

INDONESIA'S RESPONSES TOWARDS ROHINGYA REFUGEES: POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT. Rohingya refugees, originating from Myanmar, face significant challenges in Southeast Asia due to official non-recognition and systemic discrimination. Many seek refuge in neighboring countries like Indonesia. Employing qualitative research methods and an extensive literature review, this study investigates Indonesia's responses to the Rohingya crisis from a political perspective. Additionally, building upon conflict resolution theory, it emphasizes the importance of dialogue, mediation, and compromise in addressing intricate crises. Furthermore, it explores concepts such as humanitarian diplomacy and regionalism, elucidating Indonesia's role within ASEAN-led mechanisms. The research reveals key findings, showing Indonesia's active participation in diplomatic initiatives addressing the Rohingya crisis, both bilaterally and within multilateral forums. Indonesia's policy stances reflect a commitment to humanitarian principles and regional stability, emphasizing the protection of Rohingya rights. As a prominent member of ASEAN, Indonesia has leveraged regional platforms to advocate for collective action and effectively address the Rohingya crisis. This research sheds light on Indonesia's role in addressing one of Southeast Asia's most pressing humanitarian challenges, underscoring the importance of regional cooperation in finding sustainable solutions.

Keyword: Indonesia; Rohingya; Refugees; Political Perspective

ABSTRAK. Pengungsi Rohingya merupakan etnis dari Myanmar, yang menghadapi tantangan yang signifikan di Asia Tenggara karena tidak adanya pengakuan resmi dan perlakuan diskriminasi. Hal ini membuat mereka mencari perlindungan di negara-negara tetangga seperti Indonesia. Dengan menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif dan tinjauan literatur yang mendalam, penelitian ini menyelidiki tanggapan Indonesia terhadap krisis Rohingya dari perspektif politik. Lebih lanjut, dengan menggunakan teori resolusi konflik, penelitian ini menekankan pentingnya dialog, mediasi, dan kompromi dalam menangani krisis yang rumit. Kemudian, penelitian ini juga mengeksplorasi konsep-konsep seperti diplomasi kemanusiaan dan regionalisme, serta menjelaskan peran Indonesia melalui mekanisme yang dipimpin oleh ASEAN. Penelitian ini mengungkapkan beberapa temuan yang menunjukkan keterlibatan aktif Indonesia dalam inisiatif diplomasi untuk menangani krisis Rohingya, baik secara bilateral maupun di dalam forum-forum multilateral. Kebijakan Indonesia juga mencerminkan komitmen terhadap prinsip-prinsip kemanusiaan dan stabilitas regional, dengan menekankan perlindungan terhadap hak-hak Rohingya. Sebagai anggota ASEAN yang berpengaruh, Indonesia telah memanfaatkan platform regional untuk mengadvokasi tindakan kolektif dan secara efektif menangani krisis Rohingya. Penelitian ini menyoroti peran Indonesia dalam mengatasi salah satu tantangan kemanusiaan paling mendesak di Asia Tenggara, menggarisbawahi pentingnya kerja sama regional dalam menemukan solusi yang berkelanjutan.

Kata Kunci: Indonesia; Rohingya; Pengungsi; Perspektif Politik

INTRODUCTION

In the Southeast Asian region, the Rohingya refugee crisis that arises from Myanmar's borders has a long-standing history. The Rohingya, predominantly of Muslim faith, have long been denied official recognition by the Myanmar government, leaving them marginalized and stateless. Their lack of citizenship stems from being deemed illegal immigrants, further compounded by the misclassification as Bangladeshi due to shared cultural and physical traits with their neighbors. Moreover, the Rohingya endure pervasive discrimination, particularly within Myanmar's social and national fabric. Their Muslim identity stands in stark contrast to the predominantly Buddhist population, leading

to their stigmatization as "foreigners" in their own homeland. (Ardani, 2015)

Since the military seized power in Myanmar in 1962, the Rohingya people have been subjected to a protracted and arduous journey. The situation reached a critical juncture in 1982 with the implementation of the Citizenship Act, a law that effectively rendered the Rohingya stateless by denying them citizenship, unlike the 135 other recognized ethnic groups in Myanmar. This legal exclusion marked the beginning of a systemic pattern of discrimination and violence against the Rohingya, which intensified throughout the 2000s, perpetuating a cycle of marginalization and despair that left them feeling trapped within their own homeland. (Kosem & Saleem, 2016)

The oppressive measures enacted by the Myanmar government, characterized by widespread human rights abuses, and economic deprivation, created an environment of immense suffering and hardship for the Rohingya population. Faced with limited prospects for a secure and dignified existence within Myanmar, many Rohingya felt compelled to seek refuge elsewhere.

Despite the inherent risks and uncertainties associated with leaving their homeland, the Rohingya embarked on a perilous journey in search of safety and stability. Their mass exodus from Myanmar, marked by harrowing tales of perilous sea voyages and treacherous border crossings, has captured the attention of the international community and underscored the urgency of addressing the plight of the Rohingya people. Among the destinations sought by Rohingya refugees is neighboring Indonesia, which has become a focal point of their exodus due to its geographical proximity to Myanmar and its status as a potential safe haven. (Azad & Jasmin, 2013)

Although the international community generally demonstrates support for refugees, a significant number of countries remain hesitant to confront refugee-related issues. This reluctance could be attributed to perceiving refugees as illegal migrants or due to destination countries' non-compliance with international treaties. Moreover, the situation is compounded by the fact that some countries have not yet ratified the International Convention on Refugees, further complicating efforts to address refugee challenges on a global scale.

Indonesia has refrained from formally ratifying the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol, instead opting to authorize the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to oversee refugee protection efforts and manage all matters pertaining to refugees within its borders. Despite this, Indonesia maintains the prerogative to shape its own policies concerning refugees.

In particular, Indonesia has been approached by the United Nations to lend assistance, given its geographical proximity to Myanmar and its role as a destination for Rohingya refugees. Recognizing its position as a neighboring country and the humanitarian crisis unfolding in the region, Indonesia has opted to provide aid and protection to Rohingya individuals who find themselves stranded or seeking refuge within its borders. This decision is reflective of Indonesia's foundational principles, particularly its commitment to upholding "just and civilized humanity," as articulated in its national ethos. By extending assistance to Rohingya refugees, Indonesia seeks to embody these principles and fulfill its humanitarian obligations, even in the

absence of formal ratification of international refugee conventions. (Karina, 2020)

In a previous study conducted by Herry Wahyudi and Nikodemus Niko (2023) concerning Indonesia's involvement in addressing conflicts and human rights violations in Myanmar, a significant finding highlighted the Indonesian people's heightened attention towards the plight of the Rohingya ethnic group. This heightened awareness was attributed to a sense of solidarity among fellow Muslims.

Despite concerns regarding the utilization of religious dimensions in such matters, which could potentially exacerbate issues such as religious extremism, Indonesia opted to prioritize humanitarian principles deeply rooted in its national ethos. Responding to public pressure and guided by its foundational humanitarian principles, Indonesia embarked on a course of action aimed at fostering multilateral cooperation. This included initiatives such as the establishment of the Tripartite Core Group (TCG), a collaborative effort involving the United Nations, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and Myanmar itself, with the overarching goal of addressing the humanitarian crisis. Moreover, Indonesia's approach extended to engaging religious civil society groups within its borders, such as Nahdlatul Ulama and Muhammadiyah, in efforts to mobilize support and resources towards alleviating the suffering of the Rohingya population. By leveraging both diplomatic channels and civil society networks, Indonesia sought to contribute meaningfully to international efforts aimed at resolving the Rohingya crisis and upholding the principles of humanity and solidarity. (Wahyudi & Niko, 2023)

In contrast to previous research by Herry Wahyudi and Nikodemus Niko (2023), which emphasized Indonesia's response to the Rohingya crisis driven by Muslim solidarity, this paper examines Indonesia's approach through a political lens. Rather than solely attributing engagement to religious factors, it investigates how political considerations shape Indonesia's actions. Through analysis of diplomatic efforts, policy stances, and regional participation, it offers a nuanced understanding beyond religious motives, unveiling the diverse dynamics influencing Indonesia's role in addressing the Rohingya refugee crisis and enriching comprehension of political complexities.

Moreover, drawing from conflict resolution theory, the study delves into the underlying dynamics of the phenomenon. Conflict resolution theory underscores the importance of dialogue, mediation, and compromise in complex crises, suggesting that conflicts arise from divergent interests (Deutsch, Coleman, & Marcus, 2006). Indonesia's approach aligns with these principles, seeking dialogue

and trust-building while addressing Rohingya humanitarian needs. By applying conflict resolution theory, researchers deepen understanding of Indonesia's strategy, analyzing its effectiveness in fostering cooperation and mitigating tensions within the ASEAN framework.

Furthermore, the paper delves into the concepts of humanitarian diplomacy and regionalism to gain a deeper understanding of the phenomenon. Humanitarian diplomacy underscores the pivotal role of diplomatic efforts in addressing humanitarian crises, which resonates with Indonesia's proactive engagement in multilateral forums such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and ASEAN. Through these platforms, Indonesia seeks to rally support for humanitarian endeavors aimed at alleviating the Rohingya crisis. Meanwhile, regionalism emphasizes the importance of regional cooperation and collective action in addressing common challenges. Indonesia's active participation in ASEAN-led mechanisms demonstrates its commitment to providing humanitarian aid and facilitating dialogue within the region. By examining these concepts, the research aims to enrich our understanding of refugee governance, diplomatic strategies, and regional collaboration in Southeast Asia, thereby offering valuable insights into the political dimensions of addressing the Rohingya crisis. Top of Form

METHODS

The research methodology employed in this study relies on qualitative research methods, which serve as an invaluable approach that utilized to explore and comprehend human or social phenomena by constructing a rich and intricate narrative that can be articulated through words. This method involves gathering detailed insights from informant sources, capturing their perspectives, experiences, and viewpoints, and is often conducted within natural settings. At its core, qualitative research seeks to delve into the intricacies of human behavior, interactions, and societal dynamics. It endeavors to unravel the complexities of phenomena by answering fundamental questions: what occurs, why it occurs, and how it unfolds. Unlike quantitative research, which primarily focuses on numerical data and statistical analysis, qualitative research adopts a more holistic and interpretative approach. (Chariri, 2009)

Qualitative research thrives in natural settings, where phenomena manifest organically within real-life contexts. Researchers immerse themselves in the environment under study, observing, listening, and engaging with participants to gain a deep understanding of their perspectives and experiences.

This method emphasizes the importance of context, culture, and subjective interpretations, enabling researchers to capture the nuances and intricacies of human behavior and social interactions.

Initiating with the formulation of research inquiries, which dictate the selection of data gathering techniques and subsequent examination (Basri, 2014). The study endeavors to delve deeper into Indonesia's response to the Rohingya crisis from a political perspective. In this research, secondary data collection methods are utilized for validation. These methods encompass the retrieval of data from various sources such as government reports, academic journals, literature, news pieces, case studies, and other pertinent documents. Particularly, the selection of published journal articles is guided by specific keywords pertaining to Indonesia's diplomatic efforts, involvement in multilateral forums, and cooperative ventures targeting the Rohingya refugee crisis.

In qualitative validation, the chosen secondary data undergoes rigorous analysis to ensure its relevance, reliability, and validity. This involves scrutinizing the credibility of sources, cross-referencing information from multiple channels, and employing techniques such as thematic analysis or content analysis to extract meaningful insights. Additionally, triangulation may be employed, comparing data from different sources or perspectives to confirm findings and enhance the robustness of conclusions. Through these qualitative methods, the research aims to ensure the accuracy and trustworthiness of the data used to explore Indonesia's response to the Rohingya crisis from a political standpoint.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, Indonesia's diplomatic efforts and policy stances on the Rohingya crisis are explored. From active engagement in forums like the OIC to fostering bilateral dialogues, Indonesia navigates a delicate balance between addressing the crisis and maintaining constructive relations with Myanmar. Complementing its diplomatic endeavors, Indonesia's robust legal framework ensures refugee rights, despite not ratifying the 1951 Convention. Collaborating with international organizations like the IOM, Indonesia provides comprehensive support to Rohingya refugees, emphasizing access to essential services and integration within Indonesian society. Within ASEAN, Indonesia advocates for pragmatic solutions that uphold human rights while addressing root causes of displacement. Through these efforts, Indonesia underscores its commitment to humanitarian values and regional cooperation, positioning itself as a crucial player in addressing the Rohingya crisis.

Diplomatic Endeavors

In tackling the Rohingya refugee crisis, Indonesia has taken proactive steps to engage in diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the ongoing humanitarian plight. This commitment is evident through Indonesia's active involvement in diplomatic initiatives, both at bilateral and multilateral levels.

Throughout the 2010s, Indonesia's diplomatic approach toward the Rohingya crisis underwent a notable evolution, characterized by a nuanced strategy often referred to as "quiet" or "soft" diplomacy. Initially, Indonesia actively engaged in various forums, particularly within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), recognizing the pivotal role such platforms could play in addressing the crisis.

A significant milestone in Indonesia's efforts to address the Rohingya crisis occurred when it extended an invitation to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to contribute to the funding required for humanitarian assistance to the crisis victims. As a direct outcome of Indonesia's proactive initiative, on August 13, 2012, the OIC delegation visited Myanmar to assess the situation firsthand and pledged financial support for the construction of 800 housing units earmarked for the Rohingya ethnic group. (Permata, Hijrah, & Sinulingga, 2019)

Indonesia's proactive engagement and diplomatic maneuvering played a pivotal role in mobilizing international support and resources to alleviate the plight of Rohingya refugees. By leveraging its position within the OIC and advocating for concerted action, Indonesia facilitated a tangible response to the humanitarian crisis, demonstrating its commitment to addressing the urgent needs of Rohingya communities. The visit by the OIC delegation and the subsequent commitment to funding housing units underscored the importance of international solidarity and cooperation in responding to humanitarian emergencies. It also highlighted Indonesia's leadership in galvanizing multilateral support and fostering collaborative efforts to mitigate the suffering of Rohingya refugees and promote sustainable solutions to the crisis. Through such proactive measures, Indonesia reaffirmed its role as a responsible global actor committed to upholding humanitarian principles and advancing collective efforts to address the Rohingya crisis. (Permata, Hijrah, & Sinulingga, 2019)

However, from 2014 to 2019, Indonesia adopted a more cautious stance as international criticism of Myanmar's treatment of the Rohingya intensified. During this period, Indonesia shifted its focus toward what it termed a "constructive" diplomatic strategy, prioritizing the delivery of humanitarian assistance over overt criticism or condemnation of Myanmar's

actions. This approach aimed to maintain open channels of communication and foster trust-building efforts with Myanmar authorities while seeking to address the Rohingya crisis through bilateral and regional channels.

One notable initiative emblematic of Indonesia's diplomatic efforts was the inaugural Indonesia-Myanmar Interfaith Dialogue (IMID), held from May 21 to May 24, 2017, in Jakarta and Yogyakarta. This dialogue platform facilitated constructive exchanges between Indonesian and Myanmar representatives from diverse religious backgrounds, emphasizing the importance of interfaith cooperation in promoting peace, understanding, and reconciliation. By concentrating on bilateral engagements and regional cooperation, Indonesia sought to navigate the complexities of the Rohingya crisis while pursuing diplomatic solutions grounded in dialogue, trust-building, and collaborative efforts. (Fitria, 2023)

In addition to its diplomatic efforts, the Government of Indonesia, under the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, established the Indonesian Humanitarian Alliance for Myanmar (AKIM). Serving as a platform for the concerns of the Indonesian people and humanitarian NGOs, AKIM was formed with the primary objective of addressing the pressing needs of individuals affected by the crisis in Myanmar.

AKIM operates as a conduit for collecting donations from the Indonesian populace, as well as affiliated institutions, to support humanitarian initiatives in Myanmar. These donations are pooled and channeled through AKIM to provide essential aid and assistance to those impacted by the crisis. Through collaborative efforts between the government and AKIM, a commitment is upheld to provide sustained humanitarian support, with the overarching goal of fostering reform, reconciliation, and inclusive development within Myanmar. By mobilizing resources and leveraging collective action, Indonesia demonstrates its unwavering commitment to alleviating the suffering of individuals affected by the crisis in Myanmar. Through AKIM, the government and civil society partners work hand in hand to extend a helping hand to those in need, thereby contributing to the broader efforts aimed at fostering positive change and resilience in Myanmar's path towards peace and development. (Permata, Hijrah, & Sinulingga, 2019)

On the global stage, Indonesia has forged a significant partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), a prominent international body dedicated to facilitating organized and compassionate migration processes while upholding the fundamental principles of human rights. This strategic collaboration serves

as a platform to foster international cooperation on migration-related issues, devise innovative solutions to common challenges encountered in migration management, and extend critical humanitarian aid to migrants, refugees, and displaced persons across the globe.

Within the Indonesian context, the partnership with IOM assumes paramount importance in addressing the needs and concerns of Rohingya refugees. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, IOM takes proactive measures to engage with Rohingya refugees, offering comprehensive support and guidance throughout their decision-making processes. This includes assisting refugees in navigating the complex procedures involved in applying for refugee status, often in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and facilitating necessary documentation and logistical arrangements in the event of repatriation. (Domloboy, 2017)

Furthermore, IOM plays a pivotal role in safeguarding the health and well-being of Rohingya refugees by conducting thorough health screenings upon their arrival and providing essential humanitarian aid in the form of temporary shelter, food provisions, and financial assistance to address their immediate needs. Particularly for Rohingya children, who are among the most vulnerable groups affected by displacement, IOM offers specialized psychological counseling services aimed at addressing their emotional trauma and supporting their mental health. Additionally, IOM collaborates closely with local educational institutions to ensure that Rohingya children have access to formal schooling and educational resources, thereby promoting their long-term integration and well-being within Indonesian society. (Tambunan, 2019)

Moreover, recognizing the importance of connectivity in facilitating communication and access to information, IOM partners with Indonesian telecommunications companies to address the communication and internet needs of Rohingya refugees. By providing access to reliable communication networks and digital resources, IOM empowers Rohingya refugees to stay connected with their families and communities, access vital information and support networks, and participate more actively in the decision-making processes that affect their lives.

Through these multifaceted initiatives and collaborative efforts, Indonesia and IOM remain steadfast in their commitment to addressing the humanitarian needs of Rohingya refugees, providing them with the necessary support, assistance, and opportunities for a dignified and secure future. (Salsabila & Ridwan, 2023) Top of Form

Policy Positions

Indonesia, having not officially agreed to the 1951 Convention, isn't bound by its rules. However, the country strongly supports the basic principles of human rights outlined in the UN Charter and regards the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a standard for all nations.

The Indonesian government acknowledges the importance of refugee rights set forth in the 1951 Convention. However, it recognizes the difficulties in implementing certain provisions, such as Article 17 on the right to work and Article 21 on property ownership. These challenges have led Indonesia to hesitate in ratifying the convention. Even though Indonesia hasn't formally accepted the convention, it remains dedicated to respecting the rights and dignity of all individuals, including refugees. The government continues to strive to ensure that refugees within its borders are treated fairly and with compassion, aligning with both international humanitarian principles and Indonesia's own values of justice and empathy. (Krustiyati, 2012)

In its commitment to addressing the complexities surrounding refugee issues, Indonesia has meticulously crafted a robust legal infrastructure both domestically and internationally. At the national level, Indonesia has implemented a myriad of legal mechanisms to govern the treatment of refugees. For example, the issuance of a Presidential Decree underscores the government's dedication to affording refugees the freedom to pursue educational and employment opportunities within the country.

Moreover, Indonesia has laid down a specific legal framework delineated in Presidential Decree No. 3 of 2001, which mandates the National Coordinating Agency for Disaster Management and Refugee Handling to swiftly and comprehensively respond to refugee crises. This decree places paramount importance on ensuring that refugees are accorded legal protection and provided with access to adequate living standards, irrespective of their socio-political backgrounds or the circumstances prompting their displacement.

The oversight of cross-border refugee management, including the Rohingya community, is entrusted to the purview of the Immigration Directorate General. This governmental body has instituted a series of regulations governing the rights and treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, in strict adherence to its mandate to regulate the inflow and outflow of individuals across Indonesian borders. (Wahyudi & Niko, 2023)

In recognition of the evolving nature of refugee challenges, Indonesia has established the Human Smuggling, Refugee, and Asylum Seeker Management Desk (P2MP2S) under the auspices of

the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs. This intergovernmental platform, comprising representatives from 11 pertinent ministries and institutions, serves as a central hub for coordinating efforts aimed at addressing refugee-related concerns comprehensively. Furthermore, a specialized task force has been deployed to monitor and cater to the needs of refugees and asylum seekers within Indonesian territory, particularly within areas designated as refugee settlement zones. (Rachmah & Pestalozzi, 2016)

Through these multifaceted endeavors, Indonesia exemplifies its unwavering commitment to upholding humanitarian principles and safeguarding the welfare and rights of refugees within its borders, thereby reinforcing its position as a responsible member of the international community.

Despite the continuous influx of Rohingya refugees arriving in Indonesia in 2023, the country has remained steadfast in its adherence to humanitarian principles. Indonesia has allowed these displaced individuals to stay temporarily while they await resettlement in a third country—a process that often extends over several years. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), since November, a total of 11 Rohingya boats have made landfall in Indonesian territory, prompting the relocation of refugees to informal sites, predominantly in Aceh and one in North Sumatra.

As of December 10, 2023, nine waves of Rohingya refugees, totaling approximately 1,600 individuals, have arrived in Indonesia, with over 70 percent of them comprising women and children. Indonesia's decision to provide temporary shelter to these displaced individuals underscores its unwavering commitment to humanitarian values and its dedication to protecting the rights and dignity of refugees, especially the most vulnerable among them. (Human Rights Watch, 2024)

Indonesia has put in place Presidential Regulation No. 125/2016, serving as the cornerstone for the handling procedures when refugees enter Indonesian waters, particularly in emergency situations. This regulation outlines the framework for managing refugee influxes and ensures a structured approach to addressing humanitarian crises within Indonesia's territorial waters.

Under this regulation, clear guidelines are established for the reception, temporary shelter, and assistance provided to refugees upon their arrival in Indonesian waters. It delineates the roles and responsibilities of various government agencies and stakeholders involved in managing refugee emergencies, facilitating coordination and collaboration to ensure an effective response.

Presidential Regulation No. 125/2016 underscores Indonesia's commitment to upholding humanitarian values and providing support to individuals in need, particularly during times of crisis. By having a dedicated regulatory framework in place, Indonesia demonstrates its preparedness to address refugee influxes in a systematic and organized manner, safeguarding the well-being and dignity of refugees while upholding its national interests and security concerns. (BRIN, 2023)

Despite the challenges posed by the increasing number of arrivals, Indonesia continues to work closely with international organizations and other stakeholders to ensure the well-being and safety of Rohingya refugees. By offering temporary refuge to those in need, Indonesia exemplifies its role as a responsible member of the global community, demonstrating solidarity and support for individuals fleeing conflict and persecution in search of safety and security.

Regional Engagement

Indonesia, serving as one of the host nations for Rohingya refugees, collaborates closely with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in addressing this pressing issue. Given the membership of both Indonesia and Myanmar within ASEAN, there exists a conducive platform for pertinent stakeholders to convene and deliberate on this matter in international forums, particularly within the ASEAN framework.

As an active member of ASEAN, Indonesia maintains a steadfast commitment to upholding national security and stability amidst various regional security challenges. However, in grappling with the complexities surrounding the Rohingya refugee crisis, ASEAN member states encounter a dilemma that hampers collective action towards resolving the issue. This dilemma stems from a fundamental principle embedded within the ASEAN framework—the principle of non-interventionism. This principle, enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and serving as the cornerstone of the organization, dictates a policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of member states. While this principle has been instrumental in fostering cooperation and cohesion within ASEAN, it presents a significant obstacle when addressing humanitarian crises such as the plight of Rohingya refugees. The adherence to non-interventionism constrains ASEAN countries from intervening directly in the internal affairs of Myanmar, where the Rohingya crisis originates.

As a result, ASEAN member states find themselves in a delicate balancing act between upholding the principle of non-interventionism and responding effectively to the humanitarian needs

of Rohingya refugees. While the principle of non-interventionism remains sacrosanct within the ASEAN framework, there is a growing recognition of the imperative to find pragmatic solutions that reconcile humanitarian imperatives with the principles of sovereignty and non-interference. This conundrum underscores the intricate challenges faced by ASEAN in navigating complex humanitarian crises within the region. (Alunaza & Juani, 2017)

Moreover, ASEAN's response to the Rohingya crisis has been characterized by reluctance and a focus primarily on formal diplomatic processes. While humanitarian aid remains crucial, ASEAN should go beyond mere rhetoric and take concrete actions to address the root causes of the crisis, uphold human rights principles, and ensure the protection and well-being of Rohingya refugees.

During the peak of the Rohingya crisis from 2012 to 2015, ASEAN member states convened notable meetings in response to international pressure to address the plight of Rohingya refugees stranded at sea. These meetings underscored the urgent need for collective action and international cooperation to find a lasting solution to the crisis. However, despite calls for greater engagement, ASEAN's response fell short of reprimanding the principal actor responsible for the crisis—the Myanmar government. The reluctance of ASEAN, or some of its member states, to hold Myanmar accountable reflects broader political considerations and challenges within the region. Myanmar's discriminatory policies towards the Rohingya community and its failure to address the root causes of the crisis have perpetuated the suffering of Rohingya refugees and hindered efforts towards a comprehensive resolution.

Moving forward, ASEAN must demonstrate greater political will and leadership in addressing the Rohingya crisis. This entails prioritizing human rights, upholding the principles of non-discrimination and inclusivity, and working collectively to find sustainable solutions that address the underlying drivers of displacement. By doing so, ASEAN can fulfill its role as a regional leader and contribute significantly to resolving one of the most pressing humanitarian crises in Southeast Asia. (Jati, 2017)

As part of a broader multilateral effort, ASEAN took a significant step forward in addressing human rights concerns within the region by establishing the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in 2009. Charged with the responsibility of safeguarding the rights of all individuals in ASEAN, regardless of their identity, AICHR was envisioned as a mechanism to address various human rights issues, including the Rohingya crisis. However, despite its mandate, AICHR faces inherent limitations within its fundamental legal

framework, particularly concerning its ability to intervene in cases where the sovereignty of ASEAN member states is implicated. This limitation arises from ASEAN's decision-making mechanism, which relies heavily on consensus among member states. Consequently, if any member state opposes a decision put forth by AICHR, consensus cannot be reached, thereby hampering the Commission's ability to effectively address human rights infringements. (Bangun, 2018)

In addition to AICHR, another important player in the quest to resolve the Rohingya crisis is the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR). Comprising parliamentarians from ASEAN member states, APHR is dedicated to addressing human rights violations, including those affecting the Rohingya community, through collaborative efforts with various stakeholders. This includes partnering with organizations such as the International Detention Coalition, the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network, and the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia). Through these collaborative endeavors, APHR aims to advocate for the rights of Rohingya individuals, particularly those facing mental, physical, and emotional challenges resulting from traumatic experiences, including those endured within refugee detention centers. By amplifying the voices of Rohingya refugees and working alongside international partners, APHR endeavors to raise awareness of the plight of the Rohingya community and push for meaningful action to address their needs and concerns within the ASEAN framework. (Fitria, 2023)

CONCLUSION

Indonesia has demonstrated proactive engagement and diplomatic leadership in addressing the Rohingya refugee crisis, employing a multifaceted approach encompassing diplomatic endeavors, policy positions, and regional engagement. Indonesia's diplomatic efforts have evolved over time, from active involvement in multilateral forums to a more cautious yet constructive approach, emphasizing dialogue and trust-building with Myanmar authorities. Indonesia also has developed a robust legal infrastructure to govern the treatment of refugees domestically, ensuring their rights and access to essential services, and the collaboration with international organizations like the International Organization for Migration (IOM) underscores its dedication to providing comprehensive support to Rohingya refugees, including healthcare, education, and connectivity.

Within the ASEAN regional context, Indonesia has adeptly navigated the complexities of the Rohingya

crisis, advocating for pragmatic solutions that balance humanitarian needs with non-interventionism principles. As such, these suggestions can serve as valuable reference points for governmental bodies grappling with solutions. Indonesia should persist in proactive diplomatic engagement, leveraging platforms like the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), and ASEAN to garner global support and resources for humanitarian efforts. Additionally, it must prioritize protecting the human rights of Rohingya refugees, establishing robust monitoring and accountability mechanisms to prevent exploitation and ensure dignity. Maintaining a dialogue with Myanmar authorities while advocating for refugee rights is crucial, addressing both immediate relief and the root causes of the crisis.

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