

Diplomacy and Negotiation in the Liberation of Abu Sayyaf Hostages

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the involvement of the Abu Sayyaf Group in international relations, focusing on their activities of piracy and hostage-taking, and the role of diplomacy in hostage release. The research aims to analyze the chronological events of abduction and the diplomatic negotiations that follow. Utilizing a qualitative approach, the study examines various case studies of Abu Sayyaf's kidnappings and the subsequent employs hostage-taking as a strategic tool to finance their operations, often targeting foreign nationals to leverage international attention. Diplomatic negotiations, both official and unofficial, play a crucial role in securing the release of hostages. The study concludes that effective diplomacy, involving international pressure and regional cooperation, is essential in resolving hostage situations. This research highlights the importance of strategic communication and negotiation skills in international diplomacy and counterterrorism efforts.

Keywords: Abu Sayyaf, hostage-taking, diplomacy, international relations, piracy

INTRODUCTION

Abu Sayyaf means "Sword Bearer". The group Abu Sayyaf or commonly known as Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) is an Islamic group in the southern Philippines, a branch of Al-Qaeda in Asia. Islamic group in the southern Philippines, Al-Qaeda's Asian branch, founded in 1993 by Abdurajak Janjalani. The leadership of Abu Sayyaf began with Abdurajak Janjalani who is also the founder of the group. Purpose Janjalani established the Abu Sayyaf Group was to form an organized, militant Islamic organized, systematic, and disciplined Islamic militant organization Janjalani established an organizational structure to facilitate the ASG's operations. Abu Sayyaf's planning and execution body, this body is called the Islamic Executive Council (IEC). On October 8, 1997, the State Department

On October 8, 1997, the U.S. Department of State designated the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) as a foreign terrorist organization under Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Subsequently, on September 23, 2001, the ASG was added to the annex list. This designation



resulted in the prohibition of all property and interests of the ASG within U.S. territory, and U.S. citizens were generally forbidden from conducting any business or transactions with the group. Additionally, providing or attempting to provide material support or resources to the ASG, or conspiring to do so, became a criminal offense.

After Abdulrajak Janjalani's death in December 1998, the organization he established was not fully implemented due to the by Philippine police attacks. Janjalani's death caused some chaos and had a major impact on the Abu Sayyaf group. After his death, the leadership of Abu Sayyaf fell to Aburajak Janjalan's younger brother, Khadafy Janjalani. Khadafy, however, did not have the leadership qualities of his elder brother, who had full control over the ASG. Abu Sayyaf is notorious for hijackings, kidnappings and hostage-taking for ransom. The Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) is the most violent Islamic separatist group operating in the southern Philippines, calling for support for a southern Philippines, which calls for support for an independent Islamic state in Western Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago. The Abu Sayyaf group uses terror for financial gain and advance their jihadist agenda. Some of the actions carried out by Abu Sayyaf group are bombings, armed attacks, killings, beheadings, hostage-taking, piracy, and maritime terrorism.

The ASG carried out several bombings, for example In February 2005, the Abu Sayyaf Group carried out a bombing that was known as the "Valentine's Day Bombings" in the cities of Davao, General Santos City, and Manila. These bombings were carried out consecutively and resulting in the deaths of eight people. The group also bombed a Philippines Airlines flight bound for Manila-Tokyo in 1994, killing a flight attendant and killing one passenger.

In March 2005, the ASG carried out armed attacks in the tourist area for foreign tourists and businessmen in the town of Markat. The attack killed 7 people and injured around 150. in July 2009, where International Red Cross worker Eugenio Vagni from Italy, was kidnapped for six months. Vagni was released in Jolo after a ransom of US\$10,000 or around R130 million. Meanwhile, in November 2015, Malaysian tourist Bernard Ghen Ted Fen was beheaded by Abu Sayyaf after his family failed to pay 40 million pesos (R12 billion).

RESEARCH METHODS

In the article "Diplomacy and Negotiation in the Liberation of Abu Sayyaf Hostages", the method applied uses various multilateral diplomacy approaches involving various related parties and intensive negotiation techniques aimed at freeing hostages held by the Abu Sayyaf group. This method prioritizes global diplomacy efforts and careful negotiation strategies to achieve the release of hostages effectively and with minimal risk.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Diplomacy and negotiations played an important role in the release of the Abu Sayyaf hostages. Through a series of complex and strategic discussions, the parties involved managed to reach an agreement that enabled the safe release of the hostages. This discussion will explore some of the key factors in diplomacy and negotiations that influenced the outcome of the liberation.

First and foremost, security considerations are paramount at any stage of the negotiation. The negotiating team must ensure the safety and welfare of the hostages during the process, as well as overcome any threats that may arise from the Abu Sayyaf faction. This requires careful communication strategies and effective risk management to minimize the potential for violence.

Additionally, regional and international diplomacy plays an important role in exerting political and diplomatic pressure on the Abu Sayyaf. Relevant countries and international institutions are working together to strengthen pressure on the group, both through economic sanctions and multilateral diplomacy. Thus, the release of hostages is not only an internal issue but also a global concern.

Additionally, a deep understanding of the Abu Sayyaf's internal dynamics is key to designing an effective negotiation strategy. This involves careful analysis of the power structure within the group, members' motivations, and intra-group dynamics. With a proper understanding of the opposing party, the negotiating team can identify weaknesses and opportunities to achieve a favorable outcome.

Apart from that, cultural and religious factors also play an important role in the negotiation process. Understanding the values and beliefs underlying the Abu Sayyaf's actions can help build stronger communication bridges and gain a better understanding of their perspective. This allows the negotiating team to find common ground and build the trust needed to reach an agreement.

Throughout the liberation process, crisis management strategies also play an important role. The negotiating team must be prepared to respond quickly to unexpected changes in the situation and adjust its strategy as needed. Flexibility and strong leadership within the bargaining team are critical to maintaining direction and control throughout this complex process.

By considering these factors, diplomacy and negotiation can be an effective tool in the release of Abu Sayyaf hostages. Through careful strategy, effective communication, and regional and international cooperation, a favorable agreement can be reached, returning the hostages safely and strengthening security and stability in the region.

Abu Sayyaf Group in International Relations Activities

In the early 1990s, a militant organization called the Abu Sayyaf Group was active in the southern Philippines. This group, rooted in religious ideology, aimed to create an Islamic state encompassing western Mindanao, the independent North Sulawesi region, and the southern Philippines, which has the highest Muslim population in the country.

The southern Philippines is an area that always experiences conflict. The beginning of this conflict began with mission competition between Islam and Christianity after the 13th century. The Muslim minority group became victims of discrimination carried out by the state where they referred to the Muslim minority group as Moro, which means the same or identical to the Islamic group that used to occupy Spain and this is where the ongoing conflict began. Ethnic and religious identities even occupy the most important part in this conflict. The rebellion carried out by the Muslim Minority group in Mindanao, Southern Philippines, was treated unfairly in economic and political life, even though the most difficult thing was regarding religion.

The conflict in the Philippines persisted through various shifts in control, from Spanish colonization to American, Japanese, and eventually the Philippines' declaration of independence on July 4, 1946. This conflict has roots in early colonization by Arab settlers, followed by Christian missionaries, with both groups vying for influence among the native population. Islamic Arabs migrated to the southern Philippines while Christians settled in the north, leading to religious tensions as Christianity began to spread in the predominantly Muslim south. The initial conflict during Ferdinand Marcos' regime was sparked by a massacre in Corregidor, where Filipino Muslim volunteers, trained in guerrilla warfare by official troops, were executed on the orders of their commander for refusing to be deployed to Sabah for military infiltration. This incident led to the formation of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), a significant movement advocating for Moro Muslim autonomy. Subsequently, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Abu Sayyaf Group, established in 1989, emerged. These three groups share the common objective of establishing an Islamic state in Mindanao, southern Philippines, and promoting economic development in their regions. .

The Abu Sayyaf Group originated in 1989 under the leadership of Abdurajak Janjalani, who was previously a member of the MNLF and opposed the peace process between the MNLF and the Philippine government as outlined in the Tripoli Agreement. This agreement established a special autonomous region for the Moro population in the southern Philippines instead of granting independence, which led the MNLF to abandon their goal of establishing an Islamic state. Disagreeing with this compromise, Janjalani and his followers left the MNLF. Before their departure, they formed the Mujahedeen Commando Freedom Fighters (MCFF) in 1989 and

officially separated from the MNLF in 1991. The MCFF, also known as the Janjalani Group, later became known as the Abu Sayyaf Group.

Janjalani named the group "Abu Sayyaf" in honor of Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, the leader of the Afghan Mujahideen, with whom Janjalani had fought against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. Under Janjalani's leadership, the group's goal was to establish the Mindanao Islamic Theocratic State (MIS) and it promoted religious intolerance, aiming to spread Islam through jihad, primarily targeting Filipino Christians. The group solidified its ideology and operational agenda to achieve Islamic domination through armed resistance.

The Janjalani Group, or MCFF, became known as the Abu Sayyaf Group in August 1991, following the bombing of the Christian missionary ship "M/V Doulos" in Zamboanga, southern Philippines. Between 1991 and 1998, Abu Sayyaf expanded and enhanced its capabilities, carrying out numerous small-scale attacks on foreign nationals and kidnappings of local residents. Their operational proficiency grew, largely due to the recruitment of members from factions dissatisfied with the MNLF or MILF's approaches.

Currently led by Gaddafi Janjalani, the Abu Sayyaf Group is an extremely radical Islamic separatist organization based in the southern Philippines. They are involved in various violent activities, such as bombings, kidnappings, murders, and extortion, in their pursuit of establishing an Islamic state. These actions, including the execution of hostages, have greatly unsettled the Filipino population. The United States government has designated the Abu Sayyaf Group as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

Charles W. Kegley Jr. and Eugene R. Wittkopf define terrorism as the use of threats and violent tactics to achieve specific goals, with the intention of instilling fear in the victims. Ranstop argues that religious fanaticism is the main motivator behind terrorism, manifesting in various religions such as Islam, Judaism, Christianity, and others, which often lead to terrorist acts. He considers religious terrorism to be a form of political violence motivated by a sense of spiritual crisis and as a reaction to social and political changes.

Ronald Gottersman and Atif M. Mir both discuss the classification of terrorist organizations based on their scope and targets. Gottersman outlines two main types: domestic terrorist groups operate solely within their country of origin, while international terrorist organizations extend their attacks to foreign locations. On the other hand, Mir divides terrorist movements into domestic and international categories. Domestic terrorism occurs within a country's borders and is driven by political, economic, or religious motives, while international terrorism involves attacks on third-party entities in foreign regions and may receive support from other countries.

In essence, domestic terrorism lacks foreign elements in terms of victims or perpetrators, while international terrorism includes foreign elements, either in terms of victims or perpetrators, and can involve support from foreign countries. However, the distinction between domestic and international terrorism can sometimes blur, as incidents may occur in specific areas of a country but still involve foreign elements or support.

The Abu Sayyaf Group, although primarily based in and operating out of the Philippines, frequently involves foreign nationals in its activities. They are infamous for kidnapping and bombing civilians, including Indonesians, as part of their efforts to establish an independent state in the southern Philippines. Their international reach is evident in incidents like the hijacking of the Brahma 12 and Anand 12 barges, where 10 Indonesian crew members were taken hostage. Consequently, the Abu Sayyaf Group can be classified as an international terrorist organization.

Terrorist groups have become increasingly important players in international relations. They are considered non-state actors, meaning they're not official government bodies. Their motivations for violence can be diverse, ranging from ethnic and political causes to religious or racial ones. Scholar Kegley (1997) identifies other non-state actors with a role in international relations, including ethno-national groups, religious movements, and even terrorist organizations.

Ethno-national groups are communities that prioritize their shared ethnicity or nationality over national borders. They value their cultural and linguistic similarities strongly, which can sometimes lead to a sense of superiority over other groups (ethnocentrism). This can fuel separatist movements where they seek independence from the existing state, which they no longer see as representing their identity.

Religious movements often believe their faith is the one true path for everyone (Kegley & Wittkopf, 1997). They see their religion as the most important aspect of their identity and fiercely strive to preserve it, even against competition from others, including the state. If they feel the state threatens their religious identity, religious movements may resort to separatism to safeguard their beliefs.

Terrorists are a non-governmental group and their actions disrupt and create chaos domestically and internationally. The characteristic that terrorist groups always have is that they always use violence and threats when they want to convey their will. Terrorists have a different view from the state, which if we look at these non-governmental actors, then we can say that the Abu Sayyaf group is a terrorist group whose movement is religiously based.

The Abu Sayyaf Group remains active in the Philippines, continuing its efforts to establish an Islamic state. This objective has caused many Christians on the island of Southern Mindanao to relocate Muslims from the island to coastal areas, leading to a sense of marginalization. In response,

the Abu Sayyaf Group aims to liberate the region by targeting Christians as enemies and terrorizing them with violence.

Unlike international terrorist organizations that aim to create chaos or make a government submit to their will without establishing a new state, the Abu Sayyaf Group seeks to create an Islamic state in the southern Philippines through violent means. The group has engaged in bombings, kidnappings, and hostage executions. They have also committed acts of terror by hijacking foreign ships, kidnapping foreign nationals, and carrying out bombings in various parts of the Philippines, including targeting Indonesian citizens.

In recent years, the governments of Indonesia and the Philippines have made various efforts to stop Abu Sayyaf activities, including through diplomacy and military operations. However, the group's activities continue and they remain one of the most significant terrorist threats in Southeast Asia. The Abu Sayyaf group is associated with various international activities, namely:

1. **Links to International Terrorist Organizations:** Abu Sayyaf is known to have links to other terrorist organizations, such as Al Qaeda and Jemaah Islamiyah in Indonesia. These linkages enable them to obtain assistance, training, and funding from these organizations.
2. **Influence of Terrorist Activities:** Abu Sayyaf's terrorist activities have affected international relations in the Southeast Asian region. They have carried out a series of attacks and kidnappings that have raised fear and concern among countries in the region, including Indonesia and Malaysia. This strengthens cooperation between countries to face the threat of terrorism
3. **Cooperation with the Indonesian Government:** The Indonesian government has made various efforts to stop Abu Sayyaf activities, including through diplomacy and military operations. They have also collaborated with the Philippine government to free Indonesian citizens held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf
4. **Role of International Organizations:** International organizations such as the Australian National Security Agency have drawn attention to the activities of the Abu Sayyaf and have made efforts to stop their activities. Other international organizations, such as Interpol, are also involved in efforts to stop Abu Sayyaf activities

Synthetically, Abu Sayyaf has been involved in various international relations activities related to terrorist activities and ethnic conflicts in the Philippines. They have had ties with international terrorist organizations, influenced international relations in the Southeast Asia region, collaborated with the Indonesian government, and were involved in the role of international organizations in efforts to stop their activities.

Chronology of Robberies and Hostage-Taking by the Abu Sayyaf Group

The Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) is one of the major terrorist organizations in the Southeast Asia region and is a transnational criminal group that is carrying out a rebellion against the government. Abu Sayyaf is a terrorist organization founded in 1989 by Abdulrajak Janjalani. This group moves around the island provinces of Basilan and Sulu Islands, as well as three provinces on the Zamboanga Peninsula in the Western Mindanao Region. These areas are generally rural areas. With this, the Abu Sayyaf Group has a strategic and safe base from the Philippine military. From the 1990s to the early 2000s, the Abu Sayyaf group was involved in more than 378 terrorist attacks, including murders, kidnappings, attacks and bombings, resulting in the deaths of 280 civilians. The main goal of this group as a large group is to build an independent country based on the provisions and laws of Islamic sharia which is the basis of state legal authority. This Islamic sharia law will then be implemented and obeyed by citizens living in the country formed by this group.

The first time the Abu Sayyaf Group took Indonesian citizens hostage was on March 30, 2005. Three crew members of the Bongaya 91 ship, all Indonesian citizens, were kidnapped by the group in southern Philippine waters. At that time, the Chief of the Indonesian National Police, General Dai Bakhtyar, appointed retired Inspector General Benny Mamoto as the head of operations to negotiate the release of the hostages. The operation involved collaboration with the Philippine Government, the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Indonesian National Police, the State Intelligence Agency (BIN), and the Coordinating Ministry for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs. Negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf Group lasted for three months. Two of the three Indonesian hostages were released on June 12, 2005, while the third hostage was taken back into the forest by the group. On September 9, 2005, the final hostage was released. The government's efforts to secure the hostages' release were successful, even though the hostages were freed in stages.

In 2016, the Abu Sayyaf group again took hostage actions against Indonesian citizens, precisely on March 26 2016. The Abu Sayyaf group hijacked 2 Indonesian ships, namely the Tug Brahmana 12 and the Barge Anand 12. The two ships were hijacked while the ship was heading for the Batangas region in the southern Philippines. The ship originally anchored from the Puting River in South Kalimantan, carrying 7,000 tons of coal. However, one of the ships, the tugboat Brahmana 12, has been freed and is under the care of the Philippine government. Meanwhile, the Anand ship carrying 10 crew members (ABK) who have the status of Indonesian citizens is still under the control of the Abu Sayyaf group in the Philippines. The following is a list of names of Indonesian citizens who were taken hostage by the Abu Sayyaf group:

1. Peter Tonsen Barahma (Batu Aji, Batam)
2. Suriyanto (Gilireng Wajo, South Sulawesi)
3. Bayu Oktavianto (Klaten, Central Java)
4. Mahmud (Banjarmasin, South Kalimantan)
5. Wawan Saputra (Palopo, South Sulawesi)
6. Julian Philip (North Todang, Minahasa)
7. Wendi Raknadian (Padang, West Sumatra)
8. Alvian Elvis Peti (Tanjung Priok, Jakarta)
9. Suriansyah (Kendari, Southeast Sulawesi)
10. Reynaldi (Makassar, South Sulawesi)

The Abu Sayyaf group, known for its hostage-taking tactics, demanded a ransom of 50 million pesos or roughly 15 billion rupiah, setting a deadline of March 31, 2016. While the group's actions stem from various motives including economic, political, and ideological factors, it requires a delicate approach. The Indonesian government persists in its efforts to secure the release of 10 Indonesian citizens held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf group without acceding to the ransom demand.

The Philippine government took decisive action against the Abu Sayyaf group by launching an attack on their alleged camp. This group's location in the remote interior of Basilan Island has made it challenging to neutralize them. Following violent incidents perpetrated by the Abu Sayyaf group, the Philippine government is considering further strong measures against the organization. The Philippine army and police collaborated in the operation to arrest members of the Abu Sayyaf group.

In the case of the hostage-taking incidents involving the Abu Sayyaf group in Somalia and the Philippines, Indonesia used direct military options to free hostages in Somalia due to the lack of active involvement from the Somali government. However, in the Philippines, where the Philippine government actively participated in resolving the hostage situation, Indonesia respected international protocols and did not conduct military operations in Philippine territory. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) expressed confidence in handling the operation to free Indonesian hostages held by Abu Sayyaf militants, leading Indonesia to refrain from military actions out of respect for international authorities.

The Philippines responded by conducting a military operation at the Abu Sayyaf group's headquarters on April 9, 2016. However, 18 Filipino soldiers were killed and 53 others injured during the operation. This occurred because the Abu Sayyaf group was positioned in the highlands, giving them an advantage to attack the Philippine army in the lowlands. Indonesia, on the other hand, chose to engage with community and religious leaders through informal channels as they

were hesitant to resort to military action, fearing a situation similar to what happened in the Philippines. On May 12, 2016, 10 Indonesian crew members were released without ransom or armed confrontation.

Diplomacy As a Medium For The Release of Hostages

In the world of international relations, hostage release diplomacy is a calculated act that can cost lives. Abu Sayyaf, a notorious terrorist group from the Philippines, has a history of kidnapping foreigners and holding them hostage for ransom. In high-risk situations like these, diplomacy and negotiation are invaluable in ensuring the peaceful release of hostages.

Embassies, as official representations of countries in other countries, play a crucial role in hostage release diplomacy. They serve as a communication bridge, opening dialogue between the relevant governments and the kidnappers. Through diplomatic channels, the embassy conveyed the urgency of the situation, emphasized the importance of resolving the crisis, and opened the way for negotiations.

Negotiations for the release of hostages are a complex process and often take time. It takes patience, wisdom and deep understanding to complete it. Embassies play a central role by collaborating closely with governments of origin, crisis response teams and local authorities. The goal is to establish lines of communication with the kidnappers, assess their demands, and explore opportunities for concessions.

Freeing hostages is a complex and sensitive situation, requiring a comprehensive approach. Negotiations are indeed the main focus, but other efforts are no less important. The Embassy has a crucial role in gathering intelligence information to support the release process. The release of hostages from the Abu Sayyaf was a challenging mission, characterized by cultural sensitivities and group complexity. Embassies must exercise caution and respect local customs, and strive to build trust with local communities and intermediaries to obtain information and encourage cooperation.

The key to success lies in effective coordination at various levels. Embassies need to work closely with hostage governments of origin, relevant international organizations, and regional partners to share information, develop strategies, and apply collective pressure to the kidnappers. This collective effort increases the chances for the safe and peaceful release of hostages. With the right approach and strong collaboration, the desired solution can be achieved in this challenging situation.

Modern technology is also an important facilitator in hostage release diplomacy. Secure communication channels, such as encrypted email and video conferencing, enable direct

communication between negotiators and decision makers. This speeds up the exchange of information and decision making based on accurate information.

Indonesia has a long history of dealing with kidnappings and hostage-taking by the Abu Sayyaf group in the Southern Philippines. To free the hostages and resolve this crisis, Indonesia launched a strategy of "total diplomacy". A comprehensive approach involving various actors and elements with the overall goal, namely freeing hostages and eradicating Abu Sayyaf.

"Total diplomacy" is Indonesia's main key in rescuing the hostages from the clutches of the Abu Sayyaf. This holistic approach combines various elements and actors, from formal and informal negotiations, international collaboration, diplomatic pressure, to pragmatic steps such as limited ransom payments. Total diplomacy is like an orchestra played with various diplomatic instruments.

In an effort to free hostages from the Abu Sayyaf, the Indonesian Government implemented a "total diplomacy" strategy. A comprehensive approach involving various parties, from formal networks such as the government to informal networks such as NGOs and religious organizations. This table illustrates how this "total diplomacy" is carried out:

Indonesian side	Philippine side
State actor (Indonesian government)	State actor (Philippine government)
Non-State actors (NGOs, ulama, civil society)	Non-State actors (NGOs, humanitarian organizations and civil society)

The state actors involved are the Governments of Indonesia and the Philippines. Indonesian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Retno Marsuri held a direct meeting in the Philippines from 1 to 2 April 2016 and coordinated with the Philippine government. In this case it is called first-track diplomacy.

To rescue the hostages, the TNI initiated an intelligence operation directed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Led by Retired Major General Kivlan Zen, the team comprised 7 personnel and was part of TNI's Strategic Intelligence Agency's operations. This strategic move by the TNI complemented the diplomatic initiatives undertaken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Indonesia had extended a helping hand to the Philippines by offering military assistance in freeing the 10 Indonesian citizens. Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu made this offer. However, the Philippines declined, citing their constitution's prohibition against foreign military presence without a bilateral agreement.

Various non-governmental actors, including NGOs, ulama, and civil society groups, played a significant role in the efforts to free the hostages, alongside the government. The involvement of ulama is particularly crucial due to their deep-rooted relationships and cultural understanding in the Southern Philippines. Their experience in engaging in dialogue with different parties, including the Abu Sayyaf group, proved to be invaluable during the negotiation process.

Several NGOs that are active in efforts to free hostages include the Sukma Bangsa Foundation. They built communication with various elements of civil society, NGOs and humanitarian institutions in the Sulu area. These networks, because of their closeness to local communities, have direct access to the Abu Sayyaf. This effort is known as second-track diplomacy.

The Sukma Foundation dispatched a team for a hostage rescue mission in the Philippines, comprising Major General (Ret.) Supiadin, Ahmad Baedowi, Samsu Rizal Panggabean, and Desi Fitriani, a Metro TV journalist. This team adopts a diplomatic strategy centered on education, culture, and religion to initiate communication with key figures in the Philippines.

During the negotiation efforts, Baedowi succeeded in making first contact with Al-Habsi, one of the leaders of the hostage-taking group. Al-Habsi then connected Baedowi with Julian Philips, a member of the Brahma 12 crew, one of the hostages. Philips submitted a ransom demand of 50 million pesos which had to be paid no later than Monday, April 18 2016. If this demand was not met, Al-Habsi threatened to kill one of the hostages.

Vice President Yusuf Kalla assembled a team to oversee the hostages, appointing Hamid Awardin, the Head of the Foreign Relations Division of the Central Indonesian Red Cross, for this task. The team utilized the networks of the International and Philippine Red Cross for monitoring purposes. Additionally, an informal network was deployed to keep track of the hostages' movements and their well-being, including their health status.

The liberation effort is a collective responsibility involving all sectors of the nation. Total diplomacy encompasses not only government-to-government relations but also informal networks like non-governmental professionals and civil society. It's a unified effort towards a common noble objective.

CONCLUSION

Closing contains conclusions and suggestions (if any). It should be written in paragraphs, not numeric or bulleted. Conclusion describes the answers to research questions/problems and/or research objectives or findings obtained. The conclusion does not contain a repetition of the results and discussion, but rather a summary of the findings as expected in the objectives or hypotheses. Suggestion presents things to be done related to further ideas from the research.

The abu sayyaf group is a group or collection of radical people who are active in several areas of the Philippines. The group has committed many acts of terrorism that have claimed many lives. One of the cases committed by the abu sayyaf group was the hostage-taking by this group to 10 Indonesian crew members. Because of this incident, the Indonesian government is certainly not silent about what is happening to Indonesian citizens whose safety is threatened. In the effort to release the Indonesian crew members who were held hostage by the abu sayyaf group, the initial action taken by the Indonesian government was to build and improve political relations with the Philippine government. The Indonesian government did not take violent action to free the hostages taken by the abu sayyaf group.

The Indonesian government prioritized negotiation efforts with the Philippine government in order to obtain permission to legally rescue Indonesian citizens held hostage by the abu sayyaf group. This action is very important because it can be seen that the location of the hostage-taking by the abu sayyaf group occurred in the southern or southwestern region of the Philippines, where the security has not been fully held or controlled by the Philippine government. The complex situation of this case makes the Indonesian government feel that it is not enough if it only expects the Philippine government, therefore the Indonesian government involves government actors. There is also the role of other actors that can be seen through the Peace Building Pyramid which consists of the community, government, international organizations and other political leaders or officials. In resolving this conflict, a peaceful or soft path is also used where in this conflict the Indonesian government prioritizes the negotiation path by involving various parties ranging from government and non-government actors. Like the Philippine government which acts as a third party, namely the mediator, the Indonesian government took action to resolve the conflict through this route because the court route could not be done in resolving the problems that occurred. Not only that, Indonesia has also taken several approaches, the approach taken by Indonesia is by means of political, social and economic approaches. In addition, the Indonesian government started another approach by providing scholarship assistance to mindanao children. This solution or culture-based strategy is done because considering the majority of the Indonesian population adheres to or believes in Islam and there are negotiations being carried out with Muslim groups in Mindanao in order to maintain the necessary communication. It can be proven that through the approach taken and also negotiations carried out by the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs involving various parties such as the Philippine Government, the Sukma Foundation team to free hostage victims (ABK) who are Indonesian citizens from the Abu Sayyaf group.

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