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Legal Issues Regarding the Role of the Police in Carrying Out Investigations into Human Trafficking Crimes

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Abstract. *The interrelationship between investigators and relevant agencies responsible for protecting victims of human trafficking has also not been optimized. Another problem, which often presents an obstacle, is a lack of understanding of the legal substance of the criminal provisions of the Law on the Eradication of Human Trafficking, which results in delays in case resolution and/or disagreements between investigators and prosecutors regarding the interpretation and analysis of criminal cases under investigation. The aim of this research is to determine and analyze (1) the systematic development of human trafficking in Indonesia, (2) the police's investigative methods for human trafficking crimes, and (3) the legal problems of police investigations into human trafficking crimes. The approach method used in this research is normative juridical. The specifications of this research are analytical descriptive. The data source used is secondary data. Secondary data is data obtained from library research consisting of primary legal materials, secondary legal materials and tertiary legal materials. The research results and discussion can be concluded: (1) In the case of human trafficking in Indonesia, which has been a hot topic in the news for the past few years, the practice has increased, with several ASEAN countries, namely Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos, as the destination for exploitation. The highest number of human trafficking cases is Cambodia. (2) Mechanistically, the first step taken is an investigation and inquiry into reports of suspected human trafficking. Investigators use modern investigative techniques to uncover human trafficking networks that frequently change locations to avoid detection by law enforcement. The process of investigating human trafficking cases begins with receiving reports from the public or findings in the field. In this process, investigators have the authority to receive reports/complaints, both in writing, verbally, and electronically, regarding suspected human trafficking. (3) The problems that arise in the police's efforts to investigate human trafficking crimes are primarily due to the characteristics of this crime, which is carried out through a disconnected network pattern. This makes it difficult to handle or prevent human trafficking. The disconnected network starts from recruitment, transportation, and shelter.*

Keywords: *Human Trafficking; Investigation; Legal Issues.*

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1. Introduction

Indonesia is a country based on law in accordance with the provisions of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia.[1]Law regulates all aspects of life in society. This includes relationships between individuals and other individuals, individuals and community groups, and even relationships with the government. Every regulation created by society must comply with and be adhered to. Actions that violate or contravene laws and regulations are called crimes or violations. Crimes are referred to as criminal acts in criminal law literature.

The Indonesian criminal law system adopted Dutch criminal law based on the principle of concordance. The original term "criminal act" comes from the word "strafbaarfeit." "Strafbaarfeit" is a Dutch term that has been translated into Indonesian with various terms. As a result, several different views have emerged in Indonesian as an equivalent to the term "strafbaarfeit," such as "criminal act," "criminal event," "criminal act," "punishable act," and so on.[2]

According to Simons, the definition of "Strafbaarfeit" is "an act intentionally carried out by someone who can be held responsible for his actions, and is considered punishable for violating the law. Pompe has a different opinion, according to him the definition of "strafbaarfeit" can theoretically be formulated as "a violation of norms (disruption of legal order) carried out intentionally or not, by a perpetrator. The imposition of punishment on the perpetrator is necessary to maintain legal order and the public interest.

Moeljatno[3]argues that after choosing "criminal act" as the translation of "strafbaarfeit," he provides a formulation or definition that the act is prohibited and punishable by law for anyone who violates the prohibition. Furthermore, the act must also be truly perceived by society as behavior that is prohibited or that hinders the creation of the social order that society itself desires.

2. Research Methods

To conduct the study in this research, the author used a normative juridical method or written legal approach. The normative juridical research method is a legal research conducted by periodically examining literature, commonly referred to as secondary data. Normative juridical research is research on the principles of positive law as stipulated in legislation, where this research has the concept that law is a rule. This research was conducted by examining literature, also known as secondary data.

[1]Sulistiyawan Doni Ardiyanto, Eko Soponyono and Achmad Sulchan, Judgment Considerations Policy in Decree of the Court Criminal Statement Based on Criminal Destination, Jurnal Daulat Hukum, Volume 3 Issue 1, March 2020, p. 179
[2]Andin Dwi Safitri & Khalimatuz Zuhriyah, Understanding Criminal Acts and Elements of Criminal Acts, Jurnal Judiciary, Vol 14 No 1 2025, p.35
[3]Ismu Gunadi and Jonaedi Efendi, Criminal Law, Jakarta: Kencana, 2014, p. 35

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3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Systematic Development of Human Trafficking in Indonesia

In the 21st century, we have entered the era of globalization. Globalization has allowed people to move more freely from one country to another. In short, globalization has created a world where there are no more boundaries. Today, countries around the world are interconnected, creating interdependence across political, economic, social, cultural, and many other aspects of life.

The rapid development of technology and information has blurred the boundaries between countries. The opening of free markets between countries, a result of globalization, has opened up significant opportunities for every country to meet the needs of people worldwide, without being limited by time and space. Expanded access between countries has also led to increased mobility of goods and people from one place to another, and from one country to another. Opening entry points and access within national borders allows individuals to easily move from one place to another.[4]

Like currency, the era of globalization has both positive and negative impacts. Of all the negative impacts of globalization, one has become a major global problem. This problem is all too familiar to us: human trafficking. Like drugs and the illegal arms trade, human trafficking is a criminal industry driven by the activities of market players based on supply and demand.

*Human trafficking*Human trafficking has become a global problem and has been defined as a form of transnational crime, a highly organized crime that occurs worldwide. Trafficking is the illegal trade of human beings for the commercial purposes of sexual exploitation or forced labor. The term "trafficking" comes from English and means "illegal trade." It is a modern form of slavery. Some argue that "trafficking" comes from the word "trafic," meaning trade. The equivalent of a person who trades/sells is "trafficker," meaning trader. The term "trafficking" was first introduced in a UN instrument. Initially, "traffic" was used to refer to the "white slave trade" experienced by women around 1900.[5]

Although forms of human slavery existed before the 15th century, that century marked the beginning of slavery in Europe. The slave trade in Africa was implemented by transporting some workers from Africa to Portugal. In 1562, the English arrived in Africa to participate in the trade. In the 1600s, other countries began to contribute to this activity. These countries included Spain, North America, the Netherlands, France, Sweden, and Denmark.[6]

Slavery entered Europe in the 14th century, when the Portuguese brought hundreds of slaves from Africa to serve as servants or plantation workers in Spain, Portugal, and Italy. European colonists transported slaves from Africa to the Americas and Europe via the Transatlantic route. At that time, slavery was not considered a crime or a human rights violation, as owning

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[4]Safa Ega Arfika and Andi Aina Ilmih, Op.Cit, October 2024, p.70
[5]Cahya Wulandari and Sonny Saptoajie Wicaksono, Op.Cit, September-December 2014, p.16
[6]William O. Blake, The History of Slavery and the Slave Trade, Columbus: J. & H Miller, Ohio, 1857, p.112

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slaves was a common part of society, and the "tradition" of owning slaves became widespread.[7]

Over time, more and more countries contributed. Therefore, in 1904, the International Agreement for the Suppression of the "White Slave Traffic" became one of the most famous agreements created to prevent the expansion of human trafficking.[8]The agreement was signed and implemented after being approved by all parties involved. Its purpose was to protect white women from all aspects of human slavery. Although some members of the community disagreed with the agreement, it significantly impacted Europeans seeking employment.

*League of Nations*It was created after World War I. Its goal was to maintain peace and focus on international issues, one of which was human trafficking. The Suppression of White Slave Traffic was changed to Traffic in Women and Children. The name of the treaty was changed and overhauled to open the public's eyes to the fact that this problem does not only affect white people, and to avoid the discriminatory aspects of the term "white." Furthermore, the addition of the term "children" to the treaty stemmed from the growing number of children affected or threatened by human trafficking.[9]

The plan to abolish the slavery system became increasingly clear when countries began ratifying the slavery convention in 1926. The explanation of slavery in 1926 was understood as the status and condition of a person over anyone or who has power over the ownership of slaves. While in 1948, slavery was understood as a state where no one is allowed to hold someone as a slave and engage in the slave trade. And according to the economic, social and cultural convention in 1956, it is the right of every person to the opportunity to earn a living by working in a field that he freely chooses or accepts. The essence of the explanation of slavery in 1926 and 1956 is a situation of absolute control by one person over another not only for personal needs but also for industry.

Discussions on modern slavery began with the 1926 League of Nations Slavery Convention, which focused on the prevention and suppression of slavery, forced labor, and similar institutions and practices. Further discussions led to the Supplementary Convention in 1956, formally ratifying and further elaborating on the abolition of slavery, the slave trade, and institutions and practices similar to slavery. Article 1 of the Supplementary Convention clarifies that states must strive to complete their efforts to abolish slavery and free slaves in institutions and practices where they identify persistent or hidden cases of slavery.[10]

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[7]Andres Resendez, The Other Slavery: The Uncovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016

[8]Peggy-Jean M. Allin and George M. Thomas, Movements to Combat Sex-Trafficking: The Social Construction of a Global Problem and Its Solutions. Millennium: Journal of International Studies, Vol 52 Issue 2, November 2023, p.318

[9]Nora V. Demleitner, Forced Prostitution: Naming an International Offense, Fordham International Law Journal, Vol 18 No. 1, 1994, p. 163

[10]Resource Mobilization Unit of the OHCHR, Implementation of Activities and Use of Funds: Human Rights, The Office of the Higp. Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva-Switzerland, Annual Report, 2002

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Slave trade and colonialism can be used as a measure of the economy of a country that practices and becomes a place where modern slavery occurs. Nathan Nun, a Harvard professor, revealed that countries that practiced or served as transit points for slavery were prosperous compared to those that became poorer after the ban. Nun calculated that there were 34,584 transatlantic slave voyages of African slaves from 1514 to 1866. European colonies strictly regulated and secured slaves to ensure their health, as healthy slaves had a high market value.

3.2. Police Investigation Methods for Human Trafficking Crimes

*Human Trafficking*Human trafficking is a form of crime that occurs not only nationally but also transnationally. One of the world's efforts to eradicate human trafficking is the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), which came into effect on September 29, 2003. This convention, also known as the Palermo Convention, is intended to address transnational crime under the UN.

The Palermo Convention or United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime is a convention that regulates the establishment of standards for the national laws of each participating country, emphasizing the differences in the legal systems of participating countries, and the cooperation that is then fostered between participating countries regarding the eradication of crime.

transnational/cross-border organized crime (TOC). The protocols that follow the Palermo Convention include:

1) *Protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land Air and Sea*;

2) *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially women and children*;

3) *Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition*.[11]

The ratification of the Palermo Protocol in Indonesia itself is regulated in the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 14 of 2009 concerning Ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime.

Article 1 of Law Number 14 of 2009 states that: "Ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime with a Declaration on Article 5 paragraph (2) letter c and a Reservation on Article 15 paragraph (2)".

[11]United Nations, United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and The Protocols Thereto, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, New York, 2004.

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However, in the explanation of Article 1, if there are differences in the interpretation of the translation into Indonesian, then the original text of the Protocol in English shall apply.[12]Provisions regarding the existence of criminal law norms regarding human trafficking practices in Indonesia are essentially regulated in the formal source of criminal law, namely the Criminal Code (KUHP). Article 297 of the KUHP states:

"Trafficking in women andtrafficking of underage boys is punishable by a maximum prison sentence of six years."

The provisions in this article only prohibit the trafficking of women and minor boys and qualify such acts as crimes. Furthermore, Article 297 of the Criminal Code imposes lenient sanctions that are disproportionate to the impact on victims of human trafficking.

Therefore, a special law was created to regulate the crime of human trafficking, which contains both material and formal legal basis, namely Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Human Trafficking. Based on the Indonesian criminal law policy in accommodating the criminalization of human trafficking activities, there is a criminal norm in Article 2 of Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning TPPO which stipulates that:

"Any person who recruits, transports, shelters, sends, transfers or receives a person by means of threats of violence, use of violence, kidnapping, confinement, forgery, fraud, abuse of power or a position of vulnerability, debt bondage or giving payments or benefits even with the consent of a person who has control over another person, for the purpose of exploiting that person in the territory of the Republic of Indonesia, shall be punished with imprisonment for a minimum of 3 (three) years and a maximum of 15 (fifteen) years and a fine of a minimum of Rp. 120,000,000.00 (one hundred and twenty million rupiah) and a maximum of Rp. 600,000,000.00 (six hundred million rupiah)."

The parts of the formulation of Article 2 paragraph (1) of Law Number 21 of 2007, with substantial interpretation one by one, include:[13]

1) Each person

"Any person" is the subject of a crime, or the perpetrator and participant in a crime. Article 1, number 4 of the Human Trafficking Law defines "Any person is an individual or corporation

[12]Rezti Aisyahbella, et al. The Role of the Police in Law Enforcement of Human Trafficking Crimes in Central Java Province, Diponegoro Law Journal, Volume 10 No. 3, 2021, p. 574
[13]Citra Vega Keintjem, Acts of Planning and Conspiracy to Commit Human Trafficking as a Criminal Act According to Article 11 of Law Number 21 of 2007. Lex Privatum: Journal of the Faculty of Law, UNSRAT, Vol. 15 No. 4, 2025, p. 4

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that commits the crime of human trafficking." Therefore, "Any person" includes both individuals and corporations.

2) Those who recruit, transport, shelter, send, transfer or receive a person

This element is an element of action consisting of: (a) Recruitment, defined in Article 1 number 9 of Law Number 21 of 2007, that: "recruitment is an action that includes inviting, collecting, bringing, or separating someone from their family or community." Recruitment, according to Article 1 number 9 of the TPPO Law, is an action that includes inviting, collecting, bringing or separating someone from their family or community; (b) Transportation, not defined in Article 1 of Law Number 21 of 2007. For this purpose, grammatical interpretation can be used, namely "determining the meaning of the words of the law according to everyday or technical language."[14](c) Shelter means the act of receiving and taking care of people who will be exploited in the Crime of Human Trafficking; (d) Sending, there is a definition given in Article 1 number 10 of Law Number 21 of 2007 that, "sending is the act of sending or anchoring someone from one place to another"; (e) Transfer, in everyday language (KBBI), the act of moving means "placing to another place; bringing (moving); ordering (moving etc.) to move to another place"; (f) Accepting someone, the act of accepting someone according to Law Number 21 of 2007 has a very broad scope, so that every act of acceptance or welcoming someone who is known to be a victim of the Crime of Human Trafficking can be prosecuted based on Article 2 paragraph (1) of Law Number 21 of 2007.

3) By threat of violence, use of violence, abduction, confinement, forgery, fraud, abuse of power or position of vulnerability, debt bondage or giving payments or benefits despite the consent of a person having control over another person

This element is an element of means or method of carrying out an action.

3.3. Legal Problems in Police Investigations into Human Trafficking Crimes

According to Barda Nawawi Arief[15], law enforcement in abstracto (the process of creating legal products) through the process of legislation/formulation/creation of laws, is essentially a process of law enforcement in abstracto. This legislative/formulation process is a very strategic initial stage of the process of law enforcement in concreto. Therefore, errors/weaknesses in the legislative/formulation policy stage are strategic errors that can hinder efforts to enforce law in concreto. Likewise, in efforts to enforce law in concreto, law enforcement officers in carrying out their duties are expected to be able to enforce the law materially. This means that increasing the authority of law enforcement must be emphasized more on the meaning of law enforcement materially.

[14]Donald Albert Rumokoy and Frans Maramis, Introduction to Legal Science, 3rd ed., Rajawali Pers, Jakarta, 2016, p.158.
[15]Barda Nawawi Arief, Masalap. Law Enforcement and Criminal Law Policy in Crime Prevention, Jakarta, Kencana, 2008, p.25

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According to Indriyanto Seno Adji, law enforcement is a significant priority today. Law enforcement, which serves as a barometer of the ongoing constitutional life of the Indonesian nation, has implications for cultural, social, and economic order, and has been disrupted by an unstable perspective on law enforcement.[16]

Current criminal law enforcement in dealing with human trafficking cases is based on several statutory provisions, namely the Anti-Human Trafficking Law (TPPO), the Criminal Code (KUHP), the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP), and several regulations on criminal enforcement. Criminal law enforcement, viewed from the perspective of an integrated criminal justice system (SPP), requires that all criminal justice subsystems be regulated within a single, integrated legislative/statutory policy. This integrated unity, of course, encompasses not only the mechanisms or processes, but also the spirit, ideas, and essence.[17]

In fact, human trafficking patterns vary greatly from one place to another, but there are several main characteristics of human trafficking patterns that occur, namely:

1) Human trafficking occurs both within and outside countries;

2) Human trafficking occurs for various ends such as, domestic help, and so on;

3) Most traffickers use various forms of fraud or deception to establish cooperation with people who experience trafficking;

4) People who experience human trafficking usually find it difficult to escape from the trap;

5) Human traffickers use a variety of recruitment methods;

6) Human trafficking is becoming increasingly rampant due to public sector corruption;

7) Victims of human trafficking who are sent abroad illegally.[18]

The main problem that arises in police investigations into human trafficking crimes lies in the nature of this crime, which is committed through a disconnected network. This makes it difficult to handle or prevent human trafficking. The network is disconnected from recruitment, transportation, and shelter. The relationship between sponsors and agents in cities and villages, down to the victims, is limited to transactional relationships. Police struggle when the crime scene is abroad, requiring them to collaborate with other agencies abroad. This phenomenon is clearly evident in the case of trafficking of women in China. Most victims of human trafficking feel deceived; they were initially going to work but were trapped in a matchmaking network for Chinese men. The network seeks life partners to become wives for

[16]Indriyanto Seno Adji, Humanism and Law Enforcement Reform, Jakarta, Kompas Books, 2009, p.237.
[17]Heni Siswanto, Critical Review: Failure of Criminal Law Enforcement on Human Trafficking Crimes. Legal Issues, Volume 42 No. 4, October 2013, p. 465
[18]Meysasi Kirana Resa and Nyoman Serikat Putra Jaya, Problems of the Task Force in Preventing and Handling Human Trafficking Crimes. Legal Issues, Volume 50 Number 2, April 2021, p. 169

Chinese men. These victims of human trafficking are unable to do much because they face the threat of hundreds of millions of rupiah in fines to repay their debts if they refuse to marry Chinese men.

Faced with threats like this, victims are forced to accept and live with Chinese men, therefore victims of human trafficking prefer to call their Chinese partners "contract husbands." These victims of forced marriage call these husbands contract husbands, because they feel they were bought at a fairly high cost. Victims of human trafficking also experience violence and breach of contract (broken promises), promised to be paid, but in reality the salary is never received. Problematic for the Police is the difficulty of repatriating these human trafficking victims faced with law in China which considers their marriages valid so that it cannot be questioned by the Indonesian government, even though initially did not follow the legal procedures of marriage in Indonesia because they were trapped to be employed as migrant workers in China.

In this context, Indonesian law appears to be limited by police investigations, as they fall within the jurisdiction of another country. Human trafficking victims lack adequate protection. Indonesian embassies also tend to be unable to do much to protect their citizens, as in the case above, where they were legally married. Furthermore, handling cross-border human trafficking cases requires synergy with other technical agencies, such as immigration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Another example of a human trafficking case that continues to shock the country is Cambodia. A common form of human trafficking in Indonesia is job scams in Cambodia. Human trafficking in Cambodia often involves online fraud and forced labor. Initially, human traffickers advertise job openings on social media platforms like Facebook and Telegram, offering few requirements and high salaries. These traffickers advertise customer service positions, but upon arrival in Cambodia, victims are forced to sell fraudulent investments online and become operators in online gambling industries.[19]Illegal recruitment is carried out by creating fake documents and/or manipulating data, such as using a tourist visa, not using a work visa, and ignoring the procedures stipulated in the law with the help of certain individuals, either individuals or institutions that handle the departure of illegally recruited workers.

Problematically, the police are also facing challenges in investigating human trafficking crimes in the Cambodian case due to limited jurisdictional authority. Bilateral cooperation between Indonesia and Cambodia plays a crucial role in addressing human trafficking crimes related to the transnational online gambling industry. Given the transnational nature of this crime and the involvement of organized networks, coordination between the two countries is absolutely essential. To strengthen this cooperation, the two countries signed an Extradition Treaty in 2017 and a Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) Agreement, which serves as the legal basis for cross-jurisdictional law enforcement cooperation.

[19]Nila Valerisella, et al., Framework for Cooperation between Indonesia and Cambodia in Eradicating Transnational Organized Crime (Human Trafficking in Online Gambling Circles), Yustisia Tirtayasa, Vol. 5 Issue 1, January-March 2025, p. 12

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As explained by Romli Atmasasmita in his book "International Criminal Law," these treaties provide a legal framework that allows for the exchange of intelligence information, the collection and transfer of evidence across borders, and the extradition of suspects involved in transnational crimes. Through this mechanism, it is hoped that the investigation process against perpetrators of human trafficking can be conducted more effectively and efficiently.

However, the successful implementation of this agreement remains highly dependent on political commitment, the integrity of the authorities, and the readiness of the legal systems of both countries to build sustainable coordination. In reality, Indonesian diplomacy in handling human trafficking crimes has identified that the implementation of the agreement is still suboptimal due to procedural constraints, differences in legal systems, and limited communication between law enforcement agencies in both countries. This situation is exacerbated by political sensitivities related to foreign investment in the gambling and tourism sectors in Cambodia, which have indicated that the Cambodian government is intervening and obstructing law enforcement through investigations by the Indonesian Police into Cambodian jurisdiction.

As analyzed by Ralf Emmers in his book ASEAN and Transnational Crime, although ASEAN has established a fairly comprehensive regional cooperation framework to address transnational crime, including human trafficking and cybercrime, its implementation still faces various serious obstacles. One of the main obstacles is the implementation of the principle of non-intervention, a key pillar in relations between ASEAN member states, which limits the scope of the organization and member states to interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries, even when it concerns shared security issues. Furthermore, differences in national priorities, institutional capacity, and levels of political commitment among member states lead to imbalances in the implementation of joint policies and the sharing of intelligence information.

Countries like Indonesia and the Philippines may prioritize combating human trafficking, while others may focus more on other issues such as domestic political stability or economic growth. This disharmony undermines the effectiveness of collective efforts to crack down on transnational criminal networks that operate across borders and exploit weaknesses between countries. As a result, despite formal regional commitments to combat transnational crime, law enforcement efforts are often fragmented, slow, and have little significant impact on the fast-moving and adaptable criminal actors in Southeast Asia.

4. Conclusion

In Indonesia, human trafficking cases have been a hot topic in recent years, with the practice increasing, with several ASEAN countries, including Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos, as the destinations for exploitation. Cambodia is the country with the highest number of human trafficking cases. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of Indonesian citizens in Cambodia has continued to rise. In 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs recorded 2,330 Indonesian citizens in the country. This figure rose to 19,365 in 2024. The Indonesian Embassy in Phnom Penh noted that the number of Indonesian citizens arriving in Cambodia has surged in the past five years. In 2024, 166,795 arrivals were recorded, an eleven-fold

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increase compared to the 14,564 arrivals in 2020. This figure could be higher, as the Indonesian Embassy in Phnom Penh stated that most Indonesian citizens arriving in Cambodia do not report to the embassy. According to Cambodian Immigration data, in 2024, there were 131,184 Indonesian citizens residing there legally, with stays ranging from 3 to 24 months. The Cambodian trafficking network's modus operandi also includes physical and psychological violence. Many victims have experienced torture, confinement, threats of organ removal, and even the withholding of documents such as passports. They are given unreasonably high targets, and if they fail to meet them, they are subjected to violence or sold to other companies. This form of exploitation adds to the long list of human rights violations experienced by victims. Organ trafficking is also part of the trafficking practice in the region. One prominent case involved the illegal sale of kidneys, where victims were processed for organ harvesting at the Preah Ket Mealea Military Hospital in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. In one case alone, 122 people were recorded as victims, with each kidney sold for 200 million Rupiah. This demonstrates the breadth and complexity of the human trafficking network in Cambodia in recent years, targeting Indonesian citizens. Mechanistically, the first step taken is an investigation and inquiry into reports of suspected human trafficking. Investigators use modern investigative techniques to uncover human trafficking networks that frequently change locations to avoid detection by law enforcement. The process of investigating human trafficking cases begins with receiving reports from the public or findings in the field. In this process, investigators have the authority to receive reports/complaints, whether written, verbal, or electronic, regarding suspected human trafficking crimes. Specific provisions stipulated in the Human Trafficking Law regarding victim witness testimony alone are sufficient to prove the defendant's guilt (at the investigation stage, it is reasonably suspected that the suspect is the perpetrator), if accompanied by another valid piece of evidence.Investigators have the discretion to assess and ensure that the case they are handling is truly a criminal incident. In human trafficking cases, the evidence that is usually confiscated includes fake identity documents, travel tickets, proof of money transfer transactions, and communication devices used by the perpetrator to contact the victim. The confiscation procedure begins with the identification of items directly related to the crime, then the confiscation is carried out in the presence of at least two witnesses, as stipulated in Article 38 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code. In addition to prosecuting the perpetrator, the Indonesian National Police also has a responsibility to protect and rehabilitate victims of human trafficking. The Indonesian National Police collaborates with various social shelters such as the Women's Social Protection House (RPSW), the Children's Social Protection House (RPSA), and the Trauma Center Protection House (RPTC) to ensure that victims receive a safe place and the support they need. This rehabilitation process includes psychological assistance, social recovery, and skills training so that victims can return to a normal and independent life. Direct encounters or meetings during the investigation stage between the victim and the suspect must be avoided. However, if such a meeting is necessary for the purposes of the investigation, the victim must be notified and prepared in advance. Such a meeting may only be held with the victim's permission and in such a manner that the victim is not known to the suspect. If the victim requires assistance during the meeting, such assistance must be provided. In principle, the investigator provides the opportunity for the victim to provide all evidence pertaining to the extent of the loss suffered by the victim to the investigator. This information is added to the Case Report, including information about the suspect's or perpetrator's opportunities or options for compensation. If the victim confirms their claim for compensation and/or is informed of the progress of the case after filing a report or complaint, the investigator submits a report on the progress of the case until the case is handed over to the public prosecutor. From that point on, the public prosecutor is responsible for providing information on the progress of the case to the victim.The Indonesian National Police (Polri) also has a responsibility to protect and rehabilitate victims of human trafficking. They collaborate with various social shelters, such as the Women's Social Protection House (RPSW), the Children's Social Protection House (RPSA), and the Trauma Center (RPTC), to ensure that victims receive a safe place and the support they need. This rehabilitation process includes psychological support, social recovery, and skills training to enable victims to return to a normal and independent life. Face-to-face meetings between the victim and the suspect should be avoided during the investigation phase. However, if such a meeting is necessary for the purposes of the investigation, the victim must be notified and prepared in advance. Such a meeting may only take place with the victim's permission and in a manner that ensures the victim is not known to the suspect. If the victim requires assistance during the meeting, such assistance must be provided. In principle, investigators provide the opportunity for victims to provide all evidence pertaining to the extent of the losses suffered. This information is added to the case report, including information about the suspect's or perpetrator's opportunities or options for compensation. If the victim has confirmed their claim for compensation and/or has been informed of the progress of the case after filing a report or complaint, the investigator will submit a progress report until the case is handed over to the public prosecutor. From that point on, the public prosecutor is responsible for providing information on the progress of the case to the victim.The Indonesian National Police (Polri) also has a responsibility to protect and rehabilitate victims of human trafficking. They collaborate with various social shelters, such as the Women's Social Protection House (RPSW), the Children's Social Protection House (RPSA), and the Trauma Center (RPTC), to ensure that victims receive a safe place and the support they need. This rehabilitation process includes psychological support, social recovery, and skills training to enable victims to return to a normal and independent life. Face-to-face meetings between the victim and the suspect should be avoided during the investigation phase. However, if such a meeting is necessary for the purposes of the investigation, the victim must be notified and prepared in advance. Such a meeting may only take place with the victim's permission and in a manner that ensures the victim is not known to the suspect. If the victim requires assistance during the meeting, such assistance must be provided. In principle, investigators provide the opportunity for victims to provide all evidence pertaining to the extent of the losses suffered. This information is added to the case report, including information about the suspect's or perpetrator's opportunities or options for compensation. If the victim has confirmed their claim for compensation and/or has been informed of the progress of the case after filing a report or complaint, the investigator will submit a progress report until the case is handed over to the public prosecutor. From that point on, the public prosecutor is responsible for providing information on the progress of the case to the victim.This information is added to the case report, including information about the suspect's or perpetrator's compensation options. 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