



## **First phase of re-location and decommissioning completed**

**Press Release – 27 September 2005**

**Banda Aceh, Indonesia:** In less than two weeks, the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) have completed Phase One of the scheduled relocation of TNI and POLRI non-organic forces and decommissioning of GAM arms in the province of Aceh.

According to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in Helsinki on 15 August between the Government of Indonesia and GAM, the relocation on non-organic TNI military and police forces will be executed in four stages in parallel with GAM decommissioning starting on 15 September and to be concluded by 31 December 2005.

The relocation of TNI and POLRI non-organic forces during Phase One has been successfully completed two weeks ahead of schedule and is a positive response to GAM's initial surrender of weapons between 15 and 17 September 2005. During this phase, around 6.671 TNI and 1.300 Police personnel have been relocated out of Aceh, and a total of 243 arms have been handed over by GAM and approved by AMM. To date both parties continue to meet their commitments under the terms of the MoU.

*"I congratulate both parties for the leadership and political will shown in achieving this early success, which is a clear indication of the commitment of both parties to the peace process",* said Pieter Feith, Head of the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM). AMM has been invited by the Government of Indonesia and with the full support of the leadership of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) to support the Government of Indonesia and the GAM in the implementation of the MoU. *"With a view to maintaining this positive momentum, we expect to be able to launch Phase Two before its scheduled starting date of 15 October",* Mr Feith added.

The AMM, which is a civilian mission comprised of monitors from the EU plus Norway and Switzerland and five ASEAN countries, has set up Headquarters in Banda Aceh and 11 District Offices throughout Aceh province: Aceh: Sigli, Bireuen, Lhoksemawe, Langsa, Tapaktuan, Blang Pidie, Meulaboh, Lamno, Banda Aceh, Kutacane and Takengon. The mission also includes 4 mobile decommissioning teams.

The EU and ASEAN fully respect the territorial integrity of Indonesia and see the future of Aceh as being within the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia. AMM is completely impartial by nature and do not represent or favour any of the parties.

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