

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is an international organization that was established on 25th September 1969. It was led by Secretary General Yousef Ahmed Al-Othaimen from Saudi Arabia. As the representative of Muslim World, the OIC has objective “*to safeguard the rights, dignity and religious and cultural identity in Muslim communities and minorities in Non-Member states*” which is mentioned in their Charter 2008.

In order to carry out their objectives, the OIC took an important part in solving Muslim minority problem that happens in Myanmar or the case of Rohingya. Rohingya people are a group of people who stay in Arakan state and they believe in Islam. Rohingya people are living among Burmese majority which believe in Buddha. Rohingya is being unrecognized by the government of Myanmar while the government wants them to go away from Myanmar and is supposed to belong to Bangladesh.

Geographically, the west of Myanmar is in a line with Bengal or Bangladesh especially in Rakhine state. It becomes one factor that makes Rohingya migration to Myanmar easy. Then it also shows the physical things of Rohingya which prefer Bengal to Myanmar, even though they stay in Rakhine state since long time ago. Other factors are their belief, culture and language. Rohingya people believe in Islam, and they also speak Bengali and their culture is the same with Bangladesh people.

The original existence of Rohingya people began with the accident of the king from Arakan kingdom who came to Bengal kingdom and asked for help to take back his authority. At that time, king of Bengal was successful in helping the king of Arakan and it opened good relationship between two kingdoms. King of Arakan asked some Bengal people to work in the kingdom and stay in Arakan (now known as Rakhine), even though they have different religion background. Those people are Rohingya, and they work and stay there until the collapse of Arakan kingdom and the independence of Myanmar. This brought them to be unrecognized by the people of Myanmar due to their differences that are more similar to Bengal.

After the independence of Myanmar, Myanmar declared not to recognize people of Rohingya but they declared that land of Rakhine should belong to Myanmar. This became the dilemma, since Rohingya had been staying there since long time ago but Myanmar just wanted to recognize Rakhine land. Another additional factor is the feeling of islamophobia that arises in people of Myanmar. They do not want Myanmar to become an Islamic country because of the development of Muslims such as what happens in Malaysia and Indonesia.

The discrimination happened to Rohingya, while the government cannot push them away from Myanmar since Bangladesh also did not recognize them due to their stay in the territory of Myanmar. People of Rohingya couldn't live peacefully. They have limitation in accessing public facilities such as they are prohibited to travel between townships without permission, cannot have more than two children, not permitted to get married, hefty bribes for medical treatment,

lack access to education for children and many others. Almost all accidents are supported by the government and elite militants of Myanmar.

Regarding to the OIC charter, problem of Rohingya is supposed to be part of their responsibilities. OIC tries to help Rohingya problem through many actors such as UN, member state of OIC, domestic and International NGOs and also directly pushes the government of Myanmar. OIC gives help to Rohingya in form of financial, humanitarian aid, calls upon the government of Myanmar, visits the refugees, help through the member states of OIC in the name of Islamic solidarity and also help by using their link in international actors. Many ways were tried by OIC even though some of their plans cannot be implemented well or even unimplemented.

This invites public attention especially in Muslim World, because they do believe that OIC is supposed to handle this problem well. The chief and former president of All Pakistan Muslim League (APML), Pervez Musharraf was disappointed with the result and said that *“it is unfortunate that the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) has become functionless and has failed completely in protecting the rights of Muslims being victimized across the globe.”*⁴¹

Many ways have been tried by OIC and through many actors, but still the problem keeps going on. It is all because of OIC is an external actor and Myanmar is an independent state which has full responsibilities to their domestic problem. Then, Myanmar and OIC do not have close relationship because Myanmar is not even member state of OIC which means that OIC does not have enough power to

⁴¹ Pakistan today. *Loc. Cit.*

push Myanmar. It proves to the world that basically the international organization just acts in their own capacity and they were minimum in addressing conflict.

There are also some obstacles that hamper OIC in solving Rohingya problem. According to the theory of institutionalization by Huntington (1968), there are 4 aspects that must be analyzed to know the level of an organization which are adaptability, complexity, autonomy and coherency. Based on the analysis, all the aspects are not running well except stage of complexity. The obstacles were found in the process of the action and the final result.

Stage of complexity is the one which does not have any problems. This stage has concern on the aspect of quality of that organization. This is related to their purpose, sub-units, ability to secure and the loyalty. In OIC, those show good result while their purpose is clearly mentioned in their charter, their sub-units are complete enough and fulfil each other, and their ability is worth enough proven by their experience in solving some problems, then the last is their loyalty which has been recognized.

The other three aspects show some different kinds of obstacles. First is adaptability or the function of environmental challenge and age. There is no problem in the age of OIC where OIC is quite old regarding to their experiences also in addressing the problem. The environmental challenge in case of Rohingya is not successful at all, such as the differences of religion background among people of Myanmar-majority Buddhist and OIC-concern on Muslims, the mindset

of Myanmar people about Islamophobia that has been embedded since the era of kingdom, and the point that Myanmar is not member-state of OIC.

Secondly is autonomy or the relation between social forces and political organization. In this stage basically OIC already shows well preparedness, such as through the relationship with international actors like UN, NGO or even their own organs. All efforts have been passed well by the OIC but then got unexpected response from the domestic. The domestic condition of Myanmar still ignored the external actor, and this is also shown by the pressure of UN which is being ignored by the government of Myanmar.

Thirdly is coherency and unity of the organization or about the cooperativeness and interrelatedness with the issue and related actor. The coherency between the subject and object is in a line. However, OIC objective is to cover up Muslims right and Rohingya problem is Muslim minorities discrimination. The obstacle was found on the unity between the subject and the object in which the writer categorizes Rohingya as part of Myanmar regarding to the fact that to access Rohingya it is supposed through the government of Myanmar. Then the problem is, government of Myanmar closes their door for others and decide to be un-cooperative in addressing the conflict.

So the writer concludes that one of the important things in solving a problem is how two sides unite and support each other. In the case of Rohingya it clearly shows the side of OIC which already tried to give their best in helping the problem but then in the side of Myanmar they kept their domestic problem to

solve with their own way. The uncooperative Myanmar causes OIC hard to come in and help the case of Rohingya. This might be a long lasting problem and unsolving problem if both sides cannot unite.