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Malaysia & UNHCR moves 131 Thai Muslims further inland

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Malaysia UNHCR moves 131 Thai Muslims further inland

Thai government on Tuesday lashed out at Malaysia and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(UNHCR) for moving 131 Thai Muslim refugees deeper into Malaysian territory away from the Malay-Thai border.

We warned the UNHCR not to become tool of the militants, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said.

The Thai prime minister last month accused the UNHCR of interfering in Thailand's internal affairs

by agreeing to interview 131 Thai Muslims who fled to Tanah Merah, in Malaysia's Kelantan state on August 31

to escape the violence in southern Thailand.

The UNHCR, after interviewing the 131 asylum seekers last month, has yet to announce whether it considers them "refugees", but instead moved

them further inside Malaysian territory - an indication that they may not be

returning to Thailand soon.

Thaksin also lashed out at Malaysian activists who on Monday urged Muslims to boycott Thai products

to protest alleged inhumane actions aimed at suppressing Moslems in the deep South.

These people are on the same side as the militants, said Thaksin said.

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Malaysia & UNHCR moves 131 Thai Muslims further inland

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