



CRIMINOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE IN CRIME PREVENTION OF LAND GRABBING

Junimart Girsang

Universitas Islam Sultan Agung, Semarang, Indonesia, Email: junimartgirsang.unissula@gmail.com

Gunarto Gunarto

Universitas Islam Sultan Agung, Semarang, Indonesia, Email: gunarto@unissula.ac.id

Al Amin

University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, United Kingdom, Email: amin860910@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Land Grabbing, Criminal Law Enforcement, Social Policy, Social Defense, Crime Prevention.

DOI:

10.26532/jh.v40i2.37526

ABSTRACT

Land grabbing, a pervasive issue with significant social, economic, and environmental consequences, is often rooted in unlawful land appropriation, highlighting the need for effective legal reforms and policy implementation. This study explores the issue of land grabbing in Indonesia from a criminological perspective, focusing on the intersection of criminal law enforcement and social policy. The research aims to analyze the causes, effects, and potential solutions to land grabbing, with a particular emphasis on social defense and justice. Using a normative juridical approach, the study examines relevant legal norms, regulations, and frameworks, which address land grabbing and its law enforcement. Findings suggest that a comprehensive approach involving legal enforcement, public education, improved land administration, and active community participation is essential to reduce land grabbing. The study concludes that a balanced integration of legal measures and social interventions is necessary to protect property rights, promote justice, and create a fairer and more stable environment for land ownership in Indonesia.

1. Introduction

In Indonesia, the use and ownership of land are regulated by agrarian law.¹ Article 4, paragraph (1) of Law Number 5 of 1960 concerning Basic Regulations on Agrarian Principles stipulates that various rights over the surface of the earth or land can be granted and owned based on the state's right to control, as regulated in Article 2. The existence of limited land leads to struggles over land rights.² This often triggers

¹ Putu Diva Sukmawati., Hukum Agraria Dalam Penyelesaian Sengketa Tanah di Indonesia, *Jurnal Ilmu Hukum Sui Generis*, Vol.2, no.2, 2022, page.91.

² Margaret A. Rugadya., Land tenure as a cause of tensions and driver of conflict among mining communities in Karamoja, Uganda: Is secure property rights a solution?, *Land Use Policy*, Vol.94, 2020, page.104495. See too, Tahta Faradhiba., Penyelesaian Sengketa Kepemilikan Atas Tanah

prolonged disputes, with landowners willing to make sacrifices to maintain their ownership.³ Agrarian problems are issues of human life and livelihood because land is a source of food and life support. Fighting over land is often seen as fighting over the source of life, so people are willing to shed blood and sacrifice everything to maintain their survival. Article 167, paragraph 1, of the Criminal Code regulates the criminal act of land grabbing, stating that anyone who unlawfully enters another person's property or does so without the owner's permission can be subject to criminal sanctions. This act is considered a crime because it violates legal land ownership and use rights, often leading to conflict.

Thus, while legal certainty is essential, legal uncertainty in land use and ownership poses significant challenges, as it has a negative impact on the social and economic welfare of society. Legal protection for landowners is intended to prevent encroachments that could harm their rights, and the enforcement of strict legal measures against perpetrators of land grabbing is crucial for promoting justice and security. Furthermore, Article 385 of the Criminal Code, particularly paragraph (1), is commonly invoked by investigators and public prosecutors to charge individuals involved in land grabbing offenses. Article 412 of the Criminal Code criminalizes the destruction of property, including fences, boundaries, markers, and structures, stipulating that any individual who intentionally and unlawfully damages or destroys another person's property is subject to criminal sanctions. Such actions result in tangible harm and pose a threat to public security and order.⁴

Additionally, Articles 263, 264, and 266 of the Criminal Code regulate the crime of falsifying documents, deeds, or letters related to land, including the creation, use, or distribution of false documents intended to deceive or mislead regarding the status or rights to land. The falsification of land documents can lead to disputes, legal uncertainty, and financial losses for the affected parties. These provisions are designed to protect the authenticity of documents and ensure legal certainty regarding land ownership rights, thereby promoting justice for all parties involved.⁵ Effective law enforcement against the criminal act of falsifying land documents is crucial to preventing illegal practices and preserving the integrity of the land administration system.

Provisions regarding land are regulated in Law Number 5 of 1960 concerning Basic

Antara Para Pemegang Hak, *Jurnal Hukum & Pembangunan Masyarakat*, Vol.14, no.3, 2023, page.132.

³ Riza Endriyana, Faisal Santiago, and Suparno Suparno., Agrarian Law Enforcement in Land Dispute Settlement, *Jurnal Indonesia Sosial Sains*, Vol.4, no.05, 2023, page.487.

⁴ Muhammad Yusrizal., Perlindungan hukum pemegang hak atas tanah dalam pengadaan tanah untuk kepentingan umum, *De Lega Lata: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum*, Vol.2, no.1, 2017, page.121. See too, Endang Hadrian., The Legal Status of Uncertified Land in Indonesia: Challenges and Pathways to Ownership Certification Under Agrarian Law, *Jurnal Pembaharuan Hukum*, Vol.11, no.2, 2024, page.435. See too, Yenny Aman Serah, Purwanto Purwanto, Febrianawati Febrianawati, Resmaya Agnesia Mutiara Sirait, and Agustinus Astono., Contextualization of Progressive Law in Designing Hybrid Legal Counseling Methods as an Effort to Build Public Legal Awareness, *International Journal of Law Reconstruction*, Vol.8, no.2, 2024, page.281.

⁵ Petra Stankovics, Luca Montanarella, Piroska Kassai, Gergely Tóth, and Zoltán Tóth., The interrelations of land ownership, soil protection and privileges of capital in the aspect of land take, *Land Use Policy*, Vol.99, 2020, page.105071.

Agrarian Principles.⁶ The primary objective of implementing this law is to ensure that land is used optimally for the welfare of the people, in alignment with the democratic values, social welfare, and justice promoted by the law. Law Number 5 of 1960 holds a significant position within the Indonesian legal framework, as it embodies these core values. From a criminological perspective, crime is an ongoing issue that evolves with human civilization. Every society instills certain goals in its citizens and provides the means to achieve them; however, not everyone has access to these means, which can lead to deviations and the use of illegitimate methods to achieve objectives, potentially resulting in criminal behavior. Therefore, criminal law enforcement must be seen as an integral component of social policy.

In the literature on land law and social policy in Indonesia, land grabbing has been widely discussed.⁷ However, studies are still limited to the aspects of legal frameworks, socio-economic impacts, and environmental concerns, and there is a lack of criminological research on the enforcement of laws and the role of criminal justice in addressing land grabbing. For example, Rumpia highlights the intersectionality of land grabbing, human rights, and climate adaptation, pointing out how land dispossession is also a crucial aspect of human mobility and displacement in Indonesia.⁸ This demonstrates that land grabbing is not only a legal issue but also one deeply tied to socio-economic and cultural dimensions, such as the marginalization of *adat* (traditional) communities.⁹ Additionally, studies such as

⁶ Ulfia Hasanah., Status kepemilikan tanah hasil konversi hak barat berdasarkan UU no. 5 tahun 1960 tentang peraturan dasar pokok-pokok Agraria dihubungkan dengan PP No. 24 tahun 1997 tentang pendaftaran tanah, *Jurnal Ilmu Hukum Riau*, Vol.3, no.01, 2012, page.9132.

⁷ Bachriadi Dianto and Erwin Suryana., Land grabbing and speculation for energy business: a case study of ExxonMobil in East Java, Indonesia, *Canadian Journal of Development Studies/Revue canadienne d'études du développement*, Vol.37, no.4, 2016, page.579. See too, Carter Connie and Andrew Harding., *Land grabs in Asia: what role for the law?*, Oxfordshire, Routledge, 2015, page.121. See too, Christophe Golay., Identifying and Monitoring Human Rights Violations Associated with Large-Scale Land Acquisitions: A Focus on United Nations Mechanisms and South-East Asia, *International Development Policy*, Vol.6, 2016, page.248. See too, Tania Murray Li., Can there be food sovereignty here?, *Journal of Peasant Studies*, Vol.42, no.1, 2015, page.207. See too, Vanda Ningrum., Agriculture liberalization and marginalized young local people: Evidence from a food plantation in Lampung, *Jurnal Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik*, Vol.22, no.3, 2019, page.234. See too, Ernani Rustiadi, Baba Barus, Laode Syamsul Iman, Setyardi Pratika Mulya, Andrea Emma Pravitasari and Dedy Antony., *Land use and spatial policy conflicts in a rich-biodiversity rain forest region: The case of Jambi Province, Indonesia*, Berlin, Springer, 2018, page.292. See too, Pujo Semedi and Laurens Bakker., Between land grabbing and farmers' benefits: land transfers in West Kalimantan, Indonesia, *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*, Vol.15, no.4, 2014, page.376. See too, Asrul Sidiq., Critical approaches to GIS and spatial mapping in Indonesia forest management and conservation, *Forest and Society*, Vol.5, no.2, 2021, page.193. See too, Stefanie Steinebach., Farmers and pawns: The role of migrants in agrarian conflicts and rural resistance in Sumatra, Indonesia, *The Asia Pacific journal of anthropology*, Vol.18, no.3, 2017, page.241.

⁸ James Reinaldo Rumpia., Marginalisation of Adat Communities: Intersectionality of Land Grabbing, Human Rights, Climate Adaptation, and Human Mobility in Indonesia, In *Climate-Related Human Mobility in Asia and the Pacific: Interdisciplinary Rights-Based Approaches*, pp. 221-239. Singapore, Springer Nature Singapore, 2024, page.226.

⁹ Fifik Wiryani, Febriansyah Ramadhan, and Mokhammad Najih., Indigenous People's Land Rights in Post-Soeharto Indonesia: The Continuing Problem of Land Grabbing, *International Journal on Minority and Group Rights*, Vol.31, no.5, 2024, page.983.

those by Arizona¹⁰ and Vel & Makambombu¹¹ discuss the strategies and framing of adat in land-acquisition politics, revealing how indigenous communities mobilize legal tools in response to dispossession. Despite these important discussions, criminological analyses, particularly focusing on the criminalization of land grabbing and its enforcement, remain scarce. Further criminological exploration could contribute to understanding how criminal justice mechanisms can be integrated to address the widespread issue of land grabbing in Indonesia.¹² Although criminological research on how land grabbing interacts with criminal law enforcement and social policy exists, it is limited in the context of the oil palm industry and other land-intensive sectors.¹³

Furthermore, research on the role of law in land acquisition and protection of land rights focuses more on legal frameworks and policies,¹⁴ while criminological studies are sparse. Furthermore, studies like those of Pye et al.¹⁵ and Radjawali et al.¹⁶ have highlighted the significance of human rights and environmental concerns but have not fully integrated criminological theories and social policies related to land grabbing. Moreover, while the impacts of oil palm plantations on land grabbing and socio-economic change have been discussed,¹⁷ criminological research on the criminal enforcement of land disputes in the context of agrarian reform, such as in cases of illegal land acquisition and dispossession by corporate entities, is still limited. This underscores the need for further research to examine the factors contributing to land grabbing cases. Therefore, this study aims to fill this gap by analyzing land grabbing cases from a criminological perspective, focusing on how criminal law enforcement intersects with social policy to address these issues. Thus,

¹⁰ Yance Arizona., Adat as Strategy for Legal Struggle and Legal Mobilization (Adat Sebagai Strategi Perjuangan dan Mobilisasi Hukum), *Indonesian Journal of Socio-Legal Studies*, Vol.2, no.2, 2023, page.13.

¹¹ Jacqueline Vel and Stepanus Makambombu., Strategic framing of Adat in land-acquisition politics in east Sumba, *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*, Vol.20, no.5, 2019, page.439.

¹² Mariko Urano., Why the principle of informed self-determination does not help local farmers facing land loss: a case study from oil palm development in East Kalimantan, Indonesia, *Globalizations*, Vol.17, no.4, 2020, page.599. See too, Muchtar Habibi., Extracting labour from the neighbour: class dynamics of agrarian change in Sumatran oil palm, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, Vol.50, no.4, 2023, page.1344.

¹³ Ward Berenschot and Ahmad Dhiaulhaq., *The Production of Rightlessness: Palm Oil Companies and Land Dispossession in Indonesia*, Massachusetts, Globalizations, 2023, page.154.

¹⁴ Laurens Bakker and Gustaaf Reerink., Indonesia's land acquisition law: Towards effective prevention of land grabbing?, In *Land Grabs in Asia*, pp. 83-99. Oxfordshire, Routledge, 2015, page.87. See too, Rosita Dewi., Gaining recognition through participatory mapping? The role of adat land in the implementation of the Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate in Papua, Indonesia, *ASEAS-Austrian Journal of South-East Asian Studies*, Vol.9, no.1, 2016, page.111.

¹⁵ Oliver Pye, Irendra Radjawali, and Julia., Land grabs and the river: eco-social transformations along the Kapuas, Indonesia, *Canadian Journal of Development Studies/Revue canadienne d'études du développement*, Vol.38, no.3, 2017, page.391.

¹⁶ Irendra Radjawali, Oliver Pye, and Michael Flitner., Recognition through reconnaissance? Using drones for counter-mapping in Indonesia, In *De-centring Land Grabbing*, pp. 120-136. Oxfordshire, Routledge, 2019, page.121.

¹⁷ Astrid Dewi Meilasari-Sugiana., Oil palm companies, privatization and social dissonance: towards a socially viable and ecologically sustainable land reform in Tanah Laut Regency, South Kalimantan, Indonesia, *Journal of Political Ecology*, Vol.25, no.1, 2018, page.563. See too, Lacour M. Ayompe, Marije Schaafsma, and Benis N. Egoh., Towards sustainable palm oil production: The positive and negative impacts on ecosystem services and human wellbeing, *Journal of cleaner production*, Vol.278, 2021, page.123914.

this study aims to analyze and explore land grabbing issues from a criminological perspective. Understanding the underlying criminal factors and their impact on landowners will be crucial for ensuring justice and effective policy implementation.

2. Research Methods

The aim of this research is to analyze and explore land grabbing issues from a criminological perspective, specifically focusing on the social defense and justice aspects of criminology. The theory used in this study is the criminological aspect in the perspective of social defense and justice, which emphasizes the importance of both protecting society from crime and ensuring that justice is upheld for victims of criminal acts. The research is using a normative juridical approach in analyzing the crime of land grabbing. A normative juridical approach focuses on the analysis of legal norms, regulations, and frameworks to understand legal issues and principles governing specific topics. The regulations referenced in this study concerning crime and land use in Indonesia establish the prohibition of land use without the consent of the rightful landowner or their legal representative. The data is analyzed through descriptive and qualitative analysis, which involves interpreting legal texts and regulations to explore the causes, effects, and solutions to land grabbing issues.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Criminal Law and Criminology in the Perspectives of Social Defense and Justice

Criminological acts refer to behaviors that violate criminal law and often result in harm to individuals or society as a whole.¹⁸ Criminal law establishes clear standards of conduct that must not be breached. The primary objectives of criminal law are to maintain social order, safeguard human rights, and ensure justice for individuals who have been victimized by criminal acts. It is important to distinguish between immoral acts and criminal acts, as not all immoral behaviors are classified as criminal.¹⁹ There is a distinction between moral norms, which are governed by religion or ethics, and legal norms, which are enforced by the state. While certain actions may be deemed immoral in the ethical or religious domain, they are not necessarily criminal unless they directly harm individuals or society and violate established legal provisions. Criminal law addresses actions that breach social norms or threaten the public interest, and the state imposes sanctions to respond to these violations. Political authority plays a crucial role in defining prohibited actions and determining the appropriate sanctions, ensuring that criminal law is applied uniformly to all individuals, regardless of their social or economic status.²⁰

Criminal law and criminology are two interrelated fields of study within the context of crime and the legal system. Criminal law pertains to the rules and norms that define unlawful actions and the criminal sanctions imposed for their violation.²¹

¹⁸ Moh Nur Sidik Ahmad, Moh RU Puluhalawa, and Nuvazria Achir., The Crime of Land Grabbing from a Criminological Perspective, *Estudiante Law Journal*, Vol.1, no.1, 2024, page.114.

¹⁹ Muhammad Fhariedz Alfarizi Piin, Ahmad Irzal Fardiansyah, and Emilia Susanti., Kajian Kriminologi Terhadap Kejahatan Penyerobotan Tanah di Wilayah Tulang Bawang, *Demokrasi: Jurnal Riset Ilmu Hukum, Sosial dan Politik*, Vol.1, no.2, 2024, page.124.

²⁰ Umar Ma'ruf., Politik Hukum Hak Menguasai oleh Negara Terhadap Tanah, *Jurnal Hukum*, Vol.16, no.3, 2006, page.32.

²¹ Sherajul Mustajib Sharif and Md Kamal Uddin., Environmental crimes and green criminology in Bangladesh, *Criminology & Criminal Justice*, Vol.23, no.3, 2023, page.511.

Criminology, on the other hand, investigates the factors that influence crime rates, such as social, economic, psychological, and cultural variables, and develops strategies to prevent crime and improve the criminal justice system. Although their focal points differ, criminal law and criminology complement each other in understanding and addressing crime. Together, they contribute to the formulation of effective criminal policies and justice systems that reduce crime rates, protect society, and promote justice. Criminal law is concerned with the legal standards that specify which actions are subject to criminalization under the law, while criminology explores the broader social and individual factors behind criminal behavior.²²

Efforts to address crime are inherently linked to the broader objectives of protecting society (social defense) and promoting social welfare. Crime prevention seeks to maintain public security and order, safeguard individual rights and safety, and mitigate the harmful effects of criminal behavior on society. These efforts encompass various policies and programs aimed at reducing crime rates, enhancing the criminal justice system, and providing rehabilitation for offenders.²³ Approaches to combating crime can be broadly categorized into two main paths: the penal route and the non-penal route.²⁴ The penal route refers to the criminal justice system, which defines unlawful acts and establishes sanctions for those who violate the law. However, a comprehensive approach to crime prevention requires integrating both penal and non-penal measures. This combined strategy is essential for addressing crime holistically, through preventive initiatives, equitable law enforcement, offender rehabilitation, and social reintegration.

In addition to these direct legal approaches, crime prevention must also consider the social and economic factors that contribute to criminal behavior. Effective strategies include addressing the root causes of crime, such as poverty, lack of education, and social inequality. Public awareness and community involvement are also key components, as they help foster a culture of lawfulness and mutual responsibility within society. Through these integrated efforts, crime can be reduced more effectively, ensuring that all members of society benefit from a safer and more just environment. However, these efforts cannot be isolated from broader social and economic issues that also manifest in areas like land disputes, which are often linked to criminal acts such as land grabbing.

The limited availability of land results in intense competition for land rights, often leading to protracted disputes.²⁵ This issue mirrors some of the social and economic factors discussed in criminology, as those involved in land conflicts may resort to

²² Yodi Nugraha, Rembrandt Rembrandt, and Syofirman Sofyan., *Kepastian Hukum Sertipikat Hak Atas Tanah dengan Dasar Penerbitan Surat Palsu (Studi Putusan Pengadilan Negeri Batusangkar Nomor 67/Pid. B/2021/PN Bsk)*, *UNES Law Review*, Vol.6, no.1, 2023, page.1731. See too, Chanda Ricci, Busyra Azheri, and Nani Mulyati., *Kedudukan Hukum Sertipikat Hak Milik Karena Cacat Yuridis Sebagai Bukti Kepemilikan Hak (Studi Putusan Pengadilan Negeri Batusangkar Nomor 67/Pid. B/2021/PN Bsk)*, *UNES Law Review*, Vol.5, no.4, 2023, page.4871.

²³ Robert Lengkong Weku and Andika Adhyaksa., *Law Enforcement of Land Grace*, *Khairun Law Journal*, Vol.6, no.2, 2023, page.51.

²⁴ Jaminuddin Marbun, Raja Kenasihen Ginting, and Anggara Zuhri Harahap., *Tindak Pidana Penyerobatan Tanah Dalam Perspektif Hukum Pidana*, *Jurnal Rectum: Tinjauan Yuridis Penanganan Tindak Pidana*, Vol.3, no.2, 2021, page.233.

²⁵ Muhammad Ridwan Lubis., *Tindak Pidana Penyerobatan Tanah Dalam Perspektif Hukum Pidana*, *Jurnal Hukum Kaidah: Media Komunikasi dan Informasi Hukum dan Masyarakat*, Vol.20, no.2, 2021, page.257.

criminal acts when their livelihoods are threatened. Landowners are willing to make great sacrifices to maintain their ownership, as land plays a critical role in human life, serving as both the primary source of food and the foundation for agricultural activities.²⁶ In this sense, the fight over land can be seen as a struggle to secure not just property, but also essential resources for survival. The close connection between land and life makes land disputes not only legal or property issues, but also existential matters for those affected.²⁷

This highlights the urgency of addressing land grabbing within the framework of social justice and legal reform, as it is deeply intertwined with both economic inequalities and the potential for criminal behavior. Moreover, it underscores the importance of resolving land conflicts in a fair and sustainable manner, ensuring that individual rights are protected while maintaining ecological balance and promoting social well-being. When land becomes a contested resource, the stakes are high, and individuals often resort to drastic measures to secure their survival and future. The fight for land is not merely about property ownership; it reflects the need for access to vital resources that sustain livelihoods.

3.2. Land Grabbing and Legal Enforcement

One of the most common and contentious land conflicts in Indonesia is the unauthorized use or occupation of land, commonly referred to as land grabbing. This practice involves the illegal acquisition of land by individuals or corporations, often without the consent of local communities or landowners. Land grabbing can take many forms, from large-scale corporate acquisitions for agriculture or industry to informal land occupations by individuals seeking to secure their livelihood. The consequences of such actions can be devastating, not only for those directly affected but also for the broader community and environment. It further exacerbates social inequalities, fuels tensions, and can lead to violent confrontations, highlighting the urgent need for effective legal mechanisms and policies to address these issues.

Numerous incidents of land conflicts occur, with one of the most prominent being the unlawful occupation and destruction of land owned by others, whether intentional or accidental. Generally, land grabbing is defined as the illegal act of controlling, occupying, or seizing land that legally belongs to another individual or entity, thereby violating property rights and disregarding applicable regulations.²⁸ This form of land grabbing is a criminal offense that frequently arises in society. The consequences of such actions extend beyond harm to the rightful landowners, as they also contribute to social conflicts, legal instability, and uncertainty within the community. Consequently, it is essential to implement rigorous legal measures and enforce strict law enforcement to prevent and address land grabbing, ensuring the protection of individual property rights. As the demand for land ownership continues to rise due to its increasing value and utility, new challenges emerge in the land sector, heightening the risk of fraudulent activities related to land ownership and its

²⁶ Muh Efendi Marjan, Elsa Rina Maya Toule, and Julianus Edwin Latupeirissa., Tindak Pidana Penyerobotan Tanah, *Bacarita Law Journal*, Vol.4, no.1, 2023, page.38.

²⁷ Mochammad Tauchid., *Masalah agraria sebagai masalah penghidupan dan kemakmuran rakyat Indonesia*, Yogyakarta, Yayasan Bina Desa, 2011, page.201.

²⁸ Frieska Jayanthi Datau., Tinjauan Kriminologi Terhadap Tindak Pidana Penyerobotan Tanah (Studi Kasus di Wilayah Hukum Polda Gorontalo), *Jaksa: Jurnal Kajian Ilmu Hukum dan Politik*, Vol.1, no.3, 2023, page.102.

legality.²⁹

Land grabbing generally refers to the unlawful act of controlling, occupying, or taking over land that is legally owned by another person, thereby violating their rights or disregarding applicable legal regulations.³⁰ The issues surrounding illegal land grabbing are diverse, ranging from the physical occupation of land and its cultivation to the unauthorized sale or transfer of land rights. The consequences of such unauthorized actions can be severely detrimental to all parties involved, particularly if the land is being used for business or development purposes. Land grabbing not only results in significant financial losses for the rightful owners, but it can also disrupt property rights, fuel social conflicts, and cause long-term environmental damage.³¹ The illegal occupation and exploitation of land often lead to tensions between communities, government authorities, and private entities, complicating efforts to resolve disputes peacefully. Moreover, it can exacerbate existing inequalities and undermine social trust. Given the gravity of these issues, effective and rigorous law enforcement is essential to prevent and address cases of unlawful land grabbing, ensuring that property rights are upheld and individuals are protected. Such actions can be pursued under civil law through lawsuits or prosecuted under criminal law, depending on the severity of the violation and the harm caused.³²

According to Article 2 of Government Regulation in Lieu of Law Number 51 of 1960 concerning the Prohibition of Land Use Without Permission from the Authorized Person or Their Legal Representative, the unauthorized use of land is a prohibited act.³³ This offense is punishable by imprisonment for a maximum of 3 months, as stipulated in Article 6 of the same regulation. Land grabbing offenses that are subject to punishment include using land without permission from the rightful owner or their legal representative, interfering with the rights of the rightful owner or their representative in the use of the land, and encouraging, persuading, or advising others to use land without permission.³⁴ In addition, the provisions of Article 385 of

²⁹ Renanda Bagus Wijaya., The Law Enforcement against Offenders Owning Land and Buildings Without Own Permits, *Ratio Legis Journal*, Vol.1, no.4, 2023, page.911. See too, Dwi Anas Rudiantoro and Sri Kusriyah., Mechanism for Handling of Criminal Action Prohibiting the Use of Land Without Permission, *Law Development Journal*, Vol.2, no. 4, 2023, page.5521.

³⁰ Moh Nur Sidik Ahmad, Moh RU Puluhalawa, and Nuvazria Achir., The Crime of Land Grabbing from a Criminological Perspective, *Estudiante Law Journal*, Vol.1, no.1, 2024, page.113. See too, Franziska Maria Oehm., Land Grabbing in Cambodia as a Crime Against Humanity—Approaches in International Criminal Law, *Verfassung und Recht in Übersee/Law and Politics in Africa| Asia| Latin America*, Vol.21, 2015, page.487.

³¹ Umut Özsü., Grabbing land legally: A Marxist analysis, *Leiden Journal of International Law*, Vol.32, no.2, 2019, page.221.

³² Margie Gladies Sopacua., Penyerobotan Tanah Secara Tidak Sah Dalam Perspektif Pidana, *Jurnal Belo*, Vol.4, no.2, 2019, page.214.

³³ Moh Nur Sidik Ahmad, Moh RU Puluhalawa, and Nuvazria Achir., The Crime of Land Grabbing from a Criminological Perspective, *Estudiante Law Journal*, Vol.1, no.1, 2024, page.115. See too, Fransisko Rohanda Rebong., Efektivitas Sanksi Pidana Dan Kendala Penegakan Hukum Tindak Pidana Penyerobotan Tanah Berdasarkan Pasal 385 KuHP Dan Undang-Undang (Perpu) Nomor 51 Tahun 1960 Tentang Larangan Pemakaian Tanah Tanpa Izin Yang Berhak Atau Kuasanya, *Iustitia Omnibus: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum*, Vol.3, no.2, 2022, page.61.

³⁴ Satria Sukananda., Analisis Hukum Bentuk Penanggulangan Tindak Pidana Penyerobotan Tanah di Indonesia, *Indonesian Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology (IJCLC)*, Vol.2, no.3, 2021, page.163.

the Criminal Code can also be applied, as it is the only article in the Criminal Code that directly addresses crimes related to land ownership, carrying a maximum prison sentence of 4 years. These legal frameworks emphasize the importance of protecting land ownership rights and ensuring robust law enforcement against land grabbing. Such measures are crucial for maintaining stability, fairness, and justice in property ownership, which in turn upholds the rule of law and protects individuals' rights in society.

Crimes related to land grabbing are regulated under the Criminal Code, with Article 385 serving as the primary reference for police investigators and public prosecutors to charge individuals involved in land grabbing activities. Article 385, paragraph (1) of the Criminal Code clearly states that anyone who, with the intention of unlawfully benefiting themselves or others, sells, exchanges, or encumbers any rights to Indonesian land, buildings, structures, plantings, or seedlings—despite knowing that the rights to these properties belong to others—may face criminal sanctions. The legal approach to addressing land grabbing must be oriented toward realizing justice and ensuring a peaceful, fair social order. Public order, as defined by law, includes the principle of justice, which must be supported by society as legal subjects. Justice is the central tenet of both law and public order, highlighting that the primary function of legal protection is to achieve comprehensive justice for all individuals in society. This ensures that legal actions align with broader societal goals of fairness and equity.

3.3. Crime Prevention Strategies for Addressing Land Grabbing in Indonesia

The conflicts over land grabbing is an old incident but still occurs frequently in Indonesia. Land grabbing refers to the act of taking rights or property arbitrarily or without paying attention to applicable laws and regulations, such as occupying land or buildings belonging to other people to which they do not have rights.³⁵ This act of illegal land grabbing is a legal violation that can be classified as a criminal offense. Thus, strict law enforcement and protection of land ownership rights are important to maintain order and justice in society.³⁶ With the increasing human need for land use, both for agriculture and housing, a number of very disturbing problems have emerged, ranging from illegal forest logging, land destruction, land disputes, to land grabbing. In general, land grabbing can be defined as the act of taking over or using land that should be owned by someone else without permission or against the law.

One of the factors causing land grabbing is land ownership claims that are still registered in the names of their parents who are inherited without knowledge that

³⁵ Dianto Bachriadi and Erwin Suryana., Land grabbing and speculation for energy business: a case study of ExxonMobil in East Java, Indonesia, *Canadian Journal of Development Studies/Revue canadienne d'études du développement*, Vol.37, no.4, 2016, page.579. See too, Fergi Firosa Akbar., Judge Decision Analysis on Civil Cases Against Counterfeiting Land Deed Decision Number 350 K/Pdt/2017 Mataram District Court, *Indonesian Journal of Environmental Law and Sustainable Development*, Vol.1, no.1, 2022, page.69.

³⁶ Oliver Pye, Irendra Radjawali, and Julia., Land grabs and the river: eco-social transformations along the Kapuas, Indonesia, *Canadian Journal of Development Studies/Revue canadienne d'études du développement*, Vol.38, no.3, 2017, page.394. See too, Suroto Suroto and Gunarto Gunarto., Dampak Penambangan Pasir Besi Di Desa Bandungharjo, Banyumanis Dan Ujungwatu Kabupaten Jepara Menurut UU No. 32 Tahun 2009 Tentang Perlindungan Dan Pengelolaan Lingkungan Hidup, *Jurnal Daulat Hukum*, Vol.1, no.1, 2018, page.21.

the land has been sold or ownership has been transferred. This situation creates confusion and legal uncertainty which can trigger conflict and tension in society. Serious handling and strict law enforcement are needed to overcome the problem of land grabbing and protect individual property rights.³⁷ Apart from external factors such as environmental conditions and the legal system, the role of the victim also often has a significant influence on the occurrence of a crime, whether consciously or unconsciously, directly or indirectly. In the context of land grabbing, this action refers to the act of controlling, occupying, or taking over land that should be owned by another person unlawfully, violating rights, or ignoring applicable regulations.³⁸

Land grabbing is a criminal act that frequently occurs in various communities, especially *adat* communities in Indonesia, with many large corporations involved in sectors such as plantations, mining, and forestry. Contributing factors include a lack of understanding regarding the status of land ownership or the unawareness that land has been sold or transferred to other parties.³⁹ These factors significantly increase the risk of land grabbing. Raising awareness about property rights and ensuring clear knowledge of land ownership status are crucial for preventing land grabbing and safeguarding the rights of legitimate landowners. In the context of law enforcement, criminal actions related to land grabbing often escalate into more severe crimes, such as violence or physical assaults. While legal measures have been implemented to address land grabbing through both penal and non-penal channels, the persistence of such crimes suggests that current efforts have not been fully effective. To enhance crime prevention strategies, it is essential to identify and address the underlying factors that contribute to land grabbing. By understanding these drivers, law enforcement agencies can develop more targeted and efficient strategies to combat this issue and ensure the protection of property rights in society.⁴⁰

³⁷ Christophe Golay., Identifying and Monitoring Human Rights Violations Associated with Large-Scale Land Acquisitions: A Focus on United Nations Mechanisms and South-East Asia, *International Development Policy*, Vol.6, 2016, page.235. See too, Pujo Semedi and Laurens Bakker., Between land grabbing and farmers' benefits: land transfers in West Kalimantan, Indonesia, *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*, Vol.15, no.4, 2014, page.383.

³⁸ James Reinaldo Rumpia., Marginalisation of Adat Communities: Intersectionality of Land Grabbing, Human Rights, Climate Adaptation, and Human Mobility in Indonesia, In *Climate-Related Human Mobility in Asia and the Pacific: Interdisciplinary Rights-Based Approaches*, pp. 221-239. Singapore, Springer Nature Singapore, 2024, page.229. See too, Ernan Rustiadi, Baba Barus, Laode Syamsul Iman, Setyardi Pratika Mulya, Andrea Emma Pravitasari and Dedy Antony., *Land use and spatial policy conflicts in a rich-biodiversity rain forest region: The case of Jambi Province, Indonesia*, Berlin, Springer, 2018, page.291.

³⁹ Ahmad Dhialhaq and John F. McCarthy., Indigenous rights and agrarian justice framings in forest land conflicts in Indonesia, *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*, Vol.21, no.1, 2020, page.45. See too, Imam Koeswahyono and Mohammad Hamidi Masykur., Absentee Land Ownership: Problem or Solution for Indonesia Farmers, *Indonesia Law Reform Journal*, Vol.4, no.3, 2024, page.271. <https://doi.org/10.22219/ilrej.v4i3.36282>;

⁴⁰ Yance Arizona., Adat as Strategy for Legal Struggle and Legal Mobilization (Adat Sebagai Strategi Perjuangan dan Mobilisasi Hukum), *The Indonesian Journal of Socio-Legal Studies*, Vol.2, no.2, 2023, page.5. See too, Dianto Bachriadi and Erwin Suryana., Land grabbing and speculation for energy business: a case study of ExxonMobil in East Java, Indonesia, *Canadian Journal of Development Studies/Revue canadienne d'études du développement*, Vol.37, no.4, 2016, page.590. See too, Laurens Bakker and Gustaaf Reerink., Indonesia's land acquisition law: Towards effective prevention of land grabbing?, In *Land Grabs in Asia*, pp. 83-99. Oxfordshire, Routledge, 2015, page.87. See too, Astrid Dewi Meilasari-Sugiana., Oil palm companies, privatization and

By referring to the above discussions, this study proposes that crime prevention strategies for addressing land grabbing in Indonesia must involve a combination of public education, improved land administration, stronger legal protections, and active community participation. By focusing on these areas, the risk of land grabbing can be reduced, and landownership rights can be protected for all. Specifically, as an essential preventive strategy, it is important to educate the public about the importance of proper land certification and documentation. By ensuring that landowners understand how to process land certificates and confirm ownership status, the likelihood of fraudulent land claims can be reduced. Properly documented land ownership not only provides legal protection to landowners but also fosters a sense of security in communities, reducing tensions and potential conflicts that could arise from disputes over land. Moreover, increasing community awareness about the shared responsibility in preventing land-related crimes plays a vital role in reducing crime opportunities.

A significant problem contributing to land grabbing is the occurrence of overlapping land certificates, where a single plot of land is described by multiple certificates with conflicting data. This issue arises due to incomplete or invalid data in the National Land Agency database. If the initial land records were accurate, issuing multiple certificates would not be possible. To address this, it is crucial for landowners to ensure that their certificates align with accurate, verified data. Additionally, when applying for land certificates, a thorough comparison with existing records should be made to avoid discrepancies and ensure validity. If this process is not followed, inaccurate data could lead to legal disputes and potential land grabbing.⁴¹ Another aspect of land grabbing prevention involves acknowledging the complexities surrounding customary land rights.⁴² Indonesia's legal framework recognizes land with customary rights, but this often leads to conflicts between individuals, communities, and groups. The protection of indigenous peoples' land rights should be approached with a focus on human rights, particularly self-determination, within the context of a unitary state. As such, legal measures should be designed to address both state and customary land rights while ensuring fairness and justice for all parties involved.

In addition to these preventive measures, there is a need for strong law enforcement and public involvement in the legal process. One effective strategy is for landowners and communities to report land grabbing incidents to the authorities, enabling timely and appropriate legal actions.⁴³ For landowners, actively protecting their property rights is paramount. This includes securing land ownership documents, ensuring property boundaries are clearly marked, and taking legal measures to protect their land from unauthorized use. Landowners' awareness and vigilance in safeguarding

social dissonance: towards a socially viable and ecologically sustainable land reform in Tanah Laut Regency, South Kalimantan, Indonesia, *Journal of Political Ecology*, Vol.25, no.1, 2018, page.563.

⁴¹ Ahmad Dhiaulhaq and John F. McCarthy., Indigenous rights and agrarian justice framings in forest land conflicts in Indonesia, *The Asia Pacific Journal of Anthropology*, Vol.21, no.1, 2020, page.39.

⁴² Rosita Dewi., Gaining recognition through participatory mapping? The role of adat land in the implementation of the Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate in Papua, Indonesia, *ASEAS-Austrian Journal of South-East Asian Studies*, Vol.9, no.1, 2016, page.100.

⁴³ Jaminuddin Marbun, Raja Kenasihen Ginting, and Anggara Zuhri Harahap., Tindak Pidana Penyerobotan Tanah Dalam Perspektif Hukum Pidana, *Jurnal Rectum: Tinjauan Yuridis Penanganan Tindak Pidana*, Vol.3, no.2, 2021, page.229.

their property are vital steps in combating land grabbing and promoting the stability of land ownership rights.

Furthermore, the Criminal Code, particularly Article 385 Paragraph (4), highlights the legal consequences of land-related crimes, such as mortgaging or renting uncertified land, knowing that others have rightful claims to it. Violators may face up to four years in prison. Thus, providing legal certainty and protection for landholders is critical to preventing land grabbing. Strengthening the accessibility of land data for interested parties, including the government, can facilitate legal actions and ensure better land administration.

4. Conclusion

Criminal law and criminology work together to address crime by defining unlawful behavior and understanding the social and individual factors behind criminal acts. A comprehensive approach to crime prevention integrates both legal measures and social interventions, focusing on addressing the root causes of crime such as poverty and inequality. In cases like land grabbing, resolving disputes through fair legal reform is essential for promoting justice, protecting property rights, and ensuring social well-being. Land grabbing remains a significant issue in Indonesia, with severe social, economic, and environmental consequences. Effective legal enforcement, including robust laws and regulations, is crucial to protect property rights and prevent unlawful land appropriation. By upholding justice and ensuring strict legal measures, Indonesia can address land grabbing and foster a fair and stable environment for land ownership. Therefore, addressing land grabbing in Indonesia requires a comprehensive approach that includes public education, improved land administration, and stronger legal protections. By raising awareness about property rights and ensuring clear documentation of land ownership, the risks of land grabbing can be significantly reduced, and the rights of legitimate landowners can be safeguarded. Additionally, active community participation and stronger law enforcement are essential in preventing land grabbing and ensuring the stability and fairness of land ownership in society.

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