

Upsurge Of Violence in Southern Thai an Act to Pressure Thai Government

Bernama

April 5, 2016

By Mohd Haikal Mohd Isa

BANGKOK, April 5 (Bernama) -- The upsurge of violence in southern Thai is an act by militant groups to pressure the government to accelerate the ongoing peace talks, says Prime Minister Gen Prayuth Chan-o-cha.

He warned the militant groups to cease using violence as a means to pressure the government into agreeing with what they wanted or face legal consequences from their action.

He was speaking to the media after chairing the weekly cabinet meeting here today.

The prime minister said the increasing violence in southern Thai was caused by the same group of people the government was currently engaged with, in peace talks facilitated by Malaysia.

Violence in southern Thai provinces has been on the increase in recent months with an almost-daily gun and bomb attacks.

Prayuth said the government was ready for peace talks with the militant groups whenever both sides agreed with the Terms Of Reference (TOR) of the talks.

"As long as things (TOR) are still unclear, the sub-committee of peace talks has to work on the matter," he said.

The Thai Government has been engaging in unofficial peace talks with Mara Patani (Majlis Syura Patani), an umbrella body representing six southern Thai militant groups.

The unofficial peace talks between Bangkok and Mara Patani is facilitated by Malaysia.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2015 BERNAMA

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1232427>