HANDLING OF ROHINGYA REFUGEES IN INDONESIA AS A TRANSIT COUNTRY

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ABSTRACT

Indonesia has long been a transit location for many refugees, including those from the Second Indochina War, especially Vietnam and Cambodia, who began entering Indonesian territory in 1975. Currently, refugees from Myanmar, namely the Rohingya, are starting to enter Indonesia because their country is experiencing a civil war conflict in which prolonged. As a transit destination country, Indonesia cannot refuse them because of international conventions that the government complies with, but as time goes by Indonesia experiences overcapacity in refugee matters and the final destination country does not immediately make a decision regarding the fate of these refugees. So there is a need for assistance and solutions from the Indonesian government regarding this matter refugees. The aim of this research is to analyze in depth the refugee phenomenon in Indonesia and provide solutions related to this problem through an academic perspective. The research method is a sociolegal approach regarding legal policies regarding refugees in Indonesia. The results of the research are that there are several steps that need to be taken refugees, including reactivating islands in Indonesia as transit locations past experiences during the Vietnam war, efforts to ratify the convention on refugees because Indonesia is not a signatory country, then clarifying the presidential regulation on refugees so that its implementation is clearer. **Keywords** : handling rohingya, state responsibilities, refugees.

A. Introduction

Indonesia is a country with a very large area and is spread from East to West across the Indian Ocean and South China Sea. This vast territory makes Indonesia a transit area for many refugees before reaching their destination country. These destination countries include Australia, New Zealand and even America, which are countries with the highest average life expectancy and a stable economy and greater job opportunities. It is feared that the large number of refugees transiting before reaching their destination (final) country in Indonesia will cause many problems and quite a few social conflicts with the surrounding community due to differences in ethnicity, culture and language.

For a long time, Indonesia has been transit location for refugees compared to other countries because Indonesia still has high tolerance for refugees, but quite a few of these refugees do not have the right to immediately leave for their destination country because it is clear that they do not even have a document or visa. One of the refugees who have travelled to Indonesia in Vietnam. Come from Vietnam.At that time, Vietnam was being hit by the Second Indochina War in the 1960-1975s. It is also known through VOA Indonesia that refugees in Indonesia, specifically Vietnam, reached 250 thousand people and also around 5 thousand people from Cambodia between 1970 and 1996.¹ History records that at least 22 refugees from Vietnam arrived in Indonesia, precisely on Laut Island to the north of Natuna, in May 1975, then until 1979 a refugee shelter was created on Galang Island because it was considered more strategic compared to other islands which were close to each other. The development of Galang Island as a refugee shelter was also assisted by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)². History records that on this island, refugees lived side by side with local communities and also worked together with each other, thus becoming a model at that time for refugees who were more humane and humanitarian. This island began to be abandoned at the end of 1996 because some of the remaining refugees were returned to Vietnam considering that the country was starting to be safe from conflict.

Until now, in 2023, through the Directorate General of Immigration, at least 12,781 people will become Indonesian refugees, with details of 6,522 people living in official shelters, while the rest are independent refugees. The countries of origin of these refugees are 6,703 from Afghanistan, 1,359 from Myanmar, 1,260 from Somalia, 614 from Iraq, 489 from Sudan and the rest come from various countries.³ One of the phenomenal cases recently was the Rohingya ethnic refugees who landed in Aceh for some time, as a result of internal conflict in their country, namely Myanmar, so this ethnic group fled their country.⁴

¹ VOA Indonesia, "Menilik Eks Kamp Vietnam Bakal Lokasi Penampungan Pengungsi Rohingya," *Www. Voaindonesia.Com*, last modified 2023, accessed May 3, 2024, https://www.voaindonesia.com/a/menilik-eks-kamp-vietnam-bakal-lokasi-penampungan-pengungsi-rohingya/7414471.html.

² detik.com, "Sejarah Pulau Galang, Penampungan Tentara Jepang Hingga Pengungsi Vietnam," *Www.Detik. Com*, last modified 2023, accessed May 3, 2024, https://www.detik.com/edu/detikpedia/d-7103111/ sejarah-pulau-galang-penampungan-tentara-jepang-hingga-pengungsi-vietnam.

³ VOA Indonesia, "Membuka Kesempatan 'Bekerja' Bagi Ribuan Pengungsi Di Indonesia," *Voaindonesia.Com*, last modified 2023, accessed May 3, 2024, https://www.voaindonesia.com/a/membuka-kesempatanbekerja-bagi-ribuan-pengungsi-di-indonesia-/7175597.html.

Aulia Aristawidya Apsarini et al., "Tindakan Indonesia Dalam Melindungi Pengungsi Rohingya Berdasarkan Perspektif Etika Utilitarianisme," Jurnal Kajian Kontemporer Hukum dan Masyarakat 02, no. 01 (2024): 1–25.

Referring to the bbc.com page for the end of 2023 in Aceh from the UNHCR report itself, the total number of refugees reached + 1,608 people, and 140 people have been detained for more than 1 year because no country wants to accept them as refugees.⁵ However, as time went by it turned out that many refugees from the Rohingya ethnic group acted very intolerant where they did not behave politely in the community, did not maintain cleanliness and did not respect local community norms and some also fled to other places.⁶ Until finally the people in Aceh felt very angry and could no longer accommodate refugees from the Rohingya ethnic group themselves. As well as reducing social and local economic tensions which are threatened by the presence of the Rohingya ethnic group.⁷



Figure 1. Expulsion of Ethnic Rohingya December 2023

The peak was in December when a number of community elements and also some student activists carried out forced evictions at the *Balee Meuseuraya Aceh* (BMA) temporary shelter. This action was marked by clashes between police officers on guard and several activists and there were also elements of violence against Rohingya refugees.⁸ The UN agency, namely UNHCR, which handles a number of refugees, also regrets such anarchic actions, but they are unable to do much, and only hope that this action will not continue and ask the Indonesian government to immediately provide a solution for these ocean survivors to be immediately accommodated and given political asylum so that they

⁵ bbc.com, "Pengungsi Rohingya Tembus 1.600 Orang, Mengapa Nelayan Aceh Menolong Mereka?," *Bbc.Com*, last modified 2023, accessed May 3, 2024, https://www.bbc.com/indonesia/articles/c4nye1ewp2xo.

⁶ News.detik.com, "Mengapa Pengungsi Rohingya Ditolak Warga Aceh? Ini Penjelasannya," *News.Detik.Com*, last modified 2023, accessed May 3, 2024, https://news.detik.com/berita/d-7048044/mengapa-pengungsi-rohingya-ditolak-warga-aceh-ini-penjelasannya.

⁷ M. Angela Merici Siba and Anggi Nurul Qomari'ah, "Pelanggaran Hak Asasi Manusia Dalam Konflik Rohingya Human Right Violations on Rohingya Conflict," *Journal of Islamic World and Politics* 2, no. 2 (2018): 367–385.

⁸ CNNIndonesia, "Pecah Tangis Pengungsi Rohingya Diusir Paksa Mahasiswa Di Aceh," *CNNIndonesia*, lastmodified 2023, accessed May 4, 2024, https://www.cnnindonesia.com/nasional/20231228071848-20-1042484/ pecah-tangis-pengungsi-rohingya-diusir-paksa-mahasiswa-di-aceh.

can entered Indonesia.9

This was also responded to by the *Majelis Permusyawaratan Ulama Aceh* (MPUA) which asked all people in Aceh to stop expelling Rohingya ethnic refugees and asked the government to immediately provide a decent and more humane place for this ethnic group so that it would be easy to monitor and also on humanitarian grounds. and brothers in faith can accept their presence.¹⁰

Due to this, the Indonesian government is of course asked to immediately provide protection and access to basic needs services for the Rohingya ethnic group and also provide a suitable place for the time being because the situation in Myanmar does not allow for repatriation. In line with that, UNHCR will also help them, especially with land protection as well as access to health, especially medicines for those in need and several other basic services that the Rohingya really need when they first arrive in Aceh.¹¹

Reviewing this, of course we can see that in Indonesia's past history when accepting refugees from Vietnam, the government immediately acted quickly by providing basic services and placing them in an area on Galang Island, Batam City as a base for sheltering these refugees. Even at that time, Indonesia was considered a model country because it provided a decent, non-discriminatory and very humane place for refugees from Vietnam. Moreover, at that time, Vietnam was still in turmoil at the end of the 2nd Indochina War and it was not possible to carry out immediate reparation. However, currently Indonesia is facing the same situation where the Rohingya ethnic group is also experiencing political upheaval where the country of Myanmar is controlled by the Military Junta which always discriminates against the Rohingya ethnic group in their country. So, they fled to survive and sought asylum in other countries that were willing to accept them.

This research will analyze using qualitative methods with literature review which will refer to policies or regulations related to refugees, both on the scale of national policies and international regulations which have not yet been ratified. Thus, discussing the state's responsibility for handling Rohingya refugees in Indonesia will produce several important points that can be used as input to stakeholders. Several important points that will be conveyed in this research are several steps Indonesia has taken towards the Rohingya ethnic group and comparing them with Vietnamese refugees in the 1975-1996 era. So the results of this comparison will provide a different picture and important results that can be

⁹ Detik Sumut, "Aksi Mahasiswa Usir Pengungsi Rohingya Dari Penampungan Yang Disesali UNHCR," *Detik. News*, last modified 2023, accessed May 4, 2024, https://www.detik.com/sumut/berita/d-7113122/aksi-mahasiswa-usir-pengungsi-rohingya-dari-penampungan-yang-disesali-unhcr.

¹⁰ MPU, "Ulama Aceh Minta Pemerintah Segera Relokasi Rohingya Ke Tempat Layak," *Majelis Permusyawaratan Ulama*, last modified 2023, accessed May 4, 2024, https://mpu.acehprov.go.id/berita/kategori/berita/ulama-aceh-minta-pemerintah-segera-relokasi-rohingya-ke-tempat-layak.

¹¹ Antaranews.com, "UNHCR Tegaskan Bantu Pemerintah Terkait Pengungsi Rohingya Di Aceh," *Antaranews. Com*, last modified 2024, accessed May 4, 2024, https://www.antaranews.com/berita/4024260/unhcr-tegaskan-bantu-pemerintah-terkait-pengungsi-rohingya-di-aceh.

used as a reference for subsequent research analysis.

B. Research Method

The research method will lead to qualitative research using a sociolegal approach. The data sources used in this literature study are several valid sources relating to answering the problem formulation, namely how the state is responsible for handling Rohingya refugees in Indonesia, while valid sources are regulations related to handling refugees, scientific journals, and several other sources. The data analysis used is source data analysis which refers to Cresswell.¹² Meanwhile, for data analysis in this research, interactive data analysis will be presented which refers to Miles and Huberman 1994.¹³

C. Discussions

This results and discussion in this research will be divided into several sub-discussions, including the following:

1. Regulation for Refugees in Indonesia

Indonesia, through standard rules, namely Presidential Regulation Number 125 of 2016 concerning Handling of Refugees from Abroad, accepts every refugee from abroad with open arms and never refuses because this refers to the Preamble to the Indonesian Constitution which rejects all forms of colonialism and discrimination. to its residents.¹⁴ Based on the number of refugees in Indonesia, at least 73% are adults and the rest are children whose conditions are very worrying. Several countries have begun to tighten the entry of refugees from abroad due to conflict, civil war or whatever, which indirectly has a significant impact on Indonesia, which they chose because it has not implemented strict regulations like their destination countries.¹⁵

Indonesia has long been considered a transit country before they reach their destination country and they are starting to be overwhelmed by the large number of migrants from abroad who are directly requesting political asylum. Meanwhile, Australia has also begun to reduce its assistance to refugees in Indonesia since 2018 so that they cannot immediately enter Australia. Referring to Presidential Regulation Number 125 of 2016 concerning Handling of Refugees from Abroad, funding for refugees from abroad has triggered many parties that funding can be done from the APBN (State Revenue and Expenditure Budget) but the detailed rules and mechanisms from the APBN are not yet clear.

¹² John W. Cresswell, *Research Design Pendekatan Kualitatif, Kuantitatif, Dan Mixed*, 3rd ed. (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 2010).

¹³ Matthew B. Miles and A. Michael Huberman, *Qualitative Data Analysis: A Methods Sourcebook*, 3rd ed. (Arizona State University: SAGE Publications, 1994).

¹⁴ Peraturan Presiden Nomor 125 Tahun 2016 Tentang Penanganan Pengungsi Dari Luar Negeri, n.d.

¹⁵ Sekretariat Negara RI, "Upaya Penanganan Pengungsi Luar Negeri Di Indonesia," *Sektab.Go.Id*, last modified 2022, accessed May 9, 2024, https://setkab.go.id/upaya-penanganan-pengungsi-luar-negeri-di-indonesia/.

On the other hand, Indonesia has also not ratified the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951 Convention) and the Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees (1967 Protocol) which clearly means that Indonesia has no obligation to accept refugees in its territory (there is no element of coercion). Referring to the Director of Supervision and Enforcement, the Indonesian Ministry of Law and Human Rights officially stated that refugees in Indonesia could be facilitated by initially placing them in Immigration Detention Centers (Rudenim), then being recorded and placed in clear government accommodation. Then, if they want to apply for work requirements, they must obtain a work visa and approval from the local Manpower Service (Disnaker).¹⁶

If you review the 1951 Convention, there were at least 26 countries that signed this convention in Geneva, Switzerland in 1951, including Australia, Austria, Italy, Canada, England, Turkey, Germany, Denmark, Venezuela, the United States, Sweden, the Netherlands, Norway, Egypt, Luxembourg, France, and others, including several countries in the Asian region, namely Iran, Iraq and Israel.¹⁷ As a comparison, for the Southeast Asian region, Thailand and Malaysia have a large share of refugees from abroad and asylum seekers for Thailand in 2022 alone numbering \pm 96,401, then Malaysia in December 2021 \pm 180,440 with almost 155,400 being ethnic Rohingya from Myanmar who arrived in Malaysia.¹⁸

Some countries that indirectly reject refugees are Canada, where, through a spokesperson for Global Affairs Canada, stated that Canada is a country with conditions and a long history of refugee affairs, so that long-term protection is addressed through a multi-faceted approach to address the root causes of forced displacement. So, when several ethnic Rohingya were rejected in Canada, when they were in Aceh they immediately provided assistance of 50 thousand dollars through The Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) to provide food and water for a while.¹⁹

Meanwhile, the United States through its Ambassador in Jakarta stated that since 2017 they have disbursed at least 34 trillion in funds for refugees in the Southeast Asia region, while Indonesia itself received 2 million dollars for these refugees or the equivalent of

¹⁶ VOA Indonesia, "Membuka Kesempatan 'Bekerja' Bagi Ribuan Pengungsi Di Indonesia," *Voaindonesia.Com*, last modified 2023, accessed May 9, 2024, https://www.voaindonesia.com/a/membuka-kesempatan-bekerja-bagi-ribuan-pengungsi-di-indonesia-/7175597.html.

¹⁷ UNHCR, Konvensi Dan Protokol Mengenai Status Pengungsi (Regional Representation Jakarta - Indonesia, 1951).

¹⁸ Heru Susetyo, "Urgensi Penanganan Pengungsi Dan Pencari Suaka Di Indonesia Oleh Heru Susetyo, S.H, L.L.M, M.Si, Ph.D." (Jakarta: Fakultas Hukum Universitas Indonesia, 2023), accessed May 9, 2024, https:// law.ui.ac.id/urgensi-penanganan-pengungsi-dan-pencari-suaka-di-indonesia-oleh-heru-susetyo-s-h-l-l-mm-si-ph-d/.

¹⁹ detik.News, "RI Tagih Negara Konvensi Pengungsi Urusi Rohingya, Ini Kata Pihak Kanada," *DetikNews.Com*, last modified 2024, accessed May 9, 2024, https://news.detik.com/berita/d-7136941/ri-tagih-negara-konvensi-pengungsi-urusi-rohingya-ini-kata-pihak-kanada.

31 billion rupiah.²⁰ Meanwhile, when compared with the handling of foreign refugees in Thailand itself by Muhtar, Abdussamad, and Hadju in 2022, it explains that Thailand itself is the same country as Indonesia so it is not obliged to accept refugees from abroad, so far foreigners have come to Thailand. The majority are for business purposes, investment, studying, medical care, traveling or working, while several ethnic Rohingya also took the initiative to open refugee camps but some were protested by the Thai people. However, this did not last long because in the end this action was permitted.²¹

Indonesia, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is expected to be able to hold accountable several countries that have ratified the 1951 Convention or the 1967 Protocol, to provide freedom to foreign refugees and asylum seekers in their countries. Meanwhile, Indonesia itself is only a transit destination country and not a receiving country. They (receiving countries) must be able to make a broad commitment like Indonesia which is only a transit country and because of humanitarian grounds they (refugees) are accepted in Indonesia with various upheavals and rejection from the local community.

Krustiyati in her book "*Handling Refugees in Indonesia*" in 2010 stated that Indonesia had made many efforts to address the anarchic actions of this conflict-ridden country. So diplomatic negotiations must be put forward without involving excessive military elements because this is their internal problem and also help the refugees maximally on humanitarian grounds.²² Thus, Indonesia, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Immigration Directorate of the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia has always been at the forefront of matters involving foreign refugees, assisted by the UNHCR. So, if Indonesia's readiness is appropriate then it needs to be considered to participate in ratifying the 1951 convention and the 1967 protocol. So, it will be more optimal in helping refugees who enter Indonesia without having transit and receiving countries through Indonesia.

2. Selection of Indonesia as a Transit Country

For a long time, Indonesia has been the main transit destination country before reaching third countries (refugee receiving countries). It is known that Indonesia is a very strategic middle country for foreign refugees before reaching Australia or New Zealand. In general, these refugees are the majority of countries in the Southwest Asia (Middle East) region or

²⁰ detik.News, "RI Desak Negara Tujuan Pengungsi Terima Rohingya, Ini Respons Kedubes AS," *Detik.News*, last modified 2023, accessed May 9, 2024, https://news.detik.com/berita/d-7098146/ri-desak-negara-tujuanpengungsi-terima-rohingya-ini-respons-kedubes-as.

²¹ Mohamad Hidayat Muhtar, Zamroni Abdussamad, and Zainal Abdul Aziz Hadju, "Studi Perbandingan Penanganan Pengungsi Luar Negeri Di Indonesia, Australia, Dan Thailand," Jurnal Hukum Ius Quia Iustum 30, no. 1 (2023): 26–48.

²² Atik Krustiyati, *Penanganan Pengungsi Di Indonesia*, 1st ed. (Surabaya: Brillan Internasional, 2010), https://repository.ubaya.ac.id/3351/6/Atik Krustiyati_Penanganan Pengungsi di Indonesia_Rev.pdf.

most recently Myanmar with the majority being Muslim and Indonesia being the country which is friendly towards immigrants besides Malaysia.²³

While waiting for the final relocation process in the destination country, they are indirectly in a transit country without clear time or reasons in Indonesia, which is managed by UNHCR including the Indonesian Government. research by Chandra in 2023 explains that Indonesia must be able to speak out to the international community regarding the hands off of the government which has agreed to accept refugees from abroad, ²⁴ and if we refer to the data for the number of refugees globally, it shows an ever-increasing trend, in 2018 it reached 25.9 million people, then in 2019 it reached 79.5 million and in 2021 it reached 82.4 million people, with 40% being children who are still living. need attention and certainty of citizenship so that their rights continue to be granted.²⁵

The results of the literature search clearly show data for 2021 by UNHCR in August, refugees in big cities in Indonesia, for example Medan reached \pm 1,908 people, 908 in Pekanbaru, \pm 7,002 in Jakarta, 411 in Surabaya, \pm 1,744 in Makassar and 93 people in other locations.²⁶ Not a few of these refugees have been stuck in Indonesia for the past 10 years without having clear and legal citizenship. Indonesia has diplomatically tried to ask Australia not to clamp down on these overseas refugees. It is also known that since 2009-2013 Australia has received at least quite a lot of refugees from only 2,726 to 20,587 people or an increase of 65%. The Australian Parliament considers that these refugees, the majority of whom come from Sri Lanka, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan, pose a threat to the spectrum of national sovereignty and are also a change in social values and terrorism and are even considered to be eliminating indigenous culture from Australian society.²⁷

Research by Wajidi and Syahrin in 2019 stated that Australia, with Operation Sovereign Borders Policy, had mobilized its military capabilities to repel and ask refugees not to transit its territory and was fully supported by the Australian federal government.²⁸ This also gives a signal that Australia only accepts them (overseas refugees) through official channels

²³ Adrianus AV Ramon, "Demi Kemanusiaan: Pengalaman Indonesia Menangani Arus Pengunngsi Internasional," Jurnal Hukum Humaniter & HAM 1, no. 1 (2019): 28–53, https://www.unhcr.org/id/en/unhcr-in-indonesia,.

²⁴ Wahyudi Chandra, Edy Ikhsan, and Chairul Bariah, "Penerapan Peraturan Penanganan Pengungsi Dari Luar Negeri Di Kota Medan," *Locus Journal of Academic Literature Review* 2, no. 6 (2023): 486–499, https://doi. org/10.56128/ljoalr.v2i6.172.

²⁵ Okeri Ngutjinazo, "PBB: Ada Lebih 82 Juta Pengungsi Di Seluruh Dunia, Lebih 40 Persennya Anak-Anak," *Dw.Com*, last modified 2021, accessed May 9, 2024, https://www.dw.com/id/laporan-unhcrsebut-%0Alebih-82-juta-pengungsi-di-seluruh-dunia-akhir-2020/a-57948449.

²⁶ Dyah Ayu Putri and Muhaimin Zulhair Achsin, "Peran United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Dalam Menangani Pengungsi Luar Negeri Di Indonesia Pada Tahun 2016-2022," *Hasanuddin Journal of International Affairs* 3, no. 2 (2023): 82–101.

²⁷ Skolastika G. Maing and M. Elfan Kaukab, "Dilema Politik Luar Negeri Australia Dalam Penanganan Pengungsi Dan Pencari Suaka," *Jurnal Penelitian dan Pengabdian Kepada Masyarakat UNSIQ* 8, no. 1 (2021): 28–39.

²⁸ Al Faridh Wajidi and Muhammad Alvi Syahrin, "Dampak Penanganan Orang Asing Yang Mencari Perlindungan Sesuai Dengan Kebijakan Australia Serta Pengaruhnya Terhadap Indonesia," *Journal of Law and Border Protection* 1, no. 2 (2019): 49–58, https://journal.poltekim.ac.id/jlbp/article/download/172/142/.

without any smuggling or illegal activities which could indirectly threaten Australia's national security.²⁹



Figure 2. Christmas Island in Australia for Handling Refugees

However, this is slowly changing, Australia through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Australian Prime Minister is thinking about providing humane treatment to foreign refugees on Cristmas Island which is close to Indonesia (figure 3) to be used as a base for refugees so that they do not enter the main territory of the Australian mainland.³⁰ This also cannot be separated from the new law passed by the Australian Parliament which allows doctors and health workers to come to this island which is \pm 5,170 km from the Australian mainland. Apart from that, the Australian PM also asked the Republic of Nauru and Papua New Guinea to accommodate \pm 1000 asylum seekers who have tried to reach mainland Australia since 2013 (figure 4), except for medical reasons that require intensive care however, when they recover these refugees will be returned to camp.³¹

However, through research by Rahayu in 2020, refugees have never been a threat within Indonesia.³² Indonesia always places these refugees and asylum seekers in places

²⁹ Oren Rianto, "Proses Pengambilan Kebijakan Australia Operation Sovereign Borders Serta Pelanggaran Prinsip Non-Refoulement Dalam Menanggulangi People Smuggling 2013-2016," Jurnal Ilmu Hubungan Internasional 1, no. 1 (2016): 465–492, https://jurmafis.untan.ac.id/index.php/Sovereign/article/ download/3299/10001367.

³⁰ VOA Indonesia, "Australia Akan Kirim Pengungsi Yang Butuh Perawatan Medis Ke Pulau Terpencil," *Voaindonesia.Com*, last modified 2019, accessed May 9, 2024, https://www.voaindonesia.com/a/australia-akan-kirim-pengungsi-yang-butuh-perawatan-medis-ke-pulau-terpencil/4815589.html.

³¹ VOA Indonesia, "Australia Izinkan Pengungsi Sakit Masuk Ke Australia Untuk Perawatan Medis," *Voaindonesia. Com*, last modified 2019, accessed May 9, 2024, https://www.voaindonesia.com/a/australia-izinkanpengungsi-sakit-masuk-ke-australia-untuk-perawatan-medis/4785800.html.

³² Rahayu Rahayu, Kholis Roisah, and Peni Susetyorini, "Perlindungan Hak Asasi Manusia Pengungsi Dan Pencari Suaka Di Indonesia," *Masalah-Masalah Hukum* 49, no. 2 (2020): 202–212.

that can be monitored and easy to record, but this is different from the case in Aceh from the Rohingya ethnic group, Myanmar, where they often leave refugee camps to look for a comfortable and more private place.³³ However, in general, the Indonesian government has never expelled refugees from various countries. Indonesia already has many human rights protection regulations which are also under covenants and conventions as well as the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights.³⁴

3. Vietnam Refugess 1975-1996: History of Refugees in Indonesia

In general, refugees in Indonesia have been occurring for a long time and the most phenomenal were refugees from Vietnam in 1975-1996 (+ 21 years). This was because the fall of the United States and the fall of Saigon City (Ho Chi Min City) caused many residents of South Vietnam to flee from the North Vietnamese because they were worried that they would be pro-American and would be arrested and would experience torture from North Vietnam which had a Communist ideology. The war that had been raging for 30 years in Vietnam starting from Indochina War 1 and Indochina War 2 and ending gradually in 1975, made the North Vietnamese government (Hanoi) immediately carry out major integration throughout Vietnam, both ideologically, politically and financially which had to be the same as Vietnam. North. Starting in March 1978, there were many efforts from North Vietnam to nationalize foreign companies in the South so that they could integrate with a Northern-style government under the control of the North Vietnamese Communists.³⁵

These refugees from Vietnam started to go to Indonesia, precisely on Natuna Island, on May 19 1975 by boarding a wooden boat with a total of 97 passengers. After that, the wave of refugee arrivals on Natuna Island continued to increase as the war in Vietnam ended and the overall fall of South Vietnam. UNHCR, as the UN agency in charge of handling refugees, held a large meeting in Bangkok, Thailand and designated one of the islands, namely Galang Island, to be used as a refugee camp.³⁶

The data was then updated in 1979 and found that at least \pm 43 thousand people from Vietnam came to seek refuge on Galang Island. This island was chosen because of its strategic location and also not far from Batam City, only 7 KM and an area of 80 square

³³ M Nurhadi, "Pengungsi Rohingya Berulah, Bikin Warga Lokal Jengah," *Suara.Com*, last modified 2023, accessed May 9, 2024, https://www.suara.com/news/2023/11/17/171630/pengungsi-rohingya-berulah-bikin-warga-lokal-jengah.

³⁴ Kompas.com, "Pemerintah Indonesia Dinilai Wajib Lindungi Pengungsi Rohingya Meski Tak Ratifikasi Konvensi 1951," Kompas.Com, last modified 2023, accessed May 9, 2024, https://nasional.kompas.com/ read/2023/11/21/21380261/pemerintah-indonesia-dinilai-wajib-lindungi-pengungsi-rohingya-meskitak?page=all.

³⁵ Moh. Fandik, "Penampungan Orang Vietnam Di Pulau Galang 1975-1979," *Avatara* 1, no. 1 (2013): 164–172, https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/230693507.pdf.

³⁶ Wikipedia.com, "Pengungsian Rakyat Vietnam Di Indonesia," *Id.Wikipedia.Org*, last modified 2023, accessed May 9, 2024, https://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pengungsian_Rakyat_Vietnam_di_Indonesia.

km. However, for humanitarian reasons, this island has been used as a temporary shelter for refugees from Vietnam, apart from that while they are in Indonesia they will be under full UNHCR control.³⁷ Apart from that, after returning several refugees from Vietnam to their country (1977-1991) which ended in Vietnam's victory over Cambodia. This of course worsens the situation on Galang Island because they do not want to be returned to their country because there is still conflict and their fate is unclear.³⁸

Initially the islands chosen were Galang Island and Rempang Island, through Decree of the President of the Republic of Indonesia Number 38 of 1979 concerning Coordination of Resolving the Problem of Vietnamese Refugees in Indonesia with support from 24 countries from the previous meeting in Bangkok. Until the Galang Island selection process involved the Department of Public Works, Department of Safety and Security and the Department of Home Affairs and Major General Moerdani was appointed as the Chief Executive. Until there are at least complete facilities including basic facilities and supporting facilities as well as living facilities totaling 140 barracks which can accommodate up to hundreds of thousands of refugees on Galang Island.³⁹

Apart from the large capacity of Galang Island, up to 1996 there were at least 170 thousand refugees on Galang Island. Until 1994, Indonesia began to reduce the number of refugees on Galang Island because of plans to develop an industrial area on Batam Island and the conflict in Vietnam began to subside, so the Indonesian government began to repatriate refugees from Vietnam and some of them were accepted by refugee receiving countries. In a book written by the Indonesian Ministry of Education in 2012, pages 107-110, it clearly states that the start of the cessation of accepting refugees was due to development on Batam Island and the completion of the Balerang Bridge in 1995, so that the refugee area which was originally 700 hectares narrowed to 100 hectares, and began screening of these refugees was carried out. And accurate data is difficult to obtain until 1995, in December there were only 4,752 people on Galang Island and 439 people were former South Vietnamese soldiers. Until 1996, the return of refugees from Vietnam began to return to their country, escorted by the Indonesian National Army via air routes and there were 14 flights from May-September 1996, as well as sea routes involving 6 Republic of Indonesia Ships (KRI) until they arrived in Vietnam from June-September 1996 (figure 8).⁴⁰

³⁷ Rakhmad Hidayatulloh Permana, "Pulau Galang, Saksi Kebaikan RI Ke Pengungsi Luar Negeri Saat Orde Baru," DetikNews.Com, last modified 2019, accessed May 9, 2024, https://news.detik.com/berita/d-4620076/ pulau-galang-saksi-kebaikan-ri-ke-pengungsi-luar-negeri-saat-orde-baru.

³⁸ Zendri Hendri and Rahmad Dandi, "Tinjauan Historis Pengungsian Vietnam Di Pulau Galang 1979-1996," *Takuana: Jurnal Pendidikan, Sains, dan Humaniora* 1, no. 1 (2022): 59–70.

³⁹ Kompas.com, "Mengenal Pulau Galang Yang Diusulkan Jadi Tempat Penampungan Pengungsi Rohingya," Kompas.Com, last modified 2023, accessed May 9, 2024, https://www.kompas.com/tren/ read/2023/12/09/080000965/mengenal-pulau-galang-yang-diusulkan-jadi-tempat-penampunganpengungsi?page=all.

⁴⁰ Direktorat Jenderal Kebudayaan, Pulau Galang Wajah Humanisme Indonesia Penanqanan Manusia Perahu

Until September 8, 1996, Galang Island was officially closed to refugees and UNHCR handed this island back to the Indonesian Government. For this achievement, Indonesia received appreciation from the UN because it had acted on the basis of humanity and in 2022 through the Nation's Collective Memory (MKB) on the 51st archival anniversary, making Galang Island a memorial tourist island for the silent witness to the cruelty of war and humanity on the island that is currently has developed rapidly and advanced in the Batam area and its surroundings.⁴¹

Until now, Galang Island has become a tourist destination and also receives many guests from former Vietnamese refugees who have lived on this island for many years and currently the Indonesian Government together with the Regional Government of the Riau Islands and the Batam Authority continue to maintain several buildings which are considered cultural heritage. and history to commemorate the face of Indonesian humanism in the past which will always be a memory of Indonesia in international politics.

4. Discourse on Rohingya Refugees in Relocation

The discourse on relocating Rohingya refugees in Aceh has also received a response from the Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia, where he wants relocation to an island, namely Galang Island because it has been a place for refugee camps and there are still several other supporting facilities available that are well maintained and can be continued for became a camp for the Rohingya ethnic group in Indonesia⁴². Meanwhile, the Government of DI Aceh, which has so far been the largest recipient of Rohingya ethnic refugees in Indonesia, has asked for a firm stance from the Central Government regarding the actions of these Rohingya ethnic recipients, and for coordination, but there has been no firm stance from the Central Government at this time.⁴³

Vietnam 1979-1996, ed. Asvi Warman Adam, 1st ed. (Jakarta: Kementerian Pendidikan Republik Indonesia, 2012).

⁴¹ Kepri.antaranews.com, "Camp Vietnam Batam Terima Anugerah Memori Kolektif Bangsa," *Kepri.Antaranews. Com*, last modified 2022, accessed May 9, 2024, https://kepri.antaranews.com/berita/118057/camp-vietnam-batam-terima-anugerah-memori-kolektif-bangsa.

⁴² Anugrah Andriansyah, "Sebagian Besar Warga Pulau Galang Tolak Tampung Pengungsi Rohingya," *Voaindonesia.Com*, last modified 2023, accessed May 9, 2024, https://www.voaindonesia.com/a/sebagian-besar-warga-galang-tolak-tampung-pengungsi-rohingya/7411433.html.

⁴³ CNN Indonesia, "Update Gelombang Pengungsi Rohingya Di Aceh, Pemkab Tunggu Sikap Pusat," *Cnnindonesia.Com*, last modified 2023, accessed May 9, 2024, https://www.cnnindonesia.com/ nasional/20231123112527-20-1027922/update-gelombang-pengungsi-rohingya-di-aceh-pemkabtunggu-sikap-pusat.

Apart from that, through the Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs, the Central government will consult in advance regarding the relocation of the Rohingya ethnic group, including the 3 closest provinces, namely Riau, Aceh and North Sumatra Provinces. This effort is only based on humanity which must be provided. to the Rohingya ethnic group, who are currently in conflict within their country, making it impossible for them to return quickly.⁴⁴ Even on Galang Island itself, according to information that is currently circulating, there has been some rejection from the local community regarding the presence of the Rohingya ethnic group arriving there, for various reasons.



Figure 3. One of the 200 Villages Whose Conditions Changed (right) in 2014 and (left) in 2016

A concrete example of the people in Sabang, Aceh rejects the Rohingya ethnic group on Pulau Weh on the grounds that the nature and behavior of the Rohingya ethnic group is impolite and cannot adapt to the surrounding community. Apart from that, they also have different portions from those provided so there is a bit of misunderstanding between the community and local residents in Sabang.⁴⁵ Apart from that, some of them are also involved in human trafficking which indirectly has a negative impact on society and also persuasive efforts towards the Rohingya ethnic group are always misused by them (Rohingya).

News like this has made many people from Galang Island reject relocation in their area and ask the government to look for other alternatives so that this problem can be resolved in a win-win solution and without ignoring humanitarian reasons. Apart from that, for the Aceh region itself there are at least 5 (five) landing points for the Rohingya ethnic group, including Pidie, Sabang, East Aceh, Aceh Besar and Lhokseumawe and these routes are often used as landing points for the Rohingya ethnic group without any coordination with refugees other.⁴⁶

⁴⁴ Kompas.com, "Kemenlu Tanggapi Soal Wacana Memindahkan Pengungsi Rohingya Ke Pulau Galang," *Kompas. Com*, last modified 2023, accessed May 9, 2024, https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2023/12/12/16074761/kemenlu-tanggapi-soal-wacana-memindahkan-pengungsi-rohingya-ke-pulau-galang.

⁴⁵ VOA Indonesia, "Mengapa Warga Lokal Menolak Pengungsi Rohingya Di Pulau Weh?," *Voaindonesia.Com*, last modified 2023, accessed May 9, 2024, https://www.voaindonesia.com/a/mengapa-warga-lokal-menolak-pengungsi-rohingya-di-pulau-weh-/7400613.html.

⁴⁶ Agus Setyadi, "TNI AU Deteksi 5 Titik Pendaratan Rohingya Di Aceh," *Detik.News*, last modified 2023, accessed May 9, 2024, https://www.detik.com/sumut/berita/d-7099709/tni-au-deteksi-5-titik-pendaratan-rohingya-di-aceh.

The need for relocation for Rohingya ethnic refugees is of course also highly anticipated by all parties, including the people of Aceh, who have started making various efforts to reject them. It is natural that every day there are people who see ships in the sea approaching them (Aceh) to anchor and containing various groups of people and if you look at satellite imagery, the majority of these refugees come from Rakhine State in Myanmar, which covers almost 100 km of territory. The country has changed and burned due to the current conflict with the Myanmar Military Junta Government.⁴⁷

On this humanitarian basis, of course the Indonesian government continues to try various ways to continue to accept Rohingya refugees, regardless of their behavior which goes viral on social media. The government continues to provide a suitable place for these refugees, including through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which is trying its best to attract international attention to be alert and accept these refugees, especially those who have declared themselves through the 1951 Convention or the 1967 Protocol.

5. Human Trafficking of Refugees

The results of the researcher's analysis also found that there were indications of human trafficking in refugee camps that occurred in Indonesia which was carried out by the Rohingya themselves. This case began when the Republic of Indonesia Police in the East Aceh region arrested a driver whose role was to transport Rohingya refugees and then rushed them to another region until they reached the border of the destination country (Australia). Based on the information gathered, the truck driver will get a salary of 15 million, and from the information of the refugees who are victims, there are at least 36 people who have been indicated as human traffickers, with an average of \pm 20 million per person having to pay to reach their final destination country.⁴⁸

According to Munawarah, several cases have been detected for a long time and in his research at least since 2020 there have been attempts by several individuals to escape with certain rewards to other areas, especially women of Rohinya ethnicity who are vulnerable to human trafficking.⁴⁹ Other information obtained was that they were from former camps in Bangladesh and from that area they then headed to transit countries that they could enter (Indonesia and Malaysia). The choice of Indonesia or Malaysia as transit countries cannot be separated because in Bangladesh there is no certainty and UNHCR does not enter the

⁴⁷ Aqwam Fiazmi Hanifan, "Cerita Memilukan Pengungsi Rohingya Dari Buthidaung," *Tirto.Id*, last modified 2017, accessed May 9, 2024, https://tirto.id/cerita-memilukan-pengungsi-rohingya-dari-buthidaung-cv8n.

⁴⁸ bbc.com, "Polisi Selidiki Sindikat Perdagangan Manusia Pengungsi Rohingya Di Aceh - 'Saya Bayar Rp20 Juta Agar Keluarga Saya Bisa Naik Perahu," *Bbc.Com*, last modified 2023, accessed May 10, 2024, https://www. bbc.com/indonesia/articles/cj5pne2n06do.

⁴⁹ Cut Munawarah and Nurhafifah, "Tindak Pidana Percobaan Perdagangan Perempuan Pengungsi Etnis Rohingya (Suatu Penelitian Di Wilayah Hukum Pengadilan Negeri Lhokseumawe)," *Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa* 7, no. 1 (2023): 111–119.

region, so they are looking for clear alternative transit countries and quite a few of them have been lured by individuals to go to transit countries that are comfortable and it is safe and there are complete facilities.⁵⁰

In this case, at least the value of transactions successfully thwarted by the police reached 3.3 billion, so some of them were actually expelled from Myanmar due to internal conflicts in that country. However, several refugees who came from camps in Bangladesh were interested in going to Indonesia by sea to improve their lives and were trapped by several individuals so that they did not realize that they had fallen into the trap of criminal acts of human trafficking.⁵¹

Therefore, Indonesia must be able to involve many parties in this case, whether from the police, UNHCR, Immigration, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the local government where the Rohingya ethnic refugees are being held. However, the Indonesian government cannot immediately apply the same treatment, where for refugees from Bangladesh camps they must be screened strictly to prevent human trafficking and arrest perpetrators or those who deliberately help refugees to flee to other areas. this is the same as illegal. The government really hopes for the role of the community to work together to prevent this criminal act of human trafficking and ask the refugees to stay temporarily in the camps that have been provided because they will be monitored 24 hours by the UNHCR team and local security forces.

6. Diplomatic Routes: G to G

The complexity of the Rohingya ethnic case in Indonesia has made the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs try to take diplomatic channels so that the international world is sensitive to this case. Through Indonesia's diplomatic strength in the ASEAN region, more than 265 engagements have been carried out on all levels in Myanmar, apart from that Indonesia implemented a 5-point consensus which emphasized the Myanmar Government to stop hunting them (the Rohingya ethnic group).⁵² It is clearer that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs always monitors human trafficking which can often occur from foreign refugees and will of course endanger them themselves.⁵³

⁵⁰ Kompas.com, "Rohingya Korban Penyelundupan Dan Perdagangan Manusia," *Kompas.Com*, last modified 2023, accessed May 10, 2024, https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2023/12/21/08264021/rohingya-korban-penyelundupan-dan-perdagangan-manusia?page=all.

⁵¹ Metrotvnews.com, "Ada Perdagangan Orang Di Balik Gelombang Pengungsi Rohingya," *Metrotvnews.Com*, last modified 2023, accessed May 10, 2024, https://www.metrotvnews.com/play/K5nCLDLx-ada-perdagangan-orang-di-balik-gelombang-pengungsi-rohingya.

⁵² Moh. Rosyid, "Peran Indonesia Dalam Menangani Etnis Muslim Rohingya Di Myanmar," *Jurnal Hukum & Pembangunan* 49, no. 3 (2019): 613–635.

⁵³ Kementerian Luar Negeri Republik Indonesia, "Isu Myanmar Menjadi Perhatian Diplomasi Indonesia," *Kemenlu.Go.Id*, last modified 2024, accessed May 10, 2024, https://kemlu.go.id/portal/idQuestion 1. In/ read/5660/berita/isu-myanmar-menjadi-perhatian-diplomasi-indonesia.

Apart from that regionally in the ASEAN region, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also through the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in Geneva, Switzerland gave a strong emphasis that the roots of the problems in Myanmar, especially the Rohingya ethnic group, must be immediately resolved wisely by stakeholders and all elements of the state, especially those who following the 1967 convention. Apart from that, Indonesia will be committed to helping on humanitarian grounds to the Rohingya ethnic group and within the framework of the Bali Process, to accommodate countries that are in line with the Rohingya ethnic group, especially cases of human trafficking and refugees because of the increasingly complex problems experienced by them. Rohingya ethnic group.⁵⁴

Referring to Sundari's research in 2021, Indonesia's mission is based on the 1945 Constitution and it is a general rule that Indonesia must maintain world peace and the issue of Rohingya ethnic refugees will become a strategic issue for Indonesia and in addition to other issues which are no less important for Indonesia and This is a dangerous issue if Indonesia does not respond absolutely to it because of the complex roots of the problems in Myanmar that allow its citizens to go to other countries and be involved in trafficking in the people they are supposed to protect.⁵⁵

In 2017, Indonesia visited Myanmar directly and was received by representatives from the Myanmar State Consulate and the Commander of the Myanmar Armed Forces to immediately stop violence and military conflict in Rakhine State, Indonesia while still prioritizing soft power diplomacy so as not to appear to be putting pressure on the Myanmar Military Junta Government.⁵⁶ This turned around when Malaysia made efforts to negotiate to end the violence in Myanmar and also a protest by Malaysian citizens in front of the Myanmar embassy in Kuala Lumpur made relations between the two countries deteriorate where Myanmar responded by prohibiting Myanmar citizens from working in Malaysia.⁵⁷

Not only that, Indonesia also did not let go of the Rohingya ethnic group in the Bangladesh Camp, through the Indonesian Embassy in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, Indonesia sent at least 54 tons of aid in the form of rice, blankets, food packages, medicines and so on. This also cannot be separated from the UNHCR regulations which do not have the

⁵⁴ antaranews.com, "Menlu Retno: Akar Masalah Pengungsi Rohingya Harus Diselesaikan," *Antaranews.Com*, last modified 2023, accessed May 10, 2024, https://www.antaranews.com/berita/3870927/menlu-retno-akar-masalah-pengungsi-rohingya-harus-diselesaikan.

⁵⁵ Rio Sundari, Rendi Prayuda, and Dian Venita Sary, "Upaya Diplomasi Pemerintah Indonesia Dalam Mediasi Konflik Kemanusiaan Di Myanmar," *Jurnal Niara* 14, no. 1 (2021): 177–187.

⁵⁶ The Indonesian Institute, "Langkah Diplomasi Indonesia Dalam Konflik Rohingya," *Theindonesianinstitute. Com*, last modified 2017, accessed May 10, 2024, https://www.theindonesianinstitute.com/langkah-diplomasi-indonesia-dalam-konflik-rohingya/.

⁵⁷ cnnindonesia.com, "Buntut Masalah Rohingya, Myanmar Larang Pekerja Ke Malaysia," *Cnnindonesia.Com*, last modified 2016, accessed May 10, 2024, https://www.cnnindonesia.com/ internasional/20161207140732-106-177946/buntut-masalah-rohingya-myanmar-larang-pekerja-kemalaysia.

authority to provide these supplies in this Bangladesh Camp and everything is under the authority of the Bangladeshi state, even though in the Camp there are at least \pm 70,000 people living in it and not including those stranded outside the Camp.⁵⁸

Therefore, Indonesia must make every effort to provide assistance and continue to seek official diplomatic channels without placing excessive pressure on the Myanmar government which could threaten the safety of the Rohingya ethnic group. Indonesia is making every effort to continue to encourage countries to commit to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, while Indonesia is not a country involved in it. However, Indonesia's actions are only based on humanity which must be carried out and given to fellow oppressed humans and in line with the 1945 Constitution, Indonesia must eliminate all forms of oppression and colonialism in a world that is inhumane and just.

D. Closing

The first is that regarding international refugee regulations in Indonesia, there are standard rules that must be obeyed by participants, namely the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol, where Indonesia is not one of the countries that has ratified these two international refugee regulations. However, Indonesia has its own regulations, namely Presidential Regulation Number 125 of 2016 concerning Handling of Refugees from Abroad. However, the implementation and budgeting of these regulations do not yet have clear derivatives and do not clearly convey the direction and treatment of refugees. Then the subdiscussion regarding the choice of Indonesia as a transit country is because Indonesia is a strategic country and has never used its military power in history to deal with refugees from abroad. Apart from that, Indonesia's safe conditions and friendly people make Indonesia a safe transit country for refugees, including those from the Rohingya ethnic group, who do not land in another country (Bangladesh) whose fate in that country is unclear. Then Indonesia also had experience in helping refugees from Vietnam in 1975-1996 and made Indonesia a humanist country for overseas refugees and currently Indonesia is trying to apply the same thing to the Rohingya ethnic group for relocation but there is still resistance and complexity in the behavior of Rohingya ethnic refugees bad towards local people and reluctant to accept them to come to his place. Not all of the Rohingya are from Myanmar, but there are some from Bangladesh camps who were trapped by individuals who paid a certain amount, making them enter the human trafficking ring and the Indonesian government is facing new challenges in this case because it is not only a refugee problem but also preventing Human trafficking. Indonesia is also trying to use diplomatic channels to be able to provide assistance to the country of Myanmar, including refugees who are

⁵⁸ bbc.com, "Bantuan Indonesia Untuk Rohingya Di Bangladesh 'Mulai Dibagikan Hari Ini," *Bbc.Com*, last modified 2017, accessed May 10, 2024, https://www.bbc.com/indonesia/indonesia-41302028.

in the Bangladesh Camp, only on humanitarian grounds. The limitation of this research is that it still relies on research based on literature sources found using sociological methods. Further research can lead to field research to produce several systematic field findings.

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D. Regulations

Peraturan Presiden Nomor 125 Tahun 2016 Tentang Penanganan Pengungsi Dari Luar Negeri.

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Nofli is an alumnus of the Academy of Correctional Sciences, currently serving as Head of the Center for Evaluation and Information Strategy for Legal and Human Rights Policy, at the Legal and Human Rights Policy Strategy Agency. Apart from being a bureaucrat, he is also often a practitioner due to his experience and current strategic position. Until now, his activeness has made him a senior practitioner who is quite respected because of his expertise in the field of studies, especially in the correctional sector. Rona Puspita is a legal analyst who currently serves at the National Legal Development Agency who is quite considered because she has experience in the academic world, including in scientific work. Especially regarding legal issues and the regulations attached to it.