

Joint Public Statement

Embargoed until 27 January 2011

Condemnation of the road bombing that killed nine villagers

: Stand united against all kinds of violent insurgencies abetted by any party and disarmament demanded

On 25 January 2011, the roadside bomb blasted away the truck carrying villagers from Sabayoy District, Songkhla en route to Tambon Baroe, Yaha District, Yala. The incidence took place on a public way between Yaha District and Kabang District in Yala. The strong blast wrecked the pickup truck into two pieces causing seven instant deaths and two more deaths at the hospital as well as two more severe injuries. The bomb is part of a series of attack which have left massive damage of properties and losses of lives in the region.

The undersigned organizations would like to convey our deepest condolence to the surviving families of those who died and got injured from this deadly incidence. Also, we condemn all kinds of violent insurgencies which have caused extensive damage to lives and properties of people. Any violent attack shall never justify the demand for political fairness and justice. It shall simply enliven deep hatred and nurture vengeance and mistrust making the restoration of peace and harmony the region become even more discouraging. Apart from obstructing efforts to bring about peace, such a violent attack simply compromises safety and security of innocent people and erodes their confidence in security measures put out by the state. The incidence stands contrast to the fervent call by all sectors for an end of violence and solutions through nonviolence.

The undersigned organizations condemn any form of violence used by any party. We also urge that the authorities hold on to the rule of law and human rights principle as well as public participation in order to solve the problems caused by insurgencies in the Southern Border Provinces. Local people and civil society organizations do not want to see violence spread too extensively. Herewith, we would like to recommend that;

- 1) The state comes up with disarmament measures covering both legal and illegal firearms. The allocation of firearms to local people and the monitoring of the use of arms among state personnel has to be stringently implemented
- 2) The state develops measures to search for and to exclusively ban the sale and purchase of firearms, explosive raw material and any device used for making bombs
- 3) The state develops more effective prevention and suppression measures corresponding to an increase of budget. The security measures have to be developed in an efficient, independent and professional manner to restore trust among local population and to genuinely solicit their cooperation in order to minimize future losses as a result of insurgencies.

Signed on 27 January 2011

List of organizations

1. Cross-Cultural Foundation (CrCF)
2. Foundation of Muslim Attorney Center (MAC)
3. Foundation of Islamic Culture in the South
4. Duay Jai Support Group, Songkhla