

Soros's Thai Fascists Lay Siege to Capital

by Mike Billington

The George Soros-linked anarchist mob in Thailand known as the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) is close to being eliminated as a threat to the survival of the Thai nation, as Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej has consolidated both popular support and military backing to crush the anarchists once and for all. This follows the PAD "flight forward" occupation of several government buildings on Aug. 26, including the Prime Minister's office, known as Government House.

PAD leaders Sonthi Limthongkul, a media mogul who founded *Asia Times*, and Buddhist cult leader Chamlong Srimuang, both of whom have been "Project Democracy" darlings in Thailand for over 15 years, declared that the violent seizure of the government buildings was to be the "final protest," intent on bringing down the government at all costs.

The PAD, with support from the international Soros-financed networks and the Dow Jones press, also ran the mass demonstrations in 2006, which played on urban middle class rage to bring down Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's government, even though Thaksin was wildly popular among the poor and the rural population, and won wide majorities in all his elections. His general welfare policies—medical care for all, cheap financing for rural development, educational loans for all through college level, and more—won him the enmity of the City of London/Wall Street financial oligarchs.

Phony 'Democracy'

With PAD providing the "warm bodies" as an excuse for the desired military coup, the Privy Council approved a military takeover in September 2006. However, when new elections were finally held in December 2007, Thaksin's supporters again swept to victory, with Thaksin ally Samak Sundaravej becoming Prime Minister. Almost immediately, PAD renewed its "democracy" protests, demonstrating for the world that

“democracy” for them means a fascist hatred for abiding by actual popular elections, and instead, the imposition of the will of the elite over the poor.

This was also clear to many of Sonthi’s followers in the demonstrations against Thaksin, who had not counted on a military dictatorship as the outcome. This time around, PAD’s followers are conspicuously missing the student and working-class layers who swelled their ranks against Thaksin, and polls show that 75% of even the Bangkok population now opposes the anarchist occupation which is disrupting the government and the economy of Thailand, while the global financial system is crashing down upon them.

Notably, a columnist who writes under the pseudonym Changnoi (Little Elephant), published an article in *The Nation* in July identifying the fascist nature of the Soros-linked “democracy” advocates of PAD. Changnoi accused PAD of intending to “disenfranchise the rural poor,” placing the military in power under the guise of “protecting the monarchy”—a risky thing to say in Thailand, where *lèse majesté* can be charged at the drop of a hat. He concludes that the “democratic” opposition is actually “anti-democratic, supported by high investment and shadowy protection that exploits the fears of the privileged, and a deliberately anti-rational nationalism, and flirts with militarism and violence.”

PAD leader Sonthi does not hide his fascist proclivities. His program for Thailand includes transferring the Ministry of Defense out of control of the elected government and placing it directly under the monarchy, with the right to intervene in politics in the case of virtually any perceived threat. He even wants 70% of the Parliament to be appointed. Sonthi also led PAD followers in an attempt to stir up sentiment for a war with neighboring Cambodia over a territorial dispute—a provocation which Samak and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen skillfully outflanked.

Provocative Tactics

As of this writing, about 5,000 hard-core Jacobin “democrats” are holed up in the Government House, but are totally surrounded by police, who will not allow any people or food to enter the building. The courts have issued arrest warrants for nine of the PAD leaders, including top honchos Sonthi and Chamlong, and have ordered the demonstrators to clear the area entirely.

Prime Minister Samak is allowing the anarchists to

destroy themselves. He has the full support of the police, but, since there was some doubt about the loyalty of the Army, he moved himself and his Cabinet into Army headquarters, challenging them to protect the elected government against the anarchists. They have complied—thus far, at least.

Samak then told the international press, regarding the PAD: “They want bloodshed in the country, they want the military to come out and stage a coup again,” but that the government would not be provoked, nor would it allow the demonstrators to continue indefinitely.

In response, Sonthi blustered: “I won’t leave until there is a political change. If you want me to leave, you will have to kill me and take my body out of here.”

Thai citizens, including Prime Minister Samak, recall the demonstrations of 1992 against Prime Minister Gen. Suchinda Kraprayoon, an Army general who had carried out a coup and arranged for himself to become Prime Minister. The same Chamlong who is leading the anarchists today, led the demonstrators then, many of whom were part of his Buddhist cult, and many of whom had received extensive training from U.S.-based Project Democracy networks in “civil disobedience,” when Chamlong ordered them to charge the young soldiers manning the barricades. The result was a bloodbath, which forced the government to step down. Samak has made it clear that he does not intend to allow such fascist provocations to succeed this time around.

The anarchists, who wrap themselves in the yellow banners symbolizing the monarchy, are not helped by the fact that *Forbes* magazine recently identified the King of Thailand to be the richest monarch in the world, with a personal wealth of \$35 billion, purportedly more than either Britain’s Queen Elizabeth or Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah.

The extreme, desperate measures taken by the PAD demonstrators have forced even their leading supporter, the Dow Jones-linked *The Nation* newspaper, to run for cover. In an Aug. 27 editorial, *The Nation* wrote that “PAD’s provocative action yesterday was completely uncalled for.” Their concern, however, is simply that the fascist tactics are not working. Only if Prime Minister Samak succeeds in cleaning out this Soros swamp will Thailand be able to get down to the desperately urgent business of dealing with the global financial collapse, and its effects on the national economy.