

Climate change creates 200 millions illegal migrants

(Bonn, Jurnal Nasional) Natural disasters caused by climate change will make more than 200 millions people around the globe displaced, Professor Norman Myers of Oxford University study declared.

Myers research estimate monsoon pattern change, high density of rain falls, droughts, sea level rise and coastal flooding will forced one of each 45 people around the world to leave their home in year of 2050. In 2005 UN University supported Myers with similar research which predicted more than 50 millions people around the world will be “environmental refugees” in year of 2010.

Phillippe Boncour, international dialogue chief of International Organization for Migration (IOM) said these so called environment refugees might be declared as illegal migrants since there is no international law available to handle them.

“(Therefore) we need to build consensus not only among countries but also inter disciplines to handle this issue which is not an easy task,” said Boncour.

The only international consensus on refugees was declare in 1951 convention, which declares refugees as people who has to left their countries because of persecutions based on their race, religions, nationality, political opinion or membership of certain social groups. Beyond this categories refugees might considered as “economical motives refugee” and can be rejected in most of destination countries.

“But people who had to leave their place because of climate change sometimes also triggered by other issues as political and economy,” said Boncour, referring to last year Nargis Cyclone in Myanmar that made 2 millions people lost their homes. These people later on spread among other south east countries include Indonesia as environmental refugees because Myanmar’s economy and politic under the military regime is falling apart.

Oldrich Andrysek, Chief of Protection Policy and Legal Advice of UN body for refugees (UNHCR) said lack of legal base made them prefer to label these kinds of refugees as internationally displaced persons (IDP) instead.

“But the consequence is the destination country will try to deport them back as soon as the natural disasters gone, although their problems might be more complicated then that,” Andrysek said.

Burma Partnership reported after Nargis cyclone end at least 100 Myanmar children were taken by the military. They whom aged from 10-11 years old were sent to front line of ethnic conflict in Karen region to work as servants of military officers or as mine sweepers. And if they run away to neighboring country such as Thailand, these children might be considered as IDP and can be deported back to the country any time.

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