

Statement Made by the ASNLF/GAM (Acheh, Indonesia)

Madame President,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the people of Acheh and the Acheh/Sumatra National Liberation Front, we would like to express our esteem gratitude for inviting us to this meeting today. Although we are not a signatory of this Deed of Commitment (DoC), we are privileged to be here with you in participating in this conference.

Our organization, the ASNLF or popularly known as GAM has been struggling for the last 28 years to exercise our rights of self-determination and independence as a sovereign nation against Indonesia. Ever since then the intensity of the Indonesian mass military operation has not subsided until today.

On our side, we are always ready for a peaceful political solution, at least for a dialogue to end the hostilities. We are encouraged that the EU is taking very active initiative to this end, especially in ending the total isolation of our country, by asking the new President of Indonesia to allow foreign journalists to visit Acheh.

We have had good relations with Geneva Call but have not so far yet concluded any formal commitment due to the current unclear situation. But we do condemn the use of anti-personnel mines which is devastating to mankind even long after a conflict is over. We look forward in the future to be also a signatory of the Deed of Commitment once all the procedural matters are settled.

Our forces, the Free Acheh National Armed Forces have always tried to uphold international norms. We do not possess mines at all and we have no intention of acquiring them. Not to say the least of using them in the field because it would only expose the civilian population to the danger of these mines. Even animals living in our tropical rainforest of our country could be affected. But it is to be noted that there is an Indonesian weapon factory, at Pindad, in Bandung, West Java, that produces antipersonnel landmines.

We commend Geneva Call for all its strenuous efforts in campaigning against the use of anti-personnel mines. We would also like to re-iterate that we would be signing the Deed of Commitment in due course.

Thank you.

Dr. Zani Abdullah
Foreign Minister in exile
State of Acheh