

Law Enforcement on The Practice of Thuggery in Indramayu Regency

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ABSTRACT

Background. Thuggery is increasingly prevalent in every social activity. Not only does it cause fear in the community, but the practice of thuggery is also the cause of the decline in the level of public trust in Law enforcement. The study formulates the problem by examining how the modus operandi is often used in the practice of thuggery in Indramayu Regency and how law enforcement can overcome the practice of thuggery.

Purpose. This study aims to analyze the modus operandi used in thuggery activities and understand and evaluate law enforcement's effectiveness in thuggery.

Methods. The research method used is Empirical Jurisprudence. Direct observation was carried out in areas with a relatively high level of thuggery in Indramayu Regency.

Result. The study's results show that one mode of thuggery often encountered in Indramayu Regency is Illegal Levy under the pretext of selling mineral water.

Conclusion. Law enforcement consists of several aspects, such as the legal factors themselves, law enforcement factors, facilities and facilities factors, community factors, and cultural factors. Implementation. Law enforcement is strengthened by increasing legal awareness in the community and implementing stricter sanctions to reduce the practice of thuggery in the future.

KEYWORDS

Illegal Levies, Law Enforcement, Thugging

INTRODUCTION

Thuggerism is a lifestyle like thugs that often prioritizes violence (Dyussenova dkk., 2024; Tam dkk., 2024). This practice often involves actions such as extortion, robbery, stabbing, and so on. The government has so far still had difficulties eradicating the practice of thuggery, as marked by Indonesia, which has a fairly high crime rate. As reported by Pusiknas (Indonesian

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Criminal Information Center), there were 434,768 crime cases in 2023. The gap in society causes the practice of thuggery to be increasingly rampant. According to Emile Durkheim, in the theory of anomie, it is explained that irregular social conditions result in a person committing crimes caused by a situation where social norms no longer have meaning and function to many people (Liu, 2024; Stipančević, 2024). Based on Durkheim's statement and its connection with thuggery, it can be concluded that this practice is an alternative way a person or a group of people do to gain profit regardless of the prevailing social norms. Extortion is one of the actions used by thugs to earn profit; The perpetrator is willing to commit violence or threats of violence in order to get money or objects from the victim. This has been regulated in Law Number 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code in article 482 concerning Extortion.

All kinds of thuggery practices can cause discomfort for the community. This is because there are parties who are harmed and their rights taken away by the perpetrators of thuggery (Abdullah dkk., 2024; Spytka, 2024). Of course, this is very contrary to the application of Article 30 of Law No. 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights, which explains that "Everyone has the right to a sense of security from threats that hinder his freedom." Thus, law enforcement has a very important role in preventing crime and ensuring the protection needed by every citizen.

According to Soerjono Soekanto, law enforcement harmonizes the relationship of values contained in the rules that are set and then manifested in concrete actions as the final form of applying these values to create, maintain, and promote peace of association (Minchenko, 2024; Mwanja dkk., 2024). As a state of law, Indonesia is obliged to protect the rights of its citizens from the actions of the community or individuals who intend to harm and deprive individuals or groups of human rights. This protection is important to ensure human rights standards, especially in countries with weak rule of law or where abuses of power are commonplace.

As contained in the laws and regulations that state that the State of Indonesia is a State of Law, with this stipulation, it is clear that the law plays a role as a binding supervisory tool for the Indonesian people which functions to regulate the behavior of a person or a group of people so as not to deprive them of the property rights of other citizens, so the law is seen not as a rule that is free from value but as a rule full of values. who can determine his own identity, hopes, and ideals, but the law cannot realize these wills on its own, because the law is only a rule, so human presence is needed to realize it.

Some of the theories about the purpose of law include Ethical Theory, which explains that law aims to create justice (Maskun dkk., 2024; Razyhrayev & Kunytskyy, 2024); Utility Theory, which explains that the purpose of law is to guarantee the greatest happiness for human beings in large numbers; and Mixed Theory, which explains that the purpose of law is to create order so as to create an orderly society. According to Mochtar Kusumaatmaja, the law aims to achieve justice according to the society and the era. Law enforcement is a process of transforming the goals of the law into reality. Dedication and professionalism are needed in eradicating practices that are contrary to the rules, such as thuggery, which will be the topic of this writing.

The practice of thuggery is also a very serious problem in Indramayu Regency. This problem causes economic losses for the community and erodes public trust in the apparatus and government institutions of Indramayu Regency. Although various efforts have been made to eradicate it, the sustainability of the practice of thuggery shows the need for a more strategic approach and effective law enforcement. In addition to involving law enforcement officials, the community must eradicate the practice of thuggery in the community itself. Low legal awareness also strengthens this culture, making it difficult to eliminate (Çelen, 2024; Djinarito dkk., 2024). Therefore, overcoming thuggery requires not only strict law enforcement but also cultural change

through public education so that they understand that the practice of thuggery is an act that violates the law and harms others.

Based on the description above, the author wants to study law enforcement for the perpetrators of thuggery practices among the people of Indramayu Regency. This study analyzes the challenges and obstacles in the law enforcement process in the Indramayu Regency area in overcoming the practice of thuggery, which is increasingly prevalent.

The main focus of this research is on the *modus operandi* that is often used in the practice of thuggery in Indramayu Regency and how law enforcement efforts carried out by law enforcement officials can play an effective role in minimizing the spread of thuggery crimes in Indramayu Regency (Kohut dkk., 2024; Rakhimova dkk., 2024). The purpose of this research is to harmonize law enforcement and law enforcement so that later a legal certainty will be created in preventing the practice of thuggery and for the perpetrators will face clear and firm sanctions consequences as well as provide education for the people of Indramayu about the dangers of thuggery that can damage the culture and social structure that exists in the people of Indramayu Regency.

Problem Formulation

1. What *modus operandi* is often used in the practice of thuggery in Indramayu Regency?
2. How does law enforcement deal with the practice of thuggery?

Research Objectives

1. To find out the *modus operandi* that is often used in the practice of thuggery in Indramayu Regency
2. To find out how law enforcement in tackling the practice of thuggery in Indramayu Regency

LITERATURE REVIEW

Thugging.

Thuggerism is a way of lifestyle like thugs that often prioritizes violence. Thugs are another term for extortionists, pushers, robbers, and so on. Thuggery behavior is not in line with legal and social norms (Balynska dkk., 2024; Jung & Kwon, 2024). Also, the practice of thuggery is related to crime and violence that is increasingly prevalent when unemployment rates are high and economic conditions are challenging.

Legal Basis

Law Number 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code in article 482 regulates extortion with violence or threats of violence (Abbasov & Abbasova, 2024; Guidetti & Mather, 2024). This article can be the legal basis in cases of thuggery where there is an element of forcing someone to give something.

Social Factors

According to Plato, a society experiences turmoil as humans are disturbed in the balance of their souls, which consists of lust, passion, and intelligence or controlling elements. The statement explains that the three factors must be balanced and go hand in hand, because if one of these factors dominates and the other factors are set aside, there will be an imbalance that causes an individual to cause conflict (Hnativ dkk., 2024; Triasmono dkk., 2024). Therefore, intelligence or wisdom is a controller that must maintain balance.

Factors of a Person in Practicing Thuggish

Emile Durkheim's theory of anomie explains that disordered social conditions can influence a person to commit crimes; these conditions are characterized by weaker social norms and poverty.

Law enforcement

According to Soerjono Soekanto, law enforcement is an activity of harmonizing the relationship between values contained in the rules that are set and then manifested in real actions as the final form of the application of these values, to create, maintain and maintain peace of association, several factors affect law enforcement including the legal factors themselves, law enforcement factors, facilities and facilities factors, community factors and cultural factors.

METHODS

This study uses an empirical juridical approach to examine the type of *modus operandi* in the practice of thuggery and how to enforce the law. Primary data collection is conducted by in-depth interviews with parties involved in thuggery (Karcz-Kaczmarek, 2024; Ospanova dkk., 2024). Secondary data is taken from the three legal materials, including primary legal materials containing laws and regulations that regulate the practice of thuggery, secondary legal materials in the form of theories from Soerjono Soekanto, and tertiary legal materials consisting of the internet and mass media.

DISCUSSION

Modus Operandi Often Used in the Practice of Thuggery in Indramayu Regency

Over time, the perpetrators of thuggery practices create a *modus operandi* to facilitate the execution of a crime and avoid detection of their actions (Blackburn dkk., 2024; Waisapi dkk., 2024). Modes with a high success rate are often used repeatedly because they provide a sense of security and confidence for perpetrators that law enforcement and the public find these patterns difficult to detect.

The mode that is often used by perpetrators in carrying out acts of thuggery in Indramayu Regency is through illegal levies in the form of selling mineral water. Buying and selling activities must certainly meet the legal requirements of an agreement if there is an element of coercion from one party that causes a fear effect for the other party (Dufeniuk dkk., 2024; Lin, 2024). The agreement is invalid because it does not heed the freedom of each other's rights; therefore, this buying and selling activity is only a cover to cover up the illegal levy action carried out by the perpetrator. Illegal levies are asking for money or payments illegally made by a group of people or individuals for personal gain, where these individuals usually have power in certain regions or places.

One of the facilities that thugs often use to carry out illegal levies is public roads, targeting drivers, especially truck drivers, and public transportation. The victims must be willing to pay money to the perpetrators so that the perpetrators' income decreases (Klymenko dkk., 2024; Osadume dkk., 2024). This practice often involves a threat or intimidation from a certain person who has a territorial power that the driver passes, which makes the victim feel pressured and follow the will of the perpetrator.

In its application, the system used by thug perpetrators in Indramayu Regency to carry out illegal levies with the mode of selling mineral water is very diverse, ranging from providing information to drivers regarding the crowd of passengers who need public transportation in the area, it can also be as security money if they want to pass through the road in the area or as a form of mandatory payment imposed by one party or a group. Using the threatening words "to be safe on the road" is enough to make the victim not refuse to buy the drink offered by the perpetrator at an improper price (Lugrin dkk., 2024; Ruff, 2024). The more often the road is passed, the more income the perpetrator gets, just with one mineral water, the perpetrator can reap many times the profit.

According to the perpetrators of illegal levies in Indramayu Regency, through the interviews we conducted, the results of the gross income calculation were found as shown in the table below.

Table 1. Data on Income of Illegal Levy Perpetrators in Indramayu Regency

Capital	Profit	Revenue per box (Day/Week/Month)
One box of Mineral Water (24 contents) = Rp. 36,000	1 bottle = Rp. 5,000	Revenue of the United Box (5,000 × 24 = Rp. 120,000) (120,000 - 36,000 = Rp. 84,000) Weekly Income (84,000 × 7 = Rp. 588,000) Monthly Revenue (84,000 × 30 = Rp. 2,520,000)

Source: Interview With Illegal Levy Perpetrators

According to our research conducted in the Indramayu Regency area, one of which is in Patrol District, the perpetrators provided information that they used these activities as a source of daily income. One person carries out the illegal levy in selling bottled mineral water, and a group of people with power carries out the majority in a specific area. Perpetrators in the Patrol area provide a rate per bottle of bottled water for Rp. 5,000. According to the perpetrator, the Cipali toll road and the distribution of road routes in the area have decreased bus traffic on the route that the perpetrators usually occupy as a place for transactions (Ahmad & Smith, 2024; Kovalenko dkk., 2024). The perpetrator complained that the income usually earned in a day can be spent on 2-3 boxes of mineral water, which, if totaled, equals the gross profit of Rp. 7,560,000 for one month, while after the distribution of the route, the perpetrator can only spend 1 box of bottled mineral water with a total profit of Rp. 2,520,000 per month.

The enactment of Indramayu Regency Regional Regulation No.1 of 2024 which is a derivative of Law No.1 of 2022 concerning Financial Relations Between the Central and Regional Governments emphasizes that the levy on public transportation regulated by law is no longer charged, there is no longer a levy that applies to public vehicles indicating that every levy that is still carried out is an act of illegal levies. Of course, this action is not regulated in the law and is an unlawful act.

Law Enforcement Efforts Against the Practice of Thuggery in Indramayu Regency

Following the goals of our country, as stated in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, creating a just and prosperous society, the practice of thuggery is an act that is very contrary to that goal. It is detrimental, especially to the victims, and becomes something unsettling in society (Ahmad & Smith, 2024; Nimesh dkk., 2024). The government must supervise the situation that can cause the practice of thuggery to develop. The need for law enforcement is urgent because many individuals or groups still carry out thuggery activities on the streets that harm many parties.

The lack of law enforcement and legal education in Indramayu results in a lack of knowledge about the law in the community, so that insensitivity to the law itself is created, which raises a new problem, namely the increasing prevalence of thuggery. According to Soerjono Soekanto, several factors affect law enforcement, including:

1. The Legal Factor Itself
2. Law Enforcement Factors
3. Facilities and Facilities Factor
4. Community Factors
5. Cultural Factors

The practice of thuggery through extortion has been regulated in Law Number 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code, in article 482 concerning Extortion. This regulation emphasizes that any person who forces others with violence or threats of violence to benefit themselves or others unlawfully is sentenced to a maximum of 9 years in prison (Aitzhanova dkk., 2024; Mashiringwane & Roongtawanreongsri, 2024). The regulation of an action in the Criminal Code shows that the element of legality has been fulfilled, which can strengthen law enforcement in sanctioning the perpetrators. Along with the development of the times, the perpetrators create various modus operandi that aim to disguise their criminal acts so that they cannot be detected by law enforcers practicing thuggery through illegal levies with the mode of selling mineral water, of course, this mode of buying and selling is complicated to prove through elements of violence or direct coercion. Therefore, the article needs to be updated to make it more adaptive to the current social conditions by considering the development of the mode used by the perpetrators of thuggery practice.

The law regulates society appropriately and beneficially by determining what is allowed to be done or vice versa based on *rect in actu*, which means a legal act that occurs, and *rect in potentia* is a legal act that will occur later. According to Han Kelsen, he explained in his theory that between *Das soll* (what should happen) and *Das Sein* (what exists), there must be an attachment between the two, but the many legal voids that occur in society and the lack of existing laws are not implemented properly. As a result, a crisis of public trust in law enforcement in Indramayu cannot be avoided (Mashiringwane & Roongtawanreongsri, 2024; Okereke dkk., 2024). This crisis is caused by the fact that sometimes the existing laws and regulations are no longer used as guidelines by the community in their behavior. In fact, existing rules or laws should allow people to comply with the law by no longer committing unlawful acts. It is very ironic indeed when many laws are born but crimes continue to occur, such as the crime of thuggery practices that arise in the Indramayu Regency area, the perpetrators think that these activities are legal to do when in reality they are very contrary to the law or illegal. The community needs to be involved in protecting the environment from crime because the law itself already exists in society, the law contains values and norms that exist in society, so that the conscience of the community itself binds the logic of the law itself; it should be that way, the law can be adequately implemented.

The increasing prevalence of cases of thuggery requires law enforcement to increase the level of professionalism and dedication to create a sense of security for the community. According to Soerjono Soekanto, the factor that affects law enforcement is law enforcement's understanding of social conditions and existing orders in society (Augustyniak, 2024). By understanding this social stratification, they can recognize the symbols of position that apply and the various forms of social interaction accompanying them. In addition, a law enforcer needs to know and understand every social institution in the community. Social institutions in the community are government institutions, educational institutions, law enforcement institutions, and so on. Social institutions that live in the community have functional relationships, so they significantly influence the socio-cultural stability of the community.

Facilities are essential to fill the void of support for law enforcers in carrying out their duties, with facilities such as patrol cars that travel in every area prone to thuggery. Cameras placed in areas with a high level of thuggery can help law enforcement monitor how the practice of

thuggery develops. The guard post is also one of the critical means because the guard post can monitor the development or change in the decrease in the number of perpetrators of thuggery practices.

Lack of legal awareness in the community results in mistakes, and unlawful actions will be considered ordinary until they are considered traditional. As an agency with a position, rights, and obligations, law enforcement has a crucial role (*role performance*) to correct bad habits that have taken root in society. The need for legal counseling from law enforcers will help increase understanding of how the law should apply in society; This role should be carried out by law enforcers so that there is no role distance. Law enforcers in enforcing the law of the act of thuggery also need to apply a combined theory between *absolute theory* and relative theory, with the existence of an *absolute* theory that emphasizes retribution in the law. When someone commits a crime, the law plays the role of the perpetrator. On the other hand, the *relative* theory functions as a counterbalance, emphasizing the prevention of future crimes. Therefore, there needs to be strict action that creates a deterrent effect on the perpetrator so that he does not repeat his actions and aims for general prevention, namely, preventing the public in general from committing crimes (*delicacies*).

In addition to the lack of legal awareness from the community, there is a fundamental personal factor from the person who does this, namely a sense of laziness that arises from oneself and also something that looks instant but promises income based on the author's research, the existence of laziness makes them lazy to look for halal work. The practice of thuggery through illegal levies is included in the amount of income, so that it quickly spreads like a disease in the community, and the spread of this thuggery has occurred a lot among the people of Indramayu Regency. In today's day and age, finding a decent job is very difficult; this is one of the factors for the perpetrators to carry out this practice. In addition, on average, this activity is carried out by the community, which usually consists of thugs in the Indramayu Regency area. This is one of the reasons why it is difficult for them to get decent work because, in the eyes of the public, this thuggery activity disturbs public order, which results in the perpetrators experiencing social sanctions for violating the applicable laws and norms. According to TribunJabar, the crime rate of thuggery in the Indramayu Regency area throughout 2023 reached 21.38%. Thuggery in Indramayu Regency is a serious concern for the police and other law enforcement agencies, who have deployed many operations to handle or overcome thuggery.

The lack of legal education in the Indramayu community creates a condition where the community is not controlled in their behavior, and the negative environmental influence where law enforcement is applied makes it an illegal culture that is legalized, so that this condition triggers the rampant behavior of thuggery. Actions carried out at will, such as will-to-be, violence, and anarchic behavior, often occur and even repeat until they become a habit or culture difficult to eliminate. Therefore, there needs to be an action from law enforcement itself in providing education in the people of Indramayu Regency, according to Satjipto Rahardjo in his book saying that progressive law enforcement must be carried out not just words or black on white but must be enthusiastic and have more meaning in carrying out laws or laws.

CONCLUSION

1. The modus operandi often used in the practice of thuggery in Indramayu Regency is illegal levies under the pretext of selling mineral water. These levies are carried out in areas that are often passed by buses or public transportation. The perpetrators make this illegal levy action a source of profit because the results are quite large and this activity is easy to do.

2. Law Enforcement efforts against the practice of thuggery have several factors that need to be considered, namely the Legal factor itself, the Law Enforcement factor, the Facilities factor, the Community factor, and the Cultural factor. All of these elements must synchronize for the realization of law enforcement. Enforcement efforts are based on a law, where regulations that discuss the practice of thuggery through extortion have been regulated in Law No. 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code article 482. Law enforcement must have a function in taking action against the perpetrators of thuggery practices and increasing public legal awareness, these efforts must be made by law enforcement officials so that there is no role distance where every role that should be carried out is still carried out and avoid role vacancies so that the entire community has a legal awareness which will undoubtedly reduce the number of the spread of thuggery practices. Some people in the Indramayu district still have a lack of legal awareness, which causes insensitivity and the emergence of indifference to the practice of thuggery, which causes this practice to become more prevalent.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. The community should be able to choose to find a decent livelihood and a reasonable job. The perpetrators' lack of education regarding the practice of thuggery prevents them from understanding the consequences and impacts of what they do. In addition, law enforcers must research and learn about the perpetrators' modus operandi so that law enforcement against these violations can be realized.
2. The role of law enforcement in dealing with the increasingly rampant practice of thuggery is very important. The eradication of thuggery practices also needs to be carried out equally, and appropriate sanctions should be given to the perpetrators so that they are deterred and do not repeat the practice of thuggery. The legal rules that regulate the practice of thuggery must consider the development of the mode used by perpetrators who are increasingly developing, and the addition of existing facilities and infrastructure can optimize law enforcement in eradicating the practice of thuggery. The importance of legal education carried out by law enforcement officials to the community is helpful in increasing awareness of the practice of thuggery. It can break the unnatural culture in a community.

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