

# Swedish-Achehnese Association

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

Inclusive education to empower minority youth  
(Item 2: Thursday, 30 November 2017. 3-6 pm)

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Yusra Taleb and I am from Aceh in the northern part of the island of Sumatra. I represent the Swedish-Achehnese Association, based in Sweden. I would like to draw your attention to the situations faced by Achehnese youth in the post-conflict Aceh.

Like in many other post-conflict societies throughout the world, Achehnese youth have been suffering from poverty, exploitation and neglect. They are often ignored and highly vulnerable to become criminals due to dropouts, unemployment and lack of opportunities available to lead a peaceful life.

Following a sporadic thirty-year armed-conflict between the Free Aceh Movement and Indonesia, a peace agreement was reached in 2005. One of the many provisions stipulated in the agreement is the establishment of the Human Rights Court (also known as HRC).

To date, after twelve long years, this clause is already forgotten, and Jakarta has even further aggravated the situation, by deliberately dismissing a number of other important stipulations relating to economic matters. Despite the current agreement promised that Aceh would retain 70 % of its share, Aceh's abundant natural resources are still grossly exploited by Jakarta until today.

Today, Aceh is one of the poorest provinces in Indonesia and ranking one in Sumatra; unemployment is among the highest among youth and dropouts. No wonder why thousands of young Acehnese flee to neighbouring Malaysia to find job and many stay there to work even without legal documents.

There are some telling factors why these things have been taking place in Aceh:

Firstly, justice systems in Indonesia, including Aceh, are corrupt and problems related to bribery are rampant. Indonesians have this culture when it comes to their dealings with the law. The most recent survey conducted by Indonesian Survey Institute (LSI) on August this year says that police and court officials are the most corrupt. And Transparency International ranks Indonesia 90<sup>th</sup> out of 176 countries, “on par with nations such as Liberia and Colombia”.

Secondly, in the post-conflict Aceh regional and central government in Jakarta have totally overlooked the situations faced by the victims of the conflict, including youth and fatherless children. Both central and provincial governments have been focusing on former combatants and other physical reconstructions and most money allocated for Aceh’s reintegration Body (BRA) have been handed out between corrupt officials and the elites of former combatants.

Mr Chairman,

The Swedish-Acehnese Association supports the articles 10, 11 and 13 of the UN Security Council resolution 2250 from 2015 on youth, peace and stability, under the heading ”Prevention”. And urge the Indonesian government and other relevant actors to fully implement them.

“10. *Urges* Members States to facilitate an inclusive and enabling environment in which youth actors, including youth from different backgrounds, are recognised and provided with adequate support to implement violence prevention activities and support social cohesion;

“11. *Stresses* the importance of creating policies for youth that would positively contribute to peace building efforts, including social and economic development, supporting projects designed to grow local economies, and provide youth employment opportunities and vocational training, fostering their education, and promoting youth entrepreneurship and constructive political engagement;

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“13. *Calls on* all relevant actors to consider instituting mechanisms to promote a culture of peace, tolerance, intercultural and interreligious dialogue that involve youth and discourage their participation in acts of violence, terrorism, xenophobia, and all forms of discrimination;

We would also strongly demand Indonesia to undertake points a, b and d of the article 3 of the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education from 1960, with particular reference to point b which states: *“To ensure, by legislation where necessary, that there is no discrimination in the admission of pupils to educational institutions”*.

**Thank you for attention**

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