

# The Role of the Police in Mitigation and Prevention Efforts to Reduce Crime Rates in Sorong City

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## Article History

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**Abstract:** This study aims to analyze the role of the Sorong City Police in combating and preventing criminal acts to reduce crime rates in Sorong City, as well as to identify the obstacles encountered in its implementation. **The method used** is an empirical legal study, employing a field-based approach through in-depth interviews with the Criminal Investigation Unit (*Satreskrim*) of the Sorong City Police and analysis of crime data from 2021 to 2024. **The novelty** of this study lies in its comprehensive analysis of post-pandemic fluctuations in crime rates in the specific region of Sorong City, as well as its evaluation of the effectiveness of an integrated strategy combining conventional repressive measures with a Restorative Justice approach at the city police department level. **The results** of the study indicate that the Sorong City Police have implemented preemptive, preventive, and repressive strategies in an integrated manner, as evidenced by a stable crime clearance rate above 80% despite significant fluctuations in the number of reported cases. **The conclusion** of this study is that although police efforts have been optimal in law enforcement, the overall effectiveness of crime prevention is still hampered by limitations in human resources, infrastructure, and the economic conditions of the community that fuel crime. More intensive collaboration between the police, local government, and community leaders is needed to strengthen the community safety system.

**Keywords:** Crime; Criminal Offenses; Law Enforcement.

**Abstrak:** Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis peran Polresta Sorong Kota dalam melakukan penanggulangan dan pencegahan tindak pidana guna menekan angka kriminalitas di Kota Sorong, serta mengidentifikasi kendala yang dihadapi dalam implementasinya. **Metode penelitian** yang digunakan adalah yuridis empiris, dengan pendekatan lapangan melalui wawancara mendalam bersama pihak Satreskrim Polresta Sorong Kota dan observasi data kriminalitas periode 2021-2024. **Kebaruan** penelitian ini terletak pada analisis komprehensif mengenai fluktuasi angka kejahatan pasca-pandemi di wilayah spesifik Kota Sorong, serta evaluasi efektivitas strategi integratif antara tindakan represif konvensional dengan pendekatan Restorative Justice di tingkat kepolisian resor. **Hasil penelitian** menunjukkan bahwa Polresta

*Sorong Kota telah menjalankan strategi preemtif, preventif, dan represif secara terintegrasi, yang dibuktikan dengan tingkat penyelesaian kasus (crime clearance) yang stabil di atas 80% meskipun jumlah laporan mengalami fluktuasi yang signifikan. **Kesimpulan** dari penelitian ini adalah bahwa meskipun upaya kepolisian telah berjalan optimal dalam penegakan hukum, namun efektivitas pencegahan secara menyeluruh masih terhambat oleh keterbatasan sumber daya manusia, sarana prasarana, serta kondisi ekonomi masyarakat yang memicu kriminalitas. Diperlukan kolaborasi lebih intensif antara kepolisian, pemerintah daerah, dan tokoh masyarakat untuk memperkuat sistem keamanan lingkungan.*

**Kata Kunci:** Kriminalitas; Tindak Pidana; Penegakan Hukum.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In a sovereign nation, public safety and order (*kamtibmas*) are crucial aspects of maintaining social stability and the well-being of the people. The existence of institutions responsible for maintaining public security and order is vital to ensuring a safe and harmonious society. Article 30, paragraph (4) of the 1945 Constitution states that "The Indonesian National Police, as the state apparatus responsible for maintaining public security and order, is tasked with protecting, safeguarding, and serving the public, as well as enforcing the law." Public security and order are fundamental aspects of creating harmonious social stability; in this context, the role of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) as a law enforcement agency is crucial. In accordance with Article 13 of Law No. 2 of 2002 on the Indonesian National Police, the duties of the Indonesian National Police include maintaining public security and order, enforcing the law, and providing protection and service to the public.<sup>1</sup>

Public safety and order (*kamtibmas*) are the cornerstone of ensuring national stability and the smooth progress of development in all sectors.<sup>2</sup> Constitutionally, Article 30, paragraph (4) of the 1945 Constitution mandates that the Indonesian National Police (Polri) serve as a state institution responsible for maintaining security, with the primary duties of protecting, safeguarding, and serving the public, as well as enforcing the law.<sup>3</sup> As a frontline institution, the Indonesian National Police bears a great responsibility to ensure that every individual feels safe from all forms of criminal threats that could endanger their property or lives.

However, amid rapid population growth and modernization, crime patterns in Indonesia, particularly in the city of Sorong, exhibit fluctuating and complex trends. As the economic hub of Southwest Papua Province, Sorong is prone to various conventional crimes. Data shows that cases such as motor vehicle theft, assault, and sexual crimes against children still dominate

<sup>1</sup> Ni Ketut Sari Adnyani, "Kewenangan Diskresi Kepolisian Republik Indonesia Dalam Penegakan Hukum Pidana," *Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Sosial* 7, no. 2 (December 1, 2021): 135, <https://doi.org/10.23887/jjis.v7i2.37389>.

<sup>2</sup> Sokhib Naim et al., "Perwujudan Restitutio in Integrum Sebagai Hak Anak Korban Tindak Pidana," *JURNAL USM LAW REVIEW* 8, no. 3 (October 28, 2025): 1683–96, <https://doi.org/10.26623/julr.v8i3.12668>.

<sup>3</sup> Devi Puspita Sari, Muhammad Tahir, and Niken Yulian Yusuf, "PERANAN PROPAM DALAM PENEGAKAN KODE ETIK PROFESI POLISI (Suatu Studi Di Propam Polda Sultra)," *Sultra Law Review* 7, no. 1 (2025), <https://mail.jurnal-usultra.ac.id/index.php/sulrev/article/view/1173>.

police reports. These high crime rates not only create anxiety among the public but also pose a major challenge to the effectiveness of law enforcement in the region.<sup>4</sup>

**Table 1. Total number of criminal cases recorded by the Sorong City Police Department**

No.	Year	Number of Cases
1	2021	747
2	2022	911
3	2023	1049
4	2024	753

Source: Sorong City Police Criminal Investigation Unit

The Sorong City Police Department has taken various measures to reduce crime rates through preemptive, preventive, and repressive strategies.<sup>5,6</sup> Although firm (repressive) measures have been taken with a fairly high case clearance rate, the crime statistics reported each year, particularly from 2021 to 2024, indicate that prevention efforts have not yet been fully successful in eliminating the intent and opportunity for criminals. This phenomenon indicates the presence of inhibiting factors, both from within the police force and external factors such as economic conditions and low public legal awareness.

Given this reality, this study is important for conducting an in-depth examination of the specific role of the Sorong City Police in implementing policies to prevent and combat criminal acts. A comprehensive evaluation of the strategies that have been implemented and the identification of obstacles on the ground are necessary to formulate more effective solutions. Through an empirical-judicial approach, this study is expected to provide a realistic picture of the effectiveness of police functions in reducing crime rates to foster a secure and stable environment in Sorong City.

## 2. METHOD

According to Abdul Kadir Muhammad, this type of research is Empirical Legal Research. Empirical Legal Research is research conducted by first examining secondary data. Meanwhile, Empirical Research is used to analyze laws that are not merely a collection of normative laws and regulations, but are viewed as the treatment of people who constantly interact in human life. Empirical Juridical Research is research that refers to applicable laws and regulations to uncover issues in the field under study in accordance with normative provisions regarding illegal cigarettes. Data types and sources are classified into two categories: Primary Data and

<sup>4</sup> Wahab Aznul Hidayat and Muharuddin Muharuddin, "Penerapan Diversi Undang-Undang No 11 Tahun 2012 Tentang Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak (Studi Kasus Polres Sorong Kota)," *JUSTISI* 6, no. 2 (July 1, 2020): 52–63, <https://doi.org/10.33506/js.v6i2.965>.

<sup>5</sup> Rahayu Kojongian, "Upaya Penanggulangan Penyalahgunaan Narkotika Di Wilayah Hukum Polda Sultra," *Legal Advice Journal of Law* 2, no. 3 (2025): 1–23, <https://doi.org/10.51454/azfjbv43>.

<sup>6</sup> Junov Siregar, Arfin Sudirman, and Mas Halimah, "IMPLEMENTASI PROGRAM PENANGGULANGAN KEJAHATAN JALANAN DI POLRES SORONG PAPUA BARAT," *Responsive* 5, no. 1 (July 21, 2022): 35, <https://doi.org/10.24198/responsive.v5i1.39525>.

Secondary Data. The data collection technique used in this study is a literature review conducted through document analysis; the data used as primary legal sources include: the Criminal Code (KUHP), Law No. 2 of 2002 on the Police, as well as secondary legal materials, namely legal materials closely related to the primary legal data, such as books or regulations regarding the role of the police in combating and preventing crime to reduce crime rates

### **3. DISCUSSION**

#### **3.1. The Role of the Sorong City Police in Combating and Preventing Crime in Sorong City**

The Role of the Police in Mitigation and Prevention Efforts to Reduce the Crime Rate in Sorong City.<sup>7</sup> The Indonesian National Police, including the Sorong City Police as one of its regional units, has a constitutional mandate to maintain public security and order, enforce the law, and provide protection, guidance, and services to the public. This mandate is reaffirmed in Law No. 2 of 2002 on the Indonesian National Police, specifically in Article 13, which states that the primary functions of the Indonesian National Police include: (a) maintaining public security and order, (b) enforcing the law, and (c) providing protection, care, and services to the public. Therefore, the role of the Sorong City Police in combating and preventing criminal acts is a direct manifestation of the core duties of the Polri institution.<sup>8</sup> In practice, the Sorong City Police not only carries out law enforcement functions in response to crimes that have already occurred, but also emphasizes preventive and preemptive measures as part of a comprehensive strategy to combat criminal activity. This strategy includes routine patrols in crime-prone areas, the deployment of personnel at strategic locations (stakeouts), outreach visits and dialogues with community leaders, and the utilization of intelligence capabilities for early detection.

The Sorong City Police play a strategic role in ensuring public safety and order (kamtibmas) in accordance with the research topic outlined above. In accordance with the provisions of Law No. 2 of 2002 on the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia, the National Police have a responsibility not only for repressive enforcement but also for preemptive and preventive measures. This is reflected in the implementation of various field strategies by the Sorong City Police, such as routine patrols, the deployment of personnel at high-risk locations, and interactions with community leaders aimed at building trust and collaboration in maintaining security.

The implementation of patrols and community policing visits as preventive measures has proven effective in reducing the potential for crime through the active and visible presence of police in the community; the direct presence of police on the ground creates a sense of security and psychologically deters criminal intent. Furthermore, the statement by the Head of the

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<sup>7</sup> Gebby Sintia Irawati, Wahab Aznul Hidayat, and Masrifatun Mahmudah, "Peran Kepolisian Dalam Pencegahan Dan Penanggulangan Tindak Pidana Tawuran Yang Dilakukan Oleh Anak," *Judge: Jurnal Hukum* 5, no. 2 (2024): 339–345, <https://journal.cattleyadf.org/index.php/Judge/article/view/748>.

<sup>8</sup> Aulia Rahmi, "PERAN KEPOLISIAN DALAM MENCEGAH DAN MENANGGULANGI KEKERASAN SEKSUAL TERHADAP ANAK DI KOTA SORONG (Studi Kasus Polresta Sorong Kota)," *Muadalah: Jurnal Hukum* 4, no. 2 (2024): 113–120, <https://doi.org/10.47945/muadalah.v4i2.1692>.

Criminal Investigation Unit that his unit does not merely wait for crime reports indicates a paradigm shift toward proactive public service, in line with the concept of community policing, which emphasizes community involvement and empowerment in efforts to create shared security.

The role of the City Police in building cross-sectoral collaboration with local governments, traditional leaders, religious leaders, and non-governmental organizations reflects a community-based approach to public safety and security management. This approach does not rely solely on the force of law but also integrates local social and cultural values. Research by George Rudolf Jacob Adrian Riupassa reinforces this view, suggesting that crime prevention is more effective when the community is actively and systematically involved.<sup>9</sup> Through this participatory approach, the Sorong City Police Department has successfully fostered comprehensive and inclusive security.

In the context of law enforcement, the implementation of the principles of legality and proportionality serves as the foundation for the legitimacy of police actions.<sup>10</sup> The Sorong City Police Department not only pursues formal legal channels to resolve cases, but also prioritizes alternative resolutions such as Restorative Justice (RJ) and diversion for juvenile offenders,<sup>11</sup> as long as the legal requirements are met.<sup>12</sup> This approach reflects a focus on social rehabilitation rather than mere punishment, which is a hallmark of modern, more humane, and adaptive policing practices. These principles align with the concept of "*Polri Presisi*," which emphasizes predictability, accountability, and transparency grounded in justice.<sup>13</sup>

The Sorong City Police Department's consistent case clearance rate of over 80% over the past four years serves as a key indicator of the effectiveness of this integrated strategy. However, to maintain and improve this performance, support is needed in the form of ongoing training, strengthening of human resources and technology, and a transparent and accountable reporting system.

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<sup>9</sup> George Rudolf Jacob Adrian Riupassa and Orpha Riupassa, "Juridical Review of Security Preventive Efforts to Prevent Organized Crime in Correctional Institutions in Indonesia," *Jurnal Hukum Dan Konstitusi* 1, no. 1 (2024), <https://doi.org/10.64272/3qa44z87>.

<sup>10</sup> Tita Nia, Haryadi Haryadi, and Andi Najemi, "Keadilan Restoratif Sebagai Alternatif Penyelesaian Tindak Pidana Penganiayaan Ringan," *PAMPAS: Journal of Criminal Law* 3, no. 2 (May 11, 2023): 223–39, <https://doi.org/10.22437/pampas.v3i2.19993>.

<sup>11</sup> Teguh Hariyono, "Mediasi Penal Sebagai Alternatif Upaya Penyelesaian Perkara Pidana Di Luar Pengadilan," *Jurnal Penegakan Hukum Dan Keadilan* 2, no. 1 (April 27, 2021), <https://doi.org/10.18196/jphk.v2i1.8731>.

<sup>12</sup> Christin Natalia P. N, Fajar Rachmad Dwi Miarsa, and Danggur Feliks, "Restorative Justice Sebagai Alternatif Penyelesaian Sengketa Medis Di Puskesmas," *Al-Zayn: Jurnal Ilmu Sosial & Hukum* 4, no. 2 (2026): 4681–4702, <https://doi.org/10.61104/alz.v4i2.4964>.

<sup>13</sup> Wikha Ardilestanto, "Penyelenggaraan Pemolisian Partisipatif Di Polres Gresik Guna Meningkatkan Kinerja Penegakan Hukum Dalam Rangka Memperkuat Kembali Kepercayaan Masyarakat," *COMSERVA: Jurnal Penelitian Dan Pengabdian Masyarakat* 3, no. 02 (June 25, 2023): 763–70, <https://doi.org/10.59141/comserva.v3i02.824>.

### **3.2. The Sorong City Police Department's Strategy for Reducing Crime Rates and the Challenges in Its Implementation**

In an effort to gain a deeper understanding of crime prevention strategies within the jurisdiction of Sorong City, the author conducted an interview with APTU Samsul, S.H., Head of the Criminal Investigation Unit at the Sorong City Police Department, on August 6, 2025. Based on the results of that interview,<sup>14</sup> The Sorong City Police Department emphasizes the importance of a humane and participatory preventive approach, in addition to repressive measures. According to APTU Samsul, various programs have been designed and implemented with the active involvement of the community, such as routine patrols in high-risk areas (*kering serse*), the deployment of personnel at strategic locations, and outreach to traditional leaders, teachers, students, and relevant stakeholders. "We don't just wait for reports to come in. The main thing is how to prevent crimes from happening in the first place. That's why we've stepped up our patrols every Sunday night with 50–60 officers, covering the entire city from east to west, and we conduct outreach sessions at schools and in the community."<sup>15</sup> However, in its implementation, the Sorong City Police Department still faces a number of challenges. One of the main obstacles is the limited human resources and infrastructure needed to cover all high-risk areas within its vast jurisdiction. In addition, economic factors and the public's still-low level of legal awareness, particularly among teenagers and residents of outlying areas, pose their own challenges. "We need support from all parties. Prevention cannot be carried out by the police alone; it must be a collective effort involving the community. We will continue to strive, despite our shortcomings, to reduce crime."<sup>16</sup> In an effort to prevent criminal acts within its jurisdiction, the Sorong City Police Department focuses not only on enforcement but also prioritizes a preventive approach. In accordance with Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 2 of 2002 on the Indonesian National Police, specifically Article 13, which outlines the primary duties of the Indonesian National Police, namely maintaining public security and order, the Sorong City Police Department has implemented various strategic programs that are educational, persuasive, and participatory in nature. These programs are described as follows: 1) Nighttime patrols in high-risk areas; 2) Conducting outreach at schools; 3) Holding meetings with religious and community leaders in Sorong City.

In implementing these programs, the Sorong City Police Department faces several challenges, including limited personnel to reach all schools equally, a lack of legal awareness among some members of the public, and limited operational budgets to support ongoing preventive activities. In addition, the unmonitored use of social media by children and adolescents poses a unique challenge, as it can lead to new forms of digital crime (cybercrime). Nevertheless, the Sorong City Police continue to strive to improve cross-sector coordination,

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<sup>14</sup> Hasil wawancara bersama APTU samsul S.H di Polresta sorong kota pada 6 agustus 2025 pukul 11.00 WIT.

<sup>15</sup> Hasil wawancara bersama APTU samsul S.H di Polresta sorong kota pada 6 agustus 2025 pukul 11.00 WIT

<sup>16</sup> Hasil wawancara bersama APTU samsul S.H di Polresta sorong kota pada 6 agustus 2025 pukul 11.00 WIT

expand the reach of their outreach efforts, and encourage the community to play an active role in maintaining security and order in Sorong City.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The Sorong City Police play a strategic role in combating and preventing criminal acts through an approach that encompasses preemptive, preventive, and repressive functions. This role is an implementation of the legal mandate as stipulated in Law No. 2 of 2002 on the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia. In practice, the Sorong City Police Department does not merely respond after crimes have occurred but also actively engages in prevention efforts through routine patrols, community safety visits, and legal education and outreach to the public. Furthermore, a humanistic approach through restorative justice and diversion demonstrates the department's commitment to maintaining security and social justice in a balanced manner. The strategies implemented by the Sorong City Police include deploying personnel to crime-prone areas, cross-sectoral collaboration with local governments, community leaders, and social institutions, as well as utilizing intelligence functions for early detection. A community policing approach is also applied as an effort to foster community involvement in maintaining neighborhood security. However, in its implementation, the Sorong City Police Department faces a number of challenges, such as limited personnel, uneven distribution of infrastructure, and the challenge of fostering legal awareness among a socially and culturally diverse community. Nevertheless, a consistent case resolution rate above 80% indicates that the implemented strategies are relatively effective and can serve as a model for partnership-based public safety management.

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