COMMUNAL VIOLENCE AS A STRATEGY OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO RESIST THE EXTRACTIVE MINING OPERATIONS IN MOROWALI, CENTRAL SULAWESI

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This paper illustrates and explains that extractive nickel mining operations in Morowali District, Central Sulawesi have caused a variety of negative impacts that harm local communities both indigenous and transmigrants. The impact was in the form of the control of part of the local population’s land by the company, and the loss of their access to obtain wood and gum resin, and sea fishing activities. Nickel mining operations have also caused damage to the environment such as air pollution, pollution of rivers and sea water and the collapse of dams which have damaged people’s livelihoods, such as agricultural land, marine fisheries and ponds. Paper explains that local people are fighting to get material compensation from losses suffered. They also put political pressure on the company by using a communal violence approach rather than mere negotiation. This communal resistance arose due to distrust and social frustration experienced by local communities over mining operations and conflict resolution approaches carried out by the company through poor CSR programs, community empowerment, and security approaches that control freedom. Meanwhile, communal resistance is reproduced by local people in order to improve bargaining positions when they do not have adequate opportunities to get a job within the company and get compensation in their favor. No less important, communal resistance was rich in tactics and strategies that were able to force the government and companies to reduce dominance and violent practices in securing the mining business in Morowali.

Keywords: Communal violence, extractive nickel industry, local communities, CSR, distrust, social frustration

TRACING THE ROOT OF VIOLENCE AND PEACE BUILDING IN PAPUA

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This article started from a group of West Papua National Liberation Army attack on some Trans-Papua road construction workers in Nduga in December 2019, which resulted in 17 deaths including members of the Indonesian armed forces. The Nduga incident has added to the statistics of violence in Papua since the bloody Paniai incident in December 2014 which left eight Papuan students killed. The Amnesty International (2018) reports that between 2010 and 2018 there were 69 extrajudicial killings in Papua committed by security apparatus. Conflict and violence in the Land of Papua seem to be continuing since the resistance of the Free Papua movement in Manokwari in 1965 until the present day (May, 1978; Osborne, 1985; Budiarjo & Liong, 1988). Referring to Galtung (1969), Bjorkagen said that it is the absence of negative peace.

Various policies, such as special autonomy, acceleration of development, and infrastructure projects have been implemented; yet have not been able to overcome the disappointment and trust of the Papuan people in the republic. Several research has been conducted including in the field of anthropology and other social sciences using ethnographic methods. However, such of studies are not referred by policymakers to resolve the Papua conflict peacefully. Therefore, this