

CHAPTER V

DISCUSSION

In discussion of the research is a case study on the conflict three southern border provinces of Thailand based on the literature review or theories and research questions. The data sources used interviews and documents data into analysis the root-causes of conflict and solution of problem in three southern border provinces of Thailand.

V.1. The root-causes of conflict there are three factors of root-causes arise to the violence

V.1.1. Factor of Individuals Groups

Individual Groups is group of violent or discrimination groups who are unsatisfied to the Thai government and each group of them have difference incentive (Visalo, 2004). Some of groups have violence ideologies and want discrimination; they are duties on team work and divided several of levels in worked. Therefore, the problem not only included those groups but also included the interest group, influential people and politicians. In addition, the Thai government lack of trust, equal, unfair, and non-transparent to the Muslims in the areas (Visalo, 2004).

From interview, the students, 2011 the faculty of social and political sciences at prince of Songkla University stated that:

“According to student A non-transparent in the duties, some of politician and influential person they are benefit group exploited people in society to finding the benefit to parties and destroy the Muslims youth by drug method. Therefore, student B stated, root-causes of conflict that is violence group, this group actually who are affliction in the issue of Pattani Kingdom History in the past. That was real issue and was through to mind and realize of them”

Source: (Students A and B, 2011).

The result above is, individual group is not discrimination group only but also there are group of benefit and influential person related in the areas to finding benefits to parties. The non-transparent of government made the people in the areas unsatisfied and made partiality and don't trust each other. Therefore, that thing is increases violence of the problem and a loss of public confidence more and more. National and local politicians who were selfish just took a look of benefits to partisan rather than creating benefits to public.

From interview in this research the corruption problem is a part of individual group; it is found that:

“The student C said that, the most local politician influential person took chance by used the areas in the way of corruption and created benefits to partisan, for example created citizen remedies policy, gave opportunity in education wider than in the past, provided scholarship to study both in country and aboard, and policy about sending militaries and frontier policeman to duties security the people in areas of three southern border

provinces. Those things must be use money or budged in the process and implementation”

Source: (Student C, 2011).

However, the individual groups had overlapping with several issues included group of discrimination who want to independent to use autonomy system in three southern border provinces, and non-transparent of government to the Muslims people such as used this areas is a way to corruption, created benefit to their parties Thus why the Thai governments not take serious to solve the violence in the areas? Because the reason is the areas three southern border of Thailand is a place of them to take chance in finding benefit to themselves.

V.1.2. *The factor of structures*

Means that, deficiencies and weaknesses in structure management that consists of the policies form, laws, and politico - economic system, such as the policies inappropriate yet to the Muslim people and the Islamic approach, law enforcement is inconsistent with the rule of law and regardless of the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens (Visalo, 2004).

Moreover, the Muslim-Malay is the poorest among the three groups (Thai Buddhist, Thai Chinese, and Thai Muslim). The statistics from the Office of National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) in 2004 show that in 2002 the number of poor people in the three provinces was higher than in other southern provinces, approximately 60% of the total number of southern population and the

GNP of the population in these provinces was TH Baht 2,600 per month. The GNP of the population in Narathiwat was the lowest in all southern provinces, approximately TH Baht 2,224 / about Rp.778.400 per month (UNDP, 2005: 8). From interview, the students, 2011 of faculty of social and political sciences at prince of Songkla University stated about some of policies and government duties, it is found that:

“According to student A the government was a lack of a clear understanding of the actual conditions; it has not great academic education to development of policy to be consistent with the true situation, some of education policy inappropriate with Muslim condition. In addition, student B said in 1939 the government enforced Muslim people cannot dress in form of Malay, use Malay-Arabic Name; use Malay Language, and Islamic Approach. At that time, Malay people protested and struggled for protect their tradition, until appear Insurgence Movement”

Source: (Students A and B, 2011).

The result above, the government was lack of understanding to Muslim condition, it brought to inappropriate of policies determine. Moreover, the government in 1939 they were effort to destroy minorities and Muslim condition into Thai culture. Therefore, the politico - economic system in three southern border provinces of Thailand there are proportion of most poor 47% and lower salary than other part (Visalo, 2004). From interview, the student, 2011 the faculty of social and political sciences at prince of Songkla University stated about politico-economic. It is found that:

The student C said that, democracy system was not maximum yet to the people especially, Muslims people lack of political participation, because less of political opportunities. Moreover, who had influence in society was politician, and militaries, and laws cannot be useful or solve it. So those made Muslim people unsatisfied and did not trust the government.

Therefore, the country focused on improving the equally with neighboring countries and developed countries but neglected human resources development. Thus, it made people have negative attitude and lack of good human resources in southern border both Thai Buddhist and Thai Muslim”

Source: (Student C, 2011)

The result above that, it was showed the factors of structure management were deficiencies and weaknesses. In addition, policies, laws, and politico-economics were not useful and appropriated with the Malay condition and Islamic approach. Thus, this factor is a part of the root-cause of conflict in these areas.

V.1.3. *The factor of cultures*

The cultures are a factor that influence to attitudes and feelings of the people, such as, don't understanding in language and religions on each other easy causing to gaps and conflict. Especially, a case for three southern border provinces is especially case because the most Muslim have strict on religion. Thus, the Muslim feeling unsatisfying when the government don't respected. Moreover, actually Islam has recognized the importance of justice and agreed to fight for fairness. Thus, when injustice arises by government the most Muslim protest it and increased of violence and more conflict (Visalo, 2004). From interview the student, 2011 the faculty of social and political sciences at prince of Songkla University, it is found that:

“The student D stated that, conflict in three southern border provinces it caused from differences of religions and cultures which is brought to not understand each other and cause to partiality of attitude or thinking method between Muslim and government. in addition student E said, the government not really accepts and cares the lifestyle of Muslim people and then tried to wipe out Malay culture but conversely the Malay people they want to maintain their culture. This thing created the Muslim people unsatisfied and increased of violence in the areas”

Source: (Students D and E, 2011).

The result above, the factor of cultures is a part of the root-cause of conflict causes to violence. The Muslims people feel cannot live by honorable and worthily in Thai society. Unrealized and not give seriously and insignificant of government to the unique culture and lifestyle of the Muslims people cause to Muslims people is secondary class in Thai society.

Thus, three factors described above, the conflict problems and violence taken place in three provinces, the government must consider clearly and find the solution to the point of issue. This issue is very important for the government they must analyze carefully before making decision to solve the problem. It is because in the past most government just solved the problem at the end of problem but did not solve at the root cause of problem. There is also lack of knowledge, understanding the cultures, and lifestyle of the people in the areas. So it is not strange why the problem still has violence.

From described above, the writer made a figure to summarize in brief to easier imagine and understand the three factors of the root of conflict in three southern border provinces.

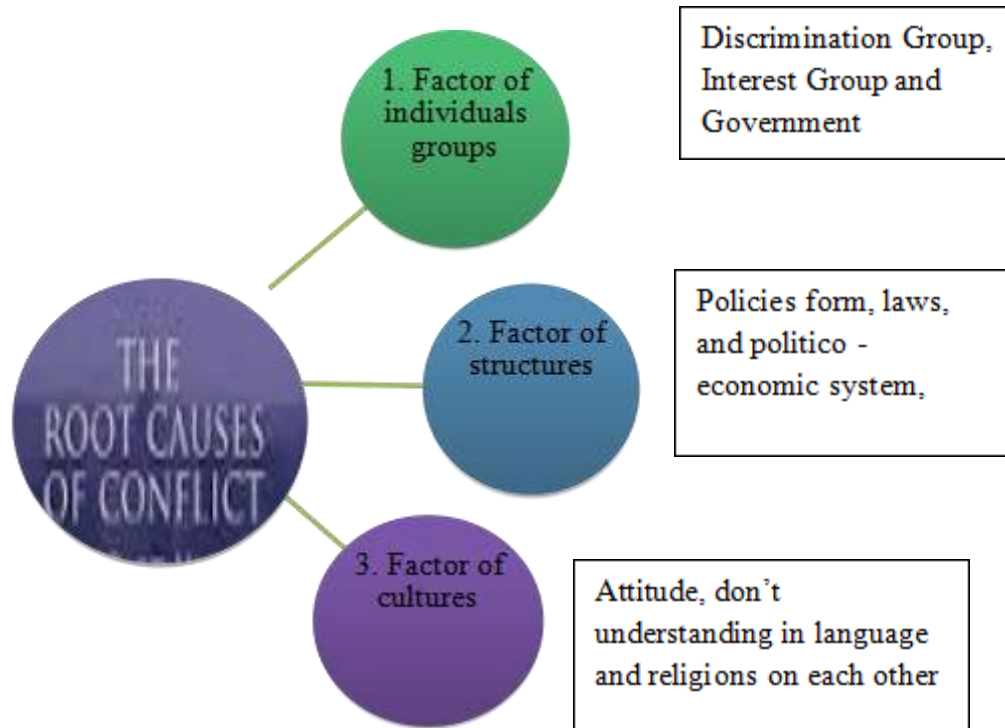


Figure 4: Root-causesof conflict

Source: (Visalo, 2004).

In brief, the figure 4 above, that described the factors of the root-causes of conflict in three southern border provinces of Thailand. Which have three factors are individuals' class factor, structures factor and the cultures factor.

V.2. The conflict solution in three southern border provinces of Thailand by Peaceful concept there are eight methods to solve it

V.1.1. Accept and appreciate of differences

Government must accept and appreciate differences of thinking and cultures. They should not partiality with people who have difference culture, which will be importance basic powerful in Thai society cause to trust and peace each other under several of differences among ethnic groups in the society (KPI, 2005). From interview, it is found that:

“According to student D, the government should not reject Thai society was included several of cultures. Those are can create benefits and values to Thai society because the several of intellectual gather to solve the problem and develop nation. There is also has more alternative to solve the problem”

Source: (Student D, 2011).

V.1.2. Humanity, respect and honor each other

Humanity, respect and honor each other that have anywhere. In the constitution 2007 chapter 1, section 4 it is mention humanity, right, freedom, and equality of people must get protection. (Thai Constitution, 2007: 3) If everyone sees this point as a whole and people understand, the conflict in this areas it is not hard to resolve it (KPI, 2005). From interview the student of faculty of political science at Prince of Songkla University she said that:

*“Student E stated that, just care about their feeling (Muslims) give a friendship and understands each other and has **Tolerance** between Muslim people and government. It is not hard to be happening if everyone be respect and honor and be a humanitarian”*

Source: (Student E, 2011).

In addition, according to Prof. Paul Arthur University of Ulster in North Island who was academic and a part of coordinating cause to “**Peace Talks**”. He was brought to negotiation of conflict at North Island that was the most important beginning to cause peace at North Island (KPI, 2005).

V.1.3. Be honest and serious

The resolution by peace must acted by honestly and seriously based on honest. Thus, the government should show or verify of honestly and seriously to solve the problem. Therefore, sometime using peaceful to solve the problem may show no result in the short term, and may attack those who disagree with the Peaceful Concept such as violent group. Thus, the users of Peaceful Concept must trust and do not be sensitive with criticism because it will make the users of the concept give up (KPI, 2005). From interview the student of faculty of political science at Prince of Songkla University she said that:

“According to student E, the government must honest on duties and show the seriously to the Muslim people and then the Muslim people have to participate to the government as well, because the honest it will be a key to government and Muslim people into the a peaceful”

Source: (Student E, 2011).

V.1.4. Give opportunity on opinion to people in these areas

The government must give opportunity to people to show their opinion and have more political participation including economics, social, and culture without be worry (KPI, 2005). From interview, the student of faculty of political science at Prince of Songkla University she said that:

“Student F said that, the government must generous and respect to decision- making of Muslims people because giving opportunity on opinion is a part of political participation under the democracy system. If the areas of three southern border provinces have more freedom and fearless to show opinion, this point will be created social community has strong more than in the past. Thus, it will be an alternative in protection and rejection of using violence in the areas of three southern border provinces and ongoing to used Peaceful Concept to solve the problem”

Source: (Student F, 2011).

However, has to sympathize to government as well, because they were confusing with these areas. It is hard for identify and get clear of situation no peace in the areas. Thus, sometime Thai government may has to risk to trust with Muslims people, for to show their seriously because acceptance to risk that is one of basic to use Peaceful theory.

V.1.5. Use network system

The government has to use network system to work together, because political crisis cannot solve the problem by some institutes or some organization. Thus, is needed network system in working, and it is basic on political participation and be

equality (KPI, 2005). From interview, the student of faculty of political science at Prince of Songkla University, it is found that:

“Student F stated that, the system should be connecting with every part and level, start from part of people into political sector to support in solving the problem by peaceful concept together. So this method should be participation both government and people in every part not only Muslim people in the areas three southern border provinces”

Source: (Student F, 2011).

V.1.6. Find solution accept by everyone

The solution of every problem should be accepted and possible to be a practice. If the idea or opinion of each part be accepted, it will make discussion to find solution as a both sector can be accept and agree with demand and as most as possible (KPI, 2005). From interview, the student of faculty of political science at Prince of Songkla University she said that:

“The student G stated that, everyone must hold the peaceful method, participation, disclose the reality, and be respect on the several of cultures, ethnics, and religions and create unity and trust to government in the public policy determine, for everyone lives on peaceful”

Source: (Student G, 2011).

V.1.7. Use religion principle, lifestyle, and culture to connect with the peaceful concept

Using religion principle, lifestyle, culture, thinking and believe both Thai Buddhist and Thai Muslims relate with the concept of peaceful way. It will be consistent with lifestyle both Thai Buddhist and Thai Muslim. This will bring to

confidence and believe in using of peaceful concept to resolve the conflict problem (KPI, 2005). From interview, the student of faculty of political science at Prince of Songkla University she said that:

“The student G said that, makes supporting to the people who are Muslim and Buddhist to learning all of thing each other about religion and culture. It is to live on peaceful and have participation to solve the problem for create realize and develop society and state”

Source: (Student G, 2011).

V.1.8. Do clear of reality

Peaceful concept must be clear based on reality. It should disclose to the reality because the reality will be a starting point to walk together and see the root-causes of conflict (KPI, 2005). From interview, the student of faculty of political science at Prince of Songkla University she said that:

“The student G said that, Peaceful concept must be done based on reality but the reality in three southern border provinces was complex which is negative references and rumor to government. It was created confuse on community, and destroyed the trust towards government sector. Thus, reality in the areas should be clear and disclose to the reality in the areas, and that can be accept and agree with every sector. So, it will be a starting point to walk together by reality both historical, religions and cultures”

Source: (Student G, 2011).

In conclude Peaceful concept is a solution to a problem will be breaking down violence situation by the participation both government and people in every part, without partiality, fear, and suspect but create trusty and seriously to each other for peaceful condition. Thus, from described above, that was appeared two important

problems and accessory has to find the answer to solve and measure to solve it. However, the government sector must consider two important problems which are related and connected with the root – cause and solution of conflict problem namely:

First, how do the people and those who disagree with government sector can be participate in resolving the problem in term of policy with unique and difference lifestyle in three southernmost provinces? From interview, the student of faculty of political science at Prince of Songkla University she said that:

“The student H said that, the people every part of the country including group of people who are disagree or even who were anti government, they have to have equal of participation, thinking, political activity development, social economic, and cultures. In every dimension must through structure management and policies are consistent with unique and difference lifestyle in the areas under frame of Thai constitution. Thus needs of people will respond and bring to useful in the factual of practice and also people can be feel the respect and honor by government sector”

Source: (Student H, 2011).

Second, how do the Government sector, common community, in southern border provinces can understand, accept to the difference of cultures and unique and Malay ethnic without worrying that differences will endanger their stability? From interview, the student of Faculty of Political Science at Prince of Songkhla University, it is found that:

“The student H said that, the government must go down directly in the areas of three southern borders because it will be first point of the government to see the situation by themselves and also they will understand with the problem and can find how to solve it. Therefore, it will be no danger to stability because in the past government ever accepted and gave to Muslim women used headscarf, but after accepted

it was not cause to strangely or fell to separate, as more as Muslim people felt good to government that was accepted and gave respected to Muslim lifestyle”

Source: (Student H, 2011).

The result above, everyone must understand and trust each other, both government and people in the areas. The respected and accepted it will be point into the participation of people in the areas. Thus, the government must do that if want to the conflict problem be done. In addition the two importance problems brought to suggestions in term of policy to solve the conflict problem in southern border provinces by peaceful concept. There are five suggestions in term of policy and political system led by military system to solve the conflict problems in three southern border provinces to be practices.

1. Peace Talks

Peace Talk is talking to exchange and learn concept of understanding of each other to feeling and needs, including to solving together by both government and people in conflict region. There is no conflict can be ended without talking, such as the cases of Aceh in Indonesia and Mindanao in Philippine. These conflicts can be done by Talking (Japakkiya, 2013). Thus, it will bring to be practices in three southern border provinces of Thailand namely: (Office for Peace and Good governance, 2005).

- 1.1. Make a conference or meeting to talk to the group of people who are interested to be using peace talk. Even this thing is just small point, if it starts from this small thing the talking will be bigger as **snowball effected**”
- 1.2. Makes approach on how to make the violence group believe and trust and change it into an interesting in peaceful concept should be found.
- 1.3. Create a good relationship and cooperate with communities or Islamic International Organization especially Malaysia which is a neighboring country serious.

2. Peace Net

Peace Net is to create peace net which is to emphasize participation in every part and solving the problem, developing quality of life including reinforcing the people in southern border provinces to have more strong of life (Office for Peace and Good governance 2005).

Presently, the solution to the problem of every part on the average is still lack of unity and causes waste of resources including officials, budgets, times, and may do not the powerful effect in moving to solution of problem efficiently and effectively. There are specific issues and groups still widely unknown. Thus, combinations to big network to connect with the personnel are done in a peaceful way. This process will make people meet each other and more widely becomes an important mechanism in solving the problem powerfully and continuously (Office for Peace and Good governance, 2005).

Moreover, the peace net will be an open space to communicate between personnel of peaceful way and people in the areas, for to exchange information, experience and lesson by working each other. These things will help and create relationship between community and government more strongly (Office for Peace and Good governance, 2005). Thus, it will bring to be practices in three southern border provinces of Thailand namely:

- 2.1. Find the connectors in other parts to be the connection between each other and make conference to government officials, National and Local Politicians, Businessman, Village Philosophers, Buddhist and Islamic Leaders, Community Leaders, Nation and Local Mass Media, Private Development Organization, Academicians, Students, Youth, Woman, and Common People who are interested in the peaceful solution by exchanging knowledge, learning, and listening opinions each other.
- 2.2. Make talking process among people with different historical background. (Thai Buddhist and Thai Muslim by giving opportunity to exchange their feeling including both good and bad experience to get better understanding of each other, such as making a meeting between women who got impact from *Kreu sek* mosque event with the women who had lost their militaries husbands).
- 2.5. Make conference to learn about lesson and create peace from foreign countries, such as at Mindanao and Aceh to study and learn that there are

seminaries or differences with the case in three southern border provinces of Thailand.

2.6. Promote and develop quality of life of people in the southern border region to be good being.

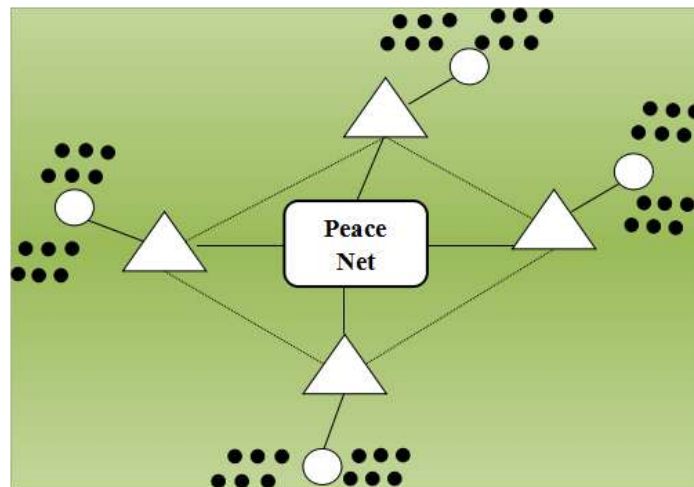





Figure 5: Southern Border Peace Net
Source: (Office for Peace and Good governance, 2005).

Note:

-  = Organization/Institute/Group of people who are a part of Peace Net
-  = Intellectual/Community Leader/village or local philosopher/some institute connect with Peace Net
-  = People in the southern border provinces region

In brief, the figure above that described the creating of peace net to the problem in three southern border provinces of Thailand to be a develop quality of life and be a participation of people in the areas to solve the problem together.

3. Determine social community strategy

It is rise to understanding between people in other parts of the country with Muslims people in the areas about being together under peaceful and differences cultures and lifestyle. The solution to conflict problem in southern border provinces of Thailand will achieve and success, if the government has clear of understanding with society and root-causes of problem. It is including a communication to created good attitude, and appreciated of peaceful, between Thai Buddhist and Thai Muslim based on differences cultures. There are goals to foster giving of attitude to be an honor and respect each other. Thus, that is means to create Thai Buddhist and Thai Muslim to be a trusty and unity (Office for Peace and Good governance, 2005). Thus, it will bring to be practices in three southern border provinces of Thailand namely:

- 3.1. Establishing committee makes strategy and planning of social communication and budgeting to support media production achieve the goal.
- 3.2. Support open space in the media production and propose good and positive aspect, for the communication in society see the peaceful among different religions and ethnics. in form of Local History Documentary in term of travel, Music/Song related with lifestyle and Thai Muslim Culture or Painting Contest that reflect to peaceful on difference of culture, religion and ethnic to collect and disseminate to public or society.

- 3.3. Create Youth Camp in level of high school and university, continuously between Buddhists from north region with Muslim from southern. It is to exchange and learn several cultures each other (Cross – Culture). Thus, the living together with real experience will be create realize on peace.
- 3.4. Make meeting group of people in other regions (north, northeast, central), such as Religion Leaders in southern region to talk, share and exchange knowledge or cultures to find the solution to the problem in way of Cross – Culture.

4. Support Public Administrative Developments

The government must give real authority in political participation to the people. In the Thai Constitution 2007 Chapter 3 Section 78 that mention namely, decentralization to local government and self-decision in their own local affairs and Promote local governments to participate in the implementation of the basic policies of the State and also to development of the local economy and utilities as well as local infrastructure thoroughly, equal in nationwide (Thai Constitution, 2007). Thus, researcher think that government must be serious to reform and adjust public administrative to relate with the lifestyle of Thai Muslim in southern region and several of culture in Thai society (Office for Peace and Good governance, 2005). Thus, it will bring to be practices in three southern border provinces of Thailand namely:

4.1. Establish the committees include Academician, Islamic Academician, and Local Politician, Ministry of Interior for to duty to considerate and develop decentralization.

4.2. Communication makes understanding widely about the importance of public administration. That is consistent with unique lifestyle of people in the areas, and there is conducive form to participation of the people based on democracy system.

4.3. Develop plan for bureaucratic reform both in region and in local related to three southern border provinces.

5. Establish Islamic Law Court (Syariah Law), regarding Family and heritage under court of justice

Deep South Coordination Center (DSCC), Islamic Law Court is the law for the Muslim people un-line with the lifestyle of Muslim people who use Islamic Principle for judgment. If the government supports and promotes it will show the government accepted the unique of Thai Muslim in the areas, and reduce the conditions of conflict problem. In many Non-Islamic countries there are Islamic Law Court, such as England, Sri Lanka, India, and Singapore. More importantly, the Islamic Law Court had been established in *Ayothaya* and *Rattanakosin* era but government did not give significant support to promote it.

However, the reason to establish and promote the Islamic Law Court regarding Family and heritage under court of justice, because it concerns directly to the religion principle. It was difference from civil and commercial law. Thus, the using Islamic Law regarding to family and heritage will lead to peaceful and good feeling to Muslim Malay in southern border provinces (Office for Peace and Good governance, 2005). Thus, it will bring to be practices in three southern border provinces of Thailand namely:

- 5.1. Open space to magistrate, public prosecutor, lawyer, Islamic lawyer and provincial Islamic committee, coming to talk, exchange opinion and make understand each other.
- 5.2. Create clearer communication process, and agree with people. What is Islamic Law Court? Why must be establish Islamic Law Court? And what is good result for Thai society if Islamic Law Court established.

However, if the government to be a proceeds and follows the suggestions in term of policy into peaceful based on **“opportunity in participation, accepted created understanding consistent with unique of cultures and lifestyle of Muslims people”** the violence in three southern border provinces will be less and broken down.

From described above, the writer made a figure to summarize in brief to easier imagine and understand the five suggestions in term of policies to be a peaceful resolution.

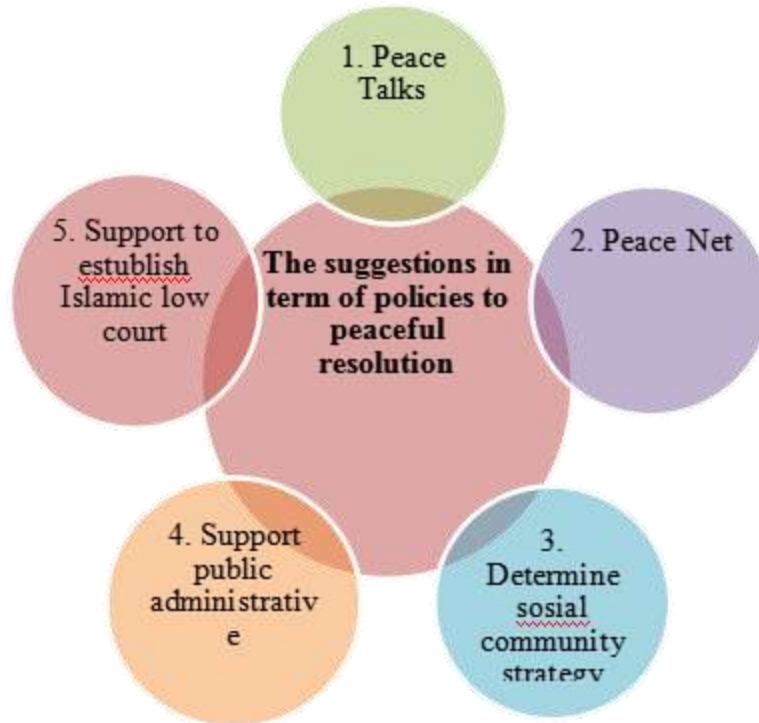


Figure 6: The suggestions in term of policies to be peaceful resolution
Source: (Office for Peace and Good governance, 2005).

In brief, the figure 6 above, described there are five suggestions to be a peaceful in term of policies. Which is a political system led military system to solve the root-causes of problems and finding conflict resolution to be practices and efficiency.