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# THE ROLES OF NUSANATARA PALESTINE CENTER FOUNDATION (NPC) IN ADVOCATING PALESTINIANS ON HUMANITARIAN ISSUE (2008-2019)

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# **Abstract**

This study aimed to explain the advocacy process of the humanitarian issue in Palestine conducted by Nusantara Palestina Center as Indonesian NGOs specifically established for Palestine. The Humanitarian issue in Palestine caused the conflict created unstable conditions in political, economic and social conditions. It had a huge impact on social and humanitarian conditions in Palestine. The humanitarian crisis faced by Palestine was really worst and grievous. This condition has become the attention of many international actors. One of these is Nusantara Palestina Center (NPC). The author believes that NPC played a important role in advocating process of humanitarian issues in Palestine. In this research, the author used the Boomerang Pattern Model from Keck and Sikkink explained about the Transnational Advocacy Networks (TANs). The data analysis used the primary data which were collected from the first-hand source and for secondary data used the library research method. This research indicated that the advocacy process conducted by NPC in handling humanitarian cricis in Palestine were: 1) The Palestine local NGOs established the network and shared the information with NPC to solve the problem. So NPC established the network with other Indonesian NGOs and indirectly influence the government and IO. 2) The government set the issue and bring it to the international level. Then, they indirectly pressure Israel as indirectly to open Palestine gateway. So it makes NPC easier to help the humanitarian problem in Palestine by sending the assistance. In return, it influece the state behavior and gave a good impact that able to handle and overcome the humanitarian issue in Palestine.

**Keyword** (s): Palestine, Humanitarian Issue, Nusantara Palestina Center, Advocacy, Boomerang Pattern.

# A. Background

NPC is one of Indonesian NGOs that established specifically to help humanitarian problems in Palestine due to conflict. The initiative of establishment NPC was spearheaded by a senior humanitarian activist from Maluku named Abdullah Onim. He has been participating and contribute as a humanitarian senior activist in Palestine since 2007 and it almost twelve years. His contribution and experience led him to establish an official organization that able to concern deliver assistance from Indonesia with trustfully, transparently and professionally work for Palestinians. Because of his great contribution to Palestine, he received many supports, trust, and achievement from National and also international through this organization. It was officially recognized on March 2018 by Indonesian government as Indonesia's hand, ears, and eyes to deliver love from Indonesia and also report any conditions that happened in Palestine.

The worst condition that faced by Palestinians since the ideology of Zionist (1984) was emerged in Europe, so it one of the root of the conflict between Israel and Palestine. The Israel-Palestine conflict is one of the longest international conflicts that lasted nearly a century and was become the center of attention and concern many international actors such as scientists, institutions, international government, non-government organization. conflicts are still going on today and took various attacks by Israel at the focal point of the conflict, namely the Gaza Strip, the West Bank of Palestine and in some areas that were supposed to be public areas (civil) such as hospitals, schools, and public places. This has an impact on the welfare and security crisis in Palestine. Many of Palestinians families consist of women, boys, girls, children, and elderly are forcefully displaced by the Israeli army and then put on the trial before the Israeli military court. Often those who are imprisoned get physical and sexual violence such as rape, harassment or even killed.

They experience a very deep mental trauma due to attacks, violence and harassment that occur. Since Palestinian children were born, they have been greeted with the sound of thumping bombs, pressure and it has very loud attacks. Many of them lost their parents and became orphans were forced to work and had to live in conflict areas with a very

poor environment. The data from UN mentioned these children are at high risk of becoming child laborers and participating in life-threatening activities, thereby increasing demands on overwhelmed protection services in Gaza. Children are also involved in more dangerous work such as collecting gravel, spraying pesticides and in construction/demolition work (UNOCHA oPt, 2019).

Palestinians also suffer from health problems and health care access that is very difficult and limited. Meanwhile, emerging diseases plagued the health of the Palestinians in the camps area. When the war took place, the victims were very high but hospitals, medicine, and medical personnel were very limited to do evacuate the victims. Researchers from the American University of Beirut surveyed Palestinians who live in refugee camps. They found that 31 percent of the more than 300 people interviewed suffered from chronic illness. Nearly half of the respondents live in leaking roofs, a condition that could threaten health (VAO Indonesia, 2012).

Economy is one of big problems that are very closely related to poverty have a major impact on fulfilling the standard needs of the Palestinian people, such as food, the employment, home appliances, sanitation, clean water, logistic, public service, and environment. These economy and financial problems are caused by government's actions which hinder and prohibited access to increase economic in Palestine. According to data submitted by political news media, mentioned that the activity of Palestinian imports is still below 40 percent and for exports very limited, especially for agricultural aspect (Mata Mata Politik, 2019).

Social conditions and the environment caused war creates the situation to be more difficult.

Israeli aggression and Palestinian militia response that occurs almost every time and it always causes many victims and prolonged misery for the Palestinians. The Gaza Strip under Israeli blockade either by land, air, and sea. Where it is violation on human rights that is contrary to international law. It condition limit the humanitarian assistance coming from other countries and also impedes the process of economic export and import.

It can be concluded, the problems that facing by Palestine include of poverty, public services, exploitation of natural sources, water cricis, education, economy, security, health, hunger, environment and etc. All of the oppression are the violence of human rights.

They are not treated like humans beings should be by Israel. They do almost the violation of international human right there according to UDHR, there are five types of right: civil right; Political right; social right; economic right; and Whereas cultural right. humanitarian international law mentioned even in the conflict conditions humans should maintain human rights accordance with the Human International in Army Conflict (HRIAC) report on its discussion of humanitarian law in conflict areas that there is a set of rules limiting the impact of armed conflict to protect who are no longer participating in the hostilities, civilians and restricts (United Nations Human Right, 2011). International humanitarian law must be applied fairly by all parties in every armed conflict, regardless of whether the cause of the conflict can be justified or not. But in reality, the conditions in Palestine has has the violation humanitarian law, seeing the tense political conditions of the two countries now makes many parties pessimistic can be able to stop this conflict.

This issue is become the global issu, and many internationatial actors took seriously especially on humanitarian condition there, one of the actor is Nusantara Palestina Center (NPC). NPC is Indonesian NGO which has big role and influence to humanitarian condion in Gaza, Palestine.

This organization creates Palestine's fraternal relations with Indonesia have become closer trough trans-national advocacy on humanitarian issue which for almost a dozen years believed by Indonesian as a facilitating and mediator institution in providing humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people. This thesis aimed to examine the advocacy process conducted by Nusantara Palestine Center foundation in helping the humanitarian Issue in Palestine through humanitarian assistance programs to overcome the problem and create a better place for Palestinians.

According to the background of case that already explained above, to know the role of NPC in advocating the issue, so the research question are; How does the roles of "Nusantara Palestina Center" in advocating Palestinians on humanitarian Issues and how does the impact for Palestinians to what they have done?

# **B.** Theoritical Frameworks

Transnational advocacy network

In this research, the author will use one of the concepts of Transnational Advocacy Network (TANs) which is popular by (Keck & Sikkink, 1998). The ideas of the transnational advocacy networks is form by various characteristics, strategies, patterns, processes and create something different to achieve goals in the domestic and international sphere. The essence of this concept is an idea of "advocacy" that formed due to the values, norms, and principles to seek out a problem such as human rights, humanitarian issues, the environment or other social problems caused by the domestic interest.

By that condition, a complex boundaries between state's relation with other state or its own national to exchange the basic information and create strength international system, then able to support and reach the national sovereignty. It schemas can be used to the non-state actors are involving in the resolution to solve the problem. The non-state actors request the international support with owned networks.

According to above explication, Kick & Sikkink concluded that the core of this theory is in the relations process on information exchange to build the networks which has ability of non-traditional international actors mobilize the information. Those condition strategically to help new issue and categories, so can persuade, pressure, and gain more powerful organization.

So the pattern of relationships that occur between countries is called "transnational" while the process is due to "network". According to Keck & Sikkink It {network,} is a form of organizational communication which is strength consisting of voluntary, reciprocal, and has horizontal patterns of communication and exchange of characteristics. By that, we can clearly understand that the terminology related to keck & Sikkink about Transnational Advocacy Network including those actors who working internationally in an issue that has a bond together by sharing values, a common discourse, and dense exchange of information and services.

Keck & Sikkink mentioned there were seven actors such as international and domestic NGOs, research and advocacy organizations; local social movements; foundations; the media; churches, trade unions, consumer organizations, intellectuals; parts of regional and international intergovernmental organizations; and parts of the executive and/or parliamentary branches of government (Keck &

Sikkink, 1998, p. 91).

Not all actors will be taken the role in each advocacy network. However that International or domestic NGOs play a central role on initiating actions and pressuring powerful actors to taken the positions through introduce new ideas, provide the information, and lobby for policy change.

According to Keck & Sikkink, the emerging of TANs may occur for several reasons; as follow: establishing communication Ineffectively between domestic groups and the government in resolving an issue;(2) They believe establishment the network can exert influence through campaigns and actively promoting the issue to achieve the goals;(3) International events (Communication& interaction) will create communication and interaction that can shape and strengthen networks.

The model of the boomerang pattern is aimed to explain how the TANs process is work and emerged when it is ineffective or inadequate between the domestic group and their government in addressing the problem or resolving a conflict. Given this situation, Keck & Sikkink believes that there is a "boomerang" pattern that can explain the advocacy process that creates. The government should be the main guarantor the rights of citizens. When a violation happens and domestic groups are unable or do not have the capacity to overcome the problem. Meanwhile, the central government also cannot do much effort to overcome the problem. So they try to seek out from international support and helping to overcome the violation and conflict.

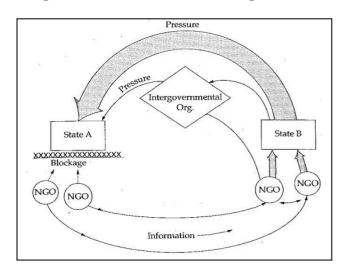
So, What is called "boomerang" as a TANs characteristic is possible when domestic groups and activists are blocked and while the government is under intervention other states. In this case, the condition of Palestine under Israel Occupied. And both domestic groups, activist and their government are unable to overcome conflicts. That conflict has an impact on humanitarian conditions of Palestine. So, they ask for international help. The pattern of the Boomerang Model can be seen in figure 1.1 (Keck & Sikkink, 1998, p. 93). From the boomerang pattern model, the Advocacy process done by TANs can be explained as follows:

- 1. State Z blocked the State X and its NGOs that want to advocate certain issues.
- 2. State X and its NGOs establish the relation and actively create networks with State Y and its NGOs.

- 3. The NGOs Of State Y whose members of the Network cooperate with each other and also the government of State Y and encourage their own state to the concert with the issue and if relevant fourth party organizations
- 4. The fourth party relevant State Y and the NGOs will pressure State Z.

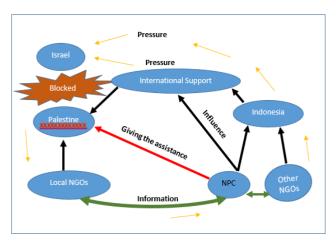
In doing their work, NGOs and activists manage this issue on the agenda before they build and activate the networks. In defining an issue, activists and NGOs will frame it in broader scope. For example, advocating the rights of refugees/victims of the war on human rights issues. Furthermore, NGOs will begin to build and activate networks with NGOs and activists in other powerful countries by sharing the same values, idea, and principles. The important thing in forming a network is the exchange of information between them and ensuring the advocacy process going well.

Figure I.1. The Model of Boomerang Pattern



This thesis, the author examines the advocacy process of Humanitarian Issue in Palestine by NGO in Indonesia, specifically Nusantara Palestine Center foundations. The implementation of boomerang pattern model is presented in figure 1.2

Figure I.2. The model of Nusantara Palestine Center Foundation Advocacy for humanitarian Issue in Palestine



The advocacy process of Nusantara Palestine Center Foundation on humanitarian issue in Palestine can be describe as follows:

- 1. Palestine, under Israeli intervention and blocked which has limited government access in dealing with humanitarian problems, especially victims of war. Then, NGOs and activists in Palestine difficult to advocate because of the access limited and it makes unable to overcome the problem of humanity.
- 2. Then Palestinian activists and NGOs seek out support and share the information about the Palestine condition with their networks (activists and NGOs) in Indonesia.
- 3. NPC and other NGOs in Indonesia whose care about humanitarian issues in Palestine will work together. Then they influence the Indonesian government to conduct diplomacy and negotiation both with Israel and Palestine, assisted with international support through the United Nation, INGOs and UNICEF. So. Indonesia influences to care them about humanitarian issues in Palestine in open the gate to send humanitarian aid to Palestinians.
- 4. When Indonesia's government has received support from the International and negotiated with Israel and Palestine. So, they gave the key and official protection for NPC to overcome the problem and provide humanitarian assistance as an Indonesian mediator and facilitator for Palestine.

With this process, NPC can reach the mission and objectives in helping humanitarian issues which include Health, Education, Financial supply, Logistics, Food, clean water, public service, and Infrastructure in Palestine. The role of the NPC as an Indonesian facilitator and mediator in providing assistance is very influential and plays an important role in the welfare of the Palestinian people. As mentioned by Keck & Sikkink that every advocacy that implements is success determined by how much the impact of the changes done by these NGOs. In this case, the NCP has created a huge and different impact for the Palestinian people through many programs that have been implemented so far. NPC works with the government, NGOs, activists and the Indonesian community continue and commit to helping Palestine with support, physical aid, financial and political assistance to provide a better life for Palestinians.

NPC had important role in giving humanitarian assistance for Palestinian medical aid, healthcare access, logistical, financial assistance, education, provides psychological therapy and also cooperating with other NGOs. These programs has central influence to give a better life for Palestinians.

# C. Methodology

The type of research in this study is qualitative research. It is research descriptive which is aimed at explaining the advocacy process of Nusantara Palestine Center as the nongovernmental organization on humanitarian issue in Palestine. The data sources used are primary and secondary data. the author collected the material primary data from the government official report humanitarian and human right study, and Interview report with some expert related with Nusantara Palestine Center or who understand about the humanitarian Issue in Palestine. And for Secondary data collected from the journals. research paper, websites/e-news, and documents related to the role of Nusantara Palestine Center Foundations in advocating humanitarian Issue in Palestine.So, in the end, we can draw conclusions from the existing problems by explaining the data with qualitative method.

# **D.Analysis and Result**

# 1. NPC as International Humanitarian Actor

NPC is an international humanitarian actor from Indonesia that has been active for a dozen years as the Indonesia's hand to provide a good life and hopes for Palestinians and keep up their spirits, even though their living in poor conditions which surrounded by difficulties. Its contribution and experience had been made many Indonesian and international actors trust them such as government, NGOs, activists and the Indonesian citizens.

Carsten Stahn in his article talks about the role of NGOs actors. He explained that NGOs both local or international had an important role in creating world peace, which in conveying the message of peace, development and delivering humanitarian assistance to the international and domestic, especially in the conflict areas (Stahn, 2001). In this case, it is about Palestine condition. NGOs indirectly become partners and encourage International Organization actors stakeholders as advisors in building the national justice system, peacekeeping, and implementing advocacy on humanity issue, development, environment, equality, and fulfillment of human rights especially in armed conflict. By those explanations, NPC is one of the NGO actors which has a mission and commitment to advocate, one the example is through providing sending humanitarian assistance neighboring countries (Palestine) which is experiencing conflict. That is as a form of solidarity between countries, religious goals, and support for creating peace.

NPC is neutral social institution that works on the basis of humanity and solidarity stands independently without intervention from any political party both Indonesian political groups and Palestine.". The NPC is an independent institution and not related to any political issues, so it means free to serve without intervention to invite all of Indonesia community and International also wherewith always remember the struggle of the Palestinians still under Israel blockade (Zainuddin, 2019). The presence of NPC as a matter of urgency in order to give independence as human beings for Palestinians at least gives them hope for a decent life. NPC engages in advocating the issue of the humanitarian crisis on the basis of human values that appear from the human spirit.

In realizing the goal of advocating the issue of the humanitarian crisis in Palestine, the NPC carries out its mission by establishing a good communication and media campaign that creates a strong and professional network. So that it could be consistent in executing of responsibility and engagement for the Palestinians. For NPC professionalism and transparency as the gate to gain trust. The commitment of the NPC in executing humanitarian missions in Palestine has made its role highly regarded with domestic and international actors as mediators and facilitators in fulfilling human rights and realizing freedom and peace for the Palestinians.

The Nusantara Palestina Center (NPC) is an NGO under Indonesian government's legal protection where its scope is global. It means NPC has cooperation with local (Indonesian) or International NGOs which engages in social working, educational and humanitarian action in Palestine (Yayasan Nusantara Palestina Center, 2019).

# 2. The Background History of Establisment NPC

The history of the Nusantara Palestina Center Establishment began from a young man named Abdillah Onim or commonly called "Bang Onim" from Galela, North Maluku Indonesia. He has a social spirit that always motivates him to do good deeds and beneficial things by devoting himself to social activities. Besides that, He is also very interested and concerned about the issue of Palestinian and Israeli conflict, especially in the humanitarian conditions experienced by the Palestinians who are increasingly alarming.

His journey began in 2004 to visit Palestine. In that year, Bang Onim actively participated as a social activist and joined a large Indonesian NGOs focused on health issues and medical assistance. At the first visit to Palestine coincided with the tense situation between Palestine and Israel. This had an impact on the journey of entering the gate of Palestine. So the he failed to enter Gaza, Palestine.

He had the second opportunity to return to Palestine again in 2008. In that year, He had temporarily stayed in the Gaza strip and then back to Indonesia again. In 2010, Bang Onim had another chance to visit Palestine, who was registered as one of the passengers from Indonesia who participated in an international mission from 50 countries, one of those was Indonesia. The humanitarian aid ship was MV Mavi Marmara (owned by the government and international turkey NGOs) to join the humanitarian missions with other humanitarian aid ships that formed a small fleet called Freedom Flotilla because it aimed to break Israeli blockade by sea. However, the mission was unsuccessful (Republika.co.id, 2010). So Bang anim with other Indonesian activist was arrested. While, after the negotiated between Indonesia and Israel, Indonesian Citizens were allowed to go back to Indonesia. But Bang Onim chose to stay in Gaza Palestine. For Him, this was an opportunity to enter Gaza. From 2010 to 2017, Bang Onim lived in Gaza and never came back to Indonesia.

He became an active Indonesian humanitarian activist who informed Palestine condition such as attacks, social, economic, and humanitarian issues in Gaza through his personal social media started from Facebook and then redirected to other social media such as Twitter, Istagram, and Youtube. His active preach about the condition of Palestine through social media has affected the international community, especially the government and Indonesia citizens to more seriously sympathize with the Palestinian issue. Then, He had to immediately establish his own institution which became a legal system to help him and also could be developing. In 2017, the momentum came when Bang Onim got an invitation by the Indonesian Consulate General of Indonesia for Jordan.

In March 2018, Bang Onim established an official Non-Governmental Organization called Foundation Nusantara Palestine Center as a legal platform and system to unite Bang Onim network and build that communication, coordination easier, Efficient, and strengthen collective performance (NPC).

# 3. NPC Establishing Tran-national Networks

NPC has established partnership since the activities in this institution have run de facto. This means that when Bang Onim was still active as an independent activist.

The pattern of communication through the media that was done by Bang Onim has attracted, affected and pressed some actor to become parts of NPS as a partnership and cooperation to help humanitarian Crisis in Palestine. Based on the Boomerang Pattern model, the actors who involved are followed by

and Government International **Organization:** The relations between NGOs and the government is actually very complex. It is known that globalization world offers a liberalism view which argues that international actors are not only the state but NGOs also have an important role in playing and determining international policy. The government realizing the existence of NGOs is very influential in supporting its actions and decisions in the global issue. This also applies to the discussion in this study.

At the present time, NPC has a strong network with Indonesia, Palestine and Jordan governments. Although it has been explained that NPC is an independent organization and free from any intervention or domestic political influence, it cannot be denied that NPC's advocacy actions are to overcome the humanitarian crisis in Palestine have influenced and encouraged the governments, especially the Indonesian government to take part in dealing with global issues. Actually, if seen from the perspective of interdependency which mentioned that international actor including NGOs and state actor are interdependent influence and cooperating with each other to achieve the goals both domestic and global.

In addition, the role of Indonesian Government for supporting NPC is set the Palestine issue and bring it into the level international (international organizations) such as the UN, WHO, UNICEF and IO bodies to influence the IO policy resolution to be more serious in handling conflicts between Palestine and Israel. The communication pattern that occurs is in accordance with the boomerang model described by Keck & Sikkin, in which the state actors indirectly have involvement and influence on the mechanism or process carried out by non-state actors, in this context is specifically for NPCs role as the

non-state actors of Indonesia.

b) Indonesian Network and Partnership:
Based on the Boomerang Pattern model that
was already described in the first chapter
(Figure 1.2), States that the important actors
in the TANs process are local NGOs or
domestic groups in this case NGOs. The
background of NGOs determines to deal with
other NGOs who have the same vision,
mission, values, concerns and commitment to
achieve a certain goal. Without a common
vision and mission, the network and partners
will not be established.

Relationships between NGOs and other NGOs can use valuable resources to influence willingness to participate in humanitarian projects by encouraging, providing access, and providing valuable information (Asad & Kay, 2014). This reason is based on the background of the NPC in establishing networks and establishing good cooperation with local NGOs (Indonesia), and international NGOs. The NPC is very concerned about cooperation and networking, especially with Indonesian NGOs.

Mr. Zainuddin explained in interview session, NPC believes that partners are very important in supporting the process of advocating for humanitarian issues in Palestine. In the process of establishing NPC's networks requires a long time. The contribution, participation, and active activity of Bang Onim and NPC informing the situation about the Palestinians indirectly encourage and attract various activists, NGOs, and the Indonesian community to contribute in helping the Palestinians case and lead the other actors to contact Bang Onim directly to collaborate and ask him to become a mediator and facilitator channel for assistance distributing the for the Palestinians.

It means the networks and partners as diplomacy tools for helping humanitarian cases in Palestine. Which indirectly helps the NPC in giving way to make it easier in executing the program. Today NPC has been establishing partnerships with more than 50 NGOs both in Indonesia (Nusantara Palestina Center, 2019).

c) International Networks and Partnership: Basically, what is called the International partnership is the NPC network located in Palestine and Jordan. In the process of advocacy and delivering the assistance, NPC certainly needs partners from Palestine who are more understanding about Palestinian social characteristics. In establishing partnerships with international organizations, specifically with Palestine NGO and social institutions, NPC focused on distributing logistical assistance and cooperation in carrying out programs for Palestine. Recently, In Gaza (Palestine), NPC has cooperated with 20 local actors consisting of government, health ministries, Hospitals, social institutions and medical institutions. In addition, the NPC also cooperates with foreign NGOs under the Jordan government named Jordan Hashemite Organization (JHCO) to advocate and distribute assistance for Palestinian refugees

in Jordan.

In its relations with partners, NPC always provides clear, transparent, and professional final reports. Both in terms of written reports or documentation in the form of videos and photos. This builds the identity of NPC as trustworthy organization. Besides that, the trust of partners is highly important. Besides that the other reason the trust of NPC can be famous is because of the NPC directly under Bang Onim guidance, He was known that he lived in Palestine. Of course, He really understand, clearly the situation experienced by the Palestinians. Then the information obtained by the partners through NPC official media or Bang Onim's social media can be trusted. Media social is the main tool and strategy for encouraging people and other international actor to concern with this issue.

# 4. NPC Humanitarian Activities Program in Palestine

Humanitarian assistance is one of tools to support the peace building architecture is required for unstably condition in term of political, economic, security, and social, it can be said as the crisis condition.

Based on OCHA report about the humanitarian action in conflict area, stated that the role of international community both state actor or non-state actor is to support and construct

peace building process in restoration or renewal of social contract and return of stability through supporting national capacity in five keys points: (1) safety and security; (2) political processes: (3) basic services; (4) core government functions; (5) economic revitalization (Pubic Policy and Studies Branch, 2011).

However, it should be distinguished between the peace building and humanitarian assistance implication and role. According to OCHA report, the role of peace building process is more complex, because it relates with political enlightenment or interest to maintain or fix the domestic strategy by national actor including government, civil society, and the private sector in crisis condition. Peace building aims to build resilience at the social and political level. Meanwhile, the humanitarian assistance and activity is neutral. It seeks to save live, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity as a response to the needs and standard of living.

According to the explanation above, the role of humanitarian assistance and activity in crisis conditions in line with the NPC's vision as a neutral and independent organization carrying out humanitarian activities based on the needed of Palestinians. The NPC program focuses on social issues, education, and humanitarian activities. While the implementation of NPC activity is divided into two types based on the term (Thariq, 2019). The first is permanent or routine and long-term activities that is carried out by NPC, such as well drilling assistance which can be utilized for the long term. Secondly is incidental activities or event by condition, meaning that activities are held according to necessity.

Mr. Masri Udin as the head of program division explained, in implementing the program and distribution, the assistance staff of NPC in Palestine cooperate with many Palestinian civilian volunteers and actors. The logistic assistance distribution is based on location, so can be spread evenly. The routine NPC's program is divided into six types.

This is run according to the problem of the humanitarian crisis in Palestine, especially in the Gaza region. The programs are (Yayasan Nusantara Palestina Center, 2019):

- 1. Humanitarian Aid Program
- 2. Social activity Program
- 3. Educational Assistance Program
- 4. Health Assistance Program
- 5. OTA 'Orang Tua Asuh' Program for Palestinians orphans.

# 5. The Challenges of NPC as Humanitarian Actor in Palestine

As a national and international humanitarian actor in an armed conflict area, there must be obstacles in terms of the implementation of humanitarian activities. This is exprerienced by the Nusantara Palestine Center to carry out the aid and distribute it to the Palestinian, especially in the Gaza region. Problems that occur are not only internal factors but also external factor. Mrs Dewi Yuniati as a staff of NPC said that internal challenge faced by the NPC in carrying out humanitarian activities such as the limitation of human resources in Jakarta.

She also explained the external challenges is the way to distribute and purchase of aid which is very complicated because of their work in the blockade and strict protection of the Israeli security forces area. Thus limiting the activist of NPC in Palestine. Another external challenge is the communication problem between NPC staff in Indonesia and staff in Gaza who have a time difference of about 5 hours. The obstacles faced by NPCs both internally and externally as much as possible can be reduced, so these will not disturb the activity of each NPC program. In essence, NPC has always committed to continuing to carry out humanitarian missions in Palestine, even though sometimes possible to gets an obstacle, but it can always be handled.

# 6. The Impact Felt by Palestinians toward NPC's Program

7.

The center of the Palestinian and Israeli conflict is in the Gaza area, which is surrounded by Israeli security walls, while intra-Palestinian political divisions also aggravate the conditions.

The data from the United Nations Relief and

Work Agency for Palestine (UNRWA) noted the years and blockade conflict made 80 percent of the population in Palestine especially in Gaza is dependent on humanitarian assistance coming from the international community.

By those conditions, NPC as an independent organization led by Bang Onim existed in the middle of Palestine conflict. The contribution of the NPC pioneered by Bang Onim carried out humanitarian advocacy by providing protection, assistance, and support to the Palestinian. the NPC assistance program is very beneficial for Palestine who suffers many problems. NPC seeks to help reducing the burden by providing both primary and secondary needs for the Palestinians in the form of long-term and shortterm assistance. For the Palestinian people, every assistance that is given to them is very beneficial because it is indeed one of their ways to continue their life through international assistance, especially the aid from NPC. But it believes that any assistance given by NPC and Indonesia in any form is very useful for their survival.

### E. Conclusion

The author did this research to understand the role and advocacy process conducted by Nusantara Palestina Center (NPC) as the Indonesian non-governmental organizations for helping the humanitarian crisis in Palestine It was stated in chapter one that this research has three objectives; Describing the exigency of humanitarian crisis in Palestine as an impact of dozen of years conflict between Israel and Palestine; Describing the process of advocacy conducted by NPC to decrease the humanitarian crisis in Palestine through giving the assistance for Palestinians: and Describing the strategy of NCP in giving the advocacy through its programs that gave a good influence and impact to Palestinians on humanitarian Issue.

The humanitarian crisis faced by Palestinians covers all aspects of life such as problems of security, violation, and abuse against children and women, public services, education, poverty, economy, health, food crisis, sanitation, clean water crisis and natural resources. Its problems faced by Palestinian people contracts with international human rights and humanitarian law which should be implemented even in the conflict situation. But in fact, those rights are not given to the Palestinians by Israel which isolates all aspects. Then it can be indicated that Israel

violated the International human rights and humanitarian law or law of war. This issue becomes attention and raises the international activist and other non-state actors to advocate this issue for decreasing risks of crisis and helping the Palestinians.

NPC is an independent organization that has a role as a facilitator and mediator organization that can provide advocacy to Palestine in the form of fulfilling their human rights and encouraging all elements of the international community to be concerned about this very urgent issue. This is in accordance with the vision of NPC as the humanitarian aid facilitator that trusted, professionals and accountable for Palestine.

In advocacy process, NPC establishes the network with many actors. The process begins with the local Palestinian groups, where they realize that the problems occurring in Palestine are unable to be resolved with their own governance because there are many factors, one of the reasons is unstable political conditions.

NPC as the formal system that works professional to deal with this issue. It can be conclude that those pattern were effectively when many actor can influence each other and work together to overcome this issue. The NPC strategy uses media campaign and Bang Onim also actively build communication and preaching the latest conditions about Palestine. This affected and encouraged Indonesian, Palestine and Jordan NGOs and activists to work together in handling this issue. Communication is the strategy that can lead NPC more powerful to establish the networks.

In working process, Nusantara Palestina Center also faces the internal and external challenges. As the result NPC can get many supporters from their networks to achieve the goal in addressing the issue and it can give the assistance optimally through a good communication, many activity and program for Palestinians. The strong contribution of NPC gave a very good impact for Palestinians and it also felt by them.

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