

Russian Involvement in the resolution of syrian conflict

by Dr Anton Minardi Ma

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RUSSIAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE RESOLUTION OF SYRIAN CONFLICT

Anton Minardi*

Chintya Pertiwi**

Department of International Relations Pasundan University

Email: abdurrahmananton1975@yahoo.com

* Senior Lecturer

** Research Assistant

ABSTRACT

30 Syria is one of the countries in the Middle East who suffered political turmoil caused by the impact of the Arab Spring phenomenon, the people demanded that President Bashar al-Assad to retreat from the power because he is being dictatorial dan authoritarian. Because the longer the demonstration then evolved into a national conflict between the government and the opotion group which used violence, this conflict became the international concern of one of which is Russia who intervened in this conflict because of the national interest of Russia must be fulfilled. This research describes the reasons why Russia supports Bashar al-Assad in the conflict in Syria, by using descriptive research method and using intervention theory and national interest theory. To achieve the interests Russia pursued all the ways both in the economic, political and military so that President Bashar al-Assad not to retreat from his power.

Keywords: Bashar al-Assad, Conflict in Syria, Intervention, National Interest, Russia.

A. INTRODUCTION

Conflict in the Middle East is the most prevalent conflict in recent decades, one of which is the Arab Spring phenomenon. Judging from the form of the conflict it can be concluded that Arab Spring is a process of overthrowing a country's leader from his dictatorial, authoritarian, corrupt position by demonstrating demands for a new leader change. There is no doubt that the conflict in the Middle East involves a lot of violence and highlights the attention of the International who wants to help resolve the conflict in the Middle East.

Arab Spring or in other terms the Melati Revolution is a series of protests that started from the events in Tunisia on December 17, 2010, namely the incidents of self-immolation committed by Mohammed Bouazizi in protest of corruption and arbitrariness attitude of the Government of Tunisia.¹ The protests in Tunisia then inspired a wave of resurgence that spread to Algeria, Jordan, Egypt, Yemen, and then to other countries in the Middle East. One of them Arab Spring also hit Syria, a relatively more stable country compared to other Middle East countries, this has happened since January 26, 2011 wave of pro-democracy demonstrations spread throughout Syria especially in the city of Deraa, Syria.²

The protests demanded the dismissal of the Bashar Al-Assad regime and the Syrian people also called on the Bashar al-Assad government to stop its support of Iran and Lebanon in internal conflict. Syrians do not want the government to provide any kind of support to the two countries because the support provided does not have a positive impact on Syria in international politics. Now the Syrian people only want the overthrow of the Bashar Al-Assad regime and the appointment of a new government based on democratic elections.

Since January 2011 the Bashar Al-Assad regime has launched a savage operation and devastating attack on the Syrian people. The public was battered with tanks, bombs, mortars and shots from aircraft. This Syrian conflict has resulted in much destruction in the country, both in the form of physical destruction of the state, such as the destruction of buildings in various places, until the wounded of the victims to death. Thousands of innocent, unarmed, homeless in their homes. The Syrian Center for Policy Research (SCPR) report reported the death toll in the Syrian Conflict of 470,000, 400,000 of whom were killed in battle, while the remaining 70,000 died from lack of medical means, drugs, severe illnesses, hunger, thirst, illness due to poor

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¹ Agastya ABM, (2013), *Arab Spring: Badai Revolusi Timur Tengah*, Jogjakarta: IRCiSoD, p. 33.

² Trias Kuncahyono, (2012), *Musim Semi di Suriah: Anak-anak Penyulut Revolusi*, Jakarta: Kompas, p. 114.

sanitation and residence.³ This number is allegedly increasing, given the current attacks on Syria increasingly widespread launched. Not to mention the use of chemical weapons that ultimately kill the people of Syria itself. To date, there have been reported 161 chemical attacks in Syria. All of these attacks resulted in 14,581 people becoming casualties.⁴

With the passage of time, demonstrations carried out by the Syrian people eventually evolved into a national uprising. The national uprising ultimately led to an internal armed conflict in Syria.

With the continuous clash between the demonstrators and the Syrian government makes the Syrian people increasingly rebellious and against the Syrian government. This led to the Syrian people starting to take up arms and fight against the Syrian government. The resistance action of the Syrian people is also very diverse, ranging from individual or group. But often the battle is won by the Syrian government forces. This is because the resistance of the people of Syria tends to still be individual and not well organized in strategy and military operations. Based on this it makes the Syrian people finally feel the need to form an oppositional force that is able to match the forces of the Syrian army. Therefore on July 29, 2011 in a video released on the internet by a group of uniformed deserter of the defeated Syrian army and small rebel groups and armed civilians joined in an organization co-founded by them under the name of the Army Syrian Liberation or Free Syrian Army (FSA).⁵ The FSA is the main armed opposition structure operating in Syria that has been active during the civil war in Syria consisting of Syrian armed forces personnel defected and volunteered. The Syrian Liberation Army has no political purpose except to depose Bashar Al-Assad as President of Syria.

The conflict in Syria is one of the phenomena of the Arab Spring which has gained a lot of support from various parties, not only involving the government and people of Syria, this conflict also highlights international attention, such as the United States, Britain, France, Iran, Russia, China, Turkey, The Arab League and the UN Security Council, where the countries are supporting both sides of the Syrian government and the opposition. Not all countries participating in the intervention in the Syrian conflict have defended opposition parties aimed at

³ Denny Andhanu, (2016), "Korban Tewas di Suriah Diprediksi Hingga 470 Ribu Orang", <http://cnnindonesia.com/internasional/201601142104-120-110355/korban-tewas-di-suriah-diprediksi-hingga-470-ribu-orang/>. Accessed on 22 Agustus 2017.

⁴ Kumparan, (2017), "Statistik Korban Tewas Suriah: 24 Ribu Anak-Anak", <http://kumparan.com/maria-duhita/puluhan-ribu-nyawa-anak-suriah-melayang-akibat-perang>. Accessed on 21 Agustus 2017.

⁵ Joshua Landis, (2011), "Free Syrian Army Founded by Seven Officers to Fight the Syrian Army", <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/konflikuriah>. Accessed on 22 Agustus 2017.

a coup d'etat of Bashar al-Assad, but on the other hand, Russia, China and Iran support the government of Bashar Al-Assad.

As the conflict in Syria widened the UN Security Council on 21 April 2012 under UN Security Council resolution no.2043 intervened by sending a number of peacekeepers mostly stationed in the Golan Heights. The peacekeepers are incorporated in the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). The UN peacekeepers are helping opposition and rebel parties who have made alliances and gained international recognition to counter the government of President Bashar Al-Assad who refused to resign from the seat of the Syrian government. While the Russian government is also involved in the conflict. Russia and China grant their veto rights in UN Security Council resolutions reinforced by Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, the UN Security Council will impose sanctions ranging from economic sanctions, diplomatic to military intervention, this is the third time Russia and China have dropped vetoes for Syria. The existence of a veto by Russia led to a peace agreement in Syria to fail and make the conflict in Syria into an increasingly protracted conflict and claimed many victims.

The resolution issued by the UN Security Council also made it easy for Russia to engage in addition to a direct request made by Syrian government representatives who have had bilateral relations since Soviet times and strengthened since Syria's president Hafez Al-Assad was replaced by his son Bashar Al- Assad. Since the Soviet Union collapsed the most heavily inherited State of the glory of Russia is Russia. The relationship between Russia and Syria has been established since this long-standing relationship that made Russia strongly support the government of Bashar Al-Assad in the case of peace in Syria. The Soviet Union was the first State to recognize the independence of Syria and Syria as well as the State which strengthened the influence of the Soviet Union in the Middle East.

Russia seeks to become a superpower since the collapse of the Soviet Union even though it has not been fully realized. To realize the superpower one of the ways in which Russia does is to become a "World Police" to expand its political influence to other countries, so that the balance of power (Balance of Power) at the international level can be achieved. Through the Syrian conflict, Russia expanded its influence into the international world. Russia worked very hard with its allies to avoid Syria from military invasions, because Russia strongly believes that the conflict in Syria can be resolved through the path of peace not by way of military invasion.

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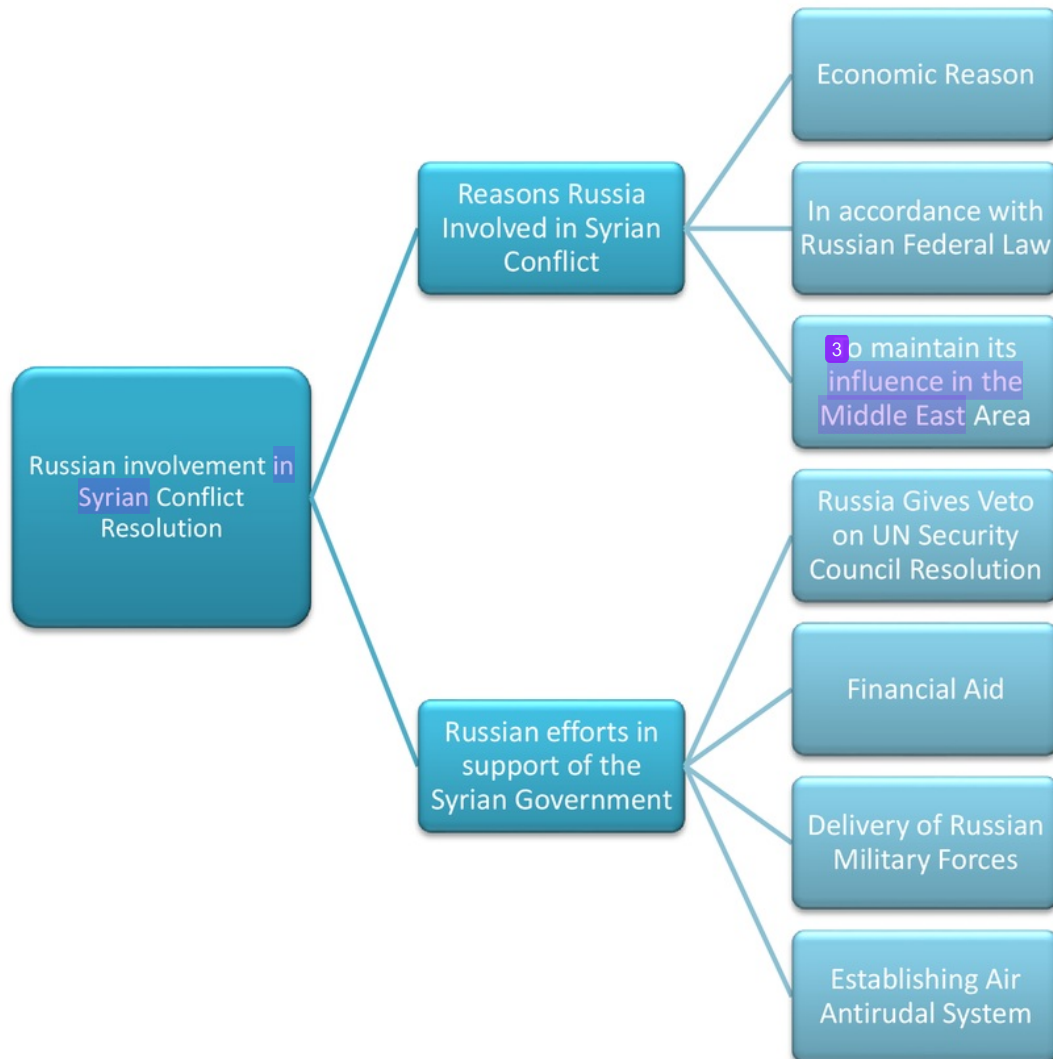
B. RESEARCH METHOD

Practical research method used in this research is descriptive, where the author tries to describe an event by explaining the basis or foundation as a tool to conduct research. The type of data used in this study is secondary data. In this study the data is classified as qualitative data so that the ⁷³ authors use qualitative research methods.

Data collection techniques used in this practical research is a content analysis technique obtained from Reference Search (Secondary Data). Secondary data is data obtained directly from the study of literature review and the data used in this study also is the set of data obtained from browsing on the internet.

C. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The discovery of Russian roles in conflict resolution in Syria from the beginning of the conflict from 2011 to 2017 can be seen in the following chart:



From the research findings described above it can be seen that the efforts undertaken by Russia are nothing else because of Russia's national interest in Syria.

To find out the source of the Syrian conflict, we need to know the chronology of the conflict, because in the conflict it is true that the knowledge stored is what caused the birth of the conflict in Syria.

C. 1. The Beginning of the Conflict in Syria.

If viewed from the external factors of demonstration waves carried out on a large scale in Syria is the effect of Arab Spring which is engulfing the Middle East region, Arab Spring is a process of overthrowing a country's leader from his position because it no longer obtains sovereignty from its people and because of the people's discontent on the performance of dictatorial, authoritarian, corrupt governments, enforcement and high social inequality that prompted people to demonstrate demands for new leaders, this action began on December 17, 2010. This protest uses civilian insurgency techniques in campaigns involving attacks, demonstrations, parades, and the use of social media, such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Skype, to organize, communicate and raise awareness of government's internet suppression and censorship efforts. Starting from the event of the overthrow of president Zine Abidin Bin Ali who is the Tunisian president who took place on January 14, 2011 which then spread to Egypt with the overthrow of President Hosni Mobarok who ruled Egypt for 30 Years.⁶ Also struck to Libya with the overthrow of president Mohammad Gaddafi who has ruled for 40 years. The overthrow of the leaders of this State because it is considered to impede the freedom of the people and its authoritarian style of leadership, making the welfare of the State difficult to achieve and also because the government has been in power for so long that reasonable political saturation.

Internal factors driving massive demonstrations in Syria are due to unstable economic conditions, unemployment and poverty that the government does not address. So the Syrian people assume that there is an interrelation between economy and revolution.⁷ In the democratic action that took place in Syria, Syrians demanded freedom, prosperity, respectable human rights, and the renewal of the political economy system.

C. 2. Bashar al-Assad's Regime

After the death of president Hafez al-Assad who has been Syria's president since 1971, the third son of Hafez al-Assad Bashar al-Assad soon replaced his father's role as

⁶ M. Agastya ABM, *Op.cit.*, hal. 154.

⁷ Trias Kuncahyono, *Op.cit.*, hal. 28.

President of Syria at the age of 34 years. Bashar al-Assad graduated as a doctor from the University in Damascus, after graduating from medical school he became a doctor in the Syrian army military in 1988. Bashar al-Assad moved to London in 1992 to take a specialist in eye health, but in 1994 Bashar al-Assad was summoned back to Syria by his father for the death of his brother Bassil al-Assad in a car accident, previously prepared to replace later president and then Bashar al-Assad prepared by his father to inherit his throne as the highest leader in Syria.

On June 18, 2000⁷¹ Bashar al-Assad began to lead the Ba'ath party of his father's relic,³ and on 10 July 2000 Bashar al-Assad was approved as president and inaugurated on July 17, 2000. Bashar al-Assad was the youngest State leader in the State -An Arab state at the time, seeing a very learned background, since Bashar al-Assad was a doctor who graduated from a prominent university in Syria and Britain, the Syrian people had high confidence after his election as President and the people of Syria had the conviction that leadership Bashar al-Assad was able to replace his father's dictatorial government system to become more modern and make Syria more advanced, giving changes to improvements in the economic, political and bureaucratic sectors.

While carrying out his duties as leader of the State, initially Bashar al-Assad had a different attitude with his late father. There are several policies that are followed by him, but there are also changes in the state sector to prove that the attitude taken is more effective and efficient. Bashar al-Assad makes a political, cultural agenda of democratic and liberal change, ambitious to campaign on anti-corruption, the people who work in his government will not be tolerated if the case of corruption, the modernization of the state apparatus, the use of modern technology in its management as well as reforming, launching democratization and abolishing compulsory military laws for students.

The reinstatement of the privileges of the Syrian community in the freedom to expel its aspirations once abolished in 1958 by president Hafez al-Assad. This privilege is offset by the freedom to criticize the performance of the government, it is intended that the Syrian community has a building nature. Not stopping here President Bashar al-Assad also allows mass media that were not allowed to be published and allowed to be published. Bashar al-Assad aims to encourage intellectuals to discuss democracy and respond openly.

But as time went by Bashar al-Assad began to change his mind over all the changes he had made, the leadership³ of Bashar al-Assad changed from the image of the bearer of change to be the same as his father's³ dictatorial and authoritarian Hafez al-Assad.

In the field of political economy, there is a privilege in layers of the social strata of Syria ie anyone who works as a state apparatus can not be touched by law, so they can enrich themselves. The economic improvements that Bashar al-Assad expressed at the beginning of his coronation as president, remain in effect. However, his hard work in improving the domestic economy is only felt by those who are close, have relationships, as well as family ties with the regime. His determination to eradicate corruption came only to the early speeches of government. The economy is transformed into an economy controlled and controlled by people who have links with the regime in power. In 2008 and 2010 Syria's economy worsened this in the cause of the population explosion caused by government policies prohibiting family planning programs during the presidency of Hafez al-Assad. Population growth is not comparable with the increasing availability of jobs and natural resources. The drastic decline of the economy in Syria is marked by declining Lira currency rates, rising prices of imported goods, stunted trade activity, declining numbers of foreign investment and tourism losses. Due to dissatisfaction with the ruling regime and the worsening economic conditions, there was an attitude of popular discontent towards Bashar al-Assad's leadership from marginalized groups of society living in rural areas such as Deraa and Dayr al-Zawr.⁸

Arab Spring greatly influences the ethnic group culture in Syria. Syria is divided into three major ethnic groups, such as the majority of Sunni Muslims, Kurdistan and Alawi minority groups. Each of these groups also has the support of several surrounding countries, such as the Sunni group backed by Saudi Arabia, the Kurdistan group backed by Iraq and the minority Shiite Muslim group having support from Iran and the Hizbullah movement. As a result, the opposition of both Sunni and Shi'ite minority groups tends to enlarge, as each of these groups has both internal and external support. Bashar al-Assad is part of a Shi'a minority thought to be defending his powers until 'hereditary', even

⁸ VOA Indonesia. (2012). "Ekonomi Pedesaan Suriah Beradaptasi dengan Konflik", <http://www.voaindonesia.com/amp/1500493.html>., Accessed on 10 Desember 2017.

extending his powers through his more Shi'ite family. This lame tendency between the over-ruling minority groups governs the majority, as one of the triggers of the larger wave of demonstrations.

Bashar al-Assad began to support the activities of intellectual groups, each discussion forum was limited and had to include security officers, anyone who wanted to hold meetings should take care of the permission in advance by including information on the topic of conversation, speaker, invited guests, and speaker material . With the excuse to silence the intellectuals so that their desire for political change and regime reform stalled and the regime officials felt that such sharp and loud criticism of the government if not suppressed could increase and could threaten the stability of the State. Bashar al-Assad suspects these intellectuals as western reformist agents that disrupt Syria's internal stability.

The regime of Bashar al-Assad built the government by placing the army both as a symbol of power and as a tool to control the State.⁹ On several occasions, the army is used to suppress or confront the people with violence in order to maintain political stability, violent means and brutality used by shooting, killing, capturing and torturing to spread fear among the people.

C. 3. Syrian Conflict

The beginning of the Syrian conflict can be seen in the demands of the conflict that occurred because people are not satisfied with the leadership of Bashar al-Assad held a variety of protests, which started from the protests on March 6, 2011 conducted by a group of 15 students who are located in the small town of Deraa in southern Syria, they scribbled on the side of a school wall calling for anti-government, the scribble reads **As Shaab Yoreed Eskaat el Nizam** which means "People Want to Overthrow the Government."¹⁰ Students make the strokes because they are influenced by television news and talked about a lot people around him about the problems that occurred in Egypt. The student's actions left President Bashar al-Assad unhappy and then Bashar al-Assad

⁹ *Op.cit.*, Trias Kunchayono, p. 44.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 97.

ordered the security forces to arrest the 15 children.¹¹ During the period of detention, the students were subjected to torture.

Knowing the torture committed by the police, on March 11, 2011 the families of the captured children, religious leaders and the community then held a demonstration held in the Southwest Deraa City precisely in front of the Deraa Governor Building protesting the torture committed by the authorities police. Security forces attempted to break up the demonstrations, but the demonstrators did not budge until security forces opened fire on the demonstrators.¹² Bashar al-Assad tried to soften the anger of the inhabitants of Deraa city by sending delegates who were ordered to meet the families of the victims' children. Bashar al-Assad also promised to prosecute security forces who have acted brutally.¹³ Bashar al-Assad tried to calm the angry people not to get carried away by the issues around them that would make Syria split by irresponsible parties.

On March 23, 2011, demonstrations again struck Deraa city, security forces again opened fire to disperse the protesters, in this case 20 demonstrators reportedly killed. Following the incident, President Bashar al-Assad announced that the government is considering implementing political reforms, including removing political party restrictions and abolishing the Syrian Emergency Law that has been imposed for 48 years at the request of the demonstrators, the emergency law is considered a violation of human rights because giving the Government the flexibility to ban political meetings and arrest persons suspected of endangering the stability of the State. But the announcement was ignored by the demonstrators.

On March 25, 2011, after Friday prayers, the protests again surfaced in cities all over the country. Security forces again attempted to disperse the rallies, but the protests continued to run even intensively. On 19 April 2011 the cabinet revoked the Emergency Law and dissolved the Syrian State Security Supreme Court. Special courts are used to prosecute anti-government parties. Immediately after the Emergency Law, the Syrian government increased the use of violence against demonstrators. On April 22, 2011,

¹¹ Aprilian Cena, (2015), "Awal Mula Peristiwa Arab Spring di Suriah", <http://jakartagreater.com/awal-mula-peristiwa-arab-spring-di-suriah>. Accessed on 10 December 2017.

¹² The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Syrian Civil War: Syrian History", <http://www.britannica.com/event/Syria-Civil-War>. Accessed on 10 December 2017.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ security forces opened fire on demonstrators who gathered after Friday prayers, killing about 75 people.

The protests, which were originally just public demonstrations, are now evolving into violent national uprisings between anti-government opposition groups and pro-government groups. The protests continued, and spread to other cities, resulting in increased use of force by Syrian security forces or commonly called Syrian Arab Army (SAA), SAA is a combination of Syria's national defense forces with the support of pro-government armed militias.¹⁴ Arrest, torture, and murder were applied to anyone who showed signs of criticizing the regime of Bashar al-Assad. The tanks were patrolling the city as if it were a war. Officials surrounded the mosques ahead of Friday prayer times, checking everyone's ID cards. The address is not from near the mosque will be expelled, ordered to pray Friday at the mosque near his home. The same approach is carried out in all the cities that follow Deraa's footsteps demonstrating demands for change, such as the city of Hammah, Homs, Dayr al-Zawr, Aleppo, Idlib, and others.¹⁵ In some areas of Syria, the government imposed a blackout of access to communications, ⁴ shutting down telephone and internet services. In Deraa, security forces cut off supplies of water and electricity.

Gradually the unrest that took place in Syria began to spread to various major cities in Syria, demonstrations have ⁴ occurred sporadically across the country, the Syrian government continues to connect ⁴ unrest to foreign conspiracies and sectarian tensions. Bashar al-Assad's regime continued to use violence against protesters in July and August, as well as launching military strikes against a number of cities including Hammah and Latakia. But the regime of Bashar al-Assad itself has no strong legitimacy like the previous president, as many protest and the number of state officials who defect and take sides with opposition groups and extremist groups who want the end of ⁷⁰ Bashar al-Assad's government regime in Syria. The continuous bloodshed has drawn international condemnation calling on ⁶⁹ Bashar al-Assad to resign from his post as President.

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¹⁴ Glori K. Wadrianto, (2017), "Inilah Pihak-pihak yang Terlibat Konflik Rumit di Suriah", <http://amp.kompas.com/internasional/read/2017/04/20/16434141/inilah.pihak-pihak.yang.terlibat.ke24.ik.rumit.di.suriah>. Accessed on 11 December 2017.

¹⁵ Cholis Akbar, (2016), "Yang Perlu Diketahui: Apa Perang Suriah ³³ zim Bashar dan Keterlibatan Syiah", <http://hidayatullah.com/special/ragam/read/2016/12/20/108058/yang-perlu-diketahui-apa-perang-suriah-rezim-bashar-dan-keterlibatan.html>. Accessed on 10 December 2017.

Along with the continuing demonstrations in Syria, the government stepped up resistance against the protesters with military force. In early May 2011, anti-government protests have reached Damakus. The protests that took place in the center of Damascus were dealt with by the violence of Syrian government forces also setting up security barricades in some suburbs of Damascus in an attempt to limit the movement of protesters.

With the continuous clash between the demonstrators and the Syrian government makes the Syrian people increasingly rebellious and against the Syrian government. This led to the Syrian people starting to take up arms and fight against the Syrian government. The resistance action of the Syrian people is also very diverse, ranging from individual or group. However, fighting is often won by Syrian government forces, this is because the resistance of the Syrian people tends to still be individualized and not well organized in terms of strategy and military operations. Based on this it makes the Syrian people finally feel the need to form an oppositional force that is able to match the forces of the Syrian army.

Therefore on July 29, 2011 in a video released on the internet by a group of uniformed deserter of the Syrian military who defected and the small rebel groups and civilians who took part took up the arms of joining an organization formed jointly by them by name Syrian Liberation Army or Free Syrian Army (FSA).¹⁶ Free Syrian Army is the main armed opposition structure operating in Syria that has been active during the conflict in Syria. Free Syrian Army has no political purpose except to depose Bashar al-Assad as President of Syria, and claims that the Syrian conflict is not a sectarian conflict.¹⁰ Free Syrian Army operates throughout Syria, both in urban and rural areas. Active forces in the northwest (Idlib and Aleppo), central regions (Homs, Hammah and Rastan), coast around Latakia, south (Deraa and Houran), east (Dayr al-Zawr and Abu Kamal) and Damascus area. The greatest concentration of this power seems to be in the middle regions of Homs, Hammah and Rastan with Nine or more active battalions there.¹⁷

In early 2012, international observers and members of the opposition assume that the Syrian National Council or Istanbul-based Syrian National Council (SNC) is still too

¹⁶ *Loc. Cit.*, Joshua Landis.

¹⁷ Wikipedia, (2017), "Tentara Pembebasan Suriah", http://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tentara_Pembebasan_Suriah. Accessed on 10 December 2017.

weak to be able to represent the Syrian opposition group. Later, the Syrian opposition leader announced the formation of a new coalition called the National Coalition for the Syrian Revolution and the Military Power of the Syrian National Coalition Opposition. Within a month the coalition received recognition from various countries as the legitimate representative of the people of Syria. In the next month, some States recognize the Syrian National Coalition as a party that can effectively represent opposition groups.

Then came a group and an opposition party. This opposition group is a group of anti-violence, anti-sectarianism and anti-foreign intervention. This group strictly prohibits the use of weapons and chooses a democratic path against the government, the opposition group is the National Coordination Body for Democratic Change. It includes a committee for defense and democracy, the Syrian National Council or Syrian National Council (SNC) and the Syrian Revolution General Commission as well as the national initiative for change or the Syrian National Council for Opposition and Revolutionary Forces (SNCORF). They demanded the following:¹⁸

- a. Immediately ending torture, violence and extrajudicial killings.
- b. Free and independent media formation.
- c. The release of detained political prisoners and detainees.
- d. The constitutional amendment allows for a democratic transition, thus Syria will be a "multi-national, multi-ethnic society, created inter-religious tolerance".
- e. Free and fair elections for national parliament and city council.
- f. Compensation for politicians in exile and political prisoners is eliminated.
- g. Separation of power between and between legislative, executive and judiciary.
- h. Commit to not meddling in Lebanese affairs.
- i. Repositioning the Golan Heights occupied by Israel as the frontline of Syrian foreign policy objectives.
- j. Economic development and more investment in infrastructure.
- k. Establishment of truth and reconciliation committees to investigate the crimes of the regime.
- l. Giving political rights to the Kurdish minority of Syria.
- m. The establishment of a transitional government under military control.

¹⁸ *Op. Cit.*, Trias Kuncahyono, p. 127-128.

In an effort to resolve the conflict in Syria the Arab League gave the initiative and later Syrian officials approved the initiative calling on the Syrian government to stop the violence against demonstrators by withdrawing tanks and armored vehicles from the cities, and releasing political prisoners. Some see the approval of the Syrian government as a tactic to gain time. One day later violence resumed in the city of Homs. Under international pressure, the Syrian government in December allowed the visit of the Arab League delegation to monitor the implementation process of the strategy. Despite the ongoing violence, the assessment provided by the monitoring team tended to be positive, drawing criticism from human rights groups and the Syrian opposition. In mid-January 2012, the credibility of delegates who have resigned claimed that Syrian government forces had provided false reports of video footage being engineered. After some Arab countries withdraw their team members from positions as Arab League observers officially suspend the sustainability of the monitoring mission on 28 January 2012 for violent reasons.

Then respond to this UN does not remain silent, where the UN Has a duty as a world polis that requires the UN Security Council should be ready to take and decide the policy in resolving conflicts or anything that can threaten world security. They responded to the internal conflicts that occurred in Syria with efforts to resolve the armed conflict in Syria, on 21 April 2012 under UN Security Council resolution no. 2043 on the establishment of the United Nations Supervision Mission for Syria (UNSMIS),¹⁹ to monitor the cessation of armed violence by intervening by sending a number of peacekeepers mostly stationed in the Golan Heights. The peacekeepers are incorporated in the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). The UN peacekeepers are helping opposition and rebel parties who have made alliances and gained international recognition to counter the government of President Bashar al-Assad who refused to resign from the seat of the Syrian government.

This Syrian conflict has resulted in much destruction in the country, both in the form of physical destruction of the state, such as the destruction of buildings in various places, until the wounded of the victims to death. From time to time the conflict became

¹⁹ Ivan Aditya, (2016), "PBB dan Krisis Suriah", http://krjogja.com/web/news/read/13831/PBB_dan_Krisis_Suriah. Accessed on 11 December 2017.

more widespread and worse until it became a civil war in Syria. Experts assigned by the UN Human Rights Committee have conducted related assessments within the period between March 15, 2011 and November 30, 2012, and are based on seven different sources. According to the report, 59,648 people were killed by the Syrian conflict.²⁰

As the conflict in Syria widened, the Arab League as well as the United Nations tried to mediate both sides but did not get results or failed because Bashar al-Assad did not think to give in and still wanted to win the war by all means. Also the intervention of the various countries involved are Russia, Iran, China, the United States, Britain, France, Turkey, Hezbollah militia and other Arab countries.²¹ These countries support both sides of the Syrian government and the opposition, which makes the process of conflict resolution between the government and the opposition finding no common ground and aggravating the situation in Syria.

The United States is a country that supports the revolt movement in Syria, they send a lot of weapons for rebels who want to overthrow the regime of Bashar al-Assad. In addition the United States also sent its military troops to fight Syrian Arab Army's official army troops, and is known to train new potential attackers from rebel opposition groups. It is undeniable that Britain and France are involved in supporting the opposition because they are close allies of the United States, they are also assisting the arms and technically so that the opposition can have strong powers. Turkey is also a country that supports the uprising of the opposition in Syria, because from the beginning Turkey disliked the regime of Bashar al-Assad's regime, besides Turkey is also a member of NATO who is very loyal to the mission of its biggest members, the United States. Turkey provides a great deal of weaponry and combat equipment to the opposition. Other Arab countries that assist the opposition also like Saudi Arabia who provide technical assistance and military weapons, Jordan who gave weapons and troops to fight the government, and Qatar, which helps the financial aid is very abundant for the advancement of the opposition.

²⁰ CSF/CP., (2017), "Sekitar 60.000 Korban Tewas dalam Perang Suriah", <http://www.dw.com/id/sekitar-60000-korban-tewas-dalam-17-tang-suriah/a-16494039>. Accessed on 11 December 2017.

²¹ Adi Nugroho, (2015), "7 Negara Asing ini Terlibat Perang Mematikan di Suriah Hingga Jutaan Orang Harus Mengungsi", <http://www.boombastis.com/perang-suriah/52272>. Accessed on 11 December 2017.

Russia has been a Syrian ally since 1956. As Syria begins to conflict until it heats up, Russia sends a great deal of armaments brought in directly from Moscow to deal with the opposition, Russia wants the regime of Bashar al-Assad to proceed and to be recognized as sovereign. For about 3 years only send weapons, finally in 2015 Russia actually officially entered Syria by sending its military forces. Iran is an enormous State assisting the Bashar al-Assad government in this internal conflict by providing fantastic technical, arms and money assistance to support all people on the government's side in opposition to the opposition. Iran and Russia have held meetings in November 2015 and made an agreement to work together to help Syria, with shoulders to replace the regime of Bashar al-Assad. Hizbullah has long been an ally of the regime of Bashar al-Assad as Syria began to experience conflict, Hizbullah helped by sending troops, weapons and other technical assistance to the opposition and the United States and its allies. China and Russia have vetoed four UN Security Council resolutions, especially with regard to Syria's sovereignty intervention efforts, China has used nearly half (four out of ten) of its entire veto rights only for the Syrian conflict. China's position in the Syrian conflict itself was further underscored by president Xi Jinping in September 2013, he argues that political solutions are the only way to deal with the Syrian crisis and military attacks will not solve the problem from its roots.

Here I focus more on Russian involvement in the conflict in Syria that supports the government of Bashar al-Assad.

C. 4. Russian Reasons Involved in Syrian Conflict.

The conflicts in Syria have highlighted international attention and have been very well utilized by interested parties, one of whom is Russia. Russia is the largest country in the world located east of Europe and north Asia. By the time the Soviet Union collapsed, Russia was its largest state and as the main heir to the remnants of the Soviet Union, Russia inherited most of the population, economy and weaponry of the Soviet Union.

Relations between Russia and Syria have been established since Soviet times and strengthened since the Syrian president Hafez al-Assad was replaced by his son, Bashar al-Assad. This long-standing relationship that made Russia strongly supports the government of Bashar al-Assad in the conflict in Syria. The Soviet Union was the first country to recognize Syria's independence and Syria was also a State that reinforced the influence of the Soviet

Union in the Middle East. The proximity is exploited by the Soviet Union to make Syria a counter-destructive country of influence of the United States through its allies, especially Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Egypt and Israel in the Middle East region. Syria is famous for its military strength in the region, and is identical to the nickname of Middle Eastern Russia. It is thanks to the close relationship Syria with Russia, so often get the supply of modern weapons from digdaya country. The Ba'ath regime is also more identifiable with the Eastern bloc than with the non-aligned movement, the ideological similarity makes Syria an important partner for Russia. Russia also wants to defend its alliance with the Syrian government, this is considered important because given Syria has a very strategic territory militarily, politically and economically in the Middle East region.

In the UN Security Council, Russia has sought to convey its message in honor of the sovereignty of every State in the world. Thus, what is fought by Russia becomes an in-depth analysis because every foreign policy undertaken by a State must be based on the national interest to be achieved. So far, Russia has taken political and security measures to deal with Western-inflicted wars in Syria. Russia works very hard with its allies to avoid Syria from military invasion, as they fear the growing influence of the West in the Middle East.²² Russian President Vladimir Putin in a statement said that all efforts should be mobilized so that the conflicting parties in Syria are willing to accept dialogue. Putin also stressed the need to take possible steps to find a peaceful political solution.²³ Since the first outbreak of civil conflict in Syria, Russia demanded a diplomatic solution through negotiations between various groups in Syria.

C. 5. Economic Reason

The intervention by Russia is based not only on UN Security Council resolutions and the direct request of the Bashar al-Assad government to assist the conflict in Syria but because it has an interest in the economy because of the arms trade deal made by both sides, Syria is the largest Russian arms market in the Middle East. Most of Syria's military arms are imported from Russia.²⁴ If foreign intervention other than Russia can control Syria it can threaten the existence of Russia in the country, and it will result in

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²² Ima Y. Sulaeman, (2013), *Prahara Suriah*, Depok: Pustaka IIman. p. 110.

²³ United Nation, (2012), "Syria: Ban voice deep regret after Security Council fails to agree on resolution", <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=41144>. Accessed on 12 Desember 2017.

²⁴ Nation Master, (2017), "Syria Military Stats", <http://www.nationmaster.com/country-info/profiles/Syria/military>. Accessed on 13 December 2017.

economic losses to Russia. Because the arms trade deal can be unilaterally canceled out by the new Syrian government if Bashar al-Assad's leadership can be overthrown.

Syria is Russia's trade partner, Russia is now a country with a high business orientation and the Russian government wants to protect its existing investments in Syria.

C. 6. In accordance with Russian Federal Law

In 1998, Russia adopted the Federal Law on Combating Terrorism. Under the law, terrorism is defined as a criminal activity based on political objectives. Due to this political motivation, Russia assumes that all activities of rejection and opposition to a legitimate regime are an act of terrorism, for example, what happened to the conflict in Syria. The implication is that Russia must take action through military efforts to cope with it. This measure is judged appropriate by Russia because according to Russian terrorism is a threat and attack directed against non-individual countries. This is because the stability of the State will be disrupted from the threat of terrorism. The threat of terrorism could have an impact on disruptions to the security and interests of the State.²⁵

Russia's role in its involvement in the conflicts that occurred in Syria is inseparable from the threat of non-governmental groups such as opposition groups, ISIS, and Jabhat Al Nusra. This form of Russian support for regime groups rejected by the United States and its allies is a commitment to the Russian Federal Law governing terrorism above. Russia places the State as the ultimate sovereignty. By helping to save the country's stabilization so that Syria can rise again, Syria will be able to rely on itself to counter terrorism in its territory. The terrorist group in Syria is assumed to be a group fighting a legitimate government whereby in that case the State as the supreme sovereign may be acting aggressively against forms of threat to the administration of official government.

C. 7. Maintaining its influence in the Middle East Area

Another reason is the importance for Russia to retain its influence and the desire to return to play as the Great Power State, a sovereign State with the ability to exert its

²⁵ Mariya Omelicheva, (2013), *Foreign Politics in Comparative Perspective*, Los Angeles: CQ Press. p. 91-95.

influence on a global scale.²⁶ The United States, assumed Russia as a State of Great Power State involved in the Syrian conflict also became a separate record for Russia. The United States currently wants a transition process from President Bashar al-Assad to a transitional government that has been drafted on the grounds of the fulfillment of the democratic process. If Russia succeeds in defending President Bashar al-Assad then it will refer to conditions under which Russia can offset the influence of the United States in the Middle East.

Russia began its military intervention in 2015, as if to show the US military that Russia still has influence in the Middle East and Russian military equipment can not be underestimated. Military intervention by Russia tends to direct its alignment with the regime of Bashar al-Assad. Russian military involvement is assumed as a response to the United States which since 2014 has engaged itself militarily in the conflict in Syria. Syria is a Russian Strategic Partner. The conflict in Syria seems to be an arena for measuring the toughness of the quality and quantity of military power between Russia and the United States.

Maintaining influence is paramount in Russia's foreign policy component. United States as a country that became the benchmark of Russian foreign policy became a challenge for Russia in their involvement in the conflict of Syria.

To formulate foreign policy, Russia is concerned about the geographical position and the possibility of expansion of the United States and NATO which is considered a threat that is capable of changing the world order. Syria has a strategic geographic position for Russia. Its location in the Middle East and its political proximity to Russia are considered capable of stemming the United States power that is assumed to be a threat. And the arrival of the United States in Syria is something that Russia is definitely not expected because it can shift Russia's proximity to Syria.

C. 8. The Russian Efforts in Engaging in Syria's Conflict.

If Syria falls, then Russia almost has no influence in the Middle East after failing in parts of Africa and Southeast Asia. Beginning in 2012, Russia took a strong stance in support

²⁶ Aisyah Jazuli Putri, (2014), "Kekuatan Nasional dalam Hubungan Internasional", aisyah-jazuli-putri-fisip14.web.unair.ac.id/artikel_detail-113063-SOH101(Pengantar(Hubungan(Internasional)-Kekuatan(Nasional)dalam(Hubungan(Internasional.html. Accessed on 12 December 2017.

of the Syrian government and opposed international action promoted by Western and Arab States to punish the Syrian government for its crackdown on the Syrian uprising. Russia does not want a democratic transition to bring down the regime of Bashar al-Assad. It is this that underlies Russia to take action that is considered as Dangerous Movement which ultimately criticized from the international world, especially by the United States and its allies because the actions undertaken by Russia is a violation of human rights where these actions take many innocent victims.

Here are the efforts made by Russia in its involvement in the Syrian Conflict:

1. Russia Gives Veto on UN Security Council Resolution

One of Russia's efforts to assist Syria in the face of outside intervention by granting veto to the resolution offered by the UN Security Council for the resolution of the Syrian crisis. The existence of a veto by Russia led to a peace agreement in Syria to fail and make the conflict in Syria into an increasingly protracted conflict and claimed many casualties, where the requirement of a resolution of the UN Security Council was to obtain an agreement of at least 9 non-permanent members and agreed by all permanent members (China, Britain, Russia, France and the United States).²⁷

On 4 October the UN Security Council held its first hearing on the Syrian civil conflict in New York, attended by 5 permanent members and 10 non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.²⁸ At the hearing, the UN Security Council discussed a draft resolution supporting military intervention against the Syrian government, since the Bashar al-Assad government was judged to have committed many violations of human rights by using its military power against civilians. The outcome of the UN Security Council hearing is Russia and China as permanent members refusing or vetoing the decision, as the effort of issuing such a resolution would open up opportunities for violations of Syrian sovereignty by foreign powers.

The draft resolution that did not meet the meeting point due to a veto from Russia and China initiated the Arab League to contribute to another draft resolution. The Arab League resolution contains a call for a Syrian political transition that must enter into a more democratic system. The Arab League also called on the Syrian government to stop

²⁷ Article 27 (3) UN Charter.

²⁸ United Nation News, (2011), "Russia and China veto rancangan Security Council resolution on Syria", <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/sc10403.doc.html>. Accessed on 12 December 2017.

violence against civilians and then the Arab League resolution was directly endorsed by the UN Security Council. The resolution reflects criticism of all forms of crime that the Bashar al-Assad regime has committed to its people, a criticism based on the fact that Syria is engaged in violence related to human rights and to civilians.²⁹ On the other hand, the UN Security Council criticism tapes highlight Syrian authorities to respect human rights and be subject to international law.

Following up on the proposed Arab League resolution on the Syrian conflict, on 4 February 2012 the UN Security Council held its second hearing to discuss a new resolution that may later be approved by Russia. The move is also a form of support from the conflict resolution endorsed by the Arab League on the merger of UN-Arab peacekeepers. The resolution that leads to this peace effort contains about the demands of the Syrian government to immediately dismiss the violence that has cost many lives every day due to the violence committed to Syrian civilians. But Russia again vetoed the draft resolution, according to Russia the new draft is not balanced because it involves many parties.³⁰ In addition, Russia considers that military intervention violates the UN charter which states that a country should not interfere with the internal problems of other countries. Russia also questioned why in the amendments to the UN Security Council's new resolution proposals from Russia were excluded. Russia prefers to hold meetings with Syria in Moscow on February 7, 2012 to discuss conflict resolution in a more diplomatic manner without involving foreigners.

2. Financial Aid

Due to international sanctions imposed resulting in a weakening Syrian economy, the sanctions are a blockade of humanitarian aid undertaken by the United Nations to impose tough sanctions on the government of Bashar al-Assad demanding that the Syrian president quit the seat of government. The Russian government provides financial assistance to Syria to help meet the logistical, food and medical needs of drugs and medical facilities needed by Syrians. Since the conflict with the opposition, most Syrian health facilities have been severely damaged, causing more lives to be saved.

²⁹ BBC News, (2012), "PBB-Suriah Tekan Kesepakatan Awal", http://www.bbc.co.uk/indonesia/dunia/2012/04/120419_syria_un.shtml. Accessed on 12 December 2017.

³⁰ UN, (2012), "Security Council Fails to Adopt Rancangan Resolution Condemning Syria's", <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/sc10536.doc.html>. Accessed on 12 December 2017.

The Russian government has provided \$ 500 million in financial aid, given to Syrian representatives who have met in Moscow on August 4, 2012.³¹ The Syrian government used the funds to buy medical supplies to meet medical needs during the conflict. Syria has purchased medical devices and medicines to the State which has been a long-time ally of Syria and is not linked to the countries that support opposition groups.

3. Delivery of Russian Military Forces

Russia began to engage militarily by deploying troops in Syria on September 30, 2015 and forming an army base in Southern Latakia, southwestern Syria. In its engagement, Russia is not affiliated with the anti-IS coalition formed by the United States. Russia prefers to affiliate with Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Lebanese Hezbollah groups.³² The intensity of Russia in providing support to the Bashar al-Assad government is increasingly shown by providing extra security in air control systems and other sophisticated military equipment in the Syrian region. The delivery of Russia's military forces in Syria has also been confirmed by President Vladimir Putin in the framework of Russia's fight against terrorism and the movement of extremist groups that are thought to lead to civil war in Syria.

Russian military bases have been built in the Port of Tartus since 1963 and the naval base has been in use Russia which formerly Soviet Union since cold war era based on the agreement in 1971 and used as a place of maintenance and suppliers of the Soviet fleet. Russia and Syria again talked about the possibility of Russia developing and expanding its naval base in Tartus. Thus, Russia can strengthen its naval presence in the Mediterranean sea region.³³

Various attempts by Russia to support the government of Bashar al-Assad, along with the increasing pressure of Western countries on Syria. The Russian government has deployed its warships to the Mediterranean Sea to stage military exercises and demonstrates strength. The naval base for Russia's Russian Black fleet is at Tartus Harbor. The deployment of two Russian warships to the Port of Tartus and the dispatch of six warships to the Mediterranean Sea can be interpreted as a symbolic Russian

³¹ Titis Jati Permata, (2012), "Suriah Minta Bantuan Finansial ke Rusia", <http://Surabaya.tribunnews.com/2012/08/05/suriah-minta-bantuan-finansial-ke-rusia>. Accessed on 14 December 2017.

³² M. Kaim & O. Tamminga, (2015), *Russia's Military Intervention in Syria*, SWP Comments. p. 45.

³³ *Op. Cit.*, Trias Kuncahyono, p. 184.

support for Syria. The mission of Russian warships reportedly will last for three months in the region.³⁴ On the other hand, the Syrian military also holds joint military maneuvers with the cooperation of the army, air and sea.³⁵ The exercises held simultaneously with the Russian warship at the Port of Tartus were not without connections. Russia and Syria seem to want to send a warning signal to the West by displaying military power and strategy in Syrian waters near. The Syrian government wants to convey a message to the West that they will react violently to any intervention and violation of Syrian territory. Russia also wants to state that it is ready to respond to any threats that endanger its interests in the region and will defend its interests in Syria.

By the end of 2015 Russia has begun deploying ground troops into Syrian territory to assist Syrian military, Russia has deployed one of their most advanced tanks in Syria which is a T-90 tank.³⁶ In early 2016 Syrian government forces assisted by air strikes launched by Russian government forces managed to take over one of the strategic areas in Syria, the city of Latakia, an important victory for the government.

Russia began to build several military bases in Syria, especially the air force bases in Hmeymim area, Latakia in August 2015.³⁷ To protect its military base from rebel forces as well as ISIS, Russia deployed at least 300 to 500 troops in standby to defend their military base, only that Russia also mensiagakan tanks and other vehicles of war so that the defense of Russia is stronger and far from the interference of the rebel forces and also ISIS.

To help attack the ground troops, Russia deployed their sophisticated jet and helicopter aircraft in various cities in Syria, the aircraft and helicopters consist of, SU-24 Fighter, SU-34 Bomber, SU-25, Helicopter MI-24, and as well as unmanned drones or known as Drones to spy on the movements of the rebel forces and also ISIS. The Russian attack was aimed at the rebel headquarters and the ISIS, not only the headquarters of the

³⁴ The Global Review, (2017), "Dukungan Simbolis Rusia terhadap Suriah", www.theglobal-review.com. Accessed on 12 December 2017.

³⁵ Khairisa Ferida, (2012), "Rusia Pasang Badan untuk Suriah", <http://international.okezone.com/read/2012/08/16/412/678782/rusia-pasang-badan-untuk-suriah>. Accessed on 12 December 2017.

³⁶ Ben Quinn, (2016), "Russia's military action in Syria-timeline", <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/14/russias-military-action-in-syria-timeline>. Accessed on 12 December 2017.

³⁷ Aqwam Fiazmi Hanifan, (2016), "Rusia yang Habis-Habisan Demi Suriah", <http://amp.tirto.id/rusia-yang-abis-habisan-demi-suriah-b92q>. Accessed on 13 December 2017.

invading Russian forces also attacking vehicles that were sending logistics and weapons for war. The Russian SU-25 aircraft is dedicated by Russian troops to assist ground operations carried out by the Syrian military, while the SU-34 Bomber aircraft is more often at the base because the aircraft will only move or attack if it is given special command to attack with a missile or bombs in opponent areas. The attacks launched by the Russian military proved to be powerful in attacking the bases of the rebel forces and also the ISIS Jihadists, also aimed at protecting the legitimate government in power, Bashar al-Assad.

Throughout Russia's Syrian operations from March 30, 2015 to mid-2016 Russia has transported more than 710,000 tons of missiles, ammunition, and other military equipment to Syria since counter-terrorist operations began. The data was revealed by Russian Deputy Defense Minister Dmitry Bulgakov, during the year of the Russian air base in Hmeymim, Syria has opened three cafeterias, a refueling station, two saunas, and three warehouses to support the operation of military transport planes and helicopter foundations.³⁸

Russia continues to mobilize its military for assaults or operations in major Syrian towns that are the bases of rebels as well as terrorists although civilian casualties continue to fall and displace thousands of people homeless, but Russia still argues that the attacks its military in Syria is to attack rebel forces attacking the government and also terrorists who want to control Syria, Russia has already committed 15,000 more attacks with 3,915 victims.

Russia carries about 4,000 military troops composed of Russian Aerospace Forces, Russian Marine Infantry, Russian Airborne, special forces, civilian aid staff and artillery battalions.

4. Air Antirudal System

Russia is alerting air-guns at Tartus and at Hmeymim air base, Syria. The S-400 forces provide reliable protection for the Russian air force at Hmeymim air base, elsewhere the S-300 is deployed in Syria to protect the naval logistics facilities at Tartus.

³⁸ Muhaimin, (2016), "Perang Suriah, Rusia Sudah Angkut 710.000 Ton Rudal dan Amunisi", <https://international.sindonews.com/read/1160552/41/perang-suriah-rusia-sudah-angkut-710000-ton-rudal-dan-amunisi-1480916532>. Accessed on 12 December 2017.

The S-400 and S-300 are sophisticated Russian air defense systems developed for defense against aircraft and cruise missiles.

The S-300 is a defense weapon system against air strikes it can be used for all types of air targets including fighter aircraft, UAVs, ballistic missiles with roaming in the 400km range at 30km altitude. This system can cripple 36 targets simultaneously. S-400 is twice as effective and can be used within 5 minutes. S-400 and S-300 fired missiles will block missiles fired by enemies, including it can also drop enemy aircraft. It is also capable of hitting sea and land targets up to 350-450km.

Russia alerted its air defense system after two US warships The Ross and The Porter launched 59 Tomahawk cruise missiles to Syria's air base.³⁹

³⁹ Kumparan, (2017), "Suriah Semakin Mer¹⁴as, Rusia Siagakan Sistem Antirudal Udara", <http://kumparan.com/@kumparannews/suriah-semakin-memanas-rusia-siagakan-sistem-antirudal-udara>. Accessed on 13 December 2017.

D. CONCLUSION

The Syrian conflict is a conflict that begins with protests carried out by the Syrian people who want the end of Bashar al-Assad's rule as a dictatorial and authoritarian leader, as well as the end of the Assad regime that has ruled over the past four decades and wants to form a more Syrian state democratic. As the protests progressed into the internal conflicts of the State, the government divided the two nations with anti-government opposition and the government regime. With the continuous clash between the opposition and the Syrian government it makes the Syrian people more rebellious and against the Syrian government. Because it involves a lot of violence so that the number of casualties falling, this conflict highlights the attention of the International who wants to help resolve the conflict and also involves some intervening countries where the countries are supporting both parties.

One of the countries that intervene or engage in Syrian internal conflicts is Russia. Russia is one of the countries that provide support to the government of Bashar al-Assad to stop the demonstration. The form of intervention given to Syria by the Russian government is a form of diplomatic intervention and military intervention. Of course Russia's involvement in the Syrian conflict because Russia has a national interest in Syria, which makes this conflict increasingly protracted.

To defend the national interest of the Russian State is like an economy where Russia is cooperating in arms trade because Syria is a weapon importing country from Russia, the existence of Federal Law embraced by Russia that all activities of rejection and opposition to the legitimate regime is an act of terrorism that must be stopped, and also Russia wants to maintain its influence in the Middle East region and its power in the international community to be invincible by the Western bloc of the United States and its allies, and not to lose interest in the Middle East.

Diplomatic intervention by Russia one of them by vetoing any resolution that the Security Council seeks to issue in which the contents of the resolution could burden the position of the Syrian government. The Russian government also provides financial assistance to Syria to help meet the logistical, food and health needs of medicines and medical facilities needed by Syrians. The military intervention by Russia was by sending a number of military troops on September 30, 2015, and deployed several units of warships of aircraft carriers and destroyers stationed at the Port of Tartus, Syria. In addition Russia also sends weapons and military training

to Syrian troops also held joint military maneuvers with the cooperation of the army, air, and sea. Followed by deploying ground troops into Syrian territory and to assist the attack on ground troops, Russia deployed their advanced jet and helicopter aircraft in various cities in Syria. Russia is alerting S-300 aircraft missiles at Tartus and S-400 at Hmeymim air base, Syria.

Russia furiously protects the Bashar al-Assad regime as its Middle East ally. For Russia, if Bashar al-Assad is eliminated there is no guarantee that the successor of Bashar al-Assad will side with Russia or even hostile to it.

As long as Russia interferes with the conflict ⁵³ between the Syrian government and the opposition, the conflict in the country is widening. The violent acts perpetrated by both sides grew larger and resulted in widespread damage and casualties during the conflict. More and more Syrian civilians are being victimized by military attacks carried out by both sides with the help of each country that provides good support in the fields of diplomatic, military and financial fields.

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Charters:

- ¹⁹ Article 2 (1) dan Pasal 2 (4) Piagam PBB.
- Article 27 (3) Piagam PBB.

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