

死傷枕藉

si3 shang1 zhen3 jie4

A bomb went off at a crowded religious shrine (聖壇) in Bangkok. At least 20 people were killed and more than 100 were injured.

A witness described the blast: “It was like this huge gust of wind (一陣狂風) and debris (碎片) flying through you. And then I see bodies everywhere, there are cars on fire, there are bikes everywhere. People are screaming.”

Such an incident can be described by the idiom “死傷枕藉” (*si3 shang1 zhen3 jie4*).

“死” (*si3*) is “die,” “dead,” “傷” (*shang1*) is “an injury,” “a wound,” and the term “枕藉” (*zhen3 jie4*) means “lying on top of each other,” “lying in disorder.” Literally, “死傷枕藉” (*si3 shang1 zhen3 jie4*) is “the dead and the injured lying on top of each other.”

Idiom by Lon Yan

The idiom means a lot of people were injured or killed. “死傷枕藉” (*si3 shang1 zhen3 jie4*) is used to describe any calamitous (災難的、悲慘的) incident that has caused heavy casualties (傷亡), irrespective of their nature. It can be an accident, human atrocity (殘暴行為) or a natural disaster.

There is a variation of the idiom. The term “死傷” (*si3 shang1*) - the dead and the wounded - is replaced with the term “死亡” (*si3 wang2*).

“死” (*si3*) and “亡” (*wang2*) both mean dead. So the idiom “死亡枕藉” (*si3 wang2 zhen3 jie4*) is even more tragic as no one survives.

Terms containing the character “傷” (*shang1*) include:

受傷 (*shou4 shang1*) - injured, wounded, hurt

憂傷 (*you1 shang1*) - grieved, sorrowful

致命傷 (*zhi4 ming4 shang1*) - a fatal injury

中傷 (*zhong4 shang1*) - to slander, to vilify