

## **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Background**

A conflict is an event that is certain or is being experienced by several countries in the world. This is usually triggered by several factors, namely internal factors and external factors. External factors are factors that originate outside the country. These factors usually come from other parties outside the warring country. This resulted in widespread conflict because the parties involved were in greater numbers and originated not only from the conflicting regions. On the contrary, these internal factors originate from within the country which usually includes political, economic, citizen rights, even ethnic and other disputes. One example of a country experiencing internal conflict in Liberia.

The conflict in Liberia has been going on since 1989. At that time Charles Taylor led a rebellion against the Doe government. President Doe was executed by rebel leaders and the first phase of Liberia's civil war ended in 1996 by the African Peacekeepers. Charles Taylor as the leader of rebellion groups wins the presidential election in 1997, more strengthen the end of Liberia's first civil war. In achieving his victory as president, Charles Taylor inflicted Liberia experience the split between military groups and factions because his campaign was very brutal.

The conflict between faction groups and the Liberian Government finally broke again in 1999 making the second phase of the civil war in Liberia. Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) and the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) are the rebel groups who led the outbreak of the second civil war as the resist to President Charles Taylor. The pressure on the conflict continued to increase when LURD launched its offensive from Guinea to Lofa District in September 2000. Lofa District became the center of violence since the initial invasion by regional hostilities between the borders of Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia. In 2000, the invasion by LURD forces left nearly 80 percent of

rural areas in Liberia under its control. In February 2001, LURD intensified the activities of its forces to carry out raids in the rural Lofa area in northern Liberia (Dulce Foster, 2009). Until 2002 Taylor continued to maintain control of the City of Monrovia despite the pressure of ongoing fighting between government forces and LURD.

Monrovia as the capital city of Liberia is the place where the humanitarian disaster happen that caused by the rebels groups in the middle of 2003. The Liberian civil war finally was ended on August 18, 2003, after President Charles Taylor finally resigned and willing to sign the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) with the two rebels groups LURD and MODEL in Accra, Ghana (Patrick Vinck P. P., 2011). The conflict that occurred in Liberia for 14 years has claimed the lives of 200,000 people die and 1.5 million Liberians have been forced to flee their homes. During the conflict, most of the victims of violence were experienced by women. Liberian women experience various kinds of acts of violence, confinement and even sexual abuse in the form of rape. The violence experienced by Liberian women is generally carried out by military members from rebel groups. According to the World Health Organization data, it is estimated that 82% of women were victims with multiple forms of violence and 77% of women experienced rape (Women. U. N., 2009).

From these conflicts, women have always been the ones who suffered substantial losses in the form of morale and materiality. Women are one of the parties who are often become the target of violence and even as the victims of sexual harassment by their opponents. However, behind all the forms of oppression, women were also able to become an actor in initiating peace. A woman is also able to act as an agent of change in the midst of very brutal chaos.

To resolve conflict, a conflict resolution is usually needed. Conflict resolution is an ability to resolve a difference from one another. This is also an important aspect in a moral and social development. To carry out conflict resolution requires skills in negotiating and compromising with related parties (Mindes,

2006). In addition, this conflict resolution must also be carried out so that global security and peace can be maintained.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security is one of the international mechanisms and products of international law for organizations and individuals throughout the world. Resolution 1325 is the first Security Council resolution in detail to focus on the negative experiences faced by women and girls during the conflict and call for the need to include them in all levels of the peace process (Women. O. o., 2004). The two main components of Resolution 1325 are addressing sexual violence in armed conflict and increasing women's participation in peace processes and political institutions. Within the United Nations, the resolution has led to increased attention to gender mainstreaming or assessing a policy's different impacts for women and men (Nations, United, 2010).

During the fourteen years of conflict that occurred in Liberia. The warring parties committed gross violations of human rights and war crimes committed against civilians specifically for women and girls who were the main targets of atrocities such as rape, other forms of sexual and gender-based violence. Women must be included in recovery from armed conflict, human security, planning activities and coordinated initiatives for the peace process. Based on the security situation in Liberia it is very important to respond to human rights violations and this security threat strategically and sustainably. Resolution 1325 is one of the products of international law that can help women to participate in every level of the peace process and need to be implemented by all relevant actors starting from the international community, government institutions and civil society organizations in the field (Women. O. o., 2004).

Whilst women's in Liberia has experienced many bad impacts from the Civil War. Realizing there won't be going to an end for the conflict women trying to take action to end the violence against humanity and initiating to hold peace talks for the warring parties. Women's in Liberia has an important role because they are avoiding the use of violence and prove that any kind of violent acts resulting in no positive advantages. Women

's involve in the peace process as they are the part of the society too whose didn't practice any form of violence but got so much pain as the result of the conflict.

During this time it was a fact that women were certainly not the party to the cause of a dispute in an internal or external conflict of a country. Through what was experienced by Liberia women, the writer wanted to know the role of various individuals and women's organizations in the peace process from Liberia civil war. Who are the women that become as the peace actors in Liberia or who have a role as agents of change for the local community and participate in every stage in the peace process.

## **B. Research Question**

Based on the descriptions on the background, the author addresses the research question as follow: **"How is the role of women in conflict resolution in Liberia?"**

## **C. Theoretical Framework**

To link between the main problem and the hypothesis, the writer will use theoretical framework, namely the Theory of Conflict Resolution. Theories are interconnected concepts which according to logic rules become a certain form of statement so that it can explain a phenomenon scientifically (Mas'ood, 1989). Conflict comes from the word *Conligere* (Latin) which means attacking together. According to Mitchell (1981) Conflict is a situation where two or more people achieve their desired goals but only one of them achieves them. According to James A. Schellenberg (1966) Conflict is a situation where another individual or group in order to seize something desired is based on competing interests because of differences in identity or attitude.

Conflict can be motivated by many things. Internal conflicts of a country can be caused by many things, both political, economic, trade, ethnic, border conflicts and so on. One source of conflict that occurs between one party and another is latent and actual conditions that produce beliefs about the existence of goals that do not align with theoretical constructs or

basic assumptions about human nature and interactional and internal social processes. In other words, the emergence of conflict is caused by a sense or collective awareness, collective dissatisfaction with other parties and conflicting goals. Of course both parties and outside parties who witnessed want the conflict to end. In every conflict, a solution is always sought. Conflicts can sometimes be resolved by both parties fighting directly. But not infrequently it must also involve third parties to mediate and find solutions both by the state or as Regional Organizations and even International Organizations.

Conflict resolution is a scientific terminology that emphasizes the need to see peace as an open process and divides the conflict resolution process in several stages according to the dynamics of the cycle of conflict. Resolution is basically any intervention effort (to prevent actualization, escalation, stop and resolve conflicts) in one or more stages of conflict. The theory of conflict resolution is a process of analysis and problem solving that considers individual and group needs such as identity and recognition of institutional changes needed to meet needs (Dennis S. , 1993). According to John W. Burton in essence, conflict resolution theory puts forward the principles that (Sandole, 1990) :

1. Conflict cannot be seen as a political-militaristic phenomenon but must also be seen as a social phenomenon.
2. Conflict has a life cycle that does not run linearly, very much depends on the dynamics of the conflict environment.
3. The causes of conflict cannot be reduced to a single variable in the form of a bivariate causality proposition but must be seen as a phenomenon that occurs due to the multilevel interaction of various factors.
4. Conflict resolution is only applied optimally if it is combined with a variety of other relevant conflict resolution mechanisms.

According to Johan Galtung there are three stages in resolving conflicts. The first stage is Peacekeeping, it is a situation where the third party or external actors do intervention to the conflict which intend to reduce the tension between the warring parties. The second stages is Peacemaking, it is an effort

to end the conflict which initiate by the mediator or external actors to held mediation, negotiation, diplomacy, and dialogue between the warring parties. The third stage is Peacebuilding, it is a mission which aiming to stabilize the situation in the state through social, politic and economic reconstruction (Galtung, 2007).

## **1. Peace Keeping**

It is the process of stopping or reducing violence through military intervention that carries out a role as a neutral peacekeeper. Limited peace keeping to guarantee the existence of peace agreements in a conflict and regulate relations between countries while supporting autonomy and sovereignty (Bellamy A.J., 2004). Another understanding of the concept of peacekeeping is the intervention of the third parties that come to the conflict that aims to reduce the tension of the conflict.

In this case, the peace keeping theory can be used as one of the theoretical foundations in this thesis. Based on the facts told that Security Council of United Nations has approved its decision to accept the delivery of peace protection to Liberia and establishing United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) with up to 15,000 United Nations military personnel, including up to 250 military observers and 160 staff officers, and up to 1,115 civilian police officers, including formed units to assist in the maintenance of law and order throughout Liberia, and the appropriate civilian component (Peacekeeping, 2018). Women's involvement in Peacekeeping operations can be shown that UNMIL was home to the first all-female Formed Police Unit (FPU) from India and was one of the first to incorporate gender in its peacekeeping mandates (UNIC, 2016).

## **2. Peace Making**

It is a process that aims to reconcile political attitudes and strategies of parties in conflict through negotiation mediation, arbitration, especially at the elite or leadership level. Negotiations tend to be difficult to achieve because

they are vulnerable to differences of opinion, but negotiations usually provide alternative possibilities. Mediation then becomes another option to achieve resolution, especially when conflicts have spread to other regions, so that third parties need to be mediators until the resolution is reached. Peacemaking is a process to appease dispute parties. Although a conflict can be resolved through direct negotiation between the two parties, it would be even better if assisted by a third party in this case a neutral party who could be a mediator in assisting the process or a problem of misunderstanding between the parties to the dispute and helping both parties to work faster so that peace will quickly occur.

In connection with the Civil War case in Liberia, the parties to the dispute were brought together to reach an agreement in a peaceful manner. In this case, it is possible to bring together the most respected figures from both parties. This is done by presenting a third party as a mediator in the conflict that occurs, in this case, Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace is the third party that initiated the Peace Talk during the Second Liberia Civil War. But third parties do not have the right to decide or determine the decisions taken. Third parties (President Charles Taylor, MODEL, and LURD) only mediate if the situation warms up between the warring parties who are carrying out negotiations.

### **3. Peace Building**

It is the process of implementing change, social, political and economic reconstruction in order to create lasting peace. Through the process of Peacebuilding, it is expected that the negative peace (the absence of violence) will turn into a positive peace where people feel the existence of social justice, economic welfare, and effective political representation. Peacebuilding achieves positive peace by creating peace structures and institutions based on justice, equality and cooperation, thus permanently addressing the underlying causes of conflict and preventing them from committing violence.

Regarding conflicts in Liberia, women have played an important role in Peacebuilding in Liberia. The first female head of state, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, is succeeded in contributing to lasting peace at all levels. Some of the changes she made involved: Erase National Debt (economic sector), rebuilding the country's democratic institutions (political sector), build a resilient health care system (social sector), and built over 800 miles of roads (infrastructure sector) (Rights, 2009).

Women has important role and its needed to include them into all levels of the peace process, it is in line with the international mechanisms of international law that is United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Liberian women are in culture and social structures that place them in as the second class which makes women have difficult access to education, health care, property, and justice when the conflict happen. For that women realize the importance of their involvement by building initiatives to make movements in campaigning for peace and eliminating acts of violence can produce social justice through collaboration with government, community groups, as well as domestic institutions or international institutions. Women in carrying out activities to help resolve the problem of conflict in the Liberian Civil War are the implementation of the mandate contained in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

#### **D. Hypothesis**

The role of Women towards Conflict Resolution in Liberia that based on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2000 is done through these ways:

1. Women's involvement into The UN Female Peacekeeper and the first all-female Formed Police Unit (FPU) which decreasing the risk of violent conflict in Liberia as a form of Peacekeeping.
2. Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace initiating Peace Talk which was approved by President Charles Taylor,



Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), and the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL) as a form of Peacemaking.

3. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf creates economic, political, social, and infrastructure reconstruction as a form of Peacebuilding.

#### **E. Research Objectives**

The purposes of this research are:

- a. A deeper examination of the role of the Women's role towards Conflict Resolution in the Civil War that took place in Liberia.
- b. Described the contribution of Liberian women who are not only victims of a conflict, but also be able to become agents of change in the peace process of the conflict.
- c. Implement and deepen the knowledge that has been obtained by the author during the study of International Relations in the course through the review and analysis of the case study of Women's Role in making Conflict Resolution in Liberia.

#### **F. Research Methods**

1. Kinds of Methodology

The author uses a type of descriptive qualitative research that intends to describe things that are considered relevant objectively and clearly based on facts and data available.

2. Method of Data Collection

Using secondary data collection i.e, retrieve data from various media, both print media such as books, journals, newspapers and various articles and also electronic media such as various electronic print media, online journals and so on.

3. Data Analysis

- a. Data reduction

Have the understanding to summarize and choose the things that become important point and main.

b. Data Serving

This research uses qualitative method, that is data presented in the form of short description and is non-numerical.

c. Draw a conclusion

Provide verification of the entire contents of the writing in the study.

## **G. Scope of Research**

In conducting this research, the writer focused on the role of women in the conflict resolution of Civil War which took place in Liberia. Recognizing the importance to limit the scope of the research, the writer limited this research in the particular period of time which is in 1994 – 2018. However, essentially speaking, the writer also sought to describe the history and the impact of the civil war which occurred from 1989 to 2000 involving the conflicting parties which were the rebellion group and the government. As this thesis aimed at examining the role of women in the conflict resolution, the writer sought to further analyze the role of Liberian women as the initiator and the agent of change who involved in the all stages of peace process.

## **H. Writing Systematics**

In Systematics Writing, the author divides into several chapters in order to facilitate the preparation of the description. Systematics of writing that will be described in this study are as follows.

Chapter 1 the author will discuss: Problem Background, Problem Formulation, Theoretical Framework, Hypothesis, Research Methodology, Scope of Research and Writing Systematics.

Chapter 2 contains the natural potential that triggered conflict in Liberia, as well as conflicts that occurred in Liberia.

Chapter 3 the author will present the role of Liberian women as the victim and become as the agent of change. In this chapter we will describe in particular of what are the history of the emergence of women's role as the agent of change in Liberia, type of women's movements in Liberia to initiate Conflict Resolution and the explanation about the United Nations

Security Council 1325 as the based to confirm the involvement should involve into the peace proses.

Chapter 4 will explain the roles and actions of women participating directly in the conflict resolution in the Civil War in Liberia.

Chapter 5 it contains conclusions from the previous chapters as a whole on the things that have been describe