



In response to the ongoing security situation in Thailand, The ANVIL Group has today raised the overall Country Risk Level for Thailand to 5. This is our highest level of risk according to our scale. The definition and advice relating to this level is as follows:

Do not travel; unless measures have been put in place to ensure the safety and security of the traveller.

Conditions in Bangkok have worsened considerably over the last 24 hours with the protesters moving outside of the confined area following military intervention.

In Bangkok there has been disruption to utilities, including mobile phone networks in the Ratchaprasong area. Public transport, including the BTS Sky Train, MRT underground, bus services and canal boats are subject to disruption and cancellation at short notice. Suvarnabhumi airport is operating as normal and the route to the airport from Bangkok city remains open.

An army spokesperson said operations would continue through the night, although latest reports received since the curfew was introduced in Bangkok suggest that the city is now eerily quiet with neither shops or restaurants open, and no traffic.

In addition, the government is to impose a partial media blackout on local TV stations, saying all of them will have to air government-prepared bulletins.

The prime shopping and residential area of Bangkok, which has been occupied by the Red Shirt protestors for the last few weeks is now ablaze following the army assault that began early this morning.

Even though anti-government protest leaders surrendered earlier today, many followers became incensed at the news, throwing grenades and setting fire to landmark buildings. Thick black smoke is currently drifting across the sky of the city.

There are reports that as many as 27 fires have been started with several large buildings in flames, including:

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| Central World Department Store | Platinum Mall |
| Metropolitan Electricity Building | Bangkok Stock Exchange |
| Channel 3 News Building | Siam Cinema |
| Bangkok Bank | |

Five protesters and an Italian news photographer were killed in the ensuing gun battles and about 60 wounded. There have also been reports of looting.

The government declared an 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew in Bangkok, which was later extended to a further 21 provinces across Thailand.

There have been reports of violence in the north eastern cities of Khon Kaen and Udon Thani with reports of gunfire in the northern city of Chiang Mai, on Nawarat Bridge near the night bazaar. Red Shirts have been protesting at the Chiang Mai railway station. There is a continued risk of further violence in the north and north east of Thailand.

► **SECURITY ADVICE**

Most of Thailand is already subject to a State of Emergency order, which gives the police and military increased powers to maintain public order. For visitors, this could prohibit or limit the use of vehicles or particular routes, and they could find buildings or areas evacuated or be prohibited entry into them.

As a result, it should be expected to see more security force personnel in the streets. Visitors could encounter them at roadblocks or other security checkpoints. If you encounter police or military personnel, you should obey any and all instructions from them. Be sure to carry your passport or some form of ID and evidence of residence to gain access if stopped by the authorities.

Many embassies, including the British & U.S. Embassies in Bangkok are now closed indefinitely. If you are in Thailand and require consular assistance, you should first seek advice from your home country's foreign affairs website.

Should you require urgent assistance, ANVIL personnel are on standby in Bangkok and other strategic locations.

Please contact our Crisis Management Team 24/7 on + 44 (0) 20 7938 4221. The ANVIL Group has a long established network of ground, air & sea transport options in Thailand and throughout the region to assist with onward travel.