



DEFENSE DIPLOMACY OF INDONESIAN AND SAUDI ARABIA AS A DEVELOPMENT OF INDONESIAN MILITARY STRENGTH

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Abstract

This article explains the cooperative relationship in the defense sector between Indonesia and Saudi Arabia. Diplomatic relations between the two countries are well established. Saudi Arabia and Indonesia have a relationship with each other in carrying out their foreign policy. The method used in this research is descriptive analytical method and defense diplomacy approach as a means to elaborate the discussion. After doing research, it can be concluded that in carrying out political policies, especially foreign countries, these two countries have a cooperation program in the defense sector. This cooperation program in the defense sector is a diplomatic effort of the two countries to strengthen national security. Defense diplomacy carried out by Indonesia against Saudi Arabia includes the exchange and education of military soldiers, in the fields of technology and humanitarian missions. Diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia are the main attraction for Indonesia, considering that Indonesia has national interests with Saudi Arabia both in the defense sector and in other fields.

Keywords: *Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Defense Diplomacy, National Interests*

1. Introduction

The development of the world which is undergoing a transition from the traditional era to the modern era is marked by the rapid progress of science and technology. This increases the intensity of relations between one country and another. With improving relations between countries, international relations between countries in various forms of international agreements will also increase, which is not in line with the defense sector (Kementerian Hukum Dan Hak Asasi Manusia 2016). Each country certainly has policies for the benefit of their country, both domestic and foreign policies. Within the



scope of international relations, Indonesia has a foreign policy as the basis for diplomacy in the global world (Putera 2020).

In establishing international relations with various countries, Indonesia has a national policy regarding foreign policy that emphasizes bilateral, regional and international cooperation (Sihbudi 1997, 39). The principle of foreign policy adopted by Indonesia is free and active. As a basic guideline for foreign policy, Indonesia refers to the ideology of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution in carrying out a free and active foreign policy (Putera 2020).

Indonesia's policy of adopting a free-active foreign policy, of course, refers to the second principle in the point of Pancasila, namely a just and civilized humanity. When examined further, the purpose of the second precept includes equality, rights and obligations as human beings of the same country and homeland. Then the Indonesian people feel as part of the countries around the world, therefore Indonesia develops an attitude of mutual respect with various parties and cooperates with other countries (Sihbudi 1997, 59-60).

The principle of free and active certainly has the meaning of humanism, which makes Indonesia a country that can reach all elements of the international world. The word "free" itself means that Indonesia does not side with anyone. Indonesia stands in a neutral position so as not to participate in behavior that is not in line with the principles and ideals of the nation. While the word "active" means that Indonesia is not only passive and stays in its place, but Indonesia is actively building international relations with various countries to create world order. By adhering to the principle of free and active politics, the Indonesian people become more flexible in determining direction, attitudes and policies. Then Indonesia can also position itself as a sovereign and sovereign unitary state as mandated by the constitution as stated in the 1945 Constitution. This principle of free and active foreign policy then becomes the basis for policies as well as regulations for the country's national interests. Thus, Indonesia's position in the global political constellation becomes a country that has full rights in



determining the desired policy direction without any intervention from other parties (Welianto 2020).

The foreign policy of a country is closely related to the aspirations that develop within the country. Likewise, Indonesia's attitude in managing foreign policy is closely related to the philosophy and ideology of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. Both of these are the primary legal basis that prevailed in Indonesia after independence on August 17, 1945 (Sihbudi 1997, 60). This is to guarantee peace in terms of security and the economy, both nationally and internationally.

In addition to the security and economic domains, there is attention to the main policies related to the core values of the state's interests. These interests include normative ideas about how states in the international system build a community of shared interests. As Deutsch points out, it is important to build shared values and identities between countries. This is because countries that have similar ideologies or institutions will develop similar policy interests. This type of concern has strong explanatory power about how the state makes its foreign policy decisions. Country leaders will strive to prioritize a stable and secure environment for all global participants to create a more stable investment environment (Chong and Wu n.d., 398).

One area that is a priority for Indonesia's international cooperation is the Middle East. From a historical aspect, the term Middle East was used after World War II to accommodate several regions. To the north, the area is bounded by the Caspian and Black Sea regions. Then there are Afghanistan and Pakistan in the east of the region. As well as the existence of the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, and the Sahara as regional boundaries to the south (S. and dkk. 2010, 305). The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a Middle Eastern country that cooperates with the government of the Republic of Indonesia. The form of bilateral cooperation that is familiar in the community is in the field of organizing the pilgrimage which is carried out regularly every year. Indonesia and Saudi Arabia have established cooperative relations for quite a long time, from the era of President Soekarno to the time of Joko Widodo.



King Salman's visit to Indonesia on March 1, 2017 is proof of the close relationship between the two countries. This visit is also a historic visit because for the first time since 47 years ago, Saudi Arabia visited Indonesia. This is also a series of Saudi Arabia's political and diplomatic safari activities to several countries. This event was certainly optimized by the Indonesian government. The government certainly hopes to discuss many things, including the defense sector (Susilo 2020).

Regarding the aspect of global national defense, how is Indonesia's diplomacy towards Saudi Arabia in the defense sector? The defense sector is an important element of a country in defending its sovereignty. The defense effort itself does not only rely on domestic strength, but it is necessary to have defense relations with other countries to help maintain security stability from within and outside the country. This study will describe the form of defense diplomacy between the two countries that has existed since the administration of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to Joko Widodo.

2. Literature Review

This research is of course not the first in the scientific treasures. There are several similar studies that have previously been studied by researchers, including the research of Budyanto Putro Sudarsono, et al, entitled "*Diplomasi Pertahanan Indonesian dalam Mencapai Kepentingan Nasional.*" This study focuses on Indonesia's defense diplomacy in achieving national interests, then also discusses the implementation of defense diplomacy that comes from several forces such as military, political, economic, intelligence and others. This study concludes that the role of Indonesia's defense diplomacy has not been optimal. Then the factors that also influence the role of Indonesia's diplomacy can also be seen from several aspects, namely aspects of the capacity and capability of the TNI, aspects of cooperation between agencies and the preparation of national strategies (Sudarsono and dkk. 2018, 86).

The author's position in this study will examine the cooperative relationship between Indonesia and Saudi Arabia in the defense sector. The author will describe Indonesia's foreign policy stance and its diplomacy with Saudi Arabia. Then the author



will present the forms of bilateral cooperation that have been agreed upon by the two countries. The author will also state Indonesia's national interest in establishing cooperative relations with Saudi Arabia from the aspect of national defense.

To describe the cooperative relationship between Indonesia and Saudi Arabia in the defense sector, the author uses a defense diplomacy approach. Defense diplomacy is a way and strategy in establishing close relations through various aspects of cooperation. The forms of cooperation include the fields of politics, economy, defense and security as well as various other aspects. This cooperation then creates friendly relations between countries that can work together further (Sudarsono and dkk. 2018, 87).

Diplomacy is actually a terminology in the study of international relations. The name is a concrete and technical form of how a country wishes to realize its interests as a national policy program. According to some opinions, diplomacy is an aspect of study composed of three aspects, namely ontological, epistemological, and axiological aspects. Meanwhile, another opinion states that diplomacy is an art that refers to the absence of rigidity in its implementation. Diplomacy is closely related to foreign policy. This is because diplomacy is the implementation of foreign policy carried out by the official officials of a country. In some countries, the Minister of Foreign Affairs has the responsibility to implement and formulate foreign policy. Meanwhile, in the implementation of diplomacy, the authority to implement it can be given to diplomats and representatives stationed abroad and in international organizations, both bilaterally and multilaterally (Anugerah and Endiartia 2017, 32-33).

In carrying out defense diplomacy, both diplomacy in general and defense diplomacy must be able to determine policies in the field of defense diplomacy by analyzing and considering various elements related to defense aspects. This then becomes important because defense diplomacy is the main pillar for implementing a country's foreign policy in the political and economic fields as well as other fields. Therefore, a country that is strong in its defense aspects –including in the field of defense diplomacy– can prevent potential historical and actual threats from within and outside the country.



Defense diplomacy is also an integral part that cannot be separated from a country's defense policy, namely providing policy directions on the final goals to be achieved (goal-ends), and how to achieve them (ways), namely what strategies will be used to achieve these goals, as well as how the tools (means) to be used, namely the capabilities that must be possessed which are used as tools to achieve these goals (Supriyanto 2014, 156).

Defense diplomacy is an important aspect in defending a country's sovereignty from enemy threats. Defense diplomacy aims to strengthen a country's position when faced with security dilemmas and threats of war from other countries. Then defense diplomacy can also be carried out to strengthen the internal and external aspects of a country by developing human resources. Like the defense diplomacy relationship between Indonesia and Saudi Arabia. Both countries use defense diplomacy to strengthen their defense side. Both Indonesia and Saudi Arabia also have national interests that become benefits and bargaining power for developments in defense and security aspects.

3. Research Method

The research method in general is the method used in a study. Research methods include activities of thinking and acting to achieve goals in a study (Kartini 1996, 20). This research is a library research. Literature research is carried out by collecting various kinds of information that have been verified and of course related to the object of research. The references that are used as references in the research come from books, then articles, as well as various sources that are still relevant (Mardalis 2008, 28). The method used is descriptive analytical method. This method focuses on collecting data and collecting various data related to the discussion, then analyzed. The data collection technique used is the documentation technique (Moehnilabib and dkk 1997, 89). All sources that have been collected are then filtered by the authors in order to produce substantially and essentially accurate data.



4. Results and Discussion

4.1. Indonesia Foreign Policy and Defense Aspects

The foreign policy of a country is generally influenced by the philosophy of the nation that is used as a guide, the national interest of the country, the figures who govern within the country. Then its economic and military capabilities can also be influenced by the state of its national and international environment. According to William D. Coplin, there are four factors that can determine a country's foreign policy, namely, decision-making attitudes, domestic politics, economic and military factors, and the international environment (Sihbudi 1997, 60).

In particular, Indonesia's foreign policy is the process of implementing policies in carrying out relations with other countries and international organizations. This is done to deal with international problems faced in order to achieve national goals. The implementation of foreign policy is through the practice of diplomacy that is actively building relations, creative and anticipatory. Not only that, being firm in holding principles and stances as well as being flexible in approaching are also important factors in carrying out diplomacy (Susetyorini n.d.).

In this era of globalization, foreign policy does not only belong to state actors. The involvement of non-state actors is often able to produce international behavior that tends to have the potential to increase influence on government foreign policy through various global networks. The involvement of actors in various global issues certainly adds to the complexity of contemporary global political issues. Therefore, the actions of non-state actors become the government's attention to address the complexity of the problem wisely so that the national interest of a country is not harmed (Wuryandari n.d., 68).

With regard to its foreign policy, Indonesia also has policies to provide benefits to the country. Be it in terms of foreign policy, defense, political and diplomatic constellations. Especially in the field of defense, Indonesia has legitimacy for several legal aspects related to defense. The government realizes that the defense sector is the



main supporting aspect to defend the country from the threat of attacks from other countries.

As an independent, united and sovereign country, the implementation of Indonesia's diplomacy is guided by the principle of equality, upholding mutual respect and mutual benefit. Then do not interfere in the domestic affairs of each country. The implementation of foreign policy activities can be carried out through bilateral and multilateral forums based on the principles that become the reference for Indonesia's foreign policy (Susetyorini n.d., 131).

Defense aspects of Indonesian state have been regulated in Law No. 2 of 2003 and Law No. 34 of 2004. Both laws regulate about Indonesian National Army (TNI). In the two laws it is explained that national defense is all efforts to uphold state sovereignty and maintain the territorial integrity of Indonesia. In two laws it is explained that national defense is all efforts to uphold the sovereignty of the state and maintain the territorial integrity of Indonesia. The law also explains Indonesia's attitude in providing protection and safety to all nations from threats and disturbances that lurk in the integrity of the nation and state (Supriyanto 2014, 97).

4.2. Principles and Scope of Defense Cooperation

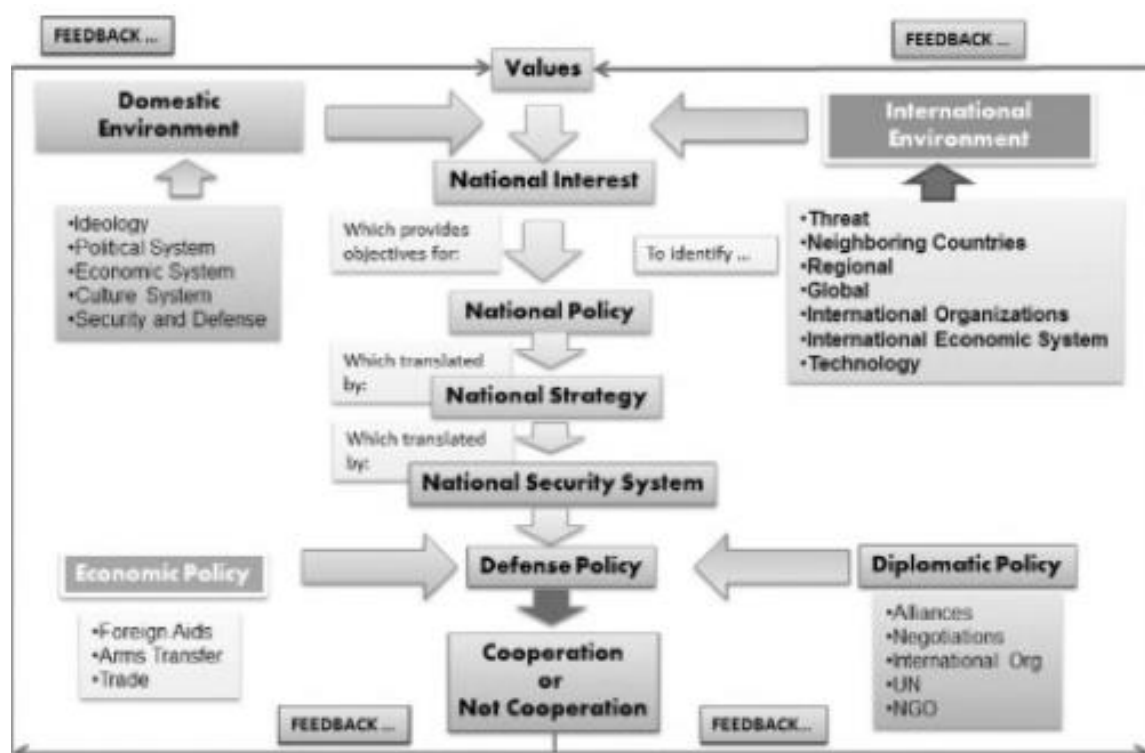
Defense cooperation is a country's foreign policy in international world which is included in the criteria for organizational cooperation. This is because the cooperation is carried out by two or more countries, it can even reach 28 countries such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. If the cooperation is carried out by two countries, it is called bilateral cooperation, then if the cooperation is carried out by three or more countries, it is called multilateral. Judging from its form, cooperation in the defense aspect is a formal cooperation between two or more countries. This formal cooperation is because in its implementation it uses a treaty or agreement, both binding and non-binding, namely the cooperation agreement (Supriyanto 2014, 139).

To carry out cooperation in any field, especially cooperation in the defense sector, it is necessary to consider various things related to trends in national, regional and global

conditions. With these considerations, the objectives of defense cooperation will be determined, which of course must be based on principles that apply to national interests and those that apply internationally. This is because even though it is a defense cooperation, it is still an international cooperation that must be based on international norms and standards (Supriyanto 2014, 145-146).

Figure 1

Alternative Analysis Framework for Doing or Not Conducting Defense Cooperation with Specific Countries (Supriyanto 2014, 146)



In general, foreign policy is often understood as a form of realization that has been planned in the discussion of domestic politics. Thus, a country's foreign policy becomes something that develops and does not exist in a vacuum, but the policy is a dynamic



interaction in the international community as well as the interaction between local and global problems (Wuryandari 2011, 140).

In implementing cooperation in the field of defense, there is a role of law that regulates norms and standards that must be adhered to and implemented and used as principles by each signatory of the cooperation document. The principles of this cooperation include (Supriyanto 2014, 151):

1. Mutual respect for the independence of each party.
2. Full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of each country.
3. Do not interfere in each other's domestic affairs.
4. Equality.
5. Mutual benefit.
6. Live side by side peacefully.
7. Do not engage in mutual aggression.
8. Recognition and implementation of universally recognized international legal norms.
9. Pacta Sun Servanda (adhering to the agreement that has been made, if you violate it, you will get sanctions or punishment from the international community)

The scope of defense cooperation is usually stated in an article in the Defense Corporation Agreement (DCA). This is an important part because the substance of this cooperation agreement explains that DCA concerns the territorial or territorial space of a country that will intersect with the territorial sovereignty of other countries.

The usual scope of cooperation is: first, technical through the exchange of scientific technical data. Second, the exchange of experts, technicians, and participants and military lecturers. Third, production support relates to defense equipment and components. Fourth, the defense industry. Fifth, technology transfer. Sixth, technical assistance. Seventh, education and training. Eighth, the exchange of intelligence information. Ninth, defense science and technology. Tenth, personnel exchange. Eleventh, visit. Twelfth, joint training in the fields of operations, logistics and



intelligence. Thirteenth, combined training and joint training. Fourteen joint patrols and joint exercises. Fifteenth, joint and or joint patrols. Sixteenth, communication development and training, electronic warfare and IT. Seventeenth, research and development. Lastly, maritime and so on (Supriyanto 2014, 152).

4.3. Indonesia and Saudi Arabia Cooperation in the Defense Sector

Indonesia and Saudi Arabia are two countries with a majority Muslim population. The two countries have had diplomatic relations and are going well since 1950. However, the development of the defense aspect of the relationship is a more recent trend that has occurred in recent years. An important event in that context was the signing of the first DCA between the two countries in 2014 (Parameswaran 2018).

Indonesia and Saudi Arabia signed the first DCA covering training and education, counter-terrorism efforts and the defense industry. Both Indonesia and Saudi Arabia agreed to work together in increasing the capacity of the two countries to increase professionalism by opening up opportunities to carry out joint training activities. This is also the first international treaty in cooperation between the two countries in the defense sector (Santosa 2014).

An international agreement is the legal basis and guide in carrying out activities, both within the scope of cooperation contained in the agreement and other articles of the agreement. Treaties have various names, some of which indicate different procedures or degrees of formality. These names include Convention, Protocol, Agreement, Arrangement, Verbal Process, Statute, Declaration, Modus Vivendi, Exchange of Letters or note), Closing Provisions (final act), General Provisions. However, for formal agreements regarding peace, alliances or other important matters, the term treaty is usually used (Supriyanto 2014, 141).

In the book *About Defense Science*, Makmur Supriyanto explains about the cooperation agreements of the Ministry of Defense that have been processed, from drafts to become agreements at the Ministry of Defense. Of course, both chaired by staff

from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and accompanied by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, one of which is (Supriyanto 2014, 144):

a. Statute

This term is an important regulation regarding the implementation of the functions of international institutions that are collected, for example the Statute of the International Court of Justice in 1945. This Statute is also an additional tool of legitimacy for the convention that determines the regulations to be applied.

b. Note Exchange

This term is an informal method that is often used in recent times. By exchanging these notes, countries recognize an interest, common obligations that bind them. The exchange of these notes is sometimes carried out through the diplomatic or military envoy of the country concerned. Ratification is not necessary, but will be necessary if it is in accordance with the intentions of the parties. This kind of exchange of notes is often carried out by the Ministry of Defense through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which has diplomatic channels.

Figure 2

Names of Treaties and Agreements between RI - Other Countries

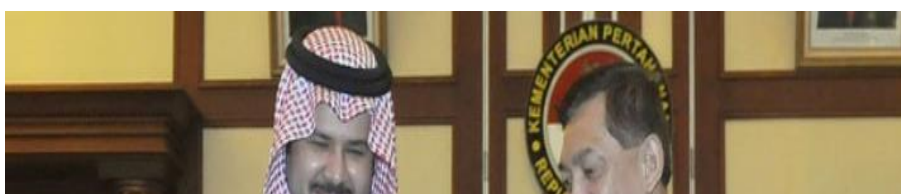
No.	NEGARA	NAMA TRAKTAT
1.	Brunei Darussalam	<i>Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)</i>
2.	Filipina	<i>Agreement</i>
3.	India	<i>Agreement</i>
4.	Afrika Selatan	<i>MoU</i>
5.	Ceko	<i>Agreement</i>
6.	Cina	<i>Agreement</i>
7.	Italia	<i>MoU</i>
8.	Malaysia	<i>Border Security Arrangement</i>
9.	PNG	<i>Agreement</i>
10.	Pakistan	<i>Agreement</i>
11.	Polandia	<i>Agreement</i>
12.	Russia	<i>Agreement</i>
13.	Turki	<i>Agreement</i>
14.	Australia	<i>Arrangement</i>
15.	Amerika Serikat	<i>Framework Arrangement</i>
16.	Singapura	<i>Agreement</i>
17.	Jerman	<i>MoU</i>
18.	Russia	<i>Agreement</i>
19.	Arab Saudi	<i>Agreement</i>
20.	Azerbaijan	<i>Agreement</i>
21.	Brazil	<i>Agreement</i>
22.	Bulgaria	<i>MoU</i>
23.	Belarus	<i>Agreement</i>
24.	Tiongkok	<i>MoU</i>
25.	Libia	<i>Agreement</i>

In 2011, Indonesia began exploring cooperation with Saudi Arabia in the defense sector. The cooperation agreement began with the visit of the Indonesian delegation represented by the Ministry of Defense to Saudi Arabia and a meeting with the Deputy Minister of Defense of Saudi Arabia, namely Prince Khalid bin Sultan. During the meeting, the two state officials held discussions to discuss bilateral cooperation relations between the two countries in the defense sector, including (Kementerian Pertahanan 2014):

1. The military education and training program of the two countries.
2. Personnel exchange program.
3. Defense industry and technology development program.
4. Humanitarian assistance and disaster management.

The four programs are the fruit of the defense diplomacy of Indonesia and Saudi Arabia. The two countries can now carry out military education and training development programs such as joint military exercises. Not only that, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia can conduct student exchanges to increase personnel knowledge in a wider scope, not only on domestic but global aspects. In addition, the development of defense industry and technology is not spared from this diplomacy. Considering the sophistication of a country's main weapon system, it is an important aspect of national defense. Then on the last point, namely cooperation on the humanitarian aspect. The two countries agreed to provide humanitarian assistance to meet the country's needs.

Especially for the defense industry, Indonesia did not miss the opportunity to introduce a number of domestic military products to Prince Khalid bin Sultan. The Indonesian government, represented by Deputy Minister of Defense Sjafrie Sjamsudin, then provided a weapon of the latest production of PT Pindad's SS2 V1 rifle. Not only that, he also provided a miniature model of the CN 235 medium transport aircraft produced by PT Dirgantara Indonesia. This aims to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries in the defense sector (Investor.id 2020).





The Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia officially signed a cooperation agreement in the defense sector on Thursday, January 23, 2014. This cooperation memorandum was then signed at the Ministry of Defense office, Jakarta. The signing was carried out by Deputy Minister of Defense of Saudi Arabia Prince Salman bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz Al-Saud with Deputy Minister of Defense of Indonesia Sjafrie Sjamsoedin. Although Prince Salman's visit to Indonesia was brief, he took the time to see a number of domestically made TNI defense equipment, such as the Anoa armored vehicle from PT Pindad at the Kopassus Headquarters and also the CN-295 aircraft which was assembled by PT Dirgantara Indonesia in collaboration with Airbus Military (Tempo.co 2020).

The arrival of the Deputy Minister of Defense of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Prince Salman bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, to the Office of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia is a form of close bilateral relations in the defense sector between Indonesia and Saudi Arabia. The arrival of the Saudi Arabian delegation was received by the Deputy Minister of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia, which was then followed by a signing (DCA) between the Ministry of Defense Cooperation Agreement of the Republic of Indonesia and Saudi Arabia. Although the cooperation agreement in the defense sector between Indonesia and Saudi Arabia was reached in 2014, the



military relations between the two countries have been going on for a long time. Saudi Arabia often provides assistance in the form of religious understanding, facilities for Hajj activities for Indonesian Defense personnel, then other assistance in the form of the Qur'an, construction of mosques and other assistance to the TNI. Thus, Saudi Arabia became the first country in the Middle East to sign a defense cooperation agreement with Indonesia. This is at the same time a history of bilateral relations between the two countries in the field of defense (Kementerian Pertahanan 2014).

The signing of the mutually agreed defense cooperation between Indonesia and Saudi Arabia automatically becomes a program that is expected to be sustainable. The Indonesian government laid the foundation for cooperation with Saudi Arabia in 2014 after a long time of establishing cooperative relationships in other fields, such as organizing the pilgrimage, labor and education. Indonesia is now exploring new cooperation, namely in the field of defense. This has received attention and support from the House of Representatives (DPR) as the representative of the Indonesian people.

On September 18 2018, Commission I of the Indonesian House of Representatives approved the Draft Law (RUU) to ratify the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia and the Ministry of Defense of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Defense Cooperation. The cooperation agreement was ratified to become law in order to become a legal umbrella in conducting cooperation in all fields of defense between Indonesia and Saudi Arabia (Dpr.go.id 2019). Thus, the cooperation agreement between Indonesia and Saudi Arabia in the defense sector has obtained a legal umbrella. This is inseparable from the long process to legitimize the agreement of defense from 2014 to 2018. Diplomacy contained in the form of defense cooperation is part of Indonesia's national interest to strengthen the defense side of the country.

4.4. National Interest of Indonesia



National interest is an aspect that influences a country to determine policies that benefit them. Donald E. Nuechterlein (1976, 248) mentioned that one of the basics of national interest is the defense aspect. This is based on the desire of countries to protect their citizens against threats directed from other countries in the form of physical violence. Then it can be a threat that comes from outside the government system which spurs countries to improve their defense side. To strengthen their defense of nations, it requires cooperation with other countries in the defense sector.

Defense cooperation is a cooperation that emphasizes the national interest of a country. This is because cooperation is sensitive and also concerns the sovereignty, state security, stability and welfare of the people. Judging from the description above, defense cooperation can be referred to as an international transaction carried out by two or more countries for the purpose of the "national interest" of the country that forms the corporation. Such cooperation is agreed upon by means of a treaty or agreement in which two or more countries enter into a reciprocal relationship according to written and formal international law. Likewise, cooperation in the defense sector generally uses written instruments, an agreement has been made based on the "Note of Meeting" (Supriyanto 2014, 140).

Defense diplomacy in the form of bilateral cooperation is very important to maintain the stability of international relations. The reason is, with changes in the global landscape and geoeconomic map occurring in the Asia Pacific, defense diplomacy can be a rational choice to avoid potential conflicts that could arise at any time (Ariesta 2018).

In establishing cooperation with Saudi Arabia, at least Indonesia will benefit in two ways: First, Indonesia's opportunity to strengthen its defense base becomes easier, especially for increasing the insight of human resources and technology. Second, by establishing bilateral relations with Saudi Arabia – in the defense sector – it will increase Indonesia's bargaining position in the eyes of Middle Eastern countries. This is because Saudi Arabia is one of the strongest countries in the Middle East, so Indonesia's position can be considered strategic by countries in the Arab region.



5. Conclusion

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that the cooperative relationship between Indonesia and Saudi Arabia in the defense sector has officially reached an agreement in 2014. This is confirmed by the approval of the Draft Law (RUU) for Ratification of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Indonesia and the Ministry of Defense of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Defense Cooperation which was approved by Commission I of the Indonesian House of Representatives in 2018. In the field of defense, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia agreed on education and training programs, personnel exchange, development of the weapons industry and humanitarian assistance.

The existence of a gradual cooperation program in the defense sector between Indonesia and Saudi Arabia is of course very beneficial for the development of the capabilities of Indonesian military personnel. Moreover, Saudi Arabia is a friendly country as well as the right partner to help Indonesia in developing industry and technology. This is because Saudi Arabia is a country that has a large budget for the rejuvenation of the main weapons system (defense equipment), so that it can provide benefits for Indonesia to obtain modern military education through exchange programs for students, staff and the Ministry of Defense.



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