

THE ROLE OF FEMALE PEACEKEEPERS FOR DEFENSE AND SECURITY PERSPECTIVES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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ABSTRACT

The European Union has a border area that includes the largest archipelago. As a region that can represent political, economic, sociocultural, defense, and security aspects, it has a strategic role as the main gate in a country. This study aimed to analyze the role of women (Female Peacekeepers) in defense and security perspectives in the European Union. With the use of qualitative research method using literature studies with secondary data shows the research results that: what has succeeded in constructing an effective gender in Europe can treat women in an amiable manner by issuing policies which can also uphold the level of gender equality in defense and security in the European Union, and also understanding of the role of women in defense and security can be seen from the changes in policies issued to protect women over time to adjust to the current situation.

Keywords: the role of women, female peacekeepers, defense security, European Union

1) INTRODUCTION

The European Union really needs regional security that is free and independent because this supranational country has many interests for the European Union which has the aspiration to bring prosperity and peace to its people in each of its member states. A decision always has to be made based on the mutual agreement of all ratified EU member states in expanding the EU's authority to create a supranational government whose focus is not only in the economic sector, but also in many fields such as defense and security (Darono Yakti, 2016). The European Union has had a policy of increasing the participation of women in its joint security and defense missions since 2005. The number of women continued to increase from 8% in 2006 to 20% in 2013, but the data mainly refers to the civilian component. The increase in the percentage of women is largely due to a decrease in the number of men (Ghittoni et al., 2018).

Many countries that participate in peacekeeping missions face various problems of gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence which is exceptionally alarming—women and children are the most victims, both civilians and partisans (Hasan & Putra, 2020). The priority made by the UN Secretary General is efforts to fight for gender parity among UN staff. In 2012 at UN Headquarters, there was a percentage of 48% occupied by female staff and 52% male staff, with the highest disparity at mid and senior levels. In UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions, statistical data shows that 29% of women are trusted as international staff and

the remaining 17% as national staff (F. Hutabarat, 2017). In addition, based on a study conducted by NATO in 2000, Helena Carreiras found that women occupy positions as support services by 70% and a smaller percentage of 7% occupy positions in more operational fields (Hendricks & Hutton, 2008). The participation of women in operational positions is strongly influenced by the characteristics of the military organization, especially the Comparison of Military Conscripts. This study shows that the more a force relies on voluntary personnel, the greater the percentage of its female personnel. Hutabarat in his research (Firohmatillah & Sudirman, 2019) argues that Indonesia continues to strive to increase female peacekeepers in peacekeeping missions with the aim of strengthening a holistic approach. Indonesia has tried to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 which pays more attention to the gender perspective in security, including in peacekeeping missions.

The records from Ministry of Foreign Affairs and cultural institutions rarely reveal the ways in which women like Jacobson contributed to cultural diplomacy. However, studying archive collections of individual women and women organizations shows that they play an important role in fostering cultural ties between countries (Biltekin, 2020). Based on Affairs (2000), it becomes important to distinguish between sex that is a biological fact of women and men and gender that is a social construction characteristics of women and men. Gender must be understood from the perspective of social relations based on sex. It is based on socially constructed perceptions of gender-appropriate activities and actions meaning that masculinity and femininity do not exist independently. Therefore, gender is understood not as an internalized identity, but as a power structure. Understanding gender as central to hierarchical power relations means moving beyond seeing gender as a dichotomous variable, synonymous with “sex”, but as a means of engaging with how masculinity and femininity shape everyday interactions and institutions, often (but not always) with masculinity values over femininity values.

This commitment requires reform of police institutions to ensure effective and equal legal protection for women and ensure that the police themselves do not discriminate against women. Furthermore, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) requires equal representation of women and men in the field of work, which requires that Police Reform address equal access to opportunities (International and Regional Laws and Legal Instruments Relating to Security Sector Reform and Gender, 2020).

According to the Council UNSCR 1325 and gender mainstreaming in the Comprehensive Approach CSDP, adopted in 2008, the EU’s first substantive policy response to a three-pronged approach to protecting, supporting, and empowering women in conflict consisting of efforts, firstly, to integrate women, peace and security issues in [EU] political and policy dialogue with allied governments, especially countries affected by armed conflict, in post-conflict or fragile situations; secondly, to mainstreaming a gender equality approach in its policies and activities, especially in the context of crisis management and in the long-term development of cooperation; and, third, to support specific strategic actions targeted to protect, support and empower women (Joachim et al., 2000).

One way to ensure the gender dimension of multidimensional peace operations is the effective integration of women in peace operations. The Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has issued a number of policies that emphasize the importance of women to have a mandate from peacekeeping operations including access to work with vulnerable groups, especially victims of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) (Paramasatya , 2017).

Although the role of women in maintaining peace is crucial, the involvement of women in the peace process is still very low. For this reason, this paper will further discuss how women play a role in defense and security in the European Union.

2) METHODS

The psychological and physical abilities of women cannot be assessed quantitatively. Therefore, this research was conducted using a secondary data qualitative approach as the basic material to observe by conducting a search on regulations and literature related to the problems studied (Soekanto & Mamudji, 2001). This study provides an in-depth description of the Role of Female Peacekeepers in Defense and Security in the European Union with descriptive analysis, namely regular decomposition of the data that has been obtained, then understanding and explanation are given so that it can be understood well by researchers.

3) DISCUSSION

Female Peacekeepers

An interesting pattern in terms of the participation of female military personnel is that the proportion of female military personnel often increases more gradually (if any) as operations develop, and increases more rapidly following a reduction in official power, especially in the case for operations which gradually decline prior to their departure (Smith & Tidblad-Lundholm, 2018). Peacemaking is essentially a political process that requires ongoing political mediation, strengthening of national capacities at multiple levels for conflict management, and sensitivity to contexts and dynamics of politic, history, economic, and culture. It includes a series of activities aimed at making peace independent and reducing the risk of conflict recurrence (Akinmoladun & Ottuh, 2015).

Brigadier General Karl Engelbrekton, Commander-in-Chief of the Nordic Combat Battalion, (Hendricks & Hutton, 2008) described the participation of women in peacekeeping operations as a key to success in overcoming certain operational barriers that homogeneous forces face in their duties such as physical searches and interrogation of women. Research shows that female peacekeepers can increase the effectiveness of peacekeeping missions because local men and women tend to perceive women peacekeepers as more approachable and less threatening than male peacekeepers. The ability to work with local women organizations and collect information from local women allows for more detailed and precise data to be obtained and thus more useful and necessary for decision making. When off duty, female peacekeepers can socialize with local women and talk to them about 'life behind the scenes.' This is another way for the peacekeeping mission to obtain useful information about what is happening in the host country. Female military personnel act as monitors for excessive behavior among male soldiers. Women peacekeepers provide positive role models for local women to join the armed forces and security forces. Both men and women who were victims of sexual abuse were more likely to disclose their cases to women peacekeepers.

Significance of UN women peacekeepers acts as role models in local environment, inspiring women and girls in male-dominated societies to promote their rights and participation in the peace process. The increase of women recruitment as UN peacekeepers in various UN peacekeeping missions is important for; (a) empowering women in host communities; (b) meeting the special needs of female ex-combatants during the demobilization and reintegration processes into civilian life; (c) helping peacekeepers become accessible to women in the community; (d) conducting interviews with survivors of gender-based violence; (e) mentoring female cadets in the military and police academies; and (f) interacting with women in communities where women are prohibited from communicating with men (Hutabarat, 2017).

According to Mansour Fakh (Kania, 2015) the struggle of women in ending an unfair system is not a struggle of women against men, but a struggle against the system and structure of social injustice, in the form of gender injustice. To end the unfair system, there are several agendas that need to be executed, namely (a) fighting against the hegemony that demeans women, by deconstructing ideology—to question everything that concerns the fate of women everywhere;

and (b) against the paradigm of developmentalism which assumes that women's backwardness is caused by the absence of their participation in the development.

The decrease of discrimination cases by security sector personnel on the basis of religion, sex, race, sexual orientation, or other false grounds can build trust, increase legitimacy, and improve the delivery of security and justice. As a strategic document, the security policy makes the government committed to addressing security and justice issues, both in the public sector and among the security forces themselves. Thus, a security policy can establish protective regulations against discrimination in security sector institutions. Gender-responsive security policy-making helps ensure that policies do not include words that promote discrimination. By including specific statements on non-discrimination issues, security policies can have a positive impact on the structure and personnel of the armed forces, police, intelligence services, and other security sector institutions (Albrecht & Barnes, 2008).

According to the Indonesian Ministry of Defense (Haris Zulkarnain & Roisah, 2018), national defense policies are implemented to manage all national resources and infrastructure to achieve national defense goals in order to support national development. The development of national defense refers to a management system that is implemented comprehensively, so a policy on various related aspects is needed.

Women's Security Defense Efforts in the European Union

Peacemaking activities address the root causes or potential causes of violence, create community expectations for peaceful conflict resolution, and stabilize society politically and socioeconomically. Precise definitions vary depending on the actor, with some definitions specifying what activities fall within the scope of peacemaking or limiting peacemaking to post-conflict interventions (Akinmoladun & Ottuh, 2015). Based on this understanding, it can be understood that peacekeeping is a technique designed to maintain peace, how fragile the post-conflict condition is, where fighting has been stopped, and to assist in implementing the agreements reached by peacekeepers (Hasan & Putra, 2020).

The European Union (EU) is one of international organizations. At the beginning of its formation, the EU was only engaged in the economic, social, cultural, and political fields. Defense and security matters are left to NATO. NATO is a defense organization used to avert the Warsaw Pact during the cold war. The Norwegian Nobel Committee built its decision on the stabilizing role that the European Union played in turning large parts of Europe from a continent of war into a continent of peace. The Foundation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) which first stepped towards European integration came after two world wars with disastrous consequences for European countries, and aimed to secure lasting peace on the continent. The achievement of peace in the part of the continent that constitutes the European Union is complimented as one of the main achievements of the European Union and is enshrined in its treaties as one of its main objectives (Article 3 TEU) (Lazarou, 2020).

In addition, in the European Commission, the existence of the European Union provides a wider space for NGOs, including NGOs engaged in women's issues, to engage in politics and establish networks between NGOs in various member states of the European Union (Azizah & Murti, 2019). The European Union encourages the growth of these transnational networks by channeling funds for development projects carried out by NGOs, through The European Fund for Regional Development. European integration known as the European Union has a long history. Initially, the integration of the European Union was called the European Coal and Steel Community which was founded by six countries (inner six) in Paris, France, in 1951 which was then further expanded to all economic fields and in 1958 there was a change of name to the European Economic Community European Economic Community (Fillat, 2018).

National resilience is an intelligence which is especially important because it includes the ability to get along with people in the same environment and recognize the circumstances of the people around them. Women who have interpersonal intelligence are also very much needed to be responsive to the changes that occur in the environment and society around them. Thus, threats to the community or nation and state environment can be more quickly detected and prevented from happening (Damayanti, 2017).

According to the analysis states by the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), Stewart-Ingersoll (2016) states that regional powers are “a country located in a geographical area, where the country dominates the region in economic and military terms, is able to provide hegemonic influence in the region and influence (enabling) on a global scale and voluntarily (willingness), willing to take advantage of resources of power and being recognized or accepted as a regional leader by its neighbors” (Journal European Consortium for Political Research). Meanwhile, what is meant by “security order” is the mapping, arrangement, and proportion of the security order at the regional level which emphasizes the identification, management, and prevention of various types of regional security threats.

Based on the theory explained above, the example is that the European Parliament appointed German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen as the new president of the European Commission. The position made Ursula von der Leyen the first woman to serve as president of the commission and the first German citizen in more than 50 years. It is not the first time that the 60-year-old Brussels-born politician to make history. She also became Germany’s first female defense minister when she was appointed in 2013. Von der Leyen has been a close ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel and is expected to be Germany’s number one successor (Wahyuni, 2019).

State defense is essentially all defense efforts that are universal in nature, the implementation of which is based on awareness of the rights and obligations of all citizens and belief in their own strength to maintain the survival of the nation and survival of the state. Meanwhile, universality implies the involvement of all the people and all national resources, national facilities and infrastructure, as well as the entire territory of the country as a complete and comprehensive defense unit (Siahaan, 2016).

A number of analyzes are based on realist interpretations to explain the involvement of countries such as India, China, and European countries in peace operations. Differences in foreign policy objectives are usually also related to participation. From a military perspective, these goals are often associated with “guaranteeing states’ own security, testing operational aspects of military doctrines and strategies, forming and instructing national contingents, and guaranteeing their state of preparedness at comparatively low cost” (Hutabarat, 2015). The Gender Affairs Unit in the European Union focuses on core functions including: (a) capacity building and awareness raising, (b) gender situation analysis and data collection, (c) policy analysis, (d) implementation and evaluation, (e) analysis the rule of law and legislature, and networking and outreach (Aning, 2007).

Indonesia’s National Resilience is a guideline (means) to increase (method) the tenacity and resilience of the nation which contains the ability to develop national strength, with a welfare and security approach. Welfare can be described as the nation’s ability to develop its national values for equitable and righteous prosperity both externally and spiritually. Meanwhile, security is the nation’s ability to protect its national values against challenges from outside and from within the country. Meanwhile, the Indonesian National Defense Functions based on the demands for their use are as follows: national basic doctrine, methods of fostering Indonesian national life, and basic national development patterns (National Research Council on the definition of Asymmetric war, 2018).

This agrees with the results of Higgott's research (Estuningtyas, 2018) which suggested that the European Union is the region with the most perfect regionalism among other regions—besides having a shared vision, mission, and regulations, their regionalism is becoming increasingly tied to the use of a common currency, namely, EURO. Scholars proposed that, “the EU political structures have policy competence, authority and autonomy from national political institutions, then an effective European state exists.” The European Union is a region with good regionalism because the political structure they build has policy competence, authority, and autonomy from effective national political institutions among existing countries.

Efforts made by women in defense and security in the European Union include establishing European women's organizations that are able to build transnational networks in Europe and actively take policies amiable to women, including: Women In Development Europe+ (WIDE+), European Women's Lobby (EWL), European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH), and European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH) (Azizah & Murti, 2019).

4. RESULTS

The role of female peacekeepers in defense and security in the European Union proves that the making of security policies that are responsive to women helps ensure that discrimination is prevented. In addition, this intelligence is important, especially because it includes the ability to get along with maintaining defense and security. Every woman who has interpersonal intelligence is needed to be responsive to the changes that occur in the environment and society around her so that threats to the community or nation and state can be more severe, quickly detected, and prevented from happening.

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