

**THE REASONS OF INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT PROPOSE TO BE
THE MEDIATOR IN THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE KINGDOM OF
SAUDI ARABIA AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRAN IN 2016**

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2018**

ABSTRACT

The Indonesian government offered to be a mediator in the conflict between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Iran which heated up in early 2016. The conflict was marked by the termination of diplomatic relation by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia toward the Republic Iran, withdrawing all Saudi Arabian diplomats and expelling Iranian diplomats in Saudi Arabia. This conflict is the culmination of a prolonged conflict between the two parties.

The Indonesian government quickly sent special envoys to decrease tensions and offered to become mediators. This undergraduate thesis will discuss the reasons Indonesia offered to be involved as a conflict mediator in terms of Indonesia's capacity as a mediator. Indonesia as a multicultural state has sufficient experience to overcome ideological conflicts between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

The conflict is the result of differences in Islam. The closeness of Indonesia with the two states and the strength of Indonesia in the ASEAN Region is a strategic position that is beneficial to be utilized as an opportunity to influence the policies of the two states.

Keyword: Middle East, Conflict Resolution, Mediation Effort

INTRODUCTION

Spread across a chain of thousands of islands between Asia and Australia, Indonesia has the world's largest Muslim population (BBC, 2016). Estimated that the number of Muslims reached 207 million people, mostly follow Islam Sunni. This huge number implies that about 13% of Muslims in the world live in Indonesia and also implies that the majority of the population in Indonesia is Muslim (Islam di Indonesia, 2015). Although the majority of the population is Muslim, the state is not an Islamic state that based on Islamic law. Indonesia is a democratic secular state but with a strong Islamic influence. The concept of multiculturalism has long dominated the lives of Indonesian society. This relates to the Indonesian society that have many ethnic groups, religions, and races. Therefore, the concept of multicultural society become a relevant topic to study because it fits the motto of Indonesia "*Bhineka Tunggal Ika*".

In the international political arena Indonesia involved in many activities aimed to maintain international stability and security. Indonesia presence in the scope of United Nations and plays in active role. In October 2006 Indonesia managed into the Security Council of the United Nations through voting conducted by the General Assembly at United Nations Headquarters, New York. In the scope for the non-permanent membership of UN Security Council to represent the Asian region. The Indonesia chosen as the UN Security Council shows the international community recognition towards Indonesia's role in creating peace and security in the region and global levels.

A conflict that warmly happens in beginning of 2016 is the execution by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia toward 47 suspects of terrorism in Saudi Arabia that one of them was a Shiite Leader named Nimr Bakr Al-Nimr and another one was the leader of Al-Qaeda Islam movement group. They are suspected as a terrorist in Saudi Arabia that controlled by Shiite

group in Saudi Arabia kingdom between 2003-2006 (Fisher, 2016). The decision by Saudi Arab Government provoke the wave of protest around the world of Shiite believer, especially from Iranian people that dominated by Shiite. Then, Iran Government strictly condemned that decision of the Saudi Arabia kingdom that then followed by the attack of Saudi Arabia embassy in Teheran, Iran by Shiite protesters that support their leader Nimr Bakr Al-Nimr (Staff, 2016).

As an affirmative action of that incident, the Government of Saudi Arabia pulls out their ambassador from their embassy in Iran and cut off the diplomatic relation toward Iran. In addition to support the Saudi Arabia decision, some state in solidarity of Arab League also pulls out their ambassador in Iran as a solidarity action and the condemnation of the attack of Iranian people toward Saudi Embassy in Teheran.

The U.N. Security Council condemning the attacks by Iranian protesters on Saudi Arabian diplomatic premises "in the strongest terms" and calling on Iranian authorities to protect diplomats and their property. UN member states agreed to a comprehensive code of conduct for ambassadors and their hosts, resulting in the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations of 1961, which took effect in 1964. The 1961 convention is very precise about this. Article 22 states: "The premises of the mission shall be inviolable. The agents of the receiving state [the host] may not enter them, except with the consent of the head of the mission." The same clause places the host state "under a special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of the mission against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity" (The Associated Press, 2016).

The conflict between the two states has been going on for many years, although not in the form of direct open conflict, but it feels quite worrying. That is because states in the

Middle East is the biggest crude producer in the world that can affect the stability of the world economy (Nasution, 2016). Because of the stuck and complexity of the conflict in the Middle East between Saudi Arabian and Iran it's becomes a serious topic that raised in international issues.

The internationalization of this conflict provides the opportunity of the states outside Middle East to being intervened. Indonesian Government in this case try to get involved in mediating the conflict. This is seen by the statement of Indonesia President Joko Widodo to the press that "Indonesia will send special envoy to Iran and Saudi Arabia in as soon as possible". Also, the statement of Indonesia Vice President Jusuf Kalla in metrotvnews.com "that Indonesia will maximize the effort of conflict resolution in dispute between Iran and Saudi Arabia" (Sumantri, 2016). This Undergraduate Thesis will try to explain the reason of Indonesian Government want to mediate the conflict between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Republic of Iran in 2016.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

To analyze the reason of Indonesia Government, want to mediate the conflict between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Republic Islam of Iran in 2012, we need some theory as a theoretical framework. In the further discussion, this thesis will describe the concept of mediation effort and theory of foreign policy. Christopher W. Moore explain the meaning of mediation in his book *The Mediation Process* 3rd Edition, mediation is an extension or elaboration of the negotiating process that involve the intervention of an acceptable third party who has limits (or no) authoritative decision-making power. This person assists the principal parties to voluntarily reach a mutually acceptable settlement of the issues in disputes (Moore, 2003). The definition of mediation in general is a conflict management process whereby a dispute parties requests or receives assistance from individuals, groups,

organizations or states as a third party to resolve disputes or misperceptions without physical contact or violation of the law. The dispute parties must agree with the intervention made by third party, reduce tension and seriously negotiate to obtain satisfactory results. (Bohmelt, 2011).

A Policy Brief Journal on mediation mentions several factors involved in successful mediation. These dimensions are recurring themes in the literature on mediation. The theoretical dilemmas posed by these considerations are the most important factors in the practice of mediation. Since most cases of mediation include at least some of these dimensions, we thus contend that these factors will be conducive to successful mediation (Margret Johannsen and Christian Weidlich, 2014). Due to the difficulties in assessing the constructive interpretation of facts from outside, the “Policy Brief” limits to the following factor;

A. The Mediator Approved by Conflicting Parties

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 (Margret Johannsen and Christian Weidlich, 2014).

Mediation, whether by individual, organization or other state, has always been an important method of managing international conflict (Holsti, 1966). It is important technique of conflict management and growing importance because of

the increase in number and seriousness of international conflicts and it deserve a serious and systematic study.

To mediate the conflict the disputant must be willing to allow a third party to enter the disputes and assist them in reaching a resolution. Acceptability does not necessary mean that disputant eagerly welcome the involvement of the mediator and are willing to do exactly as they says. It's does mean that the parties approve of the mediator's presence and are willing to listen and seriously consider the suggestion on how to manage and resolve their differences.

B. The Mediator Capable of Transform the Context of Conflict

This relates to the ability of the mediator to positively influence the context of a conflict situation, for example by enhancing trust and helping foster an atmosphere, which promotes mutual understanding. To resolve the conflict peacefully, a third party must understand the conflict; The reasons behind the conflict and why the conflict continues (Bohmelt, 2011). Transforming the perception of the conflict mean that radicalized parties must change their self-perceptions. Helping new identities emerge is a way of de-radicalizing the dispute and is often a precondition for normalizing the situation. Transforming a conflict by creating a climate of hope and a minimum level of trust is both crucial and extremely challenging (Margret Johannsen and Christian Weidlich, 2014).

The third party's role in this model is that of structuring the participants' discussion, feeding in information derived from the third party's experiences in handing conflicts at other levels, giving the participant the freedom, opportunity and motivation to move away from official position, and analyzing the conflict and exploring new ways of looking at it.

C. The Mediator Capable to Control the Communication Channels

Talks between conflicting parties are rarely directed at the respective counterparts only, but also target diverse audiences whose anticipated or factual response in turn affects the dynamics of direct communication. In order not to let this configuration become counterproductive, the outside world needs to be considered and the parties must be prevented from letting problem solving turn into propaganda. Communication is one of the most important functions of the mediator (Margret Johannsen and Christian Weidlich, 2014).

A more successful model of mediation as an aspect of conflict management treats it not as a distinctive input unrelated to the nature of the conflict, but as a structural aspect of bargaining and negotiation. An analysis of mediation can only be undertaken if it is considered as an integral part of bargaining and negotiation. Steven has stated that;

“Analysis of mediation is not possible except in the context of a general analysis of bargaining and negotiation. That is unless the investigator has some theories about the agreement process in negotiation; it is difficult to see how he can analyze the contribution of the mediator to the conflict resolution” (Stevens, 1963)

The communication that exists between the conflicting parties will affect the mediation process. The stronger relationship will make it easier for the mediator to resolve the dispute. The third party should have the ability to maintain good communication channels through the process of reconciliation and dialogue to resolve disputes. The main purpose of mediator is to resolve the dispute in a peaceful way.

D. The Mediator Capable to Manage the Conflict Timeliness

This aspect captures the importance of timing in successful mediation. An early intervention may prolong the conflict and a late response may also be deadly. The timeliness of mediation is impossible to judge at the time of action and can only be proven in retrospect (Margret Johannsen and Christian Weidlich, 2014).

Timeliness in the mediation process is a very important factor for the achievement of peace. In some conflicts there is often a friction caused by a slow response in response to an event. The ability of the mediator in timeliness is determined by experience in the conflict resolution process ever undertaken and the accuracy of reading conflict situations.

E. The Mediator Capable to influence the parties

This factor refers to the degree of control a mediator wields over the parties to a given conflict. However, there is no way of precisely determining how power translates into influence (Margret Johannsen and Christian Weidlich, 2014). Although a mediator cannot force an outcome, the process is very often effective. The key is the ability of the mediator to create a more productive discussion than the parties could have had by themselves.

Associated with the ability of mediators to be able to give effect to the conflicted state, the mediator's background becomes an important factor. The background is including the relationships with conflicting parties, the influence of mediators on the policies and strengths of mediators in policy making. The agreement made through the mediation process basically a shared agreement between the conflicting parties. The mediator is only authorized as a liaison to the interests of both parties. In this position the ability of mediators in influencing the policy made becomes an important factor for the achievement of peace.

Indonesia is an archipelagic state with a wide variety of tribes and cultures. Each tribe has an ideology that is different from the others, making it vulnerable to ideological conflict. The frequent ideological conflicts experienced by Indonesia are a valuable experience to help other states in ideological conflict. The conflict between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Iran is a prolonged conflict caused by differences in belief in Islam. Post-termination of diplomatic relations by Saudi Arabia, the Indonesian Government expressed its willingness in the mediation process. Indonesia already has various experiences in the conflict resolution process, both national and international scope. These experiences are Indonesia's main capital to engage in conflict mediation processes between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

THE REASON OF INDONESIA GOVERNMENT PROPOSE TO BE A MEDIATOR IN SAUDI ARABIA – IRAN CONFLICT

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. 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 journal the author discusses the reasons why Indonesia proposed to be the mediator in the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran in 2016.

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. 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. 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. However, at that time President Sukarno firmly not take sides with any ideology. 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. 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.

The conflict of ideological differences is a factor that triggers a prolonged conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran. 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.

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). 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 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 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 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.

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. 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).

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.

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 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.

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.

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. 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.

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. 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.

CONCLUSION

The conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran is motivated by the prolonged ideological teaching in Islam, Sunnis and Shiites. Saudi Arabia as the birthplace of Islam felt that Islamic teachings should be in accordance with that brought by the Prophet Muhammad, while Iran is an Islamic state that considers the teachings of Islam must be adapted to the development of era so that it is not fully in accordance with the teachings of Prophet Muhammad. This very fundamental difference resulted in both groups being hostile to each other. In ideological conflict, it will not be able to achieve conflict resolution if each side still maintains its conviction and intolerant to the other. The mediator's task in this conflict is to transform the conflict more pragmatically so that each party can reduce the tension to reach a settle agreement.

The conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran reached a peak in early 2016 when the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia cut off the diplomatic ties toward Iran, the severance of diplomatic relations was caused by the Iranian attack on the Saudi embassy in Tehran, then Iran considered was violated Saudi Arabia's sovereignty and Vienna Convention article 22, moreover Saudi Arabia considers that Iran supports the attack. Previously the Saudi kingdom executed 47 terror suspects in Saudi Arabia, one of whom was a Shiite cleric named Nimr Bakr al-Nimr, this execution triggered the anger of the Shi'a population in various areas that

led to the attack on the Saudi embassy in Tehran. The kingdom of Saudi Arabia has never tolerated all forms of rebellion in its territory, so Saudi Arabia considers this execution is not due to sectarian factors but it is part of the Saudi kingdom's efforts against the form of terrorism. However, the Iranian government considers that the execution was caused by sentiments against Shi'ites in Saudi Arabia, so Iran gave criticism of the execution. However, the Iranian government rejected Saudi Arabia's allegations that Iran supported the attack.

Sectarian issues have always been the trigger for rapid conflict in the Middle East region. Forms of conflict resembles the scenario of proxy war post-cold war between the United States and Russia. Both sides sought to strengthen its influence in the region and weaken other, in forms of conflict in other regions such as Bahrain, Yemen and Syria. This conflicts in the Middle East region could endanger the stability of global security because the Middle East region is a region with a strong economy and the world's major oil producer. The internationalization of these conflicts prompted many states to get involved in order to get their interests, including Russia and America which are strong allies of both sides.

A few days after the diplomatic termination by the Saudi Arabian kingdom toward the republic of Iran, the Indonesian government sent the Foreign Minister as a special envoy to deliver a letter from President Joko Widodo containing an appeal to not increase the tension. The Indonesian foreign minister also expressed Indonesia's willingness to mediate the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Indonesia's willingness is motivated by Indonesia's ability in mediation process of conflict that ever done. Some of the conflicts that managed to reach a settle agreement with the involvement of Indonesia as mediators were the border conflict between Cambodia-Thailand, Vietnam-Cambodia, Southern China's maritime dispute and the Rohingya minority human rights issue.

In the journal “The Concept of Conflict Mediation Process”, Margret Johansen and Cristian Weidlich (2014) explained that to be involved in the mediation process, the mediator must meet several factors. These factors became the basis for an assessment of Indonesia's ability to mediate the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran which culminated in early January 2016.

The first factor is the approval as mediator. The process of conflict mediation will not be possible if the conflicting parties do not agree to be mediated by the parties that involved in the mediation process. This agreement is determined by the mediator's ability in the mediation process that has been done before, the proximity of the mediator to the conflicting party and the neutrality of the mediator. Indonesia's position now has enough experience in conflict mediation process, especially ideological conflicts because Indonesia is a state with a lot of population diversity. Indonesia's strategy is powerful in the process of resolving ideological conflict. In the international scene Indonesia is also involved in various conflict mediation processes. So, Indonesia has sufficient experience in international dispute settlement.

What is needed in the process of mediating ideological conflict is the transformation of the conflict toward the pragmatic resolution. This transformation approach emphasizes the causes and consequences of conflict. Conflict, of course, results in losses on many factors, both material and non-material. So, the process is trying to convince both parties in conflict to be willing to ease the tension so that the losses that will occur can be minimized and even will be beneficial for both parties if a peaceful agreement is reached. The ability of mediators in this process of conflict transformation is the second factor described by Margaret Johansen and Cristian Weidlich in their journal. Conflict transformation is a conflict resolution method that always undertaken by Indonesia, at the beginning of the conflict Indonesian government usually make shuttle diplomacy to get information directly from the conflict and offer

mutually beneficial solution, because prolonging the conflict will increase the amount of loss. The Indonesian government is able to transform the conflict understanding in Saudi Arabia and Iran dispute with pragmatic conflict resolution.

A third factor is Indonesia's ability to control the communication process between conflicting parties. Communication is an important factor in the conflict mediation process because with well-established communication will result in a good deal. Indonesia's ability in channeling the communication process can be seen from the shuttle diplomacy that was immediately undertaken by the Indonesian government after the conflict. Before the tension increased, it needs the parties that can reduce the tension. In this position the mediator must be able to influence the party in conflict and have good time management. Many conflicts get worse due to improper time management.

Indonesia is a state that has already experienced in conflict mediation process. This experience made Indonesia has a good time management in the process of reaching mutual agreement on the conflict between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Indonesia also a strategic partner for both states, because with the largest Muslim population in the world, Indonesia has a common understanding with Saudi Arabia and Iran. Both states are using system of Islamic government that based in the Quran as the foundation of the state. In bilateral relations, cooperation between both states and Indonesia continues to increase from time to time. This strategic position is an opportunity for Indonesia to be able to influence the two states in conflict to achieve an agreement that benefits both parties.

The conclusion of this undergraduate thesis is that Indonesia has qualified qualities to engage in the mediation process of conflict between the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Iran so that the Indonesian government offering to become a mediator. Indonesia's experience in the conflict resolution process were in Cambodia-Vietnam,

Thailand-Vietnam border conflict, South China Sea territorial dispute and Rohingya minority human rights issue. Indonesia also has a strategic position that can be exploited to influence policies made by the kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Iran. This strategic position includes closeness in the majority of the Muslim population, bilateral cooperation and strategic position in the ASEAN region.

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