

## **The Moluccas Agreement in Malino (Malino II) Signed to End Conflict and Create Peace in the Moluccas**

On February 11-12, 2002, the Indonesian Government, led by Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare Mr. Jusuf Kalla, convened and mediated a meeting between the opposing Christian and Muslim factions from Indonesia's Moluccas province (which was known as the 'Spice Islands' during Dutch colonial rule) in Malino, South Sulawesi. After two days of intense heart-to-heart talks, the two parties in conflict reached an agreement to end the three-year bloodshed, and to work together to maintain peace in the Moluccas. The Agreement was signed by the two sides comprising of thirty-five Christian and thirty-five Muslim delegates.

When announcing the peace accord that was signed Tuesday, February 12, 2002, Coordinating Minister for People's Welfare Yusuf Kalla, who hosted the talks said, "both sides have agreed to end all conflicts and hostilities". Minister Jusuf Kalla read the peace accord, a resolve encapsulated in their joint declaration known as the 11-point "The Moluccas Agreement in Malino", before local religious and tribal leaders at the end of the meeting, namely that the two sides have agreed:

- to end all conflicts and disputes
- to abide by due process of law enforcement fairly, faithfully, honestly and impartially, supported by the communities. Therefore, the existing security officers are obliged to be professional in exercising their mission
- to reject and oppose all kinds of separatist movements, among others the Republic of South Moluccas (RMS), that threaten the unity and sovereignty of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia
- that as part of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia, the people of the Moluccas have the rights to stay and work legally and fairly in the Republic of Indonesia nationwide and vice versa, by respecting the local culture, law and order
- to ban and disarm illegal armed organizations, groups, or militias, in accordance with the existing law. Outsider parties that

disturbs the peace in the Moluccas will be expelled from the Moluccas

- to establish a national independent investigation team to investigate among others, the tragic incident on January 19, 1999, the Moluccas Sovereign Front (Front Kedaulatan Maluku-FKM), Republic of South Moluccas (Republik Maluku Selatan-RMS), Christian Republic of South Moluccas (Kristen Republik Maluku Selatan-Kristen RMS), jihad warrior (laskar jihad), Christ Warrior (laskar Kristus), coercive conversion, and human rights violation

- to call for the voluntarily return of refugees to their homes, and the return of properties

- to rehabilitate mental, social, economic and public infrastructures, particularly educational, health, religious, and housing facilities, supported by the Indonesian Government

- to preserve law and order for the people in the area, it is absolutely necessary for the military and the police to maintain coordination and firmness in executing their function and mission. In line with this, a number of military and police facilities must be rebuild and re-equipped to enable them to function properly

- to uphold good relationship and the harmony among all elements of believers in the Moluccas, all efforts of evangelism must highly honor the diversity and acknowledge local culture

- to support the rehabilitation of Pattimura University for common progress, as such, the recruitment system and other policies will be transparently implemented based on the principle of fairness while upholding the necessary standard.

In addition, the truce calls for the establishment of two joint commissions. One will monitor the law and order, and the other will oversee social and economic conditions. It also makes provision for the establishment of joint security patrols.

The Moluccas violence started in January 1999 following a minor argument in the provincial capital of Ambon. A state of civil emergency was declared on the Moluccas and neighboring North Moluccas in June 2000, allowing the military and police to enforce curfews.

This peaceful agreement has been positively hailed by many parties, among others, the US Government. On Monday, February 11, 2002, the spokesman of the State Department, Richard Boucher, said, "such dialogue is key to resolving the conflict in the Moluccas, and that the talks are an important step in Indonesia's efforts to end violence, re-establish the rule of law and provide for reconstruction in the troubled province".

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Press and Information

The Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia

Phone: 202-775-5337, 202-775-5295