

## The Role of the North Sumatra Regional Police in Disclosing Narcotics Crimes

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**Abstract** Narcotics are substances or drugs derived from plants or non-plants, either synthetic or semi-synthetic, which can cause decreased or altered consciousness, loss of feeling, reduced or even eliminated pain, and can cause dependency. Drug abuse in Indonesia has reached a very worrying stage. Drugs no longer recognize age limits , old people, young people, teenagers and even children are users and dealers of illegal drugs. The illegal distribution of drugs in Indonesia is no less worrying, drugs are not only circulating in big cities in Indonesia, but have also penetrated into small areas. The problem raised in this study is the role of the North Sumatra regional police in uncovering narcotics crimes. The type of research used is empirical legal research with conceptual approach methods, legislative approaches, and sociological approaches. The types of data are primary data and secondary data, while the data sources for this study come from the results of interviews with respondents and informants. It was concluded that the role of the North Sumatra Regional Police in disclosing narcotics crimes is that the police conduct counseling in schools, install banners, pamphlets on the highway, carry out patrols and police operations. Furthermore, the police enforce the law starting from the investigation stage to the transfer of cases to the District Court while still referring to Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the Police and other related regulations. The obstacles faced by the North Sumatra Regional Police are: Community factors, Limited Human Resources, Limited operational funds and Law enforcement factors .

**Keywords:** Role of Police, Criminal Acts, Narcotics.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Indonesia is a country based on law, this is expressly regulated in Article 1 paragraph ( 3) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. The aim of a country based on law is to uphold the law. However, the facts that occur in society are starting to be the opposite of the goals of our country. Nowadays, various kinds of problems occur in society, one form of problem that often occurs in society is the criminal act of drug abuse, whether committed by adults or children.

Drug abuse in Indonesia has reached a very worrying stage. Drugs no longer recognize age limits , old people, young people, teenagers and even children are users and dealers of illegal drugs. The illegal distribution of drugs in Indonesia is no less worrying, drugs are not only circulating in big cities in Indonesia, but have also penetrated into small areas. Indonesia, which used to be a

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transit country or traffic of illegal drug trade because of Indonesia's very strategic geographical location, has become a country producing drugs.

The era of globalization, marked by advances in communication technology, trade progress and rapid progress in the tourism industry, has made Indonesia a potential country as a producer of narcotics. Narcotics are substances or drugs derived from plants or non-plants, either synthetic or semi-synthetic, which can cause decreased or altered consciousness, loss of feeling, reduce or eliminate pain, and can cause dependency. This is explained in Article 1 paragraph (1) of Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics. The word narcotics basically comes from the Greek word “Narkoun” which causes paralysis or numbness.<sup>4</sup>

This very rapid circulation is a big problem for Indonesia because it will damage the next generation of the nation, every year cases of drug abuse in Indonesia continue to increase. The Head of the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), Commissioner General Marthinus Hukom said, currently the prevalence rate of drug abuse in Indonesia has reached 1.73% or equivalent to 3.3 million Indonesians. This figure is dominated by teenagers.<sup>5</sup>

The Republic of Indonesia National Police is a state apparatus that plays a role in maintaining public security and order, enforcing the law, and providing protection, patronage, and services to the community in order to maintain domestic security. This is regulated in Article 5 paragraph (1) of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Republic of Indonesia National Police. Until now, the Police have enforced the law against drug abuse by conducting investigations, until the transfer of cases to the courts. In terms of law enforcement, the Indonesian Government has issued Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, which regulates sanctions and penalties , with the issuance of this Law, the police are expected to be able to overcome criminal acts of drug abuse that occur in Indonesia.<sup>6</sup>

Although law enforcement has been carried out by the Police, in reality, drug abuse crimes in Indonesia still occur. One example we can see is the drug abuse crime in the Medan City area, North Sumatra, until now it seems that it has not been suppressed optimally, because drug abuse crimes in Medan City from year to year still occur continuously and even increase. North Sumatra

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<sup>4</sup> Sujono, AR and Daniel Bony, *Comments & Discussion of Law No. 35 of 2009 Concerning Narcotics*, 2013, p. 2.

<sup>5</sup>Hendrik Simorangkir, *BNN: Drug Users in Indonesia Reach 3.3 Million People* , Accessed on January 20, 2025 at 16.13 WIB.

<sup>6</sup> Ema Puspitasari, *The Role of the Police in Handling Criminal Acts of Drug Abuse Committed by Children* , Faculty of Law, University of Mataram Mataram 2019, p. 2.

is ranked number one in the use of narcotics in Indonesia. This is because North Sumatra is part of the gateway to western Indonesia. Its location close to a number of ASEAN countries provides a loophole for drug dealers to bring in various types of narcotics to be distributed to cities in Indonesia.<sup>7</sup>

One of the narcotics cases in Medan City that was revealed by the North Sumatra Police was the disclosure in the entrance area of Medan City . The Directorate of Drug Investigation (Ditresnarkoba) of the North Sumatra Police arrested a suspected distributor of 40 kilograms of crystal methamphetamine which was a Sumatra network. Head of Public Relations for the North Sumatra Regional Police, Senior Commissioner Hadi Wahyudi, said that the dealers were men with the initials PMN (40), a resident of Medan, S (37), a resident of Asahan Regency, BS (38) and SS (40) from Deli Serdang Regency. The results of the interrogation of the perpetrator, the evidence came from Tanjungbalai City, Asahan. The large drug bust was part of the uncovering of other evidence in the area nicknamed the Shell City.<sup>8</sup>

From this background, the author is very interested in taking the title " **The Role of the North Sumatra Regional Police in Disclosing Narcotics Crimes .**" With the following problem formulation: 1) What is the role of the North Sumatra Regional Police in disclosing narcotics abuse crimes? And 2) What are the obstacles faced by the North Sumatra Regional Police in disclosing narcotics crimes?

## **2. THEORETICAL BASIS**

The definition of narcotics based on the provisions of Article 1 number 1 of Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, what is meant by narcotics in the law is a substance or drug derived from plants or non-plants, either synthetic or semi-synthetic, which can cause a decrease or change in consciousness, loss of feeling, reduce to eliminate pain, and can cause dependency, which can be divided into groups as attached to this Law.<sup>9</sup>

The Narcotics Law regulates criminal sanctions and actions such as rehabilitation, but if you look at it, the Narcotics Law actually has differences with the Criminal Code. The following are the differences between the Narcotics Law and the Criminal Code:

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<sup>7</sup> M. Sahbainy Nasution , *Increasing drug eradication in North Sumatra during 2024 - ANTARA News North Sumatra* , Accessed on January 20, 2025 at 16.35 WIB.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>9</sup> Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics

- a. In the narcotics law there is the death penalty, imprisonment, fines. In addition there are administrative sanctions such as reprimands, warnings, administrative fines, temporary suspension of activities and revocation of permits as well as additional penalties regulated in Article 130 paragraph (2) of the Narcotics Law, in the form of:

- 1) revocation of business license; and/or
- 2) revocation of legal entity status.

Meanwhile, in the Criminal Code the punishment is:<sup>10</sup>

1) Principal Penalty

- a) Death penalty
- b) Prison sentence
- c) Imprisonment sentence
- d) Fine penalty
- e) Cover-up Criminal Punishment

2) Additional Penalties

- a) Revocation of certain rights
- b) Confiscation of certain goods
- c) Announcement of the judge's decision

- b. Attempt or conspiracy to commit a crime of Narcotics and Narcotics Precursors as regulated in the narcotics law with the same prison sentence as the person committing the crime or violation of the provisions of this narcotics law, for example an attempt to provide class 1 narcotics, is punishable by a minimum of 4 (four) years and a maximum of 12 (twelve) years in prison and a fine of at least Rp800,000,000.00 (eight hundred million rupiah) and a maximum of Rp8,000,000,000.00 (eight billion rupiah). While in the Criminal Code, the punishment for a person who attempts is the maximum main punishment imposed for the crime reduced by one third, in the case of an attempt.
- c. The Narcotics Law is elastic, such as the changes from the 1997 Narcotics Law to Law No. 35 of 2009, while the Criminal Code is not elastic because it regulates many things.

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<sup>10</sup>Prof. Dr. Yasmirah Mandasari Saragih, SH, MH., *Offenses in the Criminal Code*, Medan: CV. Haritsa Medan, 2020, p. 12.

- d. Expansion of the Territorial Principle, in this case the Narcotics Law and the government are seeking bilateral or multilateral cooperation for the development and supervision of Narcotics, while the Criminal Code only applies in Indonesia.<sup>11</sup>
- e. The use of minimum penalties in the Narcotics Law assumes that the law is enforced to ensnare parties who commit crimes and violations against narcotics. For example, the minimum penalty is contained in Article 113 paragraph (1) of Law No. 35 of 2009, while the Criminal Code does not recognize minimum penalties, there are only maximum penalties, such as in Article 362 of the Criminal Code concerning theft.<sup>12</sup>

### 3. RESEARCH METHODS

The type of research used is empirical legal research with conceptual approach methods, legislative approaches, and sociological approaches.<sup>13</sup> The types of data are primary data and secondary data, while the data sources of this study are sourced from the results of interviews with respondents and informants, literature books, laws and regulations, research reports and expert opinions. The techniques for obtaining data are literature studies and interviews. The data analysis used in this study is qualitative descriptive analysis.<sup>14</sup>

### 4. DISCUSSION

#### The Role of the North Sumatra Regional Police in Disclosing Narcotics Crimes

The definition of police function is regulated in Article 2 of Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, which states that:<sup>15</sup>

"The function of the police is one of the functions of the state government in the field of maintaining public security and order, law enforcement, protection, patronage and service to the community."

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<sup>11</sup>Prof. Dr. Yasmirah Mandasari Saragih, SH, MH ., *Introduction to Criminal Law (Transition of Criminal Law in Indonesia)*, Medan : , CV. Tungga Esti, 2022, p. 22.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>13</sup>Tamaulina, et al., *Textbook of Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methodology* , West Kerawang: CV Saba Jaya Publisher, 2024, p. 22.

<sup>14</sup>Tamaulina, et al., *Textbook of Research Methodology (Theory and Practice)*, West Kerawang: CV Saba Jaya Publisher, 2024, p. 15.

<sup>15</sup>Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Republic of Indonesia National Police

According to Philipus M. Hadjon, the overall function of government consists of various kinds of government actions, including: decisions, general provisions, civil legal actions and real actions.<sup>16</sup>

The role of the police is regulated in Article 5 paragraph (1) of Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police. Meanwhile, the duties of the police are regulated in Article 13 of Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, which states that the main duties of the Indonesian National Police are:<sup>17</sup>

1. Maintaining public security and order;
2. Enforcing the law; and
3. Providing protection, care and services to the community.

Police authority consists of general authority and special authority. General authority as formulated in Article 15 paragraph (1) of Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the Police, includes:<sup>18</sup>

1. Receiving reports and/or complaints;
2. Help resolve disputes between community members that may disrupt public order;
3. Prevent and overcome the growth of social diseases;
4. Monitoring movements that can cause division or threaten national unity;
5. Issue police regulations within the scope of police administrative authority;
6. Carrying out special inspections as part of police action for prevention purposes;
7. Take the first action on the scene;
8. Taking fingerprints and other identification and photographing a person;
9. Seeking information and evidence;
10. Establish a national crime information center;
11. Issuing permits and/or certificates required for public service purposes;
12. Providing security assistance during trials and the implementation of court decisions, activities of other agencies, and community activities;
13. Receive and store found items temporarily.

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<sup>16</sup>Sadjijono, *Understanding Police Law, 1st ed.*, Yogyakarta: LaksBang Pressindo, 2010, p. 134.

<sup>17</sup>Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Republic of Indonesia National Police

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid*

The efforts made by the North Sumatra Regional Police in uncovering narcotics crimes in Medan City are as follows:<sup>19</sup>

### 1. Pre-emptive Efforts

Pre-emptive efforts are early preventive measures carried out by the Mataram Resort Police in the following ways :

- a. Providing counseling to schools such as elementary, junior high and high schools by involving parents and Bhabinkamtibmas. Counseling is carried out to provide an understanding of the meaning of narcotics, the dangers of drug abuse and the sanctions imposed for drug abuse. Counseling on narcotics is carried out once a year.
- b. Installation of banners, slogans, and distribution of pamphlets and stickers both in people's homes and on the highway.
- c. Collaborating with the community, Medan City BNN and hospitals in the context of preventing and eradicating criminal acts of narcotics abuse.

### 2. Preventive Efforts

Preventive efforts are control measures taken to prevent or reduce the possibility of criminal acts occurring. Preventive efforts taken by the North Sumatra Regional Police include:

- a. Carrying out patrols, surveillance and raids in various places such as entertainment venues, cafes, boarding houses and so on.
- b. Medan Police and its ranks conduct Police Operations once a year and are carried out for 14 days in Medan City by prioritizing repressive measures in order to eradicate drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The targets of the Operation include:
  - 1) Places such as tourist attractions, hotels, boarding houses, night entertainment venues, and terminals.
  - 2) Items such as crystal methamphetamine, marijuana and ecstasy.
  - 3) People such as business people/entrepreneurs, tourists, students, police/military personnel and civil servants/government officials.

### 3. Repressive Efforts

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<sup>19</sup> Results of Interview with Henri R. Sibarani, SE, as Head of Sub-Directorate 3 of the North Sumatra Regional Police's Narcotics Directorate, January 18, 2025, North Sumatra Regional Police.

Repressive efforts are efforts to take action after the crime has occurred. The repressive efforts carried out by the North Sumatra Regional Police in eradicating drug abuse in Medan City were carried out by forming a task force with the following objectives:

- a. Arrest the perpetrators for thorough processing.
- b. Arrest drug dealers and users.
- c. Reveal and take firm action against the perpetrators.
- d. Conducting investigations and inquiries.
- e. Increasing community participation to prevent and overcome the negative impacts of drug abuse.

### **Obstacles Faced by the North Sumatra Regional Police in Disclosing Narcotics Crimes**

In carrying out efforts to uncover narcotics crimes, the North Sumatra Regional Police experienced several obstacles, including:<sup>20</sup>

#### **1. Community Factors**

The public is less likely to provide information and play an active role in reporting to the police any suspected narcotics crimes in order to prevent and eradicate narcotics abuse crimes.

#### **2. Human Resource Limitations**

Both in terms of quality and quantity, Human Resources are still lacking, considering that the number of officers at the North Sumatra Regional Police Narcotics Unit is limited.

#### **3. Operational Fund Limitations**

In order to prevent and eradicate narcotics crimes, the North Sumatra Regional Police are experiencing limited funds .

#### **4. Law Enforcement Factors**

When the police refer a narcotics crime case to the prosecutor's office, sometimes the prosecutor's office always asks for additional evidence by returning the case files to the investigators to be completed. In addition, in searching for the suspect's identity, the police need to investigate further, which takes time.

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<sup>20</sup> Results of Interview with Henri R. Sibarani, SE, as Head of Sub-Directorate 3 of the North Sumatra Regional Police's Narcotics Directorate, January 18, 2025, North Sumatra Regional Police.



## 5. CONCLUSION

1. The role of the North Sumatra Regional Police in uncovering narcotics crimes in Medan City is that the police conduct counseling in schools, install banners, pamphlets on the highway, carry out patrols and police operations. Furthermore, the police enforce the law starting from the investigation stage to the transfer of cases to the District Court while still referring to Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the Police and other related regulations.
2. The obstacles faced by the North Sumatra Regional Police in uncovering narcotics crimes in Medan City are influenced by several factors, namely: 1) community factors, 2) limited human resources, 3) limited operational funds , and 4) law enforcement factors.

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