

NARATHIWAT

On **13 March 2016**, militants launched a series of attacks in what security officers described as symbolic to mark the 56th anniversary of founding of the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN) separatist movement.

Three violent incidents were reported in Cho Airong district of Narathiwat. At least seven rangers were injured when Muslim insurgents launched three simultaneous attacks against troops and police in Narathiwat's Joh I Rong district before some of them fled inside a hospital and exchanged gunfire with the authorities there.

Police said about 10 militants attacked the outpost with grenades and automatic gun fires injuring seven rangers near the Joh I Rong hospital. In another incident, four militants riding on two motorcycles made a drive-by shooting at a security unit stationed at the Cho Airong district's railway station. No one was injured. In the third incident, militants detonated a 20-kg homemade bomb placed at the foot of a bridge in Ban Yaning. No one was reported injured. The bridge sustained minor damage.¹

On **9 March 2016**, two soldiers were killed and three others injured when a remote controlled bomb exploded near a military unit in the far south of Thailand. According to a report by Anadolu Agency, two soldiers died on the spot and three others were sent to Chanae hospital. Police consider the attack the work of insurgents. The attack occurred as the leader of a military government team negotiating with an umbrella organization of insurgent groups announced he will release in coming days a report on the result of negotiations so far.²

¹ "Militants launch multiple attacks in Deep South to mark BRN's founding day," *Thai Visa News*, 14 March 2016, Accessed 14 March 2016, <http://news.thaivisa.com/thailand/militants-launch-multiple-attacks-in-deep-south-to-mark-brns-founding-day/135057/>.; "Insurgents launch attacks in Narathiwat, exchange gunfire in hospital," *The Nation*, 13 March 2016, Accessed 14 March 2016, <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/breakingnews/Insurgents-launch-attacks-in-Narathiwat-exchange-g-30281495.html>.; "7 soldiers hurt in militant attack at Narathiwat army camp," *New Straits Times*, Accessed 14 March 2016, <http://www.nst.com.my/news/2016/03/132522/7-soldiers-hurt-militant-attack-narathiwat-army-camp>.; "Officer Shot in Attack on Southern Police Post," *Bangkok Post*, 12 March 2016, Accessed 14 March 2016, <http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/security/895116/narathiwat-policeman-wounded>.

² "Thailand: Two killed, three injured in bombing in Thai south," *Muslimnews*, 10 March 2016, Accessed 14 March 2016, <http://muslimnews.co.uk/news/south-east-asia/thailand-two-killed-three-injured-in-bombing-in-thai-south/>.; "Two soldiers killed in Thailand's deep south," *Asiaone*, 10 March 2016, Accessed 14 March 2016, <http://news.asiaone.com/news/asia/two-soldiers-killed-thailands-deep-south>.

On **8 March 2016**, a police officer and a village chief were killed in separate attacks in Tak Bai and Si Sakhon districts of this southern border province.

The first attack occurred just after noon when a police team providing security for teachers was returning to Ban Sala Mai School in tambon Sala Mai of Tak Bai district from a bird singing contest. Pol Sr Sgt Maj Maripeng Cheyi was walking among villagers when he was approached by a man who produced a 9mm handgun and fired one shot into his head, killing him instantly. The murder happened about 20 metres from the school's entrance gate. The gunman stole an 11mm pistol and M16 rifle from his victim and fled on a waiting motorcycle.

The second attack occurred about 1.20pm at Ai Kasae in tambon Si Sakhon of Si Sakhon district. Abdulroseh Jeha, 48, the chief of Ban Ai Kasae, was travelling on a motorcycle, taking a report on a suspected militant to the authorities in Si Sakhon district when he was shot dead from ambush.³

³ "Policeman, village chief slain in Narathiwat," *Bangkok Post*, 8 March 2016, Accessed 14 March 2016, <http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/security/890176/policeman-village-chief-slain-in-narathiwat>.