



Analysis of the Role of Indonesia's Active Free Diplomacy in Resolving the Rohingya Conflict

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Received: 3 Juli 2023 | Accepted: 11 Agustus 2023 | Published: 30 December 2023

Abstract

The conflict between the Myanmar government led by a military junta and the Rohingya Muslim tribe is one of the most tragic and heartbreaking human tragedies. The suffering experienced by the Rohingya tribe certainly hurts security in the Southeast Asia region. This research aims to find out how Indonesian diplomacy based on the principle of free and active foreign policy can resolve the Rohingya conflict in Myanmar. The humanitarian conflict affecting the Rohingya ethnic group in Myanmar has raised deep concern among the international community, including Indonesia. Diplomacy is an important instrument in implementing a country's foreign policy. Successful diplomacy can add value to a country and improve its image in the eyes of the world. This research uses a qualitative approach with a literature study method. The data sources for this research are books and journals related to analyzing the role of Indonesia's free and active diplomacy in resolving the Rohingya conflict. The results of this research indicate that to increase the success of Indonesian diplomacy in resolving the Rohingya conflict, more intensive and comprehensive efforts are needed. Indonesia needs to work together with other countries at various levels to encourage the Myanmar government to resolve the conflict peacefully and fairly by human rights principles.

Keywords: *Diplomacy, Myanmar conflict, Free and Active Politics.*

1. INTRODUCTION

The wave of ethnic Rohingya and Bangladeshi refugees from Myanmar in the waters of the Strait of Malacca in mid-November 2023 on the coast of Aceh brought problems again to the surrounding countries. Based on UNHCR data, it is estimated that there are still 6,000 to 8,000 immigrants from Bangladesh and the Rohingya ethnic group stranded in the waters of the Andaman Sea and the Strait of Malacca. The Rohingya conflict in Myanmar has become one of the most worrying humanitarian issues in the world. This conflict has caused a large-scale migration of Rohingya people to neighboring countries, including Indonesia. The conflict between the Myanmar government and the Rohingya tribe is one of the most heartbreaking humanitarian tragedies in the world. The UN even



calls the Rohingya ethnic group the most oppressed ethnic group in the world. Reports from MSF show that the conflict has caused extraordinary suffering for the Rohingya community. The humanitarian agency Doctors Without Borders (MSF) reported that in 2017, around 647,000 ethnic Rohingya fled to Bangladesh to escape persecution by the Myanmar military. The conflict resulted in the deaths of around 6,700 people. Of this number, 69.4% died because they were shot, 8.8% died because they were burned, 5% died because they were beaten, 2.6% died after sexual violence, and the rest died because their throats were cut or kidnapped. (Sundari et al., 2021)

Myanmar (Burma) is a country located in Southeast Asia, Myanmar has quite diverse ethnicities. This can be seen from the variety of tribes that live. According to the law recognized by the government, Myanmar has around 135 ethnicities, of which the Burmese, Kachin, Karen, Karenni, Chin, Mon, Arakan, and Shan are one of the ethnicities that make up the majority in There are ethnic Burmese who are Buddhists so the name of the country itself was changed from Myanmar to "Burma". (Susetyo, 2013)

Among the various ethnicities in Myanmar, the Rohingya are an ethnic minority and the most unique because they are Muslim, have physical characteristics similar to South Asian residents and are different from other ethnicities in Myanmar who are Buddhist. The Myanmar government has always considered the Rohingya ethnic group as foreigners living in Arakan province (now Rakhine). The Myanmar government does not recognize the Rohingya ethnic group as citizens based on the 1982 Citizenship Law. This law only recognizes ethnic groups who have long lived in Myanmar before British colonial occupation in 1824 (Achmad, 2019)

In this case, Indonesia, as one of the countries where the Rohingya ethnic group has been displaced, has made various diplomatic efforts to resolve this conflict.

According to Prayuda (2019), there are three basic ways of implementing state diplomacy, namely:

1. Persuasion: Efforts to convince other parties to achieve common goals.
2. Cooperation: Building relationships and working together with other countries to achieve common goals.
3. Disputes: Resolving disputes with other countries through peaceful means.

Diplomacy is a complex and multi-faceted process. The three pillars and five scopes above are important elements in implementing effective diplomacy

DiplomacyFree and active foreign policy is a principle formulated by Indonesia since the beginning of independence. This principle emphasizes an active and dynamic attitude in fighting for national interests, as well as an impartial attitude in responding to international conflicts. In the context of the Rohingya conflict, Indonesia has implemented the principle of a free and active foreign policy by carrying out various diplomatic efforts, both bilaterally, regionally, and internationally. These diplomatic efforts include:

- a. bilateral Efforts, Indonesia has held bilateral meetings with the Myanmar government to discuss the Rohingya issue. During the meeting, Indonesia expressed concern over the humanitarian situation in Rakhine State, Myanmar, and encouraged the Myanmar government to resolve the conflict peacefully and justly.
- b. Regional Efforts, Indonesia has also made regional diplomacy efforts through ASEAN. Indonesia has encouraged ASEAN to issue a firm statement to support the peaceful and just resolution of the Rohingya conflict. Apart from that, Indonesia has also encouraged ASEAN to form a special commission to resolve the Rohingya conflict.
- c. International Efforts, Indonesia has also made international diplomatic efforts through the UN. Indonesia has encouraged the UN to issue a resolution urging the Myanmar government



to resolve the Rohingya conflict peacefully and fairly. Apart from that, Indonesia has also encouraged the UN to form a humanitarian mission to help the displaced Rohingya people.

Diplomatic efforts undertaken by Indonesia have provided several positive results. The Myanmar government has issued a statement acknowledging human rights violations in Rakhine State. Apart from that, ASEAN has also issued a statement supporting the peaceful and just resolution of the Rohingya conflict. However, these diplomatic efforts have not yet produced maximum results. The Rohingya conflict is still not completely resolved. The Rohingya people are still experiencing various difficulties, both in Myanmar and in neighboring countries. Therefore, Indonesia needs to continue to increase diplomatic efforts to resolve the Rohingya conflict. Indonesia needs to work together with other countries, both at the bilateral, regional, and international levels, to encourage the Myanmar government to resolve the conflict peacefully and fairly. Based on the background above, this research will analyze the role of the principle of free and active foreign policy in Indonesian diplomacy to resolve the Rohingya conflict. This research will answer the following questions: 1) How role of Indonesia's free and active diplomacy in resolving the Rohingya conflict?; 2) What are the influencing factorsThe role of Indonesia's free and active diplomacy in resolving the Rohingya conflict?; 3) What are the successes and limitations of the role of Indonesia's free and active diplomacy in resolving the Rohingya conflict?.

2. METHOD

This research uses a qualitative deductive approach. Research data was obtained through library studies and observations. The data sources for this research are books and journals related to the role of free and active foreign policy in Indonesian diplomacy to overcome the Rohingya conflict. Furthermore were analyzed inductively by collecting and analyzing various articles related to research on aboutThe role of Indonesia's free and active diplomacy in resolving the Rohingya conflict. This research will produce a comprehensive and in-depth analysis. This analysis can be used to improve Indonesia's diplomatic efforts to resolve the Rohingya conflict in the future.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Understanding Diplomacy

Diplomacy is the art of negotiating and building relationships between countries. Carried out by official representatives, diplomacy covers the entire process of foreign relations and policy formulation. The essence of diplomacy is an effort to convince other parties or countries to understand our views and perspectives without resorting to violence. As the main tool of foreign policy, diplomacy can be a bargaining chip (state branding) to build the country's image. A country that is skilled at diplomacy will be seen as a country that is trustworthy, peaceful, and committed to international cooperation.

Types of Diplomacy

There are three basic ways of implementing state diplomacy, namely Persuasion, Cooperation, and Conflict. According to (Prayuda, 2019). Diplomacy includes five different but significant things, namely Foreign Policy, Negotiations, Negotiation Mechanisms, Interpretation of the Skills of the Person Negotiating, and Negotiation Objectives. According to (Hennida, 2009) Diplomacy is generally divided into two, namely:



- a. Soft Diplomacy, namely diplomacy carried out in the form of peaceful settlements in the fields of economics, culture, language, and friendship. This method has proven to have a significant influence, seeing that many countries prefer to understand foreign cultures. Usually, this soft diplomacy tends to take an approach by following bilateral negotiations such as public diplomacy which aims to provide an understanding of the appropriate attitudes, institutions, and policies to be taken by the country or by resolving problems by including a third party as a mediator, namely the International Court.
- b. Hard Diplomacy, namely diplomacy carried out in the form of showing off military strength in ways such as military aggression or in a more extreme form, namely "War". Countries can also engage in defense cooperation with other countries to increase effectiveness and deterrence effects in the event of conflict.

The Role Of Indonesia's Free and Active Diplomacy in Resolving the Rohingya Conflict

Indonesia has implemented the principle of free and active foreign policy in diplomacy to resolve the Rohingya conflict. This can be seen from the diplomatic efforts carried out by Indonesia, both bilaterally, regionally, and internationally.

At the bilateral level, Indonesia has held meetings with the Myanmar government to discuss the Rohingya issue. During the meeting, Indonesia expressed concern over the humanitarian situation in Rakhine State, Myanmar, and encouraged the Myanmar government to resolve the conflict peacefully and justly. Apart from that, Indonesia has also provided humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya people who have taken refuge in Myanmar.

At the regional level, Indonesia has encouraged ASEAN to issue a firm statement to support the peaceful and just resolution of the Rohingya conflict. Apart from that, Indonesia has also encouraged ASEAN to form a special commission to resolve the Rohingya conflict.

At the international level, Indonesia has encouraged the UN to issue a resolution urging the Myanmar government to resolve the Rohingya conflict peacefully and fairly. Apart from that, Indonesia has also encouraged the UN to form a humanitarian mission to help the displaced Rohingya people. These diplomatic efforts carried out by Indonesia have shown that Indonesia is committed to resolving the Rohingya conflict peacefully and fairly. Indonesia has also shown that it is committed to upholding humanitarian values and human rights.

Factors Affecting the Role of Indonesia's Free and Active Diplomacy in Resolving the Rohingya Conflict

Several factors influence the role of Indonesia's free and active diplomacy in resolving the Rohingya conflict. These factors include:

- a. Political and security conditions in Myanmar. Political and security conditions in Myanmar are very important factors in efforts to resolve the Rohingya conflict. The Myanmar government, which is repressive and intolerant towards the Rohingya minority, has become one of the main causes of conflict.
- b. ASEAN foreign policy. ASEAN foreign policy is also a factor influencing the role of Indonesia's free and active diplomacy in resolving the Rohingya conflict. ASEAN has a principle of non-intervention which can hinder efforts to resolve conflicts peacefully and justly.
- c. Foreign policy of other countries. The foreign policies of other countries are also a factor that influences the role of Indonesia's free and active diplomacy in resolving the Rohingya conflict. Big countries, such as the United States and China, have different interests in the Rohingya conflict. This can hinder efforts to reach a fair and peaceful agreement.



Successes and Limitations of the Role of Indonesia's Free and Active Diplomacy in Resolving the Rohingya Conflict

Diplomatic efforts undertaken by Indonesia to resolve the Rohingya conflict have provided several positive results. The Myanmar government has issued a statement acknowledging human rights violations in Rakhine State. Apart from that, ASEAN has also issued a statement supporting the peaceful and just resolution of the Rohingya conflict. However, these diplomatic efforts have not yet produced maximum results. The Rohingya conflict is still not completely resolved. The Rohingya people are still experiencing various difficulties, both in Myanmar and in neighboring countries. The successful role of the principle of free and active foreign policy in Indonesian diplomacy to resolve the Rohingya conflict includes:

Indonesia has succeeded in pushing the Myanmar government to acknowledge human rights violations in Rakhine State.

Indonesia has succeeded in encouraging ASEAN to issue a statement supporting a peaceful and just resolution of the Rohingya conflict.

The limitations of Indonesia's active free diplomacy role in resolving the Rohingya conflict include:

- a. The Rohingya conflict is still not completely resolved.
 - b. The Rohingya people are still experiencing various difficulties, both in Myanmar and in neighboring countries.
 - c. Indonesia's diplomatic efforts are still hampered by factors, such as political and security conditions in Myanmar, ASEAN foreign policy, and the foreign policies of other countries.
- Optimistic About Indonesia Moving Forward

We will make sustainable infrastructure development one of the pillars of our vision for a developed Indonesia in the second term of our government, and we will continue to build sustainability. President Jokowi's strategic steps towards infrastructure development must be evaluated. , plantations, fisheries, tourism, etc. must continue to be supported to accelerate the sustainability of their.

4. CONCLUSION

Indonesia has implemented the principle of free and active foreign policy in diplomacy to resolve the Rohingya conflict. Diplomatic efforts undertaken by Indonesia have provided several positive results, but have not yet produced maximum results.

Based on the analysis that has been carried out, it can be concluded that the role of the principle of free and active foreign policy in Indonesian diplomacy to resolve the Rohingya conflict has had several positive impacts, namely:

- a. Improving Indonesia's international image as a country that cares about humanitarian issues and upholding human rights.
- b. Strengthening Indonesia's regional position as a country that has influence and an important role in resolving conflicts in Southeast Asia.
- c. Make a real contribution to improving the condition of the Rohingya, although it is still limited.



However, the role of this principle also has several limitations, namely:

- a. The Rohingya conflict is still not completely resolved.
- b. The Rohingya people are still experiencing various difficulties, both in Myanmar and in neighboring countries.
- c. Indonesia's diplomatic efforts are still hampered by factors, such as political and security conditions in Myanmar, ASEAN foreign policy, and the foreign policies of other countries.

To increase the success of Indonesian diplomacy in overcoming the Rohingya conflict, more intensive and comprehensive efforts are needed. Indonesia needs to work together with other countries, both at the bilateral, regional, and international levels, to encourage the Myanmar government to resolve the conflict peacefully and fairly.

The following are several recommendations that Indonesia can take to optimize its role in helping Rohingya in the future:

- a. Focus on certain aspects that can have a more significant impact, for example, education, refugees, or development in Rakhine State.
- b. Develop more effective and innovative diplomatic strategies, for example by utilizing social media or collaborating with non-government actors.
- c. Increase cooperation with other countries that have the same interest in resolving the Rohingya conflict.

Indonesia has an important role in efforts to resolve the Rohingya conflict. By consistently implementing the principle of a free and active foreign policy, Indonesia can play a more active and effective role in helping the Rohingya and bringing about peace in Myanmar.

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