Ethnic Conflict in Southeast Asian: A Comparative Study of Aceh (Indonesia) and Moro (Philippines)


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Abstract

The aim of this research is to analyze ethnic conflict management in Aceh (Indonesia) and Moro (Philippines) conflicts. The Aceh conflict was considered resolved after the signing of the Helsinki agreement, which was mediated by the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), an international NGO based in Finland, on 15 August 2005 between Indonesian government and Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (GAM). In the meanwhile, the Moro conflict (Philippines) is still ongoing even though a Tripoli agreement was signed and mediated by OIC (Organization of Islamic Conference) between the Philippines’ government and Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) on 23 December 1976 as well as with MILF on 2001. The successful resolution of the Aceh conflict was due to the role played by various third parties such as the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), European Union (EU) and ASEAN and also Indonesian government, Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (GAM), as well as the general Aceh community in upholding the peace process. The opposite has happened in the Moro conflict case, which even until now is still happening. These conflicts have brought a huge impact on the peace of its people resulting in human rights violation, higher death tolls, hampering economic productivity and the delay of environmental problems (Anwar, 2005). CMI in Aceh has been successful to change the ethnic conflict situation to one which can defeat and reduce escalation as well as sending the conflict actors on their way towards conflict resolution. Peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace building have been well-played by CMI that involved international community such as ASEAN and EU to arrange the conflict. Meanwhile in Moro OIC failed to bring the conflicts actors to solve their problems. The government of Philippines has not sturdy vision, framework and political will in solving the Moro conflict as well as OIC.

Key Words: Ethnic Conflict, Aceh, Moro, Southeast Asia