



Research Article

Indonesia's Role In Promoting Peace In The Israelpalestine Conflict Through Multi-Track Diplomacy

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Abstract

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which has been going on since the mid-19th century, began with efforts by European Jewish minority groups to establish a homeland for the Jewish people. With support from various groups, the Indonesian government is trying to optimize conflict resolution and overcome obstacles that hinder the improvement of humanitarian corridors for the Palestinian people. Data was collected through data collection techniques in the form of documentation data, and analyzed using methods that included data collection, data condensation, data presentation, and drawing conclusions or verification. The country is involved in efforts to achieve sustainable peace for both parties, adhering to ideological principles, anti-colonial behavior, and ethnic unity, in line with Indonesia's foreign policy. Even though it is faced with internal and external challenges, Indonesia strategically acts as a mediator in this conflict, by emphasizing solidarity within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), encouraging the UN Security Council to resolve the conflict, and collaborating with neighboring countries such as Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam to strengthen commitment to peace in Palestine. This research aims to explore and maximize Indonesia's role in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through nine diplomatic channels, with a focus on ideological principles, anti-colonial behavior and ethnic unity. The research methodology used is qualitative, with a literature review approach to collect data from various sources such as books, journals and available data. This research focuses on Indonesia's role in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through nine diplomatic channels, emphasizing ideological principles, anti-colonial behavior and ethnic unity. Indonesia implements multi-track diplomacy by involving various parties to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Humanitarian aid from Indonesian foundations and individual donors has also been increased to support Palestine. Regular evaluation of peacebuilding programs is carried out to ensure their effectiveness. Indonesia is also involved in interpersonal diplomacy to encourage dialogue between conflicting parties. The results of the study concluded that Indonesia played a role in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through nine diplomatic channels involving the government, non-governmental peace institutions, business actors, religious activists, funders and the media. Through the involvement of these various elements, Indonesia's role in the international arena can run optimally.



INTRODUCTION

Since the mid-19th century, the conflict between Israel and Palestine has been ongoing, beginning with a plan by a minority group of European Jews to establish a homeland for the Jewish people. This idea attracted Jewish immigration to the region, which in turn disturbed Palestinian society and triggered territorial conflict. Peace efforts have been made through various means, both violent and non-violent. Violent conflict resolution included several wars, such as in 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973. Meanwhile, nonviolent efforts involved bilateral and multilateral diplomacy. Despite breakthroughs in the form of the Oslo I and II Peace Agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, implementation of the agreements has stalled and the conflict continues.

Data from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs shows that from 2008 to 2022, victims of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have reached 6,014 people. Despite various peace efforts, the conflict has yet to find a satisfactory solution, and peace remains elusive, as depicted in the graph. based on the explanation of the global community's desire and efforts to achieve peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the fact that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues to cause casualties. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the longest and most complex conflicts in modern world history. At the center of it are many problems that cover social, political, economic and security aspects. First of all, the continuous physical violence between the two sides has caused casualties, injuries and deep psychological trauma among civilians, especially in conflict-prone areas such as the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

In addition, there are deep-rooted social and political tensions of inequality, injustice, and dissatisfaction with the Israeli government's policies regarding the occupation and illegal settlements in the territories recognized as Palestinian. These settlements are considered a violation of international law and an obstacle to the peace process. Illegal settlements and occupation are also a focus of attention as they deprive the indigenous Palestinian population of land and resources, and create physical and administrative barriers that impede mobility and economic growth. This exacerbates the humanitarian plight of the Palestinian population and creates deeper tensions.

Equally important, the conflict also involves human rights violations, including detention without due process, restrictions on freedom of movement, excessive use of force by security forces, and restrictions on access to health and education services. All of this creates an environment where security and human dignity cannot be guaranteed. A solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict requires a comprehensive approach that addresses the various issues mentioned, including sustainable political negotiations, inclusive economic development, security guarantees for all parties, and respect for human rights. International support is essential to facilitate a sustainable and just peace process for both sides. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which has been ongoing for decades, involves a complex and diverse range of factors. Various theories in international relations and conflict studies have been used to explain this phenomenon.

First, realist theory emphasizes competing state interests and power as the main factors in conflict. In this context, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be understood as a struggle between two entities competing for power and resources in the same territory. Realism also highlights the fragile security and trust strategies between the two sides, which often hamper peace efforts. Second, constructivist theories highlight the role of identity, norms and perceptions in shaping conflict. In the Israeli-Palestinian case, constructivism can explain how the construction of national and religious identities plays an important role in reinforcing both sides' claims to the same territory. Cultural and political norms also shape how the international community perceives the conflict, which in turn influences efforts to resolve it. Third, the conflict can be understood as an ethnic conflict, involving

conflicts between different ethnic groups. In the Israeli-Palestinian context, it involves two ethnic groups with strong historical and cultural claims to the same territory. This rivalry is also influenced by demographic and geographic shifts that have occurred over the centuries. Fourth, power-sharing theory highlights efforts to equitably divide power and resources between the parties involved in the conflict. In the Israeli-Palestinian case, the sharing of power and resources such as land, water, and access to holy sites is one of the key issues that complicates conflict resolution. Attempts to find a solution that is fair and acceptable to both sides often prove very difficult (Yulivan et al., 2024).

Finally, conflict resolution theory highlights attempts to resolve conflict through negotiation, mediation or third-party intervention. Although there have been various attempts at conflict resolution in Israel-Palestine, great challenges remain in reaching an agreement that is acceptable to both sides. Internal and external factors such as domestic politics, international pressures, and regional dynamics all play an important role in determining the prospects for peace in the region. By considering these theories holistically, we can understand the various complex aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and efforts to achieve sustainable peace. It is important to remember that this conflict involves many interrelated dimensions, and its resolution will require a comprehensive and sustainable approach. As the world's most populous country and the world's number one, Indonesia cannot hold back when Muslims in Palestine face inhumane treatment by Israel. Indonesia participates in strategic cooperation forums with international organizations such as the United Nations, the United States, Russia, the European Union, and several Arab countries, including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan. Indonesia serves as an important mediator in balancing and defusing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in bilateral, regional and multilateral contexts. As a result, the two-state formula or two-state solution emerged.

Developed as a middle ground agreed upon by the United States, Russia, the European Union, and the United Nations, the Roadmap Two-State Solution is an initiative for resolving the conflict between Israel and Palestine. However, its implementation is constrained by the pro-Israel leanings of the United States, which is also a member of the UN Security Council with veto power. This creates significant internal obstacles in implementing the roadmap. On the other hand, Indonesia continues to play a strategic role to mediate and reduce the conflict in Palestine through several steps. First, Indonesia encourages Islamic solidarity and cooperation in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to support Palestine in achieving sovereignty by following the two-state solution roadmap. Second, Indonesia emphasizes the importance of conflict resolution to the UN Security Council and proposes a contingency effort to convene the UN General Assembly as a response to the handling of the conflict. Third, Indonesia collaborated with Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam in drafting a joint statement to emphasize commitment to peace in Palestine. (Satris, 2019)

Through these steps, Indonesia seeks to play a constructive role in resolving the conflict in Palestine, with a focus on supporting the two-state solution roadmap and international cooperation with other countries in an effort to achieve sustainable peace. Indonesia has actively played an important role in various international forums, international organizations, and cooperation as an effort to support the improvement of humanitarian corridors for the Palestinian people. The support does not only come from the government, but also from various groups such as professionals, business people, ordinary citizens, researchers, activists, religious leaders, and the media, both in the form of moral and material support. Despite comprehensive and continuous efforts in various international forums and organizations, Indonesia's role as a mediator in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has not been optimal. This is due to internal obstacles, especially from the UN Security Council, as well as efforts made by other countries that often run independently. To overcome this problem, it is important to examine the role of other countries that have committed and fought for peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This research is supported by findings from previous studies, which show that Indonesia's steps in this conflict are based

on ideological principles, anti-colonial behavior, and a desire for ethnic unity that are in line with the cornerstones of Indonesia's foreign policy.

In addition, the Indonesian government has been involved in various peace initiatives through the frameworks of the Conference on Cooperation among East Asian Countries for Palestinian Development, the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP), and South-South and Triangular Cooperation. Indonesia also actively supports Palestine in various international organizations and movements and provides training and capacity building assistance for Palestinians. In this research, the focus is on Indonesia's role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through nine tracks of diplomacy or Multi-Track Diplomacy, using analysis from Johan Galtung's Conflict Theory, Robert Linton's Role Theory, and Louise Diamond & John McDonald's Multi-Track Diplomacy Concept. This research raised the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on President Joko Widodo's statement that Palestine has always been the focus of Indonesia's diplomacy. In addition, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Mrs. Retno Marsudi, also emphasized that Indonesia's commitment to Palestinian independence is a shared responsibility that must be carried out. On this basis, this research aims to explore and maximize Indonesia's role in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through nine diplomatic channels. The goal is to create a conflict resolution that can bring sustainable peace to both parties, in accordance with the hopes and efforts that have been made so far (Studi et al., 2022).

METHODS

The research method that will be used in this research is a qualitative research method. The method used is library research, collecting this data by searching for sources and reconstructing from various sources such as books, journals, and existing data. Data obtained from existing sources, such as previous research reports, official statistical data, legal documents, or academic literature. The result is that qualitative research is carried out with a research design whose findings are not obtained through statistical procedures or in the form of counts, but aims to reveal phenomena in a contextual holistic manner by collecting data from natural settings / settings and utilizing researchers as key instruments. Qualitative research has a descriptive nature and tends to use an inductive approach analysis, so that the process and meaning based on the subject's perspective are more highlighted in this qualitative research. This method focuses more on analyzing relevant laws, policies, and legal doctrines in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Normative research will explore various legal theories, international regulations, and legal documents relating to the conflict (Taunaumang et al., 2023).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Indonesia's commitment to peace and resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not only realized in the international sphere, but also in the national sphere through what is known as Multi-Track Diplomacy. This concept, described by Louise Diamond & John McDonald, involves various actors from different backgrounds working together to achieve peace. The government is one of the main tracks in this effort, but is also supported by various other tracks. (1) government (2) peacemakers (non-government), (3) private citizens, (4) funding and (5) media. All of these tracks play a role in preparing an enabling environment for the positive changes proposed by the government, while also ensuring the implementation of government decisions (Solihin et al., 2023).

The Multi-Track Diplomacy approach recognizes that sustainable conflict transformation requires the cooperation of various actors, not just the government. By involving civil society, non-governmental organizations, and other informal channels of communication, it is hoped that long-term peace can be achieved more effectively.

As such, Indonesia seeks to apply this approach in its efforts to champion peace and resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, not only at the international level but also at the national level through the active participation of various sectors of society.

Government

The Indonesian government actively participates in international organizations such as the United Nations and the OIC to champion the Israel-Palestine issue. At the United Nations, Indonesia used its membership in the Security Council to hold a number of briefings and consultations highlighting Israel's illegal settlement construction in Palestine. Indonesia also organized a special Security Council briefing focusing on Middle East issues, including Palestine, emphasizing the protection of Palestinians, urging a negotiated resolution of the conflict, and asserting that Israel's illegal settlement construction must be stopped as it violates the law and human rights. At the OIC, Indonesia delivered six key points calling for support for the Two-State Solution, rejecting the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and encouraging OIC member states not to follow the US decision to move their embassies to Jerusalem. In addition, Indonesia also encourages recognition of Palestinian independence by countries that have not yet recognized it, and reminds OIC member countries to reconsider diplomatic relations with Israel in accordance with agreed OIC resolutions (Aslamiah, 2015). These two efforts were made to remind the international community that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is still ongoing and that an effective solution is needed to achieve positive peace. The hope of these efforts is that countries around the world continue to pay attention to this issue and work together to find a just and sustainable solution. (Aswir F Badjodah et al., 2021)

Peacemakers (Non-Governmental)

NU is a non-governmental organization that is often involved in efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They provide recommendations for conflict resolution, provide humanitarian aid, and engage in diplomacy to create peace. NU organizes peace dialogues through events such as the International Conference of Islamic Scholars (ICIS), which aims to promote dialogue and negotiation in the conflict. In addition, they also organize international meetings such as the Islamic Moderate Leaders Meeting (ISOMIL) to seek a common solution to the conflict in the Middle East, by combining the principles of Islam and nationalism and asking governments to engage in conflict resolution through official diplomacy. These efforts are part of NU's second track diplomacy to influence Indonesia's foreign policy (Solihin et al., 2023).

Private Citizen

Public diplomacy through citizen-to-citizen relations, known as people-to-people diplomacy, has the potential to advance national interests. For example, the relationship between Israelis and Indonesians has been well-established, with Indonesians frequently visiting historical sites in Israel and Palestine for religious tourism purposes, while Israelis also conduct business trips and private visits to Indonesia with visa facilities provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In 2018, NU senior figure Gus Yahya was personally involved in a peace dialog by attending the American Jewish Committee. The meeting involved religious leaders from both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian divide and provided a deep understanding of the conflict. This step emphasized that in order to mediate or resolve the conflict, a third party such as Indonesia needs to establish good relations with both Israelis and Palestinians. This is important so that communication in an effort to achieve peace can run smoothly. This diplomacy can be strengthened through people-to-people relations, without involving central power and through the help of non-governmental actors (Aslamiah, 2015).

Funding

In carrying out alternative diplomacy strategies, whether by governments, non-governmental organizations, or communities, they usually use internal sources of funds such as personal funds from the management or organization cash, as well as receiving financial assistance from sympathizers to cover the operational costs of their activities. Regarding the aid given to the Palestinians, several foundations often raise funds and generous individuals also make donations, such as those made by the Yatim Mandiri Foundation. This community has managed to distribute aid amounting to Rp. 60,200,000 for the construction of the Al-Isiqamah mosque and the provision of food and medicine for 300 Palestinians in Al-Quds and 1500 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. In addition to donations from the community, Indonesian philanthropists have also shown their attention to the issue. One example is Dato' Sri Tahir through the Tahir Foundation, which donated a large sum of US\$ 1.3 Million for Palestinians through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, which focuses on Palestinian refugees. The financial aid that has been distributed is clear evidence of Indonesia's concern for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (Solihin et al., 2023).

Media

The media has a very important role in shaping public opinion and human behavior, as well as influencing the political agenda. Public opinion and behavior can then influence the government's attention to a conflict. Usually, this public pressure is expected to push the government to seek conflict resolution and fight for peace. Conversely, foreign policy disseminated through the media can also set the political agenda and influence public attention. In the context of Indonesia's multi-track diplomacy regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the media tends to voice foreign policies that support Palestine. This affects the sympathy of the Indonesian people towards the Palestinians, who are often positioned as victims in the conflict. This encourages the Indonesian people to participate in diplomacy and peace efforts through various established channels (Aini, 2019).

National cyber media, such as Okezone.com, Detik.com, and Kompas.com, play an important role in conveying information and shaping public opinion. Analysis of the three media shows that the majority of news produced is related to Palestine, with a small percentage of news showing impartiality or balance in reporting. This reflects the Indonesian people's support for Palestinian independence and peace as a way out of the conflict. Although the media is not always objective in reporting conflicts, it remains an important force in driving political and foreign policy agendas. Through role theory proposed by Robert Linton, social interactions are influenced by the established culture. In the Indonesian context, the anti-colonialism culture reflected in the Preamble of the 1945 Constitution encourages Indonesians to fight for independence and peace in other countries, including Palestine. This emphasizes the expected role of the Indonesian government, institutions and public figures in helping to fight for peace through various diplomatic channels. Thus, Indonesia has interpreted the role expected by its culture and society in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through multi-track diplomacy (Suratiningsih et al., 2020).

And the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine continues to take its toll, especially with Israel's latest offensive in the Gaza Strip. The inhumane military assault has victimized many civilians, including women, children, and the elderly. Not only that, settlements and public facilities such as schools, kindergartens, and hospitals have also been severely damaged. In the context of armed conflict, the principles of humanitarian law play an important role in regulating the actions taken. These principles, including the principles of distinction, limitation, and proportionality, are designed to limit the adverse effects of combat. However, from the perspective of these principles, Israel's attacks on Palestine have violated these rules. In addition, there have also been human rights violations committed

by Israel in this conflict. A. The Principle of Military Necessity In article 57 of Additional Protocol I of the Geneva Conventions, it is also explained that objects that can be attacked in an armed conflict are military objects and combatants. Civilian casualties and targeted attacks on civilian objects including infrastructure and other vital objects must be avoided. However, in reality Israel also attacked civilian objects including schools, hospitals, residential areas, electricity networks, and others.

Several things done by the Israeli military that violate the provisions of the principle of humanity, one of which is the obstruction of humanitarian aid sent by various international organizations that want to show their sympathy for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip who are suffering from the ongoing conflict. Principle of Proportionality What is meant by this principle is the balance between what is received and given in an armed conflict. In the case of the conflict between Palestine and Israel, there is a gap or imbalance in the retaliatory attacks carried out by the Israeli military against the Gaza Strip in response to missile and rocket attacks carried out by Hamas into Israeli territory. Israeli forces bombarded civilian areas used as hiding places by Hamas by dropping bombs from the air for days. This of course has a far different impact and casualties than what is caused by Hamas rocket attacks on Israeli territory. (Rofiatul Nurhasanah & Debi Setiawati, S.Pd, M.Pd, 2024)

CONCLUSIONS

The results concluded that Indonesia plays an important role in efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through nine diplomatic channels involving various elements such as the government, non-governmental peace organizations, business people, religious activists, donors, and the media. Through this involvement, Indonesia can optimize its position at the international level. This research aims to explore and maximize Indonesia's contribution in resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through nine diplomatic channels, with reference to ideological principles, anti-colonial behavior, and ethnic unity. The ultimate goal is to create a conflict resolution that results in sustainable peace for both parties. Although Indonesia has served as a mediator in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, its role has not been optimal due to internal obstacles, particularly from the UN Security Council, and independent efforts from other countries. To overcome these challenges, it is important to study the role of other countries that are also committed to mediating peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Public diplomacy through people-to-people relations has great potential to promote national interests. For example, relations between Israelis and Indonesians have developed well, with Indonesians visiting historical sites in Israel and Palestine for religious tourism purposes, while Israelis also travel to Indonesia for business and personal interests.

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