



The Role of Indonesia's Defense Diplomacy Against Human Trafficking Cases on The Indonesia-Malaysia Border in The Perspective of International Law

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Abstract

Human trafficking is a cross-border crime and a major concern in the context of international relations today. This issue not only constitutes a serious threat to global security, but also a specific concern for Indonesia. Human trafficking involves not only criminal aspects, but also significant violations of human rights and human security. This study aims to analyze Indonesia's defense diplomacy in addressing human trafficking cases along the Indonesia–Malaysia border from the perspective of international law. Using a normative legal research method based on secondary data, this study applies the theoretical framework of non-traditional security and human trafficking theory. The non-traditional security approach emphasizes that security threats today extend beyond military issues and include transnational crimes such as human trafficking, which threaten human dignity and individual safety. Meanwhile, human trafficking theory provides insights into the patterns, causes, and dynamics of trafficking, emphasizing its nature as a complex organized crime that spans borders. The findings reveal that Indonesia's defense diplomacy plays a significant role in cross-border cooperation and prevention strategies, particularly through the GBC forum, where both countries' Defense Ministers agreed to empower the police in law enforcement efforts, including the establishment of the Joint Police Cooperation Committee (JPCC).

Key Words: Defense Diplomacy, Human Trafficking, Indonesia, Malaysia

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INTRODUCTION

The conventional security paradigm maintains that the state, as a sovereign political entity, is primarily responsible for protecting its territory and ensuring the safety of its citizens. In contrast, the non-traditional security (NTS) paradigm broadens this perspective by emphasizing the protection of individuals and communities, regardless of borders. It posits that security is no longer the exclusive domain of states but requires the involvement of non-state actors and transnational cooperation to address complex and multidimensional threats.

From the “origin of threat” standpoint, traditional security frameworks perceive danger as stemming primarily from other states, with a focus on military confrontation. In contrast, NTS theory championed by scholars such as Barry Buzan and Amitav Acharya recognizes that threats can emerge from both internal and external sources, including economic instability, environmental degradation, pandemics, and transnational crimes such as human trafficking. These challenges transcend conventional military boundaries and call for adaptive, cooperative strategies beyond hard power (Buzan, 1991; Acharya, 2001).

Human trafficking represents a particularly urgent non-traditional threat. Characterized as a form of modern slavery, it exploits vulnerable populations through forced labor, sexual exploitation, and involuntary migration. As Shelley (2010) and others argue, human trafficking is driven by complex factors such as poverty, gender inequality, political instability, corruption, and weak law enforcement. The expansion of information and communication technologies has further enabled traffickers to operate through sophisticated and concealed transnational networks, making trafficking not only a crime but also a systemic and profit-driven global enterprise.

In Indonesia, the severity of human trafficking is reflected in official defense and legal frameworks. The Defense White Paper of the Republic of Indonesia identifies border violations including trafficking in persons as real and ongoing threats to national security and sovereignty (Kementerian Pertahanan Republik Indonesia, 2004). Regulation of the Minister of Defence No. 57/2014 further categorizes human trafficking as an economic threat within the scope of non-military defense (Kementerian Pertahanan Republik Indonesia, 2004). These documents reflect a growing acknowledgment that defending the nation involves not just securing borders militarily but also addressing human security issues that undermine societal well-being.

As a transnational crime, human trafficking intersects with other illicit activities such as arms smuggling, maritime piracy, drug trafficking, cybercrime, and money laundering. This web of criminal activity presents a major challenge to regional stability and necessitates coordinated international responses. In Southeast Asia, structural conditions like poverty, dense populations, and patriarchal norms increase vulnerability to trafficking. Perpetrators often lure victims with false promises of employment or improved living conditions, taking advantage of weak border governance and limited economic opportunities in remote areas.

Indonesia has responded through both national and regional mechanisms. The enactment of Law No. 21/2007 on the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons exemplifies its domestic commitment. Regionally, ASEAN member states have institutionalized counter-trafficking efforts through the 1997 ASEAN Declaration on Transnational Crime and the formation of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC), which enhances cross-border collaboration.

This study specifically focuses on the Indonesia–Malaysia border, rather than other ASEAN neighbors like Singapore or the Philippines, due to several critical factors. Indonesia and Malaysia share a lengthy and porous border, both on land and at sea, which facilitates trafficking flows and presents unique enforcement challenges. Furthermore, both countries function as source and destination states for trafficked persons, heightening the need for bilateral coordination. While countries like Singapore and the Philippines also face trafficking issues, the Indonesia–Malaysia corridor offers a distinct case for examining cooperative frameworks, particularly through initiatives such as the General Border Committee (GBC) and the Joint Police Cooperation Committee (JPCC), which have proven instrumental in managing transnational crime.

Indonesia's defense diplomacy, operationalized through the GBC and JPCC, plays a vital role in promoting cross-border collaboration, intelligence-sharing, and joint enforcement actions. These mechanisms reflect a shift in the role of defense institutions from conventional warfare preparation to actively engaging in addressing non-traditional threats like human trafficking. This highlights Indonesia's strategic commitment to safeguarding both state sovereignty and human dignity.

This research employs the theoretical lenses of non-traditional security and human trafficking theory to explore the nature of the threat and the role of

defense diplomacy in mitigating it. NTS theory helps illuminate the complex intersection of national and human security, while human trafficking theory provides insights into the structural and systemic conditions that enable exploitation.

Based on this framework, the central question guiding this study is: How does Indonesia utilize defense diplomacy to combat human trafficking along the Indonesia–Malaysia border, particularly within the framework of international law?

Literature Review and Statement of Art

Scholarly discussions on human trafficking have broadly analyzed it as a multidimensional and transnational issue, often linking it to legal, human rights, and security frameworks. Previous studies offer important insights into various dimensions of the problem but have not extensively addressed the strategic role of defense diplomacy in countering trafficking, particularly in the Indonesia–Malaysia border context.

One notable study is by Novi Darmayanti et al. (2022), titled “Human Trafficking as Transnational Crime”, which examines trafficking from the standpoint of transnational criminal law. The authors argue that trafficking networks function across state borders and thus require coordinated international legal mechanisms. However, the study does not delve into state-level diplomatic or defense-oriented responses.

Prasetya (2020), in “Legal Analysis of Human Trafficking Case as a Transnational Organised Crime That Is Threatening State Security,” emphasizes the importance of legal protection for victims. His research focuses on assistance mechanisms, repatriation, and victim support from a criminal justice perspective. While it connects trafficking with national security concerns, it largely omits the diplomatic or institutional coordination dimension involving defense actors.

Similarly, Simanjuntak (2017), in “Human Rights Perspective on Efforts to Eradicate Trafficking in Persons in the PTPPO Law,” evaluates the effectiveness of Indonesia’s anti-trafficking legislation (UU No. 21/2007). The study reviews the preparedness of institutions, law enforcement agencies, and infrastructure in combating trafficking. Although this study integrates a rights-based perspective, it remains rooted in the domestic legal domain without addressing cross-border cooperation or defense engagement.

In contrast, this study emphasizes the role of Indonesia's defense diplomacy in combating human trafficking along the Indonesia–Malaysia border, framed through an international law perspective. While drawing from similar regulatory frameworks such as Law No. 21/2007, ASEAN agreements, and Indonesia's defense policies, this research provides a fresh analytical approach by examining how defense diplomacy contributes to security governance in the region. By integrating concepts from both non-traditional security and defense diplomacy studies, this research seeks to fill a conceptual and empirical gap in the existing literature.

Conceptual Framework

This research is underpinned by two interrelated conceptual frameworks:

1. Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Theory:

Rooted in the works of scholars like Barry Buzan and Amitav Acharya, NTS theory expands the notion of security beyond military threats to encompass social, economic, and humanitarian challenges. Human trafficking, within this paradigm, is not only a criminal issue but a human security concern that erodes state capacity and undermines regional stability. NTS highlights the necessity for state and non-state actors to collaborate through multidimensional responses, including defense sector engagement.

2. Defense Diplomacy:

Defense diplomacy refers to the peaceful use of a nation's defense institutions and resources to achieve foreign policy objectives and strengthen international cooperation. This includes joint military exercises, defense agreements, border management, and intelligence sharing. In the context of Indonesia–Malaysia relations, mechanisms such as the General Border Committee (GBC) and the Joint Police Cooperation Committee (JPCC) serve as instruments of defense diplomacy that facilitate bilateral efforts in curbing transnational crimes like human trafficking.

By combining these frameworks, this research situates Indonesia's efforts within a broader regional security architecture. It explores how defense diplomacy can serve not merely as a state-centric tool, but as a mechanism to enhance human security and legal accountability in transnational contexts.

Therefore, this study makes an original contribution by bridging security studies, international law, and human trafficking scholarship offering both theoretical and

policy-relevant insights into Indonesia's strategic role in addressing non-traditional threats at its borders.

METHOD

This study employs a descriptive qualitative approach to analyze Indonesia's defense diplomacy in combating human trafficking along the Indonesia–Malaysia border, particularly from the perspective of international law. The descriptive qualitative method is chosen to allow an in-depth exploration and contextual interpretation of complex legal and diplomatic phenomena that cannot be captured through quantitative methods. It enables the researcher to examine how states fulfill their obligations, coordinate actions, and develop bilateral mechanisms within the framework of legal norms and cooperative arrangements.

The research design involves a case study focusing on Indonesia–Malaysia relations, specifically examining defense and security cooperation mechanisms such as the General Border Committee (GBC) and the Joint Police Cooperation Committee (JPCC). These forums are analyzed to determine their effectiveness in addressing human trafficking, viewed as both a transnational organized crime and a violation of human rights and international law.

The study draws upon a range of qualitative data sources, including: International legal instruments (e.g., the Palermo Protocol, ASEAN Conventions), national legislation (e.g., Indonesia's Law No. 21/2007 on the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons), Official documents and defense policy papers (e.g., Indonesia's Defence White Paper, Ministerial Regulations), reports from international organizations (e.g., UNODC, ASEAN reports), academic literature and previous research on human trafficking and security studies, media coverage and NGO reports relevant to border trafficking issues.

The analytical framework is centered on international law, particularly concerning state obligations to prevent, punish, and cooperate in eradicating human trafficking. This is further supported by the following concepts:

1. International cooperation theory, which helps explain the mechanisms and rationale behind cross-border collaborations;
2. Defense diplomacy, which frames the use of defense channels as tools for soft security cooperation;

3. Human trafficking theory, particularly focusing on root causes and networked criminality;
4. Human security and transnational organized crime (TOC) frameworks, to capture the multidimensional nature of the threat and its impacts on state and human-level security.

The analysis proceeds by identifying key legal obligations and mapping how Indonesia has operationalized those obligations through defense diplomacy and bilateral cooperation. It then assesses whether these measures align with the normative expectations of international law and contribute effectively to the prevention of human trafficking along its border with Malaysia.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Factors that contribute to human trafficking

Human trafficking is a serious offence characterised by the exploitation of individuals for economic or sexual motives. There are several underlying reasons that may trigger human trafficking in Indonesia. Some elements include environmental circumstances, systems, and social situations. Here are some of the factors that may favour human trafficking in Indonesia:

Socio-Economic Factors

Socio-economic factors are a driver of human trafficking, and your analysis of low economic conditions provides an important illustration. The existence of economic disparities can create a situation economically where people with low incomes find it difficult to achieve a better standard of living. These gaps can create inequalities in access to education, employment and economic opportunities, increasing the risk of exploitation (Heryadi et al., 2020).

The situation where people in rural areas, especially in the Indonesia-Malaysia border region, feel pressurised to seek employment abroad, especially in Malaysia, may point to economic pressures and a lack of decent employment opportunities in the region. Some factors that may influence this trend involve socio-economic conditions and migration policies between countries. The imbalance of development between urban and rural areas, as well as manipulative tactics employed by human traffickers often use the promise of attractive jobs and financial incentives as tools to lure victims. The promise of a high-paying job or a better life in the city can be an attraction that is difficult to resist for individuals

facing economic limitations in rural areas.

Cultural Factors

Cultural factors play an important role in the context of human trafficking. Cultural elements can influence the way Indonesian society responds to and perceives issues related to human exploitation. A culture that is permissive or accepting of all forms of behaviour can create an environment where exploitative practices can flourish. A consumptive culture and desire for instant results can make people inclined to look for quick ways to improve their lives. This can make them more vulnerable to the promise of jobs or financial opportunities that look tempting, without considering the risks involved.

Educational campaigns targeting rural communities can help raise awareness about the risks of human trafficking and provide correct information regarding job opportunities in cities. Collaboration between the government, NGOs, and the private sector can help develop and implement effective human trafficking prevention programmes (Heryadi et al., 2020).

Law Enforcement Factors

Laws play a crucial role in efforts to eradicate human trafficking because the practice is a violation of the law. Strengthening laws and policies that support law enforcement are also key. Clear and effective laws, along with strict sanctions against perpetrators, can be a deterrent to the practice of human trafficking. Handling human trafficking does require sectoral cooperation and coordination between institutions, especially in the field of law enforcement. Various institutions, such as the police, the prosecutor's office, and the supreme court, have key roles in combating human trafficking.

Political Factors

At the 2011 ASEAN Summit held in Jakarta, the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, underlined the need to accelerate efforts to formulate an ASEAN agreement on human trafficking and illicit transportation of persons. This reflects the high political commitment of the Indonesian government to address the issue (Wibisono, 2011).

The participation and political commitment of all ASEAN countries is crucial for the successful eradication of human trafficking in the region. With the Legal Draft Handbook (LDH) on Human Trafficking and the joint effort to draft an ASEAN convention on human trafficking, it shows the goodwill of the countries to address

the issue collaboratively. However, as you mentioned, there were obstacles when one country pulled out of the agreement, and some countries, such as Myanmar and Thailand, did not sign the draft regulation.

Indonesia as a country with a large population and geographical complexity can benefit greatly from having clear mechanisms and rules in combating human trafficking at the ASEAN level (Heryadi et al., 2020).

The Role of International Law in Combating Human Trafficking

Sugeng Istanto (2014) argues that international law is "a set of legal provisions recognised and maintained by the international community. As an integral part of law, international law meets the elements that define law, namely the set of rules governing the behaviour of individuals in society and maintained by the external power of the relevant community. As a component of law in general, the purpose of international law is also in line with the purpose of law in general, namely to create order and justice in the society where the law applies"

Kusumaatmadja (1997) explains that "international law includes all legal norms and principles governing relationships or issues that cross state boundaries (international relations) and are not civil in nature. It is further affirmed that international law summarises all rules and principles governing relationships or issues involving states with states, states with other legal subjects that are not states, or non-state legal subjects with each other"

Indonesia has accepted the Palermo Protocol with the enactment of Law No. 14/2009. This is a significant step towards preventing, prosecuting and punishing trafficking in persons, with a particular focus on women and children. The Palermo Protocol is an integral component of the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime, which was adopted in 2000.

The Palermo Protocol, resulting from an understanding of the inadequacy of previous international instruments, aims to create a more robust and comprehensive legal framework for global efforts to combat trafficking in persons, particularly of women and children (Darmayanti et al., 2022).

Article 4 of the Palermo Protocol provides a clear explanation of its scope as such, the scope of the Palermo Protocol covers four main aspects:

1. Prevention: Efforts to prevent trafficking from occurring.
2. Investigation: Activities to gather information and evidence related to trafficking offences.

3. Prosecution: Legal proceedings against perpetrators involved in human trafficking.
4. Victim Protection: Efforts to protect victims of trafficking offences.

This scope applies particularly when the offence is transnational and involves organised criminal groups. The Protocol provides a legal basis for international co-operation in preventing and responding to trafficking in persons.

The Protocol does not only include crimes committed intentionally, but also other forms of complicity in trafficking offences.

Article 10 (1)' The Palermo Protocol provides a clear framework for co-operation between law enforcement, immigration, and other agencies of states parties. Here are the main points of the article:

1. Identification of Traffickers: Law enforcement, immigration, and other agencies should cooperate through information sharing to determine whether persons crossing or attempting to cross international borders using another person's documents or without documents are traffickers.
2. Recognition of Types of Travel Documents: Such cooperation should also include recognising the types of travel documents used by traffickers to cross international borders for the purpose of trafficking.
3. Analysis of Traffickers' Tools and Methods: Relevant agencies are expected to analyse the tools and methods used by organised criminal groups for the purpose of trafficking. This includes aspects such as recruitment and delivery of victims, routes and links between individuals and groups involved in trafficking, as well as other measures that make it possible to detect them.

Article 11 of the Palermo Protocol provides for measures that can be taken by state parties to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, particularly with regard to border areas. Here are the details:

1. Strengthening Border Control: States parties shall strengthen, as far as possible, border controls necessary to prevent and detect trafficking in persons, without prejudice to international obligations relating to the free movement of persons.
2. Measures against Transport Used in Crimes: Each state party shall adopt appropriate legislative or other measures to prevent, as far as possible, the use of means of transport operated by commercial service providers in the commission of criminal offences established in accordance with Article 5 of this Protocol.

3. Bonds for Transport Service Providers: Where appropriate, and without prejudice to applicable international conventions, such measures should include obligations for transport service providers, including transport companies or owners or operators of means of transport, to ensure that all passengers have the necessary travel documents for entry into the receiving country.
4. Sanctions in Case of Violation: Each state party shall take the necessary measures, in accordance with its domestic law, to impose sanctions in case of breach of the obligations provided for in paragraph 3 of this Article.
5. Refusal of Entry or Cancellation of Visa: Each state party shall consider taking measures to enable, in accordance with its domestic law, the refusal of entry or cancellation of visas for persons involved in the commission of criminal offences established in accordance with this Protocol.
6. Strengthening Co-operation among Border Control Agencies: Without prejudice to Article 27 of the Convention, states parties should consider strengthening co-operation among border control agencies, inter alia, by establishing and maintaining direct channels of communication".

By prescribing these concrete measures, Article 11 aims to strengthen border control and prevent commercial means of transport from being used in trafficking, as well as provide a legal basis for imposing sanctions and denial of entry measures against traffickers (Ali & Pramono, 2011). Article 11 "Palermo Protocol relating to border areas. States parties are requested to take the following concrete measures:

- a. Prevent and Detect Trafficking in Persons: Strengthen border controls to prevent and detect cases of trafficking in persons.
- b. Preventing the Use of Means of Transport by Commercial Enterprises for Crimes: Adopt legislative or other measures to prevent the use of means of transport operated by commercial enterprises in the commission of criminal offences.
- c. Ensuring Completeness of Travel Documents: Ensure that persons entering the territory of the state party are provided with valid travel documents.
- d. Impose Sanctions for Violations of Travel Documents: Establish sanctions, including criminal ones, for violations of the provisions regarding the completeness of travel documents.

- e. Delay Granting Visas to Persons Associated with Criminal Offences: Suspend the granting of visas to persons involved in the commission of criminal offences set out in this Protocol.
- f. Strengthen Cooperation Among Border Control Agencies: Strengthen co-operation among border control agencies, including through continuous communication.
- g. As such, states parties are expected to take these measures as part of their efforts to prevent and respond to trafficking in persons".
- h. Indonesia's Defence Diplomacy in Upholding Sovereignty and Tackling Human Trafficking on the Indonesia-Malaysia Border

James Laki's statement, in the context of human trafficking, this crime involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer or smuggling of human beings across national borders for the purpose of exploitation, such as sexual or labour exploitation. In the context of human trafficking, this crime involves the recruitment, transportation, transfer or smuggling of people across national borders for the purpose of exploitation, such as sexual or labour exploitation (Laki, 2006).

The UN definition of transnational crime highlights the broad and complex dimensions of this criminal activity. According to the UN, transnational crime involves large-scale and complex criminal activities, run by groups of organisations that exploit illegal markets within the international community.

This definition provides an important basis of understanding in efforts to combat cross-border crimes such as human trafficking, as it highlights the complexity and scope of involving international cooperation for effective prevention and prosecution. The problem of human trafficking is a challenge that cannot be effectively addressed by any one country alone. Due to its cross-border scope, addressing the issue of human trafficking requires international cooperation and coordination between countries (AL-HANA et al., 2018).

According to K.J. Holsti (1988), International cooperation is often formed in response to problems that are national, regional, or even global in nature. In the context of human trafficking, where the problem involves cross-border movement, cross-border exploitation, and organised co-operation between actors, international cooperation is key to preventing, detecting, and tackling human trafficking more effectively.

Involving more than one country, joint efforts can include information exchange, coordination of law enforcement actions, establishment of joint policies, and other measures necessary to confront the issue holistically.

Important principles in the establishment of international cooperation, especially in the context of defence and security can be realised when countries have common interests and are based on the principle of mutual benefit.

The following are some types of international cooperation activities that can be implemented based on the National Defence Policy:

1. Joint Operation and Exercise Cooperation: Countries can cooperate in military operations or through joint exercises to enhance their defence capabilities and build interoperability.
2. Technology Transfer: Technology exchange or transfer between countries can strengthen national military and defence capabilities.
3. Training and Education: Countries can co-operate in providing training and education for military personnel to enhance professionalism and skills.
4. Exchange Visits: Exchange visits between defence officials or military personnel can strengthen relations and understanding between countries.
5. Cooperation with Neighbouring Countries: Countries that share a direct border can co-operate to resolve border-related issues and promote mutual security.
6. Defence Diplomacy: Defence diplomacy involves strategic dialogue in various defence cooperation forums to discuss common security issues.
7. Deployment of World Peacekeeping Forces: Countries can contribute to world peace missions through the deployment of peacekeeping forces.
8. Humanitarian Aid: Cooperation in the humanitarian context can involve assistance in emergency or post-conflict situations.

Through international cooperation in various aspects of defence, countries can strengthen their deterrence and enhance global security stability (BPK RI, 2017).

The defence diplomacy approach implemented by Indonesia, particularly in cooperation with Malaysia to address the issue of human trafficking, reflects a holistic strategy. According to Cottey and Foster, defence diplomacy includes the peacetime use of military force and the use of related infrastructure, such as ministries of defence, as instruments of foreign and security policy.

In the context of human trafficking, cooperation with Malaysia has strategic importance as Malaysia is often one of the main destination countries for human trafficking victims from Indonesia. Through defence diplomacy, both countries can work together to address this issue in a broader and more comprehensive way.

Steps that can be taken involve:

1. Use of Military Force in Times of Peace: The use of military force is not always associated with armed conflict. In the context of defence diplomacy, military force can be used to build trust and cooperation, and enhance defence capacity to address common threats.
2. Use of Related Infrastructure: Defence ministries and other defence structures can be used as instruments to facilitate dialogue, negotiations and cooperation between states.
3. Foreign and Security Policy: Defence diplomacy also involves the formulation of foreign and security policies that focus on solving common problems, including human trafficking issues.
4. Coordination Between Relevant Departments: Cooperation between the departments of defence, foreign affairs and other relevant agencies is key to producing a coordinated and effective approach.
5. Defence Capacity Building: In this context, defence capacity building could include joint training, information exchange and collaboration in the development of preventive defence strategies.

By maximising the role of defence diplomacy, Indonesia can increase the effectiveness of its human trafficking response, particularly with key destination countries such as Malaysia. This approach also reflects a willingness to cooperate with neighbouring countries in addressing common challenges involving defence and security aspects. (Cottey & Antony Forster, 2004)

In more depth, Cottey and Foster explain several types of activities in defence diplomacy, including bilateral cooperation in the defence sector. In addressing the issue of human trafficking on their border, Indonesia and Malaysia have implemented a form of cooperation that can be referred to as collaboration, where both countries play an equally important role.

Abdulsyani argues that this kind of collaboration can take place effectively because there are similarities in goals, perceptions, and willingness to engage in a joint process (Abdulsyani, 1994). In this regard, Indonesia and Malaysia share a common goal: to reduce the occurrence of human trafficking across their borders. In addition, both countries share the same opinion on the issue of human trafficking, and view it as a danger to both countries. Indonesia and Malaysia demonstrate a readiness to collaborate and take joint action based on common goals and perspectives. This is evidenced by increased border cooperation through the General Border Committee Malaysia-Indonesia (GBC Malindo). The initiation of collaborative efforts between Indonesia and Malaysia to enhance collaboration in addressing diverse challenges in the border region can be traced back to the

ratification of the 1972 Security Arrangement. This security pact was officially ratified on 6 April 1972 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The implementation of the 1972 Security Arrangement required the establishment of a Common Border Committee, commonly referred to as the GBC, which was formally established in July 1972.

The GBC Malindo emerged as a strategic platform that effectively promoted the common interests of both countries, particularly in the political sphere, addressing various border-related issues in their respective territories (Kementerian Pertahanan RI, n.d.).

The 1972 Security Arrangement underwent several revisions and eventually evolved into the 1984 Security Arrangement. Unlike the 1972 Security Arrangement, the 1984 Security Arrangement has a broader scope, covering not only military and security matters, but also a wide range of other dimensions such as politics, economics, social dynamics, cultural affairs, and ideological considerations. This revised statement divides GBC activities into two distinct categories: operations and non-operations. These activities are carried out by subordinate organisations. GBC Malindo serves as a collaborative platform for policy formulation across many sectors, which include the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, armed forces, police, and other relevant agencies from both Indonesia and Malaysia (K. Khoirunnisa & Jubaidi, 2024). The scope of GBC Malindo not only addresses strategic issues relating to the border, but also includes annual meetings designed to enhance collaboration and improve defence capabilities between the two countries.

At the 35th GBC session held in Jakarta on 15 December 2006, a mutual agreement was reached between Indonesia and Malaysia to establish the JPCC. The main objective of the committee is to address the diverse manifestations of criminal activities in the border areas of both countries. The JPCC serves as a bilateral cooperation platform that facilitates collaboration between the Indonesian National Police (INP) and the Malaysian Police (PDRM). This cooperation emerged as a response to the increasing types of threats, especially forms of cross-border organised crime that can threaten state sovereignty. The agreement to carry out this cooperation then received approval from the defence ministers of both countries, who at that time served as chairmen of the GBC, namely Juwono Sudharsono and Dato' Sri Mohamad Najib Abdul Razak. In the JPCC, one of the main issues to be addressed is human trafficking.

The defense ministers of both countries agreed to emphasize the role of the police in handling various forms of lawlessness on their borders, including efforts to tackle human trafficking. This is in accordance with the duties of the National

Police mandated in Article 30 paragraph 4 of the 1945 Constitution, which states that "The National Police as a state instrument that maintains security and public order is tasked with protecting, protecting, and serving the community, as well as enforcing the law" (BPK RI, 2002). Article 41 Paragraph 1 of Law No. 2 of 2002 states that "in order to carry out security duties, Polri may request the assistance of the TNI which is further regulated by Government Regulation". This allows Polri to request TNI support in certain security-related situations, but further arrangements are regulated by Government Regulation.

The Malindo Standing Procedure (Protap) No. 15/2010 includes several forms of co-operative efforts between Indonesia and Malaysia in addressing the issue of human trafficking. One such action is joint patrols in territorial waters. The Indonesian National Police (Polri) and the Malaysian Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM) conduct synchronised patrols in the waters along the border between the two countries. In 2014, the Indonesian National Police represented by the Riau Police and the Malaysian Marine Police conducted joint patrols in the border sea of the Malacca Strait. Polri used the TAKA - 3010 vessel in this patrol exercise, while the Malaysian Sea Police used the PA - 51 vessel. As a consequence of this joint patrol, both countries agreed to collaborate and exchange information in dealing with cross-border criminal issues, including human trafficking (Kementerian Luar Negeri RI, n.d.).

East Kalimantan Police and PDRM participated in a joint patrol in the border waters of Sabah, Malaysia, in 2016. The police from both countries monitor the unlawful routes that human traffickers often use to bring in potential victims. As legal sea lanes for small vessels are restricted, human traffickers are increasingly using unlawful routes. As a consequence of the co-operation, the two governments decided that it was important to reopen official channels at the maritime border between the two countries to limit the use of illicit channels. In 2017, Riau Islands Police and Malaysian Marine Police conducted coordinated patrols in the waters around Tanjung Setapa, Malaysia. The Riau Islands Police deployed KP Barelang XXXI-3001 for this patrol, while the Malaysian Police deployed patrol boat PA-51 and speed boat PSC-43. In this mission, the two patrol vessels from these countries inspected border areas and prohibited routes that are often used by human traffickers to carry out their criminal activities.

Another form of collaboration is co-operative border patrols. Between 2015 and 2017, 26 patrols were conducted along the Indonesia-Malaysia land border. These patrols involved Police officials, including the West Kalimantan Police and East Kalimantan Police, as well as the Sarawak PDRM Contingent. West Kalimantan is known as a high-risk location for human trafficking, therefore the JPCC prioritised patrols in the region. A total of 24 patrols were conducted in West Kalimantan,

while only 2 patrols were conducted in East Kalimantan. Tightening surveillance at border posts is a step taken to increase the effectiveness of joint patrols. Human traffickers can easily cross the land border between the two countries due to the lack of early detection tools, the presence of individuals suspected of being involved, and the increasingly sophisticated methods used by traffickers to smuggle their victims (Khoirunnisa & Basri, 2020). This increased surveillance effort is expected to reduce the loopholes that can be exploited by criminals.

Cooperation is conducted within the JPCC forum in the area of capacity building by providing training and courses to personnel of both police forces to enhance their capabilities. This initiative includes annual personnel exchanges between Polri and PDRM. Improving the capacity and skills of police personnel is an important step in strengthening the handling of human trafficking and other cross-border crimes. Through the personnel exchange programme, effective communication between the police forces of the two countries is expected. The exchange of ideas and experiences will provide new insights related to handling problems, including human trafficking cases. Good coordination between Indonesian and Malaysian police officers is key to strengthening joint efforts in dealing with cross-border crimes and protecting the security of the border areas of the two countries. Information exchange co-operation between Polri and PDRM is an effective step in handling human trafficking cases involving cross-border crimes. This collaboration allows Polri to obtain important information from PDRM regarding the whereabouts of human traffickers who may be in Malaysian territory. With this information, the arrest of perpetrators can be done more efficiently, considering the difficulty of pursuing perpetrators who operate in other countries without the assistance of local police officers.

The cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia through the GBC forum shows the continuity and commitment to build trust between the two countries. By meeting regularly and technically, both countries seek to strengthen perceptions of common interests, in accordance with the principles of defence diplomacy described by Cottey and Foster. Confidence building measures resulting from this cooperation can create a more harmonious and trusting environment in the border region, assisting in the handling of common problems, such as human trafficking.

With shared perceptions and continuous cooperation, confidence building measures (CBMs) can be built. CBMs are concrete steps taken by countries to build and strengthen trust between each other. Through cooperation in the GBC forum and other efforts, Indonesia and Malaysia can achieve a higher level of trust, strengthen bilateral relations, and increase effectiveness in addressing common issues, such as human trafficking. Constraints such as the lack of advanced facilities and infrastructure can affect the effectiveness of addressing human

trafficking issues. The development of technology and the use of more sophisticated tools can be an important aspect in efforts to prevent and counter transnational criminal offences such as human trafficking. Therefore, it is important to continue to increase support and investment in technology and training for law enforcement officers so that they can be more effective in carrying out their duties.

Annual meetings such as the Joint Police Cooperation Committee Meeting (JPCC Meeting) are a very positive step to evaluate and design the continuation of cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia in handling human trafficking issues.

Through this forum, Indonesia and Malaysia can exchange information, share experiences, and evaluate the outcomes of their cooperation, while also identifying obstacles and discussing ways to improve future strategies. The involvement of high-level forums, such as the GBC Malindo, is crucial for ensuring strong coordination and support from both parties. It is hoped that these meetings will positively contribute to efforts aimed at combating human trafficking along the border. The inclusion of the Joint Police Cooperation Committee (JPCC) in such forums, like the High-Level Committee (HLC) Malindo, ensures that the challenges faced by the JPCC are addressed and receives the necessary attention and support. By reporting within the HLC Malindo framework, the JPCC bridges communication between agencies working on human trafficking and higher policy levels.

The collaboration between Indonesia and Malaysia, particularly through the JPCC, has established key multi-agency frameworks aimed at combating human trafficking and other transnational crimes. This cooperation enhances coordination between law enforcement agencies and extends to other bodies such as the Coordinated Operations Control Committee (COCC), Jawatan Kuasa Latihan Bersama (JKLB), and the Socio-Economic Working Group (KK Sosek).

1. JPCC: As the central body for law enforcement cooperation, the JPCC facilitates joint operations and coordinates intelligence sharing between both countries' police forces, allowing for timely responses to cross-border issues and the disruption of trafficking networks.
2. COCC: This body oversees and facilitates cross-border security operations, ensuring that all initiatives align and addressing the full spectrum of transnational crimes. It helps streamline resources and actions, ensuring efficient operations.
3. JKLB: Focused on joint training programs, the JKLB enhances the readiness of both countries' personnel to combat human trafficking. It builds operational capacity through joint exercises, equipping law enforcement with the skills needed to address the evolving tactics of traffickers.

4. KK Sosek: By addressing the socio-economic factors that fuel human trafficking—such as poverty, limited education, and job opportunities—KK Sosek contributes to a broader strategy aimed at preventing trafficking at its roots. This group integrates a socio-economic approach into defense diplomacy efforts, helping to tackle trafficking before it starts.

Through these frameworks, the bilateral cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia has significantly strengthened the response to human trafficking, enhancing security and coordination along their shared border. This multi-faceted approach illustrates the effectiveness of defense diplomacy when national and regional bodies collaborate to address complex, cross-border issues.

CONCLUSION

The role of International Law in combating human trafficking in Indonesia is very important, one of which is through the act of ratifying the Palermo Protocol through Law Number 14 of 2009. The main purpose of this act is to provide effective measures to prevent and crack down on trafficking in persons, especially women and children. In addition, the international legal framework also provides protection to victims of human trafficking, focusing on their rights. Concrete examples of the protection of the rights of victims of human trafficking through international law include the right to confidentiality of identity, the right to restitution, the right to health and social rehabilitation, the right to return, as well as the right to reintegration. These aim to ensure that victims receive proper protection and support their full recovery. International legal measures such as these are important in the joint effort to eradicate human trafficking, by setting global norms and standards that countries, including Indonesia, must follow to protect victims and crack down on perpetrators of this crime.

Indonesia's defence diplomacy in assisting Malaysia in addressing the issue of human trafficking is implemented through bilateral defence cooperation. This cooperation is conducted through the Malindo General Border Committee (GBC), which is led by the Defence Ministers of both countries. To enhance this cooperation, the Defence Ministers of Indonesia and Malaysia decided at the 35th GBC session in 2006 to prioritise the role of the police in dealing with various types of law violations on the border between the two countries, including dealing with human trafficking. The establishment of the Joint Police Cooperation Committee (JPCC) made this possible.

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