

Majority as Minority

On Relations between Buddhist and Muslims in Southern Thailand

PHRA TINNAWAT CANDAPAÑÑO

PHRAKRU VICHEANKITTIKUN

MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY, THAILAND, 5TH OCT, 2014

Agenda

1. Causes of insurgency
2. How the problem has developed?
3. Consequences
4. The way to peace : Buddhist perspective

Causes of insurgency in Southernmost Thailand?

The Insurgency in Thailand's southernmost provinces has its roots several factors'

1. More than 90% of population in the conflict area are ethnic Muslim. These three provinces once formed the **independent Sultane of Pattani** which was annexed only in 1909. Since then the insurgency starts gradually.
2. Separatist movement (trying to protect customs, language, and religious rights). However it seems **that an insurgency drive by ethnic demands for greater autonomy rather than religious ideology**

***** In short : The cause of insurgency is politics where Religion has used as a political tools (weapons)**





The development of the situation

- ❖ The conflict has arose over 100 years ago.
- ❖ Cutural pressure. (Prime Minister General Por Pibulsongkram)
- ❖ The conflict has decreased in the recent years. This due to local People, NGO, separatist, Government and related parties had increased their awareness and taken part of conflict resolution.
- ❖ BRN explained that their leaders in the past (since the problem generate 100 years ago) has fought for their right via political system (parliament) which did not work out, hence violence has then become their chosen althernative.
- ❖ Both sides expressed the willing to proceed with the peace process, and realize that they have to move towards a negotiated settlement sooner or later because neither side has the possibility to achieve a decisive military victory.⁽¹⁾

(1) http://www.deepsouthwatch.org/sites/default/files/ppp101_proceeding_ipp_policy_paper_en.pdf

Consequences



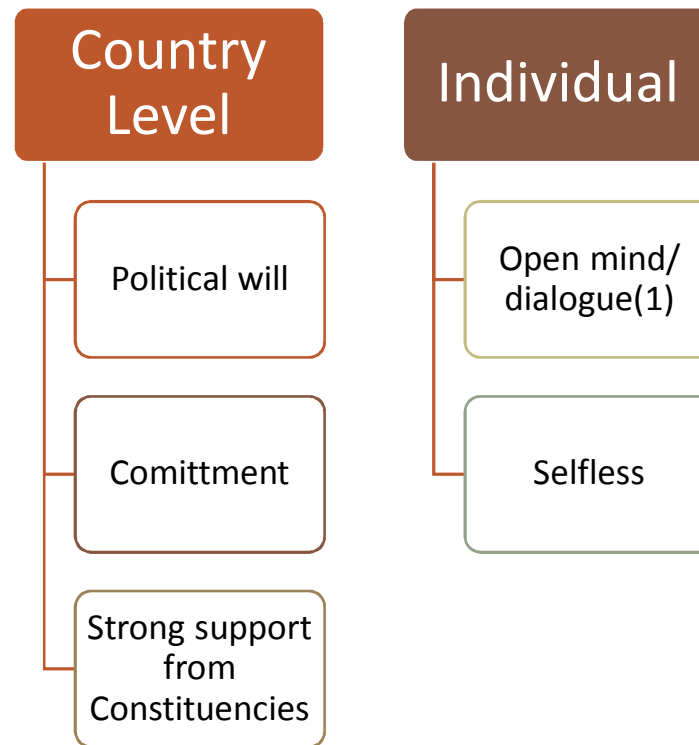
Consequences



Sharing personal experience

1. Grown up in Satun province where 70 % of population are Muslim
2. Good relationship among Muslim friends but religion is kept as a sensitive topic and never been in a deep dialogue among muslims and Buddhism.
3. Once the religious is used as a tool to fight this , the conversation between the individual become less practice, resulting in more misunderstanding of each others.

The way to peace : Buddhist perspective



*(1) Prince of Songkla University, Pattani campus has run a polled in March 2013, 76.6 percents believed that **Dialogue** in peace process will lead to Peace.*

Buddhist and Human Right

UN ⁽¹⁾	Buddhism * Thailand
Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.	Following from the Buddha's teaching towards other, "As he is a friend who experiences birth, aches, old-age and death, just as you do."
Article 18. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.	In Thailand, the freedom of religion is protected through statutory means. The law provides for freedom of religion, and the government generally respected this right in practice; however, it does not register new religious groups that have not been accepted into one of the existing religious governing bodies on doctrinal or other grounds. ⁽²⁾

(1) (Source : <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/#atop>)
(2) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_of_religion_in_Thailand

Personal Views

- ❖ What really make one to be a Buddhist?
- ❖ The Five precepts is fundamentals to protect of other's right and dignity