



Former GAM fighters receive second economic facilitation package

Throughout Aceh, local government have distributed economic facilitation packages to 3,000 former GAM combatants.

This was the second instalment of economic facilitation for the 3,000 former combatants distributed by the Indonesian Government as part of the peace agreement signed between GAM and the Indonesian Government on 15 August 2005.

Each package consisted of one million Rupiah (approximately US\$ 100) for each GAM former combatant. These packages are granted in order to assist former combatants' safe return to their society.

In October 31st, the Governor of Aceh transferred a total of three billion Rupiah to 15 locations in Aceh. Each district head then transferred the money to GAM commanders. AMM district offices monitored the transactions.

The packages for former combatants follow earlier support for prisoners who were released under an amnesty as part of the peace agreement. These packages of assistance help ease former combatants and prisoners back into daily life.

The Government of Indonesia also recently agreed a proposed budget for longer term support in Aceh. This enables the Government to fulfil commitments made in the peace agreement.

The proposed Government budget provides funds for land, housing, and job training for GAM former combatants and prisoners. Support for a wide range of other victims of Aceh's thirty-year conflict is also included in the budget, as well as some investment in new schools, roads and religious buildings in the most heavily affected areas.

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