



## **The Last Weapon Ceremony 21 December 2005**

### **Media Advisory**

A special ceremony will be held in Banda Aceh to mark the destruction of the last GAM weapons.

AMM would like to invite the media to cover the event.

The final ceremony will take place on the Blang Padang Sports Field where the first decommissioning ceremony took place 15 September 2005. The ceremony will start at 10.00 and will be open to the public. A special area has been reserved for the media.

Six weapons have been selected to be decommissioned during the Last Weapon Ceremony on the 21 December. The weapons have been documented and filed in advance, but their destruction will take place at the Last Weapon Ceremony.

GAM representatives will arrive at the site where they will be greeted by AMM representatives. The weapons will then be destroyed using two cutting machines. One of the weapons will be fixed on wooden plaque to be used in a museum.

The cutting of the final weapons will be followed by speeches by Senior GAM representative Mr. Irwandi Yusuf, General Bambang Darmono from the Government of Indonesia and AMM Head of Mission Pieter Feith.

After nearly 30 years of fighting, the successful completion of the peace process in Aceh between the Indonesian Government and GAM should serve as inspiration to people living in other conflict-affected parts of the world.

Following the ceremony, media are invited to a press conference starting at 11.00. Further information regarding the press conference follows later.

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## **Background**

### The Memorandum of Understanding

The peace agreement (MoU) between The Government of The Republic of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement was signed in Helsinki, Finland, 15 August 2005.

Facilitator of the negotiation process was former president of Finland, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Management Initiative Martti Ahtisaari.

### Security arrangements

As part of the MoU, GAM undertook to demobilise all of its 3000 military troops and committed to hand over 840 arms.

The decommissioning of GAM armaments started on 15 September and has been executed in four stages. The decommissioning has taken place in full transparency at sites all over Aceh. Four Mobile Decommissioning Teams have collected, registered and cut the weapons. Chief of Decommissioning is Kalle Liesinen from Finland and Deputy Chief Decommissioning is Tham Chong Yean from Singapore.

The Government of Indonesia undertook to withdraw all elements of non-organic military and non-organic police forces from Aceh. Also the relocation of non-organic police and non-organic military has been executed in four stages. It is still ongoing and takes place in full transparency. It will be completed before 31 December. A number of relocation ceremonies have been held in Lhokseumawe before troops have left.

The decommissioning and relocation ceremonies have been covered by local, national and international media.

### AMM

When signing the MoU, the parties agreed to give Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) mandate to monitor the implementation of the commitments taken by the parties. AMM is established by the European Union and five ASEAN countries.

Immediately following the signing of the MoU, the European Union and the contributing countries started their work in Aceh for of an interim presence phase (IMP).

On 15 September 2005, the first weapons were cut at Blang Padang field, and AMM started officially its work.

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Since the MoU was signed, the parties have held 24 meetings in the Commission on Security Arrangements (COSEA) where the peace process has been discussed and problems solved under the leadership of the AMM Head of Mission Mr. Pieter Feith from the EU and his Principal Deputy Head of Mission Nipat Thonglek from Thailand.

Also members of the AMM leadership are Deputy Head of Mission Maj. General Jaakko Oksanen from Finland, who is responsible for operations, and Deputy Head of Mission Mrs. Renata Tardioli from Italy, who is responsible for amnesty, reintegration and human rights.

The Head of Mission reports to the Council of the European Union through the Political and Security Committee and to Javier Solana, Secretary General / High Representative of the Council of the EU on matters related to AMM.

More than 230 monitors from Europe and from the ASEAN countries have monitored the implementation of the MoU from their bases in the Head Quarter in Banda Aceh or one of the district offices around the province.

#### The future of AMM

The monitoring mission was planned to last six months from September 15, 2005, to March 15, 2006.

When security arrangements - such as decommissioning of GAM weapons and relocation of non-organic troops and police - have been completed by the end of December, AMM will continue to monitor the implementation of other aspects of the MOU. Other peace building arrangements include:

- Progress on the Law on Governing Aceh (LOGA)
- Human Rights
- Amnesty
- Reintegration
- Investigating and ruling on complaints and alleged violations of the MOU
- Maintaining good cooperation with the parties
- Other dispute settlement if required by the parties.

AMM is a fully civilian mission and the mission personnel do not carry arms. The EU and ASEAN fully respect the territorial integrity of Indonesia. AMM will contribute to the creation of lasting peace in Aceh within the unitary state of the Republic of Indonesia.

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