

The Application of Restorative Justice in Resolving Criminal Acts of Defamation through Social Media (A Study at the Cyber Directorate of the North Sumatra Regional Police)

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Abstract. *This thesis research is entitled The Implementation of Restorative Justice in Resolving Criminal Acts of Defamation Through Social Media (A Study of the Cyber Directorate of the North Sumatra Regional Police). The formulation of the problem is (1) What are the legal rules of restorative justice in legislation? (2) How is the implementation of restorative justice carried out by the North Sumatra Regional Police in resolving criminal acts of defamation through social media? (3) What are the obstacles to the North Sumatra Regional Police in implementing restorative justice to resolve criminal acts of defamation through social media? The research method used is normative juridical legal research, with a descriptive analytical research type. To approach the problem using a normative juridical approach. The data used are primary and secondary data. The results of the study show that (1) The legal basis for restorative justice in legislation, namely Police Regulation No. 8 of 2021 concerning Handling of Criminal Acts Based on Restorative Justice, Law No. 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System, Circular Letter of the Chief of Police No. SE/8/VII/2018 of 2018 concerning the Implementation of Restorative Justice in the Settlement of Criminal Cases, Perma No. 1 of 2024 concerning Guidelines for Prosecuting Criminal Cases Based on Restorative Justice. (2) The implementation of restorative justice carried out by the North Sumatra Regional Police in resolving criminal acts of defamation through social media is based on Police Regulation Number 8 of 2021 by bringing together the perpetrator and victim to reconcile and compensate for the losses experienced by the victim. (3) The obstacle for the North Sumatra Regional Police in implementing restorative justice to resolve criminal acts of defamation through social media is that there are still members of the North Sumatra Regional Police who do not understand the process of resolving criminal cases through restorative justice.*

Keywords: *Restorative Justice; Defamation Crime; Social Media; Cyber Crime; North Sumatra Regional Police*

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INTRODUCTION

Social media faces numerous problems every day, including website hacking, data theft, fraud, online gambling, and defamation, which are common occurrences in Indonesia (Utama et al., 2025; Akhuai et al., 2022; Suseno et al., 2025). To address these issues, the government has established regulations concerning defamation on social media through the enactment of the "Law No. 11 of 2008 Jo Law No. 19 of 2016 on the t of Information and Electronic Transactions (ITE Law)." This legal regulation was created to provide legal clarity for the public in conducting electronic transactions and to protect and promote economic growth in Indonesia.

In addition, it can also prevent information technology-based crimes, thereby protecting the public as users of services that utilize information technology (Latifa et al., 2024; Prasatya & Rahmat, 2024.) Defamation is generally the same as gossip, because both actions involve disparaging the character of others. In Indonesia, in accordance with its culture that still upholds Eastern values, acts of defamation such as insulting, slandering, or similar acts are considered highly contrary to good manners, making them antisocial and subject to discrimination (Ilham & Nur, 2024; Toruan & Sidauruk, 2025).

The existence of criminal law policy as an effort to criminalize acts that are considered to violate social norms, as well as in formulating a crime, requires consideration of the cultural values of Indonesian society. The offense of defamation is a specific part of the offense of insult contained in the Criminal Code and is divided into two types, namely verbal defamation and written defamation (Pakpahan & Rahmat, 2024; Surian et al., 2023; Agustina et al., 2023).

In the provisions of Article 310 paragraph (1) of the Criminal Code, there is no clear definition of the meaning of this criminal act. However, the details of this article are as follows: (1) Anyone who deliberately attacks the honor or reputation of another person by making an accusation with the clear intention of making it known to the public shall be punished for defamation with a maximum imprisonment of nine months or a maximum fine of three hundred rupiah; (2) If this is done in writing or through images that are published, displayed, or posted in public, then the person is guilty of written defamation and shall be punished with a maximum imprisonment of one year and four months or a maximum fine of four thousand five hundred rupiah; (3) It does not constitute defamation or written defamation if the act is clearly done in the public interest or out of necessity to defend oneself (Setianegara & Agus, 2025).

Defamation is also known as insult, which generally refers to an attack on an individual's good name and honor that is not related to sexuality, causing the individual to suffer. This crime is accepted as a fact that is detrimental to society, both in the simplest (primitive) societies and in modern societies. The losses incurred can be material or immaterial. Material losses include victims of crime and damage to or destruction of property, as well as increased costs incurred to deal with the crime. Immaterial losses can include a reduction or loss of public confidence in the enforcement of the law by law enforcement officials (Akbar et al., 2023).

In a case of defamation in North Sumatra Province, specifically in the city of Medan, the police successfully handled a criminal defamation case. The chronology of the case is as follows: A resident of Medan, named Putri, expressed her appreciation to the North Sumatra Regional Police, Cyber Investigation Directorate, for their maximum handling of her report of criminal defamation. This case is related to an alleged violation of the Electronic Information and Transactions Law (Mangode et al., 2023; Biswas, 2011; Setyawan et al., 2025).

Putri reported an Instagram account named Dewi She for allegedly defaming her through an Instastory post. In the post, the account accused Putri of stealing a cell phone belonging to someone named David Bowie. Not only that, the account also posted a photo of Putri accompanied by text that was deemed defamatory. The post caused Putri to feel aggrieved and harmed, prompting her to report the case to the Integrated Police Service Center (SPKT) of the North Sumatra Police Department on March 17, 2024. According to Police Report No. LP/B/334/III/2024, the case is currently under investigation (Mohamad, 2025).

The results of the investigation contained in Investigation Order Number SP-Sidik/70.a/XII/2024 state that the suspect's case was heard on January 21, 2025.

"I greatly appreciate the performance of the North Sumatra Regional Police, who handled my report professionally, especially the North Sumatra Regional Police Cyber Crime Directorate under the leadership of AKBP Doni Satria Sembiring (Director of Cyber Crime)" (Interview with Putri, 2025)

The next case involved a former North Sumatra athlete with the initials NPA and his two brothers, OSS and RMS, who were reported to the Medan Police Headquarters on Saturday

(4/19/2025). The three were reported for alleged hoaxes and defamation under the IT Law. NPA, OSS, and RMS were reported to the police with two reports at once. One report was from a coach with the number STTLP/B/1279/IV/2025/SPKT/Medan Police Headquarters/North Sumatra Regional Police. The other report was filed by an athlete with the number STTLP/B/1280/V/2025/SPKT/Medan Police Headquarters/North Sumatra Regional Police. The legal representatives of the two complainants, Raja Makayasa SH and Rahmad Yusuf Simamora SH, said that they reported NPA and his two brothers for spreading hoaxes and massively and systematically defaming others.

"So today we are reporting NPA, a former North Sumatra athlete, and his brothers OSS and RMS. All three were reported by our clients IP and NA," said Raja Makayasa in Medan on Saturday (19/4). Raja explained that the three were reported for spreading slanderous news and hoaxes that defamed his two clients on social media, Facebook and Instagram. "The posts by NPA and his brother on their social media accounts have defamed our two clients. Their posts were massive and organized," he explained. Raja added that NPA and his brother accused his client NA of having an affair with her husband. The accusation was posted on the social media accounts of the three individuals. "The posts included the name and photo of our client NA openly. This action has damaged the reputation of our client as an athlete who is an asset to North Sumatra and Indonesia" (Interview with Raja Makayasa and Rahmad Yusuf, 2025).

It all started on April 10, 2025, when NPA and his younger sibling went to see NA at the North Sumatra Student Education and Training Center (PPLP). At that time, NPA stopped the athlete. Out of fear, NA screamed for help.

"This action prompted the IP Athletics coach who was there to struggle to separate them and ask NPA to leave, as he was considered to be disturbing his athletes. However, NPA's brother had been recording a video of the incident from the start and posted it on his social media account," he said.

Raja emphasized that the narrative written by NPA on his social media account also did not align with the facts. NPA claimed he was attacked by the IP coach, whereas the opposite was true (Purba, 2023). The king acknowledged that the IP coach did not actually want to question the NPA's status. However, on April 17, 2025, the NPA became increasingly aggressive. He also posted allegations involving the late wife of the IP coach.

"Although the post was later deleted by the NPA, it had already angered the coach's children. They then urged their father to file a complaint with the police. So today we officially reported it to the police because the post had defamed the reputation of many parties," he emphasized.

The king said that his party had filed a complaint with evidence in the form of screenshots of posts by NPA, OSS, and MRS.

"We hope that the police will immediately follow up on this report. We urge the police to quickly name the three reported individuals as suspects,"

"The king hopes that with this report, members of the public who have seen the hoax news spread by the three individuals will not respond or comment on the news before knowing the facts of the case. "It is best to confirm with us as legal representatives so that there are no actions that violate the applicable rules and regulations" (Interview with Raja Makayasa, 2025).

Legal Advisor Raja Makayasa SH (center) and Rahmad Yusuf Simamora SH (left) are pictured with the complainant IP (right) after filing a complaint with the police. Rahman and IP are seen showing their complaint letter. In addition to the cases mentioned above, there are many other cases that have ended up in court, serving as a lesson for anyone who wishes to express their opinions, criticism, and freedom of expression. It is only natural for victims of criminal defamation who feel aggrieved to report these acts to the police for processing and follow-up,

given that the Indonesian National Police is a state apparatus that plays a role in maintaining public security and order, enforcing the law, protecting, caring for, and serving the community in order to maintain security for the community.

Restorative justice emerged, pioneered by Albert Eglash in his writing discussing reparation, which states that RJ is a restitutive approach to retributive and rehabilitative justice. In its development, RJ was implemented by the Canadian government in 1970, namely by introducing a program for resolving criminal cases outside of traditional courts, which was carried out by the community. This term is known as victim-offender mediation (Hemphill, 2025).

The application of restorative justice in resolving criminal cases is used to resolve criminal defamation cases where the perpetrator and victim are brought together to resolve the criminal case through an agreement between the two parties. As a result, this process provides benefits and advantages for both parties, namely reducing recidivism rates and instilling a sense of responsibility in both the perpetrator and the victim to carry out compensation as part of the criminal resolution process. Additionally, this provides a sense of satisfaction for the children involved in the dispute compared to the judicial process carried out based on rules established by the community (Doan & Seering, 2025; Widiartana et al., 2025; Cashmore, 2011).

Based on the background of the problem described above, the author is interested in conducting research, whereby this thesis is a requirement that must be fulfilled in order to complete a Master of Law degree at the University of Medan Area. Therefore, the author chose the thesis title "The Application of Restorative Justice in the Settlement of Criminal Defamation Through Social Media (A Study at the North Sumatra Regional Police Cyber Crime Directorate)".

METHODS

The research method used in this thesis is normative legal research with a descriptive analytical nature. This approach is used to examine and analyze the legal norms that govern the application of restorative justice in the settlement of criminal acts of defamation through social media. Normative legal research focuses on the study of legal principles, legal systems, synchronization of legislation, and relevant legal doctrines and concepts, particularly those related to criminal law, criminal procedure law, and restorative justice-based criminal law policy. Through this approach, the research aims to assess the compatibility between applicable legal norms and their practical application in the handling of cyber cases by law enforcement officials (Sukmawan & Damayanti, 2025; Atrey, 2023; Wang et al., 2021; Kumar et al., 2024). The data sources used in this study are secondary data consisting of primary legal materials, secondary legal materials, and tertiary legal materials. Primary legal materials include legislation and institutional policies governing restorative justice, while secondary legal materials include scientific literature, law textbooks, research results, and expert opinions relevant to the research theme. Tertiary legal materials were used to clarify the legal terminology and concepts analyzed. All data were collected through literature and document studies, then selected and classified based on their relevance to the research questions. Data analysis was conducted qualitatively using deductive reasoning, which involves drawing conclusions from general legal provisions and applying them to the specific issues under investigation. The collected data was analyzed systematically and critically to explain how restorative justice is implemented in the practice of resolving criminal defamation through social media and to identify the obstacles encountered in its application. The results of this analysis were then used to formulate conclusions and provide normative recommendations to support the effective application of restorative justice in cyber criminal law enforcement.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Implementation of Restorative Justice by the North Sumatra Regional Police in Resolving Criminal Defamation through Social Media

The application of restorative justice by the North Sumatra Regional Police in resolving criminal defamation through social media shows a transformation in the approach to criminal

law enforcement that is more responsive to the social dynamics of the digital community. Based on the results of the study, this approach is no longer solely oriented towards punishment, but places the restoration of relations between the perpetrator and the victim as the main objective of resolving the case (Irwanto et al., 2025). Normatively, the implementation of restorative justice within the North Sumatra Regional Police is based on Police Regulation No. 8 of 2021 concerning the Handling of Criminal Acts Based on Restorative Justice and the Chief of Police Circular Letter No. 8 of 2018. These two regulations provide a strong legal basis for investigators to terminate investigations or inquiries as long as the material and formal requirements are met. In the context of defamation through social media, this provision is particularly relevant given the characteristics of the offense, which is often personal in nature and has a direct impact on the social relationships of the parties involved (Marcucci et al., 2025).

The results of the study show that during the period 2023–2024, there were 146 cases of defamation handled by the North Sumatra Police Cyber Crime Investigation Directorate. Of these, 122 cases were successfully resolved through restorative justice mechanisms. This data reflects a significant level of success and indicates that a restorative approach can be an effective instrument in resolving minor cybercrimes. The process of implementing restorative justice is carried out through systematic stages. The initial stage begins with a request for reconciliation submitted by the victim and perpetrator, either directly or through family members or related parties. Next, investigators clarify with the parties to ensure that the peace agreement is voluntary and that there is no element of coercion. After that, a special case hearing is held as an internal evaluation forum to assess the suitability of the case for restorative resolution (Hemphill, 2025).

In practice, investigators from the North Sumatra Regional Police's Ditressiber act as mediators who facilitate dialogue between perpetrators and victims. This role requires good communication skills and a deep understanding of the psychological and sociological aspects of the parties involved. The perpetrator's accountability is not only manifested in an apology, but also in the removal of content that defames the victim's reputation, public clarification, and compensation if agreed upon (Camp, 2018; Moffett, 2016). This approach is in line with the objectives of restorative justice, which emphasizes restoration of the original situation and prevention of broader social conflict. By not bringing all cases to formal court proceedings, the police contribute to reducing the burden on the judicial system and preventing the stigmatization of perpetrators. In addition, victims receive faster and more concrete redress than through conventional litigation mechanisms.

Article 1 paragraph 3 states that Restorative Justice is the resolution of criminal acts by involving the perpetrator, victim, perpetrator's family, victim's family, community leaders, religious leaders, and other stakeholders in jointly seeking a fair resolution through reconciliation, with an emphasis on restoring the situation to its original state. In handling criminal acts under restorative justice, the activities are as follows: (1) The implementation of criminal investigation functions, generally carried out by those responsible for community development and the Indonesian National Police in accordance with their duties and authorities. The handling of criminal acts can be carried out through the settlement of minor criminal acts; (2) Investigations are generally conducted by police investigators. The handling of criminal investigations may result in the termination of the investigation; (3) Investigations are generally conducted by police investigators. The handling of criminal investigations may result in the termination of the investigation (Ziar, 2022).

The handling of criminal acts based on restorative justice has general and specific requirements. General requirements apply to the handling of criminal acts based on restorative justice in the conduct of criminal investigation or inquiry functions. Meanwhile, specific requirements only apply to the handling of criminal acts based on restorative justice in the conduct of investigations or inquiries. This circular letter from the National Police Chief was issued to ensure that the investigation and examination of criminal acts are part of the entry point in the criminal law enforcement system within the criminal justice system in Indonesia.

Therefore, the process of investigating and examining a criminal act is a key element in determining whether a criminal case can be brought to prosecution and criminal trial and in realizing the objectives of the law, namely justice, legal certainty, and benefits, with an emphasis on the principles of simple and swift justice and low costs (Wibowo, 2012).

The development of law enforcement systems and methods in Indonesia reflects a tendency toward the development of social justice and, most importantly, the advancement of the principle of restorative justice, which reflects justice in the balance of human life, to the extent that the actions of criminals are considered to be acts that disrupt that balance. Therefore, the model for resolving cases is carried out by attempting to restore that balance, with the perpetrator of the crime being obliged to acknowledge their mistake, apologize, and compensate the victim for the damage and losses incurred, thereby fulfilling the victim's sense of justice (Rumani, 2015). As legal enforcement theory has developed, criminal justice systems in various countries have adopted restorative justice, which views justice as the balance of human life, whereby criminal acts can be assessed as actions that disrupt that balance. Therefore, the model for resolving cases is to restore that balance, and of course, the perpetrator must be obliged to consciously admit their guilt, apologize, and compensate the victim for the damage and loss suffered, thereby fulfilling justice for the victim (Suranta, 2023).

In the concept of law enforcement in the criminal justice system that promotes restorative justice, as well as the frequent emergence of various problems in the law enforcement process in Indonesia, such as overcrowded correctional institutions, backlogs of cases, case costs that cannot support the increase in cases and others, have an impact on the development of community law in the criminal justice process. In order to address the development of community law and fulfill a sense of justice for all parties, the National Police, as an institution authorized as an investigator and investigator that coordinates and supervises criminal investigations, certainly needs to prepare a new concept in the criminal justice system, particularly in the process of criminal investigation and investigation that can accommodate the values of justice in the community while providing legal certainty and process (Herdiana, 2022).

In applying the principles of restorative justice in criminal investigations and inquiries, as well as realizing the public interest and a sense of justice in communities that do not yet have a legal basis, and can be used as a guide by implementing the realization of imbalance of meaning and the application of restorative justice within the Indonesian National Police, a product with legal force is needed as a guideline for Indonesian National Police investigators and investigators in ensuring legal protection.

Obstacles in the Application of Restorative Justice by the North Sumatra Regional Police

Although the implementation of restorative justice has shown positive results, this study identifies a number of obstacles that affect its effectiveness. The first obstacle stems from law enforcement, particularly in relation to understanding and human resource capacity. Not all police officers have a uniform understanding of the concept, objectives, and procedures of restorative justice, which has the potential to lead to differences in interpretation in its application (Zahsy, 2025). The second obstacle relates to supporting facilities and infrastructure, particularly the limited availability of digital forensic tools for handling cyber cases. This limitation has an impact on the length of the initial investigation process, which can ultimately hinder restorative mediation efforts. The procurement process for these tools, which is still dependent on approval at the central level, is also a hindering factor in itself (Vaidya et al., 2006).

In addition, social factors also pose a significant obstacle. In some cases, victims are reluctant to reconcile because they consider aspects of dignity and self-esteem, while perpetrators often refuse to admit their mistakes. This situation is exacerbated by the tendency to settle cases transactionally, which has the potential to deviate from the values of restorative justice (Manfaati et al., 2020; Sutrisno & Paksa, 2019). Another equally important obstacle is the intervention of third parties with vested interests, which hinders the dialogue process between victims and perpetrators. Such intervention may come from the social environment, family, or

other parties with economic or political interests. This situation requires investigators to exercise caution and a high degree of professionalism in facilitating the mediation process.

Legal regulations are the product of rules used by legal entities within the legal environment as a system consisting of agreements they issue and new regulations that have been formulated. Legal regulations consist of living law, and there are no regulations that already exist in law books. Legal regulations are closely related to the process of forming legal regulations, which is analyzed by experts who draft legal regulations. Legal regulations have values that can enforce the law in society, which have been prepared in legislation. Meanwhile, when influenced by the political atmosphere in a country, there will be legal regulations, namely legislation (Putri et al., 2024; Zhafira et al., 2023).

Legal regulations are often included in legislation influenced by the interests of certain groups. As a result, the laws produced are not responsive to developments in society. The broader consequence is that the law is used as an instrument of power rather than as a means of controlling power or limiting the arbitrariness of those in power. According to Satjipto Rahardjo, quoting Radbruch, there are fundamental values of law, namely Justice, Utility, and Legal Certainty. It is not uncommon for these three fundamental values of law to conflict with each other in law enforcement. When this happens, justice must be prioritized, given that the purpose of law is to create a sense of justice in society (Dacosta, 2025; Safitri & Wahyudi, 2022). Legislation that is unresponsive and undemocratic will only generate public opinion that could disrupt legal stability and economic and political security. Therefore, in order to formulate legislation that is in line with the aspirations of society, it must be free from the intervention and interests of certain parties or groups.

Efforts by the North Sumatra Regional Police to Overcome Obstacles to the Implementation of Restorative Justice

To overcome these obstacles, the North Sumatra Regional Police have implemented a number of strategic structural and cultural measures. Improving the capacity of law enforcement officials has been a key step, through internal training and socialization on the principles and mechanisms of restorative justice. This training has focused not only on normative aspects, but also on strengthening communication and mediation skills and promoting multidisciplinary understanding (Lutfi et al., 2021). Strengthening the role of Bhabinkamtibmas is also an important strategy in supporting the implementation of restorative justice at the community level. Through a preventive and persuasive approach, Bhabinkamtibmas is expected to be able to resolve potential conflicts early on before they develop into criminal cases. This approach is in line with the concept of community policing, which places the community as a strategic partner of the police.

In addition, the North Sumatra Regional Police has developed a mediation model that involves community leaders, traditional leaders, and religious leaders in the case resolution process. The involvement of these parties is expected to increase the legitimacy of peace agreements and strengthen social acceptance of the resolution outcomes (Amanda et al., 2024; Muhammad & Anas, 2020). Overall, these efforts demonstrate the North Sumatra Regional Police's commitment to optimizing the application of restorative justice as an instrument of law enforcement that is fair, humane, and adaptive to developments in the digital society. This approach is expected not only to resolve cases effectively, but also to strengthen public trust in the police institution.

In order to improve the quality of law enforcement within the North Sumatra Regional Police, it is necessary to strengthen the capacity of investigators at the North Sumatra Regional Police level. Capacity building for investigators should not only focus on technical skills, but also on communication and multidisciplinary understanding of legal cases. In addition, the North Sumatra Regional Police provides training to law enforcement officials to improve their quality and skills in order to apply the principles of restorative justice, especially in mediating,

negotiating, and restoring relationships between victims and perpetrators (Naway et al., 2023; Rochman et al., 2021).

Table 1. Data on Defamation Cases Successfully Resolved Through Restorative Justice

No	Year	Month												Number of RJ Cases
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Des	
1	2023	4	7	8	4	3	4	11	6	5	3	10	11	76
2	2024	4	2	8	6	3	8	5	4	4	1	0	1	46
Total Cases													122	

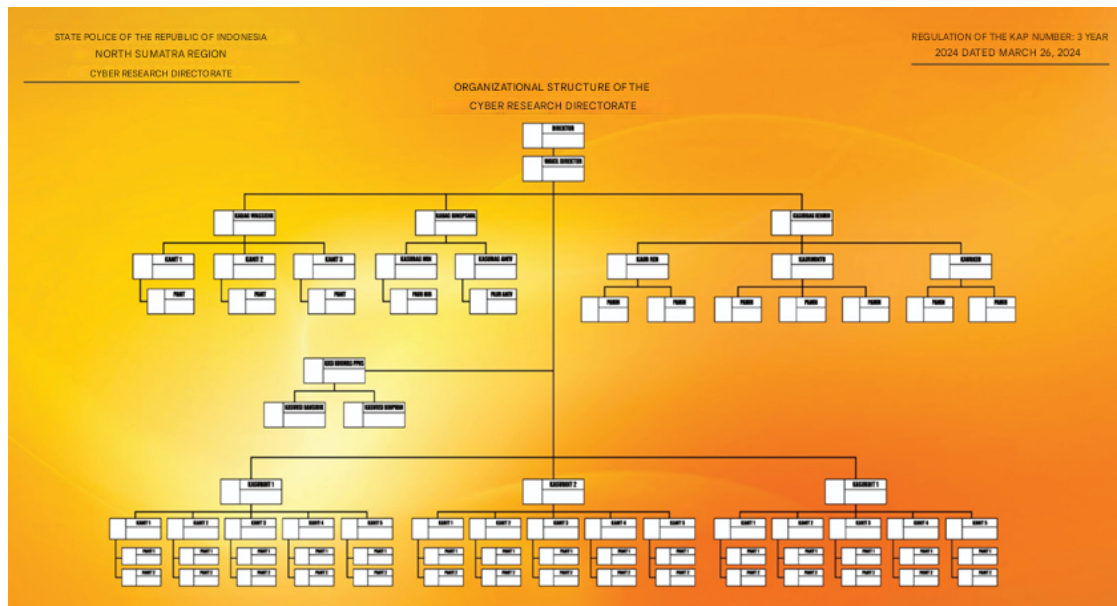


Figure 1. is written with Cambria Bold 11 Font Size
Data source: North Sumatra Regional Police Cyber Crime Division

The police, as the frontline enforcers of criminal law, are nothing more than the embodiment of criminal law, which defines law in books as law in action. The North Sumatra Regional Police, as the foremost institution for law enforcement, has the authority to investigate, search, arrest, examine, and refer cases to the prosecutor's office for trial in court. This sequence of activities shows that the police are the institution that holds the primary function of law enforcement (Ramadhan et al., 2024). Law enforcement is carried out by the police, particularly in cases of minor crimes, where one way to achieve restorative justice is through alternative dispute resolution (ADR), which includes penal mediation issued by the National Police Chief. This is outlined in the National Police Chief's Letter Number Pol B/3022/XII/2009/SDEOPS concerning the Handling of Cases through Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), Regulation of the Chief of the Indonesian National Police Number 7 of 2008 concerning Basic Guidelines for the Strategy and Implementation of Community Policing in the Performance of Police Duties, and Chief of Police Circular Letter Number: SE/8/VII/2018 concerning the Application of Restorative Justice in the Settlement of Criminal Cases.

CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the application of restorative justice in the Indonesian legal system has an adequate and complementary normative basis. The legal framework for restorative justice is not only regulated in Police Regulation No. 8 of 2021, but also reinforced by Law No. 11 of 2012 concerning the Criminal Justice System for Children, National Police Chief Circular Letter No. SE/8/VII/2018, and Supreme Court Regulation No. 1 of 2024 concerning Guidelines for Adjudicating Criminal Cases Based on Restorative Justice. The existence of these regulations

demonstrates the consistency of state policy in promoting the resolution of criminal cases that are more oriented towards recovery, balancing the interests of the parties, and substantive justice. The results of the study show that the implementation of restorative justice by the North Sumatra Police Cyber Directorate in resolving criminal acts of defamation through social media was carried out with reference to Police Regulation Number 8 of 2021. The implementation of this policy is carried out through a mechanism that brings together the perpetrator and the victim to reach a voluntary peace agreement, accompanied by the fulfillment of the perpetrator's responsibilities, whether in the form of an apology, the removal of content containing defamation, or compensation for the losses suffered by the victim. This approach has proven to be able to resolve cases more quickly and effectively, while avoiding prolonged social impacts. This study also found that the implementation of restorative justice still faces a number of obstacles, particularly related to human resources and external factors. There are still members of the North Sumatra Regional Police who do not fully understand the mechanisms of criminal case resolution based on restorative justice, which has the potential to hinder its consistent implementation. In addition, the presence of third parties who attempt to influence or obstruct the peace process between victims and perpetrators is a separate obstacle to the implementation of restorative justice

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