

Effectiveness of the Role of the Police in Handling the Criminal Acts of Motorcycle Theft in the Jurisdiction of the Maja Sector Police (Maja Sector Police)

Adriel Timothy Sebastian¹⁾ & Arpangi²⁾

¹⁾Faculty of Law, Universitas Islam Sultan Agung (UNISSULA), Semarang, Indonesia,
E-mail: adriel280203@gmail.com

²⁾Faculty of Law, Universitas Islam Sultan Agung (UNISSULA), Semarang, Indonesia,
E-mail: arpangi@unissula.ac.id

Abstract. *This study aims to analyze the effectiveness of the police in handling motorcycle theft cases within the Maja Police Sector. The objectives of this study are to examine and evaluate the extent to which the police effectively respond to motorcycle theft, identify the challenges faced by the Maja Police Sector in investigating motorcycle theft, and explore the solutions implemented to overcome these obstacles. This study uses a juridical-sociological approach, which examines social and legal phenomena based on data and facts obtained through field observations, interviews, and other empirical methods. The findings reveal that the effectiveness of case handling is significantly influenced by the competence of investigators, the availability of supporting facilities and infrastructure, preventive patrol mechanisms, and community cooperation in providing early information. Although the Maja Police Sector has carried out its law enforcement duties in accordance with established procedures, several obstacles remain, including limited personnel, slow evidence collection processes, and low community participation in reporting incidents. This study recommends increasing human resource capacity, optimizing the use of police technology, expanding patrol coverage in high-risk areas, and strengthening community-based policing strategies to improve the effectiveness of motorcycle theft prevention and investigation in the Maja jurisdiction.*

Keywords: *Effectiveness; Enforcement; Law; Motorcycle; Performance.*

1. Introduction

Crime is understood as an act classified as a serious criminal offense because it is committed consciously and with a certain element of intent, intended to provide benefits for the perpetrator while causing harm to the individual and society.

Crime is also seen as a pattern of behavior that has detrimental impacts, both physical and material. Crime is essentially a social phenomenon that is always present in the dynamics of community life and cannot be completely eliminated. Various prevention and response efforts are still being carried out to reduce its impact. In current developments, one of the increasingly frequent crimes is theft, particularly motor vehicle theft, known as curanmor.¹

Law Number 1 of 1946 concerning the Criminal Code contains provisions regarding various forms of theft crimes spread across Articles 362 to 367. These provisions cover ordinary theft, aggravated theft, and theft that occurs within the family circle. The Criminal Code does not provide a definitive definition of the concept of theft. The act of theft is generally understood as the act of taking or controlling another person's property without the owner's right or consent without considering the value or price of the goods. Theft is regulated in Articles 363 and 365, known as "aggravated theft" because it is committed under certain conditions that increase the level of culpability or endanger the victim through the use of violence or threats. The threat of punishment is heavier than ordinary theft regulated in Article 362 of the Criminal Code. The crime of aggravated theft generally occurs in situations that amplify the criminal impact, for example, it is committed at night, involves more than one perpetrator thus increasing the effectiveness of the act, or uses destructive methods that cause greater loss of property to the victim.²

The Republic of Indonesia guarantees public security and order as part of its responsibility to protect all its citizens. This mandate is reflected in Article 30 paragraph (4) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, which stipulates that the Republic of Indonesia National Police is a state apparatus responsible for maintaining public security and order.³The Indonesian National Police (Polri) is given authority and responsibility based on Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, which confirms that the Polri functions as a protector, guardian, and provider of public services, as well as a law enforcement agency mandated to uphold public security and order.⁴

¹Nurhadhrami Rizvy, Muhammad & Rodliyah, Rodliyah & Nanda Ivan Natsir. "Effectiveness of Combating Motor Vehicle Theft Crimes in the Mataram Police Sector Jurisdiction." *Parhesia*, Vol. 1 No. 1 (2023): 43–49. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/373661398_EFFECTIVENESS_OF_MOTOR_VEHICLE_THEFT_IN_THE_LEGAL_AREA_OF_THE_... accessed December 4, 2025

²Sarah Afifa Ritonga, "Police Efforts in Tackling Aggravated Motor Vehicle Theft in the Medan Helvetia Police Sector Area," *Journal of Civic Education*, Vol. 9, No. 1, 2025, p. 268. <https://journal.upgripnk.ac.id/index.php/kewarganegaraan/article/download/8064/3269/25736> accessed December 4, 2025

³The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, Article 30.

⁴Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Republic of Indonesia National Police, Article 2 and Article 13

Motorcycle theft (Curanmor) is categorized as a conventional crime that is often handled by the Criminal Investigation Unit (Reskrim) at the sector police (Polsek) level. As a frontline law enforcement entity at the sub-district level, the Maja Police plays a crucial role in maintaining public security and order against the threat of motorcycle theft. Crime prevention policies or criminal politics through a penal approach have a very strategic position in efforts to reduce crime. Criminal law policy (penal policy), especially at the implementation stage or judicial policy, every law enforcement action must be directed towards achieving social policy goals, namely the realization of social welfare and community protection (social defense) as the main pillars of the modern criminal law system.⁵

Effectiveness in handling criminal acts refers to measurable standards that consider the quality, quantity, and timeliness of actions taken to achieve optimal results. A process is considered effective when its goals or targets are achieved as initially determined.⁶

Patrols also play a crucial role in prevention efforts, as they allow police to directly observe social conditions in the community. Furthermore, as criminal investigators, police have a responsibility to handle every criminal case seriously and professionally. Proper handling by the police significantly impacts the stability of public order and security.⁷

The authors of this study are expected to contribute to the development of public policies to eradicate motorcycle theft in Indonesia. This study aims to analyze motorcycle theft cases and provide strategic recommendations to support police efforts to improve the effectiveness of crime handling. The effectiveness of the police role is a crucial aspect in maintaining public security and order, particularly in cases that raise widespread concerns, such as motorcycle theft.

2. Research Methods

This research employs a juridical-sociological approach, examining positive legal provisions while observing their application in social reality. This approach was chosen to understand how the Maja Regional Police carry out their duties in handling motorcycle theft cases based on legal regulations and empirical conditions. This research employs a qualitative approach to examine how the law is applied, understood, and enforced by law enforcement officers and the public.⁸

⁵Jaya Syah Putra, Rizkan Zulyadi, & M. Citra Ramadhan, "Police Law Enforcement Against Perpetrators of Aggravated Motorcycle Theft," *Journal of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences (JEHSS)*, Vol. 4, No. 1, 2021, p. 399.

<https://mahesainstitute.web.id/ojs2/index.php/jehss/article/view/670/pdf> Accessed December 4, 2025

⁶Soekanto, S. (2010). *Factors influencing law enforcement*. Jakarta: Rajawali Press., p. 67.

⁷Soekanto, S. (2010). *Factors influencing law enforcement*. Jakarta: Rajawali Press., p. 102.

⁸Amiruddin, & Asikin, Z. (2016). *Introduction to legal research methods*. Jakarta: RajaGrafindo Persada. p. 134.

The research data consists of primary data obtained through interviews and direct observation at the Maja Police, as well as secondary data originating from laws and regulations, books, journals, and official police documents.⁹Data collection techniques were carried out through interviews, observations, and document studies, and then analyzed using qualitative methods by connecting field findings with law enforcement theory and applicable legal provisions.¹⁰

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. The Effectiveness of the Police's Role in Handling Motorcycle Theft Crimes in the Jurisdiction of the Maja Police Sector (Polsek)

Police effectiveness in handling motorcycle theft can be measured by the extent to which their duties, functions, and authorities are carried out in accordance with applicable laws, and the extent to which these efforts are successful in reducing crime rates in the community. As the frontline operational unit of the Indonesian National Police, the Polsek plays a crucial role because it interacts directly with the community at the sub-district level.

The main legal basis for this research is Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police. Article 13 regulates three main functions of the police, namely: (1) maintaining security and public order, (2) enforcing the law, and (3) providing protection, patronage, and services to the community. Article 14 of Law No. 2 of 2002 stipulates that the duties of the police include conducting investigations and prosecutions of all crimes in accordance with criminal procedure law, organizing security activities, and taking preventive measures against crimes. In cases of motorcycle theft, these functions are carried out through patrols, legal counseling, and arresting perpetrators.

Based on an interview conducted by the author with Commissioner Achri Dwi Yunito, SIK, MH, the Maja Police Chief, he explained that motorcycle theft is one of the most common crimes within the Maja Police jurisdiction. According to Achri Dwi Yunito, the police's success in handling these cases depends heavily on their speed of response to public reports and the readiness of personnel to conduct investigations.¹¹

Law enforcement is essentially a process of translating the legal ideas and concepts envisioned by society into reality in social life. Through law enforcement, the values of justice embodied in legal regulations are operationalized so that their benefits can be felt in real terms. Law enforcement policy encompasses various steps taken by the government and competent authorities to ensure a sense of

⁹Marzuki, PM (2017). Legal research. Jakarta: Kencana. p. 93.

¹⁰Moleong, LJ (2019). Qualitative research methodology. Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya. p. 248.

¹¹Interview with Kompol Achri Dwi Yunito, SIK, MH, Maja Police Chief, at Maja Police Headquarters, Lebak Regency, September 20, 2025.

justice and order within society. These efforts are carried out through the use of state power instruments, both in the form of establishing laws and regulations and through the implementation of the duties of law enforcement officers who are at the forefront of effectively enforcing the law.¹²

The effectiveness of the Maja Police in handling motorcycle theft is also greatly influenced by community participation. Cooperation in the form of prompt reporting, strengthening neighborhood security systems, and the use of technology such as CCTV significantly improves police performance. This aligns with the principles of community policing, a community-based policing model that emphasizes partnerships and shared responsibility between police and local residents.

The success of solving a crime depends heavily on the quality of police performance in carrying out the investigation and prosecution process. In the context of handling motor vehicle theft cases, the case resolution rate achieved by law enforcement officers remains relatively low, as indicated by the data in the previous table. This situation leads researchers to conclude that police performance in solving motorcycle theft cases has not yet reached optimal and effective levels.¹³

Police effectiveness can also be measured by their ability to identify motorcycle theft networks, which typically operate in an organized manner. Based on Edwin H. Sutherland's Differential Association Theory, crimes such as motor vehicle theft are often committed by groups and through the allocation of specific roles. Maja Police investigations need to be directed not only at arresting the perpetrators themselves but also at dismantling the broader networks that form a "criminal subculture" within the community.¹⁴

Motorcycle theft crime in the Maja Police area is a major challenge in maintaining public order. The effectiveness of the police role needs to be assessed through the framework of Soerjono Soekanto's effectiveness theory which emphasizes five determining factors of law enforcement: clarity of legal regulations, professionalism and integrity of officers, availability of operational facilities, community participation, and a developing legal culture. The effectiveness of handling motorcycle theft is largely determined by the synergy between legal certainty, the quality of officer resources, and community social support. Optimal

¹²Fajar Ammar Ikhsanuddin Al Aslami, "Law Enforcement Efforts against the Crime of Aggravated Theft," MANDUB: Journal of Politics, Social, Law and Humanities, Vol. 2, No. 4, 2024, p. 357. <https://journal.uniasman.ac.id/index.php/JIHP/article/view/37> Accessed December 4, 2025

¹³Abdul Hamid, Idi Amin, & Nanda Ivan Natsir, "The Intensity of Motor Vehicle Theft Case Resolution by the Mataram Police," Jurnal Kompilasi Hukum, Vol. 4, No. 2, 2019, pp. 102-103. <https://jkh.unram.ac.id/index.php/jkh/article/view/20> accessed December 4, 2025

¹⁴M. Fajar Shodiq, "Community Policing as a Crime Prevention Strategy at the Local Level," Journal of Police Science, Vol. 12, No. 1, 2018, pp. 55-70.

law enforcement must include a preventive approach, appropriate repressive measures, and active community involvement in maintaining environmental security.¹⁵

The Pancasila Justice Theory, as a concept of justice rooted in the nation's fundamental values, emphasizes the balance between individual rights and collective interests. According to Yudi Latif, justice is not only understood in legal and formal terms, but also encompasses the dimensions of welfare, humanity, and social harmony. The effectiveness of the Maja Regional Police's role is not solely measured by the number of cases resolved, but also by the officers' ability to enforce the law fairly, protect victims, educate the public, and maintain social harmony. Law enforcement must be carried out humanely and based on Pancasila values to provide a sense of security and strengthen public trust in the police institution.¹⁶

3.2. Obstacles Faced by Maja Police in Handling Two-Wheeled Motorcycle Theft Cases, and Solutions Taken to Overcome These Obstacles

Motor vehicle theft (commonly referred to as Curanmor) is a crime that continues to occur frequently in various regions in Indonesia, including under the jurisdiction of the Maja Police Sector (Polsek Maja), Lebak Regency, Banten Province. This crime not only causes material losses for victims, but also disrupts the sense of security, public order, and public trust in the security system and law enforcement. The high frequency of motorcycle theft cases indicates a serious social and legal problem, thus requiring effective handling through appropriate prevention strategies and firm law enforcement.¹⁷

The Maza Police Sector faces various challenges, both internal and external. Internal challenges include limited personnel, inadequate operational facilities and infrastructure, and a lack of modern investigative technology. These constraints impact the effectiveness of patrol activities and the investigative process, thus reducing the potential for successful case resolution.

Based on data from the Maja Police for the 2022–2025 period, the number of motorcycle theft cases fluctuated, peaking in 2025 with 21 cases (50% of the total). However, the highest case resolution rate was recorded in 2023 at 54.5%. In 2022, there were 5 cases reported with a 20% resolution rate, while in 2024 the number decreased to 5 cases with a 40% resolution rate. In 2025, as of August, only 9.5%

¹⁵Soerjono Soekanto, *Op Cit*, pp. 88–90.

¹⁶Latif, Y. (2011). *All nations: Historicity, rationality, and actuality of Pancasila*. Jakarta: Kompas Publisher. pp. 150–152.

¹⁷Siregar, A. & Wijaya, R., "Analysis of Causal Factors and Efforts to Handle Motor Vehicle Theft Cases in Indonesia", *Indonesian Journal of Criminology*, Vol. 18, No. 2, 2022, pp. 45–59.

of cases had been resolved, indicating the need for more effective handling strategies to address the increasing number of cases.¹⁸

These challenges require the Maja Police Sector to optimize prevention strategies, strengthen collaboration with the community, and utilize technology in the investigation process to improve the effectiveness of handling motorcycle theft (Curanmor) cases. In addition to internal and external factors, another challenge facing the Maja Police Sector is the low level of coordination between units within the police organization. Investigations are often hampered by limited communication and coordination between the criminal investigation unit, patrol units, and administrative staff, resulting in suboptimal case handling.¹⁹

Geographical factors within the Maja Police jurisdiction also impact the effectiveness of case handling. The vast coverage area, combined with difficult-to-access terrain, complicates routine patrols and field evidence collection. This results in longer response times to public reports and increases the risk of losing track of perpetrators. The technological equipment available at the Maja Police is still limited. Motor vehicle theft using modern methods, such as bypassing electronic locks or using GPS trackers disabled by the perpetrators, requires more sophisticated investigative tools. These limitations pose a significant obstacle to identifying and apprehending perpetrators.²⁰

AIPTU Muhammad Topik, SH, explained that handling motorcycle theft at the Maja Police is hampered by the high number of cases, a shortage of personnel, and limited tracking technology. Low public participation in reporting and increasingly sophisticated modus operandi of perpetrators also slow down the identification and investigation process, requiring investigators to have more modern and adaptive investigative skills.²¹

Based on Sutherland's Differential Association Theory, the obstacles faced by the Malang Regional Police are social and structural, not merely technical. Environmental factors, the perpetrators' social networks, and group norms that support the crime complicate handling motorcycle theft. Law enforcement alone is not enough; preventive and educational approaches are needed to reduce the influence of criminal associations.²²

¹⁸Maja Police Station Data for the 2022–2025 Period

¹⁹Hadi, R., "Investigation Management and Internal Coordination of the Indonesian National Police in Handling Criminal Cases", *Indonesian Police Journal*, Vol. 9, No. 2, 2020, pp. 27–40.

²⁰Setiawan, D., "Utilization of Information Technology in Handling Motor Vehicle Theft Cases", *Journal of Law and Technology*, Vol. 5, No. 1, 2021, pp. 15–29.

²¹Interview with AIPTU Muhammad Topik, SH, Operational Committee 2, Criminal Research Committee, Maja Regional Police, September 15, 2025.

²²Sutherland, E.H. (1947). *Principles of criminology* (4th ed.). Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company. p. 75

The Theory of Law Enforcement Effectiveness (Soerjono Soekanto) states that the effectiveness of law enforcement is influenced by four factors: lawmakers, law enforcement, facilities/infrastructure, and community factors. At the Maja Police, limited investigative personnel, a lack of patrol vehicles, and a lack of vehicle tracking technology are the main obstacles that reduce the effectiveness of handling motorcycle theft.

According to Soerjono Soekanto's Theory of Law Enforcement Effectiveness, handling of motorcycle theft at the Maja Regional Police is hampered by five main factors: asynchronous legal procedures, limited personnel and investigative capabilities, a lack of facilities such as patrol vehicles and tracking technology, low public participation, and a permissive social culture toward crime. This combination of obstacles makes law enforcement efforts less than optimal and requires a more integrated approach.

According to Pancasila Justice (Yudi Latif), the Maja Police's challenge in handling motorcycle theft lies in the imbalance between law enforcement and humanitarian values, where formal procedures sometimes ignore the socioeconomic conditions of perpetrators and victims. Low public participation in reporting and preventing crimes hinders effective law enforcement. Limited facilities and infrastructure, social norms that tolerate theft, and the dilemma of balancing formal law with social justice also pose obstacles, making it difficult for the legal process to be swift, comprehensive, and fair.

The solution to handling motorcycle theft at the Maja Police must be comprehensive because the challenges faced are multifactorial. Based on Sutherland's Differential Association Theory, prevention can be carried out through legal education, increasing positive social interactions between the police and the community, utilizing social media to spread anti-crime values, and mentoring for underage perpetrators so that legal norms are ingrained from an early age. In line with Soerjono Soekanto's Theory of Law Enforcement Effectiveness, it is necessary to improve regulations and procedures, increase officer competence, provide facilities such as CCTV and patrol vehicles, and strengthen community participation and legal culture. In line with Yudi Latif's Theory of Pancasila Justice, the solution must continue to balance individual and collective interests through a humanistic approach, deliberation, and local wisdom values, so that law enforcement becomes more just, effective, and oriented towards social recovery.

4. Conclusion

The effectiveness of the Maja Police in handling motorcycle theft is reflected through a legal approach based on Articles 362–365 of the Criminal Code, a social strategy of public education and community cooperation in Sutherland's Differential Association Theory, as well as increasing the competence of officers,

optimizing infrastructure, and strengthening legal culture according to Soerjono Soekanto's Theory of Effectiveness of Law Enforcement. In line with the Pancasila Justice Theory according to Yudi Latif, the handling is also directed at creating humanistic justice through deliberation, guidance, and legal awareness. The Maja Police still faces internal obstacles such as limited personnel and procedures, external obstacles in the form of low community participation and the influence of the criminal environment, as well as technical obstacles related to monitoring facilities. To overcome this, synergy is needed between the local government that provides facilities and technology, the police that increases professionalism and coordination, the community that actively maintains environmental security, and the media that supports public education to strengthen legal awareness and citizen participation.

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