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## **The Peace Process and Its Conflict Potential**

### **Abstract**

The peace process in Aceh had found some glimmer of hope since May 2000. Facilitated by the Henry Dunant Center, an organization established by some UN senior diplomats with headquarters in Geneva, the initial focus was on ensuring that humanitarian assistance can be delivered to the conflict affected population. It establishes two joint commissions, the first on Humanitarian Action and the second on the Modality of Security. By February 2001 an attempt to escalate the agreements to include cessation of hostility failed and conflict erupted again, when hostile action was applied to a citizen by a police unit. Some four months later, after a five day discussion in Geneva the seed of the link that was missing in earlier discussions was planted: the forming of the Joint Commission on Consultation for Democracy – dialogue is now open on a political solution for Aceh.

The Helsinki MOU, reached on the 15th of August 2005 after 5 meetings facilitated by Crisis Management Initiative, is a historic milestone for both the conflicting parties and the world of this century. It should, however, be seen as being build upon these series of meetings.

Almost two years after the date, indicators of the potential for disagreement and conflict reemerge, both as a reflection of the varied interpretations on its impact on the future of Indonesia's unity by the national elites, and the unresolved grass root issues such as disparity of welfare, weak institutional capacity and the fact that not all of the elements in the Helsinki MoU are satisfactorily implemented.

The potential for this conflict is latent and real, and needs to be properly identified and addressed by the various stakeholders of Peace in Aceh.

### **Biography**

Before he graduated from the Law Department of Syiah Kuala University in 1989, Teuku Kamaruzzaman was an active member of the student body. He was elected as a leader in the Senate of Students of the Law Department. Starting off his career as a civil servant, he developed it further both as an entrepreneur and by being active in various association as well as social organizations such as government backed Pemuda Pancasila. His passion for social justice grew stronger as he saw blatant human dignity violation practices in his environment. This culminated in his joining the GAM movement and playing an active role in the earlier part of the peace discussion, among others being a GAM representative in the Joint Commission for Humanitarian Assistance, which was formed as part of the initial agreement toward peace, 2000. The ups and down of the peace process has seen Teuku Kamaruzzaman put in jail twice, in 2001 and again in 2003 to 2005, the later being in Sukamiskin penitentiary in Bandung. After the Helsinki MoU was signed he joined the Implementing Agency for Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Aceh and Nias (BRR), currently holding the post of Secretary of the Agency. Teuku Kamaruzzaman is not only a critical observer of the peace process, but an active participant in that process. He will share his analysis from within the peace process.