin, in his mind, might say if I can not come home, you can't go home, as well.

SoSad Discussion 7: 13/05/2010 at 05:27 AM 7

This may come as a shock to many of you, but Thailand has never really had any government at all. People just do as they please. Thailand is the epitome of a failed state.

Richard Collins Discussion 6: 13/05/2010 at 05:20 AM 6

The election was never going to be held anyway, it was just another attempt to disperse the reds after violent attempts had failed. They still have not been protesting as long as the yellows did! Anyway when ever the election is held, Abhisit will be out and he knows it.

wood pigeon Discussion 5: 13/05/2010 at 05:10 AM 5

This government got to go - ASAP. Hopeless, manipulative, lie, ineffective and not doing anything for the country or anybody. PAD brought these people in. They should feel shame of themselves. They and Democrat brought in instability to the country, they should also be prosecuted, and I hope they will pay the huge price for what they have done to Thailand.They will be exiled just like Takki.

view the fact Discussion 4: 13/05/2010 at 05:07 AM 4

PM is not sincere with his roadmap..like anything else, he will always find a loophole. He have no intention to step down while having PAD/Multi colors shirts on his side...why would medias promoted PAD/Multi colors shirts now if he is to honor his roadmap? I HIS IDEAS WAS A STALEMATE FROM STARTED!

Ron Discussion 3: 13/05/2010 at 05:04 AM 3

just all talk there will be elections...watch and see. talk talk talk that is all he does.

Sniper Discussion 2: 13/05/2010 at 05:04 AM 2

You have missed your chance red shirts, now your gettin nuthin lol

Bill Discussion 1: 13/05/2010 at 04:43 AM 1

Is this really a surprise to anyone? It has become a complete joke of anything Abhisit, CRES, or anyone else says about anything. People I know are starting to get more upset now with the Democrats than the Red Shirts because they lack anything relating to a government.

#### **Topic 45 Thaksin calls for talks, reconciliation**

Brad Discussion 44: 15/05/2010 at 11:50 AM 44

The pyromaniac now pretends to be a fireman; the nerves that this guy has!

Henning F Discussion 43: 15/05/2010 at 11:43 AM 43

Funny to hear the innocent and 1000 percent perfect Thaksin Shinawatra talk about justice and human rights, press freedom. All of that was not part of the time he was PM. Who has started all this, Thaksin and nobody else, why he come back and face the 13 graft cases waiting for him, amount 200 billion Bath

Machil Discussion 42: 15/05/2010 at 10:40 AM 42

Its good to hear from the really elected PM as he is our last hope.

IAN WENSOR Discussion 41: 15/05/2010 at 09:47 AM 41

Red shirts claim they're aligned with Thaksin and the next minute they deny it. Both sides are playing for keeps and if the shooting of Seh Daeng is any indication, everyone including one's own are expendable if it stirs up enough hatred among followers to-FURTHER THEIR OBJECTIVES !

Alonso Discussion 40: 14/05/2010 at 09:31 PM 40

although the build up is slow, but Abhisit's plan is finally materializing. Thaksin's games is being expose.

Wonder how Thaksin could ever come back to Thailand after this?

IAN REX WENSOR Discussion 39: 14/05/2010 at 09:28 PM 39

Thaksin is a coward who hiding behind the red shirts while living in another country with hopes of regaining his former power and the chance to further rot his fellow Thai. Best he return, serve his two years in prison and then see what happens

E Ba Discussion 38: 14/05/2010 at 09:21 PM 38

It is time for square face to shut up since he created more mess than any other individual can do.

Tony Discussion 37: 14/05/2010 at 08:58 PM 37

Thaksin knows he's losing so now having tried blackmail and failed he tried to be a peace broker in a situation he created. What a hypocrite

donald waters Discussion 36: 14/05/2010 at 08:56 PM 36

Thaksin? Who's that?

Ahimsaka Discussion 35: 14/05/2010 at 08:50 PM 35

More than 6 weeks, and news of the crisis has been circulating round the world many times. Statements of concern and advice would have been more genuine if they had come much earlier.

Farang Lek Discussion 34: 14/05/2010 at 08:40 PM 34

Crazy how the 'leaders' are so willing to spill blood. If I were a Thai business man I would be buying up ALL the ORANGE material in Thailand and producing ORANGE SHIRTS, the perfect blend of YELLOW and RED for the day when we are all one people again.

Amazed Discussion 33: 14/05/2010 at 08:19 PM 33

Hardhearted, cold and calculating. Thaksin's statements can only be intended for those of the world who do not know him. That and for the benefit of his host country so that they can avoid being shamed by harboring a terrorist.

Unknown Discussion 32: 14/05/2010 at 08:06 PM 32

The red shirts could've just file charges against the deputy PM and took on the offer. They so stubborn. There is nothing else left for them to fight for, they look weak. Thaksin is only showing up his face now to put more blame on the government like always. otherwise he would stay put...

Jack Discussion 31: 14/05/2010 at 07:56 PM 31

I've got an idea. Why don't we all make paper peace birds for the Army to drop on the reds. Then everyone can be friends again. :)

Rooney Discussion 30: 14/05/2010 at 07:47 PM 30

The voice of reason,unbelievable!People are dying for this man's unbelievable ego-Enough.

When Watt Tyler lead the peasant's revolt in England it was from the front and it took a King to bring him down,no coward was he!!

VVV Discussion 29: 14/05/2010 at 07:32 PM 29

It is unanimous up to discussion # 25 that Thaksin must have lost his mind. Trying to back paddle when he is loosing ground will not work. He has now lost all credibility as a leader. His money will not be able to fool our people for long.Abhisit's strategy, although late in coming, has exposed what Thaksin and the Reds stand for. Now it is time to clean up the red trash.Wonder why Thaksin has not shown himself up in video links for quite some times. We only get second hand information of hear says, twitter, fake pictures and statements read by his cronies. Is he still alive and kicking ?

Brian Discussion 28: 14/05/2010 at 07:24 PM 28

Thaksin says "if Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban surrendered to police"..... Thats grand coming from a fugitive..

NOT Puzzled Discussion 27: 14/05/2010 at 07:19 PM 27

What a hypocrite!!! On the brink of defeat, he still tries to appear as a peace loving and kind hearted man!! All this while stoking the fire from behind the scenes!!

Luka Discussion 26: 14/05/2010 at 06:39 PM 26

Taksin in one hand give money to "RED" to bring himself back to power without caring of running poor people blood, then since he still have 2 hands, on the other, he calls the Government for reconciliation (peace). Honest Thai people should find him and judge him. If he has right to claim be the Thailand leader he should be, or he should be reversed-hanged as other were. Sorry if you do not like my opinion but the land of smile is going to be the land of weeping. Luka.

Hypocrite Discussion 25: 14/05/2010 at 05:38 PM 25

Hypocrite.

sprouting\_mushroom Discussion 24: 14/05/2010 at 05:34 PM 24

Mr. Thaksin, you're so funny! Now, you want the government to talk to your protesters, and yet your allies continued to be stubborn. Talks for what? To go home is the best remedy to this.

Sick Discussion 23: 14/05/2010 at 05:32 PM 23

Why not show your face and make these statements yourself (for the sake of the country)? until then, there's not truth in these statements

Geoff Discussion 22: 14/05/2010 at 05:31 PM 22

"Thaksin ... calling for the government to hold talks with the protesters to peacefully resolve the political conflict and explore ways of bring about true reconciliation".

Been there, done that. Your lot reneged on the deal. Try to keep up Takky, there's a good chap!

Michael Discussion 21: 14/05/2010 at 05:29 PM 21

Where are you Thaksin when PM Apsith proposes the five points compromise? Aren't you the one wants to see blood shed and refuse all those compromises? It is still not too late if Thaksin will to remedy from his sins and all these mess with his innocent reds either injured or killed?

Silas Discussion 20: 14/05/2010 at 05:23 PM 20

Maybe I'm just a dumb ass Farang, but I don't understand how Thaksin is not considered a terrorist agent, classified as such by the Thai Gov't, and extradited from any country holding him back to Thailand, given that it is his money that enables the red shirt insanity to continue. And if he is a Terrorist, all his assets should be seized/frozen immediately. What's the problem here. Get with it.

Biscuit Discussion 19: 14/05/2010 at 05:22 PM 19

What else can a puppet master do when your puppets have crossed strings, some disappeared and your wild card is in hospital in a coma?

Siamgoody Discussion 18: 14/05/2010 at 05:20 PM 18

Mr.Thaksin, the man who funds the reds and who was supposed to keep direct contact with Seh Daeng. A man who was afraid of serving a jail term in Thailand but, does not think twice before sending thousands of his PAID followers to face bullets.

Andre Discussion 17: 14/05/2010 at 05:18 PM 17

'This happened even though the government could easily avoid losses if Deputy Prime Minister Suthep Thaugsuban surrendered to police and to face charges for ordering the April 10 crackdown, the statement said' great i think this all could have been avoided if Mr. Square head would have turned himself in!

PA DARIKA Discussion 16: 14/05/2010 at 05:10 PM 16

I suggest that Khun Taksin volunteer to return to Thailand and mediate peace talks himself. I am sure that his great compassion and seasoned statesmanship would bring about a meaningful resolution to the current conflict.

Dennis Discussion 15: 14/05/2010 at 05:09 PM 15

Funny, one moment they are not aligned with Thaksin and the next moment they are. It really is too little too late. For months the PM has been trying to get some level of concensus and the roadmap was really a fair deal. A pity for all those poor protesters that the big red shirt bosses could not agree how they would benefit from ending the protests and following the roadmap...I really don't understand how you can ask someone to hand himself in when there isn't even an investigation (Dep. PM). Especially when you're now saying you're continue the protests because a renegade cOrrupt politician wants it. The Dep PM is not hiding behind barricades. He will get his justice when the judicial systems gets to it.Really; Try to think about a state system in which judicial power, the military, politics and religion are separated... I'm still assuming that's the way it more or less is, and that's the way everyone wants it to be?

Kian Discussion 14: 14/05/2010 at 05:00 PM 14

I just hope the red shirts would stop. In the first place, if they did not think of going on the streets to rally then there wouldn't be any mess. I think the government is just doing the right thing at this point.

Sam Discussion 13: 14/05/2010 at 04:58 PM 13

Now? This is just another propaganda plot by Thaksin to show the world that he is the "good one". Don't trust that man. He is the one who brought us into this situation in the first place.

Mike Discussion 12: 14/05/2010 at 04:35 PM 12

Why should they negotiate with the fugitive, he is a terrorist. Nonsense !!!

Lek Discussion 11: 14/05/2010 at 04:35 PM 11

Another message from beyond the grave? The UDD really should decide who gives out these statements, as they're getting contradictory. Better still, put Thaksin on a live Q&A TV link so that the nation can be persuaded that he is still in control.

Taxpayer Discussion 10: 14/05/2010 at 04:26 PM 10

Political Posturing is a key skill of deposed despots. He is trying to paint his image as the rightful leader, pushing Thailand to become a failed state hoping someone will intervene and return him home.

Gary Discussion 9: 14/05/2010 at 04:24 PM 9

I think Thaksin should surrender to the police. There is still a warrant for him, isn't there? Why does he think he is in a position to dictate terms with the government? Just because you still have a lot of money and can influence people with it, should not qualify you as a leader. Come back and face the music, who knows maybe you will be pardoned, but I doubt it.

Biscuit Discussion 8: 14/05/2010 at 04:10 PM 8

Pretty easy Takki, just call Whattanut and his fellow leaders and tell them to stop! Most people are over blaming the Government for this continuing madness, they have tried and continuously been rejected by the puppet master.

Mungo Gubbins Discussion 7: 14/05/2010 at 04:06 PM 7

In other words, 'give me what I want, or I will continue to provoke martyrdom, and cripple the nation with bombings and sedition'.

Ds Discussion 6: 14/05/2010 at 04:06 PM 6

how true from outsider, yes, why dont thaksin comes back and help the people instead of ba ba bababa where he is sitting comfortably and inciting the people to fight for him

Marc G Discussion 5: 14/05/2010 at 04:00 PM 5

That plan was already made a week ago by the Government and it did not work, as the red decide not to leave. Now until the reds don't surrender and leave the rally site, this won't end.

Brainard Discussion 4: 14/05/2010 at 03:59 PM 4

Sorry Mr. Thaksin that was all ready proposed by the Government and your group refused, stalled probably under your orders. Now that you have lost a friend and will probably lose more, now your conscience is bothering you. Its too late, all parties are going to bleed your funds dry unless you stop paying for all the mayhem that is going on. In fact you get what you pay for wheather you liked it or not.

Troeal Discussion 3: 14/05/2010 at 03:59 PM 3

This is a joke, right? Given a few minutes I could fill a post with quotes from red shirt leaders, just yesterday, saying the protest would continue because Thaksin wants it. So all he wants now is the government to stop fighting, the government to lift the SOE, and Suthep to turn himself in to a police department that doesn't have jurisdiction over his case, and the government to talk to people who have made it clear they don't want to talk. Easy.

Jake Elwood Discussion 2: 14/05/2010 at 03:58 PM 2

Thaksin forgot one point: "Stop the rally and all protesters to go home" Then all of his four points would happen automatically.

Outsider Discussion 1: 14/05/2010 at 03:58 PM 1

K. Thaksin has read the PM's road-map and copied from it. Interesting statement from him. Yesterday it said: The source said the hardcore red shirt leaders rejected the reconciliation plan and wanted to press ahead with their protest because Thaksin did not want the rally to end and had telephoned Mr Jatuporn to issue a set of demands to the government.

### **Topic 47 War Zone**

Johnpethersun Discussion 57: 17/05/2010 at 11:22 AM 57

life of forigner are not safe current goverment is not good enough for peace hope peace come back and we forigner wants to see thai people same smile faCe

Maychelle Discussion 56: 17/05/2010 at 08:51 AM 56

I hope PEACE will reign in Bangkok. I miss going there but i'm scared to visit again because of the current problems Bangkok is facing.

Robocop Discussion 55: 16/05/2010 at 11:24 PM 55

Disc. 48 So how much did you achieve so far? Very pathetic in my eyes.

Disc.50: If not even you know it, so how would the world know something that just exists in your twisted mind.

The truth one can even watch on TV.

myanmar people Discussion 54: 16/05/2010 at 10:19 PM 54

Good lucky to the red shirt,

Snoopdog12 Discussion 53: 16/05/2010 at 03:04 PM 53

I wish Thailand could have peace!

Bocar Discussion 52: 16/05/2010 at 05:16 AM 52

i just wish peace love n unity for thailand;) from iPhone application.

Me Discussion 51: 15/05/2010 at 07:58 PM 51

its all about money and power and not about democratic if anyone like to win an election you should mobilize all to vote for your party due to the right way not corruption. Who will win out of this nobody as all are losing especially Thailand.

Dietmar Discussion 50: 15/05/2010 at 07:48 PM 50

@#49: Intimidation, violence and terrorism is on the government side as all the world knows except for some gullible readers of censored media.

Bangkok Resident Discussion 49: 15/05/2010 at 04:06 PM 49

ClassClash (Disc #46) - .. and we have to trust the UDD leaders' word? If the UDD leaders can be trusted, they would not have reneged on their acceptance of the Roadmap. Also, they would have surrendered to the police TODAY as promised!!

Dietmar (Disc #48), so your point is a PEACEFUL demonstration will not achieve anything??? Is that why the UDD protesters are resorting to intimidation, violence and terrorism??

Dietmar Discussion 48: 15/05/2010 at 02:56 PM 48

@#45: And what did you achieve? Nothing or less than nothing?

Ienen Discussion 47: 15/05/2010 at 02:52 PM 47

These people are willing to die for their cause not because of some measly 500 or 1000 baht ( get real ) The government will take responsibility for all that goes their way in this event but nothing that goes wrong or is suspect. The military will do the same and all suspicious incidents will be credited to the invisible hand. The cops will take credit for the job the army is doing. This is strictly a military operation commanded by military officers and not some so called cops with civilian big mouth no it all. The first attack on April 10th was commanded by government officials and hence the big screw up. Now you see the difference in operations. Anyway I think they have started a civil war in Thailand which will not end anytime soon.

ClassClash Discussion 46: 15/05/2010 at 02:32 PM 46

NotPuzzled(#34)

The reds have said since day one that, with immediate elections, they would honor and support the results and the winner. The end. ps., are you talking about the PAD and the UDD :)?

Collage Discussion 45: 15/05/2010 at 02:11 PM 45

Two Million of us in the UK did a peaceful protest against the Iraq war, that's 2 million, not one person was hurt it was peaceful. This is not the heart of Thailand's farmland fighting, it's the bitter darkness of Bangkok mafia.

NOT Puzzled Discussion 44: 15/05/2010 at 02:10 PM 44

Geoff (Disc #40), it is pointless to talk about facts with UDD leaders/protesters/supporters because they are only interested in "wenging". For them, making allegations against the other party amount to FACT as long as these allegations serve their purpose! There is no need for any proof or foundation!! Look at UDD leaders and you will see what I mean.

No colour Discussion 43: 15/05/2010 at 01:50 PM 43

How do we know that the shooting was not an inside job??? They are all so ready to blame the government but I wouldn't put it passed the reds on the shooting of Seh Daeng. Also whoever thinks that the reds only have fireworks, bamboo and sling shots is daffed....they have guns....they are not that backward. If I was a red shirt leader aching for a fight I would have taken out some big shot on my side just to cause chaos



Math Discussion 42: 15/05/2010 at 01:49 PM 42

For MrSad discussion 35: Yeah it's not like all the country is based on tea money, corruption and big money....If the north people accepted money it's because they act just like all the government, army and police act for decades

Mike Discussion 41: 15/05/2010 at 01:33 PM 41

All my condolences to the peace loving Thais. I am farang, I don't want to judge anybody - it is just a bloody shame.

Geoff Discussion 40: 15/05/2010 at 01:33 PM 40

Re #31 Reality "The Thais have unanimously voted him and his party in". Rubbish! In "reality" he did win (buy) 50% of the vote in one election, but last time his lot got 37%. How is that unanimous (100%)? Next time they will get less. The current govt is legally formed under the normal rules of a parliamentary democracy. Please do some homework before posting nonsense.

Verysadindeed Discussion 39: 15/05/2010 at 01:25 PM 39

Discussion 35, I personally quote the second election as being won by thaksin because in my village we had repeated visits from thaksin and democrat vote buyers and because both sides were buying votes there was an equal playing field and the most popular side won. However it is far from an equal playing field now....

Wang Discussion 38: 15/05/2010 at 01:20 PM 38

I am really admire bangkokians level of tolerance with the red that disrupted their livelyhood for so long. Me, I would take matter into my own hands long ago.

Boris Discussion 37: 15/05/2010 at 12:53 PM 37

Bangkok Post..the situation is indeed grave but please refrain from repeating headlines that the western media is so good at amplifying....Whats up the the sensational title on your front page. BANGKOK WAR ONE.....really...really...come on. Check yourselves and write the facts. I am in no way reducing the current situation to ambivalent but BANGKOK is just no a WAR ZONE...choose your words carefully.... Yes I am Farang but I do love this country... REPORT THE FACTS....

Dave Discussion 36: 15/05/2010 at 12:49 PM 36

Reds can no longer claim that the violence is by fake reds. As they cannot dissociate themselves from anarchistic actions and violence they have no place at the negotiating table. Rule of law must come first. Anybody stupid enough to take on armed soldiers deserve what they get.

MrSad Discussion 35: 15/05/2010 at 12:28 PM 35

Why do people keep quoting Thakin's 2nd election victory? It wasn't democratic. He paid everyone B500 to vote for him.

NOT Puzzled Discussion 34: 15/05/2010 at 12:26 PM 34

ClassClash (Disc #15), so you are saying if any group of Thais claims that any election is undemocratic or that the military has a hand in influencing the outcome of such elections (without admissible proof), they can just use terrorist tactics to try and subvert the government and the PM MUST resign and hold fresh elections? Ever thought if the Democrats should win the next elections, is there any guarantee that the Red shirt protesters will not cry foul and take to the streets again? Oh, we might as well rescind ALL laws since there is no need for laws in Thailand!!

Rooney Discussion 33: 15/05/2010 at 12:20 PM 33

Thailand has always handled its problems and internal conflicts in its own unique way! Comparisons with how this revolution would have been dealt with elsewhere are irrelevant. Common sense is pretty thin on the ground and one only has to do the simple maths to see just how many coups there have been since the formation of the "constitution" Thailand for Thais, and very soon the ethnics will be the only ones here?

TheTruth Discussion 32: 15/05/2010 at 12:18 PM 32

The government propaganda machine keeps insisting that they are being attacked by bullets so validate the armies use of "kill" weapons. But every photo I have seen so far shows thai citizens throwing rocks, slingshots, petrol bottles and bottle rockets... 17 dead today and counting but not one soldier killed by these "agressive terrorists with guns".

The international media is not being fooled one bit. Read CNN, BBC, Herald Tribune, News France, Canada, Germany, etc. and you will understand.

Reality Discussion 31: 15/05/2010 at 12:16 PM 31

Right on discussion 29. I personally dislike thaksin and many of his policies but that is beside the point. The Thais have unanimously voted him and his party in... that should be the end of the story but today we have violence in Bangkok because a powerful urban minority insist on using military coups and similar to repeatedly destroy the thai peoples democratic rights...they are forced to take the fight to the streets because there is no democracy in Thailand.

Tourist Discussion 30: 15/05/2010 at 12:15 PM 30

The first picture shows just how low some of the protesters are going. A disgrace. Please stop the violence, and PM, you should do the right thing, now is the time for you to step down and call an election - without corruption and vote-buying. Take a leaf out of the book of your fellow Etonian's new government.

NOT Puzzled Discussion 29: 15/05/2010 at 12:13 PM 29

Freedom (Disc #29) - ... and he is the same person who is responsible for this chaos and insurgency. He does this without any regard for peace, rule of law or human lives!! He does not deserve any adulation or respect whatsoever.

Freedom Discussion 28: 15/05/2010 at 11:47 AM 28

This violence is a direct result of the army and elites removing the most popular PM Thailand has ever had. The only one to finish one turn (what a sad comment on Thai politics). The only one re-elected. He may have not been ideal but he is the people's choice. If Thailand wants democracy it has only one course of action.

Chris Discussion 27: 15/05/2010 at 11:43 AM 27

The Thais are basically a peace loving people (as they sing in their national anthem). I think if the US military overthrew an American government things would be much worse than they are in Thailand. Most Thais want the right to elect their government. That's what this is about. They don't want the elites with the help of the military running a sham democracy.

Outsider Discussion 26: 15/05/2010 at 11:41 AM 26

Dear confused, you're right, you're confused. It's not just against sticks and fireworks. You seem to have forgotten the stolen weapons, M79's, etc. The world sees a mob, no longer protesters.

Kimluan Discussion 25: 15/05/2010 at 11:34 AM 25

# 20 The problem is that this government would not be there without the military guns.

Gwats Discussion 24: 15/05/2010 at 11:23 AM 24

Didn't these RED SHIRTS realize Dead is always Dead? This is the ARMY, and they play for keeps? GO HOME while you still can. Great photos! First class work by very brave men/women behind the lens!

UNITED THAILAND Discussion 23: 15/05/2010 at 10:55 AM 23

Respecting one another action without invading and violating the life and space of other can lead once again to Thailand prosperity. May god be with us to find our way to peace.

Confused Discussion 22: 15/05/2010 at 10:43 AM 22

Why are so many people blaming the red shirts? Why not the worthless, corrupt military which has been ruining this country for decades and now fires automatic weapons at people with sticks and fireworks. This government has shown its true colors once again.

toWeng Discussion 21: 15/05/2010 at 10:37 AM 21

The Nation reports that Weng Tojirakarn has called on reporters to return to cover the demonstration at Rajprasong on Saturday morning. Weng said red-shirt guards would provide protection to reporters. Dear Weng Tojirakarn: I am sure all the reporters do not need your protection, can you please ensure that no harm will come to all innocent protesters, especially women and children. To be honest, I do believe that your red-shirt guards will only protect selfish UDD leaders, especially you, not any innocent protesters. No regards.

Jim in Auburn Discussion 20: 15/05/2010 at 10:32 AM 20

@Dave #7, Sooner or later there will be an election. So all these deaths are in vain.

Walter Discussion 19: 15/05/2010 at 10:15 AM 19

These Red Shirts have only proved to be criminals holding the PM and BKK city to ransom. Their leaders should be jailed for their criminal acts. God help ant person in position as PM, wether they are voted in or not.

oulala69 Discussion 18: 15/05/2010 at 10:12 AM 18

The last thing Thailand needs is... an election!!! The army has to take things over (and not for 6 months or two years) after having put down the reds and mr. T. If not, where will Thailand be in 5 years?!?! Back in the dark ages!

civilized civilian Discussion 17: 15/05/2010 at 10:08 AM 17

@ Discussion #1 Yes, the civilized world has taken a front seat and can clearly see that the reds are anything BUT civilized. These are not democracy activists, they are quite obviously hooligans, anarchists and thugs. The CIVILIZED thing to do would have been to abide by the initial acceptance of the compromise that was offered in the form of the road map, for the good of ALL Thai people, and from there to have packed up and gone home and let the democratic process take its course. There is nothing civilized about taking a city hostage, rioting, burning vehicles and terrorizing innocent civilians. Who are YOU calling obnoxious? SHAME ON YOU!

Edfin Discussion 16: 15/05/2010 at 10:01 AM 16

If they are really fighting for their target, they should go to the proposed election. But I think they like make a war game , thats seen many times in TV and Cinema. But this is not a game. Sorry for the stupid people fighting for democatry, but dont know what it is.Sorry for the poor misleading people ....

dave fairtex Discussion 15: 15/05/2010 at 09:56 AM 15

I think some people in Thailand have temporarily forgotten the teachings of Buddha. It doesn't have to be this way.

ClassClash Discussion 14: 15/05/2010 at 09:54 AM 14

All this death just because the protesters want immediate elections. Which everyone can understand from the time of the military coup to the courts rulings destroying TRT, PPP, its entire leadership platform, the PAD's illegal activities supported by this democratic party now in power and the destruction of popular PM Thaksin. Why is it so difficult for this government to realize the obvious injustices and call for elections which would produce a government for all the people. Is it so crucial for these men to hold onto power and dictate the nations future only?

Jos Discussion 13: 15/05/2010 at 09:52 AM 13

I'm very sad! I always say to my friends Thai people are very nice. why hate each other why will try respect each other that Thai style I think! My friend and I hope people who we met when our travel in Bangkok are safe. they were very nice people.

Alan Cunningham Discussion 12: 15/05/2010 at 09:51 AM 12

will any side ever be happy?? I have been here since 2006 and its never changed, who will be next?? will they be happy then?? probably not! for a country that relies heavily on tourism and investment this is not the way forward. would the government in the UK, USA or Europe let something like this go on in the streets of there capitals?? no is the answer, so the government needs to take note of these countries and stop pussy footing around and grow some balls to solve the situation and regain control of the capital! innocent lives are at risk now and something needs to be done. the book needs to be closed and a new one begun!!

Malv Discussion 11: 15/05/2010 at 09:38 AM 11

It's strange how thousands of people are convinced that arming themselves up and occupying a business district are righteous means to pursue "the true democracy". Once again political dogmatism triumph over reason. Exploitation of financially challenged rural people? Here's one good example.

Rory Discussion 10: 15/05/2010 at 09:36 AM 10

All this because of one billionaire terrorist criminal.

Adam Discussion 9: 15/05/2010 at 09:35 AM 9

Human beings are human beings. Thais have traditionally not been violent people. This shows that any human being from any place can lose control. This is both reality and deeply saddening to me. Unfortunately Thaksin has pulled the wool over many eyes. Democracies aren't built on as much corruption as he has perpetrated, though they too have corruption (the US being a prime example). As a Canadian I hope peace comes quickly. I love Thailand. May its people find a compromise.

Screaming Eagle Discussion 8: 15/05/2010 at 09:34 AM 8

Rural Darkie - racism come from both sides. Those obnoxious elites own business and factories that employ the nation.

ASOMPORN Discussion 7: 15/05/2010 at 09:32 AM 7

It's sad to see the poor villagers being drawn in and used as protesters. If these red-shirts leaders had accept the five- point plan offer, they could have ended the protest sooner. The RED-SHIRTS have gone too far.

Dave Discussion 6: 15/05/2010 at 09:25 AM 6

Sooner or later he will have to step down, so all these deaths are in vain

Outsider Discussion 5: 15/05/2010 at 09:19 AM 5

The whole world indeed sees now how peaceful these red-shirt protesters are, how bare-handed with their molotov-cocktails, bamboo spears, stolen weapons, M79's.

scon09 Discussion 4: 15/05/2010 at 09:15 AM 4

Thailand is like a ship slowly sinking. Hopefully this ship can be saved but right now it looks that there is no chance of this.

the news Discussion 3: 15/05/2010 at 08:59 AM 3

Well so much for the easy crackdown everyone was talking about. This could take month. lol. BOTH sides are acting like children fighting over toys.

Jennifer Discussion 2: 15/05/2010 at 08:38 AM 2

The Reds sure are well armed for peaceful protesters.

hawaii dave Discussion 1: 15/05/2010 at 07:51 AM 1

looks like the people of Thailand didnt know when they had a good thing.

#### **Topic 49 UDD demands army cease-fire**

John Canada Discussion 42: 16/05/2010 at 02:29 AM 42

Lyk please show evidence of " women and children being killed " or are you really Jatuporn Prompan in discise because you are spouting off like him!!!!!!!

Kristian Discussion 41: 15/05/2010 at 08:20 PM 41

co-leader Natthawut Saikua !!!! Who are your leader ????

Somchai Discussion 40: 15/05/2010 at 07:02 PM 40

Cease-fire only when the redshirts surrender.

Ron Discussion 39: 15/05/2010 at 06:54 PM 39

Maybe it is the reporting or maybe something with translation. But the reds really need to stop demanding everything. Ask is a better word.

D. Mands Discussion 38: 15/05/2010 at 06:42 PM 38

Natthawut has a very DEMANDING job ...

TH Discussion 37: 15/05/2010 at 05:47 PM 37

@ lyk. Most Farangs here actually live in democratic countries and understand what democracy is. The red shirts are not fighting for democracy. This is about power and greed, you should stop trying to fool yourself. 45 dead is nothing to the 2,500 people that Taksin had killed.

Tony Discussion 36: 15/05/2010 at 05:45 PM 36

The red short leaders now sound remarkably like Thaksin. Bleating that things are unfair because it hasn't gone their way after 7 weeks of ridiculous demands. If Abisit had been Thaksin you would all be dead by now.

Sadness Discussion 35: 15/05/2010 at 05:44 PM 35

The government has killed too many people. Even if they manage to take back the rally area, how many people will die and it does not mean there will not be another uprising again.

Iyk Discussion 34: 15/05/2010 at 05:12 PM 34

Most foreigners living in Thailand are selfish in their comments. They are only concerned about their gallivanting and carousing in night clubs which has been distorted. Is there any reason to justify these avoidable deaths? Death toll has hit 45 including women and children, still the government are displaying their military strength on their fellow citizens.

KhunJack Discussion 33: 15/05/2010 at 04:45 PM 33

Mick, Sorry to disappoint you...Taksin, when recently asked why he would not ask the red shirt "deceivers" to stop, he replied: "I am not in a position to stop people with ideology to stop their ideology". So much for his "love" to his motherland...

Michael Discussion 32: 15/05/2010 at 04:41 PM 32

haha nice one amazed but one small correction, it was 100m baht.

Michael Discussion 31: 15/05/2010 at 04:38 PM 31

Dear Math, I appreciate your concerns but the Bangkok reds can simply go home too!!! I hope you are aware there is already a leader on the red stage representing the communist faction of thailand?

Michael Discussion 30: 15/05/2010 at 04:34 PM 30

This is ridiculous. On one hand Nattawut asked the reds to fight with weapon and on the other hand he is asking the soldiers not to use weapon against those who use weapons.

Mick Discussion 29: 15/05/2010 at 03:57 PM 29

I am sure Mr Thaksin who loves his country so much can ask the red shirts to go home and let Thailand go forward without him, he can be an influence for peace.

Daniel Discussion 28: 15/05/2010 at 03:54 PM 28

Natthawut makes the most ridiculous comments and accusations, without any evidence to back up his claims. Any deaths, injuries or destruction that happen is his responsibility, as all he has to do is leave the area with his supporters. What do you think happens when you take over part of a city and create a public nuisance? That the army and police throw flowers over you? Of course not. They'll take you away and charge you for your crimes.

Anfield Discussion 27: 15/05/2010 at 03:45 PM 27

We all here agreed that negotiation is long over thus for Operation Rajaprasong to stop you all must laydown your weapons and head back home peacefully.

Robocop Discussion 26: 15/05/2010 at 03:39 PM 26

"Then we can consider the political demands," he said. What a hypocrite! They had plenty of time to consider and chose to stay on because they thought we will not realize that their actual motive never was democracy and election. The only valid demand is now, withdraw, report to the police and face the consequences. No games anymore.

Math Discussion 25: 15/05/2010 at 03:38 PM 25

Dear Michael, unfortunately some of the reds are from Bangkok More than that the red movement is far away from communist ! You may be American to say all social reform is communist

Outsider Discussion 24: 15/05/2010 at 03:32 PM 24

If you're willing it's never too late to talk.

LMF Discussion 23: 15/05/2010 at 03:28 PM 23

if this still carry on, every Thai will suffer. how they gonna survive? which is bigger troops ? army or reds..? reds should surrender and have a peace talks. who are they want to rule country ?

Robert Thomas Discussion 22: 15/05/2010 at 03:26 PM 22

Red shirt leaders, turn yourself in to the police and "Then we can consider the political demands," Grow up, Man up, go home.

NOT Puzzled Discussion 21: 15/05/2010 at 03:24 PM 21

"We [the UDD] demand that the army cease-fire and withdraw the troops immediately to prevent more losses. Then we can consider the political demands." Here's a thought.. how about you, UDD protesters, stop your rally so that Bangkok can return to STATUS QUO and then resume negotiations!! Or are you, UDD leaders, incapable of acting in a civilized manner!!

concerned farang Discussion 20: 15/05/2010 at 03:24 PM 20

How come Natthawut and his fellow Red leaders always make the word Democracy sound like a threat?

Geek Discussion 19: 15/05/2010 at 03:22 PM 19

big time michael, I agree with you... they just go and come back to where they belong... they haven't done any good to Thailand

Bang Bang Mancini Discussion 18: 15/05/2010 at 03:22 PM 18

UDD and protesters adopted paramilitary tactics weeks ago when they became an army of occupation - claim of civilian status is bogus. Ditto PAD at airport, before we go off on that one.

Mr. Thailand Discussion 17: 15/05/2010 at 03:17 PM 17

Natthawut, go home. How many more people you want dead so, that you can show their photo. The army do want to kill anyone but you and other leaders and pushing them in front of guns. STOP! STOP! now. Remember one day you have to answer GOD.

Gerald Discussion 16: 15/05/2010 at 03:15 PM 16

These Red Shirt leaders seem to have non-stop demands like spoiled kids! How embarrassing!

Amazed Discussion 15: 15/05/2010 at 03:14 PM 15

Like the bully who cries when they get hit back. If you want it to stop turn yourself in and let the people go, oh and give the fifty million baht you were paid by your fearless leader. It will help the victims of your treachery. This means you will have to leave your trailer though

J Discussion 14: 15/05/2010 at 03:11 PM 14

i wonder where was Natthawut during the clash... in his hotel room enjoying the air con?

Outsider Discussion 13: 15/05/2010 at 03:10 PM 13

If the place is mined, people will have problems leaving. The army will be reluctant to move in. Stand-off, but not for long I'm afraid.

Supachai Discussion 12: 15/05/2010 at 03:08 PM 12

Thailand is a failed state.

Dodgy Dave Discussion 11: 15/05/2010 at 03:08 PM 11

The UDD is demanding a ceasefire. A better idea would be for them to go back home and leave the citizens of Bangkok to get on with their lives peacefully.

Lek Discussion 10: 15/05/2010 at 03:06 PM 10

More of K. Natthawut's illogical doublespeak rant. First he intimates that political discussion might take place if the security forces withdraw, and then he says further negotiations are unlikely because things have gone too far! Perhaps if he engages his brain and calls off his armed mobs it might provide a way to ending the senseless bloodshed.

Zoe Discussion 9: 15/05/2010 at 03:03 PM 9

so tired of hearing nattawut and other red leaders claiming that they are fighting for democracy. they would have accepted the roadmap proposed by the government if democracy/dissolution of parliament was what they had been fighting for. Most of the ppl have been brainwashed and do not realise that they are actually fighting for minority's personal gains, i.e. the red leaders'. really don't see how to talk sense and logic to them anymore...sigh.

Bangmodken Discussion 8: 15/05/2010 at 03:03 PM 8

Nattawut, you have had plenty of time to consider political demands. Instead, you kept pouring fuel on the fire for selfish reasons, now it's too late. Besides, you vowed to turn yourself in to the authorities today and we are eagerly waiting for you and your co-conspirators to do just that.

Scott Discussion 7: 15/05/2010 at 03:01 PM 7

So you will fight to the death for democracy? Well, the government says the same thing. Now what? What do you really want?! New elections on November 14th?! That offer has been withdrawn by default of the reds. Now what?

reds go home Discussion 6: 15/05/2010 at 02:58 PM 6

"Then we can consider the political demands," You had your chance, Natthawut. You were promised the new elections you asked for and then spit the proposed schedule back in the face of the government. Now that you're losing the fight, now you want to talk? The house will not be dissolved "immediately", get over it. The government has bent over backwards offering to negotiate, but the Red Shirts like a spoiled child want it all their own way or nothing at all. You reap what you sow.

FUBAR Discussion 5: 15/05/2010 at 02:55 PM 5

Wouldn't it be logical to not give them a reason to fire in the first place? What comes around goes around.

Ai Discussion 4: 15/05/2010 at 02:54 PM 4

What democracy it can be after such fights?

End the Protest site Now Discussion 3: 15/05/2010 at 02:51 PM 3

This can end immediately if the UDD leave the protest site. Clear to see all injuries and deaths will be on UDD no matter how you try to spin it.. By the way today is the 15th. Let's be honest you were never going to turn yourselves in.

Tyta Discussion 2: 15/05/2010 at 02:50 PM 2

UDD must be joking right, the time of talks is over, they are in no position to demand anything, they got their chance, government and army stay put until these thugs surrender and put in jail...terrorist if you ask me.

Michael Discussion 1: 15/05/2010 at 02:49 PM 1

Mr Natthawut, The army has a new demand for you, all red shirt protesters and communists. Vacate Bangkok and go home to your villages now. It is now way too dangerous for you to be here.

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