

ABSTRACT

The study was created based on the number of factions or groups involved in the Lapindo mudflow victims. The destruction of structures and institutional arrangements made the victim confused and morally unstable. Tensions and relationship breakdown among the victims begin to develop and divide the solidarity among them. These problems were also accompanied by riots and social unrest. Unclear fate becomes threat to the victim. In such conditions, emerging elite groups took advantage on the situation.

This study sought to answer two problems: first, how was the Lapindo's victim conflict dynamics which lead to the emerging factions or groups as well as the elite group in it? Secondly, what was the role of the elite groups in the withdrawal of money (*Success Fee*) from the victims?

The study employs a descriptive-qualitative type of research and use a case study in the approach. Ralf Dahrendorf Theory was utilized to analyze the approach. Interviews (depth interviews) and open interviews were held to collect the data. The data obtained then collected, categorized, and processed through the process of mapping and classification in accordance with the existing theories.

The study indicates that the disaster had made the victims divided into groups. The efforts made by several groups of victims in expressing their demands or aspirations reflect the character of the group in which they represent. Some groups such as GKLL are using softer way in dealing the problem with P.T Lapindo. In the end many of the other group followed the scheme designed by Lapindo. The victim had become the objects of exploitation by both Lapindo and the elite group consciously or unconsciously. However, there are a few who do not agree with the money withdrawal system (*Success Fee*) held by the elite group/the group representative.

Keywords: Conflict, solidarity, elite group, the success fee