PUB: AUS 5-JAN-2005 ED: AC AC
PROOF OK CORRECTION SIGNATURE: ED AD PROD
dmax 98 75 50 25 15 8 7 6 5 CMYK2 CMYK 1 1

THE AUSTRALIAN

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 5 2005

$1.20* Includes GST Freight Extra ($1.40 Tas)

World leaders rally in Jakarta for tsunami relief, but . . .

Army still at war in Aceh

Sian Powell
Jakarta correspondent

THE Indonesian military is continuing to wage war with separatist rebels in the hills of Aceh as world leaders put the finishing touches to a multi-billion-dollar aid and investment package for the devastated province.

As international military and medical teams stepped up relief efforts yesterday in Aceh, where the tsunami killed up to 100,000 people, an Indonesian military spokesman confirmed that only two-thirds of the military's 40,000-strong force in the province was taking part in the relief effort while the remaining third was engaged in military operations against insurgents.

The rebels claimed yesterday that the Indonesian military has moved more troops into rebel-held territory under the guise of relief operations since the tsunami struck 10 days ago. They say squads of soldiers are preventing hill villagers going to help their relatives on the coast.

"They are still conducting an incessant military operation," a rebel spokesman, Teuku Jamaika, told *The Australian* from his base somewhere in the Aceh hills. "There's no difference between before and after the tsunami."

Thousands of Australian and US military personnel are at the forefront of the relief operation on the coast of Aceh, with the support of medical and military teams from as far away as Germany and Japan.

The Indonesian embassy in Canberra last night defended the continued military operation against the rebels.

"The Indonesian military in Aceh also has a responsibility to maintain security," a spokesman said.

"The main task of the military is to provide humanitarian aid but they are also meant to provide security."

Colonel Djazairi Nachrowi, the head of information analysis at the national military headquarters, said there had been no ceasefire, despite an offer from rebel leaders exiled in Sweden to suspend hostilities until Aceh had recovered.

"At first we thought positively, that GAM (the Free Aceh Movement) had a conscience, and would not use the situation like this, but it turned out they held up (aid transport)," Colonel Nachrowi said.

"We are not offensive, we are defensive."

There had been no outright attacks on the rebels, he said.

"Some TNI (Indonesian military) troops tried to escort a truck filled with aid," he said.

"When they were on their way there was an indication they would be held up, so there was an exchange of fire. It's not TNI attacking GAM, but an exchange of fire because humanitarian aid was held up."

GAM spokesman Teuku Jamaika said military raids had continued in hill areas of Idi Rayek, in Bireuen, Gandapura and Pasongan. Local people had been prevented from leaving their villages to find relatives or simply to help, he said.

"It was prohibited, blocked. If they left their villages there were threats."

University of Indonesia military specialist Salim Said said GAM rebels would try to attack aid convoys to boost their supplies while the Indonesian military continued its crackdown.

"The operation to obliterate GAM continues, nothing has changed there," Dr Said said.

"Now another danger has threatened them, but they will still try to crush GAM."

Kirsten Schulze, a senior lecturer at the London School of Economics and the author of a number of papers on the Aceh insurgency, said counter-insurgency operations were continuing in the province, but she said it should be remembered the military was doing most of the dirty work in hard-hit towns such as Banda Aceh.

"In Meulaboh, there are no military operations," she said. "In East Aceh, which was not hit hard by the tsunami, yes, there are security operations going on."

Dr Schulze, in Indonesia to continue her research, said more troops had been sent into Aceh from North Sumatra, but only to bolster the relief effort.

"Without the military, the aid effort would be even slower."

Bakhtiar Abdullah, a GAM spokesman based in Sweden, said the military had poured troops into the region since the disaster. "The reports we received is that they are moving in more troops under the guise of relief operations," he said.

The 19-month crackdown on the GAM rebels has become a tender issue for Indonesia. The failure of an internationally-brokered and short-lived ceasefire in 2003 prompted the massive military offensive, and Indonesia has reacted angrily to foreign criticism of various atrocities.

Before the tsunami hit, international aid workers were almost entirely prevented from operating in Aceh, journalists curtailed to an extent which made balanced coverage impossible, and diplomats largely barred from visiting.

Teuku Jamaika said two rebels were shot dead by Indonesian soldiers late last week after an all-out attack, and flatly denied the rebels had attempted to hold up an aid convoy.

"We actually already unilaterally asked the TNI for a ceasefire," he said.

"We asked TNI to take a defensive position and only attack if we attack first. But it just doesn't work."

Anything to help: Former Sydneysider and Achenese businesswoman Yusra Miller has travelled from Medan to Banda Aceh to help the relief effort Picture: Renee Nowytarger

Plenty of money for recovery: Powell

Sid Maher
Peter Alford

AUSTRALIA and the US have ruled out imposing a grand reconstruction plan on the tsunami-hit nations of Asia and will rely instead on requests from individual countries as the basis for the aid effort.

As world leaders travelled to Jakarta for a disaster meeting, Foreign Minister Alexander Downer briefed John Howard on the situation in Phuket yesterday afternoon by telephone as the Prime Minister honed details of an aid package expected to be worth more than $500 million to help rebuild devastated areas of Sumatra and Aceh in Indonesia.

Mr Downer then flew from Thailand to the Indonesian capital last night to discuss plans with Foreign Minister Hassan Wirayuda ahead of a summit tomorrow with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyhono and US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

In Thailand yesterday, Mr Powell was cool to the notion of a region-wide program on the lines of the Marshall Plan mounted in Europe after World War II.

"We have to see it as a regional problem but then the solution will be country by country," he said.

He also said there was no immediate need to increase the US's $US350 million ($449 million) commitment, given that more than $US2 billion had been pledged.

"There is no shortage of money at the moment," he said, adding that the relief effort was "going exceptionally well".

He told his hosts: "We are in solidarity with you as you deal with this crisis. The aftermath of the tsunami is a tragedy for the entire world. The US will not turn away from those in desperate need."

Mr Downer said last night that there were different strategies for different nations because of the scope of the tragedy and their ability to respond.

He said Thailand was very "efficient" and had the job of cleaning up and preparing reconstruction well in hand, while in Indonesia the need for direct aid and assistance in reconstruction was more pressing.

Aussie rubber baron pitches in for cousins

Still suffering: Some of the many amputees at an Aceh hospital

Stephen Fitzpatrick
Medan

CALL her the rubber baron: Yusra Miller, nee Bahroeny, has come a long way since she studied biomedics in Sydney, fell in love with university lecturer David Miller and raised three daughters in South Hurstville.

For more than a decade Yusra resisted the pull of her Acehnese family's plantation empire, while Yolande, now 26, Indrie, 25, and Claudine, 23, were growing up in Australian suburbia and attending school at Woollahra public, in Sydney's east.

But with the Bahroenys a household name for many in Indonesia's northernmost province, she finally succumbed, uprooting the family — "there's a lot to see in life, and unless you take a step, you don't see it," shrugs David — and relocating to Medan, where the Millers administer 9000ha of rubber plantations in Sumatra and Aceh, a palm oil exporting business, a serviced apartments complex and a nationwide surveying enterprise that David describes as "a bit of a hobby".

For now, however, Yusra has a new mission: she's working with Australian medics in Banda Aceh as a translator, fixer and general gofer, while David looks after dozens of Australian troops in the 48-room building designed to accommodate travelling businesspeople and students.

Yusra's work with medical staff is a grisly prospect, facing the large number of amputations surgeons now must perform on survivors' gangreous limbs that have festered without treatment for more than a week.

Foreignb medical teams in Aceh say the number of amputations could run to the thousands, adding another hurdle to the long-term recovery efforts of the region.

However, armed with apparently boundless energy and enthusiasm, Yusra was bursting at the seams to get to the Acehnese capital this week, arriving at Medan's Polonia airport with minutes to spare before an Australian Hercules aircraft lumbered down the runway for what has become a routine cargo run north.

"They're letting me in," she shouted joyfully, accompanied

Continued — Page 4

Couple's surf safari ends in quiet Buddhist ceremony

Remains: Joanna, left, and Damien Kloot, centre

Elizabeth Colman
Krabi

COWS grazed among the palms and a rooster crowed as Damien Kloot stood bowed over the bones of his wife, Yumi Tanaka.

Married for a year after meeting in Bali in 2000, the pair of surfers were on their fourth trip to Thailand — holidaying on the white sands of Phi Phi island.

A Japanese national, Yumi became another victim of the Boxing Day tsunami while Mr Kloot, who had briefly left his wife to take some photographs of the sea, survived. As he waited yesterday for Yumi's ashes to cool, he told how he watched the waves crashing into the island before realising his wife had disappeared.

"We were right in front of the boat pier . . . There was three shops with green roofs and we were in front of there, and she had stopped to buy a hair band," he told *The Australian*.

"And being a lady, being a woman, you know, they take their time and I thought well, I'll . . . take some photographs. And that's when all the boats started moving sideways.

"And that's when it came in. The surge came in and in a matter of seconds (the water rose) from my ankle to my waist and I just got carried down and it carried me until I hit the sign of a restaurant.

"I got pinned by a big water container . . . I was trapped and it was at that point it was my time. And by a miracle I freed my leg.

"The whole place was shaking. I just had tunnel vision, (thinking) 'where's my wife, where's my wife?'

"I swam, I got back to the place where my wife was and when I got

Continued — Page 6

INSIDE

World News	10
Arts	11
Editorial, Letters	12
Opinion	13
Summer Living	14, 15
TV, Crosswords	16
Sport	17-20
Weather	18
Classifieds	22
Higher Education	27, 28

THE DOLLAR

US77.96¢	+US0.46¢
€0.5779	+€0.0017
40.85p	+0.17p
All Ords 4060.7	+7.6
Gold $US429.05	–$US5.67
Business	**p21-26**

FIRST EDITION
NUMBER 12,528

WEATHER

Adelaide	22
Alice Springs	31
Brisbane	32
Canberra	26
Darwin	30
Hobart	19
Melbourne	21
Perth	32
Sydney	31
Townsville	33

TELEPHONE Adelaide: 8206 2686 Brisbane: 3666 7444 Canberra: 6270 7000 Hobart: 6224 2196 Melbourne: 9292 2888 Perth: 9326 8412 Sydney: 9288 3000 *This newspaper participates in recycling*

THE AUSTRALIAN
Home delivery
1 800 022 552

ISSN 1038-8761

www.theaustralian.com.au

FÉRAUD PARIS

MASSIVE DESIGNER CLEARANCE
SALE ON NOW
UP TO 60% OFF
MEN'S AND WOMEN'S RANGES

MEN'S SUITS FROM $695
MEN'S SHIRTS FROM $79
ITALIAN SILK TIES FROM $69
WOMEN'S BUSTIERE FROM $115
WOMEN'S SKIRTS FROM $145
AND MUCH MUCH MORE!!!
VIP REWARDS CLUB MEMBERS YOUR SPECIAL DISCOUNT OFF SALE PRICES

SOUTH YARRA – 111 Toorak Road South Yarra, 3141 Phone: 9820 2122 | GRAND HYATT – Shop 612/123 Collins Street Melbourne, 3000 Phone: 9650 3927