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Synergy Between the Police and the Community in Crime Prevention Efforts by the Directorate of General Criminal Investigation in Jambi Province

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Abstract: This study discusses the synergy between the police and the community in crime prevention efforts, focusing on the role of the Directorate of General Criminal Investigation (Ditreskrim) of the Jambi Regional Police. Crime prevention is not solely the responsibility of the police institution but requires the active involvement of the community as a strategic partner. This study uses a normative juridical approach to examine the legal framework governing such cooperation, including Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, Police Regulation No. 1 of 2021 on Community Policing, and Police Regulation No. 14 of 2018 in conjunction with Police Regulation No. 3 of 2024, which regulate the organization and core duties of Ditreskrim at the regional police level. The study finds that Ditreskrim has implemented various preventive strategies, such as dialogic patrols, the establishment of partnership forums, and legal education for the public. However, the implementation of this synergy still faces multiple challenges, including limited resources, low public legal awareness, and weak oversight of program implementation. Additionally, discrepancies between the regulatory framework and on-the-ground practices hinder the long-term effectiveness of this synergy. The study recommends strengthening personnel capacity, providing local policy support, and developing evaluation systems and administrative sanctions as solutions to establish a more equitable, participatory, and sustainable partnership in crime prevention.

Keywords: Synergy, Police, Ditreskrim, Community, Crime Prevention, Law

Abstrak: Studi ini membahas sinergi antara kepolisian dan masyarakat dalam upaya pencegahan kejahatan, dengan fokus pada peran Direktorat Reserse Kriminal Umum (Ditreskrim) Kepolisian Daerah Jambi. Pencegahan kejahatan bukanlah tanggung jawab semata-mata institusi kepolisian, melainkan memerlukan keterlibatan aktif masyarakat sebagai mitra strategis. Studi ini menggunakan pendekatan yuridis normatif untuk mengkaji kerangka hukum yang mengatur kerja sama tersebut, termasuk Undang-Undang Nomor 2 Tahun 2002 tentang Kepolisian Negara Republik Indonesia, Peraturan Kepolisian Nomor 1 Tahun 2021 tentang Kepolisian Masyarakat, serta Peraturan Kepolisian Nomor 14 Tahun 2018 juncto

Peraturan Kepolisian Nomor 3 Tahun 2024, yang mengatur organisasi dan tugas pokok Ditreskrimum di tingkat kepolisian daerah. Studi ini menemukan bahwa Ditreskrimum telah menerapkan berbagai strategi pencegahan, seperti patroli dialogis, pembentukan forum kemitraan, dan pendidikan hukum bagi masyarakat. Namun, implementasi sinergi ini masih menghadapi berbagai tantangan, termasuk keterbatasan sumber daya, rendahnya kesadaran hukum masyarakat, dan pengawasan yang lemah terhadap pelaksanaan program. Selain itu, ketidaksesuaian antara kerangka regulasi dan praktik di lapangan menghambat efektivitas jangka panjang sinergi ini. Studi ini merekomendasikan penguatan kapasitas personel, pemberian dukungan kebijakan lokal, dan pengembangan sistem evaluasi serta sanksi administratif sebagai solusi untuk membangun kemitraan yang lebih adil, partisipatif, dan berkelanjutan dalam pencegahan kejahatan.

Kata Kunci: Sinergi, Kepolisian, Ditreskrimum, Masyarakat, Pencegahan Kejahatan, Hukum

INTRODUCTION

Crime prevention in Jambi Province has become an important concern in maintaining social stability and public security. This area has quite complex social and geographical characteristics, ranging from densely populated urban areas to rural and border regions vulnerable to being transit points for interprovincial crimes (Rinawati, 2020). The limited number of police personnel in reaching the entire area, coupled with the emergence of new forms of crime such as cybercrime and human trafficking, demands a more adaptive and collaborative prevention strategy (Budiyanto, 2025). Crime is not only a legal issue but also involves social, economic, and even cultural aspects of society (Bertholomeus, 2024). In this context, the Directorate of General Criminal Investigation (Ditreskrimum) of the Jambi Regional Police plays an important role in designing and implementing prevention efforts based on a partnership approach between police and citizens (Hartono, 2016).

The Directorate of General Criminal Investigation (Ditreskrimum) is not only tasked with investigating and probing general criminal acts but is also responsible for formulating effective prevention strategies (Arvianti, 2025). This function places Ditreskrimum as the frontline in responding to the evolving dynamics of crime in the community (Toha, 2024). In carrying out its duties, Ditreskrimum requires support and active participation from the public to create an early detection system for potential security disturbances (Aswin, 2020). Good interaction between the police and community will strengthen the social surveillance system within neighborhoods and simultaneously increase trust in law enforcement institutions (Usman, 2014). This reciprocal relationship reflects a form of cooperation that is not only formal but also emotional and cultural.

Building synergy between the police and the community is not an easy task, as it requires a paradigm shift in how both parties view their respective roles. The police must open spaces for community participation, while the community is expected not to be apathetic towards security issues in their environment (Purba, 2021). This synergy demands clarity of duties and responsibilities, as well as a commitment to support each other within the framework of applicable law. Actively involved communities will feel a moral responsibility toward the security of their environment. Thus, synergy is not merely technical cooperation but a form of involvement that creates collective awareness in maintaining public order.

Theoretically, synergy between police and community can be explained through the concept of public participation in law. This participation involves citizens' involvement in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of legal policies, including in the context of crime prevention (Wasaraka, 2024). This approach is based on the belief that law will be more effective if implemented inclusively and democratically. In practice, community participation

is not only in the form of reporting criminal acts but also through involvement in communication forums, public discussions, and social activities supporting order (Ilham, 2024). This concept also serves as a philosophical foundation to encourage equal relationships between law enforcement officers and the public.

The community policing model is a concrete embodiment of this synergy. In this model, the police are not just law enforcers but also partners of the community in jointly solving security problems (Margaret, 2020). The police are present as part of the community, understand the social characteristics of residents, and build strong interpersonal relationships. The success of this approach largely depends on the police's ability to listen, understand, and respond empathically to community needs. Implementing community policing is not just an operational strategy but also a change in attitude and working methods toward a more humanistic approach by the police institution (Indarti, 2019).

The principle of democratization in law enforcement also strengthens the importance of this synergy. Democratic law enforcement requires accountability, transparency, and community involvement in every decision-making process. The police, as a public institution, cannot operate authoritatively but must establish open communication with citizens (Pranata, 2022). In the context of crime prevention, this principle encourages the creation of healthy dialogue spaces between officers and the community so that security policies can be formulated participatively. The result is a legal environment that is not only repressive but also preventive and educative.

Crime prevention generally is divided into three categories: primary, secondary, and tertiary. Primary prevention aims to eliminate the root causes of crime before it occurs, for example by improving community welfare and education. Secondary prevention focuses on early identification of individuals or groups potentially committing crimes. Meanwhile, tertiary prevention is more rehabilitative and aimed at preventing recidivism among offenders who have served their sentences (Hersyanda, 2024). These three types of prevention can only be effective if there is strong cooperation between security apparatus and the community as the main social actors.

Police response to crime potential also depends on sensitivity to social changes occurring in society. This response theory emphasizes the importance of police strategy flexibility in facing threats that continuously evolve. In a dynamic modern society, forms of crime become increasingly complex and sometimes difficult to recognize without support from local communities (Putra, 2025). A responsive approach does not merely wait for crime reports but actively detects and prevents possibilities leading to legal violations. Community concern for environmental conditions is a key factor in optimizing early crime detection.

The legal basis regulating synergy between police and community is sufficiently comprehensive. Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police affirms that the police have the duty to maintain community security and order with active participation from citizens (DM, 2024). Articles 13 and 14 of this law state that the police are responsible for organizing preemptive and preventive activities. This regulation is further strengthened by Indonesian National Police Regulation Number 1 of 2021 concerning Community Policing, which explicitly encourages the application of partnership principles between police and citizens. This regulation serves as the legal umbrella for implementing community policing across Indonesia (Saliro, 2025).

The institutional structure supporting Ditreskrim's role at the provincial level is regulated in Indonesian National Police Regulation Number 14 of 2018 concerning the Organization and Work Procedures of Regional Police Units, later updated by Regulation Number 3 of 2024. This regulation provides structural and operational legitimacy for Ditreskrim functions in managing crime enforcement and prevention efforts. It governs how general criminal investigation functions are positioned within the regional police structure,

including cross-sector coordination and division of technical duties (Hartanto, 2020). Support from this regulation strengthens the legal-formal foundation for implementing synergy on the ground while providing a more systematic and measurable work direction.

Central regulations need to be contextualized with local policies such as regional regulations or community-based security programs in Jambi Province. Local governments and police can collaborate to form law-aware community forums and community care groups for public order and security (Himawati, 2017). This collaboration aligns with regional autonomy, which provides space for provincial and district/city governments to formulate security policies responsive to local conditions. In this scheme, Jambi society is no longer an object of protection but the main subject in safeguarding their environment. Synergy between the community and Ditreskrim will be stronger if framed within local policies aligned with national regulations.

METHOD

This study uses a normative juridical method, which is a legal research approach focused on reviewing applicable positive legal norms and legal principles relevant to the issue studied. In this context, the research is directed to analyze the legal basis, regulations, and statutory provisions governing synergy between the police and community in crime prevention efforts, especially those conducted by the Directorate of General Criminal Investigation (Ditreskrim) at the Regional Police level of Jambi Province. The primary data sources in this study are primary legal materials, such as Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, Indonesian National Police Regulation Number 1 of 2021 concerning Community Policing, and Indonesian National Police Regulation Number 14 of 2018 jo. Regulation Number 3 of 2024 concerning organizational structure and work procedures of units at the Regional Police level. Additionally, secondary legal materials are also used, including legal literature, scientific journals, policy documents, and relevant official reports. This method allows the researcher to examine the relationship between legal norms and their implementation in the field, as well as identify normative obstacles that may arise in efforts to build synergy. The analysis is conducted descriptively-analytically by explaining the content of existing legal norms and relating them to empirical realities in the implementation of Ditreskrim Polda Jambi's duties in building cooperation with the community. This approach is chosen to provide a comprehensive picture of regulatory conditions and legal practices, as well as to formulate normative solutions that can strengthen a crime prevention system based on public participation.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The Role of the Directorate of General Criminal Investigation in Crime Prevention in Jambi Province

The Directorate of General Criminal Investigation (Ditreskrim) of Jambi Regional Police holds a central role in preventing various forms of criminal acts occurring within the province. Its primary duty is to conduct investigations and inquiries into general crimes, including murder, theft, serious assault, and other conventional crimes. However, in practice, the function of Ditreskrim is not limited to merely a repressive approach but also includes preemptive and preventive actions aimed at reducing crime rates. This places Ditreskrim as a strategic actor in maintaining public security and order sustainably. This role is carried out with a professional approach based on the law, while also taking into account the social dynamics occurring in Jambi society.

The authority of Ditreskrim Jambi Regional Police operates through an organizational structure that allows effective coordination both internally and across sectors. Coordination with units under the Regional Police such as Ditintelkam (Intelligence and Security Directorate), Ditbinmas (Community Guidance Directorate), and Public Relations Division

plays an important role in designing an integrated prevention strategy. In addition, Ditreskrimum also establishes cooperation with external agencies such as the public prosecutor's office, local government, and non-governmental organizations. This collaboration is necessary to ensure that every crime prevention policy is not only law-based but also able to respond to local needs and conditions. When this coordination function runs well, the response to crime can be faster and more targeted.

In prevention efforts, Ditreskrimum develops various participatory and communicative programs and strategies. One tangible form is dialogical patrol activities, where police officers directly visit residents to discuss potential disturbances to public order and safety (kamtibmas). Dialogues in a non-formal atmosphere provide space for the community to openly express concerns or important information. This strategy has proven to strengthen the emotional bond between police and citizens while building a sense of security derived from the direct involvement of security personnel. Such a personal approach becomes the foundation for building public trust in the police institution.

The Kamtibmas gathering forum is also part of a cultural approach in crime prevention. In this forum, community leaders, religious figures, and youth are regularly involved in discussions with police officers regarding social issues that potentially lead to crime. This dialogue creates a reflective and educational space allowing constructive idea exchanges. Such forums are very appropriate to be implemented in Jambi, which has rich cultural heritage and a strong social structure. Local culture-based approaches are far more effective in reaching the community than formal, one-way strategies.

The establishment of security and public order awareness groups (Pokdarkamtibmas) and the Police and Community Partnership Forum (FKPM) are other concrete steps in building a community-based prevention system. These two institutions function as a bridge between the police and citizens in identifying, communicating, and collectively resolving social problems. The presence of Pokdarkamtibmas and FKPM turns the community not only into objects of protection but active subjects in safeguarding their social environment. In many villages and sub-districts, these groups act as the eyes and ears of Ditreskrimum in monitoring developing social dynamics. This initiative strengthens the concept of security as a shared responsibility, not just that of the authorities.

Legal education is one of the consistent instruments carried out to raise public awareness about regulations and the impacts of unlawful acts. Socialization is conducted through outreach activities in schools, places of worship, and community forums, with materials adapted to the local context. Police officers do not only explain the content of laws but also invite the community to discuss values of justice and social ethics. This legal education material strengthens the community's resilience against negative influences such as drugs, violence, and intolerance. In the long run, communities with good legal understanding tend to be more proactive in maintaining a safe and orderly environment.

Community leaders play a crucial role in the success of crime prevention strategies implemented by Ditreskrimum. Their charisma and influence often outweigh the formal authority of security personnel. Therefore, involving traditional leaders, religious figures, and youth leaders in security programs is a very strategic choice. Through a humane and dialogical approach, these leaders are able to bridge communication between the community and the police. They serve as mediators, facilitators, and agents of change at the community level.

The implementation of the Polmas (Community Policing) model within Ditreskrimum emphasizes the principle of trust-building. Trust is a primary prerequisite for sustainable cooperation between the police and the community. Open communication patterns, active involvement in social activities, and responsiveness to citizen reports become important pillars in building that trust. Officers are not only present in emergency situations but also become part of the community's routine activities such as communal work, religious gatherings, or

traditional events. Such an approach strengthens social bonds between authorities and citizens and reduces the gap between state institutions and society.

Bhabinkamtibmas (Community Police Officers) are key actors in implementing Polmas because they are on the front line in reaching the community directly. They know the characteristics of their residents personally, enabling them to read potential social conflicts before they escalate into criminal acts. The consistent and friendly presence of Bhabinkamtibmas makes them sources of information, places to vent, and even mediators for community members facing problems. Their duties are not only to convey security messages but also to absorb citizens' aspirations and anxieties often not recorded in official reports. When this role is carried out consistently, the effectiveness of crime prevention will increase significantly.

Successful practices in crime prevention by Ditreskrimum Polda Jambi can be seen in several areas that have significantly reduced crime rates through community-based approaches. For example, in some suburban districts previously vulnerable to motorcycle theft, the number of cases drastically decreased after the establishment of Pokdarkamtibmas and increased intensity of dialogical patrols. This success is measured not only by statistical data but also by the increased sense of security felt by the community. The shift to a more conducive social atmosphere reflects that prevention strategies based on synergy truly have a real impact. This approach shows that security is not only the result of police work but the fruit of a healthy social relationship between the community and its authorities.

Problematics and Juridical Analysis of Police-Community Synergy in Jambi

Obstacles in realizing synergy between the police and the community in Jambi Province often stem from internal limitations within the police institution itself. The availability of human resources at the Directorate of General Criminal Investigation is still not proportional to the vast work area and the complexity of crimes that must be handled. Many personnel carry multiple tasks, lack in-depth training on participatory approaches, and have minimal supporting facilities to effectively reach communities. Administrative fatigue and high workloads also reduce the quality of police interaction with the community. In this context, community-based crime prevention is hindered due to the shortage of personnel capable of conducting intensive social approaches.

The social conditions of the Jambi community also present their own challenges in developing an ideal synergy model. Many residents still have a low level of legal literacy, especially in rural and peripheral areas. Lack of knowledge about legal rights and obligations makes them passive in facing criminal acts and hesitant to report. On the other hand, the lack of informal legal education causes myths and misunderstandings about law enforcement to remain widespread. Limited access to easily understandable information further strengthens the psychological distance between the community and law enforcement officers.

Community distrust towards the police institution is the most fundamental problem that is difficult to solve quickly. Some residents still view police officers as repressive entities or only present during major conflicts. The negative image attached due to bad experiences, either directly or from passed-down stories, makes parts of the community reluctant to actively participate in security programs. This skeptical attitude weakens the emotional bond between residents and the police and makes the synergy program feel like mere formality. Building trust requires consistent approaches and openness from both sides, not just slogans or ceremonial activities.

From a juridical perspective, efforts to create police-community synergy in Jambi often do not align with the applicable laws and regulations. For example, the principles regulated in Police Regulation No. 1 of 2021 concerning Community Policing have not been fully translated into the working structure and communication patterns at the field level. Many programs run

without clear procedures or without strong legal instruments supporting the cooperation mechanisms. This mismatch indicates a gap between legal norms and the implementation practice that still needs serious examination. In this context, the synergy that occurs is more informal and not legally standardized.

Weak technical regulations and the absence of comprehensive evaluation mechanisms worsen the unstable synergy condition. Evaluation of the effectiveness of cooperation between police and community should be conducted regularly, based on concrete and accountable indicators. However, to date, there are few official documents or reporting systems that objectively assess how far the synergy model has progressed according to expectations. Lack of both internal and external supervision causes many deficiencies to go unrecorded, and various community-based crime prevention programs struggle to develop. The absence of complementary regulations makes synergy rely solely on individual enthusiasm or local initiatives rather than a measurable system.

Sanctions or corrective actions against police officers who violate synergy principles are still very weak, almost non-existent formally. For example, there is no explicit provision imposing legal consequences if officers ignore the community policing approach when handling minor social conflicts. Yet such neglect can result in deteriorating social relations and increased crime risk. The unclear sanctions weaken accountability principles in this cooperation and create room for discriminatory and unresponsive actions. Consequently, the community finds it difficult to trust that this synergy is a structural policy and not just rhetoric.

Comparative studies with other provinces like the Special Region of Yogyakarta and West Java can serve as reflections for evaluating the synergy approach in Jambi. These two provinces are known to have strong traditions of public participation and police officers who are more open to community involvement. The partnership model built there is more equality-based, with fast and transparent reporting and problem-solving mechanisms. In those regions, the Community Policing approach is not only a program but has become a police work culture. Such comparisons illustrate that the success of synergy is strongly determined by organizational culture, leadership, and seriousness in adopting legal transparency values.

A normative approach relying solely on written rules without empirical approaches often fails to accommodate real needs on the ground. In Jambi Province, many security challenges are local and contextual, such as land conflicts, illegal mining, and friction between groups requiring socio-cultural handling. An approach relying only on articles and procedures will not be able to address root problems if not combined with a deep understanding of community dynamics. The combination of normative and empirical approaches is key to producing effective and humane prevention strategies. Law must serve not only as a repressive tool but also as a bridge connecting state interests and community interests.

CONCLUSION

The synergy between the Police, particularly the Directorate of General Criminal Investigation (Ditreskrim) of Jambi Regional Police, and the community plays a very vital role in preventing and controlling crime rates in Jambi Province. The efforts made reflect institutional awareness of the importance of a preventive approach involving the community. Programs such as dialogical patrols, the establishment of Pokdarkamtibmas and FKPM, and legal education show a participatory policy direction. However, their effectiveness still faces serious structural and social obstacles. Resource disparities, low community legal awareness, and distrust towards officers become the main stumbling blocks in fostering mutual trust partnerships. From a normative aspect, the gap between the substance of regulations like Police Regulation No. 1 of 2021 and field realities shows that legal implementation has yet to run optimally in a systemic and standardized manner. This condition makes synergy efforts still sporadic and not fully capable of reaching the root of local security problems.

The main recommendation to strengthen this synergy is the need for comprehensive institutional and regulatory approach improvements. Ditreskrimum Polda Jambi needs to be empowered with human resources who are not only technically competent but also have socio-cultural abilities to build relations with the community. Special training based on community policing should become a routine agenda, not just administrative complements. Local governments and police officers need to collaborate in formulating local policies that clearly and strictly regulate community roles in maintaining security, including fair reward and evaluation systems. Oversight and accountability mechanisms must also be strengthened through internal and external supervision of synergy performance, as well as the application of administrative sanctions against officers who ignore participatory principles. In the long term, police-community synergy must be built on foundations of trust, legal clarity, and genuine social justice on the ground.

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