

30 May 2016

The Honorable Pia Kjaersgaard  
The Speaker of the Danish Parliament  
Folketinget  
Christiansborg  
1240 Copenhagen K  
DENMARK

Dear Speaker Kjaersgaard,

I am writing to pursue continued dialogue regarding the current situation in Aceh. As stated in my previous petition, I am very grateful for the generosity provided by the Government of Denmark to the people of Aceh after the terrible tsunami disaster.

As a member of the International Acehnese Community, I am delighted to learn that the reconstruction process in Aceh, after the devastating effects of earthquakes and the tsunami that struck the region on 26 December 2004, continues to receive full attention from the Government of Denmark.

As you will be aware, over several decades, the Acehnese people suffered terrible persecution and prolonged assault by the Indonesian security forces with almost all families losing loved ones and living in constant fear. Between 1999 and 2003, the Henry Dunant Centre of Switzerland attempted to resolve the conflict between the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement through mediation. Although their efforts failed, we deeply appreciate all their efforts on our behalf.

I would like to thank the Crisis Management Initiative of Finland for brokering the peace agreement which was signed on August 15, 2005. Unfortunately, this fragile peace is now being threatened by recent developments in Aceh. While some Acehnese have benefited greatly from the work of the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Commission, many have been completely by-passed and continue to live in poverty. They have lost hope and are more and more convinced that there is no hope for true peace and justice while Indonesia continues to control their land. Former fighters, who could not accept the terms of the Peace Agreement, are currently hiding in the mountains. Meanwhile, the Indonesian government is increasing its military presence in Aceh. Without intervention on the part of the nations of the world, it is clearly only a matter of time before the Indonesian military attacks the remaining freedom fighters. This will surely result in more suffering for innocent civilians who will once again be caught between the warring parties. It must also be noted that most Acehnese activists living abroad did not accept MoU Helsinki as a viable solution to the conflict in Aceh.

The Peace Accord did not adequately address the concerns of the people of Aceh. In order to prevent future conflict, this matter must be fully resolved. Armed conflict in Aceh is on the increase as many Acehnese become aware that the Helsinki MoU is not leading to any improvement in their well-being. Armed conflict is increasing.

Political violence has only increased as evidenced by the following tragedies :

1. On 15 July 2008, occurring in Beutong, and was reported by Acehnese press, four young men, who were former members of GAM who do not support the Helsinki MoU, were killed by the Indonesian security forces. The victims were: Riki Ananda (30) of Meureuno village , Peureulak; Andi Rasyid (40) of Blang Balok Village, Peureulak; Fitri Sayuti (28) of Krueng Juli Barat Village, Bireuen; and one other.
2. On 3 February 2009, Dedi Novandi alias Abu Karim, secretary of the Aceh Transition Committee( KPA) in Bireuen, was shot and killed at close range as he sat in his car by two men on a motorcycle. Three days earlier, the Bireuen military commander had circulated a letter accusing Abu Karim of threatening two former Free Aceh Movement( GAM ) members who worked with the military.
3. Less than 12 hours later, on the Banda Aceh-Krueng Raya road, two KPA members from Aceh Besar, were shot by unidentified men on motorcycles. M Nur was killed instantly; his companion, Zakaria Daud, was hospitalized with serious injuries.
4. Less than 2 weeks later, the head of Partai Aceh in Ujong Kalak village, West Aceh, was shot by gunmen five times in the chest as he sat in his home; he died instantly.
5. Grenade attacks on various Partai Aceh offices, including in Takengon on 20 February 2009.
6. On 20 March 2009, a member of Partai Aceh, Tumijan, was found floating in a waste pool with his throat slit and hands bound in Kabupaten Nagan Raya, West Aceh.
7. Grenade attack at Lapangan Merdeka Langsa only three hours after Partai Aceh campaign gathering on 20 March 2009.
8. On 21 March 2009, grenade attack at the official house of Deputy Bupati Bireuen.
9. On 28 March 2009, the house burning of Cut Laila, the female local parliament member candidate of Partai Aceh, Puuk village, Kecamatan Kaway XVI, West Aceh. It left Cut Laila with trauma, as villagers witnessed that the attack was a well-plan operation.
10. On 28 March 2009, Asral, a member of KPA from village Kuta Baro, Kecamatan Samadua , South Aceh, was kidnapped by a group of five people in military uniform.
11. On 30 March 2009, grenade attack on the house of Haji Alimuddin Jabat, Jalan T. Umar, Subulussalam. Alimuddin was the head of Partai Aceh, Subulussalam, South Aceh.
12. On 4 April 2009, Muhammad Jamin bin Razali, secretary of Partai Aceh in Bireum Bayeun, was shot and killed at close range by two men on motorcycle, on Medan-Banda Aceh Road, village Lhokbanie area, Kecamatan Langsa Barat, East Aceh.
13. On 3 May 2009, the house of Saifullah, local MP candidate of Partai Barisan Nasional, village Kampung Godang, Kecamatan Bukit, Kabupaten Benar Meriah, was attacked by grenade.

14. On 7 May 2009, Alhas Jaya Office, Jalan Merdeka, Kuta Blang, Lhokseumawe, was attacked by grenade.
15. On 21 May 2009, the house of Efendi, a member of Aceh Transition Committee (KPA), village Ujong Blang, Lhokseumawe, was attacked by a group of armed people.
16. On 16 August 2009, the house of Abdul Rahman Ibrahim of Paru Keudee, Kecamatan Bandar Baru, Kabupaten Pidie Jaya, was attacked by a group of armed people.
17. On 16 August 2009, the car at the house of KPA member from Sagoe 'Ala, Saifullah, Ranto Peureulak, East Aceh, was attacked by a group of unidentified people.
18. On 10 September 2009, Sofyan, a former GAM member, of village Buket Sudan, Peusangan Siblah Krueng, Bireuen, was shot and killed in mountainous surrounding area, by a group of armed people. The tragedy created fear all villagers.
19. On 17 September 2009, Effendi of village Paya Naden was shot and killed in village Teupin Batee, East Aceh, by a group of armed people. The killers disappeared instantly.
20. On 5 November 2009, dr Erhard Bauer, the German Red Cross representative in Aceh, was shot at close range in Lampeuneurut area, Aceh Besar, by two gunmen.
21. On 16 November 2009, the residence of John Penny, EU representative in Aceh, on Jalan Mata Ie, Lorong Ikhlas, Garut Keutapang, Aceh Besar, was attacked by two gunmen.
22. On 23 November 2009, the residence of Michelle Ahmad and Sarah Willis, US citizens, English teaching staff at University Syiah Kuala Campus, Banda Aceh, was attacked by gunmen.
23. On 21 December 2009, Sulaiman Rasyid of village Lheu Barat, Kecamatan Jeunieb, Kabupaten Bireuen, was shot and killed by gunmen.
24. On 5 February 2010, Azhar Ibrahim of Sigli, was beaten by eight Indonesian soldiers.
25. On 22 February 2010, a KPA family of village Lamleupung, Kecamatan Kuta Cot Glie, Aceh Besar, were shot by Indonesian security forces ; Kamaruddin(37) was killed; his neighbor Suheri(14) was hospitalized with injuries. Villagers lived in trauma.
26. On 3 March 2010, a bus passenger, Abdullah bin Ismail of Lamtamot, was shot and killed by Indonesian security forces at security check-point, Padang Tiji, Pidie. Indonesian troops imposed roadside sweeping, especially on Banda Aceh- Medan road.
27. On 3 March 2010, Nurbahri of Meunasah Tunong, Lamkabeue, Seulimum, was shot and killed by Indonesian security forces in the paddy field. The tragedy reminded the Acehnese the suffering under military-emergency imposed by Megawati in 2003.
28. On 10 March 2010, Farid Luthfi (16), a high school student of Lhongraya, Banda Aceh, was beaten by four Indonesian security forces; his nose was broken, left eye bruised, and he was vomiting blood.
29. On 24 April 2010, Muyid Dani ( 18 ) of Alue Raya, Kecamatan Darul Makmur, Kabupaten Nagan Raya , was shot at close range by Indonesian security forces. He was hospitalized with serious injuries on both legs.

30. On 21 May 2010, Ahmadi of Pulo Simeulu, a reporter of Harian Aceh newspaper was beaten severely by Indonesian security forces. The tragedy left Ahmadi's family in trauma.
31. On 10 June 2010, Aji Don bin Kadim alias Raden (25) of Desa Kampung Masjid, Kecamatan Nurussalam, East Aceh, was shot and killed by Indonesian Security Forces in Simpang Keuramat, North Aceh. The tragedy was reported widely by local media.
32. On 24 June 2010, Dr. Irfan Hamidi of Kuta Panjang Public Healthcare Center, Kabupaten Gayo Lues, Southeast Aceh, was beaten severely by Indonesian security forces.
33. On 10 August 2010, Rusli Basyah (30) of Gampong Tanjong, Kecamatan Madat, East Aceh, was shot and killed by Indonesian security forces. Rusli Basyah raised Independence Aceh Flags one day earlier in front of the house of his mother.
34. On 7 October 2010, Mahmud bin Adih (70) of Gampong Pantan Raya, Kecamatan Trienggadeng, Kabupaten Pidie Jaya, was shot and killed at close range as he performed prayer 5:30 AM at his home by mysterious gunmen. The tragedy reminded the villagers to the mysterious killings under Suharto-era in late 1980s and 1990s.
35. On 8 April 2011 at three o'clock in the morning, grenade attack on the house of Izil Azhar, at Jalan Lamrabo # 17, Dusun Seroja, Gampong Lamteumen Timur, Kecamatan Jaya Baru, Banda Aceh. Izil Azhar alias Ayah Merin was a former GAM military commander of Sabang District.
36. On 14 March 2011, the well-planned military attack occurred in Arun Gas Field at one o'clock in the morning; Hanafiah Ahmad (51), a former GAM member of Desa Dayah Keude, Kecamatan Syamtalira Aron, North Aceh, was shot and killed by gunmen at close range as he sat down in the coffee house.
37. On 22 July 2011, Saiful Husen (42) alias Tengku Cagee, of Matang Glumpang Dua, one of the most prominent former head of the Aceh Transition Committee (KPA), District Batee Iliiek, was shot and killed at 11.15 PM by gunmen at close range, as he left coffee house, Gurkha, Matang Geulumpang Dua, Kecamatan Peusangan, Bireuen.
38. On 31 December 2011 at 11: 50 PM, eleven people were shot in Desa Blang Cot Tunong, Jeumpa, Bireuen, by unknown gunmen. Three of them were killed and eight others were seriously injured.
39. On 16 May 2012, the mysterious killings which once were popular under President Suharto's era, DOM, when Jakarta regime imposed Aceh as Military Operation Zone (1988-1998) returned to Aceh. This time, the victim was Syukri Abdullah (35), the Secretary of Partai Aceh, Lhokseumawe. He was shot and killed at 1:00 AM near Bireuen by unknown gunmen. Syukri was one of the most prominent politician among the younger generation of former GAM freedom fighters. He was active on the local political development in Aceh. On 15 May 2012, Syukri and associates drove the car from Banda Aceh toward his hometown Lhokseumawe ( Banda Aceh-Lhokseumawe is about 278 Km), but on the roadway, near Bireuen ( Banda Aceh-Bireuen is about 212 Km), in the silent midnight, one car intercepted and at the close range gunmen shot Syukri's car, Syukri and Cut Yetti were killed.

40. The grenade attack occurred on 22 October 2012 at 3 AM on the house of Kamaruddin Abubakar alias Abu Razak, Deputy Chairman of Partai Aceh, located in Desa Lamgugop, Banda Aceh. The attackers escaped safely, while the terrace of the house damaged.
41. On 26 April 2013, Muhammad bin Zainal Abidin (35), the former freedom-fighter-Free Aceh Movement member, the rising star politician of Partai Nasional Aceh (PNA), the potential candidate for local parliament election was killed in Gampong Waido, Kecamatan Peukan Baro, Kabupaten Pidie, Aceh. The tragedy shook the entire region for the continuation of the killings in the country.
42. On 2 March 2014, the death of Faisal ( 35 years ), the most prominent Candidate of Local Parliament Member of Aceh National Party ( PNA), in Meukek, South Aceh. The killing adds a long list of murder and physical violence that occurred in Aceh ahead of general election. Faisal was killed after his personal car bombarded with 42 bullets from an automatic weapon, as it passed in the Meukek-Tapak Tuan Road Link, Sunday 9 PM. The car fell onto the road shoulder. His body full of bullets finally brought back to his parent's home in the Village of Ujong Kareueng, Sawang District of South Aceh, and was buried on the following day, Monday morning.

One of the most shocking event was the appearance of the remaining guerilla fighters on local newspapers, Serambi Indonesia, on 10 October 2014. The article exposed one of the fighter group , equipped fully with gun and accessories. The news revealed the growing numbers of former GAM freedom fighters resorting to the mountainous battle ground to fight for the independence.

Unfortunately, the incident was retaliated extremely by Indonesia. They deployed excessively unbalanced military forces to the suspected locations. The regime mobilized heavy military equipments, tanks, artilleries, war ships, military planes, helicopters, and other military devices. The people of Aceh had never seen such military build up, neither during the so called hundred-year war with the Holland , nor during the Japanese invasion in the world-war two. At the same time, it accelerated the mobilization of a huge amount of ground combat troops in early December, on the eve of the historical celebration of the Declaration of Independence Day of Aceh, 4 December 2014.

The new military deployment created the image of the worst fighting episode in the human history in the region. Partly, the Indonesian military authority mobilized the military might crossing the border of Northern Sumatra Province and Southern part of Aceh, while the others through various military check-points, and naval bases in the region. The great number of local people witnessed the parade of military might on the roadway with constant fear, anticipating of the potential upcoming colonial war with oppressive power.

The Jakarta regime wanted to create fear and threatening psychology against the villagers as they have seen the growing numbers of residents bearing arms to fight their cause. But, as we learn from the history, the renewal military presence strategy imposed in the region will not offer any future political solution to the long standing struggle that have been lasting for centuries, since the Holland declared war against the Sovereign State of Aceh, on 26 March 1873.

The most recent political violence :

43. On 20 May 2015, Ibrahim Yusuf of Ceurih Blang Mee, freedom fighters was killed by Indonesian Raiders Police at Gintong village, Grong-Grong, Delima Pidie.
44. On 20 May 2015, Subki of Dusun Pulo, Geureudong Pase, freedom fighters was killed by Indonesian Raiders Police at Gintong village, Grong-Grong, Delima, Pidie.
45. On 21 May 2015, Yusliadi Rusli of Pinto Rimba, Julok, freedom fighters was killed by Indonesian Raiders Police at Gintong village, Grong-Grong, Delima, Pidie.
46. On 24 May 2015, Muhammad Reza of Gampong Rheng, Keumala, freedom fighters was killed by Indonesian Raiders Police at Blang Malu, Beureunuen, Pidie.
47. On 20 August 2015, Ridwan of village Pulo Meuria, Geureudong, freedom fighters was killed by Indonesian Raiders Police at Pulo Meuria, Geureudong, North Aceh.
48. On 27 August 2015 of Sidomulyo, Kuta Makmur, freedom fighters was killed by Indonesian Raider Police at SPBU, Batuphat, Muara Sakti, Lhokseumawe.
49. On 20 February 2016, Maimun alias Abu Rimba of village Rambong Payong, Teunom, a freedom fighter was killed at Lhok Guci, Pasie Raya, Aceh Jaya. The tragedy left thousands of villagers in traumatic psychology, witnessing the inhuman cruelty of Indonesian well-trained killers bombarded extremely the whole body of victim with plenty of bullets, to demonstrate the military nightmare to intimidate people. After deadly execution, Indonesian armed forces jumping and shouting to the air with guns in the hands to parade the traumatic killing episode in modern history.
50. On 20 February 2016, Zulfarzan alias Doyok of village Panto Cut, Kuala Batee, West Aceh, freedom activist was killed by Indonesian Raiders Police at Lhok Guci, Pasie Raya, Aceh Jaya. The same episode, children, women and all other villagers tears, witnessing the barbaric killing by Indonesian armed forces. Great number of military forces deployed to the incident area to destroy the spirit of people.

It has been 143 years since the war of 26 March 1873, the political violence is going-on continuously. The people of Aceh are expecting your action to help create the concrete and comprehensive solution for the people and the land of Aceh.

The majority of Acehnese people believe that there is only one solution which will guarantee that the people of Aceh can live in peace and prosperity with their human rights protected, namely full independence for Aceh. Therefore we call on you, the Speaker, to use all the means at your disposal to preserve the peace through political and legislative means by initiating a self-determination process for Aceh. We urge Denmark along with other nations of the world, to assist in the resolution of this decades-long dispute once and for all by allowing us to live as a free people. The nations of the world now have the opportunity to intervene before violence once again consumes Aceh; please take action now so that peace may be preserved for all future generations.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Respectfully,



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