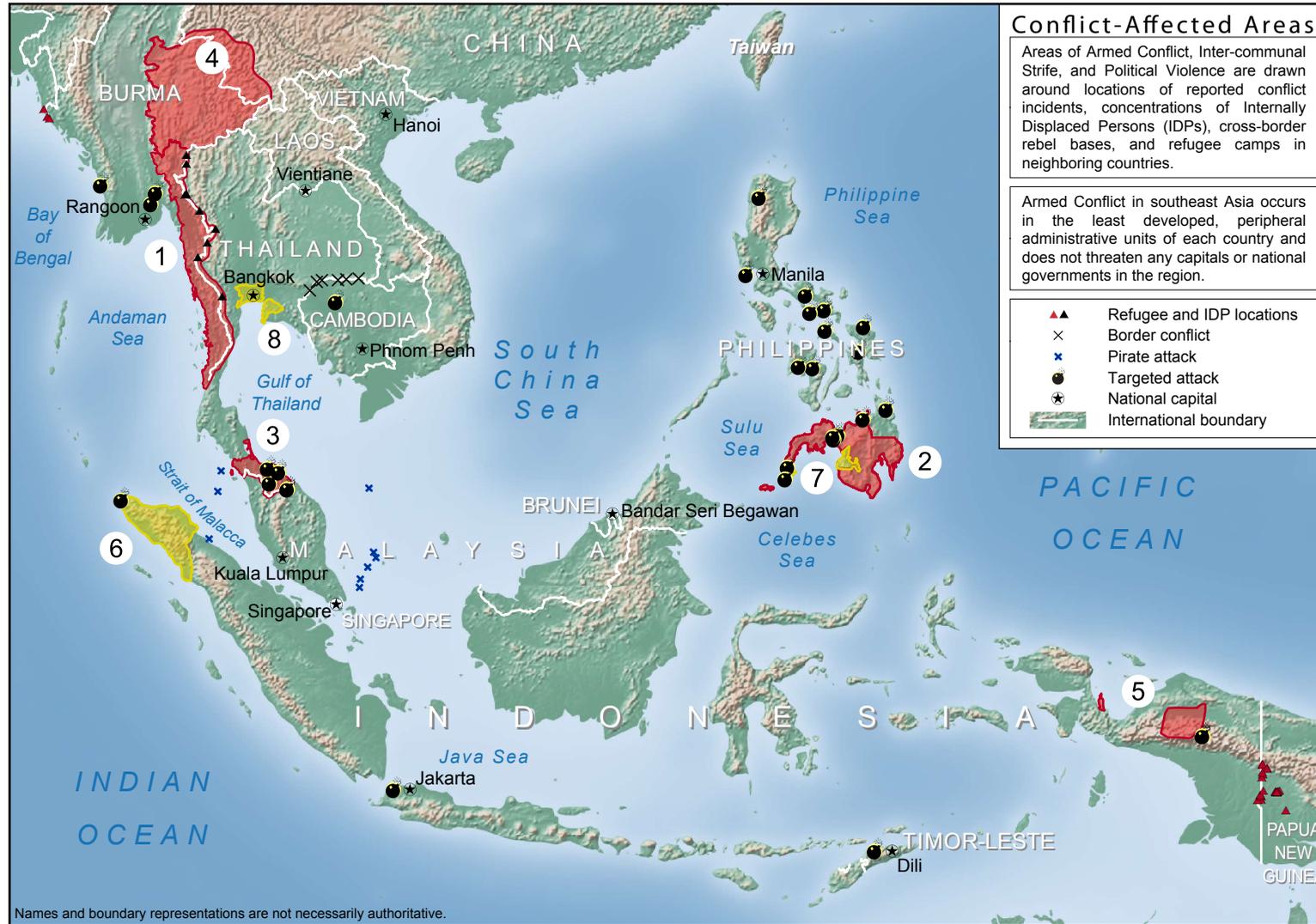


# Southeast Asia: Conflicts Without Borders

## Sub-national and Transnational Conflict-Affected Areas

January 2008 – December 2009



Names and boundary representations are not necessarily authoritative.

### Conflict-Affected Areas

Areas of Armed Conflict, Inter-communal Strife, and Political Violence are drawn around locations of reported conflict incidents, concentrations of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), cross-border rebel bases, and refugee camps in neighboring countries.

Armed Conflict in southeast Asia occurs in the least developed, peripheral administrative units of each country and does not threaten any capitals or national governments in the region.

- ▲▲ Refugee and IDP locations
- × Border conflict
- ✳ Pirate attack
- Targeted attack
- ★ National capital
- International boundary

TYPE OF CONFLICT	LOCATION	BACKGROUND	SEVERITY INDICATORS
1 <b>Armed Conflict (Intermediate)</b>	Burma (southeast states and divisions), Thailand (western border with Burma)	From 2005 - 2009, the Burmese army launched offensives against ethnic insurgent groups. Villages were destroyed, ethnic Karens were displaced or relocated, and civilians were killed, forced into labor, or suffered other human rights abuses. In 2008 and 2009, the Burmese army attacked IDP camps.	At least 470,000 ethnic Karens displaced in eastern Burma (TBBC, 10/09) and 140,000 Burmese refugees in camps along the Thailand border. (UNHCR, 11/09)
2 <b>Armed Conflict (Intermediate)</b>	Philippines (Mindanao)	Since 8/08, renewed fighting between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) resulted in destroyed villages, mass displacement, and increased morbidity/mortality among IDPs. MILF and the terrorist Abu Sayyaff Group (ASG) set off terrorist bombs in several cities.	Estimated 760,000 affected, including 250,000 displaced due to fighting between government and MILF. Between 8/08 and 7/09, 112 persons were killed and 268 IDPs died due to illness. (NDCC, 7/09)
3 <b>Armed Conflict (Intermediate)</b>	Thailand (Pattani, Yali, Narathiwat, Songkhla, Satun provinces)	Since 1/04, Pattani separatists and Muslim insurgents have intensified bombings and attacks on Thai military, police, schools, and some Buddhist targets.	Between 1/04 and 6/09, an estimated 3,500 were killed and over 7,000 wounded. During this period, more than 20% of the region's 300,000 Buddhists have fled and more were evacuated. (USIP, 6/09)
4 <b>Armed Conflict (Minor)</b>	Burma (northeast, Shan State), China (southern Yunnan Province)	In July-September 2009, Burmese armed forces launched military offensive against Kokang militia and narco-warlords.	By 9/09, up to 37,000 Kokang militia and Shan refugees crossed into China. The Chinese quickly repatriated the Burmese refugees.
5 <b>Armed Conflict (Minor)</b>	Indonesia (Papua)	Low-intensity conflict between government and Free Papua Movement (OPM) insurgency. Targeted attacks around Freeport copper/gold mine. Also, early signs of inter-communal strife between Indigenous population and recent Muslim migrants.	Counter-insurgency operations displaced more than 20,000 people between 2001 and 2007 (RSC, 9/07). 10,000 refugees remain in Papua New Guinea (UNHCR, 1/09)
6 <b>Political Violence</b>	Indonesia (Aceh)	Since the 8/05 peace agreement between government and insurgent Free Aceh Movement (GAM), sporadic violence has occurred between rival political groups related to legislative and presidential elections.	Sporadic attacks and killings of political party supporters (ICG, 8/09)
7 <b>Political Violence</b>	Philippines (Maguindanao province, Mindanao)	Election-related violence took place between two clan rivals for Maguindanao Province governorship. Gunmen from one clan kidnapped and killed supporters of other political clan and journalists on 23 November 2009. Government imposed martial law and sent troops to quell inter-clan strife.	Massacre of 57 supporters of political clan and journalists traveling in convoy on 23 November 2009 (IRIN, 11/09)
8 <b>Political Violence</b>	Thailand (Bangkok, Pattaya)	In 2008 - 2009, opposition groups continued political protests against the government.	Demonstrations led to clashes in 09-10/08 and 04/09, resulting in over 120 injured and several deaths (BBC, 04/09)
× <b>Border Conflicts</b>	Cambodia-Thailand border	Long standing dispute over Preah Vihear Temple escalated in 2008 and widened to include Ta Toam Thom temple complex.	Thai and Cambodian troops exchanged gunfire in 10/08 and 04/09, resulting in several casualties.
✳ <b>Pirate Attacks (2009)</b>	Strait of Malacca and S. China Sea	Multi-national naval patrols decreased attacks in Strait of Malacca in 2008 and 2009. (IMB, 12/09)	Slight increase in pirate attacks in the South China Sea. (IMB, 12/09)
● <b>Targeted Attacks (selected)</b>	Thailand, Timor Leste, Philippines, Indonesia, Burma	Sporadic attacks, bombings, kidnappings, and assassinations related to political violence or Islamic terrorism.	Radical Islamic groups conducted terrorist attacks in Thailand and in Mindanao and other parts of the Philippines. In Indonesia, suicide bombings on 17 July 2009 at two Jakarta hotels killed seven people and injured 50.

TYPE OF CONFLICT	DEFINITION
<b>Armed Conflict<sup>1</sup></b>	A conflict in which government forces are fighting an armed organized insurgency group or armed groups are fighting amongst themselves
<b>Major<sup>2</sup></b>	More than 1,000 conflict-related deaths in a year. Conflict-related deaths include deaths attributed to violence, but also due to malnutrition and disease exacerbated by the conflict
<b>Intermediate<sup>2</sup></b>	At least 25 conflict-related deaths per year and accumulated total of at least 1,000 deaths.
<b>Minor<sup>2</sup></b>	At least 25 conflict-related deaths per year but fewer than 1,000 accumulated deaths during the course of the conflict.
<b>Inter-communal Strife<sup>3</sup></b>	Internal conflict that is based on communal or social identity, including language, race, religion, sect, ethnicity, caste, class, clan, tribe, residence, nationality, or some combination of these.
<b>Political Violence</b>	Violence between rival community groups or political parties that is associated with elections or some other triggering event.
<b>Border Conflicts</b>	Ongoing inter-state border disputes that have resulted in armed confrontations.
<b>Targeted Attacks</b>	Assassinations, ambushes, kidnappings, or bomb attacks against civilians or government groups.
<b>Pirate Attacks</b>	Acts of boarding, violence and/or detention directed against a ship or against persons or property aboard such a ship.

1 OCHA Glossary of Humanitarian Terms in relation to Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. 2003

2 Alex Schmid and A.J. Jongman, PIOOM (PIOOM is the Dutch acronym for Interdisciplinary Research Program on Root Causes of Human Rights Violations); Leiden, the Netherlands, 1997 based on Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden.

3 Baker, Pauline and Angeli E. Weller. An Analytical Model for Internal Conflict and State Collapse Manual for Practitioners. Washington D.C.: The Fund for Peace, 1998

Sources:  
US Institute of Peace (USIP),  
Refugee Studies Center (RSC),  
International Crisis Group (ICG),  
International Maritime Bureau (IMB),  
Made with Natural Earth Vector Data,  
Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC),  
Integrated Regional Information Network (IRIN),  
UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR),  
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC),  
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA),  
Government of Philippines/National Disaster Coordination Committee (NDCC),  
National Counter Terrorism Center/ Worldwide Incidents Tracking System (NCTC/WITS).

