

**LAW ENFORCEMENT IN CASES OF MURDER CONTINUED BY
SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN****Sudarma Wijaya^{1*}, M. Yusuf DM², Sandra Dewi³**Master of Law, Lancang Kuning University, Pekanbaru, Indonesia^{1,2,3}
sudarma.wijaya@gmail.com^{1*}, m.yusuf@gmail.com², sandra@gmail.com³**Abstract**

In many cases, perpetrators attempt to cover their tracks by killing the victim, making biological evidence difficult to find. This requires the police to work extra hard to collect forensic evidence and witness statements. The purpose of this study is to analyze law enforcement in cases of murder followed by sexual violence against children based on Law Number 17 of 2016 concerning the Stipulation of Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2016 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection at the Indragiri Hulu Police. The method used is sociological legal research. Based on the results of the study, it is known that law enforcement in cases of murder followed by sexual violence against children based on Law Number 17 of 2016 concerning the Stipulation of Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2016 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection at the Indragiri Hulu Police that the authorities have implemented the provisions of Law Number 17 of 2016 strictly. This regulatory change provides a strong legal basis for investigators in applying the maximum criminal threat, including the death penalty, life imprisonment, or other aggravating crimes. The investigation process is directed to fulfill the principles of child protection, victim justice, and legal certainty. Obstacles such as the limited number of investigators with specialized competencies in handling child-based crimes, the lack of comprehensive forensic facilities, and the often-impeded availability of post-mortem examinations and laboratory results contribute to slow investigations. Furthermore, this contributes to the deep trauma experienced by victims and their families. Efforts to overcome these obstacles include increasing the capacity of officers through specialized training in handling sexual violence against children. Local governments and law enforcement institutions also need to strengthen supporting facilities. Coordination with integrated service agencies must be improved to expedite the process of establishing evidence and providing assistance to victims.

Keywords : Law Enforcement, Murder, Sexual Violence

INTRODUCTION

Children are the nation's future generation and must receive full protection so they can grow and develop optimally, safely, and with dignity. The state is obliged to guarantee children's rights to life, protection from violence, and other rights as stipulated in the Child Protection Law (UU, 2016). However, in practice, various cases of violence against children, including sexual violence, murder, and a combination of the two, continue to occur in various regions across Indonesia.

The fundamental purpose of criminal law in Indonesia is to protect society from crime and ensure public order by imposing sanctions on perpetrators. One of the most serious crimes, one that touches the public's sense of justice, is crimes against children, particularly murder accompanied by rape. This phenomenon not only causes physical and psychological harm to the victims and their families but also creates moral and social upheaval within the community. Therefore, firm and just law enforcement is essential in enforcing these serious crimes.

Law Number 17 of 2016 concerning the Stipulation of Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2016 as Law, which is the second amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection, is an important milestone in efforts to protect children in Indonesia. This change emerged as a response to the increasing cases of sexual violence against children which caused public unrest and demanded the state to be present firmly through legal instruments. In Article 81 paragraph (5) of the Law, it is specifically regulated that if the criminal act as referred to in paragraph (1), paragraph (2), paragraph (3), or paragraph (4) results in the death of the victim, then the perpetrator can be sentenced to death, life imprisonment, or imprisonment for a minimum of 10 years and a maximum of 20 years and can be subject to additional measures in the form of chemical castration, installation of electronic detection devices, and announcement of the perpetrator's identity.

This provision demonstrates that the state considers sexual crimes against children, particularly those involving murder, to be extraordinary crimes. This affirmation demonstrates a shift in the paradigm of Indonesian criminal law, which is not solely oriented toward the principle of retributive justice but also toward restorative justice and the protection of victims, particularly children, who enjoy a special legal status within the national legal system.

Recently, the public has been frequently shocked by cases of extreme crimes involving children as victims, where murder occurs followed by rape of children. These cases have raised deep concerns regarding weak law enforcement, victim protection, and the appropriateness of sanctions against perpetrators. In the midst of this situation, Law Number 17 of 2016 as the second amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection (Child Protection Law) has established provisions for serious crimes, including Article 81 paragraph (5) which regulates sanctions for the death penalty, life imprisonment, or imprisonment if the victim dies as a result of the crime of sexual intercourse with a child. However, how to apply these provisions in real cases, for example in the Indragiri Hulu Police area, is a challenge in itself.

According to Satjipto Rahardjo (2006), law enforcement is not merely the rigid implementation of legal texts, but also the process of actualizing the values of justice in a particular social context. He emphasized that "the law must not stop at its letters, but must live and breathe in society." In the context of a murder case followed by the rape of a child, law enforcement must take into account the community's sense of justice and protect the victims, who are the most vulnerable.

From the legal protection perspective, Philipus M. Hadjon (1987) stated that legal protection for the people can be divided into two, namely preventive and repressive legal protection. Preventive legal protection is carried out through regulations that protect children from potential violence, while repressive protection is carried out after a violation of the law

occurs by imposing criminal sanctions on the perpetrator. The application of Article 81 paragraph (5) is a form of repressive legal protection that aims to provide a sense of security to the community, especially children as a protected group.

From the perspective of punishment theory, punishment for perpetrators of murder and child rape is not solely aimed at avenging the evil deed, but also to repair the social order damaged by the crime. Jeremy Bentham, in *An Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*, stated that the purpose of punishment is to create the greatest happiness for the greatest number of people through crime prevention. This utilitarian principle underpins the view that severe punishment for perpetrators of sexual crimes against children will have a deterrent effect and prevent the recurrence of similar crimes.

Meanwhile, the retributive theory put forward by Immanuel Kant argues that punishment is a form of moral justice that must be imposed because the perpetrator has committed a crime, without regard to the social consequences. In the context of Article 81 paragraph (5), severe punishments such as the death penalty or life imprisonment reflect a retributive approach because they are considered appropriate retribution for the heinous acts committed by the perpetrator against child victims. However, in modern legal systems, these two approaches are often combined to create a balance between moral justice and social goals.

The phenomenon of murder followed by rape of children demonstrates moral degradation and weak social oversight. From a criminological perspective, this crime falls into the category of sexual homicide, namely murder accompanied by elements of sexual gratification of the victim. According to Romli Atmasasmita (2013), this type of crime is not only driven by sexual urges alone, but also by deviant personality factors, childhood trauma, and social conditions that are permissive towards violence. Therefore, the implementation of Article 81 paragraph (5) is not only repressive, but must also be accompanied by a comprehensive criminal policy, including prevention and social rehabilitation.

In law enforcement, Lawrence M. Friedman's (1975) theory provides a highly relevant analytical framework. Friedman argued that the effectiveness of a legal system is influenced by three main elements: legal substance, legal structure, and legal culture. Legal substance relates to the content of regulations, in this case Article 81 paragraph (5), which provides the legal basis for serious criminal penalties for perpetrators. Legal structure relates to law enforcement agencies such as the police, prosecutors, and courts, which are responsible for enforcing the law. Meanwhile, legal culture relates to public awareness to respect the law and reject all forms of violence against children.

In practice, the application of Article 81 paragraph (5) often faces challenges in proving the element of "murder followed by rape". This proof requires high accuracy, because it must be ensured that the sexual act was carried out before or after the murder, and that the victim is a child as defined in Article 1 number 1 of the Child Protection Law, namely a person who is not yet 18 years old, including children who are still in the womb. Errors in proof can have implications for the suboptimal application of legal sanctions against the perpetrator.

In addition, implementation issues also relate to the implementation of additional measures such as chemical castration or the installation of electronic detection devices. From a human rights law perspective, the implementation of chemical castration is still debated because it is considered a violation of human rights as regulated in Article 28G of the 1945 Constitution. However, the state has the right to limit individual rights to the extent necessary to protect the rights of others, especially children, in accordance with the harm principle put forward by John Stuart Mill (1859).

The application of Article 81 paragraph (5) of Law Number 17 of 2016 in the case of murder followed by rape of a child is a concrete manifestation of law enforcement that

integrates various dimensions: justice, certainty, benefit, and protection of the victim. The application of this article also symbolizes the state's responsibility in fulfilling the constitutional mandate to protect all Indonesian people and all Indonesian blood as stated in the fourth paragraph of the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution.

Here are some examples of murder cases followed by sexual violence or rape against children in other areas, including:

1. The case of murder and sexual violence in Air Molek Indragiri Hulu on December 24, 2023, victim Usnul Hasanah (UH) 13 years old, perpetrator Farul Rozi (FR).
2. Murder and sexual violence case in Cilincing, North Jakarta, 2025, victim VIWI, 12 years old, 6th grade elementary school, perpetrator RF, 16 years old.
3. Case in Talang Pebbles Palembang in 2024, junior high school student, 4 underage teenagers arrested
4. In 2025, a 10-year-old girl was found in a sugarcane plantation mess. The perpetrator was an employee who lured her with fried food.
5. The case in Bengkayang, West Kalimantan, on May 19 2025 at 05.30 WIB, in the bathroom, the suspect's own uncle with the initials H (25 years old), victim LR (13 years old).
6. The case in Banyuwangi involved elementary school students.

In the context of the Indragiri Hulu Police, the application of legal provisions to these acts must refer to Law Number 17 of 2016, specifically Article 81 paragraph (5) which provides increased criminal penalties for perpetrators who commit sexual violence against children resulting in the death of the victim. This provision is a form of extra punishment policy from the state to provide maximum protection to children as a vulnerable group.

However, the facts on the ground show that cases of child murder accompanied by sexual violence do not only stop at the dimension of sexual violence itself, but also on the perpetrator's actions in treating the victim's body inhumanely after death. This is where the relevance of Article 271 of the National Criminal Code (Law No. 1 of 2023) becomes important, because this article regulates cruel or immoral acts against corpses. Thus, in addition to being charged with Article 81 paragraph (5) of Law 17/2016, the perpetrator can also be subject to the provisions of the 2023 Criminal Code if there are further acts that violate the dignity of the corpse, such as raping, touching, or committing indecent acts on the victim's body after death. This shows the existence of multiple layers of criminality that must be analyzed comprehensively by Indragiri Hulu Police investigators.

From a legal theory perspective, law enforcement in this case reflects the difference between *das sollen* and *das sein*. *Das sollen* illustrates how the law should operate based on written rules, namely the application of Article 81 paragraph (5) of Law 17/2016 for sexual violence resulting in death, and Article 271 of the 2023 Criminal Code for indecent acts against corpses. These regulations are ideal, comprehensive, and provide maximum protection for children through the threat of severe criminal penalties, additional penalties, and victim protection mechanisms. Normatively, the law has regulated clearly and firmly.

However, *das sein* reflects the reality on the ground, where the investigative process often faces various obstacles, such as limited evidence, the sensitivity of deceased victims, psychological pressure on the victim's family, and public demands for justice as quickly as possible. Often, the process of proving elements of sexual violence and acts against corpses requires extra care, such as an autopsy, a post-mortem examination, and forensic expert testimony. This reality shows that even though legal norms are ideally available, their implementation still depends on the professionalism of investigators, the courage to apply multiple articles, and the ability of law enforcement agencies to meet child protection standards.

In the context of law enforcement, there is always a distinction between *das sollen* and *das sein*. *Das sollen* describes how the law should apply according to the norms established in legislation, while *das sein* reflects the reality of law enforcement in practice. In the case of the murder followed by the rape of a child within the jurisdiction of the Indragiri Hulu Police, these two aspects are important to analyze, as they illustrate the extent to which ideal legal norms have been implemented in practice by law enforcement officers.

Article 81 paragraph (5) of Law Number 17 of 2016 states that anyone who commits violence or threatens violence to force a child to have sexual intercourse and results in the victim's death can be sentenced to death, life imprisonment, or a maximum of 20 years in prison. This provision shows that the state normatively provides maximum protection for children as victims of sexual crimes accompanied by extreme violence. This norm also emphasizes the principle of *ultimum remedium* in criminal law, namely that criminal sanctions are imposed as the last resort and the most severe measure for acts considered the most dangerous for society.

However, in practice, the implementation of this article within the jurisdiction of the Indragiri Hulu Police Department still faces several obstacles. The main obstacle lies in the process of providing evidence and reconstructing the crime. In many cases, perpetrators attempt to cover their tracks by killing the victim, making biological evidence difficult to find. This forces police to work extra hard to gather forensic evidence and witness statements to ensure that the elements of "rape resulting in death" are truly met. Furthermore, limited forensic laboratory facilities in the region also slow down the investigation process, which can ultimately impact the effectiveness of the legal norm's implementation.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study employs sociological (empirical) legal research that examines law in action. This approach is used to analyze the application of Law Number 17 of 2016 in law enforcement in cases of murder accompanied by sexual violence against children in the Indragiri Hulu Police Department. The research approach used includes:

1. Legislative approach, by examining the Child Protection Law and the Criminal Code.
2. Conceptual approach, using theories and doctrines from legal experts.
3. Analytical approach, to assess the effectiveness, consistency and application of legal norms in practice.
4. Case approach, by analyzing concrete cases and their impact on victims and families.

Data were analyzed qualitatively, describing and interpreting the data without using numbers or statistics. Conclusions were drawn inductively, drawing generalizations from specific facts found in the field.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Law Enforcement in Murder Cases Followed by Sexual Violence Against Children Based on Law Number 17 of 2016 Concerning the Determination of Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2016 Concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 Concerning Child Protection at the Indragiri Hulu Police

Law enforcement against crimes against children, particularly murder accompanied by sexual violence, is one of the state's responses to the most serious attacks on human dignity. These crimes are not only life-threatening but also involve elements of sexual violence, which are morally and legally considered the most serious violations of the child's body and personality as legal subjects who must be protected. In the Indonesian context, regulations governing child protection have developed significantly, particularly through the enactment of Law Number 17 of 2016, which establishes Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2016 as law. This regulation strengthens child protection by adding increased sanctions,

including the death penalty, life imprisonment, and additional penalties such as chemical castration and the installation of electronic detection devices. This legal reform demonstrates the state's seriousness in responding to the escalation of sexual crimes and violence against children.

In the regional scope, including in the Indragiri Hulu Police, handling cases of murder accompanied by sexual violence against children requires a systematic and measured legal approach, starting from the process of investigation, inquiry, arrest of the perpetrator, to the preparation of case files to then be handed over to the prosecutor's office. In practice, law enforcement against serious crimes such as this is not only based on positive law, but also on the principles of criminal law, law enforcement theory, and the principles of child protection. Satjipto Rahardjo (2012) provides an important theoretical basis that the law must be used as an instrument to protect humans, especially vulnerable groups such as children, so that law enforcement should not be merely a formality, but must be able to provide substantive protection and a sense of justice to victims and the community.

In cases of murder followed by sexual violence, the investigation phase at the Indragiri Hulu Police Department typically involves identifying the *corpus delicti*, examining the condition of the body, and gathering sufficient preliminary evidence. Because sexual violence is involved, the investigation process typically includes a post-mortem examination (*visum et repertum*), a gynecological post-mortem examination, DNA testing, and other forensic examinations to determine penetration, violent injuries, and the time of death. Investigators also examine the crime scene in detail to identify other evidence such as fingerprints, remaining evidence, and the possible relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. This process is crucial because it serves as the basis for investigators to identify suspects and formulate the articles to be used in the investigation.

Law Number 17 of 2016 explicitly regulates the increased penalties for perpetrators of sexual violence against children. Provisions regarding increased penalties are contained in Article 81 paragraphs (5) and (6), as well as Article 82 paragraph (4), which emphasize that if an act of sexual violence results in the victim's death, the perpetrator can be subject to the death penalty or life imprisonment. This provision aligns with Hans Kelsen's (2017) thinking regarding the hierarchy of norms and the requirement that the law provide the highest sanctions for serious violations of the legal system that protects fundamental human rights. However, the application of these sanctions must be based on strong evidence, so the role of investigators in gathering evidence is crucial. In practice at the Indragiri Hulu Police, the handling of similar cases shows that investigators prioritize a scientific investigation approach that prioritizes forensic-based evidence to avoid errors in determining the perpetrator.

Furthermore, law enforcement must be guided by the principle of due process of law, which ensures that even if a perpetrator commits a serious crime, their rights are still protected in accordance with statutory provisions. The theory of internal legal morality emphasizes that the legal process must be fair and predictable so that substantive justice can be upheld (Fuller, 2014). This means that investigators are required to carry out investigation procedures in accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, such as examining witnesses, suspects, and evidence, and providing the suspect with the opportunity to receive legal representation. However, protection of perpetrators must not detract from the primary objective of the law enforcement process, which is to ensure that perpetrators of serious crimes against children receive appropriate punishment and provide a deterrent effect, both for the perpetrators and for the community.

From a child protection perspective, the best interest of the child is the primary principle in every policy for handling cases of violence against children. This principle is enshrined in various international legal instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and is adopted in the Indonesian Child Protection Law. This principle

emphasizes that every state action, including the handling of criminal cases, must be directed towards ensuring maximum protection for victims and preventing similar crimes from occurring. Therefore, Law Number 17 of 2016 not only regulates criminal sanctions but also focuses on victim recovery, rehabilitation, and restitution.

In the context of murder accompanied by sexual violence, victim recovery is no longer oriented towards physical recovery, but rather reconciliation with the victim's family through protection mechanisms and restorative justice. Philipus M. Hadjon argues that legal protection for citizens must include preventive and repressive protection (Hadjon, 2011). Preventive protection is implemented through regulations that protect children from acts of sexual violence, while repressive protection is carried out through firm law enforcement against perpetrators. In the case at the Indragiri Hulu Police, this form of repressive protection was applied through a professional investigation and the application of relevant criminal aggravating articles.

Another important aspect of law enforcement is coordination between the Indragiri Hulu Police and the Indragiri Hulu District Attorney's Office for the preparation of case files. Investigators must ensure that case files are complete and meet material and formal requirements so they can be submitted to the prosecutor's office without hindrance. If deficiencies are found in the files (P-19), investigators are required to complete them. This demonstrates the principle of checks and balances in the criminal justice system. According to Soerjono Soekanto, the effectiveness of law enforcement is determined by several factors, namely legal substance, legal structure, facilities, legal culture, and society (Soekanto, 2011). In cases of sexual violence against children, the legal substance factor is adequate through Law Number 17 of 2016, but the legal structure and supporting facilities in the field must be truly optimal for law enforcement to be effective.

Indragiri Hulu Police investigators also face several challenges in handling cases of murder and sexual violence against children. One such obstacle is community resistance to providing information, especially when the perpetrator and victim are related socially or familially. In some cases, local cultures that uphold family values can hinder the investigation process. Furthermore, examining children or child witnesses requires specialized expertise to avoid further trauma. Therefore, investigators typically collaborate with psychologists, social workers, and the Regional Child Protection Agency to conduct child-friendly investigations.

From the perspective of law enforcement actors, the role of investigators at the Indragiri Hulu Police is not merely to carry out technical duties, but also to ensure that the law is enforced fairly. Gustav Radbruch (2010) stated that the law must fulfill three basic values: justice, legal certainty, and expediency. In the context of this case, justice must be provided to the victim and their family through the imposition of severe sanctions on the perpetrator, legal certainty is provided through the consistent application of the law, and expediency is realized in efforts to prevent similar crimes through a deterrent effect.

Of all the stages of law enforcement, the implementation of Law No. 17 of 2016 at the Indragiri Hulu Police Department reflects an institutional commitment to eradicating sexual crimes against children. However, the effectiveness of law enforcement depends not only on regulations and the actions of officers, but also on community and social support. This requires increased public education regarding the importance of early reporting, providing accurate information to authorities, and not protecting perpetrators based on family ties or social pressure. This will ensure comprehensive law enforcement.

From a criminal policy perspective, the severe criminal sanctions stipulated in Law Number 17 of 2016 aim to provide a deterrent effect, protect society, and restore public trust in the legal system. This criminal policy aligns with Marc Ancel's (2016) thinking on social defense theory, which states that punishment should be directed at protecting society from the dangers of perpetrators who have the potential to repeat their crimes. Therefore, chemical

castration and the installation of electronic detection devices are additional forms of punishment designed to prevent recidivism.

Thus, law enforcement in the murder case accompanied by sexual violence against a child at the Indragiri Hulu Police Department is an implementation of national legal policy that places children as subjects who must receive maximum protection. Through professional investigations, the application of aggravating criminal provisions, cooperation between law enforcement agencies, and community participation, law enforcement can provide substantive justice for the victim and send a strong message to the public that the state does not tolerate any form of violence against children.

Obstacles to Law Enforcement in Murder Cases Followed by Sexual Violence Against Children Based on Law Number 17 of 2016 Concerning the Determination of Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2016 Concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 Concerning Child Protection at the Indragiri Hulu Police

Enforcing the law against perpetrators of murder accompanied by sexual violence against children is one of the difficult and complex tasks faced by law enforcement officials, including those in the Indragiri Hulu Police Department. Although Law Number 17 of 2016 has provided a strong normative basis by providing for increased criminal penalties, including the death penalty, life imprisonment, and additional penalties such as chemical castration and the installation of electronic detection devices, its implementation in the field still faces various challenges. These obstacles stem not only from legal factors but also from the structure of law enforcement, limited facilities and infrastructure, social conditions in the community, and psychological barriers faced by victims and witnesses. The complexity of these obstacles demonstrates that the law does not exist in a vacuum, but rather operates within a social and institutional context that significantly influences its effectiveness.

One of the fundamental obstacles that arise in cases of murder accompanied by sexual violence against children is the difficulty in establishing evidence, especially when the incident occurs in a place with few witnesses or when the perpetrator is someone close to the victim. In many similar cases in rural Indragiri Hulu, the crimes occurred in closed environments, making it difficult for investigators to obtain preliminary evidence. Physical evidence such as DNA, fingerprints, or biological traces are often contaminated due to the ignorance of family and community members who were first at the scene. According to Peter Murphy (2011), establishing evidence in serious crimes requires great care because errors in the evidentiary process can have fatal consequences in the criminal justice process. This evidentiary obstacle is even more severe if the perpetrator deliberately removes traces, discards the victim's clothing, or moves the body to obscure the time and place of the incident.

Another obstacle lies in the limited forensic facilities within the Indragiri Hulu Police Department. Although investigators have attempted to implement a scientific investigation approach, forensic laboratory facilities are not available at the police department level and require the involvement of laboratories in Pekanbaru or even the National Police's central laboratory. This situation causes geographic distance to impact the speed of case handling. Waiting times for autopsy results, DNA tests, or other laboratory tests can be lengthy, delaying the investigation process. In crimes against children, speed of handling is crucial to prevent the loss of evidence. Soerjono Soekanto (2011) stated that the effectiveness of law enforcement is determined, in part, by facilities or supporting infrastructure. Therefore, the lack of technical facilities in the region directly impacts the slowness of the law enforcement process.

Another obstacle is the limited human resources with specialized expertise in handling

child victims and victims of sexual violence. Examining children as victims or witnesses requires special child-friendly interview methods to avoid causing further trauma. Not all investigators have expertise in child psychology or specialized training in interviewing child victims. According to Herbert Packer (2017), law enforcement officers must have adequate skills because law enforcement is not merely mechanical but also requires professional skills to handle sensitive cases. Investigators' inability to implement a child-friendly approach can result in information from victims not being optimally extracted or leading to psychological distress that worsens the victim's condition.

In addition to technical factors, obstacles also arise from the legal culture of the community in the Indragiri Hulu region. There is still a perception that maintaining a family's good name is more important than reporting sexual crimes committed by relatives. Many victims' families are afraid to report if the perpetrator is related to them or is a community figure. Local cultures that prioritize social harmony and shame often hinder the community from being open with law enforcement. In some cases, families even refuse to perform autopsies on victims due to tradition, religion, or psychological fears. Lawrence Friedman (2011) emphasized that the community's legal culture is a crucial element influencing law enforcement and can become an obstacle if it conflicts with applicable legal norms. Therefore, without community support, investigators will face obstacles in uncovering the facts comprehensively.

The psychological challenges faced by the victim's family cannot be ignored. Trauma, fear, and social pressure often make families reluctant to provide information openly. In rural areas, community pressure can be particularly strong, especially if the case is perceived as tarnishing the family's reputation. This situation prevents investigators from obtaining honest and complete information, thus hampering the investigation. Furthermore, witnesses who witnessed the incident are often reluctant to provide information due to fear of the perpetrator or their family. In several cases at the Indragiri Hulu Police, investigators had to work extra hard to convince witnesses to provide objective and factual testimony.

The next obstacle relates to coordination between law enforcement agencies. Although the Indragiri Hulu Police have attempted to compile complete case files, formal and material deficiencies often persist, resulting in the prosecutor returning the files (P-19). This back-and-forth process slows down case handling and potentially diminishes the momentum of evidence collection. According to Mardjono Reksodiputro (2012), the criminal justice system can only function effectively if there is harmonious cooperation between the police, prosecutors, courts, and correctional institutions. This lack of synchronization between law enforcement agencies leads to protracted disclosure and prosecution of murder and sexual violence cases.

Another obstacle is the ambiguity or multiple interpretations in the application of additional penalties such as chemical castration. Although Law Number 17 of 2016 provides a normative basis for the implementation of chemical castration, its technical implementation still requires implementing regulations as well as medical, ethical, and health facility readiness. Furthermore, there are differences of opinion among legal experts, psychologists, and health workers regarding the effectiveness and ethics of applying castration. According to Achmad Ali (2012), problems with legal interpretation often arise when laws are not supported by clear implementing regulations and adequate technical mechanisms. This situation causes investigators and prosecutors to be cautious in formulating additional criminal charges to avoid future legal issues.

Another obstacle concerns the lack of support facilities for victims, especially children. Post-incident psychological rehabilitation is crucial, but psychological services in rural areas remain very limited. In some areas of Indragiri Hulu, service institutions such as the Integrated Service Center for the Empowerment of Women and Children (P2TP2A) do

not have adequate psychologists or are not always available 24/7. This situation results in suboptimal psychological support for child victims. However, according to the modern victimology theory pioneered by Nils Christie (2015), victim protection and recovery are integral to just law enforcement. Without adequate psychological support, victims or their families are often unable to provide complete information to investigators, thus hampering the process of solving cases.

Bureaucratic and administrative obstacles also contribute to slow law enforcement. An ideal investigative process requires adequate budgetary support, covering everything from investigators' transportation to remote crime scenes, post-mortem costs, and the cost of sending samples to forensic laboratories. In some cases, limited operational budgets force investigators to take slower steps or wait for additional funding allocations. According to Satjipto Rahardjo (2017), rigid bureaucracy can be a major obstacle to the progressive use of the law. When bureaucracy becomes overly administrative, the spirit of child protection, a substantive value of Law Number 17 of 2016, becomes structurally hampered.

In addition to internal obstacles, there are also external obstacles, namely public and media pressure. Cases of sexual violence followed by murder often attract public attention and local media, which demands investigators to quickly arrest the perpetrators and solve the case. This pressure can be positive as a monitor of officer performance, but it can also have a negative impact if it encourages investigators to work too quickly. Herbert L. Packer (2017), in his theory of the crime control model and the due process model, states that public pressure can place officers in a dilemma between speed and accuracy. If investigators focus too much on speed, the aspect of accuracy in gathering evidence can be neglected, potentially weakening the evidence in court.

Indragiri Hulu's vast geographical area also presents a challenge. Some crime scenes are far from the city center, difficult to reach, and require long travel times. Damaged or inadequate roads hinder authorities' speed in reaching crime scenes, potentially resulting in the loss or contamination of crucial evidence before investigators arrive. This geographic factor aligns with modern environmental criminology studies, which highlight the importance of place and spatial context in crime patterns and law enforcement responses (Brantingham, 2013).

In addition to these factors, there are also obstacles related to the perpetrators themselves. In some cases, perpetrators possess the cunning or knowledge to avoid detection. Some perpetrators have criminal records, understand how to dispose of evidence, or even attempt to create alibis. In such contexts, investigators require specialized expertise in interrogation techniques, modus operandi analysis, and the use of information technology to track down the perpetrators. When investigators' skills are not matched by the perpetrators' cunning, the investigation process is hampered and requires more time to obtain sufficient evidence.

All of these obstacles demonstrate that law enforcement in cases of murder accompanied by sexual violence against children is not only a normative issue, but also a structural, cultural, and technical one. Although Law Number 17 of 2016 provides a strong legal basis, its implementation at the Indragiri Hulu Police Department is still hampered by limitations that require comprehensive improvement. Effective law enforcement can only be achieved if these various obstacles are overcome through increasing the capacity of investigators, providing adequate forensic facilities, increasing public education, and improving coordination between law enforcement institutions. In this way, child protection as mandated by law can be realized in a concrete and effective manner.

Efforts to Overcome Obstacles in Law Enforcement in Murder Cases Followed by Sexual Violence Against Children Based on Law Number 17 of 2016 Concerning the Determination of Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2016 Concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 Concerning Child Protection at the Indragiri Hulu Police

Efforts to overcome various obstacles in law enforcement regarding the murder case followed by sexual violence against children at the Indragiri Hulu Police Station cannot be separated from the understanding that law enforcement is a process involving the interaction between legal structures, legal substances, and the legal culture of society. Law Number 17 of 2016 as a normative basis provides a strong legal umbrella to protect children through the imposition of severe sanctions such as the death penalty, life imprisonment, and chemical castration. However, the effectiveness of its implementation is largely determined by the readiness of the apparatus, supporting facilities, and synergy between institutions. Therefore, efforts to overcome obstacles must be carried out comprehensively, starting from improving the capacity of law enforcement officers, providing facilities and infrastructure, strengthening inter-institutional coordination, and empowering the community as part of the child protection system.

One of the main efforts that needs to be undertaken is to improve the quality of human resources within law enforcement, particularly investigators at the Indragiri Hulu Police. Handling cases of murder accompanied by sexual violence against children requires specialized competencies, both in terms of technical investigations, child psychology, and a humanistic approach to the victim's family. Special training in child interviewing techniques is crucial to ensure that child interviews are conducted correctly, do not cause additional trauma, and are able to elicit valid information. According to Andrew Ashworth (2010), the professionalism of law enforcement officers is a fundamental factor in maintaining the integrity of the criminal justice system. Therefore, the capacity of investigators must be continuously improved through competency-based training, collaboration with forensic psychologists, and special certification for investigators who handle women and children.

In addition to improving the quality of human resources, providing scientific investigation facilities and infrastructure is a crucial step in increasing the effectiveness of law enforcement. Adequate forensic laboratory facilities can help investigators overcome evidentiary challenges, particularly in sexual crime cases that rely heavily on biological evidence and DNA traces. Given that the Indragiri Hulu Police do not yet have their own forensic laboratory, more intensive collaboration with the Riau Regional Police Forensic Laboratory and other laboratories must be strengthened through mechanisms to accelerate the examination process. According to Soerjono Soekanto (2014), facilities and infrastructure are key factors in determining the success of a legal system. Providing forensic vehicles, crime scene security equipment, and training in the use of these tools can minimize the loss of evidence at the scene. Furthermore, standard operating procedures are needed to ensure that every officer who first arrives at the scene does not engage in actions that could lead to contamination of evidence.

To overcome obstacles to evidence, the use of digital technology and crime scene mapping is also essential. Investigators can accelerate the identification of perpetrators by utilizing CCTV footage, digital forensic systems, and telecommunications data analysis, which has been underutilized. Strengthening the IT Forensic Division at the Regional Police (Polda) and Resort Police (Polres) levels is a strategic step to ensure that information technology plays a role in uncovering perpetrator networks, motives, and movements before and after the crime. In a modern law enforcement approach, technology is no longer a

complement, but a primary instrument that can improve the accuracy and speed of investigations, as stated by David Harris (2012) in the concept of data-driven policing.

In the context of a community's legal culture, preventive and repressive strategies must be balanced. Barriers such as shame, fear, or reluctance to report must be overcome through intensive legal education and outreach. The Indragiri Hulu Police need to encourage the formation of community policing involving traditional leaders, religious leaders, and village officials as partners in child protection. This is important considering that rural communities often use these figures as the first point of contact before reporting to the police. Lawrence Friedman (2017) emphasized that a community's legal culture influences how the law is received and implemented. Therefore, a cultural shift from "covering up for the sake of the family's good name" to "reporting for the sake of the child's safety" must be a shared agenda. One concrete effort is to establish information centers and complaint services in every sub-district that actively provide education about sexual violence against children and provide easy and non-intimidating reporting procedures.

To overcome the psychological barriers faced by victims and their families, it is necessary to strengthen the role of the Center for the Protection of Victims and the Prosecutor's Office (P2TP2A) and provide professional psychologists who can provide support from the investigation stage to the court's decision. A victim-centered approach prioritizes victims in the criminal justice system, ensuring that each stage takes into account the victims' emotional and psychological well-being. Nils Christie (2013) emphasized the importance of providing victims with the space to receive adequate recovery as part of justice itself. Therefore, the state, through the police, local governments, and related institutions, must provide free psychological services, medical services, and legal assistance. With adequate support, victims or their families will be more cooperative in providing information, enabling a more effective investigation.

Another effort is to strengthen coordination between the police, prosecutors, courts, and other relevant institutions. Obstacles to the return of files (P-19) due to material or formal deficiencies can be overcome through joint case discussions between investigators and prosecutors before the files are officially submitted. This aligns with Mardjono Reksodiputro's (2015) argument that the criminal justice system can only function effectively if there is synchronization and harmonization between law enforcement agencies. District-level coordination forums can serve as a forum for discussing serious cases such as murder and sexual violence against children, ensuring more focused handling and avoiding blame.

In the context of implementing additional punishments such as chemical castration as stipulated in Law Number 17 of 2016, local governments, along with the Police, need to ensure that all technical aspects of implementation are properly implemented. The involvement of medical personnel is essential, necessitating collaboration with regional hospitals and health departments to develop technical procedures that comply with ethical and legal standards. Achmad Ali (2014) emphasized that legal certainty depends not only on the norms in the law but also on the clarity and enforceability of its implementing regulations. Therefore, developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) and preparing medical infrastructure are crucial steps to ensure that chemical castration can be implemented without creating new legal controversies.

Geographical barriers must also be addressed through the provision of adequate operational transportation facilities. The Indragiri Hulu Police Department needs budget support to increase its operational vehicles, particularly high-performance vehicles capable of reaching remote areas. Strengthening police posts in sub-districts and villages is also necessary to accelerate the initial response process before the main investigator arrives on the scene. In the situational crime control theory developed by Ronald Clarke (2012), crime prevention can be achieved by improving the situation and increasing institutional response to

incidents in the field. This approach is relevant given the vastness of the Indragiri Hulu region, which requires a rapid response strategy to address serious crimes.

Furthermore, a preventative policing approach is needed through increased patrols, data collection on vulnerable areas, and analysis of previous cases to identify crime patterns. By mapping areas where sexual violence against children frequently occurs, the police can allocate resources more effectively. Prevention is a crucial part of any law enforcement strategy. Outreach to schools, Islamic boarding schools, and communities about the importance of maintaining child safety can also raise collective awareness in preventing sexual violence.

The role of mass media and social media also needs to be optimized to increase transparency and public education regarding law enforcement against perpetrators of child sexual violence. However, media outlets must also be directed to ensure their reporting is objective and avoids undue pressure that could interfere with the investigation process. Police can build partnerships with local media outlets through coordinated official press releases to ensure information disseminated to the public does not generate speculation or prejudice that could harm victims. In other words, the relationship between the police and the media must operate within a framework of professionalism and moral responsibility.

To overcome administrative and bureaucratic obstacles, local governments need to provide adequate budgetary support for police operations in handling cases of sexual crimes against children. The budget should cover the costs of post-mortem examinations, transportation for investigators, procurement of forensic equipment, and psychological support. Satjipto Rahardjo (2013) emphasized that law enforcement should not be trapped in rigid bureaucracy but must proceed progressively to protect human rights, particularly children's rights. With strong budgetary support, law enforcement officers can work more optimally without being hampered by financial constraints.

Efforts to overcome obstacles to law enforcement in cases of murder and sexual violence against children must be placed within a victim-centered justice framework with child protection as a top priority. Law No. 17 of 2016 provides a strong foundation, but its implementation requires cross-sectoral collaboration, community empowerment, increased officer capacity, and strengthening of technical facilities and infrastructure. The Indragiri Hulu Police can be at the forefront of realizing an effective, firm, and equitable child protection system, as long as these efforts are carried out in a planned, comprehensive, and sustainable manner.

CONCLUSIONS

Law Enforcement in Murder Cases Followed by Sexual Violence Against Children Based on Law Number 17 of 2016 Concerning the Determination of Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2016 Concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 Concerning Child Protection at the Indragiri Hulu Police that authorities have strictly implemented the provisions of Law Number 17 of 2016. This regulatory amendment provides a strong legal basis for investigators in imposing maximum penalties, including the death penalty, life imprisonment, and other aggravating penalties. The investigative process is directed towards fulfilling the principles of child protection, victim justice, and legal certainty. Although the regulations are normatively adequate, their implementation remains highly dependent on the professionalism of investigators, the availability of scientific evidence, and the sensitivity of officers to child victims. Thus, law enforcement has been ongoing, but it is not yet fully optimal in ensuring comprehensive protection for victims because there are still technical and structural aspects that require strengthening.

Obstacles to Law Enforcement in Murder Cases Followed by Sexual Violence Against Children Based on Law Number 17 of 2016 concerning the Stipulation of Government

Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2016 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection at the Indragiri Hulu Police that the limited number of investigators who have special competence in handling child-based crimes, the lack of complete forensic facilities, and the evidence process that is often hampered by the availability of post-mortems and laboratory results cause the investigation process to run slower. In addition, deep trauma in the victim and the victim's family often becomes an obstacle in obtaining consistent information. Cultural factors, such as the family's reluctance to reveal the case in detail, also slow down the handling of cases. These obstacles show that even though regulations are strong, institutional readiness is still a determining factor in the effectiveness of law enforcement.

Efforts to Overcome Obstacles in Law Enforcement in Murder Cases Followed by Sexual Violence Against Children Based on Law Number 17 of 2016 concerning the Determination of Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 1 of 2016 concerning the Second Amendment to Law Number 23 of 2002 concerning Child Protection at the Indragiri Hulu Police, it is necessary to increase the capacity of officers through special training in handling sexual violence against children. Regional governments and law enforcement institutions also need to strengthen supporting facilities such as forensic laboratories, crime scene investigation equipment, and child-friendly victim service facilities. In addition, increasing legal education to the community is needed to eliminate taboo culture, so that the reporting process becomes easier and faster. Coordination with integrated service institutions must be improved to accelerate the process of evidence and victim assistance.

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