



## **EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **Spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia on the view of Secretary of State Clinton on the Papua Autonomy Issue**

Referring to the statement by Secretary of State Clinton during the congressional hearing in Washington on 22 April 2009, the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Teuku Faizasyah, said that the Government of Indonesia believes that the US Government is favourable of the broad autonomy granted by the central government in Jakarta to the Province of Papua.

In the above hearing, Secretary of State Clinton stated her views on the question of broad autonomy in Papua and expressed the readiness to discuss human rights issue in Papua with the Indonesian Government.

The spokesman said that the Government of Indonesia welcomes the views expressed by the Secretary of State and perceives it as an expression of support for the broad autonomy in the Province of Papua.

With respect to the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Papua, Faizahsyah said that the ICRC has pulled out its 4 staff members from Papua last March fulfilling the request by the Government of Indonesia to halt its activities there. He explained that the recent activities of ICRC in Papua have gone out of the way of what has been agreed upon by the two sides, and stated that the visit by ICRC to some of the suspected activists of the separatist movement was effected without the approval of the Indonesian Government.

Going into details, Faizahsyah elaborated that ICRC has not responded to the new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which the Government of Indonesia has forwarded to ICRC in 2004 to renew the agreements of 1977 and 1987. Presently, the area of activities of ICRC regional delegate in Jakarta covers only Indonesia and Timor-Leste and there is no agreement yet to regulate the opening of branch offices in Indonesia. Beside in Papua, ICRC maintains a branch office in Aceh to coordinate their activities there.

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