

Polairud In Overcoming the Crime of Human Smuggling (People Smuggling) in the East Coast Region of North Sumatra

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the research is to determine the factors that cause people smuggling and their role POLAIRUD in overcoming the crime of human smuggling in the East Coast Region of North Sumatra. The research method uses empirical juridical legal research methods. Empirical legal research in the form of community legal behavior. The data source for empirical legal research is not based on written positive law, but rather the results of observations at the research location. Result Polairud needs to advocate for policies that support increased budgets and resources allocated for operations in water areas. With adequate financial support, Polairud can expand the reach of its operations and increase the effectiveness of law enforcement in strategic but challenging areas such as the east coast of North Sumatra. These suggestions, if implemented well, can help Polairud strengthen its role in protecting Indonesia's territorial waters from the threat of people smuggling and ensure fairer and more effective law enforcement.

Keywords: Law, Polairud, Crime, UUD

INTRODUCTION

The rapid development of technology and information makes the boundaries between countries increasingly clear. The opening of free markets between countries as a result of the era of globalization, opens up great opportunities for every country to meet the needs of people in all parts of the world without being limited by time and space. Increasingly wider access between countries has also led to increased human mobility from one place to another, from one country to another. By opening the entrance and access within the boundaries of this country, it is possible for individuals to easily move from one place to another. This phenomenon has led to the birth of various efforts to maintain the security and stability of the country through the establishment of regulations or policies in the immigration sector to prevent human smuggling or also known as people smuggling (Salam, 2020).

According to the definition of Article 3 (three) of the 2000 UN protocol on people smuggling, it means seeking to obtain direct or indirect financial or other material benefits from the illegal entry of a person into a part of the country where the person is. The person is not a resident or has a residence permit. What is meant by illegal is crossing a country's borders without complying with the



regulations or permits required to enter a country's territory illegally (Agustina, n.d.). Smuggling people (people smuggling) is a crime, because it clearly violates the official provisions of the country concerned. It has been recognized that people smuggling is an act that violates human rights and is a form of contemporary slavery. Immigrants are treated badly. Very often the traveling conditions are very inhumane, packed into overcrowded boats, and even fatal accidents often occur. Upon arrival at their destination, their illegal status means they are forced to become slaves to smugglers who force them to work for years in the illegal labor market. Immigrants are indirectly exploited by certain parties for material gain.

Smuggling People smuggling can occur due to many factors, one of the most important factors being economic consequences. A country that is unable to provide employment opportunities causes many unemployed people to choose to move from their home country to look for a place in the hope of finding work. Human smuggling (people smuggling) has become a very profitable business in itself. Every year it can generate profits from immigrants who have to pay by force when crossing borders between countries. The International Organization for Immigrants (IOM) notes that people smuggling, which is the "dark side" of globalization, is a big business that is increasingly growing and developing and causing its own problems for the countries where they request asylum (Salam, 2020). Indonesia as one of the countries in the world also has strong potential for the practice of transnational crime, which is meant by "organized transnational crime" including crimes of terrorism, human smuggling, human trafficking, money laundering, narcotics and psychotropic substances. Transnational crime is not only driven by wide-open free trade or weak law enforcement in Indonesia. However, it is also supported by the geographical region of Indonesia itself. Indonesia, whose country is an archipelago, geographically has many entrances: airports, ports, land and water borders. Apart from that, Indonesia, which has a very long coastline, is a region that is located at the crossroads of world trade traffic routes, which is also the main factor that causes strong potential for transnational crime which is rampant, namely people smuggling (Nizmi, 2010) .

In general, smuggling that occurs in Indonesia involves foreign nationals (WNA) consisting of smugglers and people being smuggled. When smugglers enter Indonesian territory, they already know and study the geographical conditions and character of the Indonesian people, they can easily determine locations that they consider comfortable as a place to leave and prepare their transportation facilities by taking advantage of the economic conditions of the surrounding community. They use various methods, both technical for transit, transportation, organizing between smugglers and field actors.

Juridically, Smugglers here are more regulated in Law Number 15 of 2009 concerning Ratification Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, especially in Article 6 where the point is for migrants who commit acts The crime of human smuggling with the aim of seeking profit by committing immigration violations or other matters is entitled to be subject to legislative or other action. Illegal immigrants who enter Indonesia are considered victims of human smuggling, even though special laws regarding human smuggling do not yet exist in Indonesia, resulting in illegal immigrants feeling very safe in Indonesia, feeling free without being subject to Indonesian law. The only people caught in Indonesian law are Indonesian citizens (WNI) who were also involved (instigated by the smugglers).

Polairud and the Director General of Immigration use Immigration laws in the inquiry and investigation process, but the phenomenon of illegal immigrants entering Indonesia who qualify as people smuggling still exists and is difficult to prevent. This causes the problem that the existing structure and substance cannot accommodate human smuggling, which has implications for handling the criminal act of people smuggling. In relation to the function and purpose of the law, apart from law enforcement by imposing prison sentences on perpetrators, it is also necessary to enforce the law by implementing or implementing the provision of restitution for crime victims from perpetrators of criminal acts, especially for victims of human smuggling (Nizmi, 2010).

The area most often used as a crossing route to Australia is along the southern coast of Java Island, which is geographically closer to Australia, especially Christmas Island. However, it is not uncommon for human smuggling to occur several times on the island of Sumatra, specifically in the Riau Islands. And it does not rule out the possibility that people smuggling could also occur on several other North Sumatra islands considering the size of the East Coast of Sumatra.

The east coast of Sumatra is a fairly extensive wetland area. Most of it covers the area around the mouth of the Musi River and Batanghari River. In general, this area is part of the large basin (basin) of southern Sumatra, with a surface formed by swamp deposits and alluvium. The wetland ecosystem has a fairly high level of biodiversity. The vegetation consists of freshwater swamp forests, peat swamp forests, mangrove forests and grass swamps. In this vegetation, various kinds of animals live, including animals typical of vulnerable areas such as fish, frogs, snakes, monitor lizards, crocodiles; various types of poultry; as well as mammals such as tigers and elephants. The East Coast region includes Langkat Regency, Binjai City, Medan City, Deli Serdang Regency, Serdang Bedagai Regency, Tebing Tinggi City, Batubara Regency, Tanjung Balai City, Asahan Regency, North Labuhanbatu Regency, Labuhanbatu Regency, South Labuhanbatu Regency.



One of the recent cases of human smuggling occurred in 2022, Dit polairud The collaboration with the Ditreskrim Polda North Sumatra succeeded in uncovering 7 cases consisting of 8 suspects, namely thwarting 81 illegal PMIs who were leaving for Malaysia in the Tanjung Api Asahan area (Source: Subdit IV Renakta Polda North Sumatra, Thursday 13 January 2022). In 2023, it was recorded that from 06 June 2023 to 27 June 2023, 17 cases were uncovered with 27 suspects and 8 DPOs, namely thwarting 46 people, of whom 6 were children, namely through the waters of the neighboring coast of Simandulang Village, District. Kualuh Hulu Leidong District. North Labuhanbatu who will leave for Malaysia. (source: Subdit IV Renakta Polda North Sumatra Thursday 03 July 2023) From this data it is important to carry out research on the causal factors and how to handle TIP. This is what is called modern slavery. One of the vulnerable locations is Asahan and Tanjung Balai. Asahan and Tanjung Balai are the most strategic locations in Indonesia for the crime of human trafficking (TPPO) in Indonesia via sea routes using the PMI distribution mode. Therefore, this is an act that violates human rights and is a form of contemporary slavery. The role and cooperation of stakeholders is a joint task that must be carried out.

RESEARCH METHODS

The type of research used in this research is empirical juridical legal research. Empirical legal research in the form of community legal behavior. The data source for empirical legal research is not based on written positive law, but rather the results of observations at the research location. The data analysis used in this research is qualitative analysis. Where qualitative research is descriptive research and tends to use theoretical basis analysis. The theoretical basis is used as a guide so that the research focus is in accordance with the facts in the field. Apart from that, this theoretical basis is also useful for providing a general overview of the research setting and as material for discussing research results. In qualitative research the researcher starts from the data, utilizes existing theory as explanatory material, and ends with a "theory".

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Law Enforcement Efforts for the Crime of Human Smuggling (People Smuggling) By Polairud

The Water and Air Police (Polairud) has a crucial role in tackling criminal acts of people smuggling in the east coast of North Sumatra. The region, with its long coastline and direct access to international sea routes, is often targeted by people smugglers to avoid tight controls at land borders. Polairud, as an integral part of the Indonesian National Police, carries out the task of maintaining



security and order in the waters. In an effort to tackle human smuggling, Polairud implements various comprehensive strategic and operational steps.

First, Polairud carry out routine and intensive sea patrols in the waters of the east coast of North Sumatra. This patrol is carried out using patrol boats equipped with modern technology such as radar and advanced navigation systems. Polairud also utilizes aircraft and drones for aerial monitoring, providing wider and more effective surveillance coverage. Through this patrol, Polairud can detect and prevent human smuggling activities early on. They also carry out pursuit and arrest operations on vessels suspected of being involved in human smuggling, ensuring that the perpetrators are arrested and prosecuted in accordance with applicable law (Kristin & Dewi, 2017).

Apart from that, Polairud increases the capacity and abilities of its members through continuous training. This training covers investigative techniques, identifying smuggling modus operandi, handling victims, and using surveillance technology equipment. Polairud also took part in joint training with related agencies such as the Indonesian Navy, Bakamla, and international institutions to strengthen coordination and operational capabilities. This capability allows Polairud to be more effective in responding to and handling human smuggling cases.

Collaboration with other agencies is also an important pillar in Polairud's strategy. They collaborate with the North Sumatra Regional Police (Polda), the Directorate General of Immigration, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, and the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT). Through the exchange of intelligence information and the implementation of joint operations, Polairud can identify and take action against human smuggling networks which often operate in an organized and cross-border manner. This collaboration also involves neighboring countries and international organizations to strengthen law enforcement efforts and ensure that people smuggling perpetrators can be caught and prosecuted wherever they operate.

On the other hand, Polairud also plays a role in education and increasing public awareness. Through outreach programs and awareness campaigns, Polairud provides information to coastal communities about the dangers and legal consequences of human smuggling. This education aims to prevent people from being involved in or becoming victims of human smuggling. Polairud also builds good relationships with local communities to obtain early information regarding suspicious activities related to human smuggling.

Handling and protecting victims is also Polairud's focus. In response operations, they ensure that victims of human trafficking receive the necessary protection. Polairud collaborates with related agencies to provide medical, psychological and legal assistance to victims. They also ensure that the rehabilitation and social reintegration process for victims goes well, so that they can return to normal



life. With this multifaceted role, Polairud is at the forefront of dealing with criminal acts of human smuggling in the east coast of North Sumatra. Through patrol efforts, capacity building, cross-agency collaboration, community education, and victim protection, Polairud is committed to creating waters that are safe and free from human smuggling crimes. It is hoped that this effort will provide a deterrent effect for perpetrators and protect the human rights of victims, as well as ensure security and order in Indonesian waters (Dhiba, 2019).

The Water and Air Police (Polairud) has a strong legal basis in carrying out its duties to tackle the criminal act of people smuggling in the east coast of North Sumatra. This legal basis includes various laws and regulations that provide authority and operational guidance for Polairud. One of the main legal umbrellas is Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia, which stipulates the duties and functions of the police, including Polairud, in maintaining security and order and enforcing the law in maritime areas. The articles in this law provide the basis for Polairud to carry out patrols, investigations, arrests and law enforcement against various criminal acts at sea, including human smuggling. Law Number 17 of 2008 concerning Shipping is also relevant in the context of Polairud operations. This law regulates shipping safety and security as well as law enforcement in Indonesian waters. Polairud plays a role in ensuring that all shipping activities comply with applicable regulations and are free from illegal activities such as human smuggling. The articles in this law provide authority to Polairud to carry out inspections and supervision of ships passing through Indonesian waters, including the east coast of North Sumatra.

Law Number 6 of 2011 concerning Immigration is also an important basis for Polairud in tackling human smuggling. Articles 120 and 124 in this law specifically regulate sanctions for perpetrators of human smuggling and parties who assist or facilitate these activities. Polairud, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Immigration, has the authority to take action against people smugglers who try to enter or leave Indonesian territory by sea. Government Regulation Number 11 of 2017 concerning Management of Marine and Fisheries Resources also provides a framework for Polairud in maintaining security and order in waters. Polairud plays a role in monitoring and protecting marine resources from the threat of illegal activities, including human smuggling which often uses waterways as its operational routes. National law, Polairud also complies with various international agreements that have been ratified by Indonesia, such as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air which complements the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. This agreement provides an international framework to prevent, eradicate and punish people smuggling. With this comprehensive legal basis, Polairud has full authority to carry out various law



enforcement actions against human smuggling in the east coast of North Sumatra. They can carry out maritime patrols, arrest perpetrators, collect evidence, and collaborate with national and international agencies to ensure that perpetrators are punished in accordance with applicable law. This effort aims to maintain security and order in maritime areas, protect human rights, and prevent criminal acts of human smuggling.

In Indonesia, regulations regarding the criminal act of human smuggling (people smuggling) are regulated in Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Criminal Act of Human Trafficking. This law is the main legal basis that regulates and handles cases of human trafficking, including human smuggling, which is often related to exploitation, slavery and other human rights violations. Law Number 21 of 2007 provides a clear definition of the criminal act of trafficking in persons, covering all forms of actions involving the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of a person with the aim of exploitation. This law also stipulates severe criminal sanctions for perpetrators of criminal acts, including prison terms that can reach life and significant fines, depending on the severity of the crime committed. In addition, this law regulates protection mechanisms for victims, including the right to rehabilitation and social reintegration, as well as access to medical and psychosocial services. Law Number 21 of 2007 also includes provisions regarding international cooperation in handling human trafficking cases, including cross-border coordination efforts to eradicate human trafficking networks involving various countries. With this law, the government is trying to optimize efforts to comprehensively tackle the crime of human smuggling, bearing in mind the importance of protecting human rights and effective law enforcement in preventing and dealing with this crime (Puspasari et al., 2023).

In order to deal with and prevent the rise of people smuggling crimes, the government has implemented significant changes in legislation aimed at increasing the effectiveness of law enforcement and strengthening protection for victims. These legislative changes include updates to a number of regulations and policies to accommodate new challenges and ensure stricter action against criminals. One of the main changes was the ratification of the Law on Handling the Crime of Human Trafficking, which broadened the definition of the crime of human smuggling and toughened the sanctions for perpetrators. This new law also emphasizes the importance of international cooperation in dealing with cross-border crimes, including improving extradition mechanisms and supporting international programs focused on preventing and combating human smuggling. In addition, the government introduced provisions requiring authorities to conduct regular training and outreach to law enforcement officers, including personnel in the field such as Polairud, to ensure they have the latest knowledge and skills to deal with these crimes. Changes to the law also include improving



victims' rights, providing better protection, access to rehabilitation services, and the right to be involved in legal proceedings against perpetrators. In addition, the government is carrying out reforms in the justice system to speed up the legal process and ensure that perpetrators of human smuggling crimes receive appropriate punishment. These efforts aim to create a system that is more responsive and adaptive to the dynamics of human smuggling and ensure that the prevention and response steps taken can significantly reduce the prevalence of this crime.

The government's decision to handle and prevent the rise of people smuggling is a strategic step that involves various coordinated efforts to overcome serious challenges in the field of security and human rights. The government has established a number of policies and programs to combat this crime with a comprehensive approach. One of the main steps is strengthening the capacity of law enforcement officers, in particular through training and providing sophisticated equipment for units such as Polairud who work in water areas. In addition, the government has also strengthened international cooperation with neighboring countries and international organizations to increase cross-border surveillance and share intelligence information. Other policies implemented include improving the reporting system and law enforcement against individuals or groups involved in human smuggling activities. The government is also prioritizing a prevention-based approach, such as outreach and education programs for the public about the risks and impacts of human trafficking, as well as providing support to victims to protect their rights and facilitate rehabilitation. In this context, the government is integrating the roles of various related institutions, including the Department of Immigration, Customs and Excise, and Social Services, to ensure synergy and effectiveness in handling cases. These decisions also include strict law enforcement against perpetrators of crimes, including the imposition of harsh penalties to prevent the recurrence of similar cases. In addition, the government continues to review and update regulations and policies to respond to new dynamics and challenges in human smuggling. With this multidimensional approach, it is hoped that government efforts can significantly reduce the number of human smuggling crimes and protect the rights and safety of victims (Ikaningtyas, 2017).

Human smuggling, or what is often called "people smuggling," is an illegal act that involves the surreptitious or illegal movement of people across national borders. In Indonesia, this criminal act is regulated by several articles in relevant laws, especially in Law Number 6 of 2011 concerning Immigration. The following is a further explanation of the articles that regulate human smuggling crimes:

1. Article 120: This article specifically regulates human smuggling. It is stated that anyone who organizes or is involved in human smuggling can be subject to criminal charges. The criminal



elements regulated include the act of helping or facilitating people to enter or leave Indonesian territory illegally with the aim of seeking profit. The penalties that can be imposed under this article include imprisonment and quite heavy fines.

2. Article 124: This article expands the scope of crime to include parties who provide assistance or facilities to perpetrators of human smuggling. This could include parties providing transportation, shelter, or fraudulent documents. The penalties imposed are also severe, with the aim of providing a deterrent effect and preventing the occurrence of this criminal act.
3. Article 126: This article regulates criminal penalties for those who provide asylum or shelter to perpetrators of human smuggling knowing that the action is illegal. This includes the act of intentionally hiding the perpetrator from legal authorities.
4. Article 128: This article states that if human smuggling involves an organized network or syndicate, the penalties imposed can be increased. This shows that the country takes seriously the threat posed by criminal syndicates involved in human smuggling.

In addition to Law Number 6 of 2011, there are also provisions in the Criminal Code (KUHP) that can be applied in relation to the criminal act of human smuggling, such as articles that regulate falsification of documents and extortion. Human smuggling is a serious problem that not only violates immigration laws but also often involves human rights violations. Therefore, law enforcement against this criminal act is carried out firmly in the hope of providing better protection for victims and preventing similar violations from occurring in the future. Law enforcement also often involves international cooperation, considering that many human smuggling cases involve cross-border borders. Indonesia, as a strategic country in international migration routes, actively participates in various international forums and cooperation to combat human smuggling (Rahmad, 2016).

Effort POLAIRUD In Law Enforcement of the Crime of Human Smuggling (People Smuggling) in the East Coast Region of North Sumatra

The Water and Air Police (Polairud) plays a crucial role in enforcing the law against criminal acts of people smuggling in the east coast of North Sumatra. The region is known for its long coastline and easy access to international sea routes, making it a strategic point for people smugglers. To overcome this, Polairud implemented various comprehensive and integrated efforts. They carry out routine sea patrols using patrol boats equipped with advanced technology, such as radar and modern navigation systems, as well as support from aircraft and drones for aerial monitoring. These intensive patrols allow them to detect and prevent human smuggling activities early.

Apart from that, Polairud also increases the capacity and abilities of its members through ongoing training, including investigation techniques, handling victims, and the use of surveillance



technology. They collaborate with related agencies such as the Indonesian Navy, Bakamla, the Directorate General of Immigration, and international institutions to strengthen operational coordination and response. This cooperation enables the exchange of intelligence information and the implementation of effective joint operations to eradicate human trafficking networks. Polairud also plays a role in educating and increasing awareness of coastal communities about the dangers and legal consequences of human smuggling. Through outreach programs and awareness campaigns, they try to prevent local communities from getting involved in or becoming victims of smuggling. In addition, Polairud ensures that victims of human trafficking receive the necessary protection and assistance, including medical, psychological and legal assistance, as well as support in rehabilitation and social reintegration (Subagyo & Wirasuta, 2013).

Law enforcement operations are carried out routinely and continuously to arrest people smuggling perpetrators. Police and immigration officers carry out strict patrols and surveillance at main entry points such as airports, ports and land borders. Advanced technology, including electronic surveillance systems and biometrics, is used to detect and prevent human smuggling attempts. In addition, covert operations and in-depth investigations are carried out to dismantle human smuggling networks which often operate in an organized and cross-border manner. International cooperation is also an important component in enforcing this law. The Indonesian government has established partnerships with other countries and international organizations such as Interpol, UNHCR, and IOM. Through extradition agreements and information exchange, Indonesia can arrest and prosecute people smugglers hiding abroad. Joint exercises and joint operations with neighboring countries are also often carried out to strengthen law enforcement capabilities in the region.

On the other hand, the government is also focused on protecting and recovering victims of human trafficking. Shelter and rehabilitation centers were established to provide medical, psychological and legal assistance to victims. Social and economic reintegration programs are also implemented to help victims return to normal life. The government collaborated with non-governmental organizations and international institutions to provide comprehensive support for victims. In addition to direct law enforcement, the government also carries out public awareness campaigns to prevent human smuggling. This campaign involves outreach in vulnerable communities, as well as the use of mass media to disseminate information about the dangers and legal consequences of people smuggling. It is hoped that education to the public can prevent them from becoming victims or being involved in smuggling networks.

The Indonesian government has enacted various laws to regulate and enforce the law against the criminal act of people smuggling. One of the main laws that forms the legal basis for this effort is



Law Number 6 of 2011 concerning Immigration. This law comprehensively regulates immigration, including human smuggling. In this law, the articles relating to human smuggling cover various aspects, starting from definitions, types of actions that are classified as human smuggling, to criminal sanctions for perpetrators and the parties involved.

Article 120 in Law Number 6 of 2011 specifically states that anyone who organizes, facilitates or is involved in human smuggling with the aim of making a profit can be subject to imprisonment and heavy fines. This sanction is increased if the act is carried out by an organized syndicate or involves more than one victim. Article 124 regulates penalties for parties who provide assistance or facilities to perpetrators of human smuggling, including those who provide transportation facilities, shelter or fake documents. Apart from Law Number 6 of 2011, the government also refers to Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Human Trafficking (TPPO), which although specifically regulates human trafficking, also includes elements of human smuggling. The articles in this law regulate the definition of human trafficking, actions included in human trafficking, as well as sanctions for perpetrators and parties involved. To increase the effectiveness of law enforcement, the government also refers to the Criminal Code (KUHP), especially the articles that regulate document falsification and crimes against public order. This is important considering that many human smuggling cases involve falsifying travel and identity documents.

In addition, in order to strengthen law enforcement efforts, the Indonesian government has collaborated with other countries through various bilateral and multilateral agreements, such as extradition agreements and international police cooperation. This is done to facilitate the arrest and prosecution of human smuggling perpetrators who operate across countries. This strong and comprehensive legal framework is implemented through various law enforcement operations involving the police, immigration, TNI and other related agencies. Law enforcement is carried out firmly and continuously, with a focus on stopping human smuggling activities, arresting perpetrators and protecting victims. Apart from that, the government also carries out public awareness campaigns and training for law enforcement officials to ensure that law enforcement efforts can be effective and provide a deterrent effect for people smuggling perpetrators.

The Indonesian government carries out various law enforcement efforts against the criminal act of people smuggling through a comprehensive and multisectoral approach. This effort involves various government agencies, including the police, immigration, TNI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Law and Human Rights, and other related institutions. The following are concrete steps taken by the government:



1. **Strengthening the Legal Framework:** The government has strengthened the legal framework by passing Law Number 6 of 2011 concerning Immigration which specifically regulates the criminal act of human smuggling. In addition, additional regulations and revisions to legislation continue to be carried out to adapt to developments in the modus operandi of human smuggling perpetrators.
2. **Firm Law Enforcement:** Through cooperation between the police and immigration, the government actively carries out law enforcement operations to arrest and prosecute people smuggling perpetrators. The use of technology and intelligence is also being increased to identify and arrest smuggling syndicates which often operate internationally.
3. **International Cooperation:** Considering that human smuggling is a transnational problem, the Indonesian government collaborates with other countries and international organizations such as Interpol, UNHCR, and IOM. This cooperation includes information exchange, joint training, and joint operations to arrest smuggling perpetrators in various countries.
4. **Increasing the Capacity of Law Enforcement Officials:** The government regularly holds training and workshops to increase the capacity of law enforcement officials in handling human smuggling cases. This training covers legal aspects, investigative techniques and handling victims, with the aim of providing better protection and increasing the effectiveness of law enforcement.
5. **Handling and Protection of Victims:** Apart from taking action against perpetrators, the government is also focusing on protecting victims of human smuggling. Shelter and rehabilitation centers were established to provide medical, psychological and legal assistance to victims. The government is also working with non-governmental organizations to provide the necessary support for victims to return to normal life.
6. **Public Awareness Campaign:** Public awareness campaigns are conducted to increase public understanding of the dangers and legal consequences of human smuggling. This campaign is implemented through mass media, seminars and outreach in vulnerable communities, with the aim of preventing people from getting trapped in smuggling networks.
7. **Immigration System Improvement:** The government continues to improve the immigration system by introducing new technology to monitor and control the movement of people at the border. Electronic visa systems, biometric monitoring and increased surveillance at key entry points are part of efforts to prevent people smuggling.

The Water and Air Police (Polairud) implements various strategies and methods in enforcing the law against criminal acts of people smuggling in the east coast of North Sumatra. This region,



known as a strategic route for human smugglers, requires intensive and coordinated monitoring and law enforcement. For this reason, Polairud carries out routine sea patrols using patrol boats equipped with advanced technology such as radar and modern navigation systems, as well as aircraft and drones for aerial monitoring. These patrols enable early detection and prevention of human smuggling activities, as well as providing rapid response to suspicious situations.

Apart from patrol operations, Polairud also carries out undercover and reconnaissance operations to uncover human smuggling networks. They collaborate with related agencies, such as the Indonesian Navy, the Maritime Security Agency (Bakamla), and the Directorate General of Immigration, to carry out more effective joint operations. The exchange of intelligence information with domestic and foreign agencies is key in identifying and cracking down on smuggling networks, which are often transnational in nature. Polairud also holds ongoing training for its members to improve their investigative skills, teaching techniques and handling of human trafficking victims. They utilize modern technology, such as automatic ship monitoring systems (AIS) and advanced communications devices, to monitor ship movements in the waters and carry out effective operational coordination.

In prevention efforts, Polairud involves coastal communities through outreach programs and awareness campaigns about the dangers and legal consequences of human smuggling. This education aims to prevent people from being involved or becoming victims of these illegal activities. Polairud also ensures that victims of human trafficking receive the necessary protection and assistance, including medical, psychological and legal assistance, as well as support for rehabilitation and social reintegration.

The Air and Water Police (Polairud) demonstrated comprehensive readiness in enforcing the law against the criminal act of people smuggling in the east coast of North Sumatra through various strategic initiatives and actions. This region, with its long coastline and easy access to international sea lanes, requires close monitoring and effective law enforcement. For this reason, Polairud has increased its patrol fleet with modern ships equipped with advanced technology such as radar and navigation systems. These vessels enable intensive patrols and early detection of smuggling activities. Apart from maritime patrols, Polairud also utilize aircraft and drones for aerial monitoring, providing wider surveillance coverage and allowing them to respond quickly to detected threats. Polairud members routinely participate in ongoing training to improve skills in investigative techniques, pursuit tactics, handling victims, and the use of surveillance technology equipment. This training ensures that they are prepared to deal with various situations that may occur during law enforcement operations.



Collaboration with related agencies such as the Indonesian Navy, the Maritime Security Agency (Bakamla), the Directorate General of Immigration, and the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) is also an important part of Polairud's readiness. Through close coordination and the exchange of intelligence information, the National Police can identify and take action against human smuggling networks which often operate in an organized and cross-border manner. This joint operation strengthens law enforcement efforts and ensures that the actions taken are comprehensive and integrated. High commitment in handling the law against criminal acts of people smuggling in the east coast of North Sumatra through a series of strategic and integrated efforts. The east coast region of North Sumatra, which has a long coastline and easy access to international sea routes, is often the main target for human smuggling networks. To overcome this problem, Polairud implements routine and intensive maritime patrols using patrol boats equipped with advanced technology such as radar and modern navigation systems. These patrols enable early detection and prevention of human smuggling activities and provide rapid response to suspicious situations.

Apart from sea patrols, Polairud also uses aircraft and drones for aerial monitoring, providing wider surveillance coverage. Polairud members are continuously provided with ongoing training to improve skills in investigative techniques, pursuit tactics, handling victims, and the use of surveillance technology. This training ensures their readiness to deal with various situations that may occur during law enforcement operations. Polairud also collaborates with related agencies such as the Indonesian Navy, the Maritime Security Agency (Bakamla), the Directorate General of Immigration, and the National Counterterrorism Agency (BNPT) to strengthen operational coordination and response. Intelligence exchanges and joint operations enable them to identify and crack down on human trafficking networks that often operate in an organized and transnational manner. This collaboration strengthens law enforcement efforts and ensures that the actions taken are comprehensive and integrated.

On the other hand, Polairud also makes prevention efforts by educating coastal communities through outreach programs and awareness campaigns about the dangers and legal consequences of human smuggling. This education aims to increase public awareness and prevent them from being involved or becoming victims. Polairud also ensures that victims of human trafficking receive adequate protection, including medical, psychological and legal assistance, as well as support for rehabilitation and social reintegration.

Implementation of POLAIRUD Handling People Smuggling Crimes in the East Coast Region of North Sumatra



The Air and Water Police (Polairud) have implemented various strategic steps to deal with criminal acts of people smuggling in the east coast of North Sumatra. This region is often targeted by smugglers because of its easy access to international sea routes. To overcome this problem, Polairud carries out intensive maritime patrols using sophisticated patrol vessels equipped with radar and modern navigation systems. These patrols are carried out regularly to detect and prevent smuggling activities early on. Apart from sea patrols, Polairud also uses aircraft and drones to monitor movements in waters, ensuring wider surveillance coverage and the ability to respond quickly to any threats (Kristin & Dewi, 2017).

The implementation of modern technology is an important part of Polairud's strategy. They utilize automatic monitoring systems such as AIS (Automatic Identification System) to track ship movements in the waters. Apart from that, Polairud also increases the capacity and abilities of its members through continuous training which includes investigation techniques, handling victims, and the use of sophisticated surveillance equipment. This training ensures that every Polairud member is prepared to face various situations that may arise during law enforcement operations.

Collaboration with related agencies is also key in implementing the Polairud strategy. They collaborate with the Indonesian Navy, the Maritime Security Agency (Bakamla), the Directorate General of Immigration, and international institutions to strengthen coordination and exchange intelligence information. Joint operations are often carried out to identify and crack down on people smuggling networks operating across borders. This collaboration ensures that every action taken is comprehensive and effective (Danial, 2015).

On the prevention side, Polairud educates coastal communities through outreach programs and awareness campaigns about the dangers and legal consequences of human smuggling. This education aims to increase public awareness and prevent them from being involved in or becoming victims of smuggling. Polairud also ensures that victims of human trafficking receive adequate protection, including medical, psychological and legal assistance, as well as support for rehabilitation and social reintegration.

Criminal cases of human smuggling (people smuggling) in the east coast of North Sumatra which are increasingly widespread all the time require a comprehensive and integrated approach from various related parties. The National Police, as the front guard in enforcing law in waters, plays an important role in this effort through increasing the intensity of sea and air patrols. Patrol vessels equipped with advanced radar technology and navigation systems, as well as aircraft and drones, are used to monitor vessel movements in real-time, detect suspicious activity, and provide rapid responses to human smuggling attempts. Polairud also provides ongoing training for its members to ensure they



have the skills and knowledge needed to handle human trafficking cases, including investigative techniques, pursuit tactics and handling victims.

Collaboration with other agencies, such as the Indonesian Navy, the Maritime Security Agency (Bakamla), the Directorate General of Immigration, and international institutions, is very important in strengthening law enforcement efforts. The exchange of intelligence information and joint operations enable the identification and prosecution of human trafficking networks operating across borders. This collaboration ensures that every step taken is not only reactive but also proactive, preventing smuggling before it occurs and taking firm action against the perpetrators.

Apart from law enforcement, prevention through education of coastal communities is also the main focus. The outreach program and awareness campaign carried out by the National Police aims to increase public awareness of the dangers and legal consequences of human smuggling. The public is encouraged to report suspicious activities and not get involved in these illegal activities. This education not only aims to prevent community involvement in smuggling, but also to protect them from becoming victims. Polairud also ensures that victims of human trafficking receive appropriate protection, including medical, psychological and legal assistance, as well as support in the rehabilitation and social reintegration process. Humane handling of victims shows the Polri's commitment to safeguarding human rights and ensuring victims receive justice.

The existence of the Water and Air Police (Polairud) in controlling criminal cases of people smuggling in the east coast of North Sumatra is very important and irreplaceable. The region, which has extensive coastlines and direct access to international sea lanes, is often a prime target for people-smuggling networks. Polairud plays a key role in monitoring and policing these waters, using advanced technology and a strategic approach to prevent and crack down on illegal activities. Patrol boats equipped with radar and automatic navigation systems as well as the use of aircraft and drones for aerial monitoring, enable Polairud to detect suspicious activity quickly and provide a timely response.

Polairud's existence is also strengthened by the continuous training provided to its members. This training covers investigative techniques, pursuit tactics, victim handling, and use of surveillance technology equipment. With continually improving skills, Polairud members are ready to face various complex situations that may occur during law enforcement operations. Apart from that, Polairud is also active in establishing cooperation with other agencies such as the Indonesian Navy, the Maritime Security Agency (Bakamla), and the Directorate General of Immigration. This cooperation involves not only the exchange of intelligence information but also the implementation of effective joint



operations to identify and crack down on human trafficking networks that often operate across borders.

Apart from the law enforcement aspect, Polair also plays a role in prevention efforts through educating coastal communities. Conducted outreach programs and awareness campaigns Polairud aims to increase public awareness of the dangers and legal consequences of human smuggling. The public is invited to play an active role in reporting suspicious activities and not get involved in these illegal activities. Polairud also ensures that victims of human trafficking receive adequate protection, including medical, psychological and legal assistance, as well as support in the rehabilitation and social reintegration process.

The general principles or principles underlying the duties of the Water and Air Police (Polairud) in the east coast of North Sumatra are very important in determining actions and making laws and regulations and government decisions. The principle of legality is the main principle, where every action carried out by Polairud must be based on applicable law. This ensures that all law enforcement efforts related to human smuggling are carried out legally and in accordance with existing regulations, providing legal certainty and protection of human rights. The principle of professionalism is also an important basis, requiring every Polairud member to act with high competence, expertise and professional ethics in carrying out their duties. Continuous training and capacity building of personnel is an integral part of this effort, ensuring they are always ready to face various challenges in the field.

Apart from that, the principles of accountability and transparency are very vital in the task Polairud. Every action and decision taken must be accountable and carried out openly, allowing for supervision by the community and related agencies. This not only increases public trust but also ensures that every Polairud operation and action meets established standards. The principles of effectiveness and efficiency are also guidelines, where Polairud must use existing resources optimally to achieve maximum results in efforts to prevent and control human smuggling. The use of advanced technology such as radar, automatic navigation systems and drones for water monitoring are examples of how this principle is applied in daily operations. Coordination between institutions is another important principle. Polairud cannot work alone in dealing with complex crimes such as human smuggling. Therefore, they collaborate with other agencies such as the Indonesian Navy, the Maritime Security Agency (Bakamla), the Directorate General of Immigration, and international institutions to strengthen law enforcement efforts. This principle ensures that every step taken is integrated and coordinated, increasing the effectiveness of operations and reducing opportunities for smuggling networks to operate.



Humanitarian principles are also highly emphasized, especially in handling victims of human trafficking. Polairud acts with due regard for human rights, providing protection, medical, psychological and legal assistance to victims. This humanist approach shows commitment Polairud in protecting the dignity and rights of the victims, as well as ensuring that they get justice.

Legislation that regulates the general principles or principles of the tasks carried out by the Water and Air Police (Polairud) includes various laws and regulations that provide the legal framework for their operations and activities. One of the main legal bases is Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia. This law stipulates that the main duties of the National Police, including Polairud, are to maintain security and public order, enforce the law, provide protection, guidance and service to the community. In carrying out its duties, the National Police must be guided by the principle of legality, namely that every action must be based on applicable law, as well as the principle of professionalism, which demands high competence and ethics in every action.

Apart from that, there is Government Regulation Number 27 of 1983 concerning the Implementation of the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP), which regulates law enforcement procedures, including the handling of criminal cases such as human smuggling. This regulation emphasizes the importance of the principles of accountability and transparency, ensuring that every Polairud action can be accounted for and monitored by the public and related agencies. This regulation also emphasizes the importance of protecting human rights, in accordance with the humanitarian principles adhered to by Polairud in dealing with crime victims.

National Police Chief Regulation (Perkap) Number 4 of 2015 concerning Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) within the Indonesian National Police, including the SOP for Polairud, is also an important reference. This Perkap regulates detailed operational procedures, ensuring effectiveness and efficiency in the use of resources, as well as coordination and cooperation with other agencies such as the Indonesian Navy and the Maritime Security Agency (Bakamla). The principles of effectiveness and efficiency are implemented through the use of advanced technology such as radar and automatic navigation systems, as well as routine sea and air patrols.

Law Number 17 of 2008 concerning Shipping is also relevant, especially in the context of monitoring and law enforcement in waters. This law emphasizes the importance of shipping safety and security, which is part of the task Polairud. In addition, international regulations such as the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which has been ratified by Indonesia through Law Number 17 of 1985, provide the legal basis for international cooperation and law enforcement at sea, including in efforts to combat human smuggling.



In the Water Police Operational Manual, the duties of the Water and Air Police (Polairud) are explained in detail and cover various important aspects to ensure security and law enforcement in the waters. Main task Polairud is to carry out patrols in territorial waters to prevent and take action against all forms of crime, including human smuggling, piracy and maritime traffic violations. These patrols are carried out using patrol boats and aircraft to monitor and control activities at sea effectively. In addition, Polairud is responsible for supervising and enforcing shipping activities, ensuring that all operating vessels comply with applicable regulations and safety standards.

In terms of law enforcement, Polairud has the task of investigating and investigating criminal cases that occur in maritime areas, including human smuggling, human trafficking and other illegal activities. They are trained to collect evidence, conduct interrogations, and coordinate with other agencies in the investigation process. Polairud is also tasked with providing assistance and protection to victims of crimes at sea, including securing and evacuating them from dangerous situations. Apart from law enforcement, Polairud has an important role in rescue and humanitarian assistance at sea. This includes carrying out SAR (Search and Rescue) operations to rescue victims of maritime accidents or natural disasters. Polairud is also responsible for coordinating with various parties in handling emergency situations, ensuring that the response is fast and effective in crisis situations. Gathering and analyzing intelligence regarding illegal activities at sea, as well as implementing prevention and education programs for coastal communities to increase awareness and prevent involvement in maritime crimes. Polairud is also expected to carry out accurate reporting and documentation regarding operations carried out, to ensure transparency and accountability in every action taken.

Civil legal entities who feel that their interests have been harmed by the handling of criminal cases of people smuggling carried out by Polairud in the east coast region of North Sumatra can file a legal claim on the basis that actions or decisions taken by Polairud have ignored their rights or interests. For example, a shipping company whose operations are hampered by Polairud's intensive patrol activities could claim that these actions disrupted their business activities, caused financial losses, or damaged the company's reputation. In this case, the company can file a civil lawsuit based on material and immaterial losses resulting from Polairud's actions.

This civil lawsuit is usually filed in district court by including evidence showing real and significant losses as a result of Polairud's actions. Companies or legal entities that feel disadvantaged must be able to prove that Polairud's actions are not in accordance with applicable procedures or violate their rights according to the law. This includes claiming that action Polairud violate legal principles governing law enforcement or that they were not given an opportunity to adequately defend



themselves before action was taken. In the context of civil law, the legal entity can demand compensation for the losses experienced or request a court order to stop actions that are considered detrimental. In addition, they can also submit requests to obtain clarification or explanation regarding the actions taken by Polairud and their impact on their activities. This process involves an in-depth analysis of the legality and proportionality of Polairud's actions and their impact on the interests of the legal entity.

The absolute competence of the judiciary in handling criminal cases of people smuggling carried out by the Air and Water Police (Polairud) in the east coast of North Sumatra refers to the authority of the court to try certain cases based on the nature and location of the criminal act. In this case, the absolute competence of the judiciary is regulated by criminal law and legislation in force in Indonesia, including the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP) as well as special regulations governing law enforcement in maritime areas. According to the Criminal Procedure Code, the court that has absolute competence to handle criminal cases is the district court which has jurisdiction based on the place where the crime occurred. In human smuggling cases involving Polairud, the competent district court is the court located in the area where the crime occurred or the court that has jurisdiction over that area. Given that human smuggling often involves complex cross-border activities in waters, the district court on the east coast of North Sumatra would be the appropriate forum to try such cases.

Apart from district courts, for certain cases involving maritime law or international law, special courts such as Military Courts or Special Courts that regulate shipping and border issues may also have absolute competence. This depends on the nature of the violation committed, whether it involves aspects of international maritime law or violations related to national security.

The court also has the authority to determine whether the action taken by Polairud in handling criminal cases of human smuggling in accordance with applicable legal procedures. This includes an assessment of the legality and appropriateness of law enforcement actions carried out by Polairud, including whether arrests, investigations and other legal actions were carried out in compliance with the suspect's legal rights and the principles of justice.

Overall, the absolute competence of the judiciary in criminal cases of human smuggling in the east coast of North Sumatra involves courts having jurisdiction based on the location of the case and the characteristics of the case. The court is responsible for ensuring that the legal process runs in accordance with applicable legal provisions, provides fair decisions, and protects the rights of all parties involved in the legal process.

Authority Competency Polairud In Handling Cases of Human Smuggling (People Smuggling) in the East Coast Region of North Sumatra



The competence of the Water and Air Police (Polairud) in handling cases of people smuggling in the east coast of North Sumatra includes various aspects of law enforcement, supervision and water protection. As part of the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia, Polairud has special authority granted by law to carry out supervision in water areas, which include seas, rivers and lakes. This authority includes prevention and action against all forms of crime that occur in waters, including human smuggling, which often involves international criminal networks.

In dealing with human smuggling cases, Polairud has the authority to carry out routine patrols and special operations in vulnerable water areas. This patrol aims to detect and prevent human smuggling attempts before they occur. Polairud is equipped with patrol boats, aircraft, as well as sophisticated equipment such as radar and other monitoring systems which enable them to carry out effective surveillance in large and often difficult to reach areas (Susanti, 2023).

Polairud also has the authority to carry out investigations into human smuggling cases. This includes the authority to arrest perpetrators, collect evidence, and interrogate suspects and witnesses. Polairud collaborates with other agencies such as the Maritime Security Agency (Bakamla), the Indonesian Navy, and the Directorate General of Immigration in the context of effective and coordinated law enforcement. This collaboration is important given the cross-border nature of human trafficking crimes, which often involve more than one jurisdiction. law enforcement action, Polairud It also has the authority to provide protection to victims of human smuggling. This includes rescue and evacuation of victims from dangerous situations at sea, as well as providing medical and psychological assistance to those in need. In carrying out this task, Polairud is guided by the principles of human rights and the protection of vulnerable individuals.

Polairud also plays a role in preventive efforts through educating coastal communities about the dangers and impacts of human smuggling. They work together with local governments and non-governmental organizations to increase awareness and build community cooperation in preventing human smuggling. Authority competency Polairud This is supported by various statutory regulations, such as Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the State Police of the Republic of Indonesia, which provides the legal basis for actions Polairud in maintaining security and order in waters. This competency is also regulated by other regulations, such as Law Number 17 of 2008 concerning Shipping, which gives special authority to supervise shipping activities and safety at sea.

The authority of the Water and Air Police (Polairud) in dealing with cases of people smuggling in the east coast of North Sumatra is an integral part of their duties in maintaining security and order in Indonesian waters. As a special unit under the Indonesian National Police (Polri), Polairud has broad and specific authority to handle various forms of crime that occur in maritime



areas, including human smuggling which often involves international criminal networks and has an impact on national security.

One of Polairud's main authorities is to carry out intensive patrols and surveillance in waters, especially in areas prone to human smuggling. By using patrol boats equipped with advanced technology such as radar and automatic monitoring systems, Polairud is able to detect suspicious vessel movements and take preventive action before human smuggling occurs. These patrols are not only carried out routinely but can also be adjusted based on intelligence and reports received from the public or other related institutions (Susanti, 2023).

Apart from patrolling, Polairud also has the authority to carry out investigations and take action against perpetrators of human smuggling. They have the right to arrest and detain perpetrators, collect evidence, and investigate the modus operandi used by smuggling networks. This investigation process often involves collaboration with other agencies such as the Directorate General of Immigration, the Indonesian Navy, and the Maritime Security Agency (Bakamla), to ensure effective and comprehensive law enforcement. In this context, Polairud can also coordinate with international parties if human smuggling involves more than one country.

Authority Polairud also includes rescue and protection measures for victims of human trafficking. In situations where the victim is found in dangerous conditions at sea, Polairud responsible for rescuing them, providing first aid, and ensuring their safety during the legal process. This action is carried out in compliance with human rights principles and international law that protect the rights of victims of human trafficking. Law enforcement and rescue, Polairud is also authorized to carry out education and outreach programs to coastal communities about the dangers of human smuggling. This education aims to increase public awareness of the negative impacts of human smuggling and encourage them to report suspicious activities in water areas.

Authority Polairud In dealing with human smuggling in the east coast of North Sumatra, it is supported by various laws and regulations, including Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia, which provides the legal basis for their actions in maintaining order in the waters. Apart from that, various regulations related to shipping and maritime security are also the basis for carrying out their duties effectively.

The Water and Air Police (Polairud) has various authorities in dealing with cases of people smuggling in the east coast of North Sumatra, which includes important tasks in law enforcement, supervision and protection in water areas. Polairud's first authority is as follows:

1. Carry out intensive patrols and surveillance, especially in areas known as smuggling routes.

By using patrol boats equipped with modern technology such as radar, sonar and automatic



monitoring systems, Polairud is able to detect and track the movements of suspicious vessels, which are suspected of being involved in human smuggling activities. These patrols are carried out routinely and also through special operations based on intelligence or reports from the public.

2. Carrying out investigations and legal action against perpetrators of human smuggling. In this case, Polairud has the authority to arrest the perpetrator, carry out temporary detention, and collect relevant evidence to support the further investigation process. They also collaborate with other agencies, such as the Indonesian Navy, the Directorate General of Immigration, and the Maritime Security Agency (Bakamla), to strengthen law enforcement. This authority allows Polairud to pursue perpetrators both on land and at sea, as well as collaborating with international parties if the case involves transnational criminal networks.
3. Carry out rescue and protection actions for victims of human smuggling. Polairud tasked with rescuing victims found in dangerous conditions at sea, providing first aid, and ensuring their safety during the legal process. They also have the responsibility to protect the rights of victims in accordance with human rights principles, as well as cooperating with other institutions to provide medical and psychological assistance.
4. Provide education and counseling to coastal communities regarding the dangers of human smuggling. This activity aims to increase public awareness about the negative impacts of human smuggling and encourage their active participation in reporting suspicious activities. Through this approach, Polairud seeks to build strong cooperation with local communities to prevent crime in water areas.
5. International coordination and cooperation, especially when human smuggling involves perpetrators or victims from various countries. In this case, Polairud is collaborating with international law enforcement agencies, such as Interpol, as well as maritime authorities from neighboring countries to strengthen efforts to prevent and prosecute human smuggling networks.

Great confidence in overcoming cases of people smuggling in the east coast of North Sumatra, considering the importance of their role in maintaining the security of Indonesian waters. This belief arises from the need for strict supervision in water areas, which are often the main routes for human smugglers. With their experience and expertise in marine operations, Polairud be the spearhead in efforts to prevent and prosecute transnational crimes (Pratama & Wiraputra, 2019).

The trust given to Polairud is also based on their ability to adapt to challenges in the field, including dealing with water conditions that are often difficult to access and dangerous. Polairud has a fleet of



patrol boats equipped with advanced technology, which allows them to carry out surveillance and enforcement in wide and difficult-to-reach areas. Apart from that, personnel Polairud specially trained to deal with various emergency situations at sea, including rescue operations for victims found in dangerous conditions.

This trust also includes duties Polairud in carrying out investigations and legal action against human smuggling networks. They are given the authority to arrest, confiscate and detain criminals, as well as collect evidence necessary for the legal process. Polairud collaborates with various other agencies, both at home and abroad, to ensure that this criminal network can be stopped and the perpetrators are prosecuted according to applicable law (Puspasari et al., 2023).

Apart from law enforcement, this trust also includes responsibility Polairud in providing protection to victims of human trafficking. In situations where victims are rescued from the hands of perpetrators, Polairud is responsible for ensuring that they receive appropriate protection and access to the medical and psychological services they need. This reflects commitment Polairud towards human rights principles and the protection of vulnerable individuals. The trust given to Polairud also includes their role in raising awareness of coastal communities regarding the dangers of human smuggling. Through education and outreach programs, Polairud seeks to build strong collaboration with local communities, encouraging them to be actively involved in efforts to prevent and report suspicious activities in the waters. This shows that the trust given to Polairud not only focusing on education, but also on long-term prevention.

CONCLUSION

The role of the Water and Air Police (Polairud) in tackling the criminal act of people smuggling in the east coast of North Sumatra is very vital and multifaceted. Polairud is responsible for carrying out intensive patrols and surveillance in waters, using patrol boats equipped with advanced technology to detect and prevent smuggling activities. They also play a role in investigations and legal action, where Polairud arrest perpetrators, collect evidence, and collaborate with other agencies to dismantle human smuggling networks. In addition, Polairud was involved in the rescue operation of victims, ensuring that they received the necessary protection and assistance. Polairud is also active in educating coastal communities to raise awareness about the dangers of people smuggling, encouraging them to report suspicious activities.

Polairud faces various obstacles in dealing with the criminal act of people smuggling in the east coast of North Sumatra. One of the main obstacles is the breadth and complexity of water areas, which are often difficult to reach and monitor effectively, especially in remote areas and directly

bordering international waters. Limited resources, such as the number of personnel, patrol boats and sophisticated equipment, also pose challenges in carrying out comprehensive supervision and enforcement. In addition, criminal networks are well organized and increasingly sophisticated in concealing their activities making investigation and prosecution more difficult. Another obstacle is the lack of coordination and support between agencies, both at the local and international levels, which can hinder joint efforts to dismantle smuggling networks. Socio-economic conditions in the region, where poverty and lack of legal awareness drive some individuals to engage in or support smuggling activities, also exacerbate the situation.

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