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The research finds out the link between human security and migration through the lived experience of Indonesian domestic workers (IDWs) from recruitment to settlement in Malaysia. Objectives of the research are to identify the potential threats of human security among IDWs, to analyze the respond of IDWs to such threat, and to evaluate the legal mechanisms applicable to protect them. It uses qualitative methods to gather information from key informants with semi-structured and in-depth interviews. Different perspectives on the study from government officials, NGOs, private legal recruitment agency, and IDWs are analyzed and evaluated.

The research findings reveal that international migration between Indonesia and Malaysia has become a complex and complicated phenomenon. Potential human security threats certainly are in place from personal security, economic security, food and health security, and lastly political security. The legal mechanisms have not effectively benefitted IDWs due to the fact that Indonesia and Malaysia have ignored the actual steps to protect IDWs unconditionally. The processes from recruitment to placement for these IDWs have displayed a set of problems. There is obvious lack of monitoring and reporting throughout the whole process from both sending and receiving countries. Moreover, employers' or recruitment agencies' stereotypical treatments on IDWs are based on the latter's vulnerability and category as low skilled workers. Therefore, gender based violence and human rights violations have often occurred. Troubled IDWs in Malaysia experienced labor cases (i.e. unpaid or underpaid wages, emotional abuse, and unlimited working hours) and non-labor cases (i.e. persecution and torture, rape and sexual harassment, trafficking and smuggling).

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