

Stop Using Violence to Pressure the Government, Says Thai PM

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BANGKOK, April 29 (Bernama) -- The militant groups in southern Thailand need to stop using violence in the volatile region as a way to pressure the government in the peace talks, said Thai Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha.

He made the remark when asked on the reason behind Bangkok's failure to endorse the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the peace talks during an informal meeting with MARA Patani in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

"Please understand, if we want the people in the south to back the peace, do not use violence to pressure the government because I cannot accept it," he told the media today.

The Prime Minister said, the government could not negotiate with any groups that break the law of the country as the matter could only be dealt accordingly under Thailand's law.

He also brushed aside criticism from certain Thai media on the government's handling of the southern Thai peace talks, describing the writers as someone who lack understanding on the issue.

Furthermore, media criticism of the ongoing peace talks in Thailand's Deep South said the Prime Minister, has caused misunderstanding among Thai's society.

MARA Patani (Majlis Syura Patani) is an umbrella body representing several militant groups in southern Thai.

Facilitated by Malaysia, the group and Bangkok have been engaging in an informal peace talks since more than a year ago.

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