

Refugee Protection Actors: An Analysis from the Perspective of Actor-Network Theory in Several Refugee Host Countries

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Discussions on the framework of refugee protection in a sovereign state must strike a balance between two aspects: maintaining national sovereignty and responding to ongoing humanitarian crises. Therefore, the policies adopted by most countries in managing refugee issues are often associated with both internal and external aspects of a country. These aspects serve as catalysts for policy changes over time and in the context of each nation. In Malaysia, the response of authorities to refugee issues has been to either assert power or alleviate international pressure on the country. The absence of instruments to protect refugees in Malaysia is seen to have many negative impacts on both parties, namely refugees and Malaysia as a transit country for refugees. Therefore, protection spaces need to be established and designed in line with international laws and customs, while also drawing inspiration from other regional agreements to create its own framework. Consequently, this study will explore discussions on the refugee protection framework in several countries with the highest refugee populations globally. The analysis will be conducted based on elements found in actor-network theory (ANT), namely actors, actor-networks, inscriptions, and envelopes within the refugee protection systems in those countries. This analysis is hoped to serve as a starting point for generating more comprehensive discussions on the refugee protection framework in this country.

Keywords: Refugee Protection; Actor-Network Theory; Host Countries

