

SUPPORT OF INDONESIAN DIPLOMAS ON PALESTINE

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ABSTRAK

Palestina mengakui kedaulatan Indonesia pada tahun 1944, bahkan sebelum Indonesia memproklamasikan kemerdekaan. Sejak saat itu, hubungan Indonesia-Palestina terus erat dan saling memberi dukungan dalam berbagai aspek. Hubungan keduanya cukup menarik untuk diulas. Bukan hanya karena ikatan yang mereka miliki dengan mayoritas penduduk Muslim. Lebih dari itu, nilai-nilai kemanusiaan dijunjung tinggi oleh kedua negara. Salah satu bentuk dukungan tegas Indonesia terhadap Palestina adalah Indonesia sama sekali tidak menjalin hubungan diplomatik dengan Israel yang telah lama berperang dengan Palestina.

Kata Kunci : Hubungan Diplomatik, Indonesia Palestina, Indonesia Support

ABSTRACT

Palestine recognized Indonesian sovereignty in 1944, even before Indonesia proclaimed independence. Since then, the relationship between Indonesia and Palestine has continued to be close and has provided mutual support in various aspects. The relationship between the two is quite interesting to review. Not only because of the ties they have with the majority Muslim population. More than that, the values of humanity are upheld by both countries. One form of Indonesia's firm support for Palestine is that Indonesia does not establish diplomatic relations at all with Israel, which has been at war with Palestine for a long time.

Keywords: *Diplomatic Relations, Indonesia Palestine, Indonesia Support*

PRELIMINARY

Indonesia is a country with the largest Muslim population in the world, with a percentage of 87.18% of the population of approximately 237 million people. This makes Indonesia have a close relationship with the Palestinian state. Apart from this, both countries have experienced a period of colonization by other nations. This is a supporting factor for these two countries to be close. Indonesia was colonized by the Dutch and Japanese until it finally became independent in 1945. Meanwhile, Palestine has been colonized by the Israelis and

continues to be occupied until now. Various historical facts have proven the close relationship between Indonesia that has existed since the Indonesian nation was not yet independent. At the time of Indonesian independence, Palestine had shown support. In addition to Palestine's support for Indonesian independence, Indonesia also always supports the realization of independence and peace for Palestine. Indonesia as an anti-colonial country supports the Palestinian movement for independence. Therefore, Indonesia's foreign policy that supports Palestinian independence, even with other countries in strategic partnerships, is one of Indonesia's real attitudes in helping other countries. In this case, the contribution of the Indonesian government in supporting the independence of the Palestinian people is Indonesia's foreign policy which is based on values, attitudes, which reflect national interests. Indonesia strongly refuses to recognize the state of Israel because Israel has seized or forcibly usurped the rights and freedoms of the Palestinian people. Indonesia strongly supports and fights for the rights and freedoms of the Palestinian people. Indonesia strongly refuses to recognize the state of Israel because Israel has seized or forcibly usurped the rights and freedoms of the Palestinian people. Indonesia strongly supports and fights for the rights and freedoms of the Palestinian people. Indonesia strongly refuses to recognize the state of Israel because Israel has seized or forcibly usurped the rights and freedoms of the Palestinian people. Indonesia strongly supports and fights for the rights and freedoms of the Palestinian people.

Palestine was the first country to recognize Indonesian sovereignty even before it officially became independent. As is well known, Indonesia proclaimed *de facto* independence on August 17, 1945. In order to become a fully standing country (*de jure*) of course, it requires recognition from other countries. With this recognition from Palestine, it really helps Indonesia because Palestine has helped Indonesia in liberating the Indonesian state.

Indonesia welcomes the Declaration of Palestinian Independence by the Palestinian National Council in Algiers, Algeria and has recognized the State of Palestine on November 16, 1988. A year later Indonesia and Palestine signed a Joint Agreement on the Commencement of Indonesian-Palestinian Diplomatic Relations at the embassy level, on October 19, 1989. Signing carried out by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, Ali Alatas, and PLO official, Farouk Kaddoumi. After the signing ceremony, the Palestinian Foreign Minister assigned the State of Palestine Embassy in Jakarta. Accordingly, Indonesia assigned its Head of Mission to the Republic of Tunisia as a non-resident Palestinian Ambassador until June 1, 2004, when the assignment was handed over to the Indonesian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Jordan in Amman. During a visit to Jordan in May 2006, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono reaffirmed Indonesia's support for Palestinian independence including through the resumption of peace talks, as well as expressed Indonesia's concern over the condition of Palestine, including in terms of finances, amidst the economic sanctions imposed by Israel. Indonesia too support Palestinian autonomy by strengthening bilateral relations in various fields in order to build economic partnerships. The thing that is very firm and a form of Indonesia's concern for Palestine is that Indonesia does not establish diplomatic relations

with Israel. There are various reasons behind this. To be sure, Indonesia does not agree with the aggressive actions taken by Israel against Palestine.

DISCUSSION

Palestinian and Indonesian Diplomacy

Various forms of cooperation are carried out by Indonesia and Palestine in the context of increasing bilateral relations between the two countries. This collaboration covers various fields, including cooperation in the economic and trade fields where Indonesia officially imposes zero import duty rates for dates, olives, and other commodities. Palestine is currently trying to develop an industrial area. Indonesian entrepreneurs have also been invited to participate in developing the area located in Jericho. Currently, Indonesia is only exporting spices, furniture, medicines, coffee, and snacks to Palestine. Indonesia has the potential to increase exports through other manufactured products such as automotive.

Then in the field of Palestinian education, cooperation with Gadjah Mada University was discussed during the visit of the Palestinian Ambassador to Indonesia, HE Zuhair SM. Al Shun, to UGM. The visit of the Palestinian delegation led by Zuhair was received directly by the Rector of UGM, Prof. Ir. Panut Mulyono, M.Eng., D.Eng. He hopes that later the number of Palestinian students who will continue their studies at UGM can continue to increase.

In the health sector, Indonesia helps Palestine in drug control. Indonesia prioritizes Palestinian medicine because it is a commitment within the framework of south-south cooperation. Head of BPOM RI Penny K. Lukito said that the first year of technical cooperation in 2018 was motivated by the principle of solidarity over several challenges faced by Palestine in the health sector, including limited access to generic drugs and issues related to drug independence. In-depth training in a specific field. The third year of technical cooperation focuses on the stage of implementing regulatory functions in Palestine.

Palestine's Role in Indonesia

Diplomacy in recognizing Indonesia's independence was first started from Egypt and Palestine. The Indonesian delegation team sent to Middle Eastern countries received welcome and support from Sheikh Muhammad Amin Al Husaini, a Palestinian mufti who later assisted Indonesia in lobbying Arab countries to recognize Indonesia's independence. There are two Palestinian figures who played an important role in supporting the release of Indonesia from colonialism, namely Muhammad Ali Thaher and Shaykh Muhammad Amin Husaini. Ali Thaher was a wealthy businessman who donated his wealth to help Indonesia in 1944. Meanwhile, Shaykh Muhammad Amin Husaini was a Palestinian mufti who carried out a diplomatic struggle to seek support from Arab leaders to help Indonesia's independence. Until then, Egypt recognized Indonesia's independence for the first time on March 22, 1996 and was then followed by other Arab countries. After Indonesia's independence, Indonesia has always

been active against the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Although Israel has recognized Indonesia's independence in January 1950, Indonesia has not yet recognized Israel's independence. In 1974 Indonesia recognized the existence of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) which was founded by Yasser Arafat as a representative of the Palestinian community in the international arena. 1988 Palestine declared its independence on November 15 in Algiers, the capital of Algeria.

The Role of the Indonesian Government towards Palestine

On November 16, Indonesia recognized the independence of Palestine and also established diplomatic relations with Palestine. Meanwhile, Indonesia refuses to establish diplomatic relations with Israel as long as the Palestinian state is still occupied. In 1991 the Palestinian Embassy office was officially opened in Jakarta. In 1993 the Palestinian President, Yasser Arafat, visited Indonesia and met with President Suharto. In 2006 after the victory of Hamas in the general election, Indonesia expressed respect for the decision of the Palestinian people to hold elections in a democratic manner, and called on western countries that opposed the election results not to have prejudices against Hamas. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas made working visits to Indonesia in 2007 and then in 2010. This Palestinian visit aims to ask for Indonesia's support, both in efforts to revive the peace process, as well as internal Palestinian reconciliation, especially between the Fatah and Hamas factions. Both sides are committed to working to find a way for Palestinian independence.

Since Indonesia's independence in 1945, Indonesia has always supported the independence of occupied Palestine. This support is carried out in various forms possible by the entire Indonesian nation, both the government and the Indonesian people.

1. Asian-African Conference. In 1955 Indonesia was active in initiating and hosting the Asia-Africa conference in Bandung. This conference aims to serve as a forum for consolidation of Asian and African countries to unite in fighting for prosperity and the anti-colonial movement as well as supporting countries that have not yet obtained independence, including Palestine.
2. 1962 Asian Games. In 1962 Indonesia became the organizer of the Asian Games, Indonesia showed its solidarity in supporting Palestine by refusing to grant visas for Israeli athletes to participate.
3. Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). In March 2011 Indonesia hosted the 16th NAM Ministerial Meeting in Bali. At this moment, Indonesia and member countries strengthen their commitment to support Palestinian independence. Indonesia proposes to raise votes for the acceptance of Palestine as a full member of the United Nations. NAM then raised votes against the recognition of Palestine as a member of the United Nations and Palestine received support from 112 countries.

4. Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). The Palestinian issue is the main agenda of the OIC. In September 2011 the 66th UN General Assembly was held in New York, which discussed the settlement of the Palestinian and Israeli issues. On the sidelines of the session process, an OIC meeting was held and Indonesia invited OIC countries and the international community to support Palestine as the 194th member of the United Nations. On 28 September 2012 the same meeting was held again at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, and Indonesia again invited OIC members to seriously fight for the improvement of the status of Palestine at the United Nations.
5. UN Security Council 2007-2008. In 2007-2008 Indonesia served as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council. Indonesia always encourages the UN Security Council to issue decisions regarding the Palestinian issue, including in the form of a presidential statement (PRST) and resolutions.
6. NAASP. Indonesia is a member of the New Asian African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) regional cooperation. Indonesia has initiated the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine, in Jakarta, July 14-15, 2008. Indonesia expressed its commitment to support the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state, not only politically but also through technical cooperation in the form of capacity building for 1000 people. Palestinians. This program has been running from 2008 to 2013.
7. Financial and Development Assistance Hospital in Gaza. Indonesia has also delivered financial assistance to Palestine, including in the form of pledges at the 2007 Paris Donor Conference and during the 2008-2009 Gaza Crisis, each amounting to USD 1 million. In addition, the Indonesian Embassy in Cairo handed over humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip in January 2011, in the form of medical equipment worth USD 83,325.21 from the Indonesian Committee for Palestinian Solidarity (KISPA). Indonesia has also allocated Rp 20 billion to build the Indonesia Cardiac Center at Al-Shifa Hospital, Gaza. Through the Medical Emergency Rescue Committee (MER-C) a humanitarian organization based in Jakarta, the people of Indonesia established the Indonesian Hospital on the waqf land of the Palestinian government.
8. The visit of the Indonesian Parliament to Palestine. On November 29, 2012 as many as 8 members of Commission I DPR RI together with several members of NGOs and journalists paid a visit to Palestine, to be precise the Gaza area. This visit is a political support and humanitarian aid for the Palestinian people. In addition, this visit also aims to provide moral support for Palestine and urge Israel to stop its attacks on the Palestinian territories. In addition to the government, the Indonesian people are also active in providing support for Palestinian

independence. This support comes from various groups, ranging from students, professionals, businessmen, politicians, leaders and ordinary people, whether organized or accidental. The following are various forms of support from the Indonesian people for Palestine.

- a) The formation of various community organizations to support Palestine. There are various community organizations, foundations and NGOs in Indonesia that were formed with the aim of supporting Palestine. This organization has a structure and operates on a national scale. They did various ways to garner support from the Indonesian people for Palestine such as fundraising, humanitarian action and even sending volunteers directly to Palestine. Some of these organizations include;
 - 1) National Committee for the Palestinian People (KNRP). KNRP is one of the humanitarian institutions that cares about the problems of the Al Aqsa mosque and humanitarian issues in Palestine. Established in May2006, KNRP has held many social and artistic activities to raise funds and opinions for Palestine.
 - 2) National Committee for Palestinian Solidarity (KISPA). Founded on May 14, 2002, in its written vision, this organization aims to raise the spirit of the Indonesian people to care about the Palestinian struggle for independence, especially in maintaining the sanctity of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.
 - i. Friends of Al Aqsa Foundation. This foundation was established in 2007to support the struggle for independence of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and thePalestinian people. Engaged in disseminating information, raising funds, and distributing aid funds and volunteers directly to the Palestinian people.
- b) Solidarity actions to support Palestine The Israeli-Palestinian conflict received massive media coverage from the Indonesian media, especially when Israel carried out an attack on the Gaza area which resulted in many civilian casualties on the Palestinian side. Like the Israeli attack in mid-November 2012, massive media coverage of the condition Palestine makes the Indonesian people sympathize with the condition of the Palestinian people. Various actions of solidarity for Palestine were also carried out by various Indonesian people, with the aim of criticizing Israel, demanding the government to be more active in helping Palestine and primarily raising funds for war victims.
- c) Boycott Campaign for Jewish Products Another form of Indonesian public support for Palestine is a boycott campaign against the products of

companies that donate some of their profits to Israel. There are several MNC companies, mostly based in the United States, that provide financial assistance, either later to be used as weapons for the Israeli military or used to strengthen its infrastructure. Some of these companies have even received awards from the Israeli government as the main supporters of Israel.

The Role of Community Support for Palestine

- 1) Government line, diplomacy through the path of peace. This route is the main route taken by Indonesia in supporting the independence of Palestine. On various occasions, Indonesia has always voiced support for Palestinian independence. Including in efforts to improve the status of Palestine at the United Nations, Indonesia has always actively supported Palestine in various international forums. At the moment of the struggle to increase the status of Palestine to become a pointing state at the United Nations, the Indonesian Executive government was active through diplomacy at the United Nations. As for the legislature, members of the Indonesian House of Representatives visited Palestine on November 29, 2012 to show support for Palestine.
- 2) Non-government/professional path, or peace through conflict resolution. There are various non-governmental groups that actively voice support for Palestinian independence. As well as making various efforts to invite the Indonesian people to participate directly in supporting the Palestinian people in various aspects, such as humanitarian aid and sending volunteers to Palestine. These groups include KNRP (National Commission for the Palestinian People) and KISPA (National Commission for Palestine Care).
- 3) Business path, or peace diplomacy through trade (Commerce). In this field, Indonesia is also cooperating with Palestine. In 2012 the volume of trade between Indonesia and Palestine increased to 1 million US dollars, previously in 2011 it was only worth 117,700 US dollars.
- 4) Private citizen path, peace diplomacy through individual roles. Indonesian citizens are also actively involved in supporting the independence of Palestine. As in 2010, 12 Indonesian citizens took part in humanitarian actions to support Palestine by joining the Mavi Ship Marmara who brought humanitarian aid to Palestine. Although this ship did not manage to dock in Palestine due to attacks by Israeli troops in international seas. In 2012, more than 48,000 Indonesians visited Jerusalem. Palestine has other religious pilgrimage destinations such as Bethlehem, Jericho and Hebron which are often visited by Indonesian Christians.
- 5) Research, training and education pathways, peace diplomacy through learning. In this field, Indonesia is a member of the New Asian African Strategic Partnership (NAASP) regional cooperation and initiated the NAASP Ministerial Conference on Capacity Building for Palestine. Indonesia has carried out capacity building for 1000

Palestinians from 2008 to 2013. In addition, non-governmental parties such as the Indonesian Red Crescent (BSMI) also helped develop the capacity of Palestinian human resources by providing educational scholarship programs in Indonesia for Palestinians.

- 6) The path of activism, or peace diplomacy through advocacy. In Indonesia, the student activist movement often carries out various actions and campaigns to voice support for Palestine. Such as taking to the streets with the community which is often carried out by KAMMI activists, HMI and also student institutions such as university BEM. This action is increasing when Israeli military actions increase in Palestine which causes many casualties. Activists express condemnation of Israel's actions and demand that governments and world bodies such as the United Nations take this conflict seriously.
- 7) The religious path, or peace diplomacy through belief. Religious spirit is one of the main bases for the support of the Indonesian people for the independence of Palestine. Indonesia as a country with the largest Muslim population in the world is a member of the international Islamic organization, namely the OIC. The Palestinian issue is the main agenda of the OIC, in which Indonesia actively participates in it. Domestically, there are various religious-based organizations established to voice support for Palestine such as KNRP, KISPA, Friends of Al-Aqsa and others.
- 8) Funding Path, or peace diplomacy through resource empowerment. Every support activity for Palestine in Indonesia is dominated by funding assistance. The main organizations supporting Palestine such as KNRP and KISPA are primarily engaged in collecting humanitarian aid funds for Palestine. KNRP, for example, actively conducts various charity concerts throughout Indonesia and sends the proceeds to help Palestinians who are victims of Israeli aggression. Indonesian people, whether involved in student organizations, youth organizations, and other activities, are also often found taking to the streets to collect funds from the community to be sent to Palestine.
- 9) Communication and media channels, or peace diplomacy through information. The level of concern and participation of the Indonesian people in supporting the independence of Palestine cannot be separated from the media carried out in reporting the conditions about Palestine. Various communication media in Indonesia are always active in informing the public about what is happening in Palestine. This is the main trigger for the emergence of great sympathy and enthusiasm for the Indonesian people to provide support for Palestinian independence, including urging the government to continue to actively support Palestinian independence through state diplomacy. So for the Indonesian government the Palestinian issue is an important issue for domestic political stability.

CLOSING

Conclusion

Palestine was the first country to recognize Indonesia's independence, before finally Egypt followed suit to recognize the sovereignty of the Indonesian nation. This recognition from Palestine is very important for Indonesia, so it is a moment that will never be forgotten for Indonesia. Since Palestine's recognition of the independence of the Indonesian nation, diplomatic relations between the two countries have begun. The two countries which both have a majority of Muslim citizens feel a lot in common so that they can have very strong friendly relations until now. Indonesia's assistance to Palestine has not stopped until now. One form of Indonesia's firm support for Palestine is that Indonesia does not establish diplomatic relations with Israel, which is currently at war with Palestine. Indonesia also provides a lot of assistance to Palestine to restore Palestinian rights that have been seized by Israel. Apart from friendship reasons, Indonesia really upholds humanity. That is why Indonesia insists on supporting and continuing to send aid from various fields to Palestine.

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