

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION: CASE STUDY OF THE
INDONESIAN CONTINGENT (GARUDA) IN THE UNITED
NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (UNIFIL)

by

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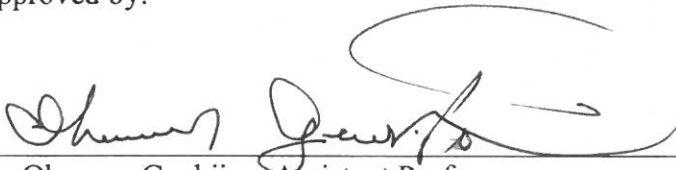
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AN ABSTRACT OF THE PROJECT OF

Zina M. Habib Kaabachi for Master of Arts
Major: Public Policy and International Affairs

Title: Civil-Military Coordination: Case study of the Indonesian Contingent (GARUDA) in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

The Indonesian Contingent has forged its identity within the UNIFIL as big contributor in cultural activities as well as civil interactions between the peacekeepers and the Lebanese people. While following the mandate of the United Nations Security Council 1701, the Indonesian peacekeepers are also trying to win the hearts and minds of the Lebanese people in order to gain their trust and facilitate their mission while assisting the population. By analyzing the contribution of Indonesia within the UNIFIL, this study reveals the implication behind the Indonesian Contingent's efforts in building good relations with the Lebanese people.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The Indonesian Contingent “Garuda” has the biggest contribution share in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), with 1290 peacekeepers present in the South of Lebanon and including 110 peacekeepers serving with the Maritime Task Force. The Indonesian Contingent is made of peacekeepers that were part of the Indonesian military prior joining the United Nations Emergency Force. Indonesia has sent its troops to several regions that require peace monitoring in Asia, Africa and the Middle East, ranking Indonesia as an active Troop Contributing Country: “Indonesia has prided itself in being an active Troop Contributing Country (TCC) to United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions since the early period of its independence”¹. The Indonesian Contingent’s first participation in the UNIFIL debuted after the 2006 war in Lebanon that lead to the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1701. The mandate of this resolution promoted the increase in the number of UNIFIL peacekeepers and encouraged humanitarian assistance and civil interactions as part of the UNIFIL peacekeeping activities. Therefore, the UNIFIL’s activities have been increasingly including civil interactions and humanitarian assistance: “the merging of peacekeeping with humanitarian and development practices is apparent in UNIFIL’s work in southern Lebanon”². The UNIFIL bases are located in the South of Lebanon, a

¹ Anwar D.F. (2014) Indonesia’s Peacekeeping Operations: History, Practice, and Future Trend. In: Aoi C., Heng YK. (eds) *Asia-Pacific Nations in International Peace Support and Stability Operations*. Asia Today. Palgrave Macmillan, New York.

² Kassem, S. (2017). Peacekeeping, development, and counterinsurgency. In K. Makdisi Editor, & V. Prashad, Editor (Eds.), *Land of blue helmets: The united nations and the Arab world (1st ed.)* (p.p.463-476). Oakland, California: University of California Press. doi:10.1525/j.ctt1fq9w0g

region that has suffered the most during the previous Israeli invasions due to its geographic proximity to the borders of Israel and the most recent constant Israeli threats. This area often experiences periods of tensions that easily awaken flashbacks of violent events and memories thus creating an atmosphere of war and a readiness to start it. The Lebanese society, still under the shock of the July 2006 war, was suspicious of the foreign troops: in fact, the “robust” peacekeepers were viewed with deep suspicion by residents of southern Lebanon and by Hizbullah”³. Since the UNIFIL mandate requires direct contact with the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF) and the Lebanese society, the peacekeepers are thus obliged to gain the trust of the local population through civil interactions and humanitarian assistance. "There is a clear need for effective civil-military relations in peace-keeping operations"⁴.

A. Research Question

The following research question is put forth:

What are the implications behind the civil interactions efforts that are being conducted by the Indonesian Contingent in the UNIFIL?

This research project aims to identify the Indonesian contingent’s approach to peacekeeping and the reasons behind the civil interactions and to what extent are they important in the peace keeping mission. It also analyzes the Indonesian contingent’s case as one of the many troops in the UNIFIL by analyzing the types of activities they

³ Makdisi, K.(2017). Constructing security council resolution 1701 in Lebanon in the shadow of the “War on Terror”. In K. Makdisi Editor, & V. Parshad Editor (Eds.), *Land of Blue Helmets: The United Nations and the Arab World*. (1st ed.) (p.p 148-163). Oakland, University of California Press. Retrieved from <http://california.universitypressscholarship.com/view/10.1525/california/9780520286931.001.0001/ups-o-9780520286931-chapter-007>.

⁴ Williams, Michael C. (Michael Charles). (1998). *Civil-military relations and peacekeeping*. London: Oxford University Press. (p.19).

conduct within the local communities and the objectives behind their efforts in conducting cultural and civil interactions.

This research project will therefore focus on the aims and results of the held cultural activities, and conducted humanitarian assistance, as well as the conducted trainings provided by the Indonesian Contingent, in order to understand to what extent these non-military training interventions can affect the peacekeeping mission.

This research project is based on academic references related to the mandate of the UNIFIL in Lebanon and academic studies on topics that relate culture and peace, as well as media reports related to the peacekeeping mission of the Indonesian Contingent in Lebanon. This project will include semi-structured interviews with the UNFIL personnel on their mandate and their civil activities, Lebanese politicians and peace building experts on their views on the performance of the UNIFIL.

B. Literature Review

The literature related to the topic of this project, especially United Nations reports on peacekeeping mission in Lebanon will be examined carefully. This project aims at targeting the case of the Indonesian Contingent and its work in Lebanon with a focus on the post-United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701.

CHAPTER II

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1701

The mandate of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 (UNSCR-1701) followed the UNSCR 425 and 426 that created the security zone, known as the Blue Line between the Southern borders of Lebanon and Israel. Initially, the UNIFIL's troops were lesser and had a minor role on the several violent confrontations between Lebanon and Israel. For example, in 2006, after the deadly war between Hizbullah and Israel erupted, the UNIFIL's efforts in imposing a ceasefire through attempts to reach a compromise between the two parties failed. The ceasefire was agreed on after the drafting of the SCR 1701 that was urgently voted due to the war's intensity that posed a threat to regional and international security. The mandate of SCR 1701 was extended: additional troops were called to participate with a required number reaching up to 15 000 peacekeepers. As for the mandate of the UNIFIL, a number of tasks were added to the initial SCR 425 and 426. The additions made included activities such as monitoring the cessation of hostilities, accompanying the LAF as they monitor the region of South Lebanon especially along the Blue Line, coordinating the conducted activities with the Lebanese and Israeli Governments, ensuring humanitarian assistance to civilians and assuring safe return of displaced persons. A harsh criticism against the role of the UNIFIL was delivered during the speech of the United States Ambassador to the Security Council Nikki Haley after the UNSC passed Resolution 2732 that renewed the mandate of the UNIFIL. According to Haley, UNIFIL is keeping a blind eye on the activities of Hizbullah in the South of

Lebanon by ignoring the “massive flow of illegal weapons”⁵. Although the mandate of the UNIFIL includes activities aiming at assisting the LAF in securing the Lebanese borders and monitoring the entry of arms, the use of force and direct interventions are only permissible if commanded by the LAF. The mandate of the UNSCR 1701 does not authorize the UNIFIL troops to act upon the disarmament of Hizbullah without the consent of the Lebanese government and therefore only calls upon the Lebanese government to secure the region of southern Lebanon from armed groups. According to Makdisi, the UNIFIL’s mandate expanded in terms of a bigger number of troops but the operations are still limited: “the existing UNIFIL was expanded in terms of scope and mandate but remained a traditional operation”⁶. The UNIFIL has the mandate of assisting the LAF in monitoring the Blue Line and has the duty of reporting all violations from both the Lebanese and Israeli parties. The role of UNIFIL is therefore limited to observation and training: “In Lebanese discourse, Resolution 1701, and with it the role of UNIFIL peacekeepers was contested from the start”⁷.

Despite UNIFIL’s humanitarian assistance projects to the people of the South, their presence is not fully tolerable. In fact, Kassem states that impact projects are not always successful in strengthening the relations with the Lebanese people in the South of Lebanon. In fact, these projects often “illustrate the mission's contradictions and its frequently thorny relations with the local population, who welcome UNIFIL's economic development efforts but reject their underlying political objective of constructing a rival

⁵ Nikki Haley says UN commander in Lebanon ‘blind’ to illegal arms trafficking. (26 August 2017), The Guardian: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/aug/26/nikki-haley-says-un-commander-in-lebanon-blind-to-illegal-arms-trafficking>

⁶ Makdisi, K., (p. 161).

⁷ Makdisi, K., (p.162).

authority and influence to Hizbullah in southern Lebanon”⁸. The people in South Lebanon are not willing to agree with the mandate of the UNSCR 1701 when it comes to the sensitive issue of the disarmament of Hizbullah that is considered their only protection against the enemy. However, they do coordinate with the UNIFIL’s impact projects in the operation areas which are usually inhabited by low income farmers and workers. The local communities in South Lebanon as well as various political leaders associated with Hizbullah in the Lebanese government heavily opposed the initial military activities implemented by European troops within the UNIFIL. These troops “faced rejection and resistance for what the local population interpreted as their overly aggressive behavior”⁹. In fact, a car bomb incident happened in June 2007, resulting in six casualties from the Spanish troops, was seen as a sign of protest against the French and Spanish troops. This incident pushed the troops to adopt a less aggressive attitude and limit their activities to joint military tasks with the LAF. The disarmament of Hizbullah is a highly sensitive issue in Lebanon due to the big number of Hizbullah supporters that include Shia, Sunni, Druze and Christian supporters and leaders. In fact, “southern Lebanon remains a stronghold of social, political, and military support for Hizbullah”¹⁰ especially after the latest Lebanese Parliamentary elections in May 2018, that resulted in a victory of almost all Hizbullah members and their allies from other political parties such as the Amal movement and the Free Patriotic Movement. The arms of Hizbullah are considered as the only obstacles that prevent attacks from Israel’s and terrorist groups such as ISIS and Al-Nusra Front. In fact, Hizbullah’s growing

⁸ Kassem, S. (p.464)

⁹ Kassem, (p.464).

¹⁰ Kassem, (p.476).

popularity in the South is due to its military capabilities that appease the people's fear of Israeli attacks and the proliferation of terrorist groups along the borders with Syria.

CHAPTER III

THE INDONESIAN CONTINGENT

A. Indonesia's Contribution in Peacekeeping

The Indonesian Contingent known as the Garuda Contingent, has been serving with the United Nations Emergency Forces since 1956. Despite Israeli dissatisfaction with the participation of the Indonesian Contingent in the UNIFIL, Indonesia insisted on its contribution to the UNIFIL mentioning that “If there are reservations at all, they should come from Lebanon because that's where the troops will be posted”¹¹. The reason behind the initial Israeli objection arises from the non-recognition of Israel as a state by Indonesia. The Indonesian Contingent's first peacekeeping mission was dispatched only ten years after the country's independence in 1957 to Sinai. Since then, the Indonesian government has contributed through its troops in several peacekeeping missions that covered countries in three continents: Africa, Asia and the Middle East. The Republic of Indonesia plays an active role in promoting international peace and security since its independence. It did organize, with four other countries, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan, the first meeting of Asian and African countries in Bandung, in April 1955, called the Bandung Conference which could be considered as the predecessor of the Non-Aligned Movement, which advocated the promotion of political,

¹¹ Indonesian foreign minister interviewed on UN troop deployment to Lebanon. (2006, Aug 29). BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific Retrieved from Retrieved from: <https://search.proquest.com/docview/460643785?accountid=8555>

economic, and cultural cooperation¹². Indonesia has consistently developed and diversified its international and regional peacekeeping involvement in different countries such as Cambodia, ASEAN region, Darfur, not only through police and military personnel, but also through technical assistance. According to Sharon Wiharta, the contributions of Indonesia to peacekeeping missions developed, “the nature of Indonesia’s deployment has continued to evolve: whereas it used to primarily deploy in support capacities such as medical and engineering units in the less risky areas of a mission, Indonesia now deploys more mechanized infantry battalions and other assets that have a more “frontline” function, and to more challenging mission environments”¹³. In Lebanon, the Indonesian Contingent is the largest contributor in terms of the number of peacekeepers: 1290 peacekeepers as of January 2018. The Indonesian Contingent includes 110 Peacekeepers that are part of the UNIFIL Maritime Task Force, working according to the SCR 1701 mandate in monitoring activities and reporting violations of the Resolution. According to M.A. Wibowo (personal communication, May 09, 2018), the Indonesian peacekeepers are scattered in four main areas of the land operation namely Naqoura, Adsheet el-Qseir and Blat Marjayoun as well as the port Beirut for the Maritime Task Force. A. Dahlan (personal communication, May 07, 2018) adds “We have two main missions. First, conducting Maritime Interdiction on the Area of Maritime Operations aimed at assisting the LAF navy in preventing the smuggling of arms and related material into Lebanon. The Maritime Task Force is also supporting the LAF navy to improve their operational capabilities in order to monitor the whole

¹² Sharon Wiharta, (2016), Challenges Forum, Folke Bernadotte Academy; Non-Resident Fellow, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Jakarta

<http://providingforpeacekeeping.org/2016/02/05/peacekeeping-contributor-profile-indonesia/>

¹³ Sharon Wiharta.

spectrum of Lebanon's Territorial Water sovereignty-related tasks independently. Our supporting mission is to monitor any military air activity on the airspace of Lebanon and Area of Maritime Operations, while keeping readiness as UNIFIL Search and Rescue unit in the sea". As for the Indonesian Contingent troops at Naqoura, the main activities of the peacekeepers are to support the headquarter office.

The reasons behind the continuous contributions of Indonesia in peacekeeping missions are part of its aim at maintaining a good reputation in the United Nations and having a good record of accomplishment. According to Coulon, the participation of countries in the United Nations peacekeeping missions can be related to the good remuneration: "the financial and military benefits of participation in peacekeeping missions have led many countries of the Third World and the former East bloc to offer their services to the UN on a massive scale"¹⁴. However, Indonesia states that its contribution to the United Nations Peacekeeping missions is related to its desire to promote world peace, international and regional security. According to the minister of foreign affairs, Retno Marsudi, "The world will be able to see the track record of Indonesia's commitment and contribution to world peace. We care about world peace, we care about humanitarian issues"¹⁵, insisting that Garuda troops within the UNIFIL "always maintain the good name of Indonesia by always obeying the law and respecting the local culture, as well as maintaining the attitude and behavior in every interaction

¹⁴ Coulon, J., Aronoff, P., & Scott, H. (1998;1999;2000;). *Soldiers of diplomacy: The united nations, peacekeeping, and the new world order*. Toronto, Canada: University of Toronto Press. doi:10.3138/9781442680081

¹⁵ Minister marsudi invites garuda contingent on UNIFIL to continue contribution in maintaining peace. (2018, Feb 26). Indonesia Government News Retrieved from <https://search-proquest-com.ezproxy.aub.edu.lb/docview/2007969993?accountid=8555>

with the local community”¹⁶. According to A. Dahlan (personal communication, May 07, 2018), Indonesia’s foreign policy includes promoting world order in secure and peaceful conditions especially due to Indonesia’s struggle with fighting imperialism and achieving independence and its recognition of safety and peace as part of human rights.

B. The Civil Interactions between the Indonesian Contingent and the Lebanese People

The Indonesian Contingent is known for its frequent participation in cultural activities and civil interactions coordinated through the CIMIC office in Lebanon. The UNIFIL civil interactions fall under four categories: liaison and coordination, supporting local communities, socio-cultural activities, direct support from UNIFIL battalions and quick impact projects. The UNIFIL’s mission is funded by the different contributing countries. However, the activities of the contingents are funded by their respective countries. According to A.C. Chumaidy (personal communication, April, 25, 2018), “The mission is funded by the United Nations. However, the cultural performances and activities are mostly funded by the Indonesian Government through the embassy of Indonesia in Lebanon. The Indonesian troops arrived in Lebanon already equipped and ready for their cultural performances”.

Due to the ongoing tension along the borders in Southern Lebanon, the UNIFIL troops must always make sure that their activities are not overwhelming the Lebanese citizens and are not opposing the cultural beliefs. According to A.C. Chumaiday (personal communication, April 25, 2018), the Indonesian Contingent must

¹⁶ Minister marsudi invites garuda contingent on UNIFIL to continue contribution in maintaining peace. (2018, Feb 26). *Indonesia Government News*

work under the restrictive mandate of the SCR 1701 and according to the peacekeeping mission. According to F. Abilmona (personal communication, May, 2018), the UNIFIL peacekeepers perform civil interactions and provide humanitarian assistance according to the mandate of their peacekeeping mission. However, they are also trying to engage with the population and make their leisure time useful and efficient. F. Abilmona (personal communication, May 2018), considers these activities to be a win-win situation in which the peacekeepers are acting according to the civil military coordination concept in order to make their mission run smoothly. In addition, the Lebanese citizens are benefiting from the provided assistance. In comparison to other peacekeeping missions, the UNIFIL mission has not encountered accusations of harassment and abuse. The biggest problem encountered by the UNIFIL is the possible cultural clash, as the southerners are still suspicious of foreign troops on their land due to the scars of Israeli wars on Lebanon. According to the M. Dalloul (personal communication, May 2018), the Lebanese society as well as political leaders in the south of Lebanon view the UNIFIL as bias when it comes to reporting the violations committed by the Israeli soldiers. On the other hand, the Lebanese southerners are very cautious when it comes to accepting foreign troops that intend to disarm Hizbullah. In fact, securing Hizbullah's arms deters Israel from attacking Lebanon. Thus, all attempts at eliminating the arms of Hizbullah have been aggressively rejected, "The new UNIFIL's attempts early on to enforce its 'robust' rules of engagement, for instance by forcibly entering Hizbullah safe houses in pursuit of weapons, led to high tensions both with Hizbullah and the local populations"¹⁷. According to A.C Chumaidy (personal communication, April 25, 2018), the Indonesian contingent approaches the Lebanese

¹⁷ Makdisi, K. (2014). Reconsidering the struggle over UNIFIL in southern lebanon. *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 43(2), 24-41. doi:10.1525/jps.2014.43.2.24 (p.37).

individuals peacefully and focus on humanitarian relationships rather than adopting a military approach.

CHAPTER IV

CIVIL MILITARY COORDINATION

Apart from its initial peacekeeping activities, the UNIFIL also accords importance to civil interactions between the troops and the Lebanese through civil interferences, cultural activities, trainings and humanitarian assistance and quick impact projects. These activities are planned according to the Lebanese culture and customs and the needs of the Southern society. Civil-military coordination is defined as "the essential dialogue and interaction between civilian and military actors in humanitarian emergencies that is necessary to protect and promote humanitarian principles, avoid competition, minimize inconsistency, and when appropriate pursue common goals. Basic strategies range from coexistence to cooperation. Coordination is a shared responsibility facilitated by liaison and common training"¹⁸. The Indonesian Contingent in the UNIFIL has the mandate of providing assistance to the Lebanese society in terms of humanitarian assistance and civil interactions. The civil interactions are conducted within the UNIFIL according to the civil military coordination: "According to UN Resolution, Task Force XIII-D/UNIFIL Garuda Contingent (Indobatt), has a mission to win the hearts and minds of the Lebanese community through Civil Military Coordination"¹⁹.

¹⁸ Guidelines for the interactions and coordination of humanitarian actors and military actors in Afghanistan version 1.0 (20 may 2008). Retrieved from: <https://www.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/Guidelines%20Afghanistan%20%20v.%201.0%202008.pdf>

¹⁹ Indonesian army donates indobatt library books for at-taibe. (2010, Jan 14). Indonesia Government News Retrieved from <https://search-proquest-com.ezproxy.aub.edu.lb/docview/443338695?accountid=8555>

According to F. Abilmona (personal communication, May 2018), the civil military coordination has evolved throughout the years, to get to a stage where the peacekeepers conduct civil interactions with the civilians for a set of reasons that include: staying active during peaceful and stable periods, gaining the trust for information gathering and seeking protection through the assistance of individuals in case of threats or attacks and in order to be able to perform their peacekeeping missions that include monitoring the blue line while having friendly relationships with the people around them. However, according to Egnell²⁰, there are negative consequences to the Civil Military Coordination that include the waste of time and resources in constant attempts to coordinate.

According to A.C. Chumaidy (personal communication, April 25, 2018), the cultural and civil interaction between the Lebanese society and the peacekeepers are important and part of Indonesia's foreign policy: "we believe that the cultural diplomacy that is constantly adopted by the Indonesian Contingent is important especially to engage closer with the Lebanese society. The peacekeepers can gain the trust of the Lebanese and will be able to deescalate tensions in the area of operation and therefore prevent any arm conflict between the two sides. The Indonesian Contingent is very active in terms of participation in cultural engagements. This commitment to social engagement has become part of the identity of the Indonesian troops. The Lebanese society is more likely to accept the peacekeepers if they present themselves in a friendly and good manner rather than always approaching people through their military identity. In fact, it is historically known that some contingents received threats and had stones thrown at their tanks. However, the Indonesians are less likely to have such incidents".

²⁰ Egnell, R. (2013). Civil–military coordination for operational effectiveness: Towards a measured approach. *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, 24(2), 237-256. doi:10.1080/09592318.2013.778017

A.C Chumaidy (personal communication, April 25, 2018) stressed on the importance and stability in the region as part of their priorities. He states that, according to the Indonesian government, the prevention of any escalation that might lead to a violent attack can be averted by the efforts of the UNIFIL, especially after Israeli intentions of building a wall along the Blue Line: “The presence of UNIFIL prevents future conflicts. As we know, Israel is trying to build a wall along the Blue Line. However, the UNIFIL is preventing the construction of this wall and demanding that the Lebanese keep calm in order to prevent any attacks and violations”.

For peacekeeping missions to run more effectively, the military peacekeepers should coordinate with the civilians since they are both operating on the same ground and failure to achieve coordination leads to the failure of the mission. Accordingly, Egnell states that “where a multitude of civilian and military actors are crowding into the same space, lack of coordination between civilian and military actors is described as one of the main causes of the failures to achieve success”²¹.

In an attempt at understanding the failure of previous peacekeeping and peace building missions, experts as well as policy makers have studied closely the different reasons that may negatively affect the military activities and therefore complicate the path to peace. One of the reasons analyzed is the training programs of the personnel of the peacekeeping missions: in fact, according to Curran, “An examination of the evolution of training programs in the UN suggests that current forms of civil–military coordination training demonstrate types of cooperation more attuned with the local than

²¹ Egnell, R. (2013). Civil–military coordination for operational effectiveness: Towards a measured approach. *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, 24(2), 237-256. doi:10.1080/09592318.2013.778017

previous incarnations”²². The Indonesian troops are not only engaging through culture but through humanitarian assistance such as continuous medical assistance and services in the neighboring area, community activities, and trainings. Civil-military coordination has gained an increase attention in the implementation of peacekeeping missions and in updating mandates of the ongoing missions. Since civil-military coordination and cooperation started to gain attention after the Cold War, these activities can be described as modern additions to the strategies and tactics of peacekeeping missions that have the role of facilitating the work of peacekeepers as well as providing an appropriate atmosphere for transitional periods after wars. For example, “CIMIC as a typical element of modern operations in which the military component works together with the civilian one (for example, local authorities, NGOs, international and national organizations), in order to restore security conditions and permit reconstruction”²³. In Lebanon, the UNIFIL has a unit specialized in Civil-Military Coordination (CIMIC) that coordinates the activities between the peacekeepers and the civilians. The civil interactions include communication between the Lebanese in the South in order to explain the peacekeeping activities, assistance to the Lebanese society, the respect and rapprochement of culture and customs and participation in local events. The activities helped in building trust between the Lebanese in the South and the Peacekeepers, especially due to the common trainings with the LAF such as “Marksmanship Rifle training, patrol training and Crowd Riot Control (CRC)” (A. Dahlan, personal communication, May 07, 2018), and coordination with the LAF which is trusted by the

²² Curran, D. (2013). Training for peacekeeping: Towards increased understanding of conflict resolution? *International Peacekeeping*, 20(1), 80-97. doi:10.1080/13533312.2012.761841

²³ Coticchia, F., & Giacomello, G. (2009). Helping hands: Civil-military cooperation and Italy's military operation abroad. *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, 20(3-4), 592-610. doi:10.1080/09592310903043642

locals. According to the A. Dahlan (personal communication, May 07, 2018), the Indonesian Contingent and the LAF maintain a good relation and communication. He said, “We maintain good communication and we have several times of discussions and trainings together. LAF navy were supportive to MTF tasks and MTF units”. A good relationship and proper coordination between the UNIFIL peacekeepers and the LAF is a good indicator of a successful peacekeeping mission and can alter the negative judgment that locals might have of the foreign troops. As to the common activities between the Lebanese people of the South and the Indonesian Peacekeepers, they include trainings related to education and health support as well as trainings that have the goal of promoting peace. As reported by A. Dahlan (personal communication, May 07, 2018), “We teach the ‘importance of the peace’ and ‘disadvantages of war’”.

Impact projects are small scale projects implemented by the Peacekeeping troops in coordination with the local community and the municipalities. The aims of these projects are to contribute positively through small scale development projects in the area of operation of the mission and to impact the local population and therefore strengthen the relations between the peacekeepers and the local communities. The Indonesian Contingent within the UNIFIL follows the mandate of the UNSCR 1701 and according to the M.A. Wibowo (personal communication, May 09, 2018), the activities of the troops are limited to supporting the headquarter and maintaining the security of the camps as well as the administrative duties related to camp facilities, doing joint military activities with the LAF as well as working with the CIMIC team on cultural activities and civil interactions with the locals. According to F. Abilmona (personal communication, May, 2018), the limited mandate of the peacekeepers in Lebanon lead them to focus on civil military cooperation and therefore fill their free time with useful

activities. According to the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, impact projects are meant to promote tolerance and to familiarize the locals with the mandate of the UNIFIL peacekeeping mission as well as “support the credibility of the mission”²⁴. The quick impact projects, low cost projects and no cost projects have the aim of responding to the immediate needs such as medical assistance and veterinary medical assistance, to plan and implement developmental projects such as small infrastructure projects. According to M.A Wibowo (personal communication, May 09, 2018), the Indonesian Contingent is very active in the CIMIC activities since cultural rapprochement is very important in enhancing the civil-military relations. He stated that civilian interactions can create a humanitarian approach between the civilians and the peacekeepers. He said, “We can understand their problems [the civilians] and assist them better. From an Indonesian point of view, the civil-military relations are part of our goals and it is part of our identity”. He explains that the Indonesian peacekeepers are used to deal with multiethnic and diverse cultures, since Indonesia itself is a country that is diverse when it comes to tribes and religions: “cultural tolerance and understanding leads to a peaceful mission and a more peaceful atmosphere that can help in developing the areas of operation”.

²⁴ UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, “Policy: Quick Impact Projects,” Retrieved from : https://www.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/DPKO_DFS_revised_QIPs_2013.pdf (p.3).

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

The UN Security Council's several Resolutions regarding the Middle East prove that the United Nations is aware of the ongoing tension between Lebanon and Israel. According to F. Abilmona (personal communication, May 2018), this is a positive aspect that demonstrates the international community's interest in maintaining stability in the Middle East, especially in Lebanon. In other words, the international community did not give up on the Lebanese government and will indeed intervene in case of an attack by Israel on Lebanon. Overall, the presence of the UNIFIL has been effective in keeping track of the Israeli violations and attacks on Lebanon. The presence of the UNIFIL helps in the observation of the situation along the Blue Line and tracks any violation. Although the UNIFIL peacekeepers are accused of bias and favoring the Israeli side, the Indonesian Contingent assured that the UNIFIL reports the violations of the two parties without taking any side, which is part of their mandate. The disarmament of Hizbullah is a controversial issue that the international community cannot resolve without impinging the sovereignty of Lebanon. The mandate of the UNIFIL's military tasks are therefore limited: "UNIFIL's main task is now to "prevent the presumption of hostilities" and to ensure the establishment "of an area free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the Government of Lebanon and of UNIFIL"²⁵. However, the mandate of the UNIFIL evolved in terms of civil interferences and civil interactions through the CIMIC department working in creating healthy and friendly relationships between the Lebanese and the Peacekeepers. The

²⁵ UNIFIL Mandate. Retrieved from: <https://unifil.unmissions.org/unifil-mandate>.

United Nations definition of CIMIC states that “mutually supportive, integrated planning and exchange of information needed at all levels between military forces and organizations or humanitarian agencies acting to fulfill a common purpose in response to a humanitarian emergency.²⁶” The civilian military activities benefit both the peacekeepers in facilitating their mission and assuring security to their troops on the one hand and in providing immediate assistance as well as developmental projects to the locals on the other. The Indonesian Contingent has based its interactions with the Lebanese people on three concepts: Smiling, respecting others and maintaining good behavior. These tactics are used by the Indonesian peacekeepers in order to approach the local people in a non-military way. According to Williams, peacekeeping missions should take into consideration the humanitarian aspect of relations with the locals: "Greater emphasis should be placed on the 'softer' aspects of military science-managing resources, civilian control, human rights – while maintaining adequate technical war-fighting skills"²⁷. Communication is the key to rapprochement between the two sides, especially when both sides are working on common grounds. Indeed, it has been hard for the Indonesian peacekeepers to adapt at first, “Lebanon is a foreign country with different cultures and customs. However, the Indonesian peacekeepers did not face major difficulties in adapting due to their attempts at constantly being friendly and approachable” (A.J. Wihananto, personal communication, May 09, 2018). According to A.J. Wihananto (personal communication, May 09, 2018), the Indonesian peacekeepers are “trained to act professionally and appropriately on the ground”. In fact, when they are conducting activities along the Blue Line, they shall always remain neutral to both

²⁶ Review of the Air Force Academy No 3 (30) 2015- CIMIC – CONCEPTS, PRINCIPLES AND FUNCTIONS. Retrieved from: http://www.afahc.ro/ro/revista/2015_3/ROMAN_2015_3.pdf (p.130)

²⁷ Williams, Michael C (p.72)

sides and this is a big challenge especially when tension arises between the two parties. The peacekeepers follow the rule of engagement as they try to control the tensions by always relying on good manners when dealing with the protestors. They also follow the Standard Operation Procedure that enables them to deal professionally with all kinds of situations. The implications behind the civil interactions held by the Indonesian Contingent within the UNIFIL serve the interests of the civilians and the peacekeepers. For instance, the population of the South will benefit from:

- The developmental projects that they can themselves develop in the future in order to achieve long term benefits
- The medical assistance that has helped the population of the South to have access to free care and medical advice
- The trainings for students, young people and unemployed women who will benefit from the skills learned to expand their knowledge and talents
- The economic gains from the purchases of Indonesian peacekeepers of their daily needs in local markets
- The tolerance and sense of acceptance gained from communicating with foreign peacekeepers and being introduced to new cultures
- The job possibilities that are open to locals in technical and administrative tasks
- Good relations with the peacekeepers that will allow them to understand the mandate of the SCR 1701 and be confident that the peacekeeping mission is present in order to provide security and stability so that the local population can be relieved of the idea of constant unmonitored threats by Israel and pursue their goals as citizens

The Indonesian Contingent will benefit from:

- The trust of the locals that will assure them to work peacefully and be responsible for their tasks while working in safe conditions
- The communication with the locals which will result in better relations and better information sharing regarding the situation in the region and around the operation areas.
- A good track record that will position Indonesia as a top contributor within the international community and a promoter of peace and security
- Providing humanitarian assistance during their leisure time thus participating in promoting human rights
- Cultural knowledge that will increase their cultural tolerance

The limitations of the mandate of the SCR 1701 can be compensated through the civil interactions that have provided positive outcomes for both locals and peacekeepers and that can benefit the South of Lebanon to prosper. Indonesia is willing to commit more troops to the UNIFIL and according to the A.J. Wihananto (personal communication, May 09, 2018), the Indonesian Contingent is working on increasing the participation of female peacekeepers to 15%. According to former M. Dalloul (personal communication, May 2018), as long as the UNIFIL is providing any positive activity to the locals, it can be considered as effective. The civil interactions should focus more on explaining to the locals the mandate of the UNIFIL and how they can benefit from developmental projects. The foreign troops won't be totally accepted by all of the population, however, it would be easier for both parties if communication and tolerance are at the base of their relation. According to A.J Wihananto (personal communication,

May 09, 2018), the Indonesian Contingent has worked on aiding students through the use of Indobatt Smart car that is often used during educational programs in schools: they provide various kinds of books and also big screen TVs that enable kids to play educational videos. In the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, article 26 on education states that:

“Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.”²⁸

Fundamentally, the civil interactions such as educational activities performed by the Indonesian Contingent that promote tolerance play a major role in their mission of maintaining peace.

The future of the South depends on the new generation. Therefore, it is necessary to ensure that they grow up in peaceful situations and learn to cooperate with diverse cultures and to have access to assistance (medical and educational) whenever needed. Despite the constant threats by Israel, the people of the South of Lebanon with the help of the UNIFIL, can create a peaceful environment within their villages.

²⁸ UN General Assembly. (1948). "Universal declaration of human rights" (217 [III] A). Paris. Retrieved from <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

APPENDIX

Personal communications

Personal communication with the Indonesian Ambassador to Lebanon H.E Mr. Achmad Chozin Chumaidy

1. How would you describe the Indonesian government's relations with Lebanon?

Both Indonesia and Lebanon share very long and close friendly historical cooperation. In fact, the Lebanese government was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of Indonesia in 1947 during President Bechara el Khoury's presidency. Both countries share similar multicultural and multi religious characteristics. The Indonesians and Lebanese people have the same warmth and friendly personality.

2. Why did the Indonesian Government decide to send peacekeepers to Lebanon?

The Indonesian republic supports peace and it is part of our constitution to support the protection of every country's sovereignty. The conflict between Lebanon and Israel threatens the peace in the region and the sovereignty of Lebanon.

3. There has been some criticism regarding the role of the UNIFIL. Do you think that the UNIFIL is following the SCR 1701?

The presence of UNIFIL prevents future conflicts. As we know, Israel is trying to build a wall along the Blue Line, however the UNIFIL is preventing the construction of this wall and demanding that the Lebanese keep calm in order to prevent any attacks and violations.

4. Can the UNIFIL stop the Israelis from building the wall?

The Indonesian contingent works under the mandate of the United Nations and the presence of UNIFIL disables the construction of the wall because the blue line needs to be sterile from any buildings. However the Indonesian Contingent should always coordinate their work to a restrictive mandate.

5. Do you think that the cultural and civil interactions between the Indonesian peacekeepers and the Lebanese society are important?

Yes of course, we believe that the cultural diplomacy that is constantly adopted by the Indonesian contingent is important especially to engage closer with the Lebanese society. They can gain trust from the society and will be able to deescalate the situation in the area and therefore prevent any arm conflict between the two sides. The Indonesian Contingent is the only contingent that is actively using cultural engagements. It is very effective and became the identity of the Indonesian troops. The society is more likely to accept them, and perceive them in a peaceful way and not a military way. The Indonesian troops are not only engaging through culture but through humanitarian assistance such as continuous medical assistance and services in the neighboring area, community activities, and trainings. The Indonesian troops are the most likely to be accepted by the people of the South, they kind of speak the same language, they are friendly and approach do not approach people from a military perspective. In fact, it is historically known that some contingents received threats and had stones thrown at their tanks, however the Indonesians are less likely to have such incidents.

6. Who funds these activities?

The mission is funded by the United Nations. However, the cultural performances and activities are mostly funded by the Indonesian Government through the embassy of Indonesia in Lebanon. The Indonesian troops arrived in Lebanon already equipped and ready for their cultural performances.

7. What is the experience of the Indonesian Contingent in Lebanon compared to other countries?

The Indonesian peacekeeper troops have participated in 10 peacekeeping missions that also provided humanitarian and peaceful activities. This is our identity, even in Indonesia, the troops do the same type of civil interactions. However, we only have Indonesian marines in Lebanon that are part of the UNIFIL Maritime Task Force. Until today, there has been six packs sent to Lebanon: every year they exchange troops.

8. What are the future decisions concerning the contribution of Indonesia in the United Nations' peacekeeping mission in Lebanon?

Indonesia will keep supporting world peace and will keep supporting the participation in the UNIFIL in peacekeeping missions. Our main goal is not to be present in Lebanon but to have peace in the region. Indonesia is the biggest contributor in the UNIFIL in terms of peacekeeper troops. The Indonesian government has the intention of sending more than 4000 new peacekeepers worldwide and we might increase the number the Indonesian Contingent in Lebanon. We will keep sending as long as the United Nations is in need of peacekeepers. We hope for peace and stability in the region and that in the future the Israeli armed force will not strike an attack against Lebanon because it will also be considered as an attack on Indonesia due to our friendly relations with Lebanon.

Personal communication with Indonesian Contingent Commander Col. Murbianto Adhi Wibowo (Naqoura) 9 May, 2018

1. The Indonesian Contingent is the biggest in terms of peacekeepers, what is the reason behind the big contribution of Indonesia in UNIFIL?

Indonesia began sending peacekeepers in 2006 after the 34-day war. At that time, Indonesia only sent a Mechanical Battalion and got a sector around Marjayoun area, and then the UN requested additional peacekeepers who have different tasks. In addition, Indonesia sent personnel to serve as the force headquarter support unit and force Protection Company who have the duty to run the operations of the headquarters and its security. The health personnel of the Indonesian peacekeepers are also deployed in the UNIFIL mission at the Hospital Level II that is also located at the UNFIL headquarters and other fulfill tasks with the Military Police Unit. For the Hospital, it works with the Indian Contingent while the CIMIC and MCOU cooperate with the Italian Contingent. The Indonesian Contingent is also part of the MTF. In conclusion, up to now Indonesia has placed 8 task forces in the UNIFIL mission. In the long run Indonesia is willing to become more active in peacekeeping missions and we have a chance in Lebanon because the UNIFIL is made up of different troops that perform different tasks. Our constitution states that we have to be more active in peacekeeping missions and therefore increase our contributions. The government of Indonesia is willing to commit troops to different peacekeeping missions all over the world.

2. What are the main achievements of the Indonesian Contingent in Lebanon?

Indonesia has been carrying out UNFIL's mission for 12 consecutive years, where Indonesia has implemented the UN mandate (UNSCR 1701). The Indonesian contingent has varied tasks ranging from troops that implement security along the Blue

Line and carry out the duty of headquarters in UNIFIL HQ. During the mission, Indonesia also conducted social relations with the local community not only through CIMIC but also all soldiers work on maintaining relations with the local population as well as with the contingents of peacekeepers from other countries.

3. Can you describe the usual working activities of your troops in Naqoura?

Indonesian Contingent is scattered in the four main areas of the land operation area namely Naoqura, Adcheet el-Qseir and Blat Marjayoun and at the port Beirut as the base of the maritime task force. The dispersed units have different tasks including the Blue Line safety tasks. In addition to carrying out the main task of the UN mandate, the Indonesian Contingent also interacts with the local community through medical assistance and cultural activities that are done through the CIMIC unit of each task force spread over two sectors of the UNIFIL operations area.

4. What do you think of your relationship with the LAF?

We have good relations. In UNIFIL HQ we have frequent meetings with the LAF, daily morning updates and continued cultural activities. For activities in the field, the units from the Indonesian contingent also carry out joint patrol activities with the LAF both mobile and static.

5. What can you say about Civil Military coordination and cooperation between the Lebanese and the Indonesian Peacekeepers?

The CIMIC team is responsible for the coordination and cooperation between the Lebanese and the peacekeepers. They assist the people by providing medical

assistance, trainings, joint cultural activities and performances. All of the activities are done by the various troops and the Indonesian troops are very active in these terms.

6. How do you describe your relationship with the Lebanese society? Did the relationship improve since 2006?

We are satisfied with our relationship with the Lebanese society especially after seeing the efforts they are making in order to understand us and salute us.

7. What are the future possible decisions regarding the participation of Indonesia in the UNIFIL?

The Indonesian government is always ready to commit troops to the United Nations peacekeeping missions. The only problem that may pose an obstacle to our future contribution is the United Nations budget allocated for peacekeeping missions. One thing that is very influential and should be put forward in decision-making related to the deployment of peacekeepers for the future is to enlarge the role of women peacekeepers that are currently indispensable in various peacekeeping missions, especially in UNIFIL.

8. How important are cultural activities, trainings, humanitarian assistance in peacekeeping missions?

I think it is important for us to understand the Lebanese culture and to introduce our culture to the people in return. By doing so we can adopt a humanitarian approach and not only a military approach. We can understand the local's problems and assist them better. From the Indonesian point of view, this civil-military relation is part of our goals and it is part of our identity. We come from a country that includes a big number of different tribes and religions. Therefore, we are used to be tolerant and accept

others. Cultural tolerance and understanding leads to a peaceful peacekeeping mission and a more peaceful atmosphere in the operation area which can help the area to develop.

9. Are these interactions also considered as a benefit for the UNIFIL troops?

Being close to the people means building trust and therefore creating a safe environment that is beneficial for both of us. Sometimes the orders require us to patrol with weapons which can be considered a threat to the people. However, we always try to make the first impression of being friendly peacekeepers and not only military figures. Although we speak different languages, and have different cultures, we can quickly adapt well and understand their desires effectively.

Personal communication with, Col. Arfan Johan Wihananto (Adcheet el-Qseir)

1. The Indonesian Contingent is the biggest in terms of peacekeepers, what is the reason behind the big contribution of Indonesia in UNIFIL?

For us, it is a kind of humanity operation. We are following the mandate of the UNIFIL. It is also the nation's policy to promote security and peace in the world. We are trying to increase the number of Indonesian troops in peacekeeping missions all over the world. Our participation in the UNIFIL is among others such as in Sudan and other African countries. However, our biggest peacekeeping troops are serving with the UNIFIL and our only Maritime Task Force serving with the UNIFIL is in Lebanon. There are six types of Indonesian troops in Lebanon and the biggest one in terms of troops is located in Adcheet el-Qseir.

2. There has been some criticism regarding the actual role of UNIFIL in Lebanon. Do you think that the Indonesian Contingent is following UNSCR 425, 426 and 1701 in terms of assuring peace along the Blue Line and monitoring and reporting violations?

Yes of course, we base our activities on the mandate of the UNSC 1701 and the received orders regarding the implementation of 1701 by the Headquarter. We focus our activities along the Blue Line, which is the most sensitive area of operation due to the frequent gathering of people along the Blue Line area to protest that often result in confrontations with the Israeli patrols. Our core activity is to maintain security and stability and deescalate the tensions. We have been present in Lebanon for 12 years. During this time, we have never received serious opposition from the Israelis, however due to our country's foreign policy that promotes international peace, and the respect of a country's sovereignty, Israel at first, disapproved our participation in the UNIFIL. However since 2006 we have been neutral and have reported all of the violations to UNSCR 1701.

3. What are the main achievements of the Indonesian Contingent in Lebanon?

We work according to the mandate of the UNSCR 1701. We maintain the security around the area of operation, which is part of our mission. The big decisions regarding military interventions are out of our hands and we only executing the required tasks by maintaining a stable situation along the Blue Line.

4. What are the main trainings provided to the Lebanese Armed Forces by the Indonesian Contingent?

We receive our orders from the headquarter and the LAF receive theirs from the Lebanese high commanders, however together we conduct joint patrols, counter rocket launching operations. Indobatt frequently conducts joint training with the LAF in terms of Marksmanship Rifle training, patrol training and Crowd Riot Control (CRC).

5. Can you describe the usual working activities of your troops in Adcheet el-Qseir?

We assist the Lebanese Armed Forces according to our mandate: joint patrol and observation, checkpoints. We assist the LAF by helping them secure the Blue Line area and assure Lebanon's sovereignty.

6. What do you think of your relationship with the LAF?

We have good relations with the LAF. We coordinate and cooperate. The only issue we face with the LAF is the difference of language but we manage to understand each other through time.

7. What can you say about Civil Military coordination and cooperation between the Lebanese and the Indonesian Peacekeepers?

The CIMIC team is present in Adcheet el-Qseir, in the operation area of INDOBAT. Through this team, we are able to conduct medical assistance, community

work, bazars, and communication with the area mayors and implement low cost projects.

8. How do you describe your relationship with the Lebanese society? Did the relationship improve since 2006?

The relationship has improved since 2006. We try our best to approach people since we share common ground. We have noticed that people try to learn Indonesian greetings and we do the same and reply in Lebanese. We base our behavior on three concepts: Good behavior, smiling and respecting the other.

9. What are the future possible decisions regarding the participation of Indonesia in the UNIFIL?

Indonesian personnel in the UNIFIL is the largest, with 1290 peacekeepers serving so far. The Indonesian government has plans to increase its contribution to up to 5000 peacekeepers. Our next target is to increase the number of women peacekeepers among our troops from 5% to 15%.

10. How important are cultural activities, trainings, humanitarian assistance in peacekeeping missions?

Such activities are very important for the success of the mission and for good relations with the locals. We have conducted medical assistance, worked with the mayor, supported the local markets by purchasing from the street market every Wednesday, we have conducted education programs through our “Smart car” which provides books and educational games for school students, we assist disabled people through our projects, we also do frequent cultural performances that include shows, dances and songs. We are trying to introduce to the locals our culture and traditions and

learn about the Lebanese culture by participating in activities on the national day and mother's day.

11. Does the Indonesian Contingent participate in quick impact projects?

So far, we do not participate in Quick impact projects but we do conduct low cost projects through the help of our CIMIC team.

12. Do you consider that the civil interactions between the civilians and the peacekeepers can build peace?

Regardless of the situation in Lebanon, we believe that our customs and traditions as Indonesian peacekeepers will always enable us to do whatever possible in order to maintain a good relationship with the local communities and to provide them with stability and security by creating an atmosphere of peace rather than tension. By doing humanitarian activities we hope to motivate and stimulate the Lebanese communities and provide them with hope in order to have a bright and peaceful future.

13. What are the cultural challenges and the impact of cultural relations with the local communities?

Lebanon is a foreign country with different cultures, customs. However, the Indonesian troops did not face major difficulties in adapting due to their attempts at constantly being friendly and approachable.

14. What sorts of challenges do you face while conducting your military activities?

Our troops are trained to act professionally and appropriately on the ground. When we conduct our activities along the Blue Line, we shall always remain neutral to both sides and this is a big challenge when tensions arise. We follow the rule of

engagement as we try to control the tensions by always having good manners. We also follow the Standard Operation Procedure that enables us to deal professionally in different situations. Regarding the freedom of movement, we sometimes face problems during high-tension situations, when we are opposed by locals and are not able to perform our duties. We usually do not oppose them but rather negotiate with them and negotiate with the mayors. Problems are less common when we use such tactics with the locals.

Personal communication with Colonel Alan Dahlan (Beirut Port) May 07, 2018

1. The Indonesian Contingent is the biggest in terms of peacekeepers, what is the reason behind the big contribution of Indonesia in UNIFIL?

One of our foreign policy goal is to participate in maintaining the world order in secure and peaceful conditions. We gained our nation's independence by fighting and struggling in the face of imperialism so we know and recognize that peace and safety are part of human rights. So, Indonesia will be active to contribute to the UN mission not only in UNIFIL, but also around the world.

2. There has been some criticism regarding the actual role of UNIFIL in Lebanon. Do you think the Indonesian Contingent in following UNSCR 425, 426 and 1701 in terms of assuring peace along the Blue Line and monitoring and reporting violations?

Yes we do. The Indonesian Contingent contributed to maintaining stability along the Blue Line in our Area of Responsibility under the mandate of UNSCR 1701. The Maritime Task Force contributed to building recognized maritime picture and reporting military air activity on Lebanese Air Territory and AMO (Area of Maritime Operation) 24/7. Every activity that violates UNSCR 1701 whether it happened on Land, Sea or Air were reported to UNIFIL HQ.

3. What are the main achievements of the Indonesian Contingent in Lebanon?

Our main achievement in Lebanon is to bring peace so that the Lebanese people can rebuild their country by their own in safe and stable conditions. We would like to gain recognition and trust from UN for professional and reliable performance showed by Indonesian peacekeepers during their participations here.

4. What are the main trainings in the Indonesian Contingent have provided to the LAF with?

You can get further information about training activities between us and to the LAF from the Indonesian Contingent Commander (Indo Contico). In relation with LAF-N, UNIFIL MTF's second goal is to enhance the LAF navy capability so they will be able to conduct maritime security by their own. We have various types of exercises to improve their capability and skills, such as Intruder Exercise, MIO CDR (Maritime Interdiction Operation-Commander) Practice, MIO integration and Boarding Exercise. MTF ACOS (Assistant Chief of Staff) N7 arranges all of the exercises in weekly basis.

5. Can you describe the usual working activities of your troops in Beirut?

As maritime peacekeepers that live and work on warship, our activity when based in the Beirut Port is preserving the condition of our equipment (engines, sensors, weapon, etc.), internal trainings, refueling and resupply of provisions for next operations. In our leisure, we make interactions with Lebanese people especially in Beirut.

6. What do you think of your relationship with the LAF?

Our operational relationship with LAF-N is good. We maintained good communication and we have several times discussions and trainings together. LAF navy were supportive to MTF tasks and MTF units.

7. What can you say about civilian military coordination between the Lebanese and Indonesian peacekeepers?

Coordination between Indonesian peacekeepers and Lebanese people is done through the activities organized by the UNHQ. Also, UNIFIL has a unit tasked for that

mission called CIMIC (Civil Military Coordination).

8. How do you describe the relationship between the Lebanese society and LAF on one side and Indonesian Contingent on the other side? Did the relationship improve since 2006?

We have a long relationship with the Lebanese because Lebanon was the third country that acknowledged independence of Indonesia. The Lebanese have been welcoming us for maintaining peace and stability on their land from 2006 until today. We believe that the Lebanese Society and LAF were dependent on each other, and the LAF presence amid Lebanese people was an important thing. A good and close coordination between Lebanese society and LAF has to be maintained.

9. What are your activities as part of the Maritime Task Force?

We have two main missions. First, conducting Maritime Interdiction on the Area of Maritime Operations aimed at assisting the LAF navy in preventing the smuggling of arms and related material into Lebanon. The Maritime Task Force is also supporting the LAF navy to improve their operational capabilities in order to monitor the whole spectrum of Lebanon's Territorial Water sovereignty-related tasks independently. Our supporting mission is to monitor any military air activity on the airspace of Lebanon and Area of Maritime Operations, while keeping readiness as UNIFIL Search and Rescue unit in the sea.

10. What are the future possible decisions regarding the participation of Indonesia in UNIFIL?

We are most likely to increase our troops and military staff to help securing Lebanon and also maintaining peace. It is part of our national foreign policy to help in maintaining peace in the world.

11. How important are cultural activities, trainings and humanitarian assistance in peacekeeping missions?

Cultural activities are important because it is a way for the Indonesian Contingent to introduce and teach the importance of cultural rapprochement. Trainings are important because we are trying to train the LAF about the international standard military capability. Humanitarian assistance is important to keep peace of the world which is the responsibility of another UN organization such as UNESCO and UNICEF.

12. Does the Indonesian contingent participate in quick impact projects?

We support the local people by providing their needs especially in education and health care. We are always ready to contribute whenever requested. In addition, we have a unit that deals with such tasks, called CIMIC.

13. Do you consider that the civil interactions between the civilians and the peacekeepers can build peace?

Yes we do. We teach “importance of the peace” and “disadvantages of war”.

Personal communication with Fadi AbilMona- Crisis Prevention and Recovery Programme Manager at UNDP

1. As a conflict resolution expert, do you think that the UNIFIL is doing their mandate in Lebanon?

The presence of the UNIFIL represent the interest on maintaining stability along southern borders. The UN peacekeeping mission represents the international community and shows that they have not forsaken Lebanon. The presence of a big number of contingent in the macro picture is explained by the international community's big effort in investing in Lebanon's peace.. Besides the July 2006 war, there has been no major incidents and this proves that the UNIFIL is working in maintaining peace along the Blue Line.

2. In terms of peacekeeping, how important are the civil interactions conducted by the UNIFIL?

The CIMIC was first conducted by the USA. The civil military relations and cooperation started due to people's dislike of the foreign army. The CIMIC activities help in facilitating the mission of the commander. With time, the concept evolved. Today, this cooperation is considered to be a win-win situation. Resources are being used and money paid, so they have to at least work on the ground through medical assistance, winning the hearts and minds of people, give a good reputation and put the money allocated to good use. Civilians can help in giving information to the peacekeepers regarding their dissatisfaction and can protect the peacekeepers.

3. Indonesia is the biggest contributor in terms of number of peacekeepers in the UNIFIL, do you think that its decision to extend the number of peacekeepers is due to their success in the field?

Indonesia is a big country and the more active in peacekeeping missions they are the more experience and the bigger role they will achieve in the international community. If they participate in peacekeeping, they can use this argument to shape the world opinion and to have a good track record: having peacekeepers in the Middle East.

Personal communication with - Former Minister Mohsem Dalloul

1. What do you think of the civil military interactions in case of the UNIFIL and the Indonesian Contingent in particular?

The UNIFIL has aided people through civil military cooperation in order to gain the trust of the people. Populations in war regions have tended to dislike NATO troops but have less suspicion regarding the peacekeeping troops. The Indonesian contingent has done many developmental and humanitarian projects and is still working on getting closer to the Lebanese population. However, they do not have high budgets when it comes to donations. They are therefore using their friendly approach to improve their relation with the locals through cultural performances and events. If problems occur, it is because of the accusations that portray peacekeepers as bias when it comes to reporting violations. However, at the end, it is important to state that even small developmental projects or interactions that can be helpful to the locals are welcomed and the troops should focus on communication between the two parties.

Personal communication with General Mohammad Fakhri (Lebanese Army)

2. What do you think of the civil military interactions in case of the UNIFIL and the Indonesian Contingent in particular?

UNIFIL troops have aided the locals in many developmental projects and have aided the farmers through their purchases. Many students and young people have benefited from the trainings that improved their talents. All of these activities can ensure a better future to the people involved especially that good relations between the two parties can lead to a more peaceful environment. The good relations between the LAF and UNIFIL troops does help the locals trust the peacekeepers and cooperate with them.

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