

## **The Indonesian Defense Management Concept In Resolving The Israel-Palestine Conflict**

**Ibnu Asakir<sup>1)</sup>, Hikmat Zakky Almubaroq<sup>2)</sup>**

<sup>1)</sup>Student Defence Manement, Republic Indonesian of Defense University

<sup>2)</sup>Lecturer in Defence Management Studies Program, Indonesian Defense University Masters Program

\*Corresponding Author

Email: [asakiribnu@gmail.com](mailto:asakiribnu@gmail.com)

---

### **Abstract**

*The Israel-Palestine conflict is a complex international issue that affects global geopolitical dynamics and security. The Indonesian government has taken strategic steps in defense management through international forums to support a peaceful solution to the conflict. This study aims to analyze how Indonesia applies the concept of defense management in responding to the Israel-Palestine conflict. A qualitative research method with a descriptive-analytical approach was used, with primary and secondary data collected through interviews, observations, and verifications. The results show that Indonesia focuses on diplomacy, international cooperation, and advocacy for a fair resolution of the conflict. Through active participation in international forums such as the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Indonesia demonstrates its commitment to supporting the rights of the Palestinian people and encouraging the resolution of the conflict through dialogue and negotiation. Challenges faced include global political dynamics, the interests of major countries, and differences in views among members of international forums. This study provides insights into Indonesia's role in contributing to world peace and maintaining geopolitical stability.*

**Keywords : Defense management, government, Israel, Palestine, Conflict**

---

## **INTRODUCTION**

The prolonged conflict between Israel and Palestine has been one of the most complex and sensitive international issues, affecting global geopolitical dynamics and security (BBC News, 2023). In facing this situation, the Indonesian Government has taken strategic steps by implementing defense management concepts through international forums. As a country with a strong commitment to peace and justice, Indonesia strives not only to maintain regional stability but also to promote a peaceful solution to the conflict. Indonesia has long been committed to supporting the rights of the Palestinian people in their struggle for their country's independence. Indonesia's role in the Palestinian peace effort includes various initiatives and efforts, including diplomacy and advocacy. Consistently, Indonesia has played a role as a defender of the rights of the Palestinian people, including supporting international recognition of the State of Palestine and conducting diplomatic campaigns in international forums such as the United Nations. In addition, Indonesia is active in various international organizations to support the right to Palestinian independence and conflict resolution based on the principle of a two-state solution. At the 2015 Asia-Africa Summit, this forum successfully produced a special declaration that affirmed support for Palestine. Dialogue on concerns and developments in the Palestinian conflict was also conveyed at the 2015 International Conference on Jerusalem Issues and the 2015 UN Civil Society Forum on Palestinian Issues, organized by the UN in cooperation with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia. (Juntami, 2023)

Bilateral relations between Indonesia and Palestine, as well as Indonesia-Israel relations, have been ongoing throughout Indonesia's history. Indonesia recognizes Palestine as a sovereign state and establishes bilateral cooperation by placing state representatives (ambassadors) for Palestine and vice versa. While Indonesia does not have diplomatic relations with Israel. Bilateral

relations between the Indonesian Government and Palestine represent the Indonesian people's support for Palestine. (Indra Prawira, 2021). Thus, the Indonesian Government makes various efforts to support Palestine. In the context of defense management, Indonesia focuses not only on military aspects but also on diplomacy, international cooperation, and advocacy for a fair conflict resolution. Through active participation in various international forums such as the United Nations (UN), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), and the Asia-Africa Conference, Indonesia has shown its commitment to supporting the rights of the Palestinian people and encouraging conflict resolution through dialogue and negotiation. (Sumertha et al., 2017)

Additionally, Indonesia has also utilized international platforms such as the 5th Extraordinary OIC Meeting on March 6-7, 2016, to garner support from other countries in efforts to pressure Israel to stop its aggression against Palestine. This is done by voicing concerns over human rights violations and international law breaches occurring in the conflict region. Indonesia believes that a peaceful and fair resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict will contribute significantly to global peace and stability. (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia, 2019a)

However, the challenges faced in implementing the concept of defense management through international forums are not small. Israel, which receives support from the superpower United States (US), is increasingly aggressive in seizing Palestinian territory, despite pressure from countries around the world condemning and disagreeing with Israel's policies towards Palestine. Various peace efforts have been made by the UN Security Council, but no solution has been found as the US, which will be the leading country to veto the resolution. Palestine, which lacks power and has been under Israeli control, is always looked down upon by the US, even turning a blind eye to the situation. The struggle of Palestine in its efforts to be independent and free from colonization always faces deadlock. They are exploited and surrounded by global interests led by the United States. The US is an ally of the Arabs and can easily be controlled according to American desires (Rofiatul Nurhasanah, 2024). In addition, global political dynamics, the interests of major countries, and differences in views among members of international forums often become obstacles in reaching a consensus. Therefore, Indonesian diplomacy must continue to adapt and seek new strategies to enhance the effectiveness of its advocacy in addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict. Based on this background, the problem formulation can be arranged as follows: how does the Indonesian Government implement the concept of defense management through international forums in response to the Israel-Palestine conflict?

## RESEARCH METHODS

Research on the concept of defense management of the Indonesian Government through international forums in responding to the Israel-Palestine war was conducted using a qualitative research method with an analytical descriptive approach. This approach focuses on understanding the philosophical foundation and usefulness. Furthermore, by using the qualitative descriptive analytical method, researchers hope to produce a comprehensive description of research findings in language that is more understandable to all parties, both from the social science observers themselves and the general public.

The data collected consisted of primary data and secondary data. Primary data included the results obtained from in-depth interviews, observations, and verification. Secondary data included documents related to the conflict. In selecting research subjects, the researcher used the Purposive sampling technique, which means a technique for sampling data sources, where

initially data collection becomes focused and in-depth. The informants were predetermined by the researcher. Informants in this study were parties closely related to the issues at hand.

Based on the above considerations, the study identified informants who were officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, namely Mr. Vahd Naby A. Mulachela, who serves as the Head of the Center for Strategy and Policy of the Asia-Pacific and Africa Region. Data analysis was conducted using techniques from Miles, Huberman, and Saldana, with analysis steps as shown in the figure below:

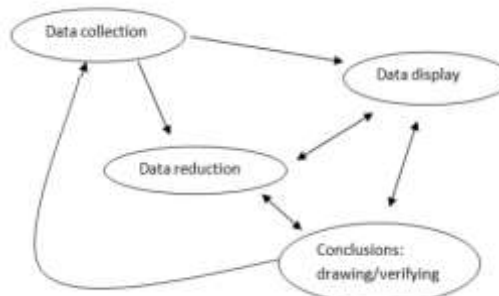


Figure 1. Interactive Data Analysis Model  
Source: Miles, Huberman, and Saldana, 2014

The figure above shows that:

The data analysis process is carried out simultaneously starting from data collection, data condensation, data display, which is done continuously throughout the research process. The final step in the data analysis process is drawing conclusions/data verification.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Context of the Conflict (History and Development)

The Israel-Palestine conflict has a long history that began long before the establishment of both countries. In the early 20th century, the region now known as Israel and Palestine was part of the Ottoman Empire. After World War I, this territory was controlled by the United Kingdom under the League of Nations mandate. The Balfour Declaration in 1917 by the British government supported the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine, which sparked tensions between the Jewish and Arab communities in the region.

In 1947, the United Nations (UN) proposed the partition of Palestine into two states, one for the Jews and the other for the Arabs. However, this plan was rejected by the Arab side, and in 1948, Israel declared its independence, triggering a war with neighboring Arab countries. This conflict resulted in a large number of Palestinian refugees and marked the beginning of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine.

Since then, this conflict has gone through various phases and significant events, including the Six-Day War in 1967, during which Israel captured territories including the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. Peace efforts, such as the Oslo Accords in the 1990s, have attempted but failed to comprehensively resolve the conflict. Key issues of contention include the status of Jerusalem, Palestinian refugees, Jewish settlements in occupied territories, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. (BBC News, 2023).

### The Main Issues of the Conflict

The Israel-Palestine conflict is triggered by various complex and interconnected main issues, which have been sources of tension and dispute for decades. These main issues include borders, which are one of the most critical issues in this conflict. The establishment of clear and

internationally recognized borders between Israel and the proposed Palestinian state is crucial. The pre-1967 borders, known as the "Green Line," are often referenced, but Israel has expanded its territory through the construction of settlements in the West Bank, which is considered illegal by much of the international community.

The issue of Palestinian refugees stems from the 1948 war, when many Palestinians fled or were expelled from their homes. The right to return to their homeland or to receive compensation remains a major demand of the Palestinian side. The status of Jerusalem is also one of the most controversial issues. Palestine wants East Jerusalem, occupied by Israel since 1967, as the capital of their state. Meanwhile, Israel claims the entirety of Jerusalem as its capital, a claim not widely recognized by the international community.

The construction of Jewish settlements in Israeli-occupied territories in the West Bank and East Jerusalem is considered by Palestine and many countries as a major obstacle to peace and the formation of a sovereign Palestinian state. Moreover, Israel states that security is its top priority and demands assurances that a future Palestinian state will not pose a threat. Palestine, on the other hand, demands an end to Israeli military actions and the lifting of the blockade on the Gaza Strip.

Access to clean water resources also becomes a critical issue, especially in arid regions like the Middle East. Control over water resources often becomes a point of contention in negotiations.

**Recent Conditions (October 7, 2023 - March 19, 2024)**

Table 1: Israel-Palestine Conflict Conditions

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Number of Victims                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PALESTINE</li> <li>Deaths: 31,726 (Gaza) and 435 (West Bank)</li> <li>Injured: 73,792 (Gaza) and 4,650 (West Bank)</li> <li>• ISRAEL</li> <li>Deaths: 1,139</li> <li>Injured: 8,730</li> <li>*data as of March 19, 2024</li> </ul> |
| Keys Player                                  | HAMAS, Palestinian Authority, IDF, PM Benjamin Netanyahu, Axis of Resistance Western Alliance vs Non-Western Alliance, Middle East Quartet Envoys, United Nations Security Council  |
| Escalation of Conflict and Proxy Development | Hezbollah, Lebanon Golan Heights, Red Sea, Houthi Yemen, Geopolitics, Sinai<br><br>Related Countries: Lebanon, Suriah, Arab Saudi, Mesir, Oman, Qatar, PEA, Iran, Iraq, Yordania, Turki, Yaman  |
| Regional Mediators                           | Qatar, Turki, Mesir   |

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2023-2024

### Indonesia's Role

Indonesia actively uses various means to advocate for a peaceful resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. This is done in accordance with the objectives set forth in the fourth paragraph of the 1945 Constitution, which aims to establish a world order based on independence, eternal peace, and social justice. Additionally, other legal bases such as Law No. 1 of 1982, Law No. 37 of 1999, Presidential Decree No. 108 of 2003, Minister of Foreign Affairs Decision No. SK.06/A/OT/VI/2004/01 of 2004, Presidential Regulation No. 68 of 2019, Presidential Regulation No. 116 of 2020, and Minister of Foreign Affairs Regulation No. 6 of 2021 also serve as the legal foundation for Indonesia, specifically the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its diplomatic and consular missions, in supporting peace in Palestine. As a form of accountability for these efforts, Indonesia continues to rally support from other countries bilaterally through diplomacy and cooperation, including countries in the Middle East. Regionally, Indonesia collaborates with ASEAN and OIC member states to strengthen a collective stance in support of Palestine. Multilaterally, Indonesia plays an active role in international forums such as the UN, where it calls for respect for international law and UN resolutions related to Palestine. Indonesia also participates in other international forums, such as the Non-Aligned Movement Summit, to build global consensus in support of Palestinian rights.

Indonesia's top priorities in addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict include urging a ceasefire to halt violence and save lives. Indonesia also emphasizes the importance of humanitarian aid for conflict victims and strives to ensure the protection of Indonesian citizens (WNI) in the region. Furthermore, Indonesia supports the continuation of the two-state solution as a fair and sustainable resolution. Lastly, Indonesia calls for an end to the occupation and injustice against Palestine, and for the respect of the Palestinian people's rights to live freely and in peace.

Table 2: Indonesia's Position Over Time

| Time Periods                              | Indonesia's Position   |
|---|--|
| Era of Independence Struggle (1940-1949): | The first support from the Arab world for Indonesia's independence struggle was voiced in 1944 by Palestinian leader, Grand Mufti Sheikh "Al-Haj" Muhammad Amin Al-Husaini.  |
| Old Order Era (1959-1965):                | Indonesia strongly opposed neo-colonialism and neo-imperialism, which influenced its views on various issues, including the Palestine-Israel conflict.   |
| New Order Era (1967-1998):                | Indonesia maintained a balanced stance on the Palestine-Israel issue, including abstaining when Egypt was sanctioned after the Camp David Accords in 1978. Indonesia supported the "Land For Peace" principle and recognized the PLO as the official representative of Palestine.                                |
| Reformation Era:                          | President Yasser Arafat visited Indonesia in 1999 to discuss plans for Palestinian independence. Under President Abdurrahman Wahid, Indonesia explored increased support for Palestine through contact with Israel and the formalization of non-diplomatic relations. This policy received mixed reactions, with |

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
|                     | some seeing potential trade benefits and others worried about its impact on Palestine. During President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's era, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas visited Indonesia in 2007.   |
| Current Era (2024): | Under President Joko Widodo, Indonesia continues to support Palestinian independence, condemning actions by Israel that are considered to violate human rights. Although not establishing direct diplomatic relations with Israel, Indonesia plays a role in international forums, recognizes Palestinian independence, and provides humanitarian aid focusing on the two-state solution and peace in the Middle East. |

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Kemenlu), 2024

### Challenges in Conflict Resolution

One of the main challenges in resolving the conflict is the political and security situation within Palestine itself. There is a division between two main factions, Fatah, which controls the West Bank, and Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip. This internal dispute complicates the formation of a united front in negotiations with Israel and hinders efforts to establish a coherent and sovereign Palestinian state.

Israel's domestic politics also pose a challenge to conflict resolution. The constantly shifting government coalitions and the presence of right-wing parties that oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state make it difficult to reach a national consensus on a two-state solution. Additionally, the issue of Jewish settlements in occupied territories continues to be a source of tension and an obstacle to peace.

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict not only involves the two parties themselves but also countries in the Middle East region and other global powers. Intervention from countries such as the United States, Iran, and Arab states has a significant impact on the dynamics of the conflict. The geopolitical and strategic interests of various international actors often complicate efforts for a fair and sustainable resolution.

The religious aspect and the long history of this conflict add layers of complexity. Jerusalem, a city of religious significance to Jews, Christians, and Muslims, is the focal point of the dispute. Issues such as access to holy sites and national-religious identity often hinder negotiations and compromises.

### Future Scenarios for Gaza

#### 1. Decapitated Palestine:

This scenario depicts a situation where the Palestinian authority experiences further disintegration, resulting in governance weakness and ongoing instability. In this situation, Gaza may become increasingly isolated, with deteriorating humanitarian conditions due to blockade and repeated conflicts. Extremist forces may gain more influence, and the prospects for the formation of a united and sovereign Palestinian state become increasingly distant.

#### 2. Continued Status Quo:

This scenario predicts that the situation in Gaza will remain largely unchanged, with the blockade continuing, sporadic tensions, and small-scale conflicts. In this scenario, international peace efforts remain deadlocked, and daily life for Gaza residents continues to be marked by economic hardship and limited access to basic services. Political resolution to the conflict remains elusive, maintaining an unstable status quo.

#### 3. Two-State Solution:

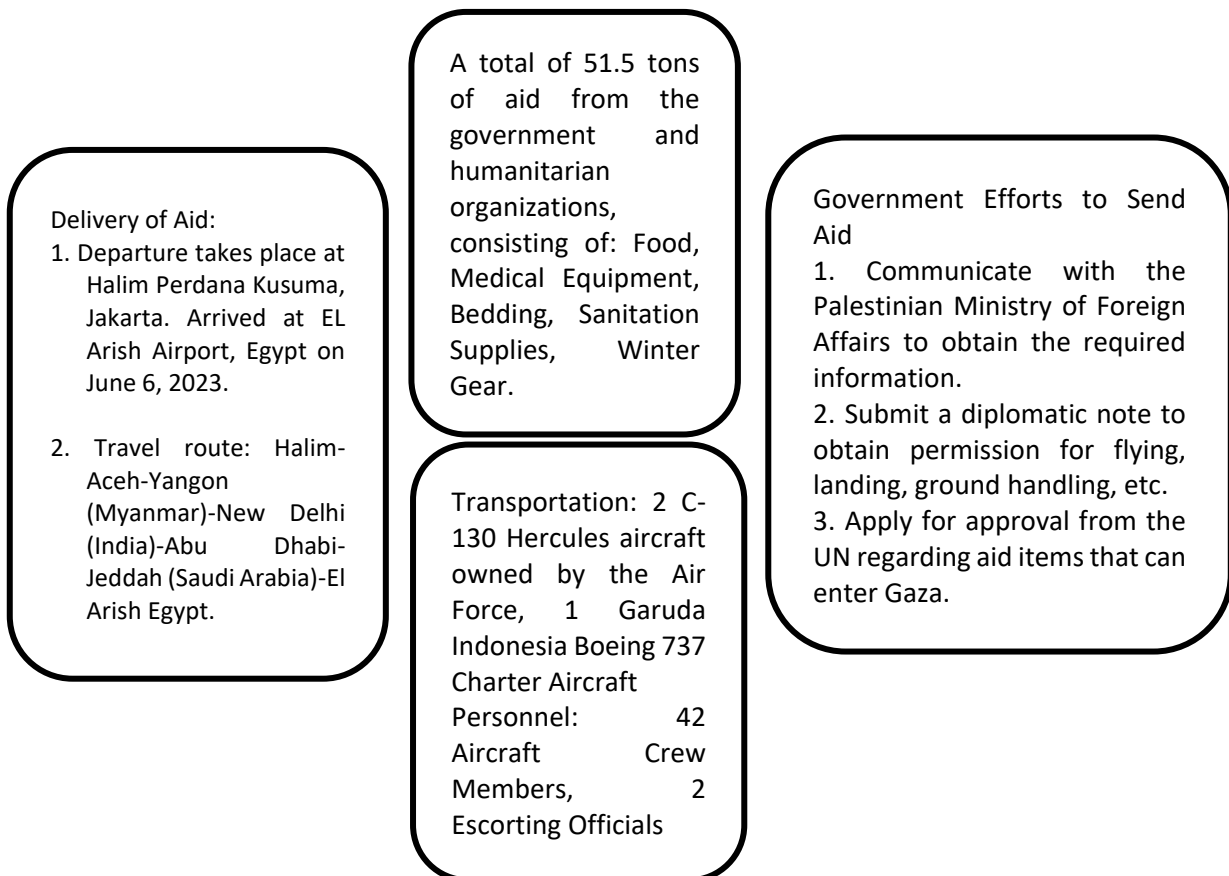
This scenario offers a more optimistic view, where there is a diplomatic breakthrough leading

to the resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict based on a two-state solution. In this scenario, Gaza becomes part of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state, with internationally recognized borders and improved access to the outside world. International investment and aid help rebuild and develop Gaza's economy, bringing stability and prosperity to its residents.

Indonesia can play a crucial role in supporting the reconciliation process between Hamas and Fatah, the two main factions in Palestine. As a country with experience in resolving internal conflicts and national reconciliation, Indonesia can offer its expertise and knowledge to help overcome political divisions in Palestine. These efforts could include facilitating dialogue between the two parties, providing a platform for meetings and discussions, and supporting the implementation of reconciliation agreements.

Furthermore, Indonesia can contribute to the reconstruction and rebuilding efforts in Gaza and the West Bank, which have been affected by the conflict. Through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, Indonesia can provide technical, financial, and human resources assistance to support the recovery of infrastructure, public services, and the local economy. Indonesia can also leverage its experience in national development to help develop the capacity of Palestinian governance and institutions.

Chart 1: Indonesia's Aid to Palestine



Source: ANTARA 2023

Indonesia can also support initiatives to implement a temporary non-military international presence in Palestine as a mechanism for monitoring and enforcing peace. This presence can help ensure security and stability in the region, as well as facilitate the implementation of peace agreements. Indonesia can participate in this mission by sending

observers or experts, and by collaborating with international organizations and other countries to strengthen monitoring and verification mechanisms.

In implementing these strategic proposals, Indonesia can leverage its influence and capacity as a major country in Southeast Asia and an active member of various international forums to support peace efforts and conflict resolution in Palestine-Israel.

## CONCLUSION

The Indonesian Government's defense management concept in responding to the Israel-Palestine conflict emphasizes a diplomatic approach and advocacy through international forums. In this context, Indonesia has shown its commitment to international peace and justice by actively supporting a conflict resolution based on the two-state solution and condemning actions that violate international law.

Through participation in international forums such as the United Nations, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the Asia-Africa Conference, Indonesia seeks to influence global opinion and garner support for Palestine. This strategy reflects a broader defense management concept that focuses not only on military aspects but also on diplomacy, international cooperation, and human rights advocacy.

Indonesia also faces challenges in these diplomatic efforts, including the domestic political dynamics of Israel and Palestine, global power polarization, and complex issues underlying the conflict. However, by leveraging its capacity as a major country in Southeast Asia and an active member of various international forums, Indonesia continues to strive to make a significant contribution to peace efforts in the Middle East.

For Indonesia, Palestine is a core interest. Indonesia's commitment to Palestine is strong and long-standing. For the future of Palestine after the war in Gaza, Indonesia can help push the Peace Process, strengthen governance and democracy, facilitate Hamas-Fatah reconciliation, contribute to Gaza's reconstruction, and be part of an International Protection mechanism under the UN umbrella.

## REFERENCES

- BBC News, I. (2023, Oktober 24). *Sejarah konflik Palestina-Israel, pertikaian berkepanjangan yang berlangsung puluhan tahun*. Retrieved from BBC: <https://www.bbc.com/indonesia/articles/cjr0pz20z7po>
- CNN, <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/internasional/20230924093044-134-1002960/menlu-retnosaat-pidato-di-sidang-pbb-ri-tak-mundur-dukung-palestina> diakses pada 22 Oktober 2023 pukul 17.00
- Juntami, A. P. (2023). PANCASILA AND PEACE: PERAN INDONESIA DALAM MEDIASI KONFLIK ISRAEL-PALESTINA; IMPLEMENTASI PANCASILA PADA DIPLOMASI PERDAMAIAN DUNIA. *Jurnal Diplomasi Pertahanan*, 27-29.
- KEMLU, <https://kemlu.go.id/portal/id/read/511/berita/regional-conference-onhumanitarianassistance-upaya-kongkrit-kepemimpinan-diplomasi-kemanusiaanindonesia-dikawasan>, pada 22 Oktober 2023 pukul 07.00
- Rofiatul Nurhasanah, D. S. (2024). Keterlibatan Indonesia Dalam Proses Perdamaian Konflik Paletina-Israel. *Jurnal Nirwasita*, 2.
- Sumertha, I. G., Ismadi, A., & Wibowo, H. A. (2017). Keterlibatan Pemerintah Indonesia dalam Proses Perdamaian Konflik Israel-Palestina. *Jurnal Prodi Damai Dan Resolusi*

Konflik Universitas Pertahanan, 3(1), 1–28.

Suratiningsih, D., Pupita, D., & Safira, S. (2020). Diplomasi Perdamaian Dan Kemanusiaan Indonesia Dalam Isu Palestina Pada Tahun 2014-2020. (PROYEKSI Jurnal Ilmu-Ilmu Sosial Dan Humaniora PROYEKSI Jurnal Ilmu-Ilmu Sosial Dan Humaniora (e-Journal)), 25(1), 11. <https://doi.org/10.26418/proyeksi.v25i1.2602>

Sugiyono. (2018). Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif Kualitatif dan R&D, Bandung: Alfabeta

Indra Prawira, R. E. (2021). Objektivitas Tiga Media Siber Indonesia: Studi Konten Berita Konflik. *Jurnal Wacana Politik*, 3.

Nabyl A. Mulachela, Vahd. Strategi Diplomasi Indonesia Dalam Konflik Palestina – Israel. Power Point Seminar Unhan. Kementerian Luar Negeri. Jakarta

UUD Negara Republik Indonesia Tahun 1945

UU No. 1 Tahun 1982 UU No. 37 Tahun 1999

KEPPRES No. 108 Tahun 2003

Kepmenlu No. SK.06/A/OT/VI/2004/01 Tahun 2004

PERPRES No. 68 Tahun 2019

PERPRES No. 116 Tahun 2020

Permenlu No. 6 Tahun 2021