

The Role of The Deli Serdang Police Criminal Investigation Unit (Satreskrim) In Identifying Victims of Criminal Acts

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Abstract

The rapid development in various aspects of social, political, economic, security, and cultural life has also brought negative impacts, such as an increase in the quality and quantity of criminal acts that harm society. In formal criminal law, the primary goal is to uncover material truth. One method used to achieve this is *Scientific Crime Investigation* (SCI), which applies science and technology in forensic functions. The Criminal Investigation Unit (Satreskrim) plays a crucial role, particularly in the stages of investigation and victim identification in criminal cases. This study examines the role of the Satreskrim Deli Serdang Police in solving crimes through victim identification. Article 14 of Law Number 2 of 2002 on the Indonesian National Police outlines the duties of the police, including identification and forensic laboratory functions as part of investigation processes. Scientific evidence, even when minimal, often becomes a pivotal component in solving cases, especially during crime scene investigations. Focusing on accuracy and precision, the victim identification process by Satreskrim serves as the backbone of criminal investigations. This study highlights the critical role of forensic expertise and evidence-based approaches in supporting law enforcement and revealing the truth in criminal acts.

Keywords: Scientific Crime Investigation, forensic evidence, victim identification, criminal investigation, law enforcement

I. Introduction

The rapid development of people's lives in all fields of social, political, economic, security and cultural life has also brought negative impacts in the form of improving the quality and quantity of various kinds of criminal acts that are very detrimental and unsettling to the community. A criminal act is an unlawful act that has been committed intentionally or unintentionally by a person who can be held accountable for his actions and which has been declared by law as a punishable act.

Formal criminal law has the main purpose, namely the search for material truth. The level of examination of a case in a criminal procedure in terms of finding material truth, at the stage of investigation and investigation by the Indonesian National Police where the first stage is the stage to find material truth with scientific investigation methods or *Scientific Crime Investigation* (SCI). This is based on Article 14 of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia stating that one of the functions of the police is to conduct investigations. Investigation is regulated in Article 1 paragraph (2) of the Criminal Procedure Code which contains an investigation

is a series of investigative activities according to the circumstances and according to the manner specified in this law to search, search, and collect evidence that occurs and to find suspects (Prastowo, 2006).

Scientific Crime Investigation is an investigation process where the evidentiary system uses science and technology implemented in forensic functions (Labfor, Dokfor, Identification, Forensic Psychology and others). Evidence according to scientific procedures in the steps of criminal investigation is useful as a tool that can be prioritized and can even be the main foundation at the criminal stage, especially when disclosing criminal cases, in other words, the disclosure of criminal suspects at the investigation stage itself. This stage is believed by forensic experts who at the time of the evidence are carried out in court but have not found the results of the evidence from the witness himself, the evidence will be changed to be the main evidence. (Susanto, 2003).

The police as one of the frontline agencies in law enforcement has an important role in tackling crime. With the existence of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia, each member of the police must equip themselves with both skills and knowledge in accordance with their duties, in this case police members have a very important role in the disclosure of a criminal act. If an event suspected of being a criminal act occurs, the police as law enforcement officers are tasked with investigating all events suspected of being a criminal act in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Law and other laws and regulations.

Finding the truth or an event that is suspected of being a criminal act is not easy because in an event there are often shortcomings, and incompleteness of evidence or witnesses, so that the investigating officers must work harder in collecting valid evidence to get the most complete truth in investigating or investigating an actual criminal act in preparation for the examination in front of the court (Amelia, 2019).

Article 14 Paragraph (1) letter h of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia explains that one of the duties of the police is to carry out police identification, police medicine, forensic laboratories and police psychology for the benefit of police duties. The implementation of police identification is carried out by the identification unit in the interest of investigation, investigation of criminal acts and non-criminal services for the community and other agencies in the context of carrying out police functions.

The Criminal Investigation Unit (Satreskrim) in its function as a law enforcer has an important role in the disclosure of criminal offenders, because juridically all activities carried out and the results obtained in the crime scene processing process (crime scene) are to complete the criminal investigation file until it is completed at the court level. The Police Identification Unit is at the forefront of processing the crime scene in the Investigation Unit. Identification is useful in the disclosure of a criminal act that requires foresight and accuracy of the evidence at the crime scene (Crime Scene) where the evidence is related to the incident at the location. No matter how small the evidence at the crime scene is, it is very important in the disclosure process. By knowing the identity of the victim, it will be easier for investigators to make a list of people who should be suspected in a case.

Scientific evidence in the criminal case investigation process will be the most reliable evidence tool and even become *the backbone* in the criminal justice process, especially in the disclosure of cases/perpetrators in the investigation process. This is acknowledged by several forensic experts

where if the evidence in court does not find witnesses, the results of the examination of evidence become the main evidence (Susanto 2003)

Based on the above background, the author raised the title of this research, namely : "***The Role of the Criminal Investigation Unit (Satreskrim) of the Deli Serdang Police in Identifying Victims of Criminal Acts***".

Problem Formulation

The main problems in this study are:

1. What is the role of the Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim in identifying victims of criminal acts?
2. What are the obstacles in identifying victims of criminal acts by the Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim?

Research Objectives

The objectives of this research are:

1. To find out the role of the Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim in identifying victims of criminal acts?
2. To find out the obstacles in identifying victims of criminal acts by the Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

a. Definition of Identification

Article 14 Paragraph (1) letter h of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia explains that one of the duties of the police is to carry out police identification, police medicine, forensic laboratories and police psychology for the benefit of police duties. The implementation of police identification is carried out by the identification unit for the purpose of investigation, investigation of criminal acts and non-criminal services for the community and other agencies in the context of carrying out police functions

Identification is defined as all efforts to carry out work and activities to re-introduce the characteristics of a person or living creature or other goods/objects/materials through *the dactiloscropy* method (fingerprints), photography, signaling and other means to assist the police duties, especially the criminal investigation function to find the identity of the perpetrator of a criminal act. Identification is also the determination or assurance of a living or dead person, based on the characteristics found in the person. Forensic identification is an effort to find out a person's identity which is intended for forensic purposes, namely the interests of the judicial process. In its implementation, identification is at the forefront of processing crime scenes (crime scenes) in the Investigation Unit (Agung. 2023).

The identification unit also plays an important role in identifying a person through the scientific method of fingerprint examination. In the interest of crime disclosure, the purpose of the involvement of the identification unit is to conduct identification at the crime scene (crime scene) to search and find the identity of a person. The role of the identification unit in supporting the tasks of the National Police is:

1. In terms of law enforcement, it consists of:

- a. Identification or disclosure of perpetrators, tracking of the Person Search List (DPO);
 - b. Identification of victims without identity;
 - c. Prohibition of suspects who leave or enter Indonesia;
 - d. Preventing fake documents and exchanging criminal information both between Police units, Police, Police, and even abroad, which in this case is carried out directly by the National Police Headquarters.
2. In terms of services to the community, it consists of the following:
- a. Identifying missing persons;
 - b. Identification of Female Workers (TKW) / Indonesian Workers (TKI);
 - c. Bank or insurance transactions, regional elections or elections and the issuance of identity documents (Agung, 2023).

b. Definition of Criminal Acts

Our lawmakers use the word *strafbaarfeit* to mention what we know as "criminal acts" in the Criminal Code (KUHP) without providing an explanation of what is actually meant by the word *strafbaar feit*, so there are various opinions in the doctrine about what is meant by *strafbaar feit* aforementioned. The monistic school in formulating the definition of a criminal act is carried out by looking at "all the conditions for the existence of a crime are all the nature of the act". So that in formulating the definition of criminal acts, he does not separate the elements of criminal acts. Meanwhile, the dualistic school in providing the definition of criminal acts separates criminal acts and criminal liability. (Gustiniati, 2014).

S. R. Sianturi in the book *Principles of Criminal Law in Indonesia and Application*, in terms in Indonesia, *delik* or *het strafbare feit* has been translated by scholars and has also been used in various formulations of laws with various Indonesian terms as:

- a. Acts that can be punished/can be punished;
- b. Criminal events;
- c. Criminal acts;
- d. Criminal. (Sianturi, 2002).

According to S. R. Sianturi, in summary, the elements of a criminal act are:

1. The existence of a subject;
2. There is an element of error;
3. The act is unlawful;
4. An act that is prohibited or required by law/legislation and against those who violate it is criminally threatened;
5. In a certain time, place, and circumstance. (Sianturi, 2002).

Referring to the elements of criminal acts above, S. R. Sianturi formulates the definition of a criminal act as an act at a certain place, time, and circumstance, which is prohibited (or violates the necessity) and is criminally threatened by law and is unlawful and contains elements of wrongdoing committed by a person who is able to take responsibility (Sianturi, 2002).

Each criminal act contained in the Criminal Code in general can be described into elements that we can basically divide into two types of elements, namely subjective elements and objective elements. Ang means subjective elements that are elements that are attached to the perpetrator or that

are related to the perpetrator and are included in it, namely everything contained in his heart. Meanwhile, what is meant by objective elements are elements that are related to circumstances, namely in which circumstances the actions of the perpetrator must be carried out (Lamintang, 2013).

The subjective elements of a criminal act are:

- a. Intentionality (*dolus*) or unintentionality (*culpa*);
- b. The intent or *voornement* of an experiment or *poging* as referred to in Article 53 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Code or Article 17 paragraph (1) of Law 1/2023;
- c. Various intentions or *ogmarks*, such as those contained in the crimes of theft, fraud, extortion, forgery, etc.;
- d. Premeditating in advance or *voorbedachte raad*, as contained in the crime of premeditated murder in Article 340 of the Criminal Code or Article 459 of Law 1/2023;
- e. Feelings of fear or *vrees*, as contained in the formulation of criminal acts according to Article 308 of the Criminal Code or Article 430 of Law 1/2023. (Lamintang, 2002).

The objective elements of a criminal act are:

1. Unlawful nature or *wederrechtelijkheid*;
2. The quality of the perpetrator, for example, "circumstances as a civil servant" in the crime of office or "circumstances as an administrator or commissioner of a limited liability company" in the crime according to Article 398 of the Criminal Code or Article 516 of Law 1/2023;
3. Causality, which is the relationship between an action as a cause and a reality as an effect. (Lamintang, 2002).

To find out whether the act in a legal event is a criminal act, an analysis can be carried out whether the act has met the elements of a criminal act regulated in a certain criminal law article. For this reason, adjustments or matching (parts/events) of the event must be made to the elements of the charged offense. If it turns out to be suitable, then it can be determined that the event is a criminal act that has occurred that (may) be held criminally responsible for the perpetrator. However, if one of these elements does not exist or is not proven, then it must be concluded that the criminal act has not or has not occurred

c. Definition of Research and Investigation

The term investigation was used as a juridical or legal term in 1961, namely since it was published in Law Number 13 of 1961 concerning the Main Provisions of the State Police. Investigation comes from the word "sidik" which means light. So investigation means making it clear or clear. Although the terms "investigation" and "investigation" are derived from the same word, the Criminal Code distinguishes the two in different functions.

The investigation was carried out before the start of the investigation. An investigation is a series of actions by investigators to search for and find an event suspected of being a criminal act in order to determine whether or not an investigation can be carried out in the manner regulated by law. In Article 1 point (2) of the Criminal Procedure Code, it is stated that what is meant by investigation is a series of actions of the investigator in terms and in accordance with the manner regulated in this law to collect evidence with which evidence sheds light on the criminal act that occurred and in order to find the suspect. (Marpaung 2009)

Research is the first step of the investigation. An investigation is not an independent act separate from the investigative function. So, before an investigation is carried out, an investigation is first carried out by the investigating official, with the intention and purpose of collecting "preliminary evidence" or "sufficient evidence" so that the investigation can be followed up. When it is known that a criminal act has occurred, then that is when the investigation can be carried out based on the results of the investigation. In the Investigation Act, the emphasis is placed on the act of "searching and finding" an "event" that is considered or suspected to be a criminal act. Meanwhile, in the investigation, the emphasis is placed on the act of "seeking and collecting evidence". The investigation aims to shed light on the criminal acts found and also determine the perpetrators.

The authority of the Police to investigate also includes determining discretion. This is very difficult to implement because you have to consider what actions will be taken in a short time when handling a criminal act for the first time in addition to knowing the criminal law. Before the investigation begins, investigators must be able to estimate what criminal acts have occurred. Which criminal law regulates it so that the investigation can be directed to the incident in accordance with the formulation of the criminal act. The investigation is of course directed by evidence that can result in the suspect being prosecuted and punished. However, it is not uncommon in the criminal justice process, investigations have been carried out and ended with the acquittal of the defendant.

In carrying out their duties, investigators must have supporting knowledge because the implementation of the investigation aims to obtain a complete truth. To achieve this goal, it is necessary to master some additional knowledge in addition to knowledge of criminal law and criminal procedure law (Bawengan 2007).

III. RESEARCH METHODS

Type of Research

In this study, the author uses normative juridical and empirical juridical methods. Normative juridical is by examining the rules, norms and/or rules related to the problem to be researched through library *research*. This approach is intended to collect various kinds of laws and regulations, theories and literature that are closely related to the problem to be studied. Empirical juridical is an approach carried out by digging up information and conducting research in the field to find out the problems discussed

Problem Approach

The problem approach used in this study is the approach of laws and regulations. The statute *approach* is used, because what will be studied is the legal rules related to this research. This approach is carried out by reviewing all laws and regulations related to police discretion through penal mediation. This approach requires understanding the hierarchy and fundamentals of the rule of law.

Source of Legal Materials

Primary legal materials consisting of laws and government regulations, court decisions that already have permanent legal force, other related regulations such as the Criminal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code. Secondary legal materials are materials that provide explanations about primary

legal materials such as research, proceedings related to research. Tertiary legal materials, namely materials that provide clues and explanations for primary and secondary legal materials such as dictionaries, encyclopedias (wikipedia) and tables related to the object of research.

IV. DISCUSSION RESULTS

The Role of the Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim in Identifying Victims of Criminal Acts

The role of the Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim in identifying victims of crime is a fundamental aspect in the law enforcement system in Indonesia. As explained by Bawengan (2007), the success of the investigation process is highly dependent on the ability of investigators to collect and analyze the existing evidence. In this context, victim identification is a crucial first step to uncover the material truth in every criminal case.

In dealing with cases where victims are found without identity, the Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim implements a series of systematic procedures that refer to police operational standards. Hamzah (2008) emphasized that the victim identification process is a critical stage that requires high precision and professionalism from law enforcement officials. This is in line with the opinion of Marpaung (2009) who stated that the success of case disclosure depends on the initial stage of handling, including the victim identification process.

The first method applied in the identification process is fingerprint analysis. Soekanto (2011) explained that fingerprints are unique biological characteristics in each individual and will not change throughout life, unless permanent damage to skin tissue occurs. The Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim utilizes this uniqueness as the main method in the victim identification process. The fingerprint collection and analysis process is carried out very carefully considering that the identification results will be the basis for the next investigation process.

Technological advances in the field of forensics have brought significant changes in the process of identifying victims. The Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim adopts the use of the INAFIS (*Indonesia Automatic Fingerprint Identification System*) system which allows the identification process to be carried out digitally and more efficiently. As stated by Prakoso (2010), the use of modern technology in the investigation process can increase the accuracy and speed in the disclosure of cases. INAFIS allows police officers to compare victims' fingerprints with a national database in *real-time*.

Even though it has used modern technology, the Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim still conducts manual verification as a confirmation step. This process involves comparing the victim's fingerprints with official documents such as e-KTP and diplomas. Rahardjo (2012) emphasized the importance of double verification in the identification process to ensure that there are no errors that can affect the course of the investigation. This manual method, although it takes longer, provides a higher level of certainty.

In practice, the Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim also faces various challenges in the victim identification process. The condition of the victim's body that has been decomposed or damaged can complicate the fingerprint collection process. In situations like these, the use of alternative identification methods such as DNA analysis or dental records is used. The Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim has developed cooperation with forensic laboratories and forensic doctors to overcome these challenges.

Another important aspect of the identification process is comprehensive documentation. Each stage of identification must be well documented for the benefit of proof in court. Mulyadi (2012) emphasized that good documentation is not only useful for the benefit of current investigations but can also be a reference for similar cases in the future.

Coordination with related agencies is also the key to the success of the identification process. The Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim is actively collaborating with the Population and Civil Registration Office to verify the victim's population data. In addition, coordination with hospitals and forensic installations is also carried out to obtain medical data that can help the identification process.

Increasing the capacity of Satreskrim personnel in the field of forensic identification continues to be carried out through various trainings and workshops. This is in line with the opinion of Sutanto (2009) who emphasized the importance of developing the competence of law enforcement officials in dealing with the complexity of modern crime. This training includes fingerprint collection techniques, the use of INAFIS technology, and alternative identification methods.

In an effort to increase the effectiveness of the identification process, the Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim also conducts periodic evaluations of the procedures implemented. This evaluation is important to identify the obstacles faced and find solutions to improve the performance of the identification team. As stated by Prodjohamidjojo (2011), continuous evaluation is the key to improving the quality of law enforcement.

Obstacles in Identifying Victims of Criminal Acts by the Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim

In carrying out the task of identifying victims of criminal acts, the Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim faces various obstacles that can affect the effectiveness of the identification process. As stated by Bawengan (2007), the investigation process that aims to obtain the complete truth often faces technical and non-technical obstacles that require special handling.

1. Technical Constraints in the Identification Process

One of the main obstacles faced is the physical condition of the victim who has been damaged or decomposed. Soekanto (2011) explained that the decay process can cause significant changes in skin tissue, which makes it difficult to take fingerprints. This condition often occurs in cases where the victim is found after a few days of the incident, or in a location with environmental conditions that accelerate the decay process.

Limitations of equipment and technology are also a serious obstacle in the identification process. Despite having the INAFIS system, not all Satreskrim units have direct access to this advanced equipment. Hamzah (2008) emphasized that the availability of adequate facilities and infrastructure is a critical factor in the success of the investigation process. These limitations often result in delays in the identification process or force the use of manual methods that take longer.

2. Administrative and Coordination Constraints

The identification process is often hampered by administrative issues, especially in terms of coordination between agencies. Marpaung (2009) stated that complicated bureaucracy and slow response from related agencies can hinder the identification process. This can be seen when Satreskrim needs comparative data from Disdukcapil or other agencies that have a population database.

The limitation of comparative data is also a significant obstacle. Not all residents have fingerprint records recorded in the e-KTP system, especially for residents in remote areas or those who have not recorded data. Rahardjo (2012) highlighted the importance of a comprehensive database to support the victim identification process.

3. Human Resource Constraints

The limitation of personnel who have special expertise in the field of forensic identification is a challenge in itself. Atmasasmita (2010) emphasized that the quality of human resources is a key factor in handling criminal cases. The lack of trained officers in the use of INAFIS technology and modern forensic identification techniques can slow down the identification process.

The high workload also affects the performance of the identification team. Prakoso (2010) explained that time pressure and the number of cases that must be handled can affect the accuracy of the identification process. This is especially seen when several serious cases occur simultaneously.

4. Time and Environmental Constraints

The time factor is a critical obstacle in the victim identification process. Sutanto (2009) stated that the speed of handling cases greatly affects the success of identification, especially in cases involving decomposing corpses. Delays in finding victims or reporting incidents can complicate the identification process.

The environmental conditions where the victim was found can also affect the identification process. Extreme weather, hard-to-reach locations, or unfavorable environmental conditions can hinder the collection of fingerprints and other evidence. Prodjohamidjojo (2011) emphasized the importance of fast and appropriate handling of crime scenes to secure evidence that can help the identification process.

5. Budget and Operational Constraints

Limited operational budget is an obstacle that is no less important. Mulyadi (2012) explained that the identification process which involves advanced technology and requires coordination with various parties requires a lot of financial support. Budget constraints can affect the speed and quality of the identification process.

In facing these various obstacles, the Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim has taken several strategic steps. Improving the competence of personnel through continuous training, optimizing the use of available technology, and strengthening coordination with related agencies are the top priorities. In addition, additional budget and equipment requests continue to be made to increase the capacity of the identification unit.

V. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that the Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim has a vital role in identifying victims of crime through various methods, ranging from fingerprint analysis using the INAFIS system to manual verification with official documents such as e-KTP and diplomas. However, in its implementation, Satreskrim faces various obstacles such as the physical condition of victims who have experienced decomposition, limited equipment and technology,

administrative obstacles in coordination between agencies, limited human resources who have forensic expertise, time and environmental constraints, and operational budget limitations all of which can affect the effectiveness of the victim identification process.

To increase the effectiveness of the performance of the Deli Serdang Police Satreskrim in identifying victims of criminal acts, it is recommended that institutional capacity be strengthened through increasing operational budgets, procurement of adequate forensic equipment, intensive training for personnel in the field of forensic identification, and strengthening coordination with related agencies such as Disdukcapil, hospitals, and forensic laboratories. In addition, it is necessary to update the population database regularly to facilitate the process of identifying victims in the future.

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