

Swedish-Achehnese Association

Human Rights Council Forum on Minority Issues: "Minorities in the Criminal Justice System" 8th Session 24–25 November 2015, Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

Minority and the Exercises of Police Powers

Thank you Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Imran Abdurrauf and I am from Aceh. I represent the Swedish-Achehnese Association, based in Sweden. I would like to raise the issues of the role of Indonesia's police and its excessive use of powers on minorities, particularly in my homeland, Aceh. Achehnese is a proud and culturally distinct people inhabiting the Northern part of the island Sumatra.

For almost three decades Aceh had become a killing field for the Indonesian armed forces. In its efforts to contain the Free Aceh Movement (GAM), thousands of Achehnese civilians had been killed, including extra judicial killings, torture, arbitrary arrests and 'disappearances'. But in August 2015 GAM and Indonesia signed a peace accord in Helsinki. Thus, one of the longest armed conflicts in South East Asia eventually ended.

Just two months ago, Aceh marked the ten-year anniversary of the conflict's end. But despite promises by Indonesian government, this has been a lost decade for tens of thousands affected by the conflict and the authorities have shown little interest in addressing past crimes. Ten years on, Aceh is still not a safe place to live in. And nothing significant has changed in regard to the behavior of police and other security forces. This is due to one single factor: IMPUNITY

In this regard, Amnesty International, has repeatedly revealed that despite a decade of supposed reform, Indonesia's police continue to be implicated in beatings, shootings and even killings unarmed civilians without fear of persecution or sanction. Massive human rights violations have occurred in Aceh, particularly in-between 1990-2004, and those responsible have never been prosecuted or punished.

As corruption is rampant, police has become one of the most corrupt institutions in Indonesia. Problems related with bribery are everywhere, whether it be with police, judges, prosecutors etc. Indonesians have this culture when it comes to their dealings with the law.

Mr. Chairman,

SAA fully supports the above-mentioned international convention and also supports the Forum recommendation of the articles 22, 23 and 26. But our experience shows that the state, the forces that should prevent human rights abuses are at the same time the perpetrators themselves - the police, for example, is at the same time the criminal.

Therefore, the Swedish-Achehnese Association strongly urge Indonesia to adhere to the ICCPR article 6 (1) and even the articles 3, 4 and 7 of the UN Basic Principles on the use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials.

Thank you for your attention.

Swedish-Achehnese Association

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