



Reduced AMM remains engaged

Press release – 11 September 2006

Banda Aceh, Indonesia. On a request from the Government of Indonesia (GoI) with the full support of GAM, the AMM will remain engaged in the peace process and continue its presence in Aceh until 15 December 2006.

As a consequence of the remarkable progress achieved by the parties and with a view to completing the handover of ownership of the process to the parties and the people of Aceh the AMM will reduce its presence in Aceh. From 15 September 2006 and in a configuration of 36 monitors AMM will continue to monitor the implementation of the commitments in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), facilitate contacts between the parties and investigate violations as necessary.

As of today, 11 September 2006, the AMM will reorganise its internal structure and all remaining AMM monitors will be based in Banda Aceh. The AMM district offices will be officially closed on 11 September 2006. Thereafter, mobile monitoring from Banda Aceh will be available for deployment throughout Aceh as needed.

The AMM will provide international presence in the run up to local elections (Pilkada), confirmed for 11 December 2006. However, the AMM will not observe the elections as it is not within its mandate. A separate Election Observation Mission from the EU Parliament and European Commission has been invited by the Government of Indonesia to observe the local elections in Aceh.

Note for editors:

1. The objective of AMM, which is a civilian mission comprising of monitors from the EU and five ASEAN countries, is to monitor and assist in the implementation of the commitments made by the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement in the Memorandum of Understanding, signed in Helsinki on 15 August 2005.

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 Chief of Press Office/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