ALIENS INTERVENTION IN THE STATE CONFLICT IN INTERNATIONAL LAW (STUDY OF THE ENGAGEMENT OF AMERICA, SAUDI ARABIA, RUSSIA, AND IRAN IN THE ARAB SPRING CONFLICT)

Ridwan Arifin, Mumpuni Tri Utami, Ahmad Zaharuddin Sani Ahmad Sabri *

Abstract

Various conflicts experienced by the state are denied or there are no interventions from other countries both on a large and small scale, either directly or indirectly. Interventions have the meaning of dictatorial interference by a country against other countries’ internal affairs. This has caused controversy because it is contrary to the principle of state sovereignty and the principle of non-intervention in international law. The practice of intervention that is happening now is one of the conversations by the community. The validity of the intervention of other countries is one of them sticking out in the Arab Spring conflict, where Saudi Arabia and Iran make Syria an arena for proxy war where opponents of strength use third parties instead of fighting directly with each other. Saudi Arabia openly supports the opposition in the form of finance, a tool of war. On the other hand, Iran totally supports Bashar al-Assad with financial assistance, weapons of war and sends military forces. This paper analyzes how the position of foreign country intervention in a country’s conflict in the study of international law. This paper focuses on the Syrian conflict, the Arab Spring where in the study of international law, intervention is seen as a state effort, and this paper analyzes the legitimacy of the state to carry out such interventions.

Keywords

State intervention, international law, Arab spring, internal affairs, conflict

*Faculty of Law, State University of Semarang (UNNES), Universitas Utara Malaysia (UUM)

Correspondence: Ridwan Arifin, Faculty of Law, State University of Semarang (UNNES), Central Java, Indonesia, Email: ridwan.arifin@mail.unnes.ac.id
Introduction

The Middle East is a region that is very closely related to the conflict that seemed eternal in his life. The natural resources owned by the Middle East region, especially oil, make this area an area that has never been deserted from conflict. Various interests of countries, both those included in the Middle East region and those not included in this region, try to realize their respective interests in various ways. Because of these interests, stability in the Middle East has always been in the international spotlight. A storm of revolution to overthrow authoritarian regimes in the Middle East (Syria) is attracting international attention today where thousands of lives disappear every day due to differences in interests within them (Rohamna, 2017).

The Arab Spring turmoil that hit the Arab countries also affected the Syrian conflict. The phenomenon of the Arab Spring is an intellectual process of encouragement that is built from the ideas, ideas, awareness, and desires of the people for the importance of unrestricted democratization (freedom), and this starts from social media. Whereas the Arab Revolution is a desire for change from a fundamental people that covers all fields and is complex, because here is not just freedom of opinion that is fought for but all aspects of life are vital. Like the demands of Egyptian activists, namely political equality (democracy), building dignity, and prosperity (Burdah, 2014).

The Arab Spring turmoil finally spread to countries in the Middle East. Starting from Tunisia overthrowing the leadership of the Zein Al-Abidin Ben Ali regime, Egypt downgraded the power of Husni Mubarak, Libya overthrew the dictator ruler Moammar Khadafi, then Bahrain, Yemen and is still running today in Syria (Sahidie, 2015). Syria's Arab Spring is one of the doors to the prolonged conflict between the opposition who want to overtake the regime of Bashar al-Assad and Pro-Regime who want President Bashar al-Assad to remain in power. In 2012, Bashar al-Assad is predicted to experience a collapse in the near future. From a political or field perspective, Bashar al-Assad's ability to maintain his power has weakened.

Political pressure from various countries from the Arab League including Qatar and Saudi Arabia, which were the driving forces of the organization, sought to seek international support to overthrow Bashar al-Assad's power (Burdah, 2014). But in reality it is not as easy as thought, until now the leadership of Bashar Al-Assad is still firm in his seat of government. The strength of Bashar al-Assad's position is inseparable from the support of two powerful allies namely Russia and Iran, said Director of the US Defense Intelligence Agency (US) Lieutenant Colonel Vincent Stewart (Maulana, 2016).

The Syrian conflict is increasingly becoming a problem because many of its soldiers defected back against President Bashar al-Assad because they believed that the Arab Spring wave that occurred in Libya, Egypt and Tunisia had succeeded in overthrowing
the power of his President. Because of this belief, the soldiers who were detained formed a Syrian Army. This is the forerunner to the emergence of the resistance movement in the form of a military organization (Kuncahyono, 2013). Followed by the influence of guerrillas or sectarians, including the Mujahideen, the Army of Islam, and the biggest is the Al-Qaeda group. Until 2013, ISIS (Islamic and Iranian Islamic State) emerged to establish an Islamic state, all of which aimed to overthrow the leadership of President Bashar al-Assad.

The massive ISIS movement was able to control Palmyrah, Aleppo, Rakkah and the Mujahideen movement and 80 countries simultaneously attacked Syria to overthrow the rule of Bashar (Harjanto, 2016). Saudi Arabia is a country that is very ambitious in its relation to bringing down the leadership of Bashar al-Assad. Adel al-Jubeiri (Saudi Foreign Minister) explained that there are two ways to end the Syrian conflict, first, Iran which is a pro-regime party must withdraw its troops in Syria and stop weapons supply to Shiite militias and the second Bashar al-Assad must resign from the presidency. Saudi Arabia accuses Iran of being actively involved in helping Bashar al-Assad by arming the Syrian government and sending aid from Hezbollah forces to Lebanon. Saudi Arabia insists against the steps taken by Iran by maximizing political, economic and military resistance with all its potential (Rezkisari, 2015).

Saudi Arabia decided to support the Syrian government's opposition movement by becoming a country providing weapons and a major supporter of Syrian opposition groups. In 2013, Saudi Arabia became one of the main providers of Syrian opposition armaments. Saudi Arabia is not alone, in this case the United States also takes part in it. In this conflict, Saudi Arabia cooperated with the United States by manipulating the Arab League to isolate Bashar al-Assad from the political arena of the Arab world. As proof, in 2013 the Arab League Summit accepted Muoz al-Khatib as an official delegation from Syria from the Opposition group (9). Muoz al-Khatib also asked Australia and the United States in regard to considering his decision about Jabah al-Nusrah as a terrorist group by Syria (Sahidie, 2017).

Actually, not only Russia and America have contributed to this conflict. Many foreign hands played in the conflict in Syria, which further heated up the situation in Syria. Accused of accusing it of being a daily menu, the United Nations through its Security Council failed in passing a resolution because Russia and China used their Veto Rights in the Syrian conflict. If the UN passes a resolution then it will become a legality tool for America and NATO to open an invasion like the case of Libya. In this case, Bashar al-Assad offered a peaceful solution, but the solution was also rejected by the opposition, and vice versa, demands from the opposition were also strongly rejected by Bashar al-Assad. Therefore until now the situation in Syria is still far from expectations, namely the emergence of a peace between the two sides, the Bashar al-Assad regime and the opposition (Islam, 2015).

Russia and Iran have similar interests in Syria. Russia has no problems in cooperating with Iran in an alliance defending Bashar al-Assad. Russian-Iranian relations in various fields have been going on for a long time. In 1995 Russia provided assistance of 800
billion dollars to develop an Iranian nuclear reactor. Russia also helps 2000 metric tons of natural uranium. During the process of working on nuclear development Iran was under pressure from the West including America. At the urging of outsiders, Iran in nuclear development experienced many projects that were delayed. Russia also needs oil supplies from Middle Eastern countries. For Russia, choosing Iran as a partner is the right thing, the reason for its geographical location as a neighbor, Iran is the entrance in the Middle East.

Russia’s target is 25 million tons per year, but it still runs on a small scale of 2.5-3 million tons per year. Besides Russia, America also participated in the Syrian conflict. The US presence in Syria is not a coincidence, where the US sympathizes with the situation experienced by the Syrian people, but more than that many interests really want to be achieved by the US by utilizing the momentum of the revolution in the Middle East which also rocked Syria. Of the many interests that can be achieved by the US with the turbulent Syria there are two interests that are actually US priorities in Syria, namely political and economic interests.

In this case indicated by the US for its support for opposition groups that are truly motivated by economic interests, the proof is that when the conflict escalates there are indications that US-backed opposition groups are trying to attack Syrian energy facilities such as gas and oil pipes, as happened in the city of Homs, where a group of rebels or opposition groups blew up an oil pipeline from the east of Syria heading towards an oil refinery in the city of Homs. Actually the US does not directly have an interest in oil reserves in Syria, but for capitalist countries like the US oil is still oil, where in the minds of the decision makers US oil is more valuable than human lives (a drop of oil is worth a drop of blood of their soldiers). so that no matter how small the energy (oil or gas) reserves of a country remain valuable for domestic needs which in fact are driven by industry (Bahar and Hasan, 2014).

Research Method

This research is a normative legal research where the author looks at the data and facts of the case obtained from various sources both print and online media relating to the Arab Spring conflict and state intervention. The data obtained are then analyzed using theories of international law. This study uses secondary data and not field research.

Discussion

1. General Overview of the Syrian Conflict Problem

Syria is one of the countries which until now is still experiencing internal conflicts. After its independence in 1946, instability began to mount in Syria in the coup of the Ba’ath Party in 1964. In 1970, General Haﬁez al-Assad of the Syrian Minister of Defence seized power and declared himself Prime Minister, then continued to serve as President in 1971 (Mariwala, 2014). In consolidating power, he rediscovered the face of Syrian politics from the Ba’ath Party. In his government he divided the state apparatus into various communities and concentrated power on himself and his family. Haﬁez Al-
Assad has prepared his son Basil Al-Assad to become president, but he died in a car accident in 1994, so Bashar Al-Assad was appointed as a successor to Hafez Al-Assad who was then in London (Indah, merdeka.com).

Bashar al-Assad's government also suffered a setback when there was an uneven economic liberalization policy. This makes the upper class increasingly richer and the small business sector lags behind. It can be said that this policy raises problems of unequal welfare distribution in Syria. An uneven economy is increasingly aggravated by a population surge in Syria which results in an imbalance in population growth with the economy. Lack of food distribution and high unemployment rates are unavoidable in Syria (Anonym, US Government). One of the triggers of the Syrian conflict is that the authoritarian system of government that applies in Syria allows the government to take arbitrary actions to the people. The actions of government officials in the form of violence are at the root of the Syrian conflict.

The first trigger of the conflict occurred in January 2011, when Hasan Ali Akleh wet himself with gasoline and took to the streets of Syria. Hasan's action was carried out to remind the Bouazizi self-immolation that ignited the Arab Spring in the Middle East. Furthermore, the Day of Rage discourse or the Arab Spring appears in several social media websites in Syria. Syrian people took to the streets and rallied but the attempt failed due to increased security throughout the country at the time. The failure of the demonstration was also due to Assad's statement that Syria was immune from rebellion (Iddon, 2012). In March 2011, a wave of pro-democracy demonstrations spread throughout Syria, mainly in the City of Deraa.

One of the striking events in the city was when local residents descended after an incident in which 15 school children were detained due to writing graffiti writing "the people want to overthrow the regime" (al-sha'b yurid isqat al-nizam) in the city of Derra which is not far from the Jordanian border. Protests then emerged on March 18, 2011 which demanded the release of the children, the incident triggered demonstrations not only in the city of Derra, but also in other cities such as Damascus, Homs, Hama, Idlib and Aleppo. Demonstrations in Syria which began in 2011 are now an anarchist war between the Bashar government and the opposition.

Syrian civilians who appeared without weapons during the demonstration then adapted to the chaotic conditions by building military power to become political and military actors who fought with the ruling government in Syria (Droz and Vincent, 2014). The dissatisfaction of the Syrian people over Bashar al-Assad's government is caused by the existence of corruption and the lack of freedom of the Syrian people. The act of drawing graffiti made a group of teenagers arrested, tortured and imprisoned by Syrian government officials. As a result of the violence response, finally the protest continued and then spread to other cities in Syria.

The authoritarian system applied in the Middle East region besides limiting individual freedom also limits the press and the media. The government does not provide space for public opinion either through news or newspapers. Along with advances in technology that also penetrated the Middle East, the ease of internet access and internet
usage was increasingly widespread. Internet access is a credible source of information. It is this internet technology that helps spread democratic systems and build broad networks (Howard, et.al., 2017). Civil conflict in Syria is caused by several fundamental factors such as political, social and economic factors. In terms of politics, the leadership crisis that occurred in Syria due to the authoritarian attitude of President Hafez Al-Assad and his son Bashar Al-Assad and the Regime of Assad has created discrimination and the absence of freedom and independence of speech for Syrians.

In terms of economy, poverty has always been a problem for Assad's government. The Assad government proved unable to overcome the poverty that had long engulfed Syria. From a social standpoint, there are social inequalities, where minorities in Syria are more powerful, giving rise to various social jealousies. Syrian politics and government from 1971 to 2000 were held by Hafez al-Assad, father of the current Syrian president, Bashar Al-Assad, while in 2000 until now Syria was led by Bashar al-Assad. Throughout that period, it can be said that Syria has experienced a government crisis which continues until now (Moret, 2015).

For 30 years in the lead, Hafez Al-Assad has banned political opponents from competing in the Syrian presidential election. Hafez Al-Assad was cruelly massacring and killing Syrian people who tried to bring him down from the Syrian government. The change of government to his son Bashar al-Assad did not bring a positive influence because Bashar al-Assad tended to follow in the footsteps of his authoritarian father. Various demands and attempts to make a statement about the Bashar al-Assad regime, and The Syrian war was initially carried out by only two parties, namely government forces and the opposition. Rebels began to spread everywhere when rebel forces began crammed with various foreign forces from neighboring countries such as Jordan and Turkey.

The parties involved in the war are increasingly wracked, even many groups of terrorists who use this riot to take part with an unclear goal. On the other hand, Syria's neighboring countries such as Lebanon and Turkey were also hit by the Syrian war, with these two countries being accused of being weapons and logistics supply lines for rebel groups. Syria's allies, Russia, which has many strategic interests with Syria, are also troubled by the Syrian war and have consistently continued to support Bashar al-Assad. Like Russia, Iran also supports politically against Bashar Al Assad, even though China is not too visible like Russia and Iran (Alkopher, 2016).

2. Intervention of Foreign Parties in the Syrian Conflict

The conflict in Syria that has occurred until now has become an internationalized internal conflict. This happened because in the internal conflict that occurred in Syria had received much intervention from outside parties. The dominant parties currently interfering in the conflict are the United States and Russia.

1) Russian Intervention in the Syrian conflict
Russia is a country involved in the conflict in Syria which aims to stop the action of the demonstrators. Russia has been involved in the conflict since November 29, 2011 which began with the placement of warships to strengthen military forces in Syria (Noor, 2014). At the UN Security Council, Russia has vetoed eight Western-backed resolutions in Syria, while China vetoed six resolutions. Because the conflict in Syria widened so that the UN Security Council on April 21, 2012 based on UNSC resolution number 2043, intervened by sending a number of peacekeepers, most of whom were stationed in the Golan Heights. The peace forces are members of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) (Alkopher, 2016).

However, the Russian government also intervened in the conflict in Syria by providing support to Bashar Al-Assad's regime. This was evident when Russia gave veto support for the draft UN Security Council resolution that threatened Bashar and also armed the regime involved in the conflict. Russia's Role in Syria In reality it is increasing, in the economic aspect that is collapsing Russia is trying to provide support by printing Syrian banknotes, providing weapons renewal, upgrading and servicing. In addition, Russia also provides technical and intelligence support culminating in direct military intervention in late 2015 (Nizameddin, 2016).

In the beginning, Putin's step in Syria was to protect the principles of international law and state sovereignty. Because he considered there was no ISIS threat at the time and Moscow was more focused on rejecting Western interference with Syria's internal affairs. In 2012 and 2013, Russia stated to defend Bashar's regime and refused to stop support. Russia regards support for the regime as one part of the form of fighting terror and fighting against extremism (Nizameddin, 2016). Russia's decision to intervene in Syria can be seen as consistent with a broader strategy to resolve conflict in its own way. The aim of Russia's direct intervention was to prevent the fall of Bashar al-Assad's regime.

The Russian intervention strategy in Syria is only carried out as far as the absence of the United States (Bishara, 2015). Here Putin tries to take advantage of the waning American influence in the Middle East. Syria for Russia is an ally and client whose existence must be protected. In this case Russia sees that by protecting and destroying the opponents of the regime is the key to achieving its objectives in a crisis in Syria in other words protecting Syria is the same as protecting assets and access for the benefit of its own territory (Talukdar, 2016). In addition there are other factors causing Russia not to lose its important investment in Syria.

Syria is a strategic location as an oil and gas pipeline network to Europe and Turkey, which could disrupt Russia's hegemony over its gas exports. In the economic field, cooperation between the two is quite significant. 90% of industrial infrastructure and facilities in Syria are in collaboration with Russia, while one third of oil processing facilities are under Russian assistance (Nandanaardi, 2014). Therefore by helping Bashar al-Assad's regime to remain in the government seat, Russia can block the development of gas pipelines in Qatar. In addition, Russia can position itself as the
connecting point for other new offshore gas discoveries in the Eastern Mediterranean. Russian foreign policy for Syria It is clearly a defensive policy to protect its own national interests on the southern border.

2) US Intervention in the Syrian conflict

Unlike Russia, the United States (US), which was also involved in the conflict in Syria, was on the opposition side or supported the demonstrators who opposed the leadership of Bashar Al Assad. The United States, which seeks to involve itself in the process of revolution in the Syrian crisis, is more directed towards the goals or interests of economic security and prosperity. This departs from America’s own perception of Syria, where the basic characteristics of the Assad family regime have not been compatible and even threaten America's strategic interests in the Middle East. Where during the period of power of the Assad regime in Syria, there were a lot of Syrian foreign policies that were not in favor of America.

The attitude of the Assad administration, which chose to implement anti-Israeli and anti-Western politics, has hampered peace efforts between Israel and Palestine while this is America's biggest concern for the Middle East region. In the context of American support for the Syrian Opposition group, of course it can be estimated that America is trying to achieve its political goals of instilling influence on Syria which can be likened to a "thorn in the flesh" for the US in its policies in the Middle East especially concerning Israel and Iran. In this case the US sees that there is a need from internal Syrians, namely opposition groups (FSA and SNC) to get sponsor countries to support and fund their activities, which then correlates with US capability to mobilize the power and resources they have to channel to the field fighting in Syria (Bahar, 2014).

In terms of the American economy, it is always in the interests of Middle East oil which is a great source of strategic power. The demand for energy resources and the sustainability of the state are the basis of American actions regarding the Syrian conflict where it is an actively driven country through industry (Bahar, 2014). Whereas in politics, the overthrow of Bashar al-Assad’s leadership could open up opportunities for America to fully expand its political influence in the Middle East (Lumba, 2014).

3) Arab Saudi’s Intervention in the Syrian conflict

Saudi Arabia was the first country to respond aggressively to the events of the internal Syrian conflict and support the opposition to overthrow the Bashar al-Assad government. Saudi Arabia has a closeness with the Syrian opposition which is a Sunni group and at the same time as a majority in Syria. The people of Saudi Arabia also condemned the Syrian government's actions as violence against their brothers. Therefore the influence of Saudi Arabia is very strong in the opposition and Saudi Arabia’s dominance will be even greater in the Middle East, if the Syrian government regime is from the opposition, thus Syria will become pro-Saudi Arabia (Ikhsan, 2015).

In the decision of the Arab League organization, the most influential was Saudi Arabia. Opportunities to support the Opposition as a right step to reduce Bashar al-Assad from
his position as president. Syria is a member of the Arab League, but its proximity to Iran makes it difficult to control Syria. Saudi Arabia does not get a position of cooperation with Syria, where Syria is very strategic in oil trading. The oil and gas pipeline area of Syria to the Mediterranean and penetrating European markets is able to increase state income (Mustahyun, 2017). The Saudis used the power of their dominance in the Arab League to intervene in policies that weakened the Bashar government. The Saudis reasoned that the Syrian people were a Sunni majority who needed safety from the massacre of the Bashar government. The issue of the sect built by the Saudis was quite successful in influencing the Syrian opposition community, to arouse the spirit of resistance against the Bashar regime (Burdah, 2014).

Astrid B. Boening (2014) describes the Syrian population as a sect, that:

“The interwoven complexity of regional ideology on peace and peace in MENA is exemplified in Syria's sectarian pluralism, with 75% Sunni Muslim (including Sufis), about 10% Shia Muslim, mostly of the Alawith sect, 10% Christians, 3% Druz, some Jews, plus some minor Islamic sect (Lesch 2013, p. 83). The Al-Assad regimes have successfully played the minority card, warning the threat of majority rule and the price of instability which the minorities must bear (Lesch 2013).

Saudi Arabia together with the Arab League tried to raise the issue of violence by the Syrian government to the United Nations but the UN rejected the resolution put forward by the Arab League, namely the need for international intervention. At the regional level Saudi Arabia is still able to suppress Syria but not at the international level. The issuance of Russian and Chinese veto rights is also one of the obstacles for Saudi Arabia to advance its politics (Boening, 2014). Saudi Arabia has carried out various ways to overthrow Bashar al-Assad's government. Saudi Arabia also gave 100 million US dollars to the FSA (Free Syria Army) for opposition and weaponry activities.

4) Iran Intervention in the Syrian conflict

One country that consistently supports Bashar is Iran. Iran will make Syria a power base in the Middle East. Iran is actively involved in providing assistance to President Bashar using the power of Shiites living in Lebanon, they radical forces help defend Bashar. Syria and Iran collaborated in the economic field, on July 25, 2011 signed a natural gas agreement worth 10 billion US dollars. Building a pipeline that delivers natural gas from Iran to Syria, via Russia to Lebanon. Iran also agreed to provide US $23 assistance to Syria to build a military base in Latakia, to facilitate the delivery of weapons from Iran to Syria. With the existence of a military base it will facilitate the delivery of weapons and military equipment from Iran to Syria (Kuncahyono, 2013).

The closeness of Iran and Bashar reinforced the similarity of the sect, Bashar came from the Alawi group affiliated with Shia. Despite having differences between the people of Shia Itsna Asyari in Iran and the Nashiri School (Alawi). But the important thing we
take from the Syrian problem, they only focus on the point of equality in terms of beliefs and politics, and turn a blind eye to points of difference (Bima, 2014). In this case Iran sees the Syrian conflict as a war against America and other western allies which are intensely expanding its influence in Arabia and the Middle East. Therefore Iran formed an alliance with Syria and groups of Hezbollah in Lebanon as the axis of defense against the West. In this case the Hizbullah group and the Shia Iraq militant are the most important role takers in preserving the common interests between Iraq and Syria.

3. International Law Analysis in Foreign Country Interventions in the Arab Spring Conflict (Syrian Conflict)

The Charter of the United Nations in article 2, paragraph 4 and article 2, paragraph 7 clearly states that relations between countries are not allowed to be intervened. This arrangement was further strengthened by the UN General Assembly Resolution No. 2625 (XXV) issued on October 24, 1970, which was later accepted as the Declaration of the General Assembly concerning the Principles of International Law Concerning the Relationship of Friendship and Interstate Cooperation Relating to the United Nations Charter. But in today's practice, these principles are often violated for humanitarian reasons. The humanitarian interventions that took place in Iraq in 1991, Somalia in 1992, and Kosovo in 1999 were evidences that the doctrine had been carried out by States in their international relations. Regarding internal conflicts in Syria, several UN member states rejected any intervention plans.

America is one of the countries which had declared itself to carry out military intervention against Syria. This was supported by the presence of several American warships stationed in the bay of Syria. The legality of intervention is still a debate in international politics. The group that supports the intervention is based on the normative aspects of protection against human rights, while the group that rejects the intervention sees each country as having its own sovereignty over its population and territories. The economic factors that America wants to protect from its intervention in Syria concern the supply of petroleum from American allies in the Middle East (Saudi Arabia and Kuwait), and its political factors are the interests of the United States in its allied countries (Turkey, Israel).

Based on the consideration of these two factors, America is trying to maintain its hegemony in the Middle East. Peace in Syria can only occur with hegemony from the United States. And hegemony for the sake of capitalism has been created by America through the values they are fighting for, namely democracy and human rights (Kisnal, 2014). The United States as a country that has been diligently fighting for democratic values and human rights, will not allow human rights violations in Syria to continue. The idea of protecting human rights is the basis for the state to interfere in the affairs of other countries. In the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights there are 29 articles stating that violations of human rights will legitimize interventions. Although until now the plan for intervention in the Syrian conflict is still experiencing delays.
According to the concept of national interest above, Russia's intervention in Syria is to maintain the Russian economic resources in Syria because many economic agreements have been carried out by Russia and Syria for a long time, so Russia does not want Syrian leaders to step down and political turmoil in Syria can disrupt all economic agreements that have been made by Russia in Syria, besides that Russia also does not want terrorism in Syria to spread to Russia and disrupt the sovereignty of its country. Russia intervened in the conflict in Syria, not without a clear and definite reason, the Russian president Vladimir Putin could not play in carrying out military actions or intervening in an area and in this case the territory of Syria, because as is known in general an action the military of a country must be based on a definite reason, because a military action or military operation definitely requires very high operational costs (Gradianto, 2017).

In this case Russia must have a special interest in Syria which resulted in the country doing an intervention in the form of a military operation in Syria. As said by the Russian prime minister, Dmitry Medvedev that Russia carried out military operations in Syria solely to protect Russia's national assets and interests in Syria, Medvedev said that there was nothing more important than protecting assets and Russian national interests abroad (Burhani, 2015).

Conclusion

The armed conflict in Syria is a form of Syrian uprising against President Bashar al-Assad which eventually extends to a massacre of civilians. The imbalance of resistance between civil society and officials has resulted in many casualties. Bashar al-Assad accused foreigners of riding the birth of the Arab Spring, then the anti-Bashar group, the Opposition. Furthermore, opposition has come from various levels, from internationally recognized groups and Jihadist who all want to overthrow the regime. The crisis that occurred in Syria since 2011 until now has experienced an increasingly bad development. Syria turned into a very complicated arena of civil war. The conflict involves various different groups and has ways and objectives to achieve different goals. The conflict in Syria has also attracted the attention of Middle Eastern countries and even the attention of the global community. Furthermore the conflict in Syria became increasingly complicated because it was interfered with the interests of ruling countries such as the United States and Russia and their allies. Syria under the regime of Bashar al-Assad always showed an attitude that was contrary to America which was proven to have good relations with Russia and Iran. This trend is perceived by America as a threat which then ignites America to take steps to secure its interests (political and economic) in the Middle East.

Iran and Saudi interventions in the Syrian conflict to achieve national interests namely Defence-Security, Ideology, Political Economy and International Order. The main way they did it was to maintain their respective support, and the Saudi’s supported the Opposition which would overthrow Bashar from power, while Iran's totality held Bashar al-Assad in power. The assistance of the two camps is in the form of finance,
weapons, and military forces. National interests between Saudi and Iran prioritize the interests of ideology rather than economics, defence-security and international governance. The closeness or similarity of sects among state leaders is the most important capital to achieve cooperation in all fields and National Interests. Saudi and Iran are the two most influential countries in the Middle East. Both have economic, military, nuclear power and political alliances between two major camps, namely America and Russia. The Saudi-Iranian fight is a proxy war in the Middle East and until now both countries have never fought face to face. As long as the Saudis and Iran do not find a meeting point, peace in the Middle East is impossible, even if there is a possible war between countries.

References
Ali, As’ad Said. 2014.“Al-Qaeda, Tinjauan Sosial-Politik, Ideologi, dan Sepak Terjangnya”. Jakarta: LP3ES.

Journal Article


Internet


pertahankan-kepentingan-nasional-di-suriah-bukan-assad accessed on 08 October 2018, 16.00 WIB.


Indah, Noviana. “Profil Bashar Al-Assad”. Retrieved from m.merdeka.com/profil/mancanegara/b/bashar-al-assad/ accessed on 07 October 2018, 08.49 WIB.


