

Abstract Medical Response to Deep South Violence: Case Study of Yala Hospital

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Deep South Violence is an ongoing man-made disaster through the last 5 years since January 4,2004. This situation analysis on medical response to the violence in Yala Hospital during 2004-2008 employing quantitative technique in a descriptive study based on secondary data retrieved from related documents, medical records and public health annual reports assessed by descriptive statistics.

It was reported that, in all, casualties included 5,186 injured cases and 2,430 fatal victims within the three southern provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat. The heaviest casualties was reported in Narathiwat Province whereby 2,422 cases sustained injuries. On the contrary, Yala Province had the lowest impact with 1,350 injured cases and 571 deaths. The violence escalated from 2004 to 2007 in terms of casualties yet it began to show a decline in 2008. During which the maximum number of 1,579 injuries, 642 deaths in 2007 went down to 943 injuries and 376 deaths respectively in 2008.

In Yala Hospital, 118 mass casualty medical responses were declared during the study period. Within this province most injuries were caused by guns (49.34%) and explosives (23.21%). In a preparedness plan 2,547 beds in the three provinces were ready for such weapons threats. In Yala Hospital alone most victims sustained head injuries, followed by injuries on abdomen, backs, spines and pelvises. Various guidelines were developed for these very specific conditions in the hospital such as, classifications of traumatic events, hospital command system, personnel recruitments; surgical guidelines; network collaborations, including Prince of Songkla Hospital, Thai Red Cross Society and King Mongkutkloa Hospital; and public relations during crisis.

Key words: Deep South Violence, medical response, disaster, surgical guideline