

CHAPTER IV

THE CAPACITY OF INDONESIA IN THE PROCESS OF CONFLICT MEDIATION BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRAN

Conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran is a prolonged conflict caused by the struggle for influence in the region. Both states, although use Islam as the foundation of the state, have a fundamental difference in the understanding. This difference of understanding arose after the death of Prophet Muhammad, about who was worthier of being the leader of Islam after him. Some Muslims chose Abu Bakr as the leader of Islam while others chose Ali Bin Abi Talib. The group that chose Abu Bakr later called themselves as Sunni which then developed rapidly in Saudi Arabia.

Sunni in Saudi Arabia believes that Islam should be kept pure so that the teachings that are brought by the Prophet Muhammad will not be deviated. While some people who support Ali as a leader of Islam after the Prophet Muhammad called themselves as Shiites who later developed rapidly in the Persia/Iranian region. Shia wants Islam to be based on the condition of the time so that Islam becomes more flexible in its implementation. They also have different imams from the Sunnis, preferring Ali ibn Abi Talib rather than the Prophet Muhammad and disbelieving those who do not support Ali, including the companions of the Prophet Muhammad who are regarded as a noble group by the Sunnis. The difference between these two beliefs then triggers a prolonged dispute.

In early 2016 the Saudi Government executed 47 people as suspects of terrorism cases in Saudi Arabia. One of the 47 people is a Shiite leader named Nimr Bakr al-Nimr. The execution triggered the anger of the Shi'ite group in Iran who later held demonstrations and attacks at the Saudi Arabian

embassy in Iran. This attack is considered as diplomatic violation of the Iranian Government as stated in the Vienna Convention article 22, so the Saudi Government recalled their ambassador from Iran, repatriated Iranian ambassadors in Saudi Arabia and terminated the diplomatic ties toward Iran. Termination of diplomatic relations is then followed by other Arab states that became the allies of Saudi Arabia.

Conflicts between these two states could threaten the global security, seeing that both states are the world's largest oil producer that could affect the stability of world economy. Moreover, both states also have superpower state allies; The United States of America and Russia that have been involved in the long cold war. Many parties predict the longer series will occur caused by the execution. Political, economic and ideological influences are able to turn the vibrations into world shocks. This condition must be ended, so not spreading far away. Indonesia as one of the largest Muslim state must certainly play an active role to mediate. Indonesia responded to the incident, offering to be a mediator for the achievement of conflict resolution between the two states. In this chapter the author discusses the reasons why Indonesia proposed to be the mediator in the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran in 2016.

A. Indonesia Experienced in The Process of Conflict Perspective Transformation Using Pragmatic Resolution

Indonesia is an archipelago state that stretches from Sabang to Merauke and has variety of different cultures. This tribal and cultural diversity makes Indonesia one of the world's greatest diversity of populations that particularly susceptible to ideological conflicts. Nevertheless, the Indonesian government succeeded in bringing these various differences into a unity in the ideology of Pancasila. The ideology of Pancasila is the basic foundation in the implementation of the various lines

of Indonesian society life since the beginning of independent in 1945. This ideology was formed by President Sukarno with the spirit to unify the various differences that existed at that time until now. At the beginning of independence, Indonesia faced a conflict influence between two superpowers; the United States and Russia, the conflict was called cold war because each state did not conduct open war, but through proxy war inside third party state.

The cold war that occurred at that time caused losses for many parties, especially developing states that just gained independence. At the time of post-independence was felt struggle for influence from both sides in Indonesia. Indonesia is seen as a state with abundant natural and human resources. With the abundant resources available in Indonesia, it is possible to make Indonesia a resource-supplying state. However, at that time President Sukarno firmly not take sides with any ideology, Indonesia will stand on the Ideology of Pancasila as a unifying ideological difference.

Ideological conflicts within Indonesian society have been felt since the beginning of independence. At that time some groups disagreed with the basic concept of Pancasila which is considered too partial to Muslims. The dominance of the Muslim community in Indonesia at that time was already quite felt, this can be seen from the initial draft of Pancasila verse 1 which reads "Godhead, with the obligation to enforce Islamic law for its adherents". Communities from eastern Indonesia who are predominantly non-Muslim have objected to the draft and will leave the state of Indonesia if no change is made. Then the first verse of Pancasila was replaced by the " Believe in the one supreme God" to this day.

The various ideological conflicts that occurred made Indonesia an experienced state in the resolution of ideological conflict. Basically, ideological conflict is not easy to resolve because each conflicting party has a strong

belief and assume that another ideology is wrong. Little trigger that insult another ideology will result in a prolonged impact. Examples are the conflicts that occurred in Poso between 1998 to 2001 and the GAM rebellion in Aceh from 1976 to 2005. The conflicts in Poso involved Christians and Muslims who were motivated by social jealousy and economic prosperity which were then triggered by attacks by one group against other groups. While the conflict that occurred in Aceh caused by the disapproval of some Muslim community groups against the Indonesian government system that considered deviated from the Islamic Sharia.

The conflict of ideological differences is a factor that triggers a prolonged conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Conflict that occurs is a conflict that is based on differences in view of Islamic Sharia. Each state is a state that uses Islamic law as the foundation of governmental and society daily life implementation. The very basic difference is that the Iranian considers that Islamic teachings can be adapted to the times, while the royal government of Saudi Arabia holds that Islam has been handed down perfectly since the death of Prophet Muhammad so that no reforms are needed in his teachings. Islamic teachings in Iran are referred as Shia teachings and Islamic teachings in Saudi Arabia are referred as Sunni teachings.

Both ideological understandings also have different views about the history of Islam until now. This difference causes these two understandings in Islam mutually destructive to each other. Saudi Arabia and Iran are competing in the form of proxy wars to strengthen their influence and gain alliances. Several states that support Saudi Arabia are Bahrain, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Jordan and Djibouti that follow the Saudi Arabia's termination of diplomatic relation toward Iran. While Iran has loyal supporters in the form of Shiite movements groups spread in various regions of the Middle

East, including, Iraq, Syria and Bahrain that made many forms of trigger to weaken the influence of Saudi Kingdom.

The conflict in the beginning of 2016 is possible to change the form of proxy war between the two states into open war that threatens the world's security and stability. At this point conflict transformation is needed to change the nature of ideological conflict to be pragmatic in see the conflicts. A possible method for resolving ideological conflicts is that the process of conflict transformation becomes more pragmatic for losses resulting from conflict and the benefits gained if conflict can be reduced or even stopped. Pragmatism is a school of philosophy that teaches that what is true is everything that proves itself to be true by looking at the results or results that are of practical use. Thus, it is not the objective truth of the essential knowledge, but rather the practical utility of knowledge to the individuals (Armin, 2003).

Conflict transformation in the field of post-conflict peace building refers to a process which parties in conflict consciously work towards a modification of the structural dimensions of conflict with the short-term objective of renewed violence prevention (or reduction of intensity) and with the long-term objective of sustainable peace (Goetschel, 2009). Conflict transformation is a long-term effort to get the results, and the process of structural change that aimed to overcome any forms of direct violence. The concept of conflict transformation become popular through Lederach thought which considers that the social conflict is an opportunity for constructive social change to reduce violence and improve justice. The focus is on the conflict transformation, rather than on the conflict control and elimination. This process is different from conflict resolution, because it focuses on systemic changes. Conflict transformation, therefore, is a process that involves the transformation of relationships, interests, debates, and constitutions that support the continuity of

violent conflict to bring the changes in relationships, social structures, and conflicting circumstances. Conflict transformation therefore involves the deepest level, namely the development of peace through structure and culture.

In the process of conflict transformation, the third party involved as a mediator must have sufficient knowledge about the background of the conflict. The Government of Indonesia as one of the majority Muslim states, has received much encouragement from various Indonesian Muslim communities to be involved in resolving the conflict. As a state that dominated by the Muslim population, Indonesia already has enough experience to be involved in the process of transforming the conflict between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Iran. Furthermore, Indonesia has experienced in dealing with conflict of ideological differences, so that this important factor is sufficient to engage in conflict resolution process.

As a first step in the mediation process, the Indonesian government stated that would share their experiences in reaching the conflicts settlement. This was to decrease the conflict escalation between Saudi Arabia and Iran that worsen after the execution of Al-Nimr. Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno LP Masyudi visited Saudi Arabia and Iran after the termination of diplomatic relations to delivered a letter from president Joko Widodo which contained suggestion for both leaders to decrease the tension and convey the willingness of Indonesia to help them reach the settlement. The largest contribution of the conflict transformation is that it shifts in focus from international to local actors. The parties in the conflict should re-determine their direction, set the goals to be achieved and adopt different perspectives.

As a multicultural state, Indonesia often involve in ideological conflicts so Indonesia has sufficient experience in its settlement. Similar to Saudi Arabia and Iran, the

multiculturalism conflict in Indonesia frequently within the same belief; Islam, because as a maritime state the population of Indonesia is so diverse, but the basic ideology of Pancasila can unite all these differences. The process of transforming ideological conflicts using pragmatic resolution has also been carried out by the Government of Indonesia on domestic conflicts in Aceh. Conflict in Aceh caused by ethnic sentiment towards another was transformed into a conflict of power in the region so that the Indonesian government treated Aceh province differently from other provisions. The province of Aceh currently has a self-rule so that it can make its own policy on its territory.

The dynamics of the conflict with the ideological background that occurred in Indonesia is the great capital of Indonesia to be involved as a mediator in the conflict between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Iran. The possible process of conflict resolution by the Indonesian government is the transformation of the conflict by using pragmatic conflict resolution. This process invites conflict parties to ease tensions to gain mutual benefits and the realization that conflicts will inevitably cause major harm to the parties involved. The diversity of the Indonesian population makes Indonesia a vulnerable area to ideological conflict, but the difference is actually made into a force. This is as expressed by vice president Yusuf Kalla at the OIC meeting in April 2016 in Turkey (Nisrina, 2015).

The OIC member meeting discussed the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Most of the OIC member states are alliances of Saudi Arabia, so the negotiations become unbalanced. Nevertheless, the Indonesian government declare not take a side with any faction, although contradictory with the majority of the other member countries. This attitude is in accordance with Indonesia's independent foreign policy, so that in any conflict Indonesia remains a neutral party. Even, Indonesia

seeks to take a greater role in preventing and resolving conflicts that occur. During the meeting, Indonesia conveyed the importance of dialogue between the two sides to improve relations and good neighborly attitudes between Islamic countries. Although Indonesia's stance contradicts the majority of OIC members, Indonesia receives great appreciation even though it is not realized in the OIC Summit in Turkey (Nisrina, 2015).

B. Indonesia Experienced in Managing International Conflict Resolution

Relations between states do not always go well. The attitude of the state that will always pursue their national interests, causing conflicts of interest among states in the world. These interests can create good relations of cooperation between states and can also lead to conflict. If agreement is not established, then conflict is happening. Conflicts can threaten existing diplomatic relations and even the worst impact is sparking the war between states.

In early January 2016 the royal government of Saudi Arabia made a diplomatic termination toward the Republic of Iran. The action was carried out by the Saudi Arabian Government after Iranian militants attacked the Saudi Arabian embassy for Iran, the militants are protested against the Saudi government's decision to execute dead Shiite leader Nimr Bakr al-Nimr along with 47 others as suspects of terrorism and hate speech. This attack is considered as diplomatic violation by Iranian government as stated in the Vienna Convention article 22. Termination of diplomatic relations then followed by other Arab states that became the allies of Saudi Arabia.

A week after the termination of diplomatic relations by the Saudi royal government against the Republic of Iran, the President of Indonesia Joko Widodo sent special envoys to Saudi Arabia and Iran. This envoy brought a letter addressed to both leaders containing a call

to reduce tensions. The envoy was well received by both sides. Joko Widodo explained that the purpose of sending special envoys as a form of government's seriousness mediates the tension between Arab and Iran (Sumantri, 2016).

The Republic of Indonesia president and vice president's statement raised questions about the reasons behind Indonesia's involvement in the conflict mediation process and the ability to reach mutual agreement. Based on the concept of mediation effort by Margret Johannsen and Christian Weidlich (2014), in the mediation process there are several factors that must be met; Approval, Ability to Transform the Conflict Perspective, Control the Communication Channel, Timeliness Management and Influence the Parties. These factors determine how the role of third parties will be effective in the conflict resolution process. Indonesia since the beginning of independence has been heavily involved in maintaining world peace. These experiences constitute Indonesia's basic capital in the mediation process of conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

In the concept of conflict mediation process by Margret Johannsen and Christian Weidlich (2014), the first factor to be met is "Approval of Mediator". Acceptance of the mediator by all parties can derive from manifold considerations. Neutrality, which is often cited as the core quality of an 'honest broker', can but need not necessarily be among the motives for accepting a mediator. Conversely, partiality or even pursuing one's own interests need not preclude such acceptance. It can even be argued that a mediator's vested interest in the matter at hand is perceived by the parties as a sound basis for getting involved. In any case, the attitude and status of the mediator need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The ability of state in the conflict mediation process determined by its experience in involvement of conflict resolution process that undertaken. Indonesia as a

state that committed to maintaining world stability and peace has been involved in various conflict mediation processes. In the conflict that occurred in the ASEAN region, Indonesia plays an active role to maintain stability in the Region. Some conflicts that are successfully mediated by the Indonesian government are the conflict that occurred on the borders of Thailand-Cambodia, Cambodia-Vietnam and South China Sea disputes. The Indonesian government cleverly takes advantage of its position to resolve the issue. Indonesia's involvement in these conflicts has made Indonesia experienced to engage in a conflict mediation process between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Indonesia will also take advantage of its position as a strategic partner for both states in conflict to obtain a settle agreement. This is due to the position of Indonesia as a state with the largest Muslim population in the world. With similarity in this belief, Indonesia becomes a party who knows the ins and outs of the problems, so have an opportunity in reaching mutual agreement. In many areas Indonesia has close relations with both states and some states that have an interest in the conflict, so the Indonesian government has a chance to influence the policy to be made. This position is considered sufficient for Indonesia to be approved for its involvement as a conflict mediator. The arrival of a special envoy from President Joko Widodo was also welcomed by both states and they were willing to decrease the tension. Saudi Arabia and Iran as conflicting states also agreed to Indonesia's involvement in the mediation process.

C. Indonesia Experienced in the Control of Communication Channels

The discussion on conflict resolution cannot be separated from the role of the third party as a mediator to the conflict. The function of mediator in the conflict resolution is to resolve the dispute which is usually done

informally that require the participation of neutral third party to assist the disputing parties to resolve the conflict. While the purpose of mediation is to create the existence of the contract or a direct relationship between the parties in dispute. In other words, the purpose of mediation is to reach an agreement between states in conflict or at least can be established a communication channel between states in conflict regarding the problems they dealing.

Good communication skills required by the mediator as an essential prerequisite for conflict resolution. In this case, the ability of Indonesia evidenced by the closeness of the president Joko Widodo with the leaders of both states. This closeness can be seen from various aspects, one of them is a state visit. Launched by the official website of the Republic of Indonesia Secretariat Cabinet, President Joko Widodo made a visit to Saudi Arabia in September 2015. The visit was specially welcomed by King Salman Al-Saud who directly greeted under the stairway of Republic of Indonesia Presidential plane gate that landed at King Abdul Aziz International Airport. During this visit, the president Joko Widodo received King Abdul Aziz medals that directly given by King Salman. A similar medal is ever given by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Barack Obama, David Cameron, George Bush and Shinzo Abe. This visit resulted in reciprocal visits made king Salman to Indonesia in March 2017 by bringing 1500 people, including 25 ministers and princes. This visit is the strong evidence for the closeness of the two states.

Such visit also already done by President Joko Widodo in Iran in December 2016. At that visit, President Joko Widodo meet the Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani and Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei. President Joko Widodo state visit to Iran was used to enhance the cooperation in fields of oil and gas, including oil field management cooperation and investment of oil refinery in

Iran and Indonesia. Reciprocal visits were carried out by Iran in January 2016 by the Iranian embassy in the Indonesian and Iranian business delegation that welcomed by the Vice-President Jusuf Kalla. This meeting was intended to discuss the follow-up of President Joko Widodo discussion with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on the coffee break of Asian-African Conference in April 2015. At that time the President Joko Widodo and President Hassan Rouhani wanted to increase the business to business relations between the two states. Indonesian proximity to Iran has been going well and will simplify the communication process of conflict settlement with Saudi Arabia.

Indonesia relation with the two states in conflict is a close relationship. Besides the state visit, the relation also in the aspect of the economy, technology development, investment, Hajj quota, etc. Indonesia also has similarity in the majority of Muslim in the state that make Indonesia has an easy communication channel with both states. In its efforts to mediate in the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran, Indonesia attempted to bring the two parties in dispute to communicate. Indonesia as a mediator must create a forum for negotiations to resolve the problems that occurred.

Diplomatic strategy that has ever undertaken by Indonesia in the mediation process of Vietnam-Cambodia border conflict in 1978. On December 25, 1978, Vietnam suddenly invaded the territory of Cambodia. This attack certainly shocked Cambodia and other ASEAN states, which had been hoping for a Peace, Free and Neutral Zone to be established in Southeast Asia. Under the principles of international law, Vietnam's occupation of Cambodia in 1979 clearly violated international norms on the principle of "noninterference and non-use of force" and contrasted with Indonesian foreign policy at the time (Maradona, 2009). Vietnam invasion directly provoked the China attack and brought the Soviet Union.

Indonesia's foreign minister, Mochtar Kusumaatmaja, immediately made a diplomatic shuttle by visiting states in the conflict to get direct view of conflict from each party that involved. From the shuttle diplomacy, a special meeting of Foreign Ministers was held in Bangkok on January 12, 1979. During the meeting, the Foreign Ministers requested that all foreign troops should be withdrawn immediately from the Cambodian territories. Nevertheless, the demand was ignored by Vietnam. The second attempt by Indonesia was to announce "12 Articles Proposal" through a meeting to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the Asian-African Conference that held in April 1985 in Bandung. This "12 Article Proposal" then became the foundation of Cambodian conflict political settlement and followed by Jakarta Informal Meeting (JIM) I and II which purposed as effort in peacekeeping between ASEAN state member.

In the conflict between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Iran, Indonesia took the same steps as in the conflicts that had been dealt with. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Retno LP Masyudi made a visit to the states involved. This visit contains an invitation to decrease tension and see the perspective directly from disputants. This move proved effective with good reception from both leaders of the states. Indonesia's experience in controlling conflict communication is a factor that proves Indonesia's ability to mediate conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

D. Indonesia Experienced in Timeliness Conflict Management

This aspect covers the ability of mediator to control the time according to the requirements of the mediation process. Determining the right time will affect the conflict settlement process. At the beginning of conflict is a critical situation, so that it needs to perform an intense approach to states involving in the conflict. In the

most basic sense, conflict management refers to any effort by a third party at preventing a conflict from getting worse. It follows from this point of origin that conflict management as an approach presumes that some conflicts have already occurred or are occurring. Conflict management also presumes that conflict can somehow be contained, controlled, and possibly even ended. In considering each presumption in light of the other, it is fairly evident that conflict management should be measured equally between realistic and optimistic, pragmatic and hopeful.

Considering the development of armed conflict in the region of the Middle East today, the role of Indonesia as a global player in realizing peace and prosperity in Middle East is considered important. Indonesia as the world's most populous Muslim state has a well-targeted and inclusive grand strategy of diplomacy in the Middle East conflict mediation efforts as part of the implementation of the foreign policy of the Republic of Indonesia, as well as the Indonesian mediation in the conflict between Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The diplomacy strategy leads to concrete steps in resolving conflicts in the Middle East region in an effort to create a regional order in line with Indonesia's diplomatic mission.

Indonesia is a state that known rarely use hard power in the process of international negotiations, although the strength of the Indonesian military is strong. Indonesian military forces tend to be used in joint peace missions with UN peacekeeping missions. In the process of international negotiations, Indonesia uses soft power diplomacy method to reach mutual agreement. Power is the ability of a state to influence or control other states to obtain or maintain the national interest, i.e. prestige, territory, and security; use influence, persuasion, reward, threat, and use of force through military and economic sanctions to make other states do what they do not want

(Papp, 1984). Soft power diplomacy method is often done by Indonesia especially in ASEAN region.

ASEAN is an association of Southeast Asian states established as a forum of cooperation in various fields, including the settlement of problems between member states. Indonesia as a member state has an active role in dispute resolution. Indonesia's dispute resolution process is not under pressure from military forces, but rather through active diplomacy by its ministers. Hard power diplomacy method is not done because it is seen will cause longer problems and in some cases is seen there are unequal strength, as in conflict of seizure area of south china sea (Tahegga Primananda Alfath, Riyo Lian Nugroho, 2017). According to Joseph Nye Jr. soft power is a concept developed to illustrate the ability of a state to engage in cooperation with other states without using hard power i.e. weapons or material (Joseph, 2014). There are some things that support the creation of soft power include: Cultural, Political values and Diplomacy.

Solving the dispute with soft diplomacy method has its own challenges that are different from hard power diplomacy method. The challenge of multilateral diplomacy by Indonesia in the 90s was unfavorable, because it was hampered by human rights issues in East Timor which became the weak point of Indonesian diplomatic delegation at international level. However, Indonesia's position is now more confident as human rights issues are over, even Indonesia has volunteered to become a member of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland. Indonesia is also actively involved in the settlement of international disputes, although using the soft power method of diplomacy results obtained quite maximally. Examples include settlement of Vietnam-Cambodia border conflict, Cambodia-Thailand, southern China's maritime dispute and human rights issues against the Rohingya minority in Thailand.

Solving these disputes requires a specific strategy in handling them, one of which is a well-organized conflict resolution management. This is an important mediator role in the conflict mediation process, so as not to aggravate the conflict situation, but instead make the situation more conducive. Indonesia's role in the international conflict resolution process has made Indonesia a state with enough experience to take advantage of the position and time to manage the problem-solving process in the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The conflict resolution process between Saudi Arabia and Iran requires special handling by experienced parties because the conflict is a long-standing conflict and needs a proper resolution mechanism.

E. Indonesia Capable to Influence the Disputant Parties

Indonesia is a state that expertise at seeing situations in the conflict resolution process. This capability is evidenced by Indonesia's role in the border dispute resolution process between Cambodia and Vietnam. Taking advantage of Indonesia's role as chair of ASEAN, Indonesia made shuffled diplomacy to the involved states in the dispute to obtain information directly from conflict actors, even, Indonesia approaches states that are not directly involved in the conflict, in this case Russia, China and the United States. Indonesia bargaining power at that time was not enough to affect the both states in conflict, several diplomatic meetings did not succeed in persuading Vietnam to withdraw its troops from Cambodia. However, Indonesia sees the opportunity in Russia's desire to improve diplomatic relations with China, which has close proximity to Vietnam and Vietnam's reliance on economic aid from the united states. The United States government finally agreed to reduce its economic aid to Vietnam if the Vietnamese government did not withdraw their troops from Cambodia.

In today's era, Indonesia's bargaining position is better compared to the at border conflict between Cambodia and Vietnam. In the context of international relations, bargaining position is very important in the dynamics of global politics. Bargaining position is closely linked to negotiations by a state to achieve the national interests. In the effort to achieve these interests, it is necessary any agreements that are not harm the other states interest, which are targeted the cooperation between states that are willing to accept offers from interested states.

The strength of Indonesia in the region proved through the strong influence in ASEAN. Indonesia is the biggest state in the region that has the most powerful influence. In addition, Indonesia has always trusted to be the leaders of ASEAN because of good policy for all states in the region. In the eyes of the world, ASEAN region is a very important place. In terms of power and economy, ASEAN is the second most powerful after the African Union. Although many states have not developed like in East Asia, however, ASEAN able to show their actual role. That all can happen because Indonesia has a very big influence.

The good relations will create conducive communication atmosphere to ease conflicts resolution. Indonesia's strategic position is an important factor for Indonesia to influence the policies of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran. Indonesia is a state with the largest Muslim population in the world and a lucrative market for both states. Every year Indonesia sends thousands of pilgrims to Saudi Arabia which is a big enough for the Saudi Arabia income from tourism factors. In addition, Indonesian workers in Saudi Arabia quite a lot to help sustain the activities of the Saudi Arabia society in everyday life. Indonesia's strategic closeness to Iran lies in the co-operation of natural resources and economies. After

the lifting of UN sanctions against Iran, the cooperation with Indonesia continues to increase.

As a state that has the ability to see the situation and optimize the position, Indonesia has a chance to resolve the tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran. This tension is a protracted conflict and continues to fluctuate over time. It needs a mediator who can be neutral, experienced and understand the beliefs of both parties to achieve peace. Mediators must also be able to build the trust among disputing parties that the mediator can help them to resolve the problem that is happening.