

Aceh Conflict Monitoring Update

1st August – 31st August 2005



World Bank/DSF

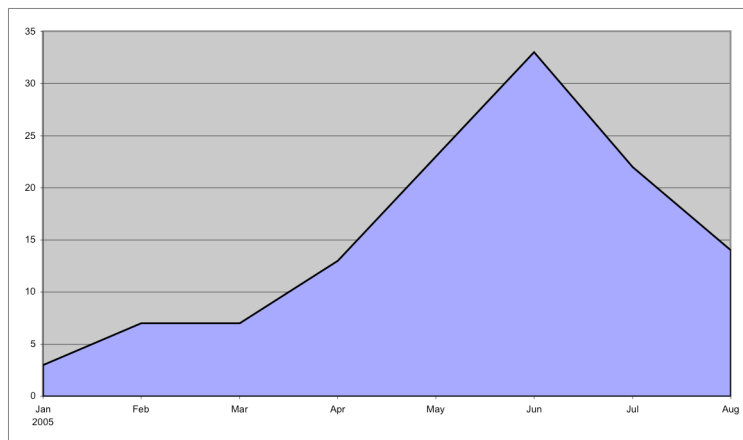
ON AUGUST 15th, the Government of Indonesia (GoI) and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding aimed at ending over thirty years of armed conflict in Aceh. As part of a local conflict assessment conducted by the World Bank, and ongoing preparations for the GoI/World Bank project SPADA, a newspaper conflict mapping methodology was used to record and categorize all incidents of conflict reported in two provincial newspapers (Serambi and Aceh Kita), from January 2005.¹ This dataset will be updated over the coming months. It is important to note that this methodology is unlikely to pick-up all incidents.² The Decentralization Support Facility (DSF) will publish monthly updates and analysis of the data, complimented by field work where possible.³

In general, the data shows positive trends since the signing of the peace accord. Only three incidents of GAM-GoI conflict have been reported, a decline compared to previous periods. There is no evidence of increasing rates of vigilantism or of the involvement of Anti-Separatist groups.

GAM-GoI incidents continue to decline in August

Incidents of GAM-GoI related conflict declined in the month of August, continuing a trend of declining conflict since a peak for this year in June. In all, 14 incidents were recorded in August.

Figure 1: GAM-GoI incidents in 2005 by month



Source: Newspaper dataset

¹ On post-tsunami conflict dynamics, see: Patrick Barron, Samuel Clark and Muslahuddin Daud (2005). *Conflict and Recovery in Aceh: An Assessment of Conflict and Options for Supporting the Peace Process*. Jakarta: World Bank.

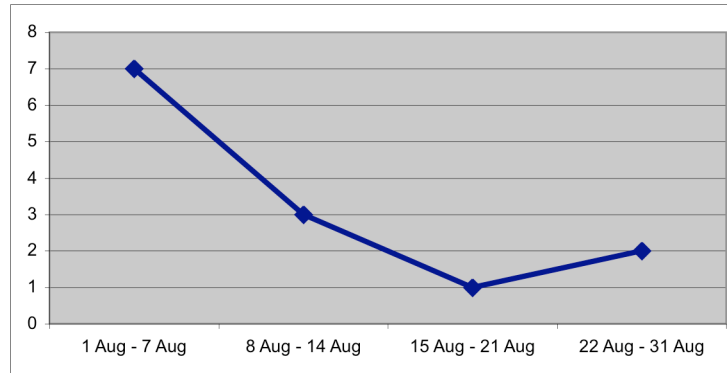
² There are limitations in using newspapers to map conflict: newspapers, particularly those published at the provincial level, do not pick-up all incidents and there may be bias in reporting certain incidents. Generally, newspapers are reliable for recording incidents of violence and actors involvement; they are less reliable for mapping resolution actors and small local non-violent conflict incidents. For more information on the methodology, see: Patrick Barron and Joanne Sharpe (2005). "Counting Conflict: Using Newspaper Reports to Understand Violence in Indonesia", *Indonesian Social Development Paper No. 8*. Jakarta: World Bank. Both reports are available online at: www.conflictanddevelopment.org

³ The dataset is available for those interested, please contact Samuel Clark at: sclark@wboj.or.id

Post-August 15th GAM-GoI incidents and impacts decline but do not cease

Providing further reason for optimism is the continuing decline over the month of August. Incidents post-August 15th (after the peace accord was signed) almost reached the low levels experienced immediately after tsunami in January; only three incidents were recorded after August 15th.

Figure 2: GAM-GoI incidents in August by week



Source: Newspaper dataset

Post-August 15th incidents and impacts in three districts only

The newspaper dataset noted one GAM-GoI incident each in West Aceh, Bireuen and Aceh Besar. Violent impacts were recorded in Aceh Barat and Bireuen only.

Table 1: Impacts of GAM-GoI incidents post-August 15th by district

District	Incidents	Deaths	Injuries	Buildings Damaged
Aceh Barat	1	1	1	0
Aceh Besar	1	0	0	0
Bireuen	1	0	1	0
TOTAL	3	1	2	0

Source: Newspaper dataset

▪ *Aceh Barat, Kecamatan Pante Ceremen, August 21st*

Serambi and Aceh Kita both reported the first conflict incident related to the GAM-GoI conflict. Reportedly, the victim, who was a former GAM member, was hit on the head and neck by five bullets. District level police reported that those responsible were five members of a group lead by the GAM leader Dahlan, sometimes referred to as Gambiet, who were reportedly about to surrender their weapons. GAM Spokesperson for Meulaboh, Wan Bijaksana, denied Dahlan's and GAM's involvement. The AMM/IMP (Aceh Monitoring Mission/Initial Monitoring Presence) announced they would investigate the incident.

▪ *Bireuen, Kecamatan Makmur, August 25th*

Aceh Kita and Serambi reported claims that GAM was involved in a shoot-out with the TNI and that one GAM member, Mustafa (18), suffered serious head injuries. Shortly after the incident AMM/IMP arrived and evacuated the victim to hospital. Both the TNI and police denied they were involved in any incident, or in the vicinity at the time, and stated that GAM misheard children's firecrackers, opened fire and in the confusion shot one of their own. Reports remained confused for a number of days and AMM/IMP announced they would investigate.

▪ *Aceh Besar, Kecamatan Indrapuri, August 28th*

Aceh Kita and Serambi reported a 10 minute fire-fight between GAM and TNI. According to TNI, 17 soldiers on patrol within the 750m radius set by the MoU were attacked by GAM. GAM Spokesperson for Aceh Besar, Muchsalmina, confirmed GAM involvement but claimed that the TNI were patrolling outside agreed areas, and hence legitimate targets. No-one was injured but AMM/IMP investigated the incident.

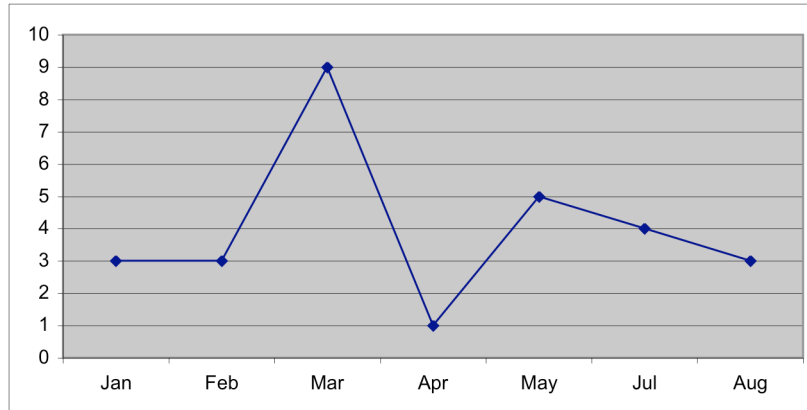
AMM/IMP successfully clarifies disputed incidents

The AMM/IMP, through the CoSA (Committee on Security Arrangements, within the AMM) protocol, successfully resolved the two incidents in Bireuen and Aceh Besar. The incident in West Aceh was not publicized as having been discussed in the CoSA.

Vigilantism and Anti-Separatist Group involvement remained low

Incidents of vigilantism declined in August. Three incidents were recorded in August: two before August 15th in South Aceh and Lhokseumawe; and one incident in Bireuen after August 15th. No conflict incidents involving Anti-Separatist groups were recorded.

Figure 3: Vigilante incidents in 2005 by month



Source: Newspaper dataset