



Encouraging results as verification of military and police units is completed

Press release – 22 February 2006

Banda Aceh, Indonesia. A process undertaken by the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) to verify the locations and strengths of organic TNI and Polri units in Aceh confirms the Government of Indonesia compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The levels of TNI and Police presence are within the maximum strength specified in article 4.7 of the August 2005 MoU, of 14.700 for the TNI and 9100 for the police.

“The results of the verification process are very encouraging and we can now with certainty establish that the Government of Indonesia is in compliance with the MoU. As in any country, the transparency of the security forces is a sensitive issue, but even so we have experienced excellent cooperation and assistance from the TNI and Police throughout the process. This will help to further increase confidence and trust between the parties”, stated Pieter Feith, AMM Head of Mission.

The MoU outlines the security arrangements to be put in place for Aceh, including the decommissioning of Free Aceh movement (GAM) armaments and the withdrawal of all non organic military and police forces. Article 4.7 details the levels of organic forces to remain in Aceh after this date, whereby AMM now has undertaken to verify these force levels.

The verification process was conducted 14 January – 15 February 2006. All AMM district offices were tasked to visit and monitor the police and TNI units within their area of responsibility in accordance with procedures agreed with the Government of Indonesia.

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 12 District Offices throughout Aceh province: Banda Aceh, Sigli, Bireuen, Lhoksemawe, Langsa, Tapaktuan, Blang Pidie, Meulaboh, Lamno, Kutacane, Calang and Takengon. The mission also includes 2 Sub district offices in Blangkejeren and Subulussalam.

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.

For further information, please contact:

Jüri Laas, AMM Press Officer/Spokesperson (International Media) +62 813 750 864 08

Faye Belnis, AMM Press Officer/Spokesperson (National Media) +62 816 187 91 67

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

Kampus Universitas Syiah Kuala, Darussalam, Banda Aceh 23111, INDONESIA