




Moral Degradation of Police Agencies in the Perspective of Public Trust

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Article Info	Abstract
<p>Keywords: Law Enforcement, Justice, Equity, Societal Order, Indonesia, National Police, POLRI</p>	<p><i>This text delves into the intricate fabric of Law Enforcement in Indonesia, highlighting the collaboration among diverse actors to uphold justice, equity, and societal order. The essay emphasizes the role of the police as a fundamental pillar in this structure, focusing on the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia (POLRI). It explores POLRI's responsibilities in maintaining public security, enforcing laws, and offering protection and services. The article underlines the direct accountability of the police to both the president and the community, fostering public trust and orderliness. The discussion also delves into the significance of professional ethics within the police institution, as governed by Article 34 of Law No. 2 of 2002. This ethical framework shapes the police as a professional and morally upright law enforcement body, cultivating credibility and integrity in their operations. The narrative also highlights persistent issues like complex legal procedures, extortion, manipulation of cases, subpar public services, and a need for efficient IT-based reporting systems. The text further explores sluggish response times and disparities in service based on social ties or appearances. Addressing cultural aspects, the deep-rooted presence of corruption within the police hierarchy, often intertwined with repressive actions, is discussed. This perpetuation of undesirable behavior contributes to a decline in public trust, exacerbated by instances of police misconduct widely disseminated on media platforms.</i></p> <div style="text-align: right;"></div> <p><i>This is an open access article under the CC-BY-SA license.</i></p>

INTRODUCTION

Law enforcement is an institutional framework that upholds and implements the rule of law. It is empowered to execute the judicial process, effectuate arrests, conduct thorough examinations, exercise supervision, and execute legal directives. In Indonesia, the legal landscape reveals the presence of four foundational pillars, each distinguished by its unique roles and responsibilities: the police, prosecutors, judges, and correctional institutions. The criminal justice system in Indonesia evolved from three inherited sources of law: customary or “adat” law, Islamic law (sharia), and Dutch colonial law (Toule, 2022).

The Indonesian government has issued a regulation on an action plan to tackle violent extremism, which includes three pillars: the pillar of prevention, the pillar of law enforcement, and the pillar of international partnership. Indonesia adheres to a comprehensive and balanced approach between law and humanitarian enforcement based on the pillars of prevention (Wulandari, 2019). The first pillar, the police force, is critical in maintaining public order, preventing crime, and investigating infractions. Their dynamic involvement encompasses various spheres, from immediate response to criminal incidents to conducting comprehensive investigations that pave the way for justice to be served (Hidayat et al., 2023).

Secondly, the prosecutors form an essential facet of law enforcement, shouldering the weighty task of evaluating evidence, presenting legal arguments, and seeking justice on behalf of society. Their role encompasses meticulous analysis of cases, discerning between what warrants prosecution and what aligns with broader societal interests.

At the judicial core of this multifaceted system are the judges, entrusted with the solemn responsibility of adjudicating disputes and determining the culpability or innocence of individuals. Their impartiality and adherence to the law are crucial in ensuring a just and equitable legal process (Koeswanto et al., 2023).

Correctional institutions are a vital pillar in the Indonesian legal landscape, focused on rehabilitating and reintegrating individuals found guilty of transgressions. The correctional system in Indonesia consists of four institutions: prison, detention centers (remand prison), the parole and probation board, and home. The treatment system is known as the Penitentiary System, which regulates the policy of detention services, management of confiscated objects and state booty, as well as the treatment of prisoners. The correctional process recognizes four stages of the custodial procedure, ranging from maximum, medium, and minimum security to parole and, finally, unconditional release (Meares, 2022).

Notably, the legal landscape has evolved with the enactment of Law No.18/2003 on Advocates. With its introduction, a new pillar has emerged, bringing the total to five. Advocates, equipped with specialized legal expertise, offer crucial representation to individuals within the judicial realm. Their presence amplifies the ethos of a comprehensive and fair legal system, ensuring that legal rights and due process are safeguarded at every juncture (Schaap, 2020).

In conclusion, the intricate tapestry of Law Enforcement encompasses a spectrum of pivotal actors who collectively work to realize the principles of justice,

equity, and societal order. These diverse pillars, each with its distinctive roles, collectively harmonize to create a formidable system of law enforcement that upholds the rule of law and ensures the sanctity of justice in Indonesia. One of the five pillars of law enforcement mentioned by Pertus Hardana is the police. The National Police of the Republic of Indonesia (POLRI), as explained in Article 5 of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia is the National Police and an instrument of the State that plays a role in maintaining public security and order, enforcing the law, and providing protection, protection, and services to the public in the context of maintaining domestic security. The police must maintain security and public order, enforce the law, and provide protection, protection, and services to the community to create a peaceful and prosperous society.

The police stand at the forefront of law enforcement. In carrying out their duties, the police are directly responsible under the president. The police are also directly accountable to the community regarding protection and services. From there, public trust in the police arises by creating an orderly, law-abiding society. The police institution has professional ethics in carrying out its duties and authorities to achieve the government function of the police itself (Jagannathan & Rai, 2017; Miller, 2020; Schaap, 2020). Professional ethics exist to create a police force as a law enforcement apparatus that is professional and has moral integrity, credibility, and ethics. This is regulated in Article 34 paragraph (1) of Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, which reads: "The attitude and behavior of officials of the Indonesian National Police are bound by the Code of Professional Ethics of the Indonesian National Police". A code of ethics is the moral principles attached to a profession and is systematically organized. A professional code of ethics is a norm established and accepted by a professional group, which directs or instructs its members how to act and simultaneously ensures the moral quality of the profession in the eyes of society.

Law Enforcement is a pivotal institutional framework entrusted with the multifaceted responsibilities of upholding and implementing the rule of law (Wardhani et al., 2016). Empowered with the authority to execute the judicial process, effectuate arrests, conduct thorough examinations, exercise supervision, and execute legal directives, this institution serves as the cornerstone in maintaining social order and safeguarding justice. Within the Indonesian context, a nuanced comprehension of the legal landscape reveals the presence of four foundational

pillars, each distinguished by its unique roles and responsibilities: the police, prosecutors, judges, and correctional institutions.

The first pillar, the police force, is critical in maintaining public order, preventing crime, and investigating infractions. Their dynamic involvement encompasses various spheres, from immediate response to criminal incidents to conducting comprehensive investigations that pave the way for justice to be served.

Secondly, the prosecutors form an essential facet of law enforcement, shouldering the weighty task of evaluating evidence, presenting legal arguments, and seeking justice on behalf of society. Their role encompasses meticulous analysis of cases, discerning between what warrants prosecution and what aligns with broader societal interests.

At the judicial core of this multifaceted system are the judges, entrusted with the solemn responsibility of adjudicating disputes and determining the culpability or innocence of individuals. Their impartiality and adherence to the law are crucial in ensuring a just and equitable legal process.

Moreover, correctional institutions constitute a vital pillar focused on rehabilitating and reintegrating individuals found guilty of transgressions. These institutions are instrumental in fostering societal rehabilitation and reducing recidivism rates, underpinning the aim of achieving long-term social harmony.

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In conclusion, the intricate tapestry of Law Enforcement encompasses a spectrum of pivotal actors who collectively work to realize the principles of justice, equity, and societal order. These diverse pillars, each with its distinctive roles, collectively harmonize to create a formidable system of law enforcement that upholds the rule of law and ensures the sanctity of justice in Indonesia.

We know, lately, there have been many cases of police related to the code of ethics. One of the hottest is the case of Ferdy Sambo, who violated 7 (seven) rules in PP No. 1 of 2003 concerning the Dismissal of Police Members and Perpol No. 7 of 2022 concerning the Code of Ethics and the Police Code of Ethics Commission. The results of the hearing decided that Ferdy Sambo was fired from Porli. The

verdict of Sambo's code of ethics is that his actions are considered reprehensible and subject to the sanction of dishonorable dismissal.

The recent decline or moral degradation of the police has affected public trust in the police. Police moral degradation refers to a decline in moral and ethical standards among police officers, including corrupt behavior, abuse of power, racial discrimination, violence, and human rights violations (Simon-Kerr, 2017).

The issue of moral degradation in the police has become a significant concern in recent years, both at home and abroad. The media frequently report cases of abuse of power and violence by police officers and cause crucial public concern. This has undermined public confidence in the police and triggered demands for more effective police reforms.

Some factors linked to the degradation of police morale include a lack of ethics and law enforcement training, weak oversight and accountability systems, a lack of diversity within the police force, and the pressures faced by police officers in carrying out their duties. Better police reform and improved quality of ethics and law enforcement training for police officers can help prevent the degradation of police morale. It is also essential to improve oversight and accountability within the police force and increase diversity and inclusiveness within the police force so that the police can better represent and serve the community fairly and effectively.

Moral degradation also occurs due to a lack of ethics and law enforcement training, weak oversight and accountability systems, a lack of diversity within the police force, stress in the line of duty, a culture of corruption, and a lack of support from the police leadership itself. This moral degradation within law enforcers has hampered the law enforcement efforts being built and paralyzed all law enforcement processes. The incident is very concerning considering that the police is an apparatus that should be a role model and moral for the community to create the authority of the law, but instead, become a lawbreaker itself (Hayqal, 2022).

The degradation of police morale significantly impacts public trust in the police institution. When there are police officers involved in ethical or legal violations, it can lead to distrust and uncertainty in the community, especially for those who feel harmed by the actions of police officers. Public trust in the police is crucial in maintaining security and order in society. Communities need the police to provide protection and justice, and if that trust is eroded, communities may lose faith in the police as fair and reliable law enforcers

In addition, low public trust in the police can worsen the relationship between the police and the community, so people tend to be reluctant to cooperate

with the police in maintaining security and order in their neighborhoods. Therefore, police institutions should strive to repair their reputation and increase public trust through transparency, accountability, and efforts to improve ethics and law enforcement within the police institution. Police must demonstrate their commitment to maintaining public trust and providing protection and justice fairly and professionally. Improving public trust in the police depends not only on better policies and practices from the police but also requires active participation from the community in helping to build a good relationship with the police and reporting abuses.

RESULT

Primary Duties and Functions of the Police

The Indonesian National Police is a state instrument that plays a role in maintaining security and public order, enforcing the law, and providing protection, protection, and services to the public in the context of maintaining domestic security (Article 5 paragraph (1) of Law No. 2 of 2002). In law enforcement efforts, the police must stand on the rule of law. However, on the other hand, the police also have societal duties which must pay attention to the values that live in the community. On the one hand, the police must continue to carry out their duties by the applicable laws, such as receiving reports of legal cases, conducting investigations, and investigating claims, but on the other hand, reported legal issues often conflict with religious and social values, thus creating problems between their duties as law enforcers and their functions as protectors and protectors of Indonesian society which is full of different moral, religious and cultural values in each region.

As stipulated in Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the Police, it is formulated that the main task of the Police is to protect, protect and guide the community, especially in the context of compliance and obedience to applicable laws. In the provisions of this law, three basic things are the main tasks of the National Police as contained in Tribrata and Catur Prasetya Polri. Article 13 of Law No. 2 of 2002 emphasizes that the duties of the National Police are:

1. Maintaining public security and order;
2. Enforce the law;
3. Provide protection, protection and service to the community.

In addition to the three main tasks above, the Police also have jobs such as:

- Protecting the interests and safety of the state. The police are tasked with protecting the interests and security of the country from all threats, both from within and outside the country and from abroad.
- Maintain security and public order. The police are responsible for maintaining general security and order to create a safe and comfortable atmosphere for citizens a safe and comfortable atmosphere for citizens.
- Enforcing the law. The police are tasked with enforcing law enforcement by conducting investigations, security, arrests, trials, and the execution of court decisions.
- Maintain traffic order. The police are tasked with maintaining traffic order by regulating and monitoring traffic on the highway.
- Providing assistance and protection to the community. The National Police is tasked with providing service and protection to the public in matters related to public security and order, such as natural disasters, traffic accidents, or other events.
- Organizing and supervising the security of national vital objects. The police manage and oversee the security of national vital things, such as train stations, airports, ports, and other vital objects.
- Handling crime and criminal offenses. The National Police handles crimes and criminal offenses by conducting investigations and inquiries into criminal cases in the community.
- Maintaining security during elections. The police are tasked with maintaining security during elections by providing security and escorting the implementation of elections.

In addition, the police also have main functions, such as stopping something that should not happen and encouraging someone to do better than now. Enforcing the law in the Police Force must be carried out in tandem with the functions of protection, servicing, and service to the community. For example, when the police receive reports of theft cases, the police must take several actions such as following up on the theft case by conducting investigations and investigations and so on, tightening road patrols so that the community feels protected, making strict legal efforts for the perpetrators so that there is a deterrent effect.

The extent of confidence that the general public places in the National Police stands as the most diminished among various legal institutions, including the Attorney General's Office and the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK). Numerous surveys consistently underscore this trend, with the public's faith in the

National Police (Polri) consistently ranking at the lowest echelons of trustworthiness. This stark reality contrasts sharply with the early days of reform, a period characterized by soaring expectations vested in the Polri as it emerged from its previous incarnation as ABRI, with the mandate to spearhead transformative changes.

However, the evolution of public sentiment over time suggests a paradigm shift. The initial optimism that accompanied the Polri's emergence from ABRI has gradually given way to a more nuanced assessment of its performance and integrity. A significant factor contributing to this evolving perspective is the perceived gap between the desired optimal performance and reality. While Polri's role in overseeing the reform process was met with great hope, translating those aspirations into effective and professional law enforcement practices is still a work in progress.

Pursuing optimal performance in terms of professionalism is a persistent challenge confronting the Polri. The benchmarks of professionalism, such as impartiality, integrity, and adherence to due process, are pivotal for ensuring effective law enforcement and rebuilding and maintaining public trust. The fluctuations in public sentiment regarding Polri's performance highlight the complexity of managing public expectations and reconciling them with the practical constraints and challenges faced by the institution.

In this context, the trajectory of the Polri's public image reflects the broader evolution of a post-reform society. It underscores the delicate interplay between the aspirations for a just and transparent law enforcement apparatus and the challenges of translating those aspirations into a tangible reality. As the Polri strives to bridge the gap between public expectations and its performance, the overarching goal remains steadfast: to reclaim and bolster the citizenry's trust by demonstrating a robust commitment to professionalism, transparency, and the principles of justice.

There still needs to be more convoluted legal handling, extortion, case engineering, suboptimal public services, and a need for IT-based reporting systems. The speed in responding to public calls for help is slow and lacks agility. Those with ties are served swiftly, while those with flip-flops or who look shabby are ignored.

Similarly, when considering the cultural aspect, the persistence of corruptive practices remains deeply entrenched across various echelons of the police force, often coupled with repressive actions. This conspicuous continuation of undesirable behaviors underscores a disheartening reality. In tandem with these troubling trends, the erosion of public trust in the police becomes readily apparent.

This decline can be attributed to the reprehensible conduct of a subset of police officers who engage in violations that swiftly gain traction on various media platforms, eroding the public's faith in the police force.

Within this context, the waning trust in the Indonesian National Police (Polri) is a development that warrants grave consideration. This decline is particularly pronounced in the aftermath of distressing incidents, such as the calculated homicide of Brigadier Yosua Hutabarat by Ferdy Sambo. This occurrence cast a stark shadow over the institution's integrity. The Kanjuruhan tragedy serves as another poignant turning point, tragically claiming the lives of numerous individuals and further sowing the seeds of doubt in the public's minds.

As these high-profile incidents unfold and permeate the public consciousness, the ensuing erosion of trust becomes a multifaceted issue with far-reaching implications. Beyond merely undermining the credibility of the police, these occurrences can fuel a broader disillusionment with the law enforcement system and governance. The consequences of such erosion extend beyond individual incidents, shaping the collective perceptions of the public and reinforcing skepticism toward the police's commitment to justice and impartiality.

The diminishing public trust is a stark reminder of the critical importance of transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct within law enforcement institutions. As these institutions grapple with the imperative of rebuilding public confidence, the onus lies not only on rectifying individual transgressions but also on overhauling systemic issues that perpetuate misconduct and hamper genuine reform. By addressing these challenges head-on, the Indonesian National Police can aspire to reclaim the trust that has been eroded and to once again stand as a beacon of justice and integrity in the eyes of the public.

CONCLUSION

Law enforcers are obliged to obey the norms important in law enforcement, namely humanity, justice, decency, and honesty, and implement the code of ethics as appropriate. humanity, justice, decency, honesty, and implement the code of ethics as appropriate. However, in its implementation, sometimes it could go better and even causes problems. In its application, it sometimes experiences obstacles or constraints. The function of the Police Code of Ethics in preventing abuse of police authority has not been maximized within the Indonesian National Police. The implementation of the National Police Chief Regulation Number 7 of 2006 concerning the Professional Code of Ethics of the Indonesian National Police still needs to be higher, causing frequent violations of the code of ethics. This can be

seen from the still high level of violations of the principle of ethics itself committed by members of the National Police. The resolution of the code of ethics violations needs to be more comprehensive. Ethics Commission hearings tend to be like two blades that are sharp downward but blunt upward. Objectivity in punishing based on the applicable code of ethics still needs to improve when looking at what is happening today.

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