



PRESS STATEMENT

On the outcome of the meeting of the High Level Commission on Security Arrangements (COSA) Banda Aceh, 22 April 2006

The 32nd meeting of the Commission on Security Arrangements (COSA) was held on Saturday 22 April 2006 under the co-chairmanship of the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Mr. Javier Solana, and the Head of Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM), Mr. Pieter Feith. The delegation from the Government of Indonesia (GoI) was headed by the Minister for Information and Communication, Mr. Sofyan Djalil. The Free Aceh Movement (GAM) delegation was led by Mr. Malik Mahmud. The Acting Governor of Aceh, Mustafa Abubakar, also attended the meeting.

The parties expressed their satisfaction with the results achieved so far, in particular regarding the much improved security situation and committed themselves to continue to work in the spirit of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in order to contribute to a peaceful, comprehensive and sustainable solution for Aceh. Continued reintegration is particularly important.

All parties underlined the urgency to finalise the Law on the Governing of Aceh (LoGA) as soon as possible and agreed that the law should be in line with the 1945 Constitution and the Helsinki MoU. Not only would this fulfil the Government's commitments as stated in the MoU and allow for local elections to take place, but it would also be instrumental in meeting the expectations of the Acehnese people. After an invitation from the GoI with the full support of GAM, the EU High Representative declared his readiness to recommend to EU Member States, in consultation with ASEAN contributing countries, a short extension of the AMM if invited. It was further reiterated that the parties themselves have ownership over the peace process and that it is they who have committed themselves in Helsinki to building mutual confidence and trust.

The parties further discussed the future of GAM including its transformation into a political movement of GAM. Mr. Solana reiterated AMM's position that the eventual dissolution of GAM would be the logical culmination point in the reconciliation process, allowing for genuine plurality in civil society and true democracy based on elected parties. GAM would of course remain a stakeholder in the implementation process of the Helsinki MoU.

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Regarding pending amnesty cases, the parties noted that progress has been made but that work will have to be taken forward, as a priority and assisted by AMM, with a view to settling all cases by 15 June 2006.

Mr. Solana also reiterated AMM's request for a letter from the GoI, by 15 June 2006, confirming its full implementation of the disbandment of any illegal groups or parties, in accordance with article 4.9 of the MoU.

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