



ACHEH-SUMATRA NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT

**Human Rights Council Forum on Minority Issues:
Minority youth: towards diverse and inclusive societies
Tenth Session 30 November and 1 December 2017
Venue: Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland**

**Minority youth: agents of change for peace and stability
(Item 5: Friday, 1 December 2017)**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all I would like to thank the Forum for this opportunity. My name is Asnawi Ali and I represent Aceh-Sumatra National Liberation Front or ASNLF.

Acheh is located at the northern tip of the island of Sumatra and has been in conflicts with Indonesia since its creation after the outbreak of the Second World War. In the wake of the boxing Day tsunami, December 2004, the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) and Indonesia signed a peace deal that ended the thirty-year-military conflict.

Last August, Aceh marked the 12 year anniversary of the armed conflict's end. But despite promises by successive Indonesian governments, this has been a lost decade for tens of thousands affected by the devastating conflict and the authorities have shown little interest in addressing past injustices and full reparation to tens of thousands of victims, especially for young people.

Relating to the above-mentioned background and in line with Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015), with reference to the Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace, Security and Stability, I would like to draw the attention of this Forum on Minority youth and its challenges in Indonesia, especially in my homeland Aceh.

Youths today are the leaders of tomorrow, they say. That is very true indeed. but looking at the situations around the world that young people are facing today is really worrisome. Not only what is happening in conflict-ridden countries such as in the middle east, Africa, part of Asia and etc, but also in the so called "stable" third world countries with authoritarian rule, such as Indonesia.

In Aceh's case, the challenges faced by the youth are multifaceted: high unemployment, malfunctioning of rule of law and justice system, lacks of platforms or civil society groups for them to be engaged in. 12 years after the end of armed conflict, Aceh is still suffering from trauma, poverty and high unemployment, despite Aceh has abundance of natural resources.

Due to these and some other reasons, such as unresolved gross violations of human rights by military during the conflict, Acehese are still resenting Indonesian rule over Aceh.

Furthermore, the young generation is faced with even more fatal problem today, namely: drug abuses. The drug business is relating mostly to a lucrative business of the Indonesian security forces, military and the police, financing its operations. These were comprehensively reported by international organizations, such as Human Right Watch, Transnational Institute, etc.

Mr Chairman,

The UN Security Council Resolution calls upon government to promote youth participation in all levels of the processes of peacebuilding and recognises the urgent need to engage young peacebuilders in promoting peace and countering violent extremism. It also stresses on the importance of empowering them to be engaged with political processes of resolving conflicts.

The Amman Youth Declaration on Peace and Security adopted on 22 August 2015 offers a recipe for engaging youth in fighting against violent extremism and promoting peace.

Therefore, we urge all stakeholders to recognise and implement the four key areas of the declaration, especially point number 2:

"Recognition and support of youth networks, organizations and individual initiatives in preventing violence and violent extremism and promoting peace".

And also the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 with regards to rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction (point 2a); to investigate and prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, including youth (point 6); and to develop in partnership with youth and recognising the interrelated role of education, employment and training in preventing the marginalisation of youth (point 17a).

Thank you for your attention.