

THAILAND UPDATE**Emergency Decree revoked in three more provinces**

- On July 20, 2010 the Thai Cabinet revoked the use of the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situation, B.E. 2548 (2005) in three more provinces, namely, Lampang, Roi Et and Sakon Nakorn. The Emergency Decree is still in effect in 16 provinces.*
- Meanwhile, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva updated the public about media reform and his Government's intention and approach on the issue. He elaborated on how the media could operate with freedom and exercise such freedom in a constructive manner, he stressed that the Government would like the media to be self-regulated as much as possible. Representatives of the media also gave efforts to enact a law to protect the media profession and expedite laws related to the regulation of television and radio, with an independent regulatory body.
- Civil Society Organisations (CSO), independent agencies, could contribute to media reform and play a role in monitoring the media in providing fair access to all sides. With regard to Channel 11 or NBT, effort would be made to present programmes in which both the Government and the opposition could jointly express their views so as to reflect the spirit of democracy.

Emergency Decree revoked in six more provinces

On 29 July 2010, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva revoked the use of the Emergency Decree on Public Administration in Emergency Situation, B.E. 2548 (2005) in six more provinces, namely, Ayutthaya, Nong Bua Lampoo, Chaiyaphum, Mukdahan, Mahasarakham, and Chonburi. The decision followed the recommendation by the Centre for the Resolution of Emergency Situation (CRES), which met earlier in the day to assess the situation. With this and the previous decisions on 13 and 20 July 2010 to lift the state of emergency in five and three provinces respectively, the Emergency Decree now remains in effect in ten provinces where its use is still deemed necessary. These provinces are: Bangkok, Nonthaburi, Samut Prakan, Pathumthani, Chiangmai, Chiangrai, Khon Kaen, Udon Thani, Nakhon Rachasima, and Ubon Ratchathani.

*The 16 provinces in which the Emergency Decree now remains in effect are: Bangkok, Non Thaburi, Samut Prakan, Pathumthani, Ayutthaya, Chonburi, Chiangmai, Chiangrai, Khon Kaen, Udon Thani, Chaiyaphum, Nakhon Rachasima, Ubon Ratchathani, Nong Bua Lampoo, Mahasarakham and Mukdahan.

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