



Second phase of decommissioning and re-location completed

Press release – 25 October

Banda Aceh, Indonesia: The second phase of the decommissioning of GAM armaments and re-location of TNI and Police personnel was successfully carried out, in accordance with the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding, on 14 – 24 October 2005. A total of 1050 police and 6097 TNI personnel have departed the Aceh province and GAM has handed over 233 weapons that met the criteria required by the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM).

“The completion of the second phase is another irreversible step towards a peaceful solution to the conflict in Aceh. I want to congratulate both parties for their strong commitment to the time schedule agreed in the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding. It is now important to keep this positive momentum”, stated Pieter Feith, Head of Mission of the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM).

The decommissioning of Free Aceh Movement (GAM) armaments was carried out on 14 – 18 October 2005. Operations were conducted in four areas: Aceh Utara, Aceh Timur, Aceh Tamiang and on Sabang (Weh) Island. In Phase Two a total of 291 weapons were handed over by GAM for registration and destruction by AMM. Out of these the AMM accepted 233 and disqualified 58. The Government of Indonesia has disputed a total of 35 weapons.

This brings the total of weapons accepted by AMM to 476 after the first two decommissioning phases out of four, set to be concluded by 31 December 2005. The Government of Indonesia has disputed 52 weapons. The Aceh Free Movement (GAM) has committed itself to hand over a total of 840 arms.

In parallel with GAM decommissioning the Government of Indonesia has re-located 6097 non-organic TNI military and 1050 police personnel. The relocation of TNI and POLRI non-organic forces during phase two started on the 14 October and was completed on 24 October 2005. The number of organic military forces to remain in Aceh after the four phases of re-location is 14.700 and the number of police forces to remain in Aceh after the four phases of re-location is 9100.

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Aceh Monitoring Mission: Jalan Tgk. Abdul Rauf No. 10

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Note for editors:

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

2. 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. The AMM is completely impartial by nature and does not represent or favour any of the parties.

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