



**Remark at a meeting with  
United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights  
30 November 2012**

by Ariffadhillah  
Chairman of Presidium

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon,

On this special occasion, I would like to highlight briefly the situation of the human rights in Aceh.

For almost three decades Aceh had become a killing field for the Indonesian armed forces, in its efforts to crush the liberation movement in the region. Thousands of Acehese civilians had been killed, including extra judicial killings, massacres, torture, arbitrary arrests and “disappearances”. International and local human rights organizations had extensively documented about these atrocities.

On the Boxing Day of December 26<sup>th</sup> 2004, Aceh was devastated by the Indian Ocean Tsunami and about 200,000 Acehese died. This natural disaster coupled with a prolonged war had brought the two parties, the Indonesian government and the Free Aceh Movement, to the negotiating table. An accord was reached on 15 August 2005 in Helsinki. Thus, one of the longest armed conflicts in South East Asia eventually ended.

Now, seven years after the deal, the people of Aceh have witnessed how the stakeholders of the peace accord, the defunct GAM and Indonesia, have been trifling with their lives and their future. Most of the Helsinki promises such as Truth Reconciliation Commission, Human Rights Court and a dozen other articles stipulated in MoU, remain unfulfilled. Instead of establishing judicial measures, the stakeholders have been busy finding pragmatic solutions to resolve the past cases.

Even the most fanatical adherents of the peace process have now begun to realize that these two major human rights institutions, supposed to be providing access to justice for the victims of past military abuses, have not been established in Aceh yet.

The human rights have become a thing of the past in Aceh. Violations of these rights still continue to take to this very day despite the peace deal. So, the impact of impunity here is self-evident, and this is due to irresponsible attitude of the government and its unwillingness to respond to these issues. Unless the right to self-determination to the people of Aceh and other fundamental freedoms are recognized, violations of human rights will continue unabated.

Without any doubt, the Indonesian reign, especially its military, remains a threat to the Acehese people as it has always been. The very armed forces that responsible for killing thousands of civilians during Aceh conflict stay free to operate with impunity. In addition to that, some serious incidents which has violated civilian rights, for example, for freedom of speech and of peaceful assembly has happened against in Aceh.

Therefore, we appeal to international communities, especially to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to closely monitor the situation in Aceh and to make sure that Acehese

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security and fundamental rights be guaranteed. The political situation in our fatherland is such that in the absence of war there are mountains of the problem to be solved. We have no reason to believe that the situation in Aceh has a positive guarantee for the protection from persecution and intimidation of Acehnese political rights and national identity.

We believe that the root of problem of Aceh is political and should be solved politically. Therefore, without going back to the root of the matter, the violations of human rights in Aceh will never improve. The problem of Aceh should be resolved through the principles of the right to self-determination of the Acehnese people to determine their own future.

Thank you!

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