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## The impact of impunity on women in Aceh

### Introduction

Women have been among the thousands of victims of extrajudicial execution, “disappearance”, arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment by the security forces in the Indonesian province of Aceh over the last ten years in the context of police and military operations against the armed opposition group, the Free Aceh Movement (*Gerakan Aceh Merdeka*, GAM). Serious human rights violations, including rape and other forms of sexual abuse of women and girls, continue to be carried out by the security forces as a form of intimidation and as punishment for suspected support for GAM. GAM has also been responsible for committing human rights abuses against women in Aceh.

Despite overwhelming evidence of widespread and systematic violations, to Amnesty International’s knowledge no cases of human rights violations against women in Aceh have ever been brought to trial. A handful of cases have been investigated but have not resulted in prosecutions. In the absence of any action against perpetrators, violations continue unchecked.

There are no precise figures for the total number of women who have suffered human rights violations in the province, including gender-specific violations such as rape. In August 1998, the National Commission on Human Rights (*Komisi Nasional Hak Asasi Manusia*, Komnas HAM) reported that it had received details of 102 cases of rape during the course of its investigations into human rights violations committed between 1989-98. However, rape in Aceh, in common with situations elsewhere, tends to be under reported. The shame associated with rape, fear of reprisals and the absence of institutional mechanisms to investigate and bring the perpetrators to justice all act as deterrents to reporting such violations.

### Some investigations, but no justice

A few cases of human rights violations against women have received public attention. The case of Sumiati Binti Hamzah, who was raped in August 1996 by a member of the Indonesian military, attracted widespread attention because hers was one of five cases investigated by the Independent Commission for the Investigation of Violence in Aceh (*Komisi Independen Pengusutan Tindak Kekerasan di Aceh - KPTKA*), an official body set up by former President Habibie in July 1999.

Sumiati Binti Hamzah was followed home from her small trading kiosk on the night of 16 August 1996 by a member of the North Sumatra based Territorial Battalion Yonif 126. On reaching her house, he forced his way into her home and raped her at gunpoint. She tried to resist but, disabled by polio, she was physically weak and, in any case, was told she would be killed if she continued to struggle.

Eventually Sumiati lost consciousness. By the time she regained consciousness her attacker had fled.

Both fear and shame prevented Sumiati from telling anyone about her ordeal but several weeks later she discovered that she was pregnant as a result of the attack. Unwilling to face the stigma of single motherhood and unable to support a child alone, she is reported to have asked her attacker to provide her with financial compensation. The request was initially refused but, according to reports, she was later offered the equivalent of around US\$500 on condition that she did not report the case.

In November 1999, the KPTKA submitted Sumiati's and four other cases to the Attorney General's Office for further investigation. One of the cases, that of the extrajudicial execution of a Muslim preacher, Teungku Bantaqiah, and some 50 of his followers in July 1999, was brought to trial in a joint military/civilian tribunal in April 2000. The others were scheduled to take place in quick succession. The Bantaqiah trial was an important step by the Indonesian authorities towards recognizing the need to hold members of the security forces to account for their actions. Nevertheless, the process was flawed. Among Amnesty International's concerns were that only junior ranking members of the military were charged even though one of their commanders admitted to giving orders to carry out the operation which led to the killings. In addition, witnesses were reported to be afraid to testify, a situation which is common in Indonesia due to the absence of a witness/victim protection program. At the time Amnesty International recommended that these and other problems should be addressed before the remaining cases were heard.

No one has yet been held to account for the rape of Sumiati Binti Hamzah, even though, in March 2000, a military tribunal held in Medan ruled that the perpetrator should pay the victim 50,000 rupiah per month as maintenance for the child. In August 2000 a spokesperson for the Indonesian government at the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights stated that *"the strongly prevailing view among the authorities and public at large was that any proceedings [with regard to Aceh] should be suspended until the establishment of a national human rights court"*.<sup>1</sup> Legislation for the establishment of Human Rights Tribunals was passed by the Indonesian parliament on 6 November 2000. It is unclear when such tribunals will be operational and whether past Aceh cases will be brought before them. In the meantime, Sumiati Binti Hamzah is still waiting for justice.

In the absence of mechanisms of accountability, rape and other human rights violations against women continue to be perpetrated in Aceh. In March 2000, a

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<sup>1</sup> Commission on Human Rights Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. Fifty-second Session. E/CN.4/Sub.2/2000/SR.22 Summary Record of the 22 Meeting: 15/08/00.

number of women were reported to have been raped in the village of Alue Lhok in Matangkuli Sub-district, North Aceh District. Members of the military had arrived in the village at the beginning of the month and had been carrying out operations to search for members of GAM in Alue Lhok and the surrounding villages. According to unconfirmed reports, armed men wearing military uniforms and masks entered a number of houses in Alue Lhok at 1am and 4am on the night of 7 March 2000. In each case they demanded money. In some cases the women and girls present were raped and in others sexually assaulted. Their male relatives were tied up and beaten. Reports of the total number of rape victims differ from three to four, while up to seven people, including young girls, are said to have been sexually assaulted.

Like the case of Sumiati Binti Hamzah, the Matangkuli case also attracted an unusual level of publicity and a number of investigations were carried out. A fact-finding team headed by the Aceh branch of the National Commission on Human Rights (Komnas HAM) reported that three women had been raped, and that the military appeared to be responsible for the violations. It recommended that further investigations should be carried out by Komnas HAM's national office with a view to providing further information for eventual prosecutions. It also recommended that the witnesses and victims be provided with security and that victims should receive compensation and trauma counselling.

Two other investigations into the rapes in Matangkuli were also carried out, one by a joint team from the police and the military and another by a fact-finding team established by the local government. In neither case were the findings made public. No one has yet been arrested, charged or brought to trial in connection with the case.

### **Other cases of violence against women**

Sumiati Binti Hazah's case and the cases of the women in Mantangkuli are exceptional because they received a degree of publicity and investigation processes were initiated. However, the vast majority of human rights violations perpetrated against women in Aceh go unnoticed and unaddressed.

Amnesty International continues to receive reports, such as the alleged rape of seven women, and the attempted rape of three others in a number of villages in the Sub-district of Cot Girek, North Aceh on 14 March 2000. The attacks followed a similar pattern to Matangkuli but to Amnesty International's knowledge no efforts have been made to investigate these allegations.

In addition to being directly targeted for rape and other violations, women in Aceh have also found themselves inadvertently caught up in the violence. Cut Fatin Hamama, a 23-year-old medical student died after being shot in the head on 6 April 2000. The bus on which she had been travelling from Bireun, North Aceh to the provincial capital of Banda Aceh was stopped during a "stop and search" operation in Indrapuri Sub-district, Aceh Besar District in which members of the Police Mobile Brigade (Brimob) checked the identities of the passengers. As the bus left the checkpoint a shot was fired which hit Cut Fatin Hamama. She died the following day. A senior police official denied that the security forces were responsible for the shooting.

### **Human rights abuses by GAM**

Women in Aceh have also suffered from human rights abuses committed by members of GAM. Although such information is difficult to verify, Amnesty International has received reports of women who have been extrajudicially executed after being accused of acting as military informers or because they were suspected of fraternising with members of the security forces.

On 3 February 2000, the decomposed body of a woman was found in a shallow grave in Paloh Dayah Village, Muara Dua Sub-district, North Aceh where GAM members were reported to have had a base camp. According to NGO sources, the woman, who was a mid-wife from Peureulak in East Aceh, was known to be a military informer. A local newspaper, Serambi, reported on 2 February 2000 that two women, Salamah aged 35 and Rohani aged 30 were unlawfully executed by GAM in the village of Cot Mamplam, in Kandang near to the North Aceh town of Lhokseumawe. According to the report the two were killed because they had been supplying food to members of the security forces.

### **The impact of years of violence on women's lives**

It is estimated that thousands of women in Aceh have been widowed in the last decade because their husbands have been killed or “disappeared”. Widows and other women have also been directly subjected to human rights violations by way of punishment for the suspected involvement of their husbands or other male relatives in GAM.

Four women from one village in Pidie District interviewed by Amnesty International in July 2000 described how each of their husbands had been unlawfully killed by the military between 1991 and 1992. None of the four women knew exactly why their husbands were killed, but believe it was because they worked in the mountains and were therefore suspected of being GAM members. Shortly afterwards, the women were themselves tortured, apparently as punishment for their husbands’ alleged connections with GAM.

Three of the four women were detained by the security forces and all were tortured including being kicked, burnt with cigarettes and matches and beaten with electric cables. One woman described how a monkey was let loose to bite and pull her hair and another said she was forced to sit up to her neck in a river for several hours. Some eight years on, none of the women have ever received proper medical treatment for their injuries and all still suffer health problems as a result of being tortured.

The women all work as farmers to support their families, but their sole income was not enough to pay for their children’s education so they had to be withdrawn from school. Their lives continue to be disrupted by the conflict in Aceh. In late 1999, the women were forced to flee their homes after someone was shot in a neighbouring village. They have since returned but still do not consider themselves to be secure. Although they all expressed a wish to see the perpetrators of the violations against them and their families punished, they have long since given up hope of seeing justice done. Their main wish now is to be able to live in safety.

A program of compensation was introduced under former President Habibie’s administration (May 1998-October 1999). Under this program, the hundreds of widows, whose husbands were killed or “disappeared” between 1990-98 when Aceh is regarded to have been a “military operations area”

(*Daerah Operasi Militer*, DOM), are eligible to receive compensation up to 1 million rupiah, the equivalent of approximately US\$100 at current exchange rates.<sup>2</sup> Like many others, the four women from Pidie, many victims had not received the payment and did not know how to apply. Others have turned it down because they do not consider it sufficient to compensate for the loss of their husbands.

Internal displacement has been a feature of life over the last two years for many women in Aceh. Their reasons for fleeing include: searches of villages for members of GAM by the security forces which frequently result in arbitrary arrests, unlawful killings and torture or ill-treatment of local inhabitants; fear of armed clashes between GAM and the military; and human rights abuses committed by GAM members. The issue became highly politicised during 1999 and the spectacle of camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) along main roads and in the courtyards of mosques became a symbol of support for GAM and a referendum on Aceh's political future. There were indications that, even when security conditions improved, IDPs in some areas were prevented by GAM from returning to their homes.

The numbers of IDPs peaked between June and August 1999 when an estimated 250,000 to 300,000 people were displaced. During the first five months of the year 2000 the numbers decreased to just a few hundred at any given time. However, since May 2000 the numbers of IDPs have increased again as levels of violence in province have escalated once more. Conditions in many of the camps are poor and women often experience particular problems both in relation to their health and that of their children, and because of their lower social position which means they are excluded from decision-making and other public activities. Groups working with widows have noted that the situation for single women, including widows, is especially difficult in the camps because they do not

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<sup>2</sup> See below for further information about Aceh's DOM status.

have a husband who can represent their views or access information or assistance on their behalf.

In February 2000, almost 400 women, representing women from throughout Aceh, participated in the All Women's Conference in Banda Aceh. It was the first time that Acehnese women had gathered together to publicly discuss their concerns and advocate peaceful solutions to political, social and economic problems in Aceh.

The Congress took place against a backdrop of increasing violence. In January and February 2000 alone, it was estimated by non-governmental organizations that some 250 people had been killed, many of them ordinary civilians. The Congress participants were threatened and intimidated by both GAM and the Indonesian security forces, including death threats. In its 22 point resolution, the Congress gave prominence to justice and peace as the overriding priority in Aceh. Among their demands were:

- that the Government should immediately stop using force in Aceh;
- that the Government should commit to bringing those responsible for using force to justice in fair trials and that investigations should be carried out into human rights violations both prior to and after the lifting of DOM status in Aceh and perpetrators be brought to justice;
- that all sides should ensure at least 30 percent representation of women in all areas of political and institutional decision making;
- that women should enjoy equal rights in the economic sphere and that Acehnese people in general should receive a greater percentage of the revenues from the province's natural resources.

## **Background**

Aceh is situated in the northernmost part of the island of Sumatra, about 1,000 miles from the Indonesian capital of Jakarta. It has a population of around three-and-a-half million people. The Acehnese are often regarded as having a long tradition of resistance to domination by outside authorities. Over the past quarter of a century dissatisfaction with Indonesian rule has been largely rooted in economic grievances related to inequalities in the distribution of revenues drawn from the province's extensive natural resources. Opposition to the Indonesian government has been further fuelled by the repressive policies employed by the security forces in Aceh.

In December 1976 the recently formed armed opposition movement, the Free Aceh Movement (*Gerakan Aceh Merdeka*, GAM) declared Aceh to be an independent state. The government responded with force and GAM was largely destroyed within a few years. However, in 1989 GAM re-emerged and carried out a number of attacks against police and military installations which led to renewed military operations in the province.

Counter-insurgency operations by the Indonesian security forces resulted in gross human rights violations, a large number of which were committed against the civilian population. Amnesty International estimates that between 1989 and 1993, two thousand civilians, including children and the very elderly, were unlawfully killed and at least 1,000 people were arbitrarily arrested. Many were held in incommunicado detention and subjected to torture or ill-treatment.<sup>3</sup> Although the levels of violations declined in the following years, regular reports of unlawful killings, “disappearances”, arbitrary arrest and torture continued to be received.

Thirty-two years of authoritarian rule in Indonesia ended in May 1998 when former President Suharto was forced to resign in the face of massive popular opposition. The fall of the Suharto government heralded a new era of reform leading to expectations for change throughout Indonesia, including in Aceh. A number of government statements and initiatives provided some basis for optimism. On 7 August 1998, General Wiranto, the Armed Forces Commander at the time, offered an apology for the actions of members of the armed forces in Aceh. He also announced that Aceh’s status as a military operations area (*Daerah Operasi Militer - DOM*) would be lifted and that all non-organic troops would be withdrawn.<sup>4</sup> A number of investigations into human rights violations during the previous ten years were also initiated, bringing hope to victims and their families that justice would be done.

Hope proved to be short lived. At the end of 1998 the human rights situation began to deteriorate again following a number of attacks on military and police personnel and installations in December. Despite doubts about who was responsible, the authorities blamed the attacks on GAM and responded by launching *Operasi Wibawa 99* (Operation Authority 1999) in early January 1999, during which scores of people were arrested and dozens killed.

This has been followed by a series of further operations throughout 1999 and 2000. Although these have been headed by the police, they differ little from earlier military operations in that they have been characterized by serious and widespread human rights violations against civilians. The nature of the violations are strikingly similar to those perpetrated in the early 1990s and include unlawful killings,

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<sup>3</sup> For further details see *Indonesia: “Shock Therapy” Restoring Order in Aceh, 1989-1993* (AI Index: ASA 21/07/93, July 1993).

<sup>4</sup> Aceh’s status as a DOM area was never publicly declared, but was generally assumed to apply from 1990. The status of DOM confers considerable powers on the military. The withdrawal of non-organic troops refers to all units which are not within the territorial command structure. Roughly 900 combat troops, mostly from Kopassus and Kostrad units, were withdrawn during August 1998. However, the withdrawals were suspended in early September 2000 after disturbances broke out in Lhokseumawe, North Aceh following a withdrawal ceremony.

“disappearances” and arbitrary detention. Figures are difficult to determine with any degree of accuracy, but it is estimated that hundreds of people have been unlawfully killed over the past two years. Torture and ill-treatment is routine both inside and outside police or military custody as a means to extract confessions or as a form of punishment or intimidation. Although scores of alleged GAM members have been detained in the past two years, few cases have ever come to trial.

Growing levels of repression are widely seen to have contributed to increased levels of support for a referendum on Aceh’s political future among the population of Aceh. Pressure in support of a referendum reached its height in late 1998 when, on 8 November 1999, over one million people attended a pro-referendum rally in Banda Aceh, the provincial capital. A second pro-referendum rally took place on 10-11 November 2000. However, the security forces blocked people from travelling to Banda Aceh to participate including by opening fire on convoys of vehicles. The total number of people killed remains unconfirmed but is thought to be over 20.

In the meantime, the government engaged in initiatives towards entering into a dialogue with GAM. In May 2000 an accord was signed under which both parties agreed to halt offensive operations to allow the distribution of humanitarian aid and prepare the ground for further negotiations on ending the conflict. Known as the Joint Understanding on Humanitarian Pause for Aceh, it came into force on 2 June 2000 for a period of three months. The agreement initially appeared to result in a decrease in the level of human rights violations. However, within a matter of weeks reported incidents of abuses by both the security forces and GAM escalated once again.

On 24 September 2000 the agreement was extended by an additional three months, until 15 January 2001. At the same time both sides agreed to take all necessary measures to improve the effectiveness of the “humanitarian pause” and reconfirmed their commitment to the early and safe return of internally displaced persons (IDPs), to prevent any new exodus and to ensure the safety of humanitarian workers.

Amnesty International welcomed the acknowledgment by both sides of the importance of measures to protect those working with IDPs and other victims of human rights violations in Aceh. However, despite these commitments, violations have continued, causing further internal displacement, and cases of violations against human rights defenders, humanitarian workers and other activists have also been reported since the extension of the agreement. An essential component of effective protection must be that those suspected of responsibility for carrying out violations against humanitarian and human rights activists are brought to justice.

## **GAM Abuses**

Members of GAM have been responsible for human rights abuses in Aceh both before and after 1998. Information on GAM abuses is often difficult to verify, and is further confused by the many reported cases of abuses which are attributed by the authorities and in the media to unknown third parties. However, there are credible reports of unlawful killings, abductions and torture being carried out by GAM members against both members of the security forces and civilians. Other victims have included alleged military informers and people suspected by GAM of being criminals. There are also credible reports of threats, intimidation and other abuses by GAM against local government officials, religious officials, humanitarian workers and others.

GAM is also reported to be responsible for widespread destruction of government buildings, including schools, and has pressurised government employees to stay away from work so that large parts of the government administration are no longer functioning. Extortion is reported to be carried out by the group on a wide scale and is backed up by threats and intimidation.

The “humanitarian pause” is regarded by some observers as having provided GAM with an opportunity to regroup. Recruitment activity, including recruitment of children, is said by some observers to have intensified since the implementation of the accord. GAM is also said to be extending its influence at village-level and in some areas has taken over local government functions, including the administration of justice.

## **Investigations and Trials**

**United Nations Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances, 1990 report, paragraph 344.**

Since July 1998, a number of official investigations have been initiated into human rights violations in Aceh. Each of these investigations gathered evidence of hundreds of cases of violations committed since 1989 and pointed to involvement of the Indonesian security forces in these violations. However, to Amnesty International's knowledge only two cases have come to trial in the past two years. One took place in a military tribunal and the other in a joint military/civilian court.

### **Investigations**

- **July 1998:** a parliamentary investigation team (*Tim Gabungan Fakta - DPR*) was established. In October 1998 it made public provisional findings in which it said that it had received over 1,700 cases of human rights violations, including 426 "disappearances" and 320 unlawful killings.
- **July and August 1998:** The Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights (*Komisi Nasional Hak Asasi Manusia*, Komnas HAM) carried out investigations in Aceh. Its preliminary report stated that it had found evidence of at least 781 deaths, 163 "disappearances", 368 cases of torture and 102 cases of rape committed between 1989 and 1998.
- **July 1999:** The Independent Commission for the Investigation of Violence in Aceh (*Komisi Independen Pengusutan Tindak Kekerasan di Aceh*, KPTKA) was established by presidential decree. It reported that it had collected information about 5,000 cases of human rights violations in Aceh committed in the past ten years including cases of unlawful killings, torture, "disappearances, arbitrary detention, rape and sexual violence. It recommended that five cases be brought to trial immediately.
- **November 1999:** a parliamentary hearing on Aceh was held in which senior military and government officials were questioned about their role in human rights violations since 1989

- **November 1999:** the Attorney General's office set up an investigation into five cases recommended for prosecution by the KPTKA. The five cases were: a rape case in Pidie which took place in August 1996; cases of torture and "disappearance" between 1997 and 1998 in a facility known as Rumoh Geudong in Pidie; the unlawful killings of seven civilians in Idi Cut, East Aceh in February 1999; the unlawful killing of 35 civilians at Simpang KKA in North Aceh in May 1999; and the unlawful killings of a Muslim cleric and his followers in Blang Meurandah village, West Aceh in July 1999.

### **Trials**

- **February 1999:** Five soldiers were sentenced, by a military tribunal, to between two and six-and-a-half years' imprisonment for beating to death five detainees in Lhokseumawe, North Aceh the previous month.
- **April 2000:** the first of the five cases being investigated by the Attorney General's office was brought to trial in a joint civilian/military (*koneksitas*) court in Banda Aceh. One civilian and 24 soldiers were found guilty of the killing of the Muslim cleric, Teungku Bantaqiah and over 50 of his followers in West Aceh in July 1999. They were sentenced to between eight-and-a-half and ten years' imprisonment.

- Prior to May 1998, rape was used as an instrument of torture and intimidation by certain elements of the Indonesian army in Aceh, Irian Jaya and East Timor and that rape has continued since 1998;
- The criminal justice system is gender insensitive and, further, there is a certain denial culture that prevents effective enforcement of the law;
- The legal framework that operates with regard to violence against women does not incorporate many of the standards advocated at the international level including in relation to rape, domestic violence and sexual harassment in the work place.

Among the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur were that:

- The Government should ratify all the human rights instruments, especially the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);
- The Government of Indonesia should consider accelerating the process of law reform and introduce amendments to the Penal Code that reflect the latest international standards with regard to violence against women;
- The Government of Indonesia should take special measures to improve public confidence in the criminal justice system, especially with regard to violence against women. The police should operate independently and the security forces should formulate a human rights policy and engage in extensive human rights training;
- Members of the security forces suspected of rape should be brought to trial in civilian courts;
- Special assistance should be given to dealing with the psychological trauma caused by violence against women; that victims should be compensated; that special programs should be established to assist children of victims of rape by members of the security forces; special attention should also be given to the widows whose husbands have been killed by the Indonesian security forces.

## **Recommendations**

The cases detailed above illustrate a patterns of serious human rights violations perpetrated against women in Aceh. Women are particularly vulnerable to gender-specific violations such as rape or other forms of sexual abuse. This risk is heightened by the atmosphere of violence and lawlessness which prevails in Aceh and the climate of impunity which gives perpetrators the belief that they will not be held to account for their actions.

As a member of the United Nations (UN) and as a party to a number of international human rights instruments, including the Convention against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Indonesian government has an obligation to address such violations by ensuring that the perpetrators are brought to justice and that the victims receive reparations, including compensation.

### **Amnesty International urges the Indonesian authorities to:**

- conduct credible investigations into allegations of past and current human rights violations in Aceh; ensure that those responsible for human rights violations, including those who issued orders to commit such violations, are brought to justice in trials which meet international standards of fairness;
- establish effective programs for the protection of victims and witnesses called to give testimony or evidence during the judicial process; take effective measures to ensure that women are able to participate actively in such processes without shame or fear of retribution;
- ensure that security force personnel are under orders and trained to carry out their duties in line with international standards of human rights and humanitarian law; in particular, ensure that women do not become the target of human rights violations, including rape and other forms of torture;
- take appropriate measures to ensure that the criminal justice system is made gender-sensitive, including by introducing amendments to the Penal Code that reflect the latest international standards with regard to violence against women;
- take specific measures to protect the human rights of women in Aceh, including their right to freedom from discrimination and their right to reparations for past violations perpetrated against them or members of their families; special attention should be given to assist children of victims of rape

by members of the security forces and widows whose husbands have been killed by the security forces;

- ensure that all those displaced by the violence in Aceh, including women and children, are protected from human rights violations and have secure, ongoing and unhindered access to humanitarian and human rights organizations.

**Amnesty International urges GAM to:**

- make a public commitment to abide by international humanitarian law as defined in Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, in particular that those taking no active part in hostilities must be treated humanely and must not be subjected to acts of violence such as killing, torture or hostage-taking;
- ensure that women do not become the target of human rights abuses, including rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and declare its total opposition to all forms of violence against women;

**Amnesty International urges the international community, in particular, Indonesia's donor assistance partners, to:**

- raise the cases detailed above with the Indonesian government and put pressure on the Indonesian government to fulfil its human rights obligations to women in Aceh in line with the above recommendations;
- develop aid and investment strategies for Indonesia which strengthen human rights protection and promotion, including support for programs aimed at establishing accountability for the military in civilian courts and measures aimed at combatting discrimination against women;
- provide targeted and ongoing assistance to the large number of victims of human rights violations in Aceh; special assistance should be given to dealing with the psychological trauma caused by violence against women.