



Press Release – 3rd CoSPA Meeting
April 16, 2008

Press Release
Commission on Sustaining Peace in Aceh (CoSPA)

The third CoSPA meeting was held on Wednesday, April 16, 2008 at the Secretariat of Forbes Damai Aceh (Joint Forum for Aceh Peace) at Kompleks Taman Ratu Safiatuddin, Banda Aceh.

Those who attended the meeting were Zainal Arifin, Hasbi MS, Anwar Noer, and Masykur from FKK Damai Aceh Aceh Desk (Communication and Coordination Forum for Aceh Peace) and Muhammad Nur Djuli, Munawar Liza Zainal, Teuku Hadi, Shadia Marhaban, Irwansyah, and Fauzan Azima of GAM elements (Aceh Freedom Movement).

This meeting was also attended by five prominent figures who were specially invited. They are:

- Aceh Vice Governor, Muhammad Nazar, S.Ag
- Chair of Aceh Parliament (DPRA), H. Sayed Fuad Zakaria, SE
- Commander of Iskandar Muda Military Command, represented by Lieutenant Colonel Ruruh AS
- Head of Aceh High Court, represented by Yasrin Nasution (Judge)
- Head of National Commission of Human Right Aceh Representative Office, Sepriady Utama, S.H.

Also attending, were two international observers:

- Deputy of U.S. General Consul in Medan, Michael R. Rousek.
- Project Officer Aceh Programme, European Union, Luis Lechiguero.

The meeting was chaired by Azwar Abubakar. Five agenda items were discussed:

- Report on investigation by FKK Aceh Desk and BRA (Aceh Peace Reintegration Board) on Atu Lintang, Aceh Tengah;
- Plan on the establishment of the Human Rights Court and Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Aceh;
- Analysis of security situation with potential to disturb the peace process;
- Material of the press release; and
- Decision on agenda and schedule for the next meeting.

Participants of CoSPA Meeting III agreed on the following issues:

A. Security Issue

1. Police investigation on the incident of Atu Lintang, Aceh Tengah, on March 1, 2008 was considered standard and professional. The police were able to detain 25 suspects. Participants of the CoSPA meeting gave high appreciation to the Aceh Regional Police (Polda Aceh), in particular Aceh Tengah Resort Police (Polres), for their work in handling this case.

2. So far it has not yet been revealed the existence of direct connection between the incident in Datu Beru Terminal, Takengon, with the incident in Atu Lintang, Aceh Tengah, although both occurred over a close time interval.

3. Participants of CoSPA meeting are understanding the claim made by Chief of Aceh Tengah Resort Police that the Atu Lintang incident was purely criminal. However, it is

possible that there were other scenarios behind the Atu Lintang incident and this assumption must be proven in court in a fair and transparent manner.

4. Therefore, if the case documentation process for the suspects of Atu Lintang incident is already finished and considered complete, it must be immediately sent to the prosecutor to then be followed up in court, so the real motive and scenario of the Atu Lintang incident can be revealed.

5. It is also necessary to continue the early warning system for conflict potential in the entire Aceh Province, so that there will be no more disturbing incidents such as the Atu Lintang case.

6. It is necessary to implement specific economic empowerment programs for sensitive groups in Aceh.

7. It is considered necessary to formulate mechanisms for public reporting on violent incidents with political motives that occur after the signing of the Helsinki Peace Accord. It was recommended to use the already existing institutions as mechanisms to receive reports from the community, such as the Police, FKK, BRA, and KPA for them to communicate and liaise.

B. Mechanism of Truth and Reconciliation Commission (KKR)

1. CoSPA urged the Central Government to hasten the establishment of a) Human Rights Court for Aceh, b) TRC in Aceh, and c) implementation of Civil Court Law for general crimes which are conducted by the military.

2. Participants of the CoSPA meeting appreciated the government's efforts, particularly those of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights Affairs, who has prepared academic of draft of TRC Law. This draft should be socialized to the society, including in Aceh, in order to generate wider support.

3. Participants of CoSPA meeting requested the Ministry of Law and Human Rights Affairs to hand over the draft and academic draft of TRC Law to the Indonesian Parliament (DPR RI) so they could immediately review and pass it in 2008, as what has been planned in National Legislation Program (Prolegnas) 2008.

4. Discussion of draft of TRC Qanun (Regional Regulation/by law) in Aceh should be done after the TRC Law is passed by DPR RI. It is impossible for Aceh Parliament (DPRA) to pass TRC Qanun (by law) first, because the regulation of the Bylaw may be conflicting with the National TRC Law.

5. Aceh Government together with FKK, BRA, Forbes Damai, and APRC will provide input to the Central Government and DPR RI in order to enrich the discussion process on the draft of TRC Law so it can integrate local Aceh content and experience into the context of reconciliation after the conflict.

6. In the context of resolution of human rights violation cases in the past, there were three options: 1) to forget and to forgive, 2) not to forget and not to forgive, 3) not to forget, but to forgive. Participants of the CoSPA meeting tended to recommend the third option.

C. Human Right Court

1. Participants of the CoSPA meeting supported the effort of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights Affairs to ask for fatwa (legal base) to the Supreme Court as the law basis for the establishment of a Human Rights Court in Aceh which is within the jurisdiction of the Human Rights Court in Medan and is based in the Banda Aceh Court.

2. Participants pushed the Central Government to hasten the establishment of the Human Rights Court in Aceh as the implementation of Article 228 Law Number 11 Year 2006 regarding Aceh Governance.

D. CoSPA Meeting IV

1. CoSPA meeting IV will be held on Thursday, May 15, 2008 at the Secretariat of Forbes Damai Aceh.

2. Topics that will be discussed in the CoSPA meeting IV are:

- a) Discussion on planning to establish the Joint Claims Settlement Commission,
- b) Civil Court for general crimes conducted by the military.

E. Closing

Participants of CoSPA meeting extended their gratitude to the Aceh Peace Resource Center (APRC) and Forbes Damai who have facilitated this meeting.

Banda Aceh
16 April, 2008

On behalf of all meeting participants,

H. AZWAR ABUBAKAR

The Chairman of the meeting