

French Role in Conflict Resolution Efforts in Mali

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ABSTRACT

French involvement and efforts to resolve the conflict in Mali is based on French national interest in Mali. French national interest in Mali is to secure the economic interest of natural resources, political interest is to restore France influence on countries in Africa, and security interest is to prevent the Mali transform into a den of terrorist. France has run two strategies to help resolve conflict in Mali, which is through hard power with military intervention and soft power by passing to withdraw aid from other countries and international organizations..

Keywords : *Conflict, Mali, France, The National Interest, Hard Power, Soft Power*

INTRODUCTION

Conflicts in international relations can occur between two or more countries and conflicts that occur within a country. Conflicts within a country can be categorized into two, namely horizontal conflicts, namely conflicts that involve two or more groups within the country, and vertical conflicts, which involve a rebel group against the government. Rebellion is a dynamic that often occurs in the world, one of which in Africa often experiences internal conflict, one of which occurred in West Africa, precisely in Mali.

The conflict has been going on since 1961, when the Tuareg ethnic group who are native to the Azawad region disagreed with the policies of the Malian government at that time after France granted formalistic independence. Government policies are considered to ignore and discriminate against ethnic Tuareg. A policy that plans land reform and a rule that prohibits ethnic Tuareg from getting jobs and housing outside the Azawad region. This invited conflict which spawned small rebellions against the northern Malian government. The conflict then broke out and peaked in January 2012. The peak of this conflict was due to the rebels demanding greater autonomy for Azawad.

Since 17 January 2012 a number of parties in the Azawad region have launched a campaign against the central government to secede. A group called the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNL) is aggressively taking action against the Malian government to immediately declare independence for the Azawad region. On 22 March 2012 President Amadou Toumani Toure was overthrown in a coup a month before

presidential elections were held. The leader of the military coup was Amadou Sanogo. The army deserters who called themselves the National Committee for the Restoration of Democracy and State (CNRDR) took over and abolished the Mali constitution on April 2, 2012.

As a result of the constitutional void in Mali in April 2012, the MNLA succeeded in taking over the Azawad region and declared its independence on April 6, 2012. The MNLA's struggle to gain Azawad's independence was assisted by the Islamic group Ansar Dine, the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), and al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). However, after independence, Azawad fell into the hands of Ansar Dine, so that the MNLA could not rule.

The conflict that occurred in Mali was originally an internal conflict, but over time this conflict expanded to become an international issue. The inability of the Malian government to resolve the conflict caused foreign actors to enter, one of which was France. France is the country that is the loudest in making negative comments and conflict disagreements, this is evidenced by the sending of French military troops to Mali on January 11, 2013 when militants threatened to advance to the capital of Mali. France is considered one of the countries that has an obligation to assist in resolving conflicts because Mali is a former French colony which received independence in 1960. France continues to maintain good relations, one of which is by forming the Organization Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) which combines countries that speak French. France.

French intervention received the support of the UN Security Council through resolution number 2100 of 2013. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said that French intervention in Mali was expected to restore the territorial integrity and order of the Mali constitution. France then sent troops under the umbrella of UN Security Council resolution 2085, which allowed a troop of 3,000 members to go down to secure Mali. This action taken by France is a clear reflection that France feels insecure with the conflict. France itself really needs Mali as a Uranium producing country in West Africa. Two-thirds of France's electricity comes from nuclear power, requiring significant uranium imports from the country. With various interests and historical reasons, France is so total in efforts to resolve the conflict in Mali.

METHOD

The study method in this research is a qualitative descriptive process, which describes, analyzes, and interprets the problem of the study in a descriptive way to try to find an appropriate description related to the object of study. The research data collected is through primary data with a direct interview process with the French diplomat for Indonesia, Roubert Dominique. While secondary data comes from literature reviews in the form of books, articles, reports, websites and others that are relevant to research studies, especially regarding conflict analysis, national interests, and power.

Then the data collected is based on the concept of Dr. Anak Agung Banyu Perwita and Dr. Yanyan Moch. Yani who explained that the national interest is said to be the fundamental goal and the final determining factor that directs the decision makers of a

country in formulating its foreign policy. In the Realist paradigm, the state is seen as an institution that moves to achieve goals logically. Therefore, methods and methods will be adapted to the interests and situations faced by the state in order to achieve its national interests.

In fighting for a national interest, a country will use the power it has. According to Joseph Nye power can be classified into 2, namely hard power and soft power:

Hard power is the power possessed by a country to force other countries to fulfill their interests. Hard power is a force that leads to military strength.

Soft power is getting others to want the outcomes you want without inducements (carrots) or threats (sticky). Soft power complements the two dimensions of a country's hard power, namely the military and the economy where soft power becomes a third way or behavior to get the desired results.

One form of intervention by a state is to use power in conflict resolution. From the results of research by the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI), there are several types of domestic conflict:

1. Separatist conflict, between the central government and a group of people fighting for their independence, which is also called vertical conflict.
2. Communal conflicts, conflicts that break out between two or three community groups due to primordial struggles or feuds or historical inheritance.
3. Conflicts over natural resources, usually involving control over forest and mineral resources.

In resolving conflicts, appropriate conflict resolution is needed. Fisher and Keashly describe 4 stages of conflict and suitable interventions by third parties.

1. Conflict formation which is the initial stage of a massive conflict outbreak. This situation is illustrated by the emergence of differences, tensions, and divisions that occur between people in a country. The appropriate intervention at this stage is prevention through military intervention to stop the actor who initiated the attack.
2. Violent Conflict is a critical stage in a conflict. Where there is violence in a conflict. Violence can threaten the safety of residents and cause many victims. In this stage the intervention by third parties is through peacekeeping where the third actor involved must be neutral. Interventions carried out must be based on international law, to take an impartial stance on an actor and try to get the conflicting actors to carry out a ceasefire.
3. Conflict Transformation is the stage where the violence has reduced. This situation does not mean that it is safe, but it is still very prone to active conflict again. In this position various actors have entered the stage of peace, even though the rebel groups have not completely disbanded. Intervention at this stage is peacemaking to help conflicting actors to create peace in the former conflict area.
4. Social Change is a situation where differences begin to occur in the society of a country. This stage is the end of the tension that has occurred in the previous stage. intervention at this stage is peacebuilding where the third actor who intervenes has the aim of

helping countries that have been in conflict to rebuild their country after being destroyed by the conflict that occurred. This stage is the stage where there is no conflict.

DISCUSSION

Mali is a country with a population of 15.8 million people with an area of 1,240,192 km². Mali is divided into eight regions and one district, including Gao, Kayes, Kidal, Koilikoro, Mopti, Segou, Sikasso, Timbuktu and the capital Bamako. Because the size of one region is too large, it is further divided into 288 arrondissements (which are administrative divisions used by French-speaking countries). Mali's population is dominated by 90% Muslim, but Mali is a secular country where Christianity and animism are still practiced.

Based on the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Human Development Index (HDI), Mali is one of the poorest countries in the world. In the HDI standard consisting of health, education and income, Mali is in 182nd position out of 187 countries. Mali is known as a landlocked country located in West Africa without access to water.

The Niger River flowing through Mali is its sole source of life, drinking water, irrigation and transportation. The absence of access to the coastline makes this country ravaged by drought. Although Mali is very rich in natural resources such as gold, phosphate, kaolin, bauxite and uranium, it is heavily dependent on the agricultural and gold mining sectors as a source of income. Apart from that, foreign aid and foreign loans have become the foundation of the Malian government in building its country. This is due to the lack of quality human resources and most of the companies in Mali are managed by foreigners.

CONFLICT IN MALI

The conflict started in 1961, when the Tuareg ethnic group in northern Mali felt neglected by the new Malian government. They oppose government policies in Bamako, which are planning land reforms that could threaten their traditional land tenure. The Tuareg are a nomadic Berber people living in the Sahel and Saharan regions of Mali, Niger, Libya, Burkina Faso and Algeria. The Tuareg's disapproval of Mali's central government eventually culminated in an uprising in 1963 in Kidal. However, the uprising was brutally suppressed in a short time. Captain Diby Sillas Diarra was the leader of the Malian troops when fighting the rebels. Martial law was then imposed in Northern Mali and civilians were prohibited from entering the area as a consequence, the population of Northern Mali became increasingly isolated and marginalized. This situation then gave birth to small-scale acts of rebellion until several years later.

Northern Mali had experienced a drought in the 80s so that the local Tuareg people were forced to flee to neighboring countries, one of which was to Libya. Those who fled to Libya were recruited to become members of the Islamic Legion militia group, they were trained and provided with weapons. They later became mercenaries for Muammar al Gaddafi in Libya, but after Gaddafi died many of them returned to their hometowns. The training and weapons received in Libya became their capital when they returned to Azawad and then the Tuareg ethnic groups then returned to rebellion. The conflict really peaked in January 2012, marked by ethnic Tuareg who returned to campaigning against the Malian

government and demanding greater independence in the northern Mali region. Northern Mali or better known as the Azawad region is a province consisting of the Timbuktu, Kidal, Gao and parts of the Mopti region which covers 60% of Mali's territory.

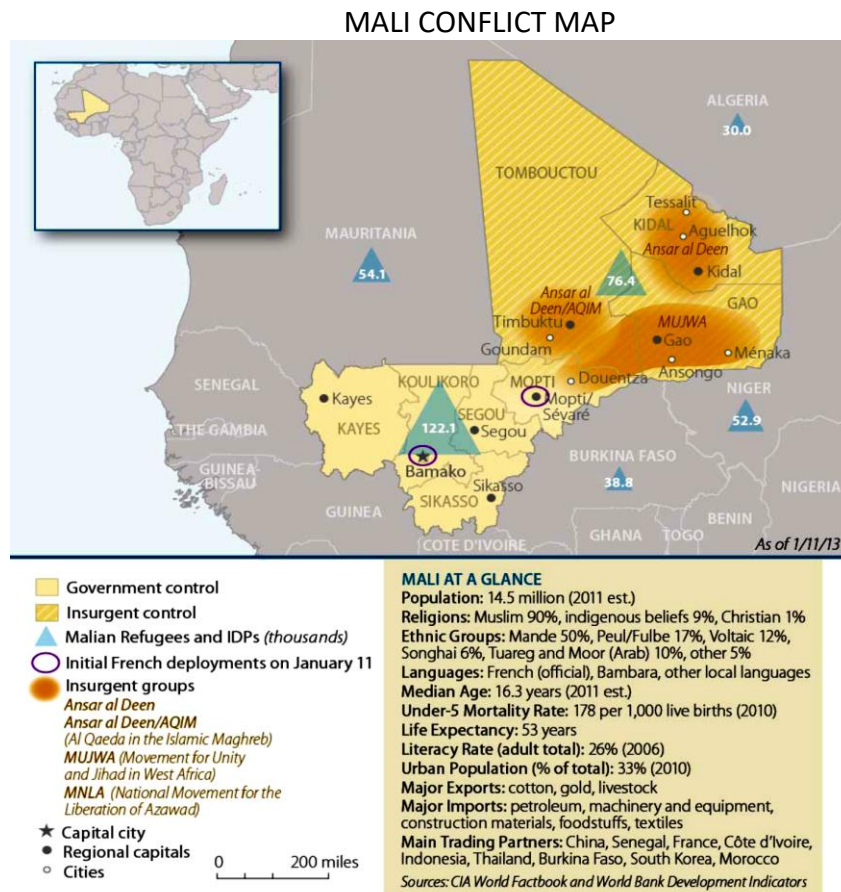
The rebel group calling itself the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) is fighting to liberate Azawad and make it the homeland of the Tuareg people. In April 2012 the MNLA managed to take control of Azawad. The coup carried out by the military in March 2012 to overthrow the government of President Amadeou Toumani Toure resulted in a constitutional or legal vacuum in Mali. The MNLA took over Azawad and declared Azawad's independence on 6 April 2012. To take over Azawad the MNLA was assisted by the Islamist group Ansar Dine, al-Qaidah in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and the Movement for Unity and Jihad in west Africa Organization (MUJAO). MNLA which is a group born of ethnic Tuareg rebels launched a network with Ansar Dine and AQIM while they were in Libya. There are three religious extremist groups in northern Mali that are assisting the MNLA, namely Ansar Dine, AQIM, and MUJAO. Ansar Dine is a group of Muslim religious extremists who joined the opposition with the aim of breaking away from the government in the south, while AQIM is an offshoot organization directly connected to the Al-Qaeda network.

April 6 MNLA declared the establishment of the independent state of Azawad whose territory covers all of Northern Mali. The MNLA claims that they will not prolong the conflict if their declaration of independence is recognized. However, the declaration of independence was immediately rejected by the Malian government. In the process of Azawad's independence, the MNLA and Islamic militant groups experienced a split. Islamic militant groups say they want to apply Islamic law to all of Mali and ignore the prospects of Azawad as an independent state. The MNLA and Islamic militant groups continued to unite their conflicting missions for the new nation, but no agreement was found. Finally, on June 27, 2012 the MNLA fought against Islamic militant groups in the battle of Gao which injured the secretary general of the MNLA and took over the city of Gao. After going through battle after battle, all the important cities in Northern Mali have been controlled by Islamic militant groups.

The conflict in Northern Mali, which has become increasingly complicated and heated, has made the Malian government unable to deal with Islamic militant groups. Especially when they threatened to advance to the capital city of Mali, Bamako. Islamic militant groups equipped with sophisticated and trained weapons made the government give up and finally asked for help from the international organization United Nations (UN). In his letter, the government of Mali asked for assistance to resolve the conflict in Mali from the United Nations and specifically to France. The Malian government asked for help so that France immediately sent military troops to Mali. It is not without reason that Mali asked for help from France, this is because Mali is a former French colony so that France is felt as a party that has an obligation to help resolve the conflict in Mali.

The French military operation in Mali was carried out the day after the capture of the city of Konna, Central Mali by rebel groups. After the seizure in Central Mali, Islamic militant groups have threatened to advance to the Malian capital, Bamako. The mandate

ordered by Francois Hollande was to hold a military operation to support the Malian armed forces which aimed to stop the rebel groups who wanted to control Bamako. This military operation lasted for six months, starting on January 11 2013 and ending on July 11 2013. The objectives of the French military operation to Mali are divided into three main objectives. The first objective is to assist the Malian armed forces, namely FAM, in stopping the spread of rebel groups that have begun to move towards the capital Bamako. Second, with France carrying out Operation Serval, it is hoped that it can restore its integrity so that Mali regains its sovereignty in full. And the third is to facilitate the next international support mission to Mali.



Map created by CRS using Esri basemaps, Google Earth city coordinates, and news reports.

Source : Crisis in Mali dalam Congressional Research Service oleh Alexis Arief, Analystis in African Affairs. January 2013.

FRANCE RELATIONSHIP WITH MALI

In the colonial era Mali fell under French control in 1855. Mali only received formalistic independence in 1960. After becoming an independent country, like the former

French colonies in the West African region, France continued to maintain relations with Mali both bilaterally and multilaterally . After giving formalistic independence to Mali, until now there are still many French citizens who are in Mali. Mali, whose official language is French, has joined the Organization Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), whose headquarters are in Paris. OIF was born to facilitate collaboration between its members on cultural issues which has developed into a forum that promotes democratic values. OIF has the aim of promoting the French language, strengthening solidarity through cooperation to promote economic growth, and cooperation for sustainable development.

Joining Mali in the OIF makes this country even more dependent on France. Mali has a long-standing relationship with France, its former colonial ruler. Mali is estimated to receive assistance of \$ 596.4 million from France, this assistance is expected to help social development in the country of Mali. After independence, Mali had briefly broken away from the shadow of France because of the issue of expelling Malian illegal immigrants who were in France, but Mali returned to establishing cooperative relations with France in 1996.

Mali is a landlocked country geographically, Mali is a landlocked country. This is evidenced by Mali, which borders Algeria to the north, Niger to the east, Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast to the south, Guinea to the southwest, and Mauritania to the west without access by water. The border in northern Mali extends into the middle of the Sahara desert. Mali is heavily dependent on gold mining and agricultural exports. Most of its economic activities are confined to the Niger River area and about 65% of its land area is desert or semi-desert, making Mali highly dependent on foreign aid. France is a country that dominates the import of goods in several areas in Mali. Mali's main imports are clothing, machinery, vehicles and communications equipment received from France.

After years of French colonization, Mali declared its independence on September 22, 1960 and went on to become an independent and sovereign country. However, after the French colonial period, they continued to maintain their presence in the political and economic sectors in Mali. After the declaration of independence of Mali, France still has many interests in Mali which has various natural resources, especially abundant natural wealth. From the results of an interview with the French Diplomat for Indonesia, Roubert Dominique, said that:

“Most of France's electricity comes from nuclear power plants, France really needs uranium as the main propulsion material for nuclear power. France then made Mali a reserve country to meet its uranium needs.”

FRENCH NATIONAL INTERESTS IN MALI

a. Economic interest

Mali is Africa's third largest gold producer, while neighboring Nigeria is the region's most important oil exporter shipping millions of barrels a year to countries including France, Britain and America. France in particular relies on African countries for uranium imports. Mali is a country rich in minerals in the form of gold, phosphate, kaolin, bauxite, iron, uranium and many others. France itself really needs Mali, as a uranium producing country in West Africa. Two-thirds of France's electricity comes from nuclear power, requiring significant uranium imports from this country. The existence of French interests in Mali has made France the most active country in efforts to resolve the conflicts that occurred in Mali.

Mali is one of the very poor countries in the world where the income of the people of this country is very low. More than half of Mali's people live below the poverty line, this is the case while Mali is very rich in terms of key material sources. This country is one of the gold-producing countries whose profits go into the pockets of multi-national companies. Neighboring country Niger, also lives below the poverty line and the income of its residents is low. Niger is very rich in terms of uranium resources, but the production and export of Uranium from this country is within the authority of French companies. The two major power plants AREVA and the Electricite de France (EDF) operate 59 nuclear power plants in France, this means that 40% of France's uranium consumption is in Niger. Therefore, it is not coincidental that France sends its troops to accompany Mali's military operations.

In the international world a country will not be able to meet its own needs so it will need other countries to support its needs. The Realist paradigm emphasizes that the state is an institution that will move to pursue its goals in meeting its needs. Similar to what France did in its involvement in Mali, the threats posed by the conflict prompted France to immediately take tactical steps.

b. Political Interests

France is known as one of the countries whose colonies spread across the continents of America, Africa and Asia. However, now the influence of France in the countries of its former colonies began to fade by the United States and China. France's involvement in the country's internal conflict is not the first. When the Libyan people took up arms against Moammar al Gaddafi in 2011, France quickly became the main backer of the rebels and sent in warplanes to stop government troops from advancing. Quick decisions were also made by the French government under the leadership of Nicolas Sarkozy. Furthermore, Francois Hollande's decision to agree to send military troops was taken after militant rebels linked to Ansar Dine and AQIM, who already controlled the northern region, moved to seize the southern region of Mali.

France's involvement in Mali is also not just a matter of fighting Islamic rebels. However, also to restore French influence on the continent, part of which was once a French colony. Countries in Africa which are French colonies are Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. Moreover, in recent years, China's influence has been quite strong in Africa, both in terms of politics and investment that is developing in Africa. China's

influence is getting stronger as evidenced by trade between China and countries in Africa soaring in the last four years. China's trade with Africa totaled \$166 billion in 2011 and Africa's exports to China, especially resources for fueling China's industry, are increasing. France's efforts to maintain its influence in Africa are also evidenced by the presence of France in helping to overthrow the Ivory Coast president who lost the election but did not want to step down from office in 2011.

Seeing France's haste in sending military troops to Mali gives a clear picture of how Mali has significance for France. First, Mali is a poor country that is not heard much about but has a history as a stable democracy in Africa. As Africa developed it became more and more difficult for the French to maintain influence in their colonies. Countries such as China and Türkiye enter the realm of business in Mali. China is the biggest investor in Africa right now. China imports most of its oil from Angola and Sudan. Turkey's trade turnover grew from year to year so this prompted France to implement a more aggressive policy in Africa. From this military intervention France will benefit by regaining influence and regaining the sympathy of the people by playing the role of savior in Mali.

c. Security Interests

The military intervention launched by France in January 2013 tried to persuade and illustrate that their presence in Mali was on a humanitarian mission. France is trying to seek international support by illustrating that in Mali a radical Islamic group has developed which will become a threat to international terror. In this case France appears as a country trying to help Mali and ensure the territorial integrity of Mali. The financial crisis that is currently happening in Europe and taking into account the risks that will be faced by France in its involvement in trying to make a significant breakthrough by all means calculating the advantages and disadvantages.

Even though France's involvement in efforts to resolve the conflict in Mali was at the request of the Malian government, this intervention was full of risks. The existence of French military forces in Mali only a few months after France withdrew its troops in Afghanistan, of course, would cost a lot of money. For that France needs support and assistance from other countries and international organizations. The joint army of African countries named AFISMA is expected to help France by sending 6,000 military personnel to Mali. In addition, the United States and European countries such as Britain and Germany provided assistance in the form of air transport and logistical assistance.

The geographical proximity between Europe and Africa makes the stability of Mali a special interest for France. The threat of Mali becoming a terrorist state became a justification for France to intervene. French Defense Minister Jean Yves Le Drian stated, "The threat is that a terrorist state will be created near Europe and France, we had to react before it was too late" (Daneshkhu, 2013)

France is known as a country that is very wary of terrorist issues. Especially since the terrorist acts of September 11, 2001 which attacked the World Trade Center (WTC) building in New York. France has even started implementing a law banning the wearing of the burka. In the same case, France and Indonesia cooperate in efforts to eradicate

terrorists. France's stance has become clearer since its involvement in the Mali conflict. The Azawad region which is expected to become a nest of terrorists makes France take action by immediately sending its military troops.

FRANCE'S STRATEGY FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN MALI

France's involvement in the conflict that occurred in Mali began in January 2013. France, as a country that once colonized Mali, has done several things to stop the conflict that occurred in its former colony. The sending of military troops and resolutions have been set by PPB to support the French intervention in Mali. Several resolutions that have been adopted from 2012 to 2013 are Resolution 2056 and Resolution 2071 as well as Resolution 2085 in 2012 and resolution 2100 in 2013. The four Resolutions are security resolutions that have a role in directing French intervention in Mali and the international response to the Malian conflict.

The limitation of research to 2012 to 2013 is inseparable from one of the factors, namely the worsening condition of Mali since Islamic militant groups have taken control of North Mali or what is known as the Azawad region. Resolving conflicts that occur within a country is not an easy thing. In contrast to conflicts that occur between countries, internal conflicts within a country require conflict resolution mechanisms that are complicated and time-consuming. Conflict resolution will be even more difficult when conflicts that occur demand greater autonomy for a region within the country. The conflict that occurred in Mali is an example of how difficult it is to resolve internal conflicts in a country. The complexity is clear when the Islamic militant group wants full independence for Azawad while the Malian government does not give it. There is a fear that the Azawad region will become a terrorist nest, making the government continue to be active in fighting Islamic militant groups. There are many different ways of dealing with insurgent groups. Through hard power, namely the use of methods such as military intervention, it is the method most often carried out by the state. Another way through soft power by conducting diplomacy is another way of dealing with rebel groups such as what the Indonesian government did in dealing with the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) group in Aceh. These two methods are the most frequently used ways of resolving conflicts that occur.

Based on the classification of domestic conflict which consists of two, namely horizontal conflict and vertical conflict, it can be seen that the conflict that occurred in Mali was a vertical conflict that developed into a horizontal conflict. The conflict in Mali was born from the movement of ethnic Tuareg against the government to demand independence for North Mali. This is also known as a separatist conflict, where there are groups fighting for their independence. The government's inability to control the pace of the rebels made Northern Mali able to be controlled quickly.

a. Hard Power

Since January 2012 when the conflict first escalated, aid from the international community has started to arrive. The first reaction was shown by France, sending troops was carried out by France even without UN legitimacy. France sent its military troops to

Mali on January 11 2013 and the new UN security council meeting took place on January 14 2013 after France requested a meeting to discuss the conflict in Mali. In that meeting, France only received support for military intervention. Previously, France had sent 550 military personnel to Mopti and Bamako and continued to increase to 2,500 personnel after the UN approved military intervention in Mali.

France's first troop deployment on January 11, 2013 was carried out without any legitimacy from the United Nations. According to France, troops were sent to the west African country as part of an operation to help the Malian military regain control of northern territory from Islamic militant groups. Resolutions 2056 and 2071 issued by the United Nations to request international regional organizations such as ECOWAS and the European Union to assist in resolving the Mali conflict received a slow response. France, in collaboration with the Malian military, on January 11, 2013 launched an operation when militants threatened to advance on the Malian capital, Bamako. After months of doubts about an African intervention force to assist Mali, a tactical move was then taken by France, sending a troop of 550 troops immediately deploying in Mali. Support from the United Nations and the international community only arrived after France made a ceasefire to expel the Islamist groups from the capital. In resolution 2100 dated 25 April 2013 it is clearly written,

“Welcoming the swift action by the French forces, at the request of the transitional authorities of Mali, to stop the offensive of terrorists, extremists and armed groups towards the south of Mali and commending the efforts to restore the territorial integrity of Mali by the Malian Defense and Security Forces, with the support of French forces”

this proves the amount of support from the United Nations for France. Over time the conflict in Mali has caused a prolonged crisis for the country, the number of refugees continues to increase, cases of hunger, cases of kidnapping, and the number of hostages which continues to increase makes Mali a poor country that is torn apart.

The approach through hard power taken by France in the Mali conflict has had a major influence on the gradual stabilization of the Mali region. There is an increase in military capacity that is spread throughout the territory of Mali is slowly bearing fruit. Although it was not easy to beat back the Islamists who occupied several towns in Azawad. France faces its own challenges with its intervention, starting from the deaths of dozens of French soldiers in Mali to the kidnapping cases of journalists and French citizens in Mali.

France's involvement in the conflict in Mali as a third party was indeed at the direct request of the president of Mali. However, France's presence in Mali and its alignment with the government contradict other forms of conflict resolution which say that a third party involved in a country's internal conflict must be neutral. The support given by France to the government of Mali made the groups involved in the conflict even more brutal by carrying out attacks and acts of revenge.

The success of military force to take over the towns in the Azawad region which had been controlled by Islamic militant groups was a real success. For this reason, in December 2013 France has reduced its military forces, which numbered 4,500 personnel to

1,000 personnel. The reduction in military forces was replaced by UN troops in a peace mission effort. However, given the complex nature of the conflict, including the threat of asymmetric attacks that could launch another action, French military forces will continue to be on guard. In accordance with UN Security Council resolution 2001 which allows France to use any means necessary to intervene when UN forces are under serious threat.

b. Soft Power

In resolving internal conflicts in a country, the involvement of third parties will usually use two strategies, namely through hard power and soft power. This is the case with France's involvement in the Mali conflict. France's strategy in efforts to resolve the conflict in Mali is through hard power and soft power. Through soft power, France has used its political power in the UN Security Council and the European Union to mobilize international support to help resolve the Mali conflict. Apart from using hard power through military intervention, France also proposed to the United Nations to issue a new resolution. The draft resolution submitted by France contains three points, including efforts to establish dialogue between the government of Mali and non-terrorist rebels in Northern Mali, both of which call on countries and related organizations such as the European Union to immediately respond to requests for assistance. from the President of Mali, and the third is remembering the terrorist threat that exists in Mali, France asks the Malian government, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the African Union to immediately create a concept of operation that defines and explains the mission and objectives allowing the sending of African troops to help resolve the Mali conflict. These three points were later adopted in UN Security Council resolution 2056, this resolution at the same time calls on all stakeholders in Mali to help create safe conditions and an immediate constitutional restoration.

The three points proposed by France in the draft resolution to the UN are one of the points which contains the possibility of holding negotiations between the government of Mali and non-terrorist rebel groups in Northern Mali. Even though this effort is almost impossible to happen, it seems that France still believes that Mali as a sovereign country also needs a political solution by negotiating to resolve the conflict in the country.

In resolving the conflict in Mali, France is trying to find the right form of resolution through 3 components, namely political aspects, security aspects and development aspects. Political and developmental aspects are very important in the territorial integrity of Mali. The tendency to see the conflict in Mali in terms of security, especially when talking about the threat of terror in the Azawad region, often results in a view that forgets that Mali as a sovereign country must maintain the integrity of its country. Dialogue between the government and Islamist groups that did not work then gave birth to dialogue between the government and the non-terrorist rebel group, MNLA. The goal of this dialogue is the reunion of Mali, stressing on the MNLA to renounce violence and recognize Mali's integrity.

France's strategy in efforts to resolve the conflict in Mali through another political approach is the unification of cooperation between ECOWAS and the African Union. France through the United Nations has urged ECOWAS and the African Union to immediately

respond to the Malian government's request. Not only ECOWAS and the African Union, France's involvement in Mali certainly cost a lot of money. For this reason, France really needs international support. Germany and the United States later expressed support for France, but Britain was present to assist the French mission in Mali. The presence of England is marked by its direct involvement in the field to resolve conflicts. Britain sent 300 military personnel to help France. Not only that, the UK also sent 2 C17 transport aircraft and surveillance sentinel aircraft for the aggressive French military operations in Mali. British Foreign Minister William Den Hag stated that his party was worried that the conflict in Mali would escalate and disrupt the stability of the region. For that reason, his party felt the need to go directly to help France to get rid of the militants who had controlled North Mali.

France's diplomatic efforts to convince the international community that its presence in Mali is to prevent the establishment of a terrorist hotbed state have been successful. Several countries then sent their assistance both in the form of logistical assistance and military troops to assist the French military. Assistance from other countries is very helpful for France in carrying out its mission in Mali. The large costs incurred by France in its involvement in Mali made it urgently urge international assistance from both countries and international organizations.

CONCLUSION

France's involvement in conflict resolution in Mali is supported by various French interests in Mali. France's economic interests in Mali are abundant uranium wealth, making this country a uranium-producing reserve country for France to support nuclear power plants in France. The political interest is to maintain influence in Mali. The entry of China's influence in African countries is a separate problem for France so that its involvement in every conflict in Africa, including Mali, is also the reason to maintain its influence. France is trying to carry out neocolonialism in the countries of its former colonies so that they remain satellites and can control these countries. The security threats that spread to neighboring Mali as a result of the Mali crisis have made France worried that the French-managed AREVA uranium mine on the border of Mali and Niger would become a security threat to France. Apart from that, the Mali conflict which gave birth to a global threat against terrorism is also one of the reasons to immediately create security in Mali. The close geographical conditions between Africa and Europe make France worried that it will become a target for acts of terrorism.

The strategy carried out by France as a country that once colonized Mali was to get involved in conflict resolution at the request of Mali's president Diocounda Traore. France carried out the first two strategies through hard power by carrying out military intervention. Various attacks both from land and air have been carried out by France to take back the cities in Northern Mali which were once controlled by Islamic militant groups. France's second strategy is through soft power through diplomacy to convince and garner assistance from the international community in helping resolve the Mali conflict. The ongoing presidential election in Mali is a measure of France's success in creating security in Mali.

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