

Effectiveness of Domestic Violence Case Investigation by the PPA Unit of the Ogan Komerung Ulu Police

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Abstract. Domestic Violence (DV) cases in Indonesia are no longer a problem that must be covered up because everyone has the same rights and status in the eyes of the law. The majority of people in Indonesia are a country that still adheres to Eastern customs that still adhere to Patriarchy. Patriarchal culture positions men as rulers and women as second-class humans who must submit to men. In household life, women in particular are positioned as people who only hold reproductive functions such as getting pregnant, giving birth, and raising children who have been born, and domestic functions, namely matters within the home, therefore women are often perceived as weak creatures who only rely on emotions and feelings so that the output produced is illogical. An example of a case that occurred in 2024 with police report number LP.B/26/II/2024/SPKT dated February 20, 2024, which occurred between a husband and wife with the initials SA (Wife) as the victim and AP (Husband) who was the perpetrator on Jl. R. Suprpto, Kemala Raja Village, Baturaja Timur District, Ogan Komering Ulu Regency with a brief chronology of events, namely on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at around 00.15 the perpetrator (AP) hit his wife (SA) because it was suspected that his wife received money and kept the money a secret so that AP felt annoyed and suspicious of his wife and kicked SA until she was thrown 3 meters away, in addition AP also slapped SA 3 times and caused bruises on SA's right and left cheeks. This case ended P-21 at the prosecutor's office and the suspect AP was sentenced according to the alleged article given. In addition, there is also LP.B/30/II/2025/SPKT/POLRES OKU dated February 26, 2025 which terminated the investigation (SP 3). The termination of the investigation was carried out because the victim withdrew the report because she wanted to improve her relationship with the perpetrator and have children with the perpetrator.

Keywords: Domestic; Investigation; PPA Unit; Police; Violence.

1. Introduction

In order to enforce the law against someone who commits domestic violence, the community must understand and clearly comprehend that there are several factors that can cause

domestic violence so that it can be detected early so that steps can be taken to prevent such acts and protect victims in accordance with the laws and regulations in force in Indonesia. In essence, marriage is a bond between a woman and a man formed based on the one and only God and is adjusted to the laws in force in Indonesia. Marriage in Indonesia has been regulated in Law Number 1 of 1974 concerning Marriage and Law Number 16 of 2019 concerning Amendments to Law Number 1 of 1974. Based on these regulations, an understanding is given regarding. Marriage is a physical and spiritual bond between a man and a woman as husband and wife with the aim of building a happy and eternal family (household) based on the One Almighty God.

Domestic Violence (DV) cases in Indonesia are no longer a problem that must be covered up because everyone has the same rights and status in the eyes of the law. The majority of people in Indonesia are a country that still adheres to Eastern customs that still adhere to Patriarchy. Patriarchal culture positions men as rulers and women as second-class humans who must submit to men. In household life, women in particular are positioned as people who only hold reproductive functions such as getting pregnant, giving birth, and raising children who have been born, and domestic functions, namely matters within the home, therefore women are often perceived as weak creatures who only rely on emotions and feelings so that the output produced is illogical.¹ Domestic violence is a violation of Human Rights (HAM) and a form of discrimination against victims, especially women and children. Cases of violence that occur in the household have received a lot of attention both in terms of social and law, based on this the state has regulated it in Law Number 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence (UU PKDRT) which is based on article 28G of the 1945 Constitution which states that everyone has the right to feel safe and free from all forms of violence. Criminal law policies need to be carried out through a restorative approach and ongoing legal protection.² The formation of the Domestic Violence Law is an effort to provide legal protection against the victim. The definition of domestic violence in the PKDRT Law is any act, especially against women, that results in physical, sexual, psychological misery or suffering, and/or unlawful neglect or deprivation of liberty within the scope of the household.

The formation of the Domestic Violence Law is partly based on the fact that many victims are still afraid to report the violence they experience. So that the crime is categorized as a hidden crime, namely a crime that is hidden because the victim is afraid of public comment on their household problems so that many cases of domestic violence in Indonesia are not reported to law enforcement so that the opportunity for dark numbers from this domestic violence crime is quite large in Indonesia. In the effort to enforce the law against the crime of Domestic Violence, it is not easy because not all people consider this violence to be a violation of human rights, but only as a form of guidance from the husband as the head of the household to the wife in the realm of privacy. Currently, the progress of the 21st century has entered all lines of life where everything should be made easier, right?, on the contrary, it makes the atmosphere of life disturbing and uncomfortable in this case, acts of violence that occur in

¹ Luthfia Rahma Halizah and Ergina Faralita, "Patriarchal Culture and Gender Equality," *Wasaka Hukum* 11, no. 1 (2023): 19–32, <https://www.ojs.stihsa-bjm.ac.id/index.php/wasaka/article/view/84>.

² Joko Widodo, *Criminal Law Policy in Protection of Victims of Domestic Violence* (Malang: Setara Press, 2018), 91

the family. Domestic violence is not just a private issue but a social and legal problem that requires state assistance to provide protection for victims and sanctions for perpetrators.³ Thus, the community is eagerly awaiting the success of law enforcement through the Domestic Violence Law in order to create a safe, comfortable and peaceful living atmosphere.

Violence when interpreted from a social perspective is a despicable act that is generally based on the self-awareness of each individual, the strength of ethics and morals that exist within the person that play an important role in this matter. However, not everyone can understand this concept because until now violence is still one of the crimes that still occur in Indonesia. Therefore, this despicable act should be given a firm and clear threat to the perpetrators through a criminal law approach that makes this act a form of crime that occurs to women and children who according to Law Number 39 of 1999 concerning Human Rights (HAM) are included in vulnerable groups. The human rights perspective is very important because it concerns the right to life, namely the release of women and children from the shadow of violence.⁴

An example of a case that occurred in 2024 with police report number LP.B/26/II/2024/SPKT dated February 20, 2024, which occurred between a husband and wife with the initials SA (Wife) as the victim and AP (Husband) who was the perpetrator on Jl. R. Suprpto, Kemala Raja Village, Baturaja Timur District, Ogan Komering Ulu Regency with a brief chronology of events, namely on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at around 00.15 the perpetrator (AP) hit his wife (SA) because it was suspected that his wife received money and kept the money a secret so that AP felt annoyed and suspicious of his wife and kicked SA until she was thrown 3 meters away, in addition AP also slapped SA 3 times and caused bruises on SA's right and left cheeks. This case ended P-21 at the prosecutor's office and the suspect AP was sentenced according to the alleged article given. In addition, there is also LP.B/30/II/2025/SPKT/POLRES OKU dated February 26, 2025 which terminated the investigation (SP 3). The termination of the investigation was carried out because the victim withdrew the report because she wanted to improve her relationship with the perpetrator and have children with the perpetrator.

2. Research Methods

This research is a qualitative research, namely research that prioritizes in-depth social or legal understanding through interviews, observations, and documents.⁵ The approach used is the Empirical Juridical approach, which is an approach that examines law as real behavior in society, especially in the implementation of investigations by the police. The research method in understanding the socio-legal behavior of perpetrators and victims of domestic violence must use the right method to produce correct and appropriate data.⁶

³ Rizka Amelia, *Domestic Violence: Social and Legal Perspectives* (Yogyakarta: Genta Press, 2020), 27

⁴ Bachtiar Effendi, "Violence against Women in the Household: Legal and Human Rights Perspectives," *Human Rights Journal* 5, no. 1 (2014): 38.

⁵ Lexy J. Moleong, *Qualitative Research Methodology* (Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya, 2019), 112

⁶ SaifuddinAzwar, *Research Methods* (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 2012), 80.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Overview of the Implementation of Domestic Violence Case Investigations by the PPA Unit

The Women and Children Protection Unit (PPA) at the Ogan Komering Ulu Police is a police work unit that specifically handles cases involving women and children as victims, one of which is domestic violence. This unit plays an important role in providing protection and ensuring justice for victims of domestic violence.

In carrying out its duties, the PPA unit refers to several main regulations, including:

- a. Law No. 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence⁷
- b. Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP)
- c. Police Chief Regulation No. 8 of 2021 concerning Handling of Criminal Acts Based on Restorative Justice⁸
- d. Internal Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) of the Republic of Indonesia National Police.

The investigation stage begins with the receipt of a report from the victim. After the report is received by the PPA unit, the initial actions taken are: (Interview with the PPA Unit Investigator on February 6, 2025)

- a. Receipt and recording of official reports (Investigation Registration)
- b. Initial interviews with victims and witnesses
- c. Collection of evidence and supporting documents (visum et repertum and photos of wounds)
- d. Examination of witnesses and the accused
- e. Case title: whether the case can be continued to the formal legal process or whether restorative justice can be implemented

In its implementation, the PPA Unit faces various challenges, including: (Interview with the PPA Unit Investigator on February 6, 2025)

- a. Many victims of domestic violence withdraw their reports due to pressure from family,

⁷ Husain, "Implementation Of Law Number 23 Of 2004 On The Elimination Of Domestic Violence (P-Kdrt) In The Upholding Of Women's Human Rights Case Study: In The City Of Makassar";

⁸ Restorative, "Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia National Police Number 8 of 2021 concerning Handling of Criminal Acts Based on Restorative Justice."

economic dependence on the perpetrator, or other social reasons.

- b. The culture of society that views domestic violence as a private issue that does not need to be resolved through legal channels.
- c. Limited facilities and infrastructure such as psychosocial assistance and health facilities for medical examinations.
- d. The limited number of investigators, especially female investigators, results in a lack of speed and depth in handling cases.

However, PPA Unit investigators have generally carried out their duties in accordance with applicable legal procedures, and are committed to providing protection to victims. However, the effectiveness of investigations is still constrained by structural and cultural problems that affect the level of resolution of domestic violence crimes through legal procedures.⁹

3.2. Analysis of Investigation Effectiveness Based on Five Factors according to Soerjono Soekanto

3.2.1. Legal Factors (Legal Substance)

The regulations regarding law enforcement in cases of domestic violence are quite adequate, namely:

- a. Law No. 23 of 2004 concerning the Elimination of Domestic Violence
- b. Criminal Procedure Code as the basis for the investigation process
- c. Police Regulation No. 8 of 2021 concerning Handling of Criminal Acts through Restorative Justice

Although the state has strictly regulated, its implementation in OKU Regency has not been maximized. We can see this from:¹⁰

- a. The articles regulating domestic neglect are still difficult to prove legally.
- b. Legal aspects often clash with social aspects that prioritize “peace” within the family without considering legal procedures.
- c. There are still few cases that reach the P-21 stage

⁹ Halizah, Luthfia Rahma, and Ergina Faralita. “Patriarchal Culture and Gender Equality.” *Wasaka Hukum* 11, no. 1 (2023): 19–32. <https://www.ojs.stihsa-bjm.ac.id/index.php/wasaka/article/view/84>.

¹⁰ Sulistiyowati, Endang. “The Effectiveness of Law Enforcement in Domestic Violence Cases in Indonesia.” *Journal of Law and Justice* 12, no. 1 (2021): 45–60.

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- d. The application of restorative justice is still low
- e. The number of investigation terminations

We can interpret this as meaning that legal regulations are available, but have not been implemented optimally.¹¹

3.2.2. Law Enforcement Factors (Police)

The effectiveness of the law is highly dependent on the professionalism and integrity of the law enforcement officers themselves, in this case the PPA Unit investigators. We can see that:

- a. There was a decrease in the number of P-21 cases from 2023-2025.
- b. Discontinued cases increase (2024=58%, 2025=100%)
- c. The number of personnel is small, out of 5 only 3 are active and have mastered handling of domestic violence cases.
- d. Investigators have not been equipped with extensive knowledge regarding handling trauma and psychology for victims of domestic violence.

We can interpret this to mean that:

- a. Possible lack of technical competence of investigators in proving domestic violence cases.
- b. Lack of victim assistance, so that the case does not develop.

Thus, the role of investigators as law enforcers is still said to be ineffective in enforcing the Domestic Violence Law optimally.

3.2.3. Facilities and Infrastructure Factors

The effectiveness of the law is also influenced by the availability of facilities and infrastructure, such as:

- a. Child and victim friendly spaces already exist, but there are no permanent/definite psychologists or expert counselors.
- b. There is still no special recording device that can be used to store digital evidence or forensic evidence and documentation of post-mortem results.

¹¹ Effendi, Bachtiar. "Domestic Violence against Women: Legal and Human Rights Perspectives." Human Rights Journal 5, no. 1 (2014): 33–49.

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- c. Special HR/experts (psychologists and legal counselors)

The facilities mentioned above are still minimal or even non-existent in the PPA unit of the OKU Police. This makes it difficult for investigators to:

- a. Collect sufficient and strong evidence
- b. Convince the victim to continue the process according to legal procedures
- c. Implementing the RJ approach ideally

The statement that there has been no P-21 in 2025 as of January-May indicates the possibility of weak support for facilities and infrastructure owned by the PPA Unit in the investigation.¹²

3.2.4. Community Factors

The social conditions of society also affect the effectiveness of the law. The social conditions of society also affect the effectiveness of the law in the OKU Regency area in cases of domestic violence:

- a. Victims often feel reluctant to report or even withdraw their reports because they consider domestic violence cases not to be criminal acts, but rather ordinary household problems.
- b. There is pressure from family, economics and patriarchal culture which makes victims choose to remain silent.
- c. There is a victim's fear of stigma and retaliation.

This explains why:

- a. Many domestic violence cases at the OKU Police end with the termination of the investigation
- b. P-21 and RJ Implementation are still minimally achieved

This means that legal awareness among the community, in this case victims, families and the surrounding environment, is still low, thus hampering the effectiveness of law enforcement.

3.2.5. Legal Culture Factors

Legal culture is the values and attitudes that exist in society in responding to the law. In the context of domestic violence in the OKU region, it is often found:

¹² Dewi, Lestari. "Law Enforcement against Perpetrators of Domestic Violence: A Study at the Bekasi Metro Police." *Journal of Reformed Law Science* 6, no. 2 (2021): 122–138.

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- a. The idea that domestic violence is a family matter (private realm) and the perpetrator is “one’s own family”
- b. The imbalance between the spirit of the state through the Law on the Elimination of Domestic Violence and the acceptance of everyday society.

This legal culture causes:

- a. The investigation is not yet complete and is not even complete
- b. Cases that were stopped early in the investigation
- c. Low number of cases referred to the prosecutor's office¹³

3.3. Obstacles in the Investigation of Domestic Violence Cases by the PPA Unit of the OKU Police

Based on the results of an interview with one of the investigators from the PPA Unit of the OKU Police and one of the victims of domestic violence, obstacles/barriers were found that could affect the level of effectiveness of the investigation, including:

- a. Victim to pull out report because of various type reason And factor(economic dependency, young children, or family pressure)
- b. Limited budgets have a significant impact on the level of investigator mobility and investigative activities such as arrests and further investigation of other cases.
- c. Psychological support for victims is still lacking, because some victims experience mental trauma but there is no consistent recovery service.
- d. Lack of evidence, difficulty in obtaining it because domestic violence generally occurs indoors and is not witnessed by other people.¹⁴

3.4. Efforts and Innovations made by the PPA Unit

Despite the various obstacles found in handling domestic violence cases in the OKU region, the PPA Unit has made several efforts to improve the quality of investigations:

- a. Collaborating with P2TP2A and the OKU Regency social services in accompanying victims both during investigations and in the long term.
- b. Conducting legal counseling, coaching and socialization to villages and sub-districts.

¹³ Interviews with victims of domestic violence [February 10, 2025]

¹⁴ Atmasasmita, Romli. Legal Reform, Human Rights and Law Enforcement. London: Publishers, 2002.

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- c. Providing child and victim-friendly spaces to support comfort and mental peace for victims.
- d. Taking a persuasive approach to the victim's family to support each stage and legal procedure carried out.¹⁵

3.5. Interview Results and Case Analysis

3.5.1. Investigator's Perspective

From the results of the interview with Brigadier Intan Sorendah, SH, as an investigator of the PPA Unit of the Ogan Komering Ulu Police, the investigation of domestic violence cases during 2023-2025 showed quite high effectiveness. This can be seen from the increase in the number of reports that were followed up, the smooth procedure for transferring case files to the prosecutor, and the realization of assistance efforts for victims from the beginning of reporting and examination.

Brigadier Intan as an investigator assessed that effectiveness does not mean that the case must go to court, but rather how the systematic investigation can provide a sense of security and justice to the victim. The investigator said that the main problem in handling domestic violence cases is the courage of the victims to continue the case through legal procedures, because in fact many victims choose to remain silent because they are afraid of being made a topic of conversation in the environment or family and generally live off the money given by the perpetrator.

In addition, Brigadier Intan also mentioned that psychosocial assistance from parties who have expertise or are in the field is very much needed by the victim. The investigation is not only about the legal aspect but also the humanitarian aspect and ongoing protection for the victim and/or reporter.

However, the obstacles experienced by investigators also have an impact on the level of effectiveness of investigations such as the number of PPA unit investigators, supporting facilities for investigations that are not yet optimal such as child-friendly rooms. Therefore, further support is expected from internal (police) and other institutions/agencies engaged in the field of protection of women and children.¹⁶

3.5.2. Victim's Perspective

The interview was conducted with one of the victims named Melati (pseudonym) on February 6, 2025. The victim who had experienced domestic violence by her husband named Tarji

¹⁵ Nugroho, Herlambang P. *Sociology of Law: An Empirical Study of Law in Society*. Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press, 2009.

¹⁶ Chief of the Indonesian National Police. "Chief of Police Regulation No. 6 of 2019." Indonesian National Police, 2019, 1–27. <https://www.peraturanpolri.com/2019/12/perkap-6-year-2019-criminal-investigation.html>.

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(pseudonym) on Tuesday, February 25, 2025 at around 08.00 WIB located on Jl. Ahmad Yani, Rt.- Rw.07, Tanjung Baru Village, Baturaja Timur District, Ogan Komering Ulu Regency.

Based on the interview, the victim stated that the service provided by the PPA Unit of the OKU Police was considered very easy and had provided protection to the victim. Since the victim reported the incident, the victim felt heard, and was given mental peace and also given a good understanding of the law.

The victim thanked the investigators for their assistance and efforts in communicating and coordinating well during the reporting process. He also added that the investigation process was carried out quickly and openly by providing notification letters at each stage of the investigation.

The victim stated that it was true that there was ridicule and pressure from both family and the surrounding environment to resolve the matter amicably and withdraw the report, but he was convinced that the incident was a problem that could not be resolved through family mediation alone because there was no deterrent effect on the perpetrator and the victim felt unfair for what he had experienced. According to the victim, the police were successful not only because the perpetrator had been caught and detained but the victims regained their self-esteem, self-confidence and a sense of security to continue their lives. From the incident that befell him, the victim hopes for a resolution. Similar cases at the OKU Police can be maintained and if possible improved so that they can become role models for other regions in Indonesia.¹⁷

4. Conclusion

The implementation of the investigation of domestic violence cases by the PPA Unit of the OKU Police has generally been in accordance with applicable legal procedures, starting from receiving reports, examining victims and witnesses, to transferring files to the prosecutor's office. However, its implementation has not been fully optimal. Based on the theory of legal effectiveness according to Soerjono Soekanto, the five main factors, namely legal substance, law enforcement officers, facilities and infrastructure, society, and legal culture, still do not fully support the effectiveness of investigations even though the PPA unit has shown commitment and several innovations in handling domestic violence cases. The effectiveness of the investigation still faces obstacles, such as: Limited number of investigators and supporting facilities. The high number of victims withdrawing their reports outside of legal procedures. The low level of public understanding that domestic violence is a criminal act, not just a difference of opinion and a domestic problem. There are several improvement efforts that have been carried out by the PPA Unit of the OKU Police, such as establishing cooperation with supporting institutions, providing child-friendly spaces, and conducting legal

¹⁷ Interview with the Investigator of the PPA Unit of the Ogan Komering Ulu Police, Brigadier Intan Sorendah, SH [February 6, 2025]

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socialization. However, these steps still need to be strengthened systematically and continuously.

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Interviews with victims of domestic violence [February 10, 2025]