

## *“Biggest insurgent attack in years in southern Thailand wounds 12 police”*

3 April 2017

*“Insurgent bombs target power supply in far south”*

7 April 2017

*“Brother killed, sister wounded in gun attack”*

16 March 2017



original photo from Flickr.com/null0

Rarely a day goes by without violent news from Thailand's three southernmost provinces. Over the past 60 years, an insurgency between Thai Muslim people and the government has overshadowed the region. Roots of this conflict can be traced back to a process of forced assimilation of southern Thai Muslims into mainstream Thai culture and society, leaving the Thai Muslim people feeling a loss of freedom to practice their own religion, culture and language.

A Muslim separatist movement that formed in the following decades has now evolved into a violent insurgency. Since 2004, the armed conflict has claimed more than 6,500 lives. This has led to an increased separation of Muslim and Buddhist communities, and even between Muslim communities themselves. Southern Thailand is now largely identified by this struggle, which has seen little reprieve in recent years. Insurgent groups' waning interest in peace talks is a sign to many that this conflict is far from over.

Truly, Christ is the only hope for lasting peace and reconciliation in southern Thailand. Jesus alone is the hope of the nations. God has made his people to be salt and light for the world around them. While some are compelled to reach Muslims, many Thai believers are still fearful of their Muslim neighbors. While the conflict and the dangers are real, God desires to use his people to help bring peace and reconciliation to southern Thailand through the Gospel.



*“You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”*

*Matthew 5:13-16*

### P R A Y

- The Holy Spirit would fill the hearts of believers with love and boldness to share with Muslim neighbors
- For Thai believers to embrace their God-given role to be the salt and light of Christ to Thai Muslims
- Peace and reconciliation between the Thai government and Thai Muslims