

# The Acehnesse

For Peace,  
Freedom & Justice  
in Aceh

The Acehnesse Society of North America

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## Monthly Review

### Military Impunity Undermines Democracy

The Jakarta Post  
Thursday, August 19, 2004  
Paul Barber, London

Indonesia is fast learning the lesson that while elections are an important part of the transition from dictatorship to democracy, the more difficult parts include establishing the rule of law, eradicating corruption and ensuring military accountability to civilian institutions.

According to these criteria the democratization process in Indonesia still has a long way to go.

Although military operations in Aceh and West Papua prevented free and fair elections in those areas, many observers declared the legislative and first round of the presidential elections a relative success. The two remaining presidential candidates seem unlikely to provide significant impetus to the cause of military reform however. President Megawati Soekarnoputri has shown that she is a virtual puppet of the military while Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono is a former general unlikely to change his military spots.

But it is the continuing impunity of armed forces personnel that in particular augurs ill for the transition to democracy.

The outcome of recent proceedings in Indonesia's ad hoc human rights court and its associated appeal court have been a massive blow to those who, over-optimistically, believed that Indonesia's legal institutions were sufficiently independent and mature to handle the prosecution of some of the gravest crimes known to humanity.

This is not only a criticism of the Indonesian system, but also an acknowledgement of the immense difficulties of transitional justice in a country which has emerged from decades of authoritarianism.

The appeal court's decision to quash the convictions of four Indonesian security officials found guilty of crimes against humanity in East Timor has confirmed the widespread view that the proceedings were a travesty of justice. Twelve other Indonesian security officials had already been found not guilty by the ad hoc human rights court.

The only convictions still standing are those of two ethnic Timorese — militia leader, Eurico Guterres and former East Timor Governor, Abilio Soares. The appeal court also halved Guterres' 10-year sentence thereby reducing it below the legal minimum.

The impression that military impunity remains firmly entrenched was reinforced by the decision of the same ad hoc human rights court to acquit the head of Indonesia's special forces, Kopassus, Maj. Gen. Sriyanto Muntarsan, of gross human rights violations for his role in the 1984 shooting of Muslim protesters at Tanjung Priok in Jakarta. Families of the victims have no intention of letting the matter rest and say they will take the case further if the Supreme Court refuses to overturn the acquittal.

Concern has also been expressed about a military bill before Parliament, which it likely to have the effect of strengthening the military's power and influence through the re-establishment of its 'dual function' role and its territorial presence throughout the country.

Some have concluded that the recent developments concerning the military are reminiscent of the Soeharto era and that in reality little has changed since then.

In the case of serious crimes committed in East Timor, it is now clear that alternative international judicial mechanisms will be required to provide justice for the victims.

Although an International Commission of Inquiry on East Timor recommended in January 2000 that an international tribunal for East Timor should be set up, the UN controversially opted instead to give Indonesia the chance to bring the alleged perpetrators to justice under its own legal system. Unfortunately, the Indonesian authorities have shown that they are unwilling and unable to establish the truth of what happened in East Timor — especially as regards the role of the security forces — and to hold the perpetrators to account for their crimes.

While this is essentially a failure of political will, much of the blame must also be attached to the Attorney General's office for its failure to present credible cases against the accused and its reluctance to indict senior officers, such as former armed forces commander-in-chief, General (ret.) Wiranto. Wiranto was identified by Indonesia's own Commission for Human Rights Violations in East Timor (KPP-HAM) as the person with overall responsibility for the violence in East Timor.

The UN Secretary General is now coming under increasing pressure to establish a commission of experts to evaluate existing justice processes in Indonesia and East Timor and to recommend future action, including the possible establishment of an international tribunal. Support for such an initiative has recently been expressed in letters to the Secretary General from 106 representatives of East Timorese civil society, 78 members of the U.S. Congress and leading international human rights organizations including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

The Indonesian Foreign Ministry's objection to outside interference in the judicial proceedings of a sovereign country is groundless. The proceedings arose as a result of an agreement with the UN and the international community has a special responsibility to intervene in the case of alleged crimes against humanity if the sovereign country is unwilling and unable to carry out a genuine investigation and prosecution.

In deciding upon the next step, the UN must avoid relying too heavily on the views of the Indonesian and East Timorese governments since their views



Education for children is of main priority in Aceh. Achenese, however, can not rely on Indonesia government and local elite's rhetoric on its importance as there are 256,782 children of age 4-15 years in Aceh who never attend school (Diknas data until mid 2004). They are very vulnerable to become future recruits of both warring parties in Aceh conflict. Children in the picture are of one village in Aceh Besar, among the very few who get informal education from committed local NGOs and student groups (photo: SM Abdullah, August 2004)

are determined primarily by political as opposed to legal considerations.

The crimes committed in East Timor are of the utmost gravity. The UN must take special account of the views of ordinary East Timorese people, the victims and their families, which are not necessarily reflected by their government. It must also ensure that it fulfills its overriding responsibility to uphold the supremacy of international human rights and humanitarian law.

(The writer is a researcher for the London-based TAPOL, the Indonesia Human Rights Campaign. He can be reached at [plovers@gn.apc.org](mailto:plovers@gn.apc.org))

Indonesia will prevail if Indonesians  
manage to control its military \_\_\_\_\_  
MM Billah of KOMNAS HAM, Jakarta

### The Acehnesse Bulletin

Address: 6300 GUYER AVE., Philadelphia, PA 19142

E-mail: [aceh\\_bulletin@hotmail.com](mailto:aceh_bulletin@hotmail.com)

Editor-in-Chief: Eddy Suheri

Manager: Abdul Jalil

Editorial Board: Tjut Zahara, Machyar Gleuenta

Redaksi menerima tulisan menyangkut masalah Aceh dalam *tiga bahasa*. Tulisan dalam bahasa Aceh dan berbagai bentuk tulisan dari kalangan perempuan Aceh sangat dianjurkan. Kirimkan tulisan Anda lewat e-mail. Max. 2 hal, 1,5 spasi ukuran font 12. Bulletin welcomes articles related to issues on Aceh in English, Acehnesse, or Malay. Articles in Acehnesse and articles from Acehnesse women are especially encouraged. Please send articles in e-mail attachment. Max 2 pages, 1.5 space, font size 12.

Suggested participation: \$0.97 (fotocopy \$0.60 + stamp \$0.37), more generous participation, however, is welcome. Please make participation payable to Abdul Jalil and send it to the Bulletin address.

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## Aceh Snap Shots on Indonesia's Independent Day

### Divorce Up 20%

Divorce rates in Aceh tend to track the intensity of armed conflict and consequent mental and financial stress experienced by couples.

According to Rosmani Daud, deputy clerk of the Religious Court, which handles all divorce cases in the province, 977 wives and husbands filed for divorce in 2002 but the number went up to 1,214 cases in 2003.

The 20% rise in the number of cases followed the instatement of a 'military emergency' in Aceh on 19 May 2003.

Most of the divorce petitions are filed by women.

The trend was more obvious when the government ended the Military Operations Region (DOM) in 1998, Daud said.

During the course of 1998, some 3,020 divorce cases were registered but this fell 30% to 2,029 in 1999 – the first year of non-military rule since 1989.

But Daud is not sure how the divorce rate will develop this year. So far, between January and April 2004, the court has received 647 petitions for divorce.

### Some Refugees Return Home

Deputy Governor Azwar Abubakar told acehkitita that after two months of the civil emergency in Aceh, around 1,000 refugees in government camps had already returned home.

He said that 3,004 refugees or 827 family heads were registered with government authorities in three regencies – Aceh Jaya, South Aceh and East Aceh – as of May 19 when the civil emergency was introduced.

This number had fallen to around 2,000 by mid-July, he said.

He said armed forces personnel (TNI) and the Ministry of Social Affairs (Depsos) were planning to build as many as 1,520 simple houses for the refugees in 16 regencies, with funds from the Ministry's budget.

But the latest figures from the social affairs department in Aceh on 26 July show that a total of 2,661 persons or 757 family heads remain in refugee camps throughout the province – mainly concentrated in five regencies/ cities: Aceh Jaya, West Aceh, Aceh Barat Daya, South Aceh and East Aceh.

### UN Protects Refugees in Malaysia

Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has issued around 8,000 certificates to Acehese in Malaysia declaring them official refugees.

UNHCR Malaysia chief Volker Turk told acehkitita that the actual number of Acehese living without official papers in Malaysia was most likely much higher.

He said that the temporary protection the certificates were designed to provide refugees in third countries was often ignored by the Malaysian authorities.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) Malaysia called on the government to honor the certificates and protect Acehese refugees in their country.

... to page 5 column 1



A kiss from a grandma who was accused of being guerillas supporter (Photo: AcehKita.com)

Haba  
Sakinah ngon Bunda

## Hijrah u Banda

keunarang  
Dian Rubianty

Meupinteut-pinteut aki Sakinah peusutot langkah Bunda. Muka ubit jih ka peunoh abe yang dipot lé angèn sipanyang rauéh.

"Bunda..." peuleuheun keudéh suè Sakinah diheui Bunda. Rap hana teudengo.

Bunda hana meupaléng, geujak aju hana geu piyoh. Lam ija tuha, adek Hanif teungoh mangat that teungeut geu tingkué lé Bunda.

Sakinah hana jadèh dikeumeung piyoh, bagah-bagah diseutot Bunda teuma. Hatèe jih seudéh. Meutamah ngon prut yang ka dari buno kon dimeurawóng musabab deùk that jie rasa. Hana sapeu lôm lam prut soh nyoë. Ie bak pet buno Suboh na dijép bacut, watèe Bunda pakat tuéng ie seumahyang bak kama manòe Mesjid Raya.

Sibena jih Sakinah hana galak haroih jak u Banda, meusidroë hana yang ta turi. Yang na leu ciet moto, asap ngon abè. Ureung sibok keudroë-droë, hana yang saleng brie saleuum watèe meupok bahò. Hana lagèe di gampông.

Na teudeugo bak geulinyueng Sakinah watèe Bunda peugah hana ngon Wa Syah, ureung siblah rumoh, Bunda meucuba udép di Banda. Han ék geupeu theun lé get that peudéh udép di gampông. Peu lom rumoh awaknyan ka tutông.

Tutông? Ngon Sakinah, si Ali-aneuk pak Keuchik peugah: kon tutông, tapi na ureung jeuheut yang tót rumoh awak nyan.

Sakét lam dada Sakinah makén teurasa. "Ya Allah..." kheun jih lam hatèe. Thôn nyoë keubit peudéh Allah brië cubaan keu Sakinah ngon Bunda.

Kadang ulèe jih sakét bak dibòh pike. Phon, Ayah dicok lé gop sampoan jino hana haba. Lheuh nyan meusambông ngon rumoh tutông. Untông na Wa Syah. Gobnyan yang kalon apui watèe tengoh geu jak tueng ie seumahyang, meujak seumahyang Tahajud. Meuhan abeh tutông mandum, Sakinah, Bunda ngon adek Hanif lam rumoh nyan. Alhamdulillah mantong Allah brië seulamat. Walaupun naseb hana meuteunte lagèe nyoë.

Sakinah hana meuphom pakon Ayah dicok lé gop. Hana sapeu bak Ayah yang jeut dipeusalah lé Sakinah. Gobnyan cuma gurée seumeubeut bak meunasah. Sigo-go meunyo na khauri di gampông, ayah tulông teumagun ngon rah pingan kuto.

Keluarga awaknyan udép sederhana. Bunda haroih geujak seumeurah lhee boh rumoh ngat jeut geu tulông Ayah. Bah that pih meunan Bunda sabe teukheum, rumèh rupa. Rindu that Sakinah digisa teuma bak masa nyan. Seudéh that hatèe jih dikalon rupa Bunda jino. Pucat, sabé teumakot nyo geu kalon ureung. Mata Bunda hana meuchaya lé lagèe jameun.

Di Banda, sampoan jino Bunda hana meureumpok buet lom. Padahai awaknyan ka lhèe go aleuhad troh keuno. Kadang-kadang Bunda ngon Sakinah tulông rah pingan bak warông bu, lheuh nyan dibrie bu leuho atau malam lé yang po warông. Kadang awaknyan teudeuk bak terminal labi-labi. Sakinah tunu that nyo haroih duek theun jaro bak gob!

Tingat sabé Ayah peugah, walaupun geutanyo hana sapeu, bek sampo tanyo bëueut jaro meulakèe bak gop. Peuget peu yang jeut seulama jaro-aki mantong teuga. Raseuki Allah Maha Luwah, meunyo ta usaha pasti na hasé....meulang

-ulang sue Ayah sang teudengo bak geulinyueng Sakinah.

Lhèh pat gobnyan jino, meunyo memang ka geu wo bak Allah, semoga Allah Neubri keu gobnyan tempat wo yang jroh. Nyan sabé dilakèe bak Allah tiep seumahyang. Seubab na ureung lingka ya peugah, hana mungkin lé Ayah akan geu wo sajan Sakinah teuma.

"Bruk!!! Sakinah meupok ngon sidroe ureung inong. Lalèe that pikeran jih sampo hana dikalon jalan.

"Ya Allah!" Sakinah teukejôt that.

"Maaf, Ibu. Saya tidak sengaja." Bagah-bagah ditulông peusapat barang *ibuk* nyan yang ka meusie-seu bak jalan.

Dikalon Bunda geubalèk bagah-bagah jak tulông Sakinah.

"Nggak pa-pa kok. Namanya juga nggak sengaja." Rumeuh keudeh muka *Ibuk* nyan. Mungkin sayang dikalon Sakinah ngon Bunda ka teudong peunoh raka bersalah.

"Saya nggak apa-apa." Ulang *ibuk* nyan lom karna geukalon jaro Sakinah meuthôt-thôt watèe dipeusapat barang.

Adek Hanif jaga lam tingku Bunda. Peulheuheun that dimo, mungkin adek Hanif ka teurasa grah ngon deuk ciet.

"Mungkin haus, ya...Ayo, singgah ke rumah saya. Biar bisa dikasih ASI. Nggak jauh lagi kok, itu yang atapnya hitam."

Deungon pandangan teurimong geunaseh Bunda dan Sakinah ikot langkah *Ibuknyan*.

Troh u rumoh gobnyan, Bunda han geu tem tamong. Bunda peugah bah di teras mantong. Kamoe get that kuto.

"Kalau begitu ke dapur aja ya..." Akhé jih Bunda geu tém ciet.

"Namanya siapa?" tanyong gobnyan sira geupuduek dua boh glah ie ateuuh meja.

"Sakinah..."

"Nama yang bagus sekali, ayo minum Sakinah. Pasti haus kan..."

Sakinah dikalon u ateuuh Bunda. Meunan Bunda geu anggok, Sakinah langsung dicok ie nyan di jep. Alhamdulillah, betoi Ayah peugah, raseuki Allah hana jeut ta duga.

"Ibu tinggal disekitar sini? Rasanya saya belum pernah liat sebelumnya?" Gobnyan geutanyong bak Bunda penoh simpati.

Sira sigo-go geu sampòh ie mata ngon ija tinggu adek Hanif, Bunda geu cerita bak *Ibuknyan* peu bala yang rheut ateuuh awaknyan. Sigo-go Sakinah yang peusampo makesud Bunda, sabab basa meulayu bunda hana that pah.

"Ya Allah!Kok sampai hati ya..." *Ibuknyan* geu mo geudengo cerita Bunda.

"Kalau adek mau, tinggal sama saya aja. Cuma sederhana begini. Di rumah ini saya berdua sama Siti, anak saya. Dia sudah kuliah di Darussalam. Siti pasti senang ada adek. Suami saya sudah meninggal dua tahun yang lalu. Tadinya saya ikut almarhum merantau ke Aceh. Walaupun beliau sekarang sudah tidak ada, saya sudah betah disini, tetangga saya disini semua seperti keluarga sendiri. Makanya saya dan Siti tidak pulang kembali ke Palembang."

Bunda ngon Sakinah meuleng-leng ië mata. Hana geu tuoh peugah kibon terimong geunaseh bak *ibuk* nyan. Ureung yang baro awaknyan turi bak jalan, tapi dengon ikhlas geu ulokan jaroë geu tulông Sakinah ngon Bunda, padahai kon syedara. Gobnyan tulông semata-memata karna Allah.

"Alhamdulillah..." kheun Sakinah meulang-ulang. Lam hatèe jih dimeujanji akan medu'a sabe bak Allah, semoga meunyo na aneuk yang naseb jih lagèe Sakinah ngon adek Hanif, bak Allah peurumpok ngon ureung mulia lage Bu Husein. Walaupun gobnyan udép sederhana, mantong geupeulapang droë geutulông Sakinah ngon Bunda. Ya Allah, semoga mantong leu ureung lagèe Bu Husein supaya mandum aneuk-aneuk di Aceh yang naseb jih lagèe Sakinah na yang tulông, hana payah meuseu-seu deuk bak jalan, jeut keu ureung meulake-lake. Nauzubillah, bek sampek na yang jeut keu pancuri karna han ek theun deuk lé.

### Hadih Maja Pilihan

*Kameng batok peulandok cugong  
Alee gohlom trok, leusong ka teuplong*

*Pantang jurong yoh goh tatamong  
Pantang inong yoh goh tacinta*

## Mengapa Rakyat Aceh Wajib Golput?

Catatan Ringan S. Rizali\*

Saya setuju sekali dengan pendapat yang menyatakan sebaiknya rakyat Aceh Golput (Golongan Putih alias tidak memberi suara) dalam Pemilihan Presiden putaran II (Pilpres II) pada tanggal 5 September 2004.

Pada masa Pemilihan Umum Anggota Legislatif dan Pilpres putaran I, memang ada harapan dan impian indah bagi sebagian rakyat Aceh.

Dalam pemilu Calon Anggota Lesilatif (Caleg), harapan dan impian ini berupa memilih Caleg dari PKS dan PAN. Memang kedua partai itu terkenal bersih dan pro-reformasi. Selain memilih Caleg dari dua partai ini, juga ada harapan dengan memilih anggota Dewan Perwakilan Daerah (DPD). DPD yang memang berasal langsung dari rakyat setempat diharapkan benar-benar dapat mewakili suara rakyat.

Diikuti, banyak yang tetap memilih Caleg dari partai Golkar dan sejenisnya. Tapi itu semata-mata tanda bahwa sebagian rakyat masih bodoh dan bisa dibodohi, termasuk lewat intimidasi dan mobilisasi oleh partai-partai bermodal besar di sejumlah kabupaten yang jauh dari pemantauan. Atau dapat juga diinterpretasikan bahwa sebagian rakyat Aceh masih cinta sama koruptor ala Caleg-Caleg Golkar. (Catatan: Karena itu, masih diperlukan pendidikan, khususnya politik, bagi rakyat agar bisa memilah-milah mana yang busuk, mana yang baik. Pendidikan bagi rakyat ini harus menjadi agenda utama bagi aktifis Aceh)

Dalam masa Pilpres I, ada calon andalan yang dikenal bersih, yaitu Amien Rais. Sayang Amien hanya menang di Aceh dan Sumatera Barat. Mungkin ini mengindikasikan bahwa orang-orang di Aceh/Sumatera Barat lebih pintar atau punya hati nurani. Di daerah-daerah lain, masyarakat memang lebih cinta sama Capres (calon presiden) yang jago korupsi, diduga didukung gangster, atau terbiasa melanggar HAM. (Harus dimaklumi, sebagaimana pemimpinnya yang konyol dan korup, pasti rakyatnya juga mengikuti seperti itu. Lihat: Pilpres dan Kekalahan Nurani, Jawapos, 20 Juli 2004, [http://www.jawapos.com/index.php?act=detail\\_c&id=119493](http://www.jawapos.com/index.php?act=detail_c&id=119493)).

### Golput adalah pilihan strategis bagi rakyat di Aceh.

Pertama, tidak ada Capres yang dapat dipercaya di Pilpres II. Yang satu terkenal dengan korupsi yang dilakukannya, plus pintar menjual aset-aset negara pada harga obral yang sangat rendah. Yang satu-nya lagi mantan militer, perancang darurat militer di Aceh dan diduga dekat dengan konglomerat hitam yang telah ikut membuat Indonesia terus terpuruk.

Kedua, memilih di Pilpres II berarti rakyat Aceh masih percaya sama rejim penguasa di Jakarta. Kepercayaan ini akan diterjemahkan bahwa: rakyat Aceh menerima perlakuan buruk oleh pemerintah, diwakili TNI/Polri dan Pemda, yang selama ini terjadi di Aceh. Bila rakyat Aceh masih memilih dalam Pilpres II, berarti rakyat Aceh menyenangi tindakan brutal rejim penguasa Jakarta terhadap rakyat Aceh. Karena itu, siapa pun presiden yang terpilih nantinya, berhak mengulangi kebrutalan tersebut terhadap rakyat Aceh yang telah dilakukan sejak jaman Soekarno, Soeharto, Habibie, Gus Dur, dan Megawati.

Ketiga, Golput adalah cara efektif untuk menyatakan ketidakpercayaan masyarakat Aceh terhadap rejim penguasa Jakarta dan Pemda yang mewakilinya. Selama ini pendapat rakyat Aceh tidak pernah didengarkan rejim Jakarta karena rakyat selalu berbondong-bondong ikut dalam Pemilu. Akibatnya, Jakarta punya pembenaran bahwa rakyat Aceh suka dijajah oleh Jakarta.

Bila ada yang protes atau memberontak, selalu dinyatakan sebagai gerakan sekelompok orang yang sakit hati dan bodoh. Bahkan dinyatakan sebagai orang haus kekuasaan atau antek-antek

negara asing. (Catatan: Anehnya, rejim penguasa Jakarta itu sendiri yang menghalalkan berbagai cara untuk menegakkan kekuasaannya, memperbodoh rakyat, dan suka menjadi antek-antek negara/perusahaan asing yang mengeksploitasi rakyat di nusantara).

### Referendum dan Hari Berkabung

Berbeda dengan mengikuti Pemilu yang penuh rekayasa untuk memilih wakil/pemimpin rakyat yang korup, tahun 1999 rakyat Aceh pernah menyampaikan suara hati nuraninya dengan kompak, damai, dan berdentung ke seluruh dunia. Rakyat Aceh menuntut diadakan REFERENDUM agar bisa menyampaikan suara-nya dengan bebas, tanpa rekayasa.

Rapat akbar rakyat Aceh tahun 1999, tepatnya pada 8 November, sebenarnya akumulasi dari rapat/pawai/demonstrasi sejenis di segala penjuru Aceh pada periode 1999. Awalnya, rejim fasis Jakarta yang sudah mati rasa karena hobi korupsi tidak bersedia mendengarkan suara hati nurani rakyat Aceh tersebut. Namun ketika rakyat Aceh bersatu dan menyuarakannya ke segala penjuru dunia pada akhir 1999, terpaksa rejim penguasa Jakarta mendengarkannya.

Jelas lah rapat akbar 1999 itu cara efektif untuk menyuarakan keinginan rakyat Aceh. Idealnya, rapat akbar rakyat Aceh itu diperingati setiap tahun, agar suara hati nurani rakyat Aceh dapat terus didengarkan. Tapi kita ketahui bersama, teror terhadap suara hati nurani rakyat Aceh terus terjadi. Pada tahun 2000 dan 2001, ketika rapat akbar untuk menyuarakan hati nurani rakyat Aceh akan diadakan, ratusan rakyat Aceh dibantai oleh TNI/Polri di berbagai daerah. (Lihat: Aceh: Visit to a war zone <http://tapol.gn.apc.org/166-7visi.htm> HRW: THE WAR IN ACEH <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2001/aceh/indaceh0801-04.htm>)

Pada saat rakyat Aceh memperingati 17 Agustus sebagai hari BERKABUNG bagi Aceh, TNI/Polri akan melibas/membantai setiap rakyat yang ikut serta (Kompas, "Hari Berkabung Nasional" untuk Aceh pada 17 Agustus [http://www.kompas.com/kompas\\_cetak/9908/16/NASIONAL/hari06.htm](http://www.kompas.com/kompas_cetak/9908/16/NASIONAL/hari06.htm) ).

Tegasnya, kondisi ideal bagi rakyat Aceh agar didengarkan suaranya adalah dengan mengadakan rapat akbar menuntut REFERENDUM secara rutin

setiap tahun. Selain itu juga merayakan 17 Agustus sebagai HARI BERKABUNG bagi rakyat Aceh.

### Cara Golput

Tapi karena kondisi ideal yang dimaksud tidak dapat dilaksanakan mengingat brutalisme TNI/Polri, pilihan lain adalah Golput pada Pilpres II. Golput di Aceh dengan tidak datang ke TPS jelas bunuh diri! Karena itu rakyat Aceh meskipun Golput, tetap harus datang ke TPS yang tersedia. Di waktu pemilihan, rusak saja kartu suara yang ada dengan mencoblos dua kali atau cara membatalkan surat suara lainnya. Dengan demikian akan jelas pendapat rakyat Aceh: kami tidak percaya seorang koruptor atau mantan TNI yang didukung konglomerat hitam dapat membawa perubahan bagi rakyat Aceh.

Golput adalah cara efektif bagi rakyat Aceh untuk menyatakannya bahwa rakyat sudah bosan dengan rejim Jakarta. Golput adalah cara menyuarakan bahwa rakyat Aceh ingin kebebasan memilih, bukan rekayasa politik pembenaran penjajahan Aceh oleh rejim Jakarta melalui Pemilu dan Pilpres.

Golput untuk menolak koruptor dan militer pro-konglomerat hitam menjadi presiden. Golput untuk menyuarakan hati rakyat Aceh yang terus tertindas. Golput untuk menyuarakan kemerdekaan hati dan kecerdasan.

(S. Rizali adalah alumni National University of Singapore, pendiri dan webmaster Aceh-Links [acehnet.tripod.com](http://acehnet.tripod.com), tinggal di Jakarta)

*Golput untuk menolak koruptor dan oknum militer dukungan konglomerat hitam menjadi presiden. Golput untuk menyuarakan hati rakyat Aceh yang terus tertindas. Golput untuk menyuarakan kemerdekaan hati dan kecerdasan.*

## Droë keu droë teuh hai...

### Sumbangan keu Bulletin:

MZ, New York, NY US \$50  
SA, Seattle, WA US \$20

Alhamdulillah. Who is next? (TAB)

### Sumbangan untuk Pendidikan di Aceh

Yayasan Masyarakat Iqra' (Reading Society Foundation) adalah sebuah Yayasan nirlaba yang berkedudukan di Banda Aceh dengan tujuan untuk (1) Meningkatkan minat baca dalam masyarakat Aceh; (2) Membawa buku dan Taman Bacaan ke tengah masyarakat; (3) Membantu usaha pemberantasan buta huruf; dan (4) Membantu usaha-usaha membentuk masyarakat madani yang berbasis budaya membaca yang kuat dan meluas di tengah masyarakat Aceh.

Dua kegiatan utama yang sedang dan terus akan dilakukan oleh Yayasan ini adalah (1) Kampanye Gemar Membaca lewat penyebaran brosur, stiker, spanduk, dan iklan layanan masyarakat serta lewat aneka lomba seperti lomba minat baca, baca cerpen, cerita anak, hikayat Aceh dan PMTOH, dan lomba Taman Bacaan; (2) Membantu pembentukan dan pembinaan Taman Bacaan di kampung-kampung dengan kerjasama dalam Jaringan Masyarakat Iqra' Aceh.

Taman Bacaan adalah 'pustaka komunitas' yang dibangun dan dikelola oleh masyarakat tetapan. Buku dan bahan bacaan lainnya diperoleh dengan membeli, mengumpulkan dan menerima buku bekas dari masyarakat, dan atau sumbangan dari sponsor.

Jaringan Masyarakat Iqra' adalah jaringan masyarakat independen yang percaya bahwa salah satu masalah mendasar di Aceh adalah lemahnya kebiasaan membaca dan rendahnya mutu pendidikan.

Jika ada anggota masyarakat Aceh di Amerika Utara atau dimanapun berada hendak menyalurkan infaq, shadaqah, dan zakatnya untuk tujuan mulia Yayasan ini, dapat menyalurkan sumbangannya lewat kami atau langsung ke alamat YMI di Aceh.

Saiful Mahdi, Ketua Yayasan (smahdi@lycos.com) Yayasan Masyarakat Iqra'  
Jl. Tgk. Abu Lam U No. 17  
Banda Aceh 23242

(contact person: Muhyiddin, S.Pd., Sekretaris Yayasan). Telp/Fax: +62-651-636194 (Rekening Sosial Yayasan yang resmi sedang dalam pengurusan. Untuk sementara, sumbangan dapat dialamatkan ke Ketua dan Sekretaris Yayasan atau Anda dapat mengontak kami kembali untuk No. Rekening Yayasan)

Jak ta bantu useuha mulia nyo! (TAB)

Silahkan sampaikan berita keluarga atawa komunitas Aceh lewat e-mail/ surat untuk dimuat dalam Bulletin kita ini. Free!

## Leuser Nation Park, Ladia Galaska News

The Leuser Management Unit (UML), which manages the Leuser Ecosystem area, said in late July that 25% of the 2.6-million-hectare area has been deforested.

UML project director M. Ali Basyah said deforestation in the area had continued unabated since the 1970s, as law enforcers - including police and military personnel and forestry officials - were involved in illegal logging.

"The UML has uncovered several illegal logging cases that involved security personnel and forestry officials," he said.

The Ladia Galaska Highway Project cuts across Sumatra island from the Indian Ocean to the Malacca Strait right through the heart of the Leuser ecosystem area, which is home to an estimated 6,000 orangutans, 4,000 elephants, 200 tigers and 50 Sumatran rhinos - all endangered species.

The 1,659-kilometer highway network extends through mountainous areas across Aceh and North Sumatra province and 1,000 rivers and estuaries.

Supporters of the road project argue that it will enable locals in remote regions to benefit from improved access to public facilities and stimulate economic growth in the region.

But the UML and other independent teams have not failed to point out that such access would also accelerate the spread of illegal logging - especially in Aceh where civil society is weak and around 35,000 soldiers and police continue to fight a guerilla war with separatist rebels.

Basyah said deforestation had occurred in several regencies, including Karo and Langkat in North Sumatra province and Southeast Aceh, South Aceh and East Aceh.

Around 80% of the official Leuser Ecosystem's 2.6 million hectares is located in Aceh and the remaining 20% in North Sumatra.

Meanwhile, according to Masrani, a well-known figure in Aceh who recently won the Leuser environmental award, residents in Serba Jadi district had submitted a draft regulation to the local council that would help prevent illegal logging.

The regulation was endorsed three months ago, he told The Jakarta Post.

Under the regulation, loggers may be fined Rp250,000 (\$26.30) for every tree they cut down illegally.

### Corruption Undercurrent

Four NGOs grouped in the Working Group for a Peaceful Corruption-Free Aceh and the Forum for the Environment (Walhi) are continuing to push for a more serious review of the massive corruption they allege dogs the project.

Both groups say that as much as Rp30 billion in state funds may have been manipulated through overlapping and unclear development allocations in both state budget (APBN) and regional budget (APBD) funds earmarked for the project.

The Working Group announced in April that Governor Abdullah Puteh's accountability report on the Ladia Galaska project stated that a total of Rp18.908 billion in APBD funds had been allocated for the project in 2002.

But the APBN report submitted by the Ministry of Settlement and Regional Infrastructure stated that Rp25.72 billion had been allocated for the same period.

Aceh Governor Abdullah Puteh and Minister of Settlement and Regional Infrastructure Soenarno are avid supporters of the project, which has drawn opposition from Environment Minister Nabeli Makarim and Forestry Minister Mohamad Prakosa.

Walhi estimated in early July that the state may have lost Rp26.9 billion in the mega-project and that the faulty reporting and budgetary overlapping were witnessed at each of the following seven segments:

Segment	Estimated Loss (Rp)
Peureulak-Lokop	9.47 billion
Pinding-Blangkejeren	1.66 billion
Blangkejeren-Rikit Gaib	1.2 billion
Jeuram-Lhok Seumot	1.27 billion
-Beutong Ateuh	
Muara Situlen-Gelombang-	1.62 billion
Lawe Pakam-Bahorok	
Babah Rot-Trangon-	1.71 billion
Blangkejeren	
Uwak-Jamat-Lokop-	9.8 billion
Gerbang-Pamue-Geumpang	

### No Typing Errors Here

The Banda Aceh District Court in early July threw out Walhi's legal challenge to the development of a section of the road, saying that the plaintiff had failed to prove that the project caused environmental damage.

Presiding judge Syafaruddin also ruled that the plaintiff had failed to show that the environmental study submitted by the provincial government was flawed or fraudulent as claimed.

Walhi Aceh chief Muhammad Ibrahim told acehkitas that the judicial process had been a sham and indicated that too many vested interests from powerful people were inhibiting the trial.

Syafaruddin denied that outside intervention had swayed the court's decision. "There's none of that. I deliberately didn't type out the final verdict," he said.

### Environmental Activist Faces Insurgency Charges

Meanwhile, the case against environmental activist Bestari Raden, who has been accused of joining the Free Aceh Movement (GAM), is still before the Tatpaktuan District Court, South Aceh.

Bestari Raden was arrested on 23 March 2004 while in Aceh as a member of the Forestry Ministry's integrated team studying development of the Ladia Galaska project.

According to a press statement released by the Aceh Civil Society Advocacy Team (Tim Advokasi Masyarakat Sipil Aceh: Tamasya), prosecutors accused Bestari Raden of joining GAM in Krueng Sabee district, Aceh West.

Bestari Raden stands accused of conducting 'sweeping operations' with GAM troops targeted at members of the armed forces (TNI), police and civil servants as well as demanding 'taxes' from local people on 8 October 2002 in support of GAM's efforts to fight for independence from Indonesia.

According to the statement, prosecutors also accused Bestari Raden of conducting unlawful demonstrations and "actions" against PT Medan Remaja Timber (PT MRT) between 1998-2000.

Bestari Raden claimed PT MRT was an arm of the business operations of the security forces and demanded the company's forestry operations license (HPH) be revoked during talks with representatives of the South Aceh regency government and legislature, the statement said.

In addition, Bestari Raden stands accused of conducting "actions" in the area of PT MRT while wearing a headband bearing the word 'Referendum' - in reference to demands for a referendum to determine whether Aceh remains within the unitary state of Indonesia or obtains independence.

Bestari Raden is a civil servant who has been active in environmental advocacy organizations since 1996 when massive landslides hit his hometown of Kluet Selatan, South Aceh, killing six locals.

After the disaster, he joined the

nongovernmental organization Rimung Lam Kalut (RKL), which was actively pursuing illegal loggers accused of the environmental destruction that caused the landslides. PT MRT was among those accused of perpetrating environmental crimes in the area.

Bestari Raden was detained by the South Aceh mobile police brigade in 1999 and accused of being a member of GAM.

Following his release, he left Aceh and eventually became head of the Nusantara Traditional Community Alliance (Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara: AMAN) between 2001-2003 and was also the national coordinator for the Environmental Caucus.

If found guilty as charged, Bestari Raden faces 26 years in prison.

Corruption suspect Abdullah Puteh, meanwhile, remains in office as Aceh Governor. [AcehKita.com, 24 August 2004]

## Adat Aceh, Adat Orang Banyak

### I

### Adat dan upacara kelahiran (lanjutan)

Azan dan qamat dilakukan sebagai simbolik untuk menyambut kedatangan seorang muslim atau muslimah. Setelah itu bayi dibaringkan kembali disamping ibunya. Ari-ari bayi (dalam bahasa Aceh disebut *adoi*) dimasukkan dalam periuk yang bersih dengan dibubuhi aneka bunga-bunga dan wewangian, untuk ditanam di halaman rumah. Bunga-bunga dan wewangian ini sebagai simbolik agar bayi tadi mengerti arti kebersihan dan kecantikan.

Pada hari ketujuh setelah bayi lahir, diadakan upacara cukur rambut dan *peucicap*, kadang kala bersamaan dengan pemberian nama. Acara *peucicap* dilakukan dengan mengoles madu pada bibir bayi seraya mengucapkan Bismillahirrahmannirrahim, manislah lidahmu, panjanglah umurmu, mudah rejekimu, taat dan beriman serta terpuji dalam *kawom*. Di Tamiang upacara cukur rambut diadakan pada hari kedua atau ketiga setelah bayi lahir. Upacara ini disebut dengan *menyangke rambut budak*, kemudian dilanjutkan dengan pemberian nama. Adapula yang melakukannya pada hari pertama kelahiran. Upacara ini dilaksanakan oleh orang-orang alim, terkemuka dan baik tingkah lakunya. Biasanya *peucicap* dilakukan dengan sebetuk cincin suasa yang telah dilumuri madu, kemudian dioleskan pada bibir bayi. Cincin suasa tersebut kemudian diserahkan pada bidan. Setelah empat puluh empat hari, cincin akan ditebus kembali oleh keluarga bayi.

Selama empat puluh empat hari ibu bayi banyak menjalani pantangan-pantangan. Ia harus tetap berada dalam kamarnya, tidak boleh berjalan-jalan, apalagi keluar rumah. Tidak boleh minum banyak, nasi dimakan tanpa gulai berlebihan minyak atau lauk pauk. Sebagian hanya makan dengan garam dan ikan teri gongseng. Begitu pula makanan yang pedas-pedas sangat dilarang. Selama pantang tersebut, disebut dengan masa pantangan atau *du dapu*. Karena selama pantangan ibu bayi selalu dipanasi dengan bara api yang terus-menerus disampingnya atau di bawah tempat tidurnya. Maka masa pantangan ini sering juga disebut dengan masa *madeung*.

Setelah masa *madeung* ini selesai, yaitu pada hari ke empat puluh empat, ibu bayi dimandikan oleh *mablien* dengan air yang telah dicampur dengan irisan limau purut. Acara mandi ini disebut

*manou peut ploh peut.* Pada hari ini *mak tuan* datang lagi dengan membawa pulut kuning, ayam panggang, dan bahan-bahan untuk *peusijuk* yaitu beras, padi, kunyit, daun seodingin, rumput padi, dan tepung tawar. Bahan-bahan ini dibawa oleh *mak tuan* untuk kebutuhan dalam acara *peusijuk ro darah* (keluar darah) menantunya pada masa melahirkan.

Setelah upacara itu selesai, kepada bidan akan diberikan hadiah berupa:

1. Pakaian sesalin;
2. Uang ala kadarnya;
3. Uang penebus cincin suasa;
4. Beras dua bambu;
5. Padi segantang (dua bambu);
6. Pulut kuning, ayam panggang, dan seekor ayam hidup.

### Sukatan dan Ukuran Aceh

- 2 liter = 1 Arè = 2 Cupa'  
 1 Cupa' = 2 Kai  
 1 Blakai = 1/2 Kai
- 2 Arè = 1 Gantang  
 16 Arè = 1 Naléh  
 160 Arè = 1 Gunca  
 1600 Arè = 1 Kuyan  
 80 Arè = 1 Lasah (ukuran untuk pinang)
- 1 petak sawah = 1 Yô' = Tipè' = Pita' keubeung  
 = 1 Naléh (bibit)
- 3,125 gram (emas, perak) = Manyam  
 1 Manyam = 24 Saga  
 16 Manyam = 1 Bungkai  
 1/8 Manyam = 1 Mata (berat candu)
- 97,5 kilogram = 1 Pikô = 100 Katoe  
 1/16 Katoe = 1 Tahlil  
 1 Tahlil = 1/5 Bungkai

### QUIZ

Nisab untuk Zakat hasil padi adalah 1 Gunca 2 Naléh. Berapakah nisab dalam Arè?

*Aceh Snap Shops...(from page 2)*

### 51,000 Neglected Children

Deputy head of the Aceh social affairs department, Asmadi, says the at least 51,000 neglected children are growing up in the war-torn province.

Asmadi said the children were neglected by their parents and guardians mainly due to the ongoing conflict and financial difficulties.

"Their parent's can't fulfil their basic rights, such as to education and sufficient food," he told acehkita in late July.

He estimates the number of people living below the poverty line in Aceh now tops 1.2 million – or 30% of Aceh's population of around four million souls.

He claimed that around half of the total number of neglected children receive some form of support from the 176 hostels around the province but added that the government can not afford or is not able to reach the remainder.

### 14,000 Widows

Psychologist and trauma counselor Lailisman Sofyati estimates that 14,000 women have been widowed as a result of clashes between the central government and rebel forces during Aceh's modern history.

Sofyati is head of the Victims of Violence and Trauma Psychological Training and Counselling program run in conjunction with the psychology department of Banda Aceh's Syiah Kuala University.

Two training three-day sessions involving 160 women victims of violence have been held so far, with another two sessions planned in August in areas of Aceh not yet covered by the training.

[AcehKita.com, 24 August 2004]

## Haba Gura (Anekdote)

### Lalat di cangkir kopi (dari AcehKita.com)

Di sebuah negeri antah berantah, suatu sore, seorang dokter, seorang aktivis lingkungan, seorang mahasiswa dan seorang tentara sedang duduk di warung kopi. Jika seekor lalat masuk ke cangkir kopi mereka, apa yang akan terjadi?

Dokter: Kopi dan cangkirnya dibuang, lalu dia mengganti dengan yang baru.

Aktivis Lingkungan: Lalat diambil, dikeringkan, lalu dilepas (bila masih hidup). Kopinya, tetap diminum.

Mahasiswa: Kopi diminum hingga lalat masuk dalam mulut, lalu sang lalat dimuntahkan sambil meludah.

Tentara:

1. Membentuk pemilik warung dan memerintahkannya mengganti dengan kopi baru.
2. Menuduh mahasiswa telah dengan sengaja memasukkan lalat dalam cangkir kopinya.
3. Meminta dokter segera memeriksa kesehatannya.
4. Menangkap aktivis lingkungan atas tuduhan perbuatan tidak menyenangkan, karena telah membiarkan lingkungan sekitar warung kotor sehingga banyak lalat.
5. Mengumpulkan warga desa baik tua muda atau lelaki dan perempuan untuk melakukan wajib kerja bakti membersihkan lingkungan.
6. Menggelar konferensi pers dan meminta wartawan menulis bahwa tentara dibantu masyarakat telah membersihkan kampung tersebut dari lalat.
7. Membentuk organisasi sipil untuk memastikan bahwa kerja bakti dilakukan tiap hari.
8. Mengumpulkan orang untuk demonstrasi meminta agar tentara dipertahankan di daerah tersebut dengan alasan karena banyak lalat.
9. Mendesak pemerintah pusat memberlakukan status darurat militer untuk mencegah lalat kembali.
10. Melobi parlemen mengucurkan dana Rp 3 triliun untuk membiayai darurat militer membasmi lalat.
11. Ketika darurat militer hampir habis, mengundang kembali dokter, aktivis lingkungan dan mahasiswa untuk duduk minum kopi dan memerintahkan seekor lalat untuk masuk kembali ke cangkir kopinya

## TRAVEL WARNING

1. DUE TO THE ONGOING IMPLEMENTATION OF MILITARY EMERGENCY OPERATION, FOREIGNER ARE NOT ALLOWED TO VISIT THE PROVINCE OF NANGGROE ACEH DARUSSALAM (NAD)
2. FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES, THE VISIT TO PROVINCE OF NANGGROE ACEH DARUSSALAM (NAD) MUST BE BY THE PERMISSION OF MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS.
3. APPLICATION FOR VISITING PROVINCE OF NANGGROE ACEH DARUSSALAM (NAD) SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF IMMIGRATION JL. RASUNA SAID KAV 8-9, JAKARTA SELATAN.

*Since 19 May 2004, civil emergency replaced military emergency (martial law in Aceh). But the number of Indonesian troops in Aceh has not been reduced and many imposed laws and rules made by military are still in effect. Three districts, Sabang, Simeuleu (both are islands) and Aceh Singkil are said to be opened for tourists since then, but travel warnings like above are still posted at places in Aceh. (Picture was taken in August 6, 2004 in Banda Aceh immigration office).*

## Kepada Ibu

de Ilyas

## P u i s i

Ibu,  
Bolehkah aku bertanya?  
Aku beringsut  
duduk ditepi pangkuanmu,  
Berharap pada sebuah hakikat abadi dibalik sebutan "ibu"  
yang dulu kerap kali membuatku haru biru...  
setiap kali menyanyikan aneka hymne untukmu.

Dalam ingatanmu yang polos dan apa adanya  
Ibu adalah sosok agung yang penuh kasih sayang pada semua anaknya  
Dalam pengertianku yang sederhana  
Kasih ibu adalah luas untuk semua anaknya  
Tanpa keberpihakan  
Tanpa melebihi satu di atas lainnya

Ibu adalah kemuliaan cinta  
Tempat naungan anak disepanjang langkah mereka  
Walaupun langkahnya sendiri terseok  
Diterjang letih dalam terpaan sang waktu

Demikian agung engkau dalam pandanganku, ibu  
Sehingga kini aku bersimpuh di tepi pangkuanmu  
Hanya untuk bertanya...  
Jawablah aku, Ibu....

Apa yang akan kau lakukan saat ini  
Melihat saudara-saudaraku  
Beramai-ramai memukuli dan menendangi aku?  
Ketika aku mengaduh dalam kepedihanku  
Tak berhenti pukulan dan tendangan itu  
Bahkan makin bertubi dan menjadi

Ibu, aku terpekur ditepi pangkuanmu  
Mereka berteriak-teriak marah  
Katanya aku tak boleh meninggalkan rumahmu  
Karna ini adalah rumah kita!  
Kita adalah keluarga yang satu!  
Begitu katanya.  
Tapi lagi-lagi mereka membingungkan aku  
Karna dalam pikiranku yang sederhana  
Rumah adalah naungan dimana aku nyata terlindung didalamnya  
Tak bolehlah aku pergi ketika nyata-nyata tak lagi dilindungi?

Ibu, ternyata bahasaku dan bahasa mereka jauh berbeda  
Karna bagiku...  
keluarga hidup bersama dalam sebuah rumah beratap cinta  
Berpondasikan kasih sayang  
Dengan pilar-pilar keadilan yang tak memilih  
Saling berbagi dan menghargai

Walaupun kata mereka kami seibu....  
Tapi tak kulihat persamaan apapun  
Ah! Mungkin karna ayah kami berbeda.  
Karna itu definisi kami tentang Ibu, Rumah, Keluarga dan Saudara begitu berbeda.  
Jauh berbeda.

(Kutaraja, Hari Berkabung Nasional 2003)

## Congress Disappointed with Secretary Rumsfeld Plans for U.S.-Indonesia Military Ties Calls for Reconsideration of Bilateral Defense Dialogue

For Immediate Release

Contact: John M. Miller, 718-596-7668

August 5, 2004 - The Indonesian military "should not be given too much credit for too little reform," 65 members of Congress recently wrote U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, as they urged him to reconsider resumption of the Bilateral Defense Dialogue (BDD) between the two countries.

In a letter to Secretary Rumsfeld, the Representatives wrote that they are surprised and disappointed to learn that the BDD is scheduled to reconvene.

The TNI has successfully evaded accountability for its well-documented crimes against humanity and war crimes in East Timor, and there has been little progress in improving human rights practices in Indonesia. Additionally, the TNI continues its brutal tactics in Aceh, Papua, and elsewhere. There are reports that the TNI has extensive connections to the terror group Laskar Jihad, which has re-emerged in renewed violence in Maluku and is operating in Papua. The TNI is also implicated in the murder of U.S. citizens Rick Spier and Ted Burgon, in what the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta described as an outrageous act of terrorism. "Although we are pleased that an indictment was recently issued in this case, we believe that further investigation into collaborators in this ambush is warranted."

The members wrote that, "we believe a resumption of the dialogue at this time would go against the strong posture Congress and the Executive Branch took in the late 1990 to severely limit military assistance, joint exercises, and exchanges with the TNI until human rights issues were addressed."

They added, "the military real power lies in its vast territorial command structure, which remains intact."

Finally, they urged "the Department of Defense [to] voice its concern with all levels of leadership in the TNI about the brutal human rights record of the Indonesian military. It is imperative that these concerns not be waived in the pursuit of other goals. ..."

The bi-partisan letter was initiated by Representatives Lane Evans (D-IL), Tom Tancredo (R-CO) and Chris Smith (R-NJ). According to the letter, "a Bilateral Defense Dialogue (BDD) between Indonesia and the U.S. has not occurred since 1997, in part because of the tremendous TNI violence committed in East Timor in 1999."

The full text of the letter and a complete list of signers can be found at [www.etan.org/legislation/04rumsfld.htm](http://www.etan.org/legislation/04rumsfld.htm).

On July 15, the full House of Representatives passed legislation which would continue bans on International Military Education and Training and foreign military financing for Indonesia. The Senate has yet to take up the measure.

The Indonesian military said it launched air strikes in Aceh in late July using U.S.-made OV-10 Bronco aircraft.

ETAN advocates for democracy, justice and human rights for East Timor and Indonesia. ETAN calls for an international tribunal to prosecute crimes against humanity that took place in East Timor since 1975 and continued restrictions on U.S. military assistance to Indonesia until there is genuine reform of its security forces.

(from: <http://www.etan.org/news/2004/08rumsfld.htm>)

### A Brief Profile

#### SIRA: Central Information for Referendum Aceh

SIRA (Acheh Information Center for Referendum) is an Achenese non-government organization formed to channel the peaceful civil society struggle of the people of Aceh, constituted on February 4, 1999 by 106 non-government Achenese organizations during a congress organized by KARMA (Coalition of Achenese Students for Reform) and KAMPAN (Committee of Achenese Students and Youths of the Archipelago) in Banda Aceh.

These organizations are composed of university and high school students, representatives of Achenese youth organizations from all parts of Aceh and from other parts of Indonesia and the neighboring countries, as well as students of the religious establishments known as "dayah".

Among the resolutions of the Congress is to help find the resolution to the Aceh conflict in a peaceful and comprehensive manner, through a referendum, which in other words, returning the choice to the concerned themselves, the people of Aceh, in order for them to determine their own future.

Since then SIRA has continuously organized the civil society struggle of the people of Aceh through peaceful and systematic means, in order to realize the holding of a referendum to determine in a peaceful and democratic manner the status of Aceh, while respecting universal human rights and international laws, conventions and practices.

SIRA was very active since its formation until the imposition of martial law in Aceh on 19 May 2003 when its activists have since been hunted down by Indonesia military claiming SIRA as supporter of The Free Aceh Movement (GAM). SIRA is led by a presidium with Muhammad Nazar (male, 30 years) as chairman. Nazar was sentenced to five years' imprisonment on 1 July 2003 for his peaceful pro-independence activism with the SIRA in Aceh. On 17 May 2004, Muhammad Nazar was among a group of prisoners transferred from NAD to prisons on Java Island.

Nowdays, SIRA activists are working underground inside and outside Aceh to continue promoting peaceful and democratic resolution on Aceh. SIRA has consuls and representative in many cities in Indonesia and abroad.

For further information on SIRA, please contact Hamzah, one of its presidium, at [sirareferendum@hotmail.com](mailto:sirareferendum@hotmail.com)

(From AT, AI, and other sources)

#### Amnesty International in Asia and The Pacific

#### Indonesia: Still Restrictions On Freedom of Speech - Case of Muhammad Nazar

**Muhammad Nazar was sentenced to five years' imprisonment on 1 July 2003 for his peaceful pro-independence activism with the Aceh Referendum Information Centre (SIRA) in Aceh.**

Muhammad Nazar (m), the head of SIRA, which promotes a referendum on independence for Aceh, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment on 1 July 2003. He had been arrested on 12 February 2003 and charged with "spreading feelings of hostility and hatred against the government" and failing to obtain the required permission to hold a public event.

The accusations against him focused on his involvement in peaceful pro-independence events organized by SIRA in January and February 2003. At the time a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement between the Indonesian government and the armed opposition movement, Free Aceh Movement, (Gerakan Aceh Merdeka) was in place. However, in May 2003 while Muhammad Nazar's trial was ongoing the peace process broke down and a military emergency was subsequently declared.

The military named a number of political and human rights organizations, including SIRA, as suspected supporters of GAM. The deteriorating situation in Aceh may account for the heavy sentence against Muhammad Nazar.

On 17 May 2004, Muhammad Nazar was among a group of prisoners transferred from Aceh to prisons on Java Island.

#### Background Information:

Five years ago Indonesia embarked on a transition from authoritarian towards democratic rule following former President Suharto's forced resignation. Many limits on freedom of expression, including restrictions on the media, political parties and labour unions were removed.

However, other legislation which had been used to silence government critics remained, although for a short period, was not used. Where politically motivated charges were still brought, they were used mainly against independence activists in the provinces of Papua (formerly known as Irian Jaya) and Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam (NAD, formerly known as Aceh), rather than the broader range of government opponents who had been imprisoned under former President Suharto.

**Recommended Action** Please send **politely worded** appeals/letters to arrive as quickly as possible, in English, **Bahasa Indonesia**, or in your own language:

\* Stating that Amnesty International welcomed the release of all prisoners of conscience in 1998;

\* Expressing concern that legislation used to detain prisoners of conscience remains on the statute books. Urge the government to repeal all legislation which allows for the imprisonment of individuals for the peaceful exercise of their fundamental right to freedom of expression;

\* Urging the government to immediately and unconditionally release the six people who are currently serving prison sentences for their peaceful and legitimate activities. State that among them is Muhammad Nazar, who is serving a five year sentence in Java.

#### APPEALS TO:

**President Megawati Sukarnoputri**

President RI, Istana Merdeka

Jakarta 10110, Indonesia

**Fax:** 62 21 380 5511 / 62 21 345 7782

**Salutation:** Dear President

**Prof. Dr. Yusril Ihza Mahendra, SH MSc**

Minister for Justice and Human Rights

Menteri Kehakiman dan HAM

Jl. H.R. Rasuna Said Kav No. 4-5 Kuningan

Jakarta Selatan 12950, Indonesia

**Fax:** 62 21 525 3095

**Salutation:** Dear Minister

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