

Executive Summary

Muted Terrains of Death

The research report titled "*Lanskap Sunyi Kematian*" (Muted Terrains of Death) documents the physical remains and collective memory of mass graves, tactical torture hubs, and disposal sites across the regencies of Pidie and Aceh Utara (North Aceh) during the Military Operation Zone (DOM) era from 1989 to 1998.

This spatial investigation, spearheaded by KontraS Aceh with the support of the Fundación de Antropología Forense de Guatemala (FAFG), applies critical geography and non-invasive forensic methodologies to reconstruct how state-sponsored terror was systematically institutionalized across the Acehnese landscape.

This research and mapping successfully consolidated previously fragmented information into a comprehensive geospatial database.

We documented the absolute coordinates and operational history of at least 10 Sattis Post locations—including primary filtration hubs such as Rumoh Geudong, Lameulo, and Pinto Sa in Pidie, alongside Kamp Rancong in Aceh Utara—1 isolation enclave village (Blang Pandak in Tangse), 10 mass grave/exile sites—including Gampong Pante Cermen (Padang Tiji), Buket Seuntang (South Lhoksukon Block B), Eks Gudang Dinamit (Seunubok Dalam), Bukit Seureukee/Bukit Tengkorak, and Lubok Pusaka—and 4 organic memorialization sites, such as the Makam Limong testimony grave in Deah Teumanah.

The Architecture of Systematic Violence

During the execution of the DOM—operationally designated as *Operasi Jaring Merah*—the New Order's security apparatus suspended civil law and restructured the geography of Aceh into a highly organized zone of exclusion.

At the epicenter of this bureaucracy of terror was a network of Tactical and Strategic Unit Posts (*Pos Sattis*), which functioned as autonomous black sites managed by the Intelligence Task Force (SGI) and elite Kopassus forces.

Civilians were arbitrarily detained and channeled through intermediate and central filtration hubs like Lameulo, Pinto Sa, and Rumoh Geudong in Pidie, as well as Kamp Rancong in Aceh Utara. To systematically evade judicial tracking and sever legal accountability, the military utilized a "ping-pong" transit network.

Prisoners were constantly rotated between these decentralized black sites based on their perceived intelligence value; those deemed to possess no further information or who

succumbed to brutal torture methods were executed and funneled into an efficient logistics system designed for body mobilization and permanent disposal.

The Military-Industrial Nexus

In Sektor B (Aceh Utara), the spatial organization of state violence exposed a deep, institutionalized operational synergy between multinational energy corporations and the military apparatus. Security forces effectively weaponized the corporate concession zones belonging to Mobil Oil Indonesia (now ExxonMobil) and PT Arun, transforming them into high-security, closed enclaves that functioned entirely outside the preview of civil law.

Mass disposal sites were integrated directly into active industrial infrastructure, including the oil fields of Buket Seuntang (South Lhoksukon Block B), the isolated Dynamite Warehouse (*Eks Gudang Dinamit*) in Seunubok Dalam, and the active gas drilling rigs at Bukit Seureukee (*Bukit Tengkorak*).

This corporate complicity was heavily structural: multinational companies provided massive monthly budgets to fund military security logistics, while corporate heavy machinery, such as bulldozers and excavators (*becho*), was directly deployed by troops to dig massive trenches for clandestine burials and level the terrain to destroy physical forensic evidence systematically.

Spatial Anomalies, Enclaves, and Community Resilience

The investigation highlights severe geographic anomalies where past state atrocities continue to collide with modern civilian life. In Gampong Pante Cermen (Padang Tiji), a vast, fragmented "landscaped grave" spans across a 300-meter corridor. Once a vacant agricultural plot during the era of mandatory military curfews, the land has since transitioned into a dense residential zone.

Today, local families routinely experience the trauma of unearthing human skeletons—frequently stripped naked and blanketed with scattered iron paku (nails)—while conducting routine domestic excavations for house foundations or septic tanks.

Similarly, Gampong Blang Pandak in the mountainous terrain of Tangse represents a historically quarantined political enclave. Due to its strategic, isolated topography, it was subjected to an aggressive military containment strategy where eight surrounding *Pos Sattis* completely choked the village's lateral movement, enforcing forced relocations, burning down homes, and utilizing civilians as human shields during jungle patrols.

In direct opposition to this state-enforced dehumanization, local Acehnese communities demonstrated profound spiritual and physical resilience. Defying strict military curfews, villagers routinely braved the killing fields to retrieve the abandoned bodies of victims from ravines and swamps, performing proper Islamic burial rites (*fardhu kifayah*) and

establishing organic "testimony graves" like Makam Limong in Deah Teumanah to preserve memory against enforced structural amnesia.

Dual Vulnerabilities and Forensic Urgency

The report concludes with a critical warning regarding the "Dual Vulnerability" currently threatening the preservation of these historical sites. Structurally, many execution and disposal sites face imminent erasure due to institutional re-allocation and modern infrastructure expansion. Kamp Rancong has been entirely converted into an active naval base (*Lanal Lhokseumawe*), the former Dynamite Warehouse has been repurposed into a municipal garbage dump (*TPA*), and the ruins of Rumoh Geudong were structurally demolished and leveled by the government to make way for a stylized "Living Park"—actions that civil society views as a systematic destruction of primary judicial evidence.

Ecologically, the physical integrity of these shallow mass graves is failing due to rapid environmental degradation. The catastrophic hydrometeorological floods and volcanic mudflows from Mt. Peut Sagoe that struck Aceh in late 2025 have severely destabilized the region's geography.

Combined with heavy river sedimentation caused by the construction of the Langkahan Dam, these environmental shifts subject sites like Lubok Pusaka and Bukit Tengkorak to constant flooding and severe soil erosion. Without immediate legal protections, comprehensive site preservation, and structured non-invasive forensic assessments, the physical coordinates of Aceh's transitional justice will be permanently lost to structural development and ecological decay. []