

## ABSTRACT

**Title:** Human Rights Violations in Saudi Arabia's NEOM Project (2020-2024):

A Rights-Based Development Approach

Although NEOM is recognized as a central pillar of modernization under Saudi Vision 2030, its development reveals tensions between economic ambitions and human rights protection. This study assesses the extent to which NEOM's development complies with the principles of the Rights-Based Development (RBD) approach. Employing a qualitative method and the PANEL analytical framework (Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination, Empowerment, and Legality), the study identifies systemic failures across all five principles. Participation fails due to the denial of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) and the implementation of pseudo-participatory practices. Accountability fails as a result of the absence of independent grievance mechanisms and the persistence of state impunity. Non-discrimination fails due to non-transparent compensation schemes that increase the risk of impoverishment. Empowerment fails as a result of coercive measures, including arbitrary detention and harsh sentencing of local activists. Legality fails due to the use of the 2017 Counter-Terrorism Law to suppress peaceful dissent, in contradiction to Saudi Arabia's international obligations. The study concludes that NEOM exemplifies a model of "authoritarian development," where legal and political infrastructures are engineered to prioritize investment speed over international human rights obligations.

**Keywords:** NEOM, Rights-Based Development, PANEL Framework, Howaitat Tribe, Human Rights Violations.

## **ABSTRAK**

**Judul:** *Pelanggaran Hak Asasi Manusia dalam Proyek NEOM Arab Saudi (2020-2024): Pendekatan Pembangunan Berbasis Hak*

*Meskipun NEOM dikenal sebagai pilar utama modernisasi dalam kerangka Visi Saudi 2030, terdapat ketegangan antara ambisi ekonomi dan perlindungan hak asasi manusia dalam pembangunannya. Penelitian ini menilai sejauh mana pembangunan NEOM mematuhi prinsip-prinsip pendekatan Rights-Based Development (RBD). Dengan menggunakan metode kualitatif dan kerangka analisis PANEL (Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination, Empowerment, dan Legality), penelitian ini mengidentifikasi kegagalan sistemik pada kelima prinsip tersebut. Prinsip Partisipasi gagal akibat pengabaian Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) serta penerapan praktik partisipasi semu. Prinsip Akuntabilitas gagal akibat ketiadaan mekanisme pengaduan yang independen dan berlanjutnya impunitas negara. Prinsip Non-Diskriminasi gagal akibat skema kompensasi yang tidak transparan dan meningkatkan risiko pemiskinan. Prinsip Pemberdayaan gagal akibat tindakan koersif, termasuk penahanan sewenang-wenang dan pemberian hukuman berat terhadap aktivis lokal. Prinsip Legalitas gagal akibat penggunaan Undang-Undang Anti-Terrorisme tahun 2017 untuk menekan penolakan damai, yang bertentangan dengan kewajiban internasional Arab Saudi. Penelitian menyimpulkan bahwa NEOM merepresentasikan model "pembangunan otoriter", di mana infrastruktur hukum dan politik direkayasa untuk memprioritaskan kecepatan investasi di atas kewajiban hak asasi manusia internasional.*

**Kata Kunci:** *NEOM, Rights-Based Development, Kerangka PANEL, Suku Huwaitat, Pelanggaran HAM.*