

Cambodia-Thailand Clashes Expose Limits of Trump's "Peace Deals"



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2025-12-13

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Renewed clashes between Cambodia and Thailand expose the limits of Trump's capitalist "peace deals."

Details. Recent border [clashes](#) in the Preah Vihear region and the adjacent Oddar Meanchey-Sisaket area have escalated sharply. Reports [confirm](#) Thai airstrikes, heavy artillery exchanges, and strikes on both military and civilian targets. Cambodia [states](#) that four civilians were killed, while Thailand [reports](#) one soldier dead and 18 wounded.

- ▶ Cambodia [condemned](#) Thailand's actions as a clear violation of its sovereignty and a breach of the peace agreement. Phnom Penh [urged](#) the international community to denounce Thailand's military aggression and demanded that Bangkok take full responsibility for escalating the situation, and also [emphasised](#) the right to self-defence.
- ▶ Thailand's Foreign Affairs Ministry [briefed](#) 70 ambassadors, claiming Cambodia initiated a series of 14 border incidents and violated the ceasefire. Bangkok [insists](#) its military response – including airstrikes – is an act of self-defence to protect sovereignty and civilian safety, and vows to continue until Cambodian aggression ends.
- ▶ US Secretary of State Marco Rubio [urged](#) Thailand and Cambodia to halt the clashes immediately and return to the terms of the peace accord. Donald Trump separately [called](#) on both governments to honour the agreement they signed with him and restore calm along the border.

Context. In July 2025, after a [five-day conflict](#), Cambodia and Thailand agreed to an unconditional ceasefire. In October, they formalised an expanded peace agreement with [Trump present](#). The US state has been aiming to freeze [secondary conflicts](#) to focus on its primary inter-imperialist conflict with [China](#).

- ▶ The agreement [required](#) the withdrawal of heavy weaponry, prisoner releases, and joint border-monitoring, yet it left the core territorial dispute unresolved. Both governments [came](#) away dissatisfied, as the pact failed to address claims over land, resources, and long-standing "security concerns".
- ▶ The renewed clashes reflect a broader pattern of instability inherent to capitalist "peace deals." Such agreements do not resolve underlying economic contradictions, but temporarily manage them. In 2025, a US-brokered ceasefire signed under President Trump between the Democratic Republic of the [Congo and Rwanda](#) failed to [halt fighting](#). Likewise, the collapse of the early-2025 [Gaza ceasefire](#) shows that once the immediate tactical utility of capitalist diplomacy expires, hostilities resume.