



## ***Decommissioning phase III successfully completed***

**Press Release - 22 November 2005**

**Banda Aceh, Indonesia:** Head of the Aceh Monitoring Mission, Pieter Feith, was pleased to report that the third phase of the decommissioning in Aceh was successfully completed on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

According to the MoU signed between Free Aceh Movement (GAM) and Government of Indonesia in August 2005, GAM will hand over 210 weapons in each of four phases. The weapons must fulfil certain criteria in order to be counted towards the 840 firearms that GAM has committed to handing over by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005.

With the completion of the third phase, GAM has handed over a total number of 856 weapons, of which Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) accepted 698 weapons. However of these the government of Indonesia disputes 67. The total of undisputed weapons is 631, which means that GAM has fulfilled its commitment for weapons collections in November.

The final decision regarding the status of the disputed weapons will be taken by the Head of Mission Pieter Feith.

The decommissioning of the GAM weapons in the third phase did as usual take place in full transparency. The weapons were checked, registered and cut by AMM monitors on the weapon collection sites, while thousands of villagers, VIPs from both parties and media representatives watched what happened.

The weapons have been collected during five days in the following six areas: Aceh Jaya, Aceh Barat, Aceh Barat Daya, Nagan Raya, Aceh Selatan and Aceh Tengah.

According to AMM Chief of Decommissioning Kalle Liesinen, the weapons collected on 22<sup>nd</sup> November were exceptionally good. Within the 57 firearms collected this day, only one was disqualified by AMM. The other 56 were functioning standard firearms. However, two of those were jungle factory made 40 mm grenade launchers and they were disputed by the Government of Indonesia.

The decommissioning of GAM weapons takes place partly parallel with withdrawal during the four phases of a total number of 25.221 non-organic troops and 4.700 non-organic police from Aceh.

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