

Effectiveness of Supervision by the Foreigners Supervision Team (Timpora) in Handling Immigration Violations in the Working Area of the Class I Special Immigration Office Tpi Semarang

Haryono Susilo¹⁾ & Achmad Arifulloh²⁾

¹⁾Faculty of Law, Universitas Islam Sultan Agung (UNISSULA) Semarang, Indonesia,
E-mail: Haryonosusilo.std@unissula.ac.id

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

Abstract. *Supervision of foreigners is a strategic part of immigration law enforcement to maintain state sovereignty, national security, and public order. This study analyzes the effectiveness of supervision by the Foreigner Supervision Team (TIMPORA) in handling immigration violations in the working area of the Semarang Class I Special Immigration Office TPI, while identifying obstacles and solutions for improvement. The research method uses a juridical-empirical approach with qualitative descriptive specifications through literature studies and in-depth interviews. The results show that TIMPORA supervision is quite effective, marked by increased cross-agency coordination, the intensity of field operations, and the implementation of administrative immigration measures (detention, deportation, deterrence). However, effectiveness is not optimal due to limited human resources and budget, disharmony of sectoral regulations, lack of integration of data between agencies, and low public and business awareness in reporting the presence of foreigners. Based on Soerjono Soekanto's theory of legal effectiveness and Lawrence M. Friedman's theory of legal systems, obstacles primarily lie in the elements of legal structure and culture. Strengthening coordination, modernizing digital surveillance systems, increasing officer capacity, and providing public legal education are needed to make immigration surveillance more preventative, integrated, and equitable.*

Keywords: *Effectiveness; Immigration; Supervision.*

1. Introduction

The Republic of Indonesia is a unitary state as mandated in Article 1 paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution. Judging from its geographical and demographic location,

Indonesia is one of the countries where strategic crossings between countries occur. The consequences of the progress of the globalization era include the development of information technology, communication and transportation, namely the tendency to increase relations between nations globally which encourages the flow of human traffic between countries, so that this relationship gives rise to complex problems of human mobility between countries. According to Article 26 paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution, citizens are native Indonesians and people of other nations who are legalized by law as citizens.¹

Indonesia's strategic position as an archipelagic nation situated along international trade routes makes it a vital destination for foreign nationals for various purposes, such as tourism, education, business, and investment. Consequently, monitoring the presence and activities of foreigners is essential to safeguard sovereignty, national security, and orderly population administration. The increasing flow of people and goods between countries, through trade, industry, tourism, and so on, has long been a concern for countries worldwide, as each country has the sovereignty to regulate the flow of people entering and leaving its territory, including those visiting or temporarily residing.

Regulations regarding the supervision of foreigners in Indonesia have been regulated in Law Number 6 of 2011 concerning Immigration, which emphasizes that every foreigner is obliged to comply with the provisions regarding entry permits, residence permits, and permitted activities while in Indonesian territory.² Articles 66 to 69 of this law provide the legal basis for the government to supervise and take action against immigration violations. In an effort to increase the effectiveness of supervision, Regulation of the Minister of Law and Human Rights Number 50 of 2016, which was subsequently replaced by Regulation of the Minister of Imipas No. 2 of 2025 concerning the Foreigner Surveillance Team (TIMPORA), was established as a coordination forum between agencies consisting of elements of immigration, police, TNI, local governments, and other agencies related to the movement and activities of foreigners. TIMPORA was formed starting from the central, provincial, and district/city levels with the main task of coordinating, exchanging intelligence information, and implementing joint operations to supervise foreigners.³

The number of foreigners in Semarang continues to increase, whether for education, business, or tourism. This situation increases the potential for immigration violations, especially when oversight is not supported by adequate technological systems and rapid information exchange between agencies. Violations are also becoming more complex, such as misusing educational visas for

¹Bambang Hartono, *Law Enforcement Efforts Against Immigration Crimes*, Progressive Justice, Volume 3 Number 1 March 2012, pp. 62-75

²Law No. 6 of 2011 concerning Immigration.

³Ministerial Regulation No. 2 of 2025 concerning TIMPORA.

work or using tourist visas for business.⁴In fact, in some cases illegal networks have been found to systematically recruit and direct foreigners to the informal sectors.⁵

The effectiveness of state oversight of foreigners' activities is not solely determined by regulatory strength. In the literature on public administration law, oversight effectiveness is also influenced by institutional capacity and public participation as part of the social oversight system.⁶The city of Semarang demonstrates quite active public participation, as evidenced by citizen reports that uncover immigration violations. However, relying solely on citizen reports is not an ideal model, as the state should have a monitoring system that can proactively detect violations.⁷

Based on the background that has been described, this paper examines the effectiveness of supervision by the Foreigners Supervision Team (TIMPORA) in handling immigration violations in the working area of the Class I Special Immigration Office, Semarang.

2. Research Methods

This research method uses a juridical-empirical approach with a descriptive qualitative legal research type. The approaches used include a statute approach and a conceptual approach. The type of data used is qualitative data with primary and secondary data sources, including interview results, as well as secondary data in the form of legislation, literature, scientific journals, and TIMPORA activity reports. Data collection was conducted through literature studies and in-depth interviews, while data analysis used descriptive-analytical methods.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Basic Considerations of Judges in Imposing Criminal Sanctions on Children as Perpetrators of the Crime of Aggravated Theft

Immigration is a strategic instrument for the state to maintain sovereignty, security, and order by regulating and monitoring the movement of foreigners. In immigration journal literature, violations such as visa/residence permit abuse and overstaying are seen as potentially disruptive to social stability and national security, thus requiring coordinated oversight.

In Central Java, the Semarang Class I Special Immigration Office (TPI) plays a crucial role because its jurisdiction covers General Ahmad Yani International

⁴Haryanto, T. (2019). Agency Collaboration in Law Enforcement. *Journal of Law and Development*, 49(3), 411–429.

⁵Mahendra, D. (2021). Illegal Foreign Worker Networks. *Journal of International Migration*, 6(2), 90–106.

⁶Soekanto, S. (2015). *Law Enforcement Factors*. Jakarta: Rajawali Press.

⁷Saefullah, *Effective Supervision* (Jakarta: Pustaka Quantum, 2009).

Airport and Tanjung Emas Port, the main entry and exit points for foreign nationals. Data from 2025 showed an increase in foreign arrivals of around 15% compared to the previous year, primarily for work in the industrial, construction, and trade sectors. This increased mobility, while supporting investment, also increases the risk of violations such as overstaying, visa-inappropriate activities, and working without a permit.

In response to these dynamics, the government established the Foreigners Monitoring Team (TIMPORA) as a cross-agency coordination forum. Journal studies on foreigners monitoring emphasize that cross-agency coordination models like TIMPORA are effective because they expedite information exchange and enable risk-based joint operations.⁸In Semarang, supervision is conducted through administrative oversight (verification of residence permit/visa documents and guarantor reports) and field oversight (joint operations to ensure foreign nationals' compliance). This dual approach aligns with the journal's findings that document control needs to be supported by factual field control to ensure supervision is not partial.⁹

TIMPORA's effectiveness in Semarang is evident in the intensity of its surveillance activities throughout 2025: hundreds of intelligence activities and field operations, regular coordination meetings, joint operations, and the Immigration Assisted Village program to encourage community participation. This pattern emphasizes that TIMPORA is not only a coordination forum but also an active operational mechanism. A concrete example of this effectiveness is seen in the case of Nigerian citizen Ikechukwu Ezengwa. The case began with a public report, followed up by police officers (a TIMPORA element), and then coordinated with Immigration. Investigations revealed overstaying, activities inconsistent with the residence permit, and the absence of a valid guarantor, resulting in administrative immigration action in the form of detention and deportation. This process demonstrates the swift and measured flow of coordination and enforcement from the detection stage to the final action.

This oversight is also strengthened by the use of crossing surveillance technology (e.g., border control systems and passenger information), which journal studies have deemed a prerequisite for early detection and modern surveillance. While cross-agency data integration still needs improvement, the use of this technology helps expedite the monitoring of foreign nationals and the enforcement response.¹⁰

⁸Farida Tuharea, "Criminal Law Enforcement Against Visa Abuse According to Law No. 6 of 2011 concerning Immigration," *Jurnal Legal Pluralism* Vol. 4 No. 2 (2014).

⁹Bambang Hartono, "Law Enforcement Efforts Against Immigration Crimes," *Progressive Justice* Vol. 3 No. 1 (2012).

¹⁰Soerjono Soekanto, *Factors Influencing Law Enforcement* (Jakarta: Rajawali Press, 1983).

Thus, TIMPORA's supervision in the work area of the Special Class I Immigration Office of TPI Semarang can be assessed Effectiveness is reflected in the increased intensity of administrative and field supervision, successful enforcement efforts, solid cross-agency coordination, and technological support and public participation. However, strengthening data integration and increasing preventive capacity are still needed for optimal effectiveness.

3.2. Weaknesses in Criminalizing Children as Perpetrators of Aggravated Theft Crimes at This Time

Although TIMPORA (Indonesian Immigration Agency) in the Semarang Class I Special TPI Immigration Office (Kanim Kelas I Khusus TPI) area demonstrated relatively effective oversight performance, this study found that this effectiveness was not yet at an optimal level. The obstacles that emerged were not isolated but interconnected, making what should have been preventive oversight more reactive. This was evident, for example, in the case of the Nigerian national, which was only uncovered after a public report, rather than through early detection by the oversight system.

Analytically, these constraints can be understood through Lawrence M. Friedman's Legal Systems Theory, which emphasizes that the functioning of law is largely determined by the balance between legal substance, legal structure, and legal culture. When any one element is weakened, the application of the law will be hampered, even if formal rules are in place.¹¹ This framework is relevant because the TIMPORA problem in Semarang occurred precisely in these three elements.

From a legal substantive perspective, the main problem lies in the disharmony of technical regulations between agencies and delays in updating implementing regulations. This lack of synchronization particularly arises when immigration oversight intersects with sectoral regulations, such as employment, leading to differing interpretations of authority among TIMPORA members. Consequently, field action is often delayed due to the need to first reconcile perceptions between agencies.

Still on the substantive side, the research confirms the lack of an integrated cross-agency monitoring database. Although Immigration has adopted BCMS and APIS as its monitoring technology systems, access to them is still limited to TIMPORA member agencies outside Immigration. This situation makes information exchange still dependent on meetings, letters, and manual communication, resulting in slow responses to reports and sometimes a loss of momentum for

¹¹Sudjana, "Application of the Legal System According to Lawrence W. Friedman on the Effectiveness of Protection of Integrated Circuit Layout Designs Based on Law Number 32 of 2000.

action. This data problem reinforces the nature of monitoring as "waiting for reports," rather than "discovering violations early."

From the legal structure perspective, the biggest obstacle is the limited human resources for supervision and enforcement.¹²Based on 2025 data, the Semarang Immigration Office's Intelligence and Enforcement Section only had 28 officers, while its surveillance coverage encompassed more than five regencies/cities with high foreign national mobility. Consequently, field surveillance was not conducted evenly and routinely, but rather selectively based on priority reports or specific case findings.

This personnel shortage is compounded by technical capacity constraints across agencies. Not all TIMPORA members have immigration backgrounds, resulting in differing understandings of violation indicators, inspection procedures, and sanction determinations during joint operations. The lack of joint technical training means that coordination in the field is not always smooth and sometimes requires additional, time-consuming adjustments.

Furthermore, limited budgets and operational facilities also contribute to structural constraints. Field surveillance activities, joint operations, and intelligence activities require logistical support (transportation, operational costs, monitoring equipment). However, because the budget comes from immigration posts and regional governments, which is not always large and stable, the frequency of joint operations cannot be maintained regularly. This situation widens the gap between the need for surveillance in the field and TIMPORA's operational capabilities.

From a legal culture perspective, the obstacle lies in the low level of public and business awareness regarding reporting. Although the Immigration Assisted Village program has begun to increase public participation, in practice, many violations are detected long after they have occurred due to a lack of initial reporting. Reliance on citizen reports is also not ideal, as state oversight should be proactive through consistent early detection mechanisms. This weak legal culture is a factor repeatedly emphasized in studies of legal effectiveness: public compliance determines the life or death of regulatory enforcement.¹³

Thus, TIMPORA's challenges in Semarang are systemic: the legal substance is not yet fully harmonized and supported by integrated data; the institutional structure remains weak in terms of human resources, training, and budget; and the community's legal culture is not yet stable enough to support a reporting system. As long as these three elements remain unaddressed, TIMPORA's effectiveness

¹²Adrian Sutedi, *Indonesian Immigration Law* (Jakarta: RajaGrafindo Persada, 2017).

¹³Ferry Irawan Febriansyah, "Justice Based on Pancasila as the Philosophical and Ideological Basis of the Nation," *Gih Journal of Legal Studies* (2017).

will remain at the "quite effective, but not yet optimal" level, particularly in promoting more preventative and modern oversight.

4. Conclusion

Immigration is a strategic instrument for the state in maintaining sovereignty, security, and order through the regulation and supervision of foreigners' movement. The Semarang Class I Special Immigration Office (TPI) holds a vital position in its jurisdiction, encompassing General Ahmad Yani International Airport and Tanjung Emas Port, the main entry and exit points for foreigners. Data from 2025 showed an increase in foreigners' arrivals of approximately 15% compared to the previous year, primarily from China, South Korea, Japan, and the Philippines, primarily working in the industrial, construction, and trade sectors. This increase in mobility boosts investment but also increases the potential for violations such as overstaying, misuse of residence permits/visas, and unauthorized employment. To address these dynamics, the Foreigners Monitoring Team (TIMPORA) was established under Ministerial Regulation No. 2 of 2025 as a cross-agency coordination forum. Research shows that TIMPORA's oversight in Semarang is effective, as evidenced by the implementation of administrative and field oversight, the high intensity of intelligence activities and joint operations, regular coordination meetings, and the strengthening of public participation through the Immigration Assistance Village. This effectiveness is also reflected in the handling of the case of Nigerian citizen Ikechukwu Ezengwa, which, through TIMPORA coordination, was able to be dealt with quickly and measurably, including the determination of administrative immigration actions in the form of detention and deportation. However, this effectiveness is not fully optimal due to systemic constraints. In terms of legal substance, there is still disharmony in technical regulations between agencies and the lack of integration of cross-agency surveillance data, resulting in manual information exchange and slow response times. In terms of legal structure, limited human resources (approximately 28 officers for a large surveillance area), minimal cross-agency technical training, and limited budget support and operational facilities make joint operations difficult to conduct regularly. Meanwhile, in terms of legal culture, public participation in reporting the presence of foreigners is uneven, resulting in inconsistent early detection and reactive surveillance. Therefore, strengthening regulatory synchronization, data system integration, increasing human resource capacity, training, and budgeting, as well as fostering public reporting awareness are needed to ensure TIMPORA's surveillance is more preventative, integrated, and equitable.

5. References

Journals:

Bambang Hartono, Upaya Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Tindak Pidana Keimigrasian, *Keadilan Progresif*, Volume 3 Nomor 1 Maret 2012

Farida Tuharea, "Penegakan Hukum Pidana Terhadap Penyalahgunaan Visa Menurut UU No. 6 Tahun 2011 tentang Keimigrasian," *Jurnal Legal Pluralism* Vol. 4 No. 2 (2014).

Haryanto, T. (2019). Kolaborasi Instansi dalam Penegakan Hukum. *Jurnal Hukum dan Pembangunan*, 49(3).

Irawan Febriansyah, Ferry. 2017. *Keadilan Berdasarkan Pancasila Sebagai Dasar Filosofis Dan Ideologis Bangsa*, Gih Jurnal Ilmu Hukum.

Ivan Zairani Lisi, *Tinjauan Hukum Pidana Dalam Undang-Undang Nomor 11 Tahun 2008 Tentang Informasi dan Transaksi Elektronik di Indonesia*, 2007.

Ni Made Martini Tinduk Purnianti, Mamik Sri Supatmi, *Analisa Situasi Sistem Peradilan Pidana Anak (Juvenile Justice System) di Indonesia* (Indonesia: UNICE)

Rama Darmawan & Andri Wahyudi, "Tindak Pidana Pencurian Dalam Hukum Islam dan Hukum Pidana Indonesia," *Jurnal Pendidikan Tambusai* 6 (2022).

Sudjana, Penerapan Sistem Hukum Menurut Lawfrence W Friedman Terhadap Efektivitas Perlindungan Desain Tata Letak Sirkuit Terpadu Berdasarkan Undang-Undang Nomor 32 Tahun 2000.

Books:

Adrian Sutedi, *Hukum Keimigrasian Indonesia* (Jakarta: RajaGrafindo Persada, 2017).

Bambang Hartono, "Upaya Penegakan Hukum Terhadap Tindak Pidana Keimigrasian," *Keadilan Progresif* Vol. 3 No. 1 (2012).

Lawrence M. Friedman, *The Legal System: A Social Science Perspective* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1975).

Saefullah, *Pengawasan yang Efektif* (Jakarta: Pustaka Quantum, 2009).

Soerjono Soekanto, *Faktor-Faktor yang Mempengaruhi Penegakan Hukum* (Jakarta: Rajawali Press, 1983).

Sudjana, "Penerapan Sistem Hukum Menurut Lawrence W. Friedman Terhadap Efektivitas Perlindungan Desain Tata Letak Sirkuit Terpadu Berdasarkan Undang-Undang Nomor 32 Tahun 2000.

Regulation:

The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia.

Criminal Code (KUHP).

Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP).

Law No. 6 of 2011 concerning Immigration

Ministerial Regulation No. 2 of 2025 about TIMPORA