Twitter Media Activities: Virtual Activism Related To China Uighur Muslim Problems

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	ABSTRACT
Article Info: Submitted: 19/10/2020 Revised: 30/11/2020 Published: 05/06/2021	*Cases of human rights violations against Uighur muslims in China have generated various condemnations from the international community. Various forms of protest, ranging from taking to the streets, complaints in mass media, and on social media. Several countries officially submitted objections to the Chinese government, including the superpower country of the United States. This research wants to see how the form of digital protests, real protests, public opinion against Uyghurs, ideology, participants, tactics, and structures in the new social movement, and the Indonesian government's response to bullying of Uighur muslims. Through the hashtag feature on Twitter, researchers can analyze networks, messages, and protest delivery distribution using the Social Network Analysis (SNA) method. This study uses qualitative research methods, data collection by analyzing Twitter media activity, which is used as a protest to the Chinese government. The data was processed using NVivo 12 Plus software. The results showed that the relationship between actors in the use of social media Twitter has pressure on public opinion in parts of the world, the network pattern that connects countries in response to the issue of intimidation by the Uighur Muslim community, social protests that are always given by Twitter users as a place to pressure the Chinese government, and created a new social movement carried out by countries that support the resistance to intimidation by the Uighur people in Xinjiang.* ***Keywords**: Intimidation; Sosial Media; Muslim Uighurs; New Social Movement; Social Protest*
	ABSTRAK
	Kasus pelanggaran HAM terhadap muslim Uighur di China memunculkan beragam kecaman masyarakat internasional. Berbagai bentuk protes, mulai dari aksi turun ke jalan, protes di media masa maupun di media sosial. Beberapa negara menyampaikan protes secara resmi kepada pemerintah China termasuk negara super power Amerika Serikat. Penelitian ini ingin melihat bagaimana bentuk protes digital, protes nyata, opini publik terhadap Uighur, ideologi, partisipan, taktik, dan struktur dalam gerakan sosial baru, dan respon pemerintah Indonesia terhadap intimidasi muslim Uighur. Melalui fitur hastag pada twitter, peneliti dapat menganalisis jaringan, pesan dan sebaran penyampaian protes dengan menggunakan metode *Social Network Analysis* (SNA). Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif, pengumpulan data dengan menganalisis aktifitas media twitter yang digunakan sebagai protes kepada pemerintah China. Data diolah menggunakan

software NVivo 12 Plus. Hasil penelitian menunjukan bahwa relasi para aktor dalam penggunaan media sosial twitter mempunyai tekanan dalam opini publik di belahan dunia, pola jaringan yang menghubungkan antar negara dalam respon isu intimidasi masyarakat muslim Uighur, sosial protest yang selalu diberikan dari para pengguna twitter sebagai wadah dalam menekan pemerintah China, dan menciptakan gerakan sosial baru yang dilakukan oleh negara-negara yang mendukung penolakan intimidasi masyarakat Uighur di provinsi Xinjiang.
Kata-kata Kunci: Intimidasi; Sosial Media; Muslim Uighur; Gerakan Sosial Baru; Protes Sosial

INTRODUCTION

The presence of social media today is the primary means for people to distribute and transmit information very quickly and on a large scale (Tălpău, 2014). Social media is considered to be at the forefront of the development of public spaces (Dahlgren, 2005; Miller, 1998; Mergel, 2017; Etling et al., 2010). This opinion is based on social media's role in everyday life, such as fostering public opinion and participatory culture (International et al., 2013; Sien et al., 2013). Social media can also provide a two-way communication platform, unlike TV or print media (Hazarika et al., 2014). With a large and growing user base and two-way communication capabilities, it allows social media to become the central place for organizations and individuals to engage in dialogue and content exchange (Jamil, 2018). In general, individuals use social media to meet different needs, where the value of social media becomes more useful because of the network effect of users using this media (Hanafi et al., 2015). Social media is also a means of conveying protests against a policy or event that cannot be described publicly.

When compared to some social media like Facebook, Google+, and LinkedIn. Twitter looks different because it functions as a network with the same interests where relationships between users are based on the same interests and interests, while other social media relationships between users are based on personal relationships (Hoque, 2016). Twitter has been used more widely than Facebook in terms of sharing information between users (Moniz & Torgo, 2019). The speed at which data is spread throughout the world can occur in a fraction of a second. It also does not have complicated security procedures like Facebook (Februariyanti, 2014).

In the use of social media Twitter, hashtags are a popular feature. This is because the hashtag feature can make everyone connected and connected on a specific issue without knowing each other (Diba et al., 2019). Also, Twitter can be accessed anywhere for free by utilizing electronic devices such as smartphones, tablets, computers, and laptops connected to computers. Twitter also offers status loading speeds that can be viewed on a personal timeline or search-home. Apart from that, Twitter also provides features such as replays, retweets, and hashtags that allow users to stay connected to form a network.

Twitter has the same use as other social media. Users can upload photos, videos, and exchange messages known as tweets. Uploaded tweets can be read directly by each user and report news or events now from the location of the incident kejadian (Kongthon, 2014). But in the context of news information spread on social media such as Twitter, users need to consider the credibility of the information received (Thomas et al., 2008), this is because respondents do not know the people and their motives. Each uploaded tweets (Dhiraj Murthy, 2013). To assess the credibility of the tweets themselves, several studies offer several ways such as the importance of understanding the type of content and when / where the tweets were produced (Caragea et al., 2014), and considering the credibility of the tweets of an account's followers (followers), if the version is too a lot or too little, the lower the credibility of the report (Bakkelund et al., 2018).

In the context of the social movement, Twitter contributes as a tool used by the public to convey their demands. This concept has been discussed in several previous studies, which show that blogs and microblogs such as Twitter and Facebook have a social and political role. For example, social media can be used to coordinate social movements, conduct campaigns, and even Revolution.

Shirky, Clay 2011, "the political power of social media" and lim, Merlyna 2014 in "seeing spatially; people, network and movement in digital and urban spaces" argues that social media can encourage mass mobilization well as generate a quick response to the action. They refer to two significant events that occurred in Egypt and the Philippines. Social media such as Facebook and Twitter played an important role in overthrowing the Mubarak government in 2011. Two Facebook accounts are considered to have triggered the Egyptian revolution, namely the "April 6 youth movement" and "we are all Khaled Said." In this social media, there is a long debate between pro and contra government groups. Even on January 28, 2011, the Egyptian government blocked social media Facebook and Twitter because anti-government groups were used to communicate and gain power. It appears that social media can put pressure on the government and transform their desires into a political agenda.

The same thing happened in the Philippines during the overthrow of President Josep Estrada on January 17, 2001. When presidential loyalists agreed to cover up some evidence for alleged corruption, Filipinos became angry and spread a chain message that read "Go 2 EDSA. Wear blk," so millions of people flock to and gather Epifanio de Los Santos Avenue, one of the most massive crossroads in Manila. In other words, social media has been successfully used for mobilization and, at the same time pressing public issues to become a political agenda.

Hashtag Save Uighur Muslims is a form of reaction from the world community which rejects various forms of intimidation, violence, elimination of race and belief by the Chinese government against the Uighur Muslim community in Xinjiang Province. As reported by several national and international media. CNN (2019) mentions that

Thousands of Uighur Muslims are currently being held in cramped conditions in so-called political education camps in the too restive West of Xinjiang. The BBC also reports that In August 2018, a UN committee received reports that up to one million Uighurs and other Muslim groups were detained in the western Xinjiang region, and there they were undergoing what it called a 're-education, or' re-education 'program. According to Human Rights Watch (2018), the Uighurs, in particular, are being closely monitored. They have to provide biometric and DNA samples. It was also reported that there had been arrests of those with relatives in 26 countries deemed 'sensitive,' and even one million people have been forcibly detained. Rights groups say people in the camps are forced to learn Mandarin and are directed to denounce, even renounce their faith. Several former detainees told us about the physical and psychological torture they experienced in the detention camps. Their entire family disappeared, and they said that the prisoners were tortured physically and mentally. We also see evidence of the almost total surveillance of Muslims in Xinjiang.

Various forms of protests by the international community have emerged, ranging from taking to the streets, complaints in mass media, and on social media. Several countries officially submitted objections to the Chinese government, including the superpower country of the United States. Social Media Twitter has also sprung up to protest hashtags and has become a world trending topic. Social media is defined as "a group of Internet-based applications that build on the ideological and technological foundations of Web 2.0, which enable the creation and exchange of User-Generated Content (Nurmandi et al., 2018). The use of social media has many implications in society. A study designed to discourage social media use by providing a picture of its effects that are not always positive. Social media can influence how we think and act due to its continued use in our neighborhoods, workplaces, and schools. Any benefits should be weighed carefully as information may only serve as a momentary distraction but can have an effect on users' lives social media (Dion, 2017).

Social media functions as an echo chamber where people are motivated to participate by feeling a homogeneous opinion and forming a pro-protest attitude. Pro-protest attitudes were found to be positively associated with online participation. Social media is considered an essential vehicle of protest-related information. Its use can lead to social movement participation (Shen et al., 2020). In the practice of using social media in society, individual countries' positions on the international ranking index on the values of democracy, freedom, and transparency according to ethical commitments in public relations. In some states, there are groups of practitioners who use social media without paying attention to the ethics of public relations on social media, such as the use of false identities in comments, the use of payments for bloggers, and the use of fees for social media experts for smear campaigns. Unethical public relations practices occur in highly

developed and democratic societies and more corrupt countries and totalitarian societies (Corbo et al., 2016).

The exponential growth of users and online content has proliferated over the last decade. The development of information has increasingly shifted from physical range to online. This is very important because it can provide the best information resources to users. The Internet has become an inescapable source of information for users due to use, which allows it to be accessed many; its use continues to increase (Moniz & Torgo, 2019). An increase in the use of social media can affect the temporality of communication protests. Adopting a relational approach, furthering how the media infrastructure, institutions, and activist practices, forms a specific temporal configuration in which complaint is communicated and interpreted. The method of social media activists, like all mainstream social media activity and alternative reporting, became linked by distributing protest activities, as social media contained videos, photos, and updating of protest text, and developed into a leading news source. These social media platforms activate activist communication and direct activists to a specific type of activity, content, and interaction action, which reproduces and amplifies the focus of the news for 24 hours. Social media is also connected and continuously reconnects users with new content and activities, making it difficult to maintain public attention through this medium (Poell, 2019).

Twitter is a communication network system between users to share content (Suryadharma & Susanto, 2017). Twitter has almost the same use as other social media. Its users can compile photos, videos, and exchange messages known as Tweets, uploads of tweets that can be uploaded directly using a smartphone make it easier for them to exchange information quickly and report important news. right from the scene (Kongthon, 2014). The presence of Twitter in the book 'Twitter: Social Communication in The Twitter Age' provides a better view of the role of weak ties in social movements. Twitter is neither irrelevant nor revolutionary. Conversely, Twitter can play several functional roles. Although Murthy argued that Twitter played an essential role in Cairo's protests, which resulted in President Hosni Mubarak's resignation and eventual trial, he stressed that activity on the streets of Cairo was what propelled the revolution, while Twitter was more of a source of function usable power (Dhiraj Murthy, 2013).

Twitter and Facebook, like social media, have differences in terms of message types. Users are looking for answers to their questions on Twitter, while Facebook is more often used to express opinions. Other findings suggest that the use of Twitter and Facebook have different priorities and interests in government-owned social media. Also, users on Twitter are more active than Facebook users. The case in Indonesia is very suitable for finding out how digital media can affect many people. At the same time, the power of the media is also participating in a massive movement. Indonesians are classified as the most active social media users in the world. As much as 70 percent of the population of Indonesia's total population is under the age of 35, most of whom use

social media every day. Even 64 million people in Indonesia used Facebook in 2015, occupying the fourth-highest ranking in the world. Meanwhile, 20 million Indonesians have Twitter accounts, which is the third-highest in the world. Uniquely Jakarta is a city dubbed as the most dynamic city on Twitter, with most tweets per day sent from this city (Ross Tapsell, 2018).

The history of Uighur Muslims dates back to the 3rd century AD. At that time, his life was still nomadic, wandering from one place to another. It was only in 774 that the Uyghurs declared themselves as one nation under the Bigle Khan Cult's kingdom as their King. Before creating the empire, the Uighurs were still practicing their own beliefs, alongside Manichaeism and Buddhism. Then in its development in the 10th century Uighur prince, Sadiq Burhan al-Din embraced Islam, and in the 14th century, Islam became the main religion of the Uighurs. History records that the last Uighur empire was the karakhanid, which stood from 1397-1759.

New social movement (NSM) is understood as an attempt to fight against the 'inner colonization' of technical rationality while at the same time demanding an increase in the level of rational justification (Carroll et al., 2015). He noted that the movement started as a defensive reaction to a fear of accidents and ecological disasters. The movement eventually collapsed, and Touraine's study attempts to understand why it didn't develop into action with a broader constituency (Oman Sukmana, 2016). The revolutionary movement will inevitably embrace social media and may even need it more than that. Protests on the streets today are no less critical than activities in the past, and it may be more challenging to get people onto the streets in the age of social media. Moreover, the targets of the revolutionary movement: the government, military, and police, who are also on social media and using them very effectively as tools for surveillance (Kidd & McIntosh, 2016). The new social movement does not use a class approach because its membership comes from various social classes, different groups, and is open. The recent social activity is categorized as an inclusive association and initiated by several actors who are consciously involved in self-mobilizing to fight for the democratization of everyday life jointly. The new social movement emphasizes the importance of vital network elements with informal interactions, sharing of faith and solidarity among them, joint action by bringing up conflictual issues, demanding action is continuous and not institutionalized, and does not follow routine procedures as is known in the organization.

How does the international community protest against the Uighur Muslim case in China? How is the communication network pattern formed? Is the network so strong that it has a significant impact on the Chinese government? Whether social networking technologies help activists achieve their goals plays their part in becoming a New Social Movement that can transform from cyberspace to real movements as a form of social revolution, as happened in Tunisia, Egypt, Iceland, Spain, and the Philippines. The benefit of this research is to gain insight into the importance of Twitter activity in dealing with

the unfair treatment experienced by minorities in China. The study will also discuss Indonesia's status as the largest Muslim country in Asia and how Indonesia responds. In line with one of the 45 constitutions' starting points, namely maintaining world peace. The purpose of this study is to find out which digital media activities are used as a protest to the Chinese government regarding the problems of Uighur Muslims and for relations between actors and network patterns on the Uighur Muslim hashtag save on social media Twitter.

METHOD

This study uses descriptive qualitative research methods, describing the use of computers in analyzing qualitative data. In the coding or categorization process, as Cresswell mentioned, it is not the computer that does it, but the researcher itself. Apart from the advantages and disadvantages of using computers in qualitative data analysis, they are handy for analyzing large databases, such as 500 pages of text or more. In qualitative research, it will provide insights into social issues, such as gender, race, etc. These help shape research questions, collect data and analyze them (Sugiyono, 2018). Documentation of social media twitter news is done using the Nvivo 12 plus software through the NCapture feature. The NCapture Nvivo 12 plus element can document systematically and can dig up news information in depth (Fallis, 2013).

The use of online media reporting documents aims to complete and confirm the documents. The application of the document triangulation method in a study results in research conclusions that can answer research questions well. Papers and online media reports were analyzed using the Nvivo 12 plus software. The use of 12 plus software in this study aims to map and explore patterns and networks. Primary data is data obtained directly by researchers from research, which is the primary data source. The main data sources are recorded through written notes or video / audio tapes, taking photos, or films (Moleong, 1993). In this study, primary data were obtained from Twitter hashtags and Twitter activities related to Uighur Muslims.This study uses the explore feature consisting of crosstab analysis and comparative analysis. Crosstab analysis is used to understand percentages. Analysis of the explore Nvivo 12 plus part produces descriptive statistical data in excel and visualization graphs. The two forms of descriptive statistical data constitute a single unit of data that has findings regarding the patterns and networks of Uighur Muslims in the research area.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

1. **Relationship between Tweet Accounts and Network Patterns Based on Twitter Analysis Using Hashtags (#Uighur)**
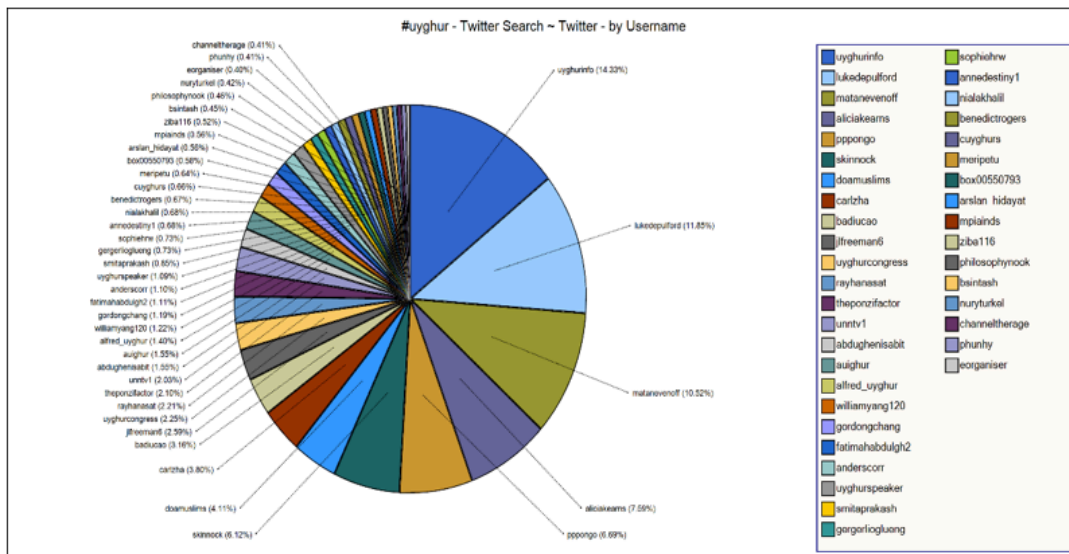

Figure 1. Actor Relations in #Uighur
Source: Processed by the author

The **Figure 1** above shows the relationship between the actors using the #uighur hashtag in 2020. If you look at several Twitter accounts, use the Uyghur hashtag. Besides Uyghurinfo, the most dominant in providing information about Uighurs are Lukedepulford, Matanevenoff, Aliciakearns, Pppongo, Skinnock, Doamuslims, etc. Relationships of these Twitter accounts also get attention on the Uighur hashtag, uyghurinfo itself has an extensive relationship with a value of 14.33%, followed by Lukedepulford at 11.85%, Matanevenoff at 10.52%, Aliciakearns at 7.59%, Pppongo at 6.69%, Skinnock at 6.12%, and Doamuslims at 4.11%. In the attention of these Twitter accounts to the Uyghur hashtag, several reasons were raised, such as in the Uyghurinfo account, which contained information content #Uighur activists in Japan gave statements related to what was happening in our homeland. The activist's announcement was made based on minority discrimination in China as if the response was given with content that had the tagline #Uighur. The relationship between the actor's account linked with the Uyghur hashtag on Twitter is by its polarization. It can be of public concern. Therefore, there is a pattern of relations between countries that also voice the Uighur hashtag on social media Twitter:

Figure 2. Pattern of Relations between Countries
Source: Processed by the author

Based on the hashtag **Figure 2**, Uighurs in many countries already represent these countries' attention to what is happening in China. As for the intensity of the country that most dominantly voices the Uighur hashtag:
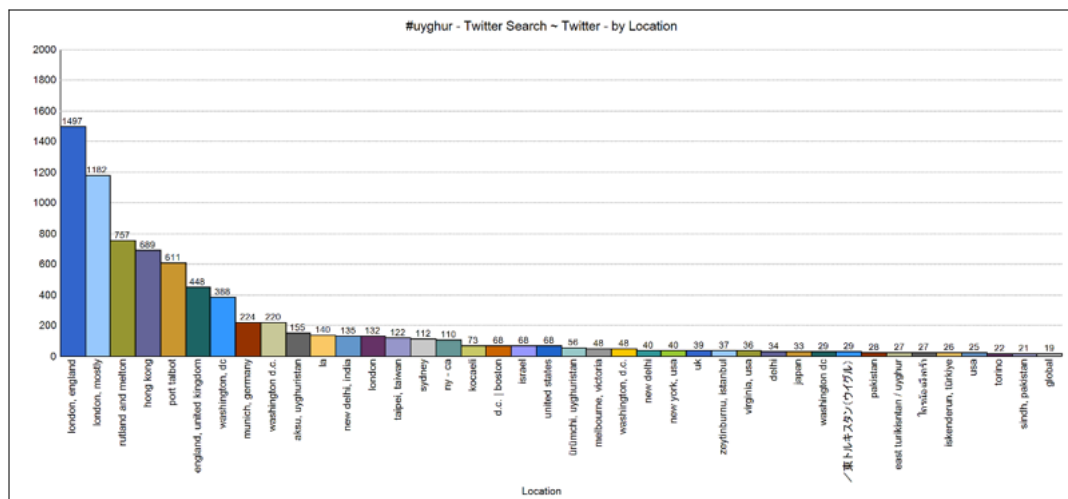

Figure 3. Pattern of Relations between Countries
Source: Processed by the author

The **Figure 3** above shows that the British state voiced the most significant Uighur hashtag with an intensity of 2679, followed by Rutland and Melton at 757, followed by Hong Kong 689 Port Talbot 611. The pattern of relations between countries towards Uyghurs is very significant. However, there is no solution to discrimination against the Uighur Muslim minority in China. The countries that speak out against China's treatment of Uighur Muslims, namely: England, Hong Kong, Wales, Germany, the United States, India, Taiwan, Australia, Turkey, Japan, Israel, and Pakistan.

The data obtained show that public protest is divided into two, namely real protest and digital protest. Real protests occur when people in various countries take action directly on the streets, demonstrate voicing complaints, theatricals, and even official state protest statements that are formal in nature.

2.   **Real Protest**

Protests against the Chinese government do not only occur on social media. Twenty-two countries have officially conveyed various real actions as a form of protest to the Chinese government regarding human rights violations of Uighur Muslims. The countries signed a letter addressed to the Chair of the UN Human Rights Council and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The message contains urging the Chinese government to stop the massive mass detention in Xinjiang (The Diplomat, 2019). The following is a list of countries that have publicly declared their rejection of China's atrocities against ethnic Uighur Muslims: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. From the list, it can be seen that European countries dominate the rejection of Beijing's cruel policies towards Muslim minorities in Xinjiang.

3.   **Digital Protest**

Protests from the world community regarding Uighur Muslims are not only conveyed through social media. Leading international online media such as CNN, CNBC, ALJAZEERA, Washingtonpost also discuss this issue. Coding results from several trusted online media and newspapers obtained the following data (**Figure 4**).
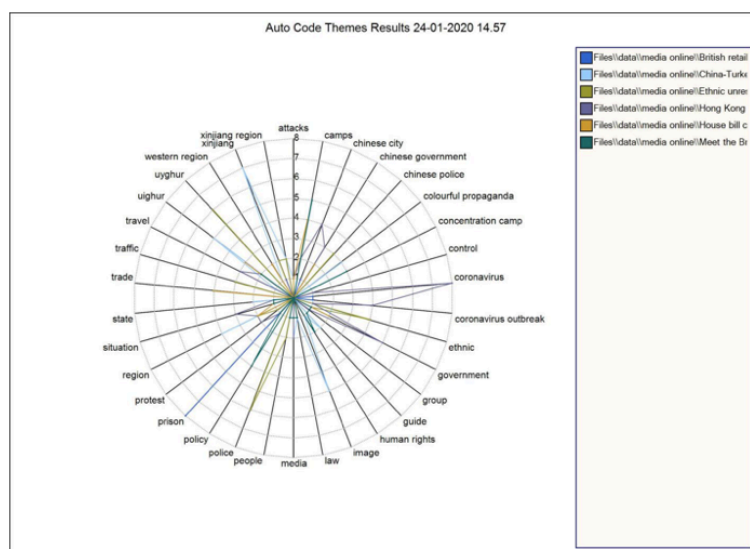

Figure 4. Problem Muslim Uighurs
Source: Processed by the author

From these data, it can be seen that the keywords that most often appear in various news reports in mixed international media are the Chinese government or the Chinese government which is compatible with the Xinxiang region, Uighur, situation, protest, prison (prison), ethnic (ethnic), police (police) and human right (human rights). If it is further elaborated, it will be illustrated that the international media still highlights or voices protests against the Chinese government over the issue of human rights violations committed against Uighurs in the Xinjiang area where the police are detaining and efforts to eliminate ethnics/ethnicity.

4. Public Opinion Against Uighurs based on Twitter Analysis

Social media has much influence on society because the surrounding community continuously uses the use of social media. In our workplaces and schools, social media can influence our way of thinking and behavior. Regardless of the benefits, it must be considered carefully because information can only temporarily distract. But it can affect the lives of social media users (Smith & Monica Anderson, 2018). From social media, positive and negative public opinions will be created, following the circumstances' influence. Views from several Twitter accounts that provide statements about Uighur discrimination have caught the attention of many countries worldwide.
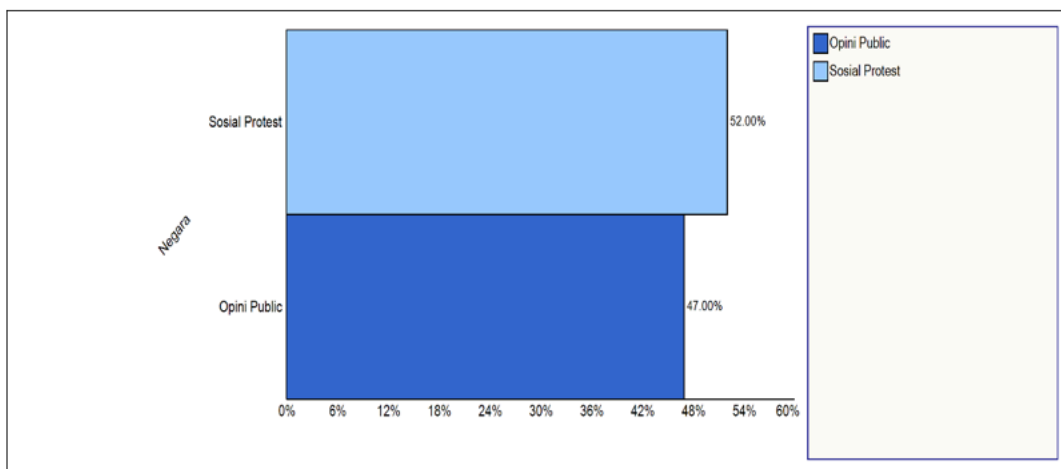

Figure 5. Public Opinion Against Uighurs
Source: Processed by the author

Based on the **Figure 5** above, it shows the reactions of several countries in the world with Uighurs. There are public opinions obtained in the analysis of Twitter, which affects social protests in all states. When viewed from the aspect of public opinion, which has a value of 47%, while social protest has a value of 52%, the government needs some official works to be educated based on the #Uighur case, to do something for Uighurs in Australia. The persecution of #Uighurs is a wound in

the world's conscience, urging it to publicly oppose choosing representatives from China to the Human Rights Council at the United Nations.

The conclusion above suggests that public opinion obtained on Twitter impacts new social movements, based on the digital age. This public opinion affects Twitter account users worldwide, with a social protest effect based on what is obtained from the distribution of information on ideas on Twitter social media. In today's digital era, new social movements are effortless to form because it is easy to get information structurally packaged from the opinions of individuals and groups who do have an awareness of something for life.

5.   New Social Movement

The social movement is increasingly believed to be an essential tool for bringing about social change when society collectively is plagued by various social problems. This indicates that the social movement, both on a practical and theoretical level, has undergone very rapid development. Social movement patterns also change rapidly.
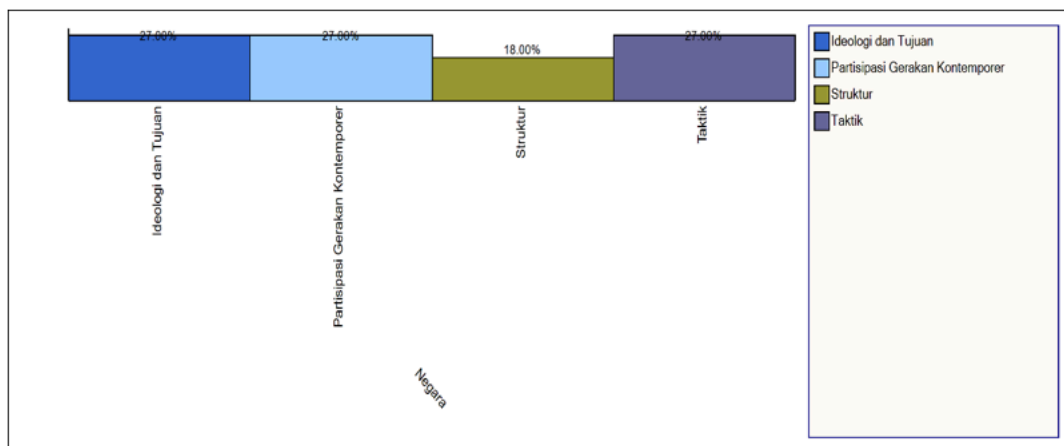

Figure 6. New Social Movement
Source: Processed by the author

The **Figure 6** above shows that information can be generated to create a new social movement in the impact of public opinion and social protest. Based on new social activities, several indicators seek to develop social trends, such as ideology and goals, which have a 27% value, followed by contemporary movement participation of 27%, structures with a discount of 18%, and tactics with an amount of 27%.

Figure 7. The United States
Source: Google

Figure 8. The United States
Source: Google

Figure 9. Indonesia
Source: Google

Figure 10. Indonesia
Source: Google

Based on the above analysis (**Figure 7, Figure 8, Figure 9, Figure 10)**, it can be concluded that giving opinions on social media Twitter can create a new social movement. The stages carried out by each individual or group can influence the movement group. Intimidation of Uighur Muslims has become a hot issue, with the cornering of the Uighur Muslim minority in China being able to be responded to by every Twitter account in the world, with various aspects of opinion that are acceptable and have the effect of social protest that has an impact on new social movements. According to, the new social movement theory tends to question the fragile process of collective identity construction and interest group identification, not assuming that group conflict and their interests are structurally determined. The new social movement recognizes the existence of networks (networks) hidden, latent, and temporal, which often underlie collective action rather than understanding centralized forms of organization as a prerequisite for successful mobilization (Oman Sukmana, 2016).

Social movements express people's collective efforts for social equality and justice and reflect struggles to defend their identity and cultural heritage. Social movements and collective action have become universal forces of historical systems and social activity. Therefore, social movements and social activities exist in society and often arise in conflicts and struggles around inequality, domination, freedom, and social justice. Also, inequality and social justice situations will produce opposite

conditions, namely resistance, rejection, and opposition to the ruling system. The social structure is conceptualized as a vicious and innumerable encounter for various dominant groups and social collectives. The social network is the field in which competing groups and social strata struggle continuously.

6. **Ideology, Participants, Tactics, and Structure in New Social Movements**

They are the primary response to forming a new social movement, based on issues obtained based on cross-country classes. Figure 6 shows that ideology and goals score 27%, participants score 27%, tactics have a 27% score, and the structure has a score of 18%. Organizations in Australia must take a stand to do something about the bullying of Uighur Muslims, the persecution of Uyghur Muslims is a wound to the conscience of the world, formally urge to openly oppose the UN Human Rights election originating from China, and impose sanctions on those who commit oppression. As a cross-class social movement, a new social movement that has unique problems and is immaterial. The new social movement's set of actions does not use traditional political tools to influence the state but relies more on mass mobilization to change values and attitudes, such as monitoring social movements and the environment. As above, public response opinion on Twitter influences creating new social activities, not based on traditional political tools.

Twitter can affect uniting ideas to form a movement. Will always struggle against the conditions and social order dominated by the state and market and will continue to push to realize a more just need. The new social movements no longer followed the political party organization model or the industrial union model. The new social activities prefer organizational models to everyday politics, adopt destructive strategies, and mobilize public opinion to gain political bargaining power. Usually responds to questions raised by civil society. The structure of the new social movements is not rigid but flows naturally to avoid oligarchy dangers. Participants in recent social activities come from various social bases, such as gender, education, occupation, and class. New social movements are not only synonymous with certain groups, such as old social movements. People who participate in new social activities struggle to cross social boundaries to cross the general public's interests.

7. **The Indonesian Government's Response to Intimidation of Uighur Muslims**

The Chinese government's repression of the Uighurs Muslim minority has been criticized internationally. But there are critical voices, namely the voices of Muslim countries, are barely audible. The United Nations estimates that since 2017, about 1 million Uighurs, Kazakhs, and other ethnic minorities have been detained in China's northwestern Xinjiang.

Analysts say that Muslim countries' governments are not classified into one category but that there are many significant similarities behind their silence, namely political, economic, and foreign policy considerations.
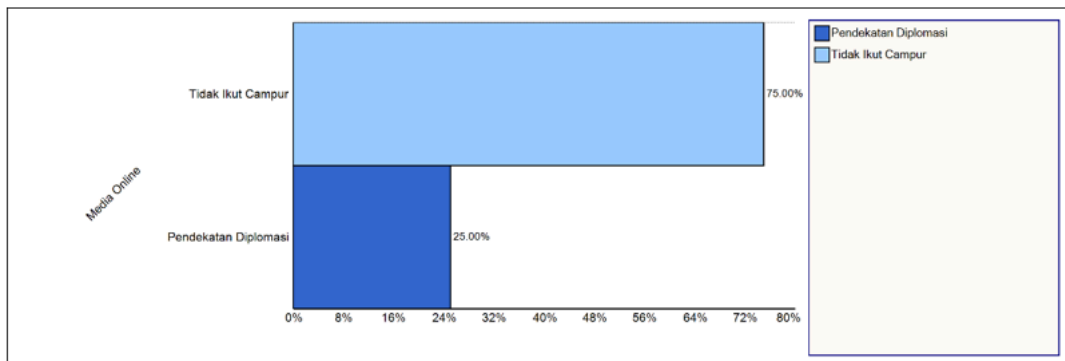

Figure 11. Response of the Indonesian Government
Source: Processed by the author

Based on the above analysis results **(Figure 11)**, it is stated that the Indonesian government has no attitude towards the intimidation of Uighur Muslims. There are several indicators in the Indonesian government's response, namely not interfering in the issue of oppression of Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang Province, China. The value obtained is 75%. This Indonesian government's attitude is related to the recognition that the Uighur problem is an internal Chinese problem. The government recognizes the sovereignty of other countries, and to some extent, cannot criticize it too much because Indonesia's area of concern is still around Southeast Asia. It can be seen in Myanmar, Indonesia, and other ASEAN countries that prefer the path known as the Asian Way.

But on the other hand, the diplomatic approach was also deployed by the Indonesian government. The value obtained was 25%. The government has taken a stand by taking a balanced approach to diplomacy. Indonesia took soft diplomacy not because it was weak but also took steps that were not entirely aggressive. These steps were taken by the Indonesian government to suppress the demonstrators so that they were always massively conducive.

CONCLUSION

Various forms of protests by the international community have emerged, ranging from taking to the streets, complaints in mass media and social media. Several countries officially protested to the Chinese Government in the case of intimidation by the Uighur Muslim community in Xinjiang province, including the United States' superpower country. Social Media Twitter has also sprung up to protest hashtags and has become a trending topic worldwide. In intimidation against the Uighur Muslim community, several countries responded with protest attacks via social media Twitter. As for the relations of

actors in the use of social media, Twitter has pressure on public opinion in parts of the world, the network pattern that connects countries in response to intimidation by the Uighur Muslim community. Social protests that are always given from Twitter users as a forum for suppressing the Chinese Government, and created a new social movement carried out by countries that support the rejection of intimidation by the Uighur community in Xinjiang province.

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