

The Role of General Criminal Investigation in Tackling Human Trafficking

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Abstract: This study aims to: (1) To find out the efforts made by the General Criminal Investigation Unit of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police in tackling the crime of trafficking in persons (2) To find out the obstacles faced by the General Criminal Investigation Unit of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police in tackling the crime of trafficking in persons. The method used in writing this is to use an empirical juridical research approach. The results of this research are (1) The Police as law enforcers, protectors and protectors of the community are obliged to maintain the uphold of the law, justice and protection of human dignity as well as order and legal certainty in order to realize the duties and functions of the police, there are several efforts made by the Central Sulawesi Police, especially the criminal investigation unit in overcoming the prevention of human trafficking crimes, namely through the efforts of the Central Sulawesi Police. Pre-emptive, through preventive efforts and through repressive efforts. (2) The prevention of trafficking in persons carried out by the General Criminal Investigation of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police has several obstacles, including victims of trafficking in persons who do not want to report, and the lack of budget for the prevention of trafficking crimes, when this is an obstacle to the general criminal investigation of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police in preventing the crime of trafficking in persons. The Research Suggestions are (1) There is a need for special attention and support from various institutions and the community is also needed to handle trafficking cases. Information and news from trafficking cases need to be reported more to increase public attention so that cases about Human Trafficking do not occur again (2) The government should form a special task force to tackle the crime of trafficking in persons consisting of the police, the Ministry of Manpower and the Protection of Indonesian Workers.

Keywords: Role; Krimum; Trafficking in Persons

Received: 26 Feb, 2025

Revised: 07 Jun, 2025

Accepted: 22 Sep, 2025

Publish: 30 Sep, 2025

Publisher: Pascasarjana, Universitas Muhammadiyah Palu

INTRODUCTION

Trafficking in persons in Indonesia has actually been specifically regulated in Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons and is threatened with criminal sanctions of a maximum of 15 years in prison and a maximum fine of 600,000,000 (six hundred million rupiah), as mentioned in the provisions of Article 2 and Article 6 of Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons which states that:

Article 2

Every person who recruits, transports, shelters, ships, transfers, or accepts a person under threat of violence, use of force, kidnapping, detention, forgery, fraud, abuse of power or vulnerable position, debt entrapment or giving payment or benefits despite obtaining the consent of the person in control of another person, for the purpose of exploiting such person in the territory of the Republic of Indonesia, shall be punished with criminal penalties imprisonment for a minimum of 3 (three) years and a maximum of 15 (fifteen) years and a fine of at least Rp120,000,000.00 (one hundred and twenty million rupiah) and a maximum of Rp600,000,000.00 (six hundred million rupiah).

If the act as intended in paragraph (1) results in the person being exploited, then the perpetrator shall be punished with the same penalty as intended in paragraph (1)

Article 6

Any person who sends a child into or abroad in any way that results in the child being exploited shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a minimum of 3 (three) years and a maximum of 15 (fifteen) years and a fine of at least Rp120,000,000.00 (one hundred and twenty million rupiah) and a maximum of Rp600,000,000.00 (six hundred million rupiah)

Based on the above provisions, Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons has regulated strict sanctions against traffickers, but in practice this act still continues to occur and is even used as a livelihood by irresponsible individuals, as the author describes Data on trafficking cases that occurred in the jurisdiction of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police from 2022 to 2024 in the form of table 1 below:

Table 1. Number of Trafficking in Persons 2022 to 2024

Yes	Year	Sum
1	2022	5
2	2023	7
3	2024	7
Sum		19

Data Source: Secondary processed by the Translator

Trafficking in persons is a very difficult crime to uncover, given the highly organized and often hidden modus operandi, trafficking in persons networks can operate using highly sophisticated and covert means. Victims of trafficking are often recruited through fraudulent modes, such as promises of employment, education, or social relationships, which ultimately lead to exploitation. Therefore, in the event that human trafficking has occurred, the role and duties of the police, especially the Criminal Investigation Department, are needed in terms of overcoming the practices of human trafficking that are increasingly rampant in the jurisdiction of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police. Of course, this requires hard work from the Criminal Investigation Unit because the existence of the Police institution in the life of the community must be able to realize the law in reality, ensure legal certainty, and justice, so that it plays an important role in realizing the State of Law. The good and bad image of a legal state is partly determined by the performance of the country's police.¹ The basic need of every human being, both as an individual and as a citizen, is to ensure the welfare and security of his life. Domestic security is the main condition that supports the realization of a just, prosperous, and harmonious civil society based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia.

Basically, the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia as referred to in Article 4 of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Police states that: "The National Police of the Republic of Indonesia aims to realize domestic security which includes maintaining public security and order, order and law enforcement, the implementation of protection, protection, and service to the community, as well as fostering public peace by upholding human rights".

The function of the police is part of a function of the State government in the field of law enforcement, protection and community services as well as community guidance in order to ensure order and law enforcement, the police as an integral function of the state government, it turns out that the function has a very broad measure, not only a repressive aspect, in relation to the criminal law enforcement process, but also includes preventive aspects in the form of tasks carried out which is so inherent in the main function of administrative law and not the competence of the court.² As a party responsible for public safety, the Police, especially the Criminal Investigation unit, should realize this sense of security. This has become a homework for the police, especially the Criminal Investigation Unit to search and find the perpetrators of human trafficking, as well as provide a sense of security for every citizen and prevent this crime from happening again

¹Irsan Koesparmono, *Police, Society, and State*, Bigraf Publishing, Yogyakarta. 1999. p. 35

² Meliala Adrianus, *The Problem of Police Reform*. Trio Repro Publisher, Jakarta. 2012. p. 51

in accordance with what is the ideal of the police, especially the Criminal Investigation Unit as regulated in the Law of the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Police.

METHOD

This type of research falls under the category of empirical juridical legal research, which uses secondary data (obtained from library sources) and is complemented by primary data obtained through field research, such as observations, interviews, and surveys. According to Peter Mahmud Marzuki, normative legal research aims to find the truth of coherence, namely by examining whether the rule of law is in line with the applicable legal norms, whether the norm containing orders or prohibitions is in accordance with legal principles, and whether a person's actions are in accordance with those legal norms or principles.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Role of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police General Criminal Investigation Unit in Tackling the Crime of Human Trafficking

Based on this, the author found that there are several efforts that the Central Sulawesi Police, especially the criminal investigation unit, in tackling the crime of trafficking in persons, are as follows:

Pre-emptive Efforts

What is meant by Pre-Emtif efforts here are the initial efforts made by the police to prevent criminal acts. Efforts made in pre-emptive crime prevention are to instill good values/norms so that these norms are internalized in a person³. Even though there is an opportunity to commit a violation/crime but there is no intention to do so, then there will be no crime. So in a *pre-emptive effort*, the intention factor becomes lost even though there is an opportunity.

This method of prevention comes from the theory of NKK, namely: intention + opportunity for crime to occur. For example, in the middle of the night when the traffic red light is on, the driver will stop and obey the traffic rules even though there are no police on guard at that time. This has always happened in many countries such as Singapore, Sydney and other major cities in the world. So in a pre-emptive effort the intention factor does not occur⁴.

In relation to efforts to prevent the crime of trafficking in persons, the police, in this case the Central Sulawesi Regional Police criminal investigation unit, held legal counseling to the community, related agencies (TKI/TKW distribution institutions). Based on the results of the author's interview with Mr. Asri Nasri as the investigator of the General Criminal Investigation of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police who said that

*"Legal counseling is an activity to increase public legal awareness in the form of delivering and explaining legal regulations to the community in an informal atmosphere, so as to create attitudes and behaviors of people who are aware of the law. In addition to knowing, understanding, and living the law, the community is also expected to obey or obey the law."*⁵

The same thing was also conveyed by Mr. Dirham Salama as the Head of Sub-Directorate IV of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police Criminal Investigation Directorate said that:

*"We also carry out legal counseling to labor service providers in Central Sulawesi Province so that legal awareness is realized to these parties, so that all parties, both the community and the company, are aware and appreciate their rights and obligations as citizens, in addition to forming a community culture in attitudes and behaviors that are conscious, obedient and obedient to the law"*⁶

³ Alam, A.S., *Introduction to Criminology*, Pustaka Reflex Books, Makassar.2010.P. 45

⁴ *Ibid.* Page 46

⁵ Asri Nasri. Investigators of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police's General Criminal Investigation. Interview on February 24, 2025

⁶ Dirham Greetings. Head of Sub-Directorate IV of the Central Sulawesi Police Criminal Investigation Unit. Interview on February 24, 2025

The existence of counseling is very necessary because currently, although many members of the community already know and understand what their rights and obligations are according to the law, there are still those who are not able to behave and behave in accordance with the applicable law. From this counseling, it is hoped that the community and labor service providers understand their obligations in the life of the nation and state, but also especially the community is expected to understand the rights they have. Awareness of their rights will provide protection for their interests. People are made aware that they have certain rights that if implemented will help their lives prosper.

Preventive Measures

These preventive efforts are a follow-up to pre-emptive efforts that are still in the prevention stage before the crime occurred. In preventive efforts, the emphasis is on eliminating opportunities for crime to be committed. As the results of the author's interview with Mr. Dirham Salama as the Head of Sub-Directorate IV of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police Criminal Investigation said that Central Sulawesi said that:

*"The similarity of prevention in the form of preventive and pre-emptive is that both carry out prevention before the crime occurs. While the difference lies in the point of prevention. Pre-emptive prevents by eliminating the intention to commit a crime, while preventive prevents by eliminating the opportunity to commit a crime."*⁷

The form of preventive efforts carried out by the police, especially the Central Sulawesi Regional Police General Criminal Investigation based on the results of the author's research, is to alert the public relations sector in each police agency, both police and police so that people who are victims of trafficking in persons can consult and can even directly follow up on reports related to human trafficking.

In addition to alerting personnel in the Public Relations section, the Central Sulawesi Police also made announcements, both in the form of banners and in the form of stickers and installed in public places in the city of Palu and in collaboration with the Indonesian Labor Placement and Protection Service (LP3TKI), the aim of getting the public to get education related to the rampant trafficking through illegal labor distribution.

As mentioned in the provisions of Article 2 paragraph (1) and Article 4 of Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons.

Article 2

Every person who recruits, transports, shelters, ships, transfers, or accepts a person under threat of violence, use of force, kidnapping, detention, forgery, fraud, abuse of power or vulnerable position, debt entrapment or giving payment or benefits despite obtaining the consent of the person in control of another person, for the purpose of exploiting such person in the territory of the Republic of Indonesia, shall be punished with criminal penalties imprisonment for a minimum of 3 (three) years and a maximum of 15 (fifteen) year and a fine of at least Rp120,000,000.00 (one hundred and twenty million rupiah) and a maximum of Rp600,000,000.00 (six hundred million rupiah).

Article 4

Any person who brings an Indonesian citizen outside the territory of the Republic of Indonesia with the intention of being exploited outside the territory of the Republic of Indonesia shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a minimum of 3 (three) years and a maximum of 15 (fifteen) years and a fine of at least Rp120,000,000.00 (one hundred and twenty million rupiah) and a maximum of Rp600,000,000.00 (six hundred million rupiah).

The above article is normatively used by investigators at the Police in handling human trafficking cases. According to Mr. Dirham Salama as the Head of Sub-Directorate IV of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police's

⁷Dirham Greetings. Head of Sub-Directorate IV of the Central Sulawesi Police Criminal Investigation Unit. Interview on February 24, 2025

criminal investigation rena, Central Sulawesi said that "This TPPO Law provides legal protection to victims of trafficking".⁸

Repressive Efforts

Repressive efforts are efforts made by law enforcement after the occurrence of a crime or any effort made to overcome the crime committed that is carried out directly against the perpetrators of the criminal act. Repressive countermeasures are intended to take action against perpetrators according to their actions and make perpetrators aware of their return to law-abiding society. One of them is by forming the TPPO Task Force, which has been officially formed since June 6, 2023, effective until now and is led directly by the Deputy Chief of Police of Central Sulawesi. From the description above, it will be clear that law enforcement in the jurisdiction of the Central Sulawesi regional police has made various efforts to prevent and overcome the occurrence of the crime of Trafficking in Persons (TPPO). These actions are carried out by law enforcement with their power and authority.

Based on the results of the author's interview with Mr. Dirham Salama as the Head of Sub-Directorate IV of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police criminal investigation said that Central Sulawesi said that:

*"In addition to preventive efforts, repressive efforts have also been carried out in the form of investigations, prosecutions and various legal processes carried out against trafficking perpetrators in accordance with applicable regulations. This is done because the actions of these TPPO perpetrators can bring losses to the community and the government of Central Sulawesi, as we have carried out law enforcement since 2023 until now we have handed over approximately 14 files of TPPO perpetrators to the prosecutor's office."*⁹

Based on the results of the author's interview above, the author can conclude that the law enforcement against trafficking perpetrators that has been carried out by the Central Sulawesi Regional Police has been running as it should based on the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia, namely in article 14 letter g which reads: "conducting investigations and investigations of all criminal acts in accordance with the criminal procedure law and regulations other legislation" and is based on article 15 paragraph (1) of the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia which reads: a. Receive reports and/or complaints; b. Helping to resolve disputes between community members that can disrupt public order; prevent and overcome the growth of community diseases; c. Supervise streams that may cause division or threaten the unity and unity of the nation; d. Issuing police regulations within the scope of the administrative authority of the police;

As for one of the seven police reports that will be received by the Central Sulawesi Police in 2024, one of which is the recruitment of illegal labor by brokers and sponsors who will be sent to Malaysia, the indictment given by the Public Prosecutor is the defendant's act as regulated and threatened in Article 2 paragraph (1) and Article 4 of the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons.

The judge handed down a verdict in this case, namely Article 2 paragraph (1) and Article 4 of Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons. With a prison sentence of 3 (three) years and a fine of Rp. 120,000,000, with the provision that if the fine is not paid, it will be replaced with imprisonment for 6 months.

Thus, according to the author's analysis, the repressive law enforcement efforts carried out by the General Criminal Investigation of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police are in accordance with the procedures in article 5 and article 7 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code concerning the authority of investigators and investigators, while preventive efforts are also in accordance with the provisions of the law concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia Chapter III Article 13 letter a concerning the duties and authorities of the National Police, namely maintaining security and order and Article 15 paragraph (1)

⁸ Dirham Greetings. Head of Sub-Directorate IV of the Central Sulawesi Police Criminal Investigation Unit. Interview on February 24, 2025

⁹ Dirham Greetings. Head of Sub-Directorate IV of the Central Sulawesi Police Criminal Investigation Unit. Interview on February 24, 2025

letter c which states that one of the authorities of the police is to prevent and overcome the growth of community diseases.

Obstacles Faced by the Central Sulawesi Regional Police General Criminal Investigation Unit in Overcoming the Crime of Human Trafficking Victims Refuse to Report

When the victim decides to settle the case through legal channels, the state is obliged to facilitate it. The state in this case represents the victim to prosecute the traffickers. NGOs also have a big role in providing legal assistance to victims of trafficking. However, in practice, victims or their families rarely report the occurrence of human trafficking crimes to the authorities for various reasons, making it difficult for the authorities to provide legal protection to victims.

Based on the results of the author's interview with Mr. Rifaldi as an assistant investigator of the General Criminal Investigation of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police said that :

*"They are reluctant to report the cases that befall them because they feel embarrassed if the case we experienced is known to the residents because it will become a topic of discussion in the community and will even be the subject of ridicule by some people, so they have abandoned their intention to report the case that they have been subjected to."*¹⁰

It is not surprising that it is difficult for victims of trafficking to be identified, how many victims of human trafficking and even the series of victims after victims may still continue to increase if the victims themselves are reluctant to report their actions. Another cause that makes the victim reluctant to report is the fear of getting difficulties when filing a lawsuit because he does not feel protected and feels that during the examination he is not like the victim but the perpetrator so that the victim feels that he does not have the right to express his opinion and is intimidated by the situation. The victim felt that he had no supporters to demand justice. Human trafficking is a crime that is quite difficult to detect, with no reports from victims, it will be problematic for the task force to detect and eradicate trafficking crime syndicates.

According to the author, people should not be afraid to report incidents of human trafficking. Both the victim and the public who know about it, must report it immediately. Reports can be submitted to police officers at the Police or Police level. Therefore, currently police officers at all levels are trained to handle cases that befall women and children, even though these offices do not have female police (Polwan), but special handling for women and children can still be carried out by male policemen.

Lack of Budget Allocation for the TPPO Work Program

In line with performance-based handling, funding needs to support efforts to eradicate and prevent the crime of trafficking in persons/children to obtain an adequate state budget allocation, but it is also not closed that the funds are limited to be in line with performance-based handling, so funding needs to support efforts to eradicate and prevent human trafficking crimes to get an adequate state budget allocation, but also not limited to carry out coordination meetings at the Central and Regional levels. For wider development in order to reach all districts/cities in the Central Sulawesi Province area and all health facilities, deconcentration state budget support is needed. The budget factor is very important because it is impossible to carry out programs and activities without a separate budget, although it can be done, it is certain that it will not be maximized.

Based on the results of the author's interview with Mr. Hendrawan as an assistant investigator of the General Criminal Investigation of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police who said that:

"Especially for us in the General Criminal Investigation there are no special funds to be allocated for the prevention of human trafficking crimes, the funds we use are the same as the funds intended for criminal acts in general, indeed there should be a special allocation of funds for the handling of human trafficking crimes so that these funds will be used specifically for handling the crime of human trafficking and used for

¹⁰ Rifaldi. *Assistant Investigator of the General Criminal Investigation of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police*. Interview on February 24, 2025

coordination with various related agencies, one of which is for example, the Ministry of Manpower and Labor Protection"¹¹

Based on the results of the author's interview above, funding is often a sensitive and rampant issue. In fact, funding is one of the important things that supports efforts to eradicate and prevent the crime of trafficking in persons. In terms of implementation in each line, the task force is currently still coordinated, non-budgeted and without a program. Normatively, the National Police, especially the General Criminal Investigation of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police, only conducts investigations related to police reports that come in related to trafficking.

CONCLUSION

The police as law enforcers, protectors and protectors of the community are obliged to maintain the uphold of the law, justice and protection of human dignity as well as order and legal certainty in order and legal certainty in order to realize the duties and functions of the police, there are several efforts made by the Central Sulawesi Police, especially the criminal investigation unit in tackling the prevention of human trafficking crimes, namely through pre-emptive efforts, through preventive efforts and through repressive efforts.

The prevention of human trafficking crimes carried out by the General Criminal Investigation of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police has experienced several obstacles, including victims of trafficking in persons who do not want to report, and the lack of budget for the prevention of human trafficking crimes, when this is the obstacle to the general criminal investigation of the Central Sulawesi Regional Police in preventing the crime of trafficking in persons.

SUGGESTION

Special attention and support from various institutions and the community are also needed to handle trafficking cases. Information and news from trafficking cases need to be reported more to increase public attention so that cases about human trafficking do not occur again

The government should establish a special task force to tackle trafficking crimes consisting of the police, the Ministry of Manpower and the Protection of Indonesian Workers.

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