



**FREE ACEH MOVEMENT SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE  
to  
ACEH MONITORING MISSION (AMM)**

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Ladies and Gentlemen

This is a great moment in the history of Aceh. We are here to celebrate the fulfillment of one part of the peace agreement that we signed with the Government of Indonesia in Helsinki in August 2005.

We are moving in the right direction.

It is also a sad moment for the ex GAM soldiers. In front of us we saw our weapons being destroyed.

Those weapons were our friends during the years of war. For years we fought for the interest of Aceh with them in our hands.

Now they are lying dead – as were the heroes, saints and martyrs we know from our history book – they had to lose their lives for their course, the dignity of this land.

We are here to say goodbye to a past where these heroes were needed and to welcome a future, where weapons may not be the answer to the problems we may face.

We would no longer use weapons to fight for the interest of Aceh. All we now need is new tool - political tool – to shape the future of Aceh.

Every craftsman in Aceh shares this wisdom.

I know a craftsman who makes beautiful chairs for the sitting room. They are made of wood which is carved to fit the eyes and cushioned to provide comfort to the body. A number of different tools are used to make such a wonderful Achehnese chair.

First, the craftsman must cut the tree and it requires a strong saw – preferably a machine saw. It is hard work. But as the process continues and tree has become a chair, the big saw is no longer an appropriate tool. Using a strong machine saw on the fine woodcuttings of the chair is not advisable because it will destroy the beauty of the chair. In this phase the craftsman needs lighter tools. In the end, the craftsman only needs fine sandpaper and oil to polish the chair.

We can compare the creation of such a chair with the creating of a good society here in Aceh.

When we in GAM started the fight for the better life and dignity for Achehnese, we needed heavy tool such as the weapons here. Those were years of hardship and our weapons have served their purposes of bringing up Achehnese to this position, a dignified one.



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Our “heroes” must now retire.

Now we are in another phase of the creating a peace process. We would like to see our work completed. We would like to see Aceh prospers and the Acehnese living in happy harmony with our brothers and sisters all over the archipelago.

The completion of our work requires lighter tool – political tool. We will participate in the democracy. And in democracy, weapons can destroy the beauty of it just as can the big saw destroy the fine woodcutting of the chair.

Therefore, we are here to say goodbye to our weapons and welcome a new future.

The MoU is in our mind a very good foundation on which to build a peaceful future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Aceh Monitoring Mission for their support in this peace process.

We are pleased to know, that AMM will be here to monitor the next phase of the implementation of the MoU. This next phase deals with political issues and there are many problems to be solved in that connection.

We in GAM are ambitious. We will continue to polish till our chair – the Acehnese society – becomes a place where every woman and man can enjoy the freedom of democracy and the economic growth that we expect will follow in the next few years. We also want our way in solving the conflict be a new model for conflict solving in other parts of the world.

We have said it publicly before: We would like AMM to extend the monitoring mission after the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2006.

We have learned to trust AMM during these first months of the peace process. On this occasion, I especially would like to thank the Head of Mission, Mr. Pieter Feith and his decommissioning teams under the leadership of Colonel Kalle Liesinen for their professionalism.

Thank you.

Irwandi Yusuf, DVM., M.Sc.  
Senior Representative