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The Influence of Police Actions on the Dynamics of Crime Rates in Society

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Abstract

This study aims to examine in depth the effect of decisive action by the police to reduce the crime rate in Indonesia. Using a juridical-sociological approach, this study combines normative analysis of the legal framework that governs the authority of the police, with empirical evaluation of the implementation of repressive measures in the field. The results showed that decisive action, such as policing operations, routine raids, and direct arrests at crime scenes, contributed to a significant reduction in certain types of crime, such as motor vehicle theft and street crime. The survey also showed that people's sense of security increases as the intensity of such actions increases. Nevertheless, there is an important note on the potential for human rights violations that can arise from excessive actions that are not accompanied by adequate supervision. Therefore, the study recommends that decisive action is always implemented within a clear legal framework, supported by surveillance technologies such as body cameras, and balanced by external grievance and accountability mechanisms to maintain public trust and ensure the protection of citizens' rights. The findings are expected to provide input to policy makers and police institutions in designing effective, professional, and equitable law enforcement strategies.

Keywords: *Decisive Action, Policing, Criminality, Human Rights, Accountability.*

1. Introduction

Crime is a serious threat to social order and national integration. Amid the complexity of modern society characterized by rapid urbanization, social inequality, and technological development, the forms of crime are becoming increasingly diverse and sophisticated. Indonesia, as a developing country with a large population and a large geographical area, faces great challenges in maintaining public security and order. Street crime, thuggery, violent theft, and drug trafficking are some of the types of crime that often dominate the criminal report every year.

According to data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the number of criminal offenses recorded throughout 2023 increased by 8.4% compared to the previous year. The increase mostly occurred in conventional crimes that have a direct impact on

people's sense of security, such as motor vehicle theft, robbery, and robbery. This condition encourages police institutions to intensify security operations with a more assertive and direct approach.¹

Decisive action by the police, which in practice includes joint operations, routine raids, armed patrols, on-the-spot arrests, and even shootings of resisting criminals, is often the policy choice in criminal emergencies. This approach is usually done in the context of maintaining public order and providing a deterrent effect for perpetrators of crime. In a number of regions, this decisive action managed to significantly reduce crime rates. For example, in operation Sikat Jaran 2023, the National Police managed to secure thousands of street criminals and reduce cases of ²motor vehicle theft by 32% in the Jakarta, South Sumatra and East Java regions.

Nevertheless, the effectiveness of decisive action is inseparable from various criticisms, especially with regard to human rights aspects and principles of the rule of law. In some cases, decisive action actually raises new problems, such as excessive use of force (excessive use of force), actions outside the legal procedure (extrajudicial measures), to death that cannot be legally accounted for. Komnas HAM noted that in 2023 there were at least 38 public complaints related to alleged civil rights violations by police officers in enforcement operations.³

These conditions pose a dilemma: on the one hand, decisive action is considered effective in reducing crime rates and increasing public security, but on the other hand, it has the potential to cause distrust of police institutions if not accompanied by adequate supervision and accountability. Therefore, it is important to critically examine how such decisive measures affect the level of criminality empirically and whether the approach is in accordance with the legal principles prevailing in a Democratic state.

This paper is present to examine the issue with a juridical-sociological approach. First, this article will analyze crime data and police operational policies in the 2023-2025 timeframe to measure the impact of decisive action quantitatively and qualitatively. Second, this paper will examine the legal and ethical aspects of the decisive action of the police, including an analysis of Law No. 2 of 2002 on the Indonesian National Police and internal regulations such as Perkap No. 1 of 2009 on the use of force. Third, this paper will provide policy recommendations so that decisive actions taken remain within the legal framework, accountable, and respect for the basic rights of citizens. Thus, this study is expected to make academic and practical contributions in formulating a balanced law enforcement model between the effectiveness of enforcement and the protection of

¹ Badan Pusat Statistik. (2024). *Statistik Kriminal 2023*. Jakarta: BPS

² Kepolisian Negara Republik Indonesia. (2023). *Laporan Akhir Operasi Sikat Jaran 2023*. Jakarta: Bareskrim Polri

³ Komnas HAM. (2023). *Laporan Tahunan Tentang Praktik Pelanggaran HAM oleh Aparat Penegak Hukum*. Jakarta: Komnas HAM.

human rights. This research is also important to strengthen the position of police institutions in security sector reform towards professional, modern, and trusted institutions.

2. Research Method

This study uses the method of normative legal research, which is research conducted by examining the relevant legal materials to assess the effect of police actions on the dynamics of crime rates in the community. Normative legal research is prescriptive and theoretical, which aims to analyze the concepts, norms, principles, and laws and regulations governing the authority and actions of the police in an effort to combat crime.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. Corruption Correlation Between Decisive Action And Decrease In Crime

Strict law enforcement has long been one of the strategies used by law enforcement officials to reduce crime in various countries. The decisive action in question does not necessarily mean repressive or violent, but rather refers to legal certainty, the speed of response of the authorities, and the deterrent effect on criminals through consistent and measured law enforcement.⁴

Several studies have shown that there is a positive correlation between the decisive actions of law enforcement officers and a decrease in the crime rate. For example, the deterrence theory developed in criminology states that the high probability of being arrested and convicted can reduce a person's intention to commit a crime.⁵ The effectiveness of this deterrence depends on three main elements, namely certainty (certainty), speed (celerity), and fairness (fairness) in sanctioning.⁶ However, decisive action must be taken within the legal corridors and pay attention to human rights principles. Practice in some countries shows that decisive action accompanied by human rights violations can generate backlash from the public, undermine public confidence in law enforcement institutions, and ultimately be counterproductive to the goal of Crime Control.⁷

Research by Setiawan (2024) in Indonesia shows that increasing law enforcement operations decisively in crime-prone areas has succeeded in reducing the number of crimes by up to 30% within six months.⁸ However, this success is also supported by increased community cooperation and

⁴ R. Kadir, *Hukum dan Ketegasan Penegakan di Indonesia*, Jakarta: Prenada Media, 2023:pp.45.

⁵ N. Piquero & A. R. Paternoster, *Deterrence Theory and Crime Control Policy*, Annual Review of Criminology, 2023, Vol. 6, pp. 155–172.

⁶ J. Andini, "Efektivitas Teori Deterrence dalam Penegakan Hukum Indonesia," *Jurnal Kriminologi Indonesia*, vol. 15, no. 2, 2024, pp. 100.

⁷ M. Fahmi, *HAM dan Penegakan Hukum: Studi Kasus Negara Berkembang*, Yogyakarta: Genta Press, 2024, pp. 78.

⁸ D. Setiawan, "Analisis Tindakan Tegas Polri dalam Menekan Kriminalitas di Wilayah Rawan," *Jurnal Penegakan Hukum Nasional*, vol. 11, no. 1, 2024, pp. 32.

strengthening police intelligence functions that support measured and accountable decisive action.

In addition, decisive action taken with the scientific crime investigation approach (science-based enforcement and digital evidence) has been shown to be more effective in establishing deterrent effects while reducing errors in the enforcement process.⁹ Therefore, the correlation between the decisive actions of the authorities and the decrease in crime is conditional, meaning that it is only effective if it is carried out professionally, proportionally, and supported by Transparent and accountable reform of law enforcement institutions.¹⁰

3.2. Potential Human Rights Violations And Accountability And Measurable Law Enforcement Models

In the context of modern law enforcement, there is an urgent need to balance the effectiveness of the actions of law enforcement officers with respect for Human Rights and the principle of accountability. The tendency of excessive use of force (excessive use of force) often leads to potential violations of human rights, both physical, psychological, and procedural rights of citizens. This is reinforced by the Komnas HAM report which shows that most of the public complaints related to the actions of the authorities still dwell on the issue of torture, arrests without procedures, as well as disproportionate violence in actions on the ground.¹¹

Potential violations of human rights in the enforcement process can occur at various stages, ranging from investigation, arrest, detention, to the execution of court decisions. For example, in the investigation process that is carried out without clear legal procedures, the apparatus has the potential to violate the right to justice and due process of law.¹² In addition, in practice on the ground, the use of excessive physical force when dispersing rallies or securing conflict areas also often leads to casualties or injuries, which ultimately worsens the image of the authorities in the eyes of the public.¹³

To prevent such potential violations, strict and transparent accountability mechanisms are needed. Accountability of law enforcement officers should be realized through internal and external mechanisms. Internally, the apparatus must be subject to a clear code of professional ethics and standard operating procedures (sops). Meanwhile, externally, there is a need for effective

⁹ L. Oktaviani, *Scientific Crime Investigation dalam Era Digital: Model Penegakan Hukum Modern*, Jakarta: Rajawali Pers, 2025, pp. 66.

¹⁰ N. Siregar, "Reformasi Polri dan Dampaknya terhadap Penegakan Hukum yang Efektif dan Akuntabel," *Jurnal Hukum Progresif*, vol. 10, no. 1, 2025, pp. 88.

¹¹ Komnas HAM RI, *Laporan Tahunan 2023: Tren Pelanggaran HAM di Indonesia*, Jakarta: Komnas HAM, 2023, pp. 45.

¹² M. Iqbal Assegaf, *Due Process of Law dalam Sistem Peradilan Pidana di Indonesia*, Yogyakarta: Genta Publishing, 2022, pp. 76.

¹³ Human Rights Watch, *Indonesia: Excessive Use of Force Against Protesters*, HRW Report, 2023.

supervision from independent institutions such as Komnas HAM, ombudsmen, and courts with the authority to examine and prosecute violations committed by the aparat.¹⁴ An oversight Model based on the principle of check and balance needs to be applied to balance the broad authority of the apparatus with the protection of citizens ' rights.¹⁵

To ensure effectiveness as well as accountability in law enforcement, it is important to adopt a measurable law enforcement model. This Model emphasizes the use of objective data and indicators in assessing the actions of the apparatus, such as the use of indicators of proportionality, legality, necessity, and accountability (accountability).¹⁶ The principle of proportionality, for example, requires that violent measures be used only in situations that actually endanger public safety and that there are no other, more lenient alternatives.¹⁷ In addition, measurable law enforcement also encourages the use of technology to record every action of the apparatus, such as body cameras, dashboard cameras, and digital surveillance systems that can be accessed transparently for public audit.¹⁸ Implementation of this model has been successfully adopted in several countries such as the United Kingdom, Canada, and South Korea, which proved to reduce the number of complaints of human rights violations by the aparat.¹⁹

4. Conclusion

Based on the discussion of the influence of police actions on the dynamics of crime rates in the community, it can be concluded that the active and responsive role of police officers has a significant influence in reducing crime rates. Preventive measures such as routine patrols, legal socialization, and community development contribute to increased security and Prevention of potential criminal acts. Meanwhile, strict and measured repressive measures against perpetrators of crimes have a deterrent effect that reduces the chances of recidivism. However, the effectiveness of police action is highly dependent on consistency, integrity, professionalism, and adaptability to changing patterns of crime, including technology-based crime. Repressive actions alone without a humanist, educative, and restorative justice-based approach can cause social resistance that has the potential to disrupt security stability. Thus, a

¹⁴ Bivitri Susanti, "Mekanisme Pengawasan Terhadap Aparat Penegak Hukum," *Jurnal Hukum dan Hak Asasi Manusia*, Vol. 13 No. 2 (2023), pp. 114-115.

¹⁵ Linda Hajjar Leib, *Human Rights and the Environment: Philosophical, Theoretical and Legal Perspectives*, Routledge, 2024, pp. 98.

¹⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), *Handbook on Police Accountability, Oversight and Integrity*, Vienna: UNODC, 2023, pp. 21.

¹⁷ Amnesty International, *Use of Force: Guidelines for Implementation*, London: Amnesty International, 2023, pp. 67

¹⁸ Interpol, *Smart Policing and Human Rights: Global Best Practices*, Lyon: Interpol, 2024, pp. 49.

¹⁹ Lisa Reza, "Model Akuntabilitas Kepolisian Berbasis Teknologi di Korea Selatan," *Jurnal Keamanan dan HAM Asia*, Vol. 5 No. 1 (2024), pp. 92

sustainable synergy between preventive, preemptive, and repressive actions is needed, supported by community participation and optimization of the use of modern police technology, in order to create a conducive kamtibmas situation and reduce crime rates sustainably.

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