



PRESS STATEMENT

On the outcome of the meeting of the Commission on Security Arrangements (COSA) Banda Aceh, 19.10. 2005

The 15th meeting of the Commission on Security Arrangements (COSA) under the chairmanship of the Head of Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) Pieter Feith was held today Wednesday 19 October 2005. Delegations from Government of Indonesia and GAM attended this meeting. The GoI mission was headed by Gen. Bambang Darmono. The GAM delegation was led by Mr. Irwandi Yusuf. All parties showed a strong commitment to the spirit of the Helsinki Memorandum of Understanding.

The AMM commends GAM on the completion of the second round of decommissioning in accordance with the Helsinki MoU. The AMM encourages GAM to continue implementing the relevant provisions of the MoU, both in quantitative and qualitative terms. It calls upon local GAM commanders who have not yet done so to establish contact forthwith and fully cooperate with the AMM District Office.

The AMM strongly regrets the disproportional use of force used during last week's incidents in Jeoram and Peudawa, the former causing a tragic and unnecessary fatality. While that incident was found to be crime related, in Peudawa mistakes were made in dealing with the situation that constitute a violation of the MOU. In connection with this the AMM draws attention to the stipulation in the MoU that organic TNI units in Aceh will assume an external defensive posture only and that law and order tasks shall be the responsibility of the police. However the AMM welcomes the fact that disciplinary action will be taken and that the victim has received medical assistance and will be compensated.

Notes

1. The second phase of decommissioning of GAM armaments took place in Aceh Utara on 14 October, Aceh Timur on 15 October, Aceh Tamiang on 16 October and on Sabang Island on 18 October. A total of 291 weapons were handed over. Out of these AMM accepted 233 and disqualified 58. The Government of Indonesia disputed 35 weapons.
2. The total of weapons accepted by AMM in the two phases combined is 476, of which 52 are disputed by GOI.

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3. The redeployment of police and military personnel took place on 14 and 18 October and will continue on 20 and 24 October. The total number of non-organic TNI personnel to be relocated will be 6119 and the total number of BRIMOB/POLRI personnel to be relocated will be 1050.

4. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 25 October 2005 at 10.00 am.

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