

Human Rights Council Forum on Minority Issues: "Preventing and addressing violence and atrocity crimes targeted against minorities"
Seventh Session 25–26 November 2014, Room XX,
Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

By: Mr. Yusuf Daud

Item 6: Avoiding renewed violence — building the peace and managing diversity

Thank you Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Acheh-Sumatra National Liberation Front or ASNLF fully supports the draft recommendations document, particularly articles 69, 78 and 80 concerning this item.

The ASNLF would like to draw your attention to the situations facing ethnic minorities in Indonesia.

As an archipelago, Indonesia consists of hundreds of ethnic and linguistic minorities, with different histories, backgrounds, cultures etc. And it is well known that minorities in Indonesia, especially in some hotspot areas such as Acheh in Sumatra, West Papua and South Moluccas are often collectively subjected to violence, as a result of their distinct identities.

Branded as separatists, they face serious state-sponsored human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests, disappearances, and extra-judicial killings, whenever they engage in political activities to express their opinions and assert their minority rights.

Mr Chairman,

In this opportunity, we would like to focus on the post conflict situations of Acheh. Following a sporadic thirty-year armed-conflict between the Free Acheh Movement and Indonesia, a ceasefire agreement called Memorandum of Understanding or MoU was reached in 2005 in Helsinki, Finland.

One of the many provisions stipulated in the agreement is the establishment of the Human Rights Court (HRC). This rights body should have been set up at the latest one year after the Law on Governing Acheh (LoGA) have become effective.

To date, after eight long years, this clause is already forgotten, and Jakarta has even further aggravated the situation, by deliberately dismissing a number of other important stipulations relating to economic matters. Despite the current agreement promised that Acheh would retain 70 % of its share, Acheh's abundant natural resources are still grossly exploited by Jakarta until today.

With regard to past human rights violations and abuses, not a single perpetrator of these crimes has been brought to justice, signalling that such violations are permitted to be violated in Acheh with impunity. The government of Indonesia, considered as the government of the people, has already indicated that probing into the past abuses committed by its security forces is not a priority.

Mr Chairman,

Acheh peace process is a good piece to be looked into and learned.

Despite the deal, the current political atmosphere of Acheh is simmering. This is due to the lack of political will by both the central and local governments, in addressing impunity and other unresolved issues. And if this situation persists, we are afraid that another conflict will flare up again soon.

In order to avoid reoccurrence of violence, and in line with the above-mentioned draft recommendations, ASNLF would like to strongly:

- urge the parties to fulfil their obligations to ensure truth, justice and full reparation for the human rights violations and abuses.

- recommend the United Nations, in compliance with its procedures and mechanisms, to independently examine incidents of violence and accountability for atrocity crimes.

- call on the international community to support recourse to the ICC (International Criminal Court), when states, such as Indonesia, are obviously unwilling or unable to prosecute the perpetrators of atrocity crimes against minorities.

- urge the government of Indonesia to fully adhere to the UN General Assembly Resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992 as the legal basis for this discussion. And to ensure respect for freedom of expression, including the right to self-determination of minorities as enshrined in another UN Resolution with regard to ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights).

Thank you for your attention.

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