



Indonesia's Response to the Rise of Anti-Asian Hate Racial Discrimination in the United States in 2020-2021 in a Human Security Perspective

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Keywords

Anti-Asian Hate, human security, Indonesia's handling effort, racial discrimination, United States of America.

ABSTRACT

From the colonial era to the contemporary period, the history of the United States (US) has recorded many cases of racism, although in the 20th century the Civil Rights Movement ended legal segregation. Cases of racism strengthened again in 2020–2021 targeting Asians in the US, including Indonesian citizens, after Covid-19 was referred to as the "China virus" by President Trump. This study aims to describe the response and efforts made by the Indonesian government in dealing with the increasing cases of racial violence against Asians that threaten the security of Indonesian citizens in the US, from the perspective of human security. The methods used in this study are qualitative with interview techniques, literature studies, and internet-based research. Indonesia's efforts to address the security of Indonesian citizens in the United States include establishing communication with the diaspora community and students through online meetings, as well as building cooperation with US security authorities, ranging from local police units to FBI representatives.

Kata Kunci

Amerika Serikat, Anti-Asian Hate, diskriminasi rasial, keamanan manusia, upaya penanganan Indonesia

ABSTRAK

Sejak era kolonial hingga masa kontemporer, sejarah Amerika Serikat (AS) mencatat sangat banyak kasus rasisme, meski pada abad ke-20 Civil Rights Movement mengakhiri segregasi hukum. Kasus rasisme kembali menguat pada 2020–2021 yang menyasar warga Asia di AS, termasuk WNI, setelah Covid-19 disebut sebagai "virus China" oleh Presiden Trump. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan respons dan upaya yang dilakukan pemerintah Indonesia dalam menghadapi meningkatnya kasus kekerasan rasial terhadap orang-orang Asia yang mengancam keamanan WNI di AS, dalam perspektif keamanan manusia. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah kualitatif dengan teknik wawancara, studi pustaka, dan penelitian berbasis internet. Upaya Indonesia dalam menangani keamanan WNI di Amerika Serikat antara lain dengan menjalin komunikasi dengan komunitas diaspora dan mahasiswa melalui pertemuan online, serta membangun kerjasama dengan otoritas keamanan AS, mulai dari satuan kepolisian setempat hingga perwakilan FBI.

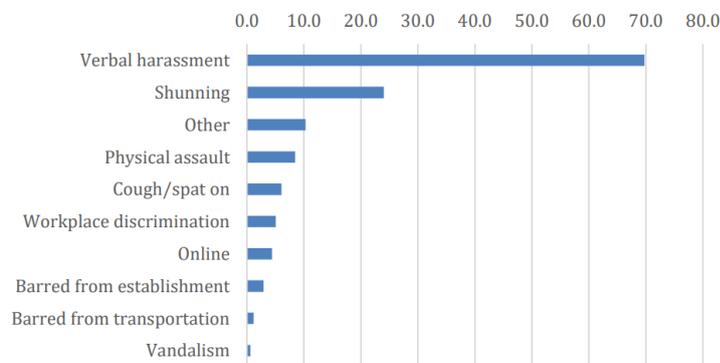
INTRODUCTION

The history of the United States is colored by cases of racism from the colonial era to the contemporary period. Since the 17th century, racial slavery against Africans has been the economic and social foundation of what would become the United States (US), legally institutionalized until its abolition in 1865. However, post-slavery, racism has not ended. Even though in the 20th century the Civil Rights Movement succeeded in ending racial segregation legally through the Civil Rights Act (1964) and the Voting Rights Act (1965), the practice of racism persisted in the United States. This research will discuss how the Covid-19 pandemic has also triggered racist narratives and actions in the US, especially in the 2020-2021 period. This situation began when President Donald Trump referred to the Corona Virus as the "Chinese Virus."

Donald Trump's statement resulted in the emergence of racial sentiments of US citizens against people of Asian descent which was shown through uploads in the mass media and also acts of discrimination in real life. Trump's statement is also widely supported by conservative Republican public figures who have coined similar terms such as the Wuhan Virus (Amalia, 2021). This can be a reflection that hatred that then develops into racial violence is a form of political narrative that spreads from the top level and then down to the bottom. These statements seem to be a justification for acts of racial discrimination against people of Asian descent, which unfortunately lead to acts of violence and criminality (Hernandez, 2021).

Man (2020) wrote in his article that a few days after the statement was made, a civil rights group of Asian Americans in San Francisco began initiating the establishment of the Stop AAPI Hate reporting center (AAPI stands for Asian American and Pacific Islander). The reporting center was established with the aim of collecting data on the increasing cases of acts of racism targeting people of Asian descent (Man, 2020, hal. 25).

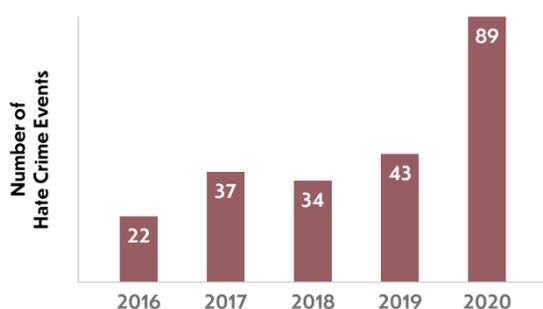
Figure 1. Percentage of Anti-Asian Discrimination Cases March 2020



Source: *Stop AAPI Hate 2020*

From the graph above, it can be seen that since March 2020, there have been at least 1,497 reports of cases of racial discrimination that have been recorded in the period from March 19 to April 15, 2020. From the incoming reports, there are various cases that have occurred, including rejection from public places, rejection in public transportation modes, intentional coughing/spitting, exclusion, verbal harassment, discrimination in the workplace, and harassment in online media. Verbal harassment and name calling were the most reported types of discrimination, with a percentage of 69% (Stop AAPI Hate Reportings Center, 2020).

Figure 2. Increase in Anti-Asian Discrimination Cases 2016-2020

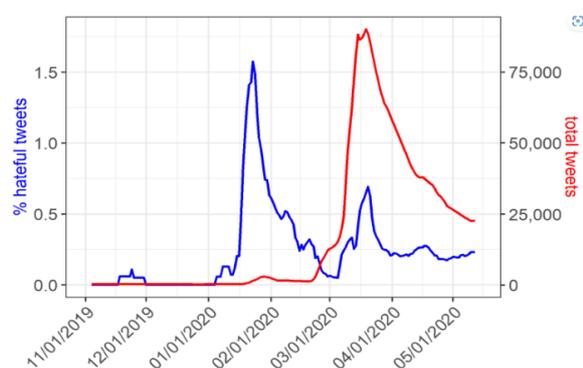


Source: California Department of Justice

Based on the graph above, the California Department of Justice (DOJ) noted that cases of discrimination and violence against US citizens of Asian descent in 2020 have increased significantly when compared to 2016. An analysis of reports conducted by the DOJ in the period from 2016 to 2020 noted that the number of reports of crimes based on anti-Asian hate in California has increased significantly by 107%, from 43 cases in 2019 to 89 cases in 2020 (California Department of Justice, 2021).

This racial incident is also closely related to the use of social media during the pandemic. Croucher, et al. (2020) in their research explained that there are findings that show a relationship between hate prejudice against the Asian-American community and social media use activities (Croucher et al., 2020, hal. 1). Through the theory of media effects, it can be seen that the use of stigmatizing terms such as "Chinese Virus" can significantly affect public attitudes towards Asian Americans. Media effect theory can be defined as a change in aspects of attitudes, emotions, cognition, and behavior of this individual or group resulting from media use (Valkenburg et al., 2016).

Figure 3. The Rise of Anti-Asian Hate Speech on Twitter



Source: Houck, 2022

From the graph, it can be seen that since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in early 2020, there has also been an increase in hate speech against the Asian-American community. It found a low level of hate from November 2019 to January 2020 (only 0%-0.1% contained hate), and then a new spike began in early 2020 (Houck, 2022).

Research conducted by Darling-Hammond, et al. (2020) shows that consumption of media that reports on stigmatized groups by framing a stereotype or with threats can increase racial sentiment and bias. In this phenomenon, one of the stigmas that further exacerbates racial bias in the United States is that Asian Americans are '*perpetual foreigners*' who however cannot be considered real Americans

(Darling-Hammond et al., 2020, hal. 2). Therefore, they concluded that mass media has a great influence on the cultivation of a stereotype at the level of the human subconscious.

Indonesian citizens living in the United States are also not spared from various forms of violence and discrimination that occur. Quoting the CBS Philadelphia news page, there were two Indonesian citizens who reported that they were victims of racial violence in the form of verbal and physical violence. The incident reportedly occurred on Sunday, March 21, 2021 at Philadelphia Capital Station, and the two Indonesian citizens whose identities were kept secret were recorded as teenagers (CBS Philadelphia, 2021). This case of assault can be categorized as racial violence because according to the victim's statement, at that time there were around 15 to 20 people at the scene, but they were the ones who were still the targets. In more detail, the two Indonesian citizens explained that the violence experienced was in the form of insults (verbal) and beatings (physical) (Wirajuda, 2021).

From various previous researches and studies that have been presented, there has been no discussion about the Indonesian government's efforts to respond to the rising level of Anti-Asian Hate violence which also has an impact on Indonesian citizens living in the United States during the Covid-19 pandemic using a human security approach.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Human Security

The development of the concept of Human Security began to be seen after the end of the Cold War. These events brought about a major shift in the dynamics of the international system, ranging from the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the diminishing bipolar political dominance that obscured relations between countries, to the emergence of new threats and conflicts that followed. Tadjbakhsh and Chenoy (2007) stated that along with these shifts, the phenomenon of globalization has prompted changes in international rules to facilitate faster economic and technological flows by breaking down national barriers and limitations. New non-state actors are also emerging to take on important roles in the international political system, some becoming threats and others becoming bridges between societies and states (Tadjbakhsh & Chenoy, 2007).

Human security is people-centered so the focus is on individuals and communities, and further on welfare values and goals such as the protection of rights, dignity, and equality (MacLean et al., 2006, p. 85). In this perspective, the status of individuals changes from being considered a small part of a country, to being an equal subject and actor and involved in international relations. Nef (1999) explained that when humans are the fundamental basis of security, international security stability will depend on individual security. The international system is built from interdependent chains, so that failures that occur at the periphery and the core can threaten the entire network of international interdependence (Nef, 1999, pp. 24–26).

From this perspective, the role of the state began to undergo a transformation, and the traditional conception of power and security began to shift. The threats experienced by humans are no longer limited to military nature at the state level (threats of war from other countries), but more personal. Humans are essentially threatened by complex interactions between changes in the physical systems of the environment (e.g. natural disasters), the vulnerability of life systems (ecosystems and health), and inequality and the limited capacity of socio-political systems in responding to crises (Matthew et al, 2010). In other words, there are three basic types of threats that humans face in their lives, namely physical, environmental, and social system threats. UNDP further explains that threats to human security have seven components: economic, food, health, environmental, personal, social/community, and political (United Nations Development Programme, 1994, hal. 24–32). The following is an explanation of each component.

1. Economic security, including the threat of poverty, as well as the need for guaranteed basic income (either from productive work and remuneration, or from government-financed social assistance).
2. Food security/security, including hunger and food scarcity, that every individual has the right to have physical and economic access to staple foods, either by growing their own, by buying, or by using the community's food distribution system.
3. Health security/insurance, including injuries and illnesses, the need for access to health care facilities and health services, especially for women and children.
4. Environmental security, including excessive pollution, degradation of ecosystems and the environment, depletion of resources, the need for a healthy physical environment, deforestation, dangers of natural and man-made disasters.
5. Personal safety, including various forms of violence, physical, psychological, and verbal from various possible sources. Such as violence by state apparatus, war, threats of terrorism, ethnic and religious conflicts, street violence, threats of domestic violence, harassment or rape.
6. Community security, including the integrity of cultural diversity, treatment that denigrates one gender, discrimination against indigenous groups, ethnicities, or refugees from outside the country or region, armed conflict, and group rebellion.
7. Political security, including acts of political repression, the need for recognition and respect for human rights, all forms of dictatorship, military abuses, torture practices, disappearances, and political detention or imprisonment.

Tadjbakhsh & Chenoy (2007) add that these threats are connected in a domino effect, with the example that if an individual experiences health insecurity it will affect his or her economic aspects, which in turn can affect other important components of the individual's security. Then, a threat in a small area (e.g. conflict between groups) can disrupt the stability of a larger region, which in turn can threaten national stability and ultimately have a negative impact on global security (Nef, 1999; Tadjbakhsh & Chenoy, 2007).

Racial Discrimination

According to the Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language, racism or racisim is "(1) prejudice based on national descent; Biased treatment of different nations; (2) understand that one's own race is the most superior race" (KBBI, 2022). Based on the publication of a 1950 UNESCO report entitled *The Race Question*, racism is understood as "*a particularly vicious and mean expression of the caste spirit*" or a cruel and evil expression of the spirit of caste that involves believing in the ideology of absolute superiority of one group of people over another group of people (UNESCO, 1950, p. 3–4). According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary, racism is defined as "an oppressive and especially discriminatory attitude/belief; or prejudice, discrimination, and antagonism directed at someone of a different race based on the belief that his or her race is superior" (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2022).

In Article 1 of the ICERD of 1965, the term 'racial discrimination' is defined as: "*any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.*" (OHCHR, 1965). Then, in Article 5, it is explained more specifically about the rights that must be guaranteed by the state in seeking public safety from acts of racial discrimination.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research was carried out using qualitative research methods. The use of qualitative methods is essentially interpretive, which means that the author will focus the research through the process of data interpretation. According to Creswell, the qualitative research approach can be understood as a research approach formed from assumptions, general views, theoretical lenses, and problem studies that explore individuals or groups in interpreting and responding to a social problem. The final result of this research approach is in the form of elaboration of the statements of the parties involved, the reflectivity of the researcher, the complex description and interpretation of the problem, as well as studies to enrich the related literature or to provide an impetus to action (Creswell, 2013).

The data collected in this study are as follows: (1) Data on Anti-Asian Hate racial violence in the United States which is divided into four details, namely the background of Anti-Asian Hate violence in the US, the history of racial violence involving the Asian-American community, the form and amount of violence recorded during the Covid-19 pandemic in the 2020-2021 period, and the impact on Indonesian citizens living in the United States during the increase in cases of violence (2) Data on the Government of Indonesia's response to Anti-Asian Hate in the US, the form of handling efforts carried out by the Government of Indonesia through the policies of its foreign institutions, and the policies of the Government of the Republic of Indonesia in seeking the security of the Indonesian diaspora living in the US with a human rights and security approach. The source of information for this data was obtained from sources, news articles, and official reports from related agencies through interview techniques and literature studies. Primary data was obtained from official responses from representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia through the Information and Documentation Management Officer of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and interviews with RP, a student of the University of Washington, Seattle.

The data were then analyzed in six stages, according to the direction of Rossman and Rallis (2017) and Creswell (2013), namely:

1. Organize and prepare data for analysis.
2. Read and triangulate data in-depth by examining evidence from various data sources to find coherent truths.
3. Perform the coding process. Encoding is the process of arranging material into 'pieces' before giving meaning to the pieces (Rossman & Rallis, 2017).
4. Use the interpretation process to generate descriptions of the setting, actors, categories, and themes for analysis.
5. Prepare descriptions and themes to be represented in the qualitative narrative. (Creswell, 2013).
6. Make interpretation and meaning of the data to capture the essence of what the researcher has analyzed and learned.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

History of Anti-Asian Racial Discrimination in the United States

The history of racial discrimination against immigrant communities in the United States has been going on for a long time. Historically, the majority of the English-speaking white American Protestant community had a high level of suspicion of immigrant groups who came to build cultural communities in the United States (Alba & Foner, 2006). This suspicion gave rise to a nativist attitude strongly associated with xenophobia, which later developed into institutional racism. Kil (2012) explained that institutional racism that occurs includes federal immigration policies that limit quotas and make exceptions to certain races, specifically targeting immigrants Asia (Kil, 2012, hal. 664–665). Racial discrimination accompanied by violence against Asian American communities by white American

majorities in the 19th and 20th centuries demonstrated the social strengthening of discriminatory mindsets in the U.S. over time (Gover et al., 2020, hal. 650).

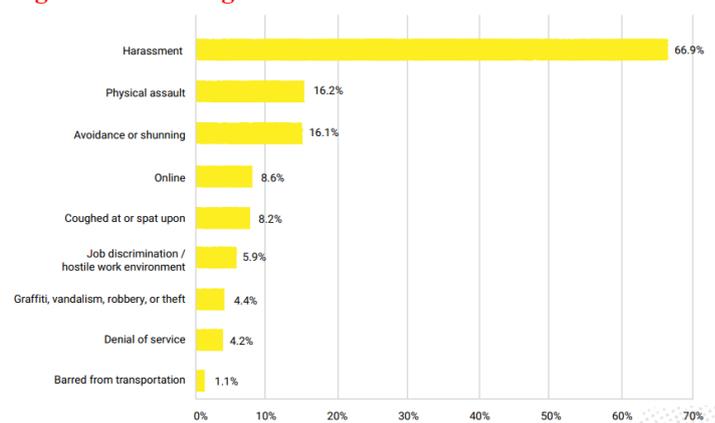
According to Gover et al. (2020), the beginning of the arrival of Asians, especially Chinese, to the United States began around 1840 to the 1850s where at that time there was a "gold rush" phenomenon or an increase in gold mining that attracted immigrants to do mining in the West Coast region of the US, especially California (Gover et al., 2020, hal. 663; Yung et al., 2006). These immigrant workers worked at a lower wage than white workers, who were paid only two-thirds of the wages of white workers. This then made the local mining industry consider the existence of Chinese immigrant workers to be indispensable, which ultimately encouraged the arrival of Chinese people to the U.S. (Salyer, 1995, hal. 10).

The increasing arrival of Chinese immigrants in the West Coast region of the US gave rise to a sentiment of 'nativist hatred' within white labor organizations, which later developed into an anti-Chinese movement in the region (Kil, 2012). Salyer (1995) explained that Chinese immigrant society at that time was considered "*birds of passage*", that is, people or groups of people who only stayed for a while in one place and work, and then left again. Chinese immigrants – the majority of whom are men – are seen as overworking with lower wages and saving too much money (Salyer, 1995, hal. 9–10). (McClain, 1994, hal. 10). This growing sentiment and hatred then led to acts of violence, discrimination, and the imposition of the death penalty without trial aimed at the Chinese labor community, especially during periods of market contraction and economic downturn (Kil, 2012, hal. 664; McClain, 1994).

Anti-Asian Racial Discrimination Cases in the U.S. in 2020-2021

According to an official report released by the Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center (2022), the number of hate and racial discrimination cases recorded from March 19, 2020 to December 31, 2021 accounted for 10,905 incidents directed at Asian-Americans. In this report, it is stated that there was an increase in cases during 2020 to 2021, namely 4,632 cases occurred in 2020 (42.5%) and 6,273 cases occurred in 2021 (57.5%).

Figure 4. Percentage of Anti-Asian Discrimination Cases 2020-2021

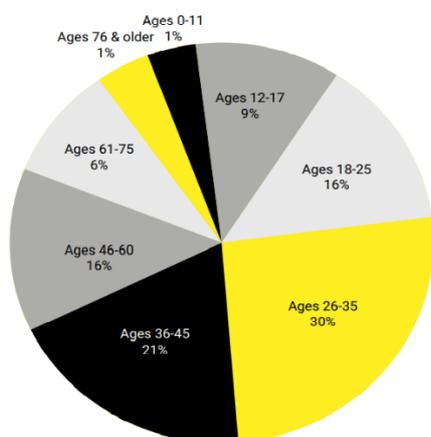


Source: *Stop AAPI Hate National Report*

According to the percentage data presented by the Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center above, harassment still accounts for the largest share of the total 10,905 incidents reported, the majority of which were cases of verbal harassment with a percentage of 66.9%. This was followed by cases of physical assault at 16.2%, then cases of avoidance or deliberate exclusion (shunning/avoidance) at 16.1%, online harassment (online misconduct) at 8.6%, cases of victims being spat upon (spat upon) at 8.2%, total cases of civil rights violations (such as denial of service, different treatment from security

forces, discrimination in the workplace, refusal in public transportation) of 17.9%, and cases of Vandalism by 4.4% (Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center, 2022).

Figure 5. Percentage of Age Groups Reporting Discrimination Cases 2020-2021



Source: *Stop AAPI Hate National Report*

Based on the pie chart, the majority of reporters of anti-Asian racial discrimination cases are in the 26-35 age group with a percentage of 30%, followed by the age groups of 36-45 years and 18-25 years. So it can be seen that cases of racial discrimination are most felt by individuals between the ages of 18 and 45 (Stop AAPI Hate Reporting Center, 2022).

Empirical Experience of Indonesian Citizens in the U.S.

In exploring the perspective of individual and community security that is part of the essential components of human security, the perspective of Indonesian citizens living in the United States is used. Primary data were taken based on interviews with University of Washington State students, with the initials RP. The resource persons are Indonesian citizens who have lived in Seattle, Washington State, United States from 2015 to 2020.

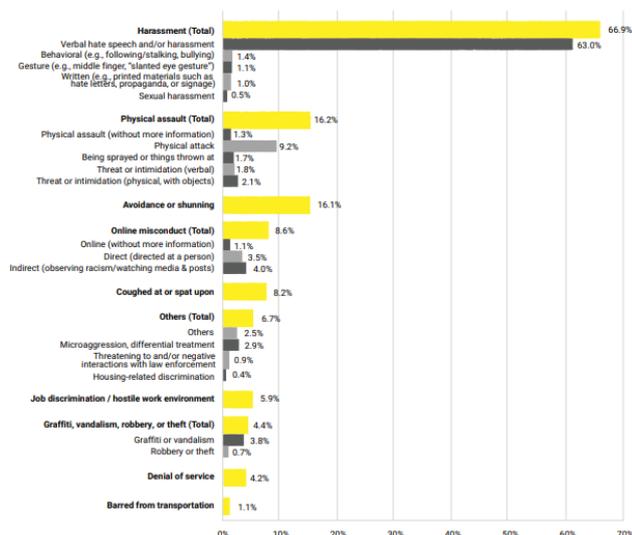
RP explained that the level of racism, especially against Asians, has become more evident since the appearance of a statement from President Trump, who associated the Chinese state with the spread of Covid by calling the Covid-19 pandemic the '*China Virus*'. These cases have ranged from verbal insults about the "*chinese virus*", acts of vandalism against Asian business establishments, to physical violence directed at Asians on the streets. One of the things that RP said makes the atmosphere for Indonesian citizens tense is the stigma that assumes that all Asians are the same, so that all Asians who have the same physical characteristics or stature as Chinese people have the potential to be targets of such criminal acts. One of the reasons for this is because there was an attack on two Asians who coughed (wearing masks) while in a shopping place.

Regarding the policies and efforts of Indonesian government representatives in the United States, according to RP, the news about the increase in racial discrimination is also a concern of the Indonesian Consulate General in the United States. RP, who is also a member of the Indonesian Student Association in the United States (PERMIAS), stated that the Indonesian Consulate General has collaborated with PERMIAS for various purposes, one of which is related to this racism case, namely making appeals related to the increasing problem of anti-Asian discrimination. From the information and appeals submitted by the Indonesian Consulate General, Indonesian student organizations disseminated information on appeals to limit themselves from leaving home if it is not very urgent and looking for

quiet places that are not commonly visited by the wider community if they want to travel. This appeal was spread verbally and on social media of Indonesian citizens in the United States.

Racial Discrimination That Occurs Based on ICERD 1965 Indicators

Figure 6. Types of Anti-Asian Discrimination Cases 2020-2021



Source: *Stop AAPI Hate National Report*

Referring to the ICERD 1965 Racial Discrimination Indicators table, the above cases such as verbal harassment, physical assault, graffiti vandalism, exclusion or avoidance acts, cyberbullying, swearing, refusal from public service, different treatment of officers, discrimination in the workplace, and refusal on public transportation against Asian-Americans are part of "acts of discrimination, exclusion, restriction or prioritization on the basis of race, skin color, descent, national and ethnic origin that have a purpose or effect that negates or undermines the recognition, enjoyment and exercise of human rights", in particular in the following points: b) The right to personal security and protection by the state from violence or physical injury, whether committed by government officials or individual groups and institutions; d) Civil rights, such as the right to freedom of movement and residence in a territory, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to freedom of assembly; e) Economic, social, and cultural rights, such as the right to fair and favorable working conditions, the right to public health and social services, and the right to access public places or services.

The Indonesian Government's Efforts to Protect Indonesian Citizens in the United States from the Threat of Racism in a Human Security Approach

1. Human Rights Enforcement Efforts in Multilateral Forums

Although the handling and enforcement of human rights in Indonesia is still not fully progressing, Indonesia remains an active country in fighting for human rights and fighting all forms of discrimination globally, including racial issues that have been the focus of its foreign policy so far. Prior to the rise in racial discrimination against Asian-Americans, the U.S. was rocked by a case of police violence against an African-American citizen that sparked a wave of massive demonstrations and protests across nearly all U.S. regions, as well as global attention. This encourages the Government of Indonesia to reaffirm its principles and condemnation of racial discrimination at the UN Human Rights Council.

In the official upload of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia (2020) through the Permanent Envoy of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations in Geneva, on June 17, 2020, the UN Human Rights Council held an *Urgent Debate* which focused on discussing cases of racial violence. Ambassador Hasan Kleib became Indonesia's representative to speak in a national capacity and also represented Indonesia who was trusted to deliver a *joint statement* on behalf of Denmark, Indonesia, Ghana, Chile, Morocco, and Fiji which are members of the Core Group of Convention Against Torture Initiative (CTI).

Speaking in a national capacity, there are several actions that Indonesia proposes to the Human Rights Council and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen cooperation on the elimination of racial discrimination and violence in law enforcement, namely "(1) respect and tolerance for racial and ethnic differences at the community level; (2) strengthening the legal culture and accountability of legal institutions; (3) human rights education programs in police and other law enforcement educational institutions, which also involve Komnas HAM or other state institutions" (Kementerian Luar Negeri RI, 2020).

Indonesia, in its capacity to represent CTI countries, emphasizes zero tolerance against all forms of racism and discrimination, and encourages the importance of implementing *people-centered* and preventive legal policies against violence. To reaffirm, Ambassador Hasan Kleib added that Indonesia as a multi-racial and multi-ethnic country will continue to uphold the spirit of anti-racism as an example to other developing countries, and through its human rights diplomacy, Indonesia will continue to implement affirmative measures in eradicating the problem of discrimination on all fronts (Kementerian Luar Negeri RI, 2020b).

Then, based on the official response from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia regarding its basic position in responding to the issue of racial discrimination at the national and multilateral levels, it is explained that one of the mandates of the 1945 Constitution is the protection of every Indonesian citizen without exception. The form of protection has been conveyed concretely in the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution, Article 28B, Article 28D, Article 28G, Article 28I, and Article 30. The Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasized that Indonesia is a member state of the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) since 1999, and has a legal foundation for the Anti-Racial and Ethnic Discrimination Law written in Law No. 40 of 2008.

The response and basic position of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs shows that in the design and implementation of its foreign policy, Indonesia still holds the principle that the state has a responsibility in making appropriate decisions to reflect the character of a multicultural society, especially related to advocacy efforts on racial, religious, or national hate issues. From a human security perspective, the position taken by Indonesia is important because the development of the concept of human security itself rests on the position of a state that is aware of the importance of *people-centered policies* or centered on the security aspect of its people. If the state already has a strong legal foundation regarding the enforcement of human rights, especially in this case related to anti-racial discrimination policies, then the policy of anti-racial discrimination.

2. *Indonesia's Response and Efforts in Cases of Racial Discrimination in the US During the Pandemic (2020-2021)*

a. Verbal Response

When there is an increase in discrimination and racial violence targeting Asian American groups in the United States, the safety of Indonesian citizens is also threatened. Two Indonesian citizens were targeted by this racial discrimination in the Philadelphia area, while other Indonesian citizens in the US felt anxiety and fear of similar things that could happen again at another time

and place (Iswara, 2021). Deputy Chairmen of the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), Ahmad Basarah and Hidayat Nur Wahid expressed their concern and urged the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to immediately implement policy steps to protect Indonesian citizens in the US.

Basarah, through the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, asked the US government to be able to make real efforts in solving the problem of discrimination and racial violence that occurs. At the same time, Basarah also asked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to protect all Indonesian citizens in the US (Ma'arif, 2021a). Deputy Chairman of the People's Consultative Assembly of the Republic of Indonesia, Hidayat Nur Wahid, said that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs needs to prepare preventive measures so that similar events can be prevented and no longer affect Indonesian citizens in the US and other countries. Wahid encouraged the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to continue to establish communication and cooperation with security and policy authorities in countries that have the potential to increase anti-Asian sentiment, both in the US and the European region (Ma'arif, 2021b).

The response from representatives of the central government can be understood as an effort to encourage the implementation of security policies for Indonesian citizens in the US. The form of concern and urgency to the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is part of the central government's policy that wants to represent that the state continues to pay attention to the security and safety of Indonesian citizens in the United States. From the perspective of human security, the Government of Indonesia wants to show that the status of individuals, who in this case is an Indonesian citizen, is no longer considered only a small part of the state, but rather becomes equivalent to the security of the state. Individual security is one of the factors for national security stability.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi emphasized that the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its foreign representatives continue to coordinate with Indonesian community and student nodes in the US. Marsudi explained that "the Directorate General of America and Europe (Amerop) of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has communicated directly with *the Acting Assistant Secretary for East Asia and Pacific* of the US Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Sung Kim, to provide protection for the Indonesian people in the US". Ambassador Sung Kim emphasized that law enforcement in the US, both federal and local, continues to investigate cases experienced by the Indonesian people (Marsudi, dalam Detikcom, 2021).

b. Communication Efforts from the Indonesian Embassy and the Indonesian Consulate General with Indonesian Citizens in the United States

An official press report from the Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia (KBRI) in Washington D.C reported that in response to the increasing trend of racial violence in the US, the Indonesian Embassy and the Indonesian Consulate General throughout the United States have taken quick and proactive steps to ensure the safety and security of Indonesian citizens in all US regions. On Saturday, March 27, 2021, the Indonesian Embassy in Washington D.C held an online meeting with representatives of the Indonesian community throughout the United States with the title "Virtual Talks on Preventive Protection with the theme of Violence against Ethnic Asians and Fraud Crimes through Online Media" which was supported by all Consulates General of the Republic of Indonesia, including the Indonesian Consulate General in Houston, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, and New York. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Indonesian diaspora and society spread across cities throughout the US, consisting of elements of religious leaders, representatives of community organizations and students, and other community leaders (KBRI Washington D.C., 2021).

In this online meeting, the Indonesian Government authorities were represented by Yudho Sasongko (Coordinator of the Information, Social, and Cultural Functions), Police Brigadier General Ary Laksmana Widjaja (Police Attaché of the Indonesian Embassy in Washington D.C.) and Gustaav Ferdinandus (Coordinator of the Protocol and Consular Functions of the Indonesian Embassy in Washington D.C.), and their staff. Some of the messages conveyed to the Indonesian people in the US include the emphasis on the importance of preventive, pre-emptive, and courageous measures to defend themselves when faced with acts of violence or discrimination. It was also emphasized that the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through its representatives, has established communication with the US Government in order to ask for serious and special attention from the local government to ensure the security and safety of the Indonesian people in the US. In addition, the Indonesian Embassy and the Indonesian Consulate General also established communication through virtual meetings with representatives of the Indonesian Student Association (PERMIAS) to ensure the safety conditions of students amid increasing cases of racial discrimination in the United States (KBRI Washington D.C., 2021).

On April 6, 2021, the Indonesian Consulate General in San Francisco held an online meeting with the diaspora community and the Indonesian community in order to respond to the increase in racial discrimination against the Asian community in the United States during the Covid-19 pandemic. This online meeting was titled *Townhall Meeting* with the theme "Prevention and Anticipation of Anti-Asian Hate Incidents against the Elderly and Indonesian Communities", which was attended by 150 diaspora and Indonesian people from various regions including Northern Nevada, Northern California, Washington, Montana, Oregon, Alaska, Wyoming, and Idaho. It was conveyed by Simon Soekarno (Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia in San Francisco), that the Indonesian Consulate General in San Francisco has taken several anticipatory steps, including coordination with security forces and local governments in 8 states that are the work areas of the Indonesian Consulate General in SF, as well as cooperation initiated by the Indonesian Consulate General in SF with ASEAN representatives in San Francisco to continue to encourage the attention of the US Government in handling racial discrimination seriously (KJRI San Fransisco, 2021).

The Director of Indonesian Citizen Protection and BHI of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that Indonesian people abroad are encouraged to report themselves through the Indonesian Citizen Care Portal online which aims to enable the Indonesian government to find out the whereabouts of Indonesian citizens in a region and immediately provide protection if the Indonesian citizen is in an emergency situation (KJRI San Fransisco, 2021).

c. Cooperation between Indonesian Government Representatives with the Maryland Police and the FBI

Another step taken by the Government of Indonesia through its foreign representative in the United States is direct involvement and cooperation with policy authorities and police forces in the United States. One of them is the cooperation between the Indonesian Embassy in Washington D.C and the Maryland *State Police (Maryland State Police)* through the implementation of an online meeting with the theme "Discussion on Preventive Protection: Efforts to Prevent and Deal with Crimes and Racial Behavior". The meeting presented two police officers from the Maryland police, namely Captain Stacey Flynn and Regional Police Chief (Sheriff) Almigabber, as well as representatives of the Indonesian Embassy police attaché and Indonesian consular authorities. In the discussion, it was emphasized that the Maryland police guarantee full and serious attention in ensuring the safety and security of all communities in the

US, including people of Indonesian origin and Asian backgrounds. (Kementerian Luar Negeri RI, 2021).

The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Los Angeles (Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia LA) also collaborated with the FBI by holding socialization about the crime of racial discrimination. The activity, which was held in the meeting hall of the Indonesian Consulate General in LA, was carried out in a hybrid manner with 30 representatives from various Indonesian communities, as well as 70 other participants who participated in the online discussion. This seminar aims to anticipate hate crimes that have become more prevalent over the past year, especially hatred against people of Asian descent due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This meeting was attended by the Head of the FBI Los Angeles, Kristi Johnson, along with representatives of the Indonesian community representing various community organizations in Southern California (KJRI Los Angeles, 2021).

Other speakers included law enforcement officers from the FBI, the United States Attorney's Office (USAO)/Deputy U.S. Attorney in California, and the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office. The activity was opened by the Indonesian Consul General in Los Angeles, Saud P. Krisnawan. Krisnawan (2021) explained that, "The partnership between the Indonesian people and the FBI and local law enforcement is key in preventing and handling racial crime cases among Indonesians in the work area of the Indonesian Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia" (Krisnawan, dalam KJRI Los Angeles, 2021). According to the Indonesian Consulate General in LA, increasing public awareness through meetings with law enforcement officials can make Indonesian people in the work area of the Indonesian Consulate General in Los Angeles have high vigilance. The Indonesian Consulate General in LA hopes that the cooperation with the FBI can foster strong trust in law enforcement to immediately report cases that arise in the community. (KJRI Los Angeles, 2021).

From a human security perspective, the government's move shows that there is protection for personal security and community security. Personal safety is a situation where individuals must be protected from all forms of violence, physical, psychological, or verbal from various possible sources. Racism is a form of threat to personal security. In addition, because the threat of racist attitudes that have developed in this pandemic era targets Asian citizens of various races, ranging from China to Indonesia, we can include them in the 'community insecurity.' From a human security perspective, every community has the right to experience the integrity of cultural diversity and to be protected from discriminatory treatment. As stated by Tadjbakhsh & Chenoy (2007), these threats are interconnected in a domino effect. In this case, personal security will be linked to economic security (due to disruption of various businesses due to vandalism etc.), and health security (due to physical attacks).

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the analysis, it can be concluded that Indonesia plays an active role at the multilateral level in handling racism and discrimination by being a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) since 1999 and involved in the Core Group of Convention Against Torture Initiative (CTI). In various Human Rights Council forums and in the presence of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Indonesia encourages a people-centered and preventive approach to race-based violence, emphasizing the importance of tolerance and respect for ethnic diversity, strengthening the accountability of legal institutions, and human rights education for law enforcement officials.

At the bilateral level and citizen protection, the Indonesian government responds to the increasing anti-Asian discrimination in the United States through intensive coordination between the central government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Indonesian representatives abroad. These efforts

include diplomatic communication with U.S. authorities, involvement of the Indonesian Embassy and Consulate General in dialogue and meetings with the Indonesian diaspora, organizing educational and preventive forums, and cooperation with U.S. security forces, including local police and the FBI, to ensure the protection and safety of Indonesian citizens amid the increasing threat of racially based violence. From a human security perspective, the government's move shows that there is protection for personal security and community security.

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