



Remark at UNPO General Assembly in Geneva

29 November 2012

by Ariffadhillah

Chairman of Presidium

Mr. President, Mr. General Secretary,
Honorable Erkin Alptekin, one of the founding fathers of the UNPO
Distinguished members, Excellencies

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Good afternoon,

On behalf of Aceh Sumatra National Liberation Front and on behalf of the freedom loving people of Aceh, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all UNPO members, especially the President, the Secretary General and the Chairman of General Assembly for allowing ASNLF to say a few words about Aceh.

First of all, I would like to introduce our delegation from Aceh-Sumatra National Liberation Front. I am Ariffadhillah, Chairman, Mr. Yusuf Daud as Vice Chairman, and Dr. Husaini Hasan, one of co-founders of the ASNLF and the most senior person among us.

Mr. Yusuf Daud was part of the young generation from the initial phases of the struggle. As a son of the first military commander of ASNLF, he has experiences not only in the field in Aceh, but also in diplomatic affairs abroad. With the founder of ASNLF Dr. Hasan Muhammad di Tiro and other colleagues, he had participated in several UNPO's activities in the nineties.

Dr. Husaini Hasan is the Head of Advisory Council and he was one of the first cabinet members of State of Aceh in 1977. He lead several important posts in the cabinet. The jungle of our homeland was his last fortress before he left Aceh in 1980, and found political asylum in Sweden.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Please allow me to say a few words about my country.

As most of you probably know, Aceh lies in the northern tip of Sumatra, with a population of around 6 millions. Aceh happens to be the most richest country in the archipelago: oil, gas, minerals etc. And most importantly, Aceh was the center of a powerful empire for several centuries and has a long and impressive history of resistance to outside domination.

In March 1873, the Netherlands declared the most bloody war in their colonial history against this independent state. But, they had never completely pacified the region. Our ancestors had struggled continuously for their homeland. Unfortunately, in 1949 the Netherlands transferred the sovereignty of Aceh illegally to the new fabricated state "Indonesia", former Dutch East Indies. Since then, the government of Indonesia has used all means to perpetuate its power over Aceh.

ACHEH-SUMATRA NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (ASNLF)



Ladies and Gentlemen,

As matter of fact, Aceh was a member of UNPO for a couple of years in the nineties, but due to internal problems of the organization, we were not able to maintain our membership status.

Now, we are ready to join UNPO again and to get back our former status. We intend to show our political commitments to fight against human rights violations, inequality, repression. In addition to that, we would like to accomplish our common missions for democracy, human rights, self-determination, etc.

We are confident, that by joining the UNPO, we could share common objectives and destiny with other members. We are hoping that we would have the best opportunity to carry out our missions and our goals.

Thank you again for this incredible opportunity and we do hope that we will use our membership status to promote human rights, democracy and justice.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen!

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