


Criminological Study of Crime in Ambon City with Island Characteristics

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Abstract

Introduction: Ambon City as the center of government, education and economy in Maluku, has also developed into a center for various crimes. This is due to the support of the geographical location of Ambon City and Maluku as a whole as an Island Province. The problem in this writing is how are the characteristics of crime in Ambon City which is characterized by an island and how are efforts to overcome crime in Ambon City which is characterized by an island.

Purposes of the Research: The purpose of this writing is to study and analyze the characteristics of crime in Ambon City which is characterized by an island and to study and analyze efforts to overcome crime in Ambon City which is characterized by an island.

Methods of the Research: The research method used is empirical juridical, the data sources used are primary data and secondary data. Data collection techniques through observation, interviews and literature studies. Qualitative data analysis techniques.

Findings of the Research: The results of the study show that the characteristics of crime in Ambon City which is characterized by an island are divided into 3 groups, namely conventional crimes that stand out are aggravated theft; transnational crimes that stand out are narcotics trafficking crimes; and crimes based on social conflict involving areas/regions that have long been in conflict. Efforts to combat crime in Ambon City begin with identifying the factors that cause crime and linking them to the criminology theories used, after which two approaches are used, namely the penal approach and the non-penal approach to combat various crimes.

Keywords: Criminology; Crime; Islands.

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INTRODUCTION

Article 1 paragraph (3) of the 1945 Constitution (3rd amendment) has emphasized that Indonesia is a country of law. In the concept of a country of law, it is idealized that what should be the commander in the dynamics of state life is law, not politics or economics. Thus, the process of enforcing the law against various crimes that occur in Indonesia must be carried out properly so that it can minimize the crimes that occur.

The government, which has been entrusted by the Indonesian people to realize prosperity and peace among fellow members of society, should strive to find ways to resolve various crimes that occur that prioritize civilized humanitarian aspects. This is certainly not an easy job, but requires the participation of all elements of the nation so that a more conducive atmosphere can be created.¹ Maluku, as one of the Island Provinces, certainly has its own

¹ Juanrico A. S. Titahelu, Upaya Hukum Dalam Penyelesaian Konflik Kejahatan Genosida Antara Warga Dusun Ori dengan Warga Negeri Kariu, *Jurnal Pembangunan Hukum Indonesia*, 5 no 2 (2023): 307-324

characteristics or character when discussing crime. Its area, which mostly consists of oceans reaching 712,480 km², or around 92.4% is sea waters and only 7.6% is land, making Maluku one of the provinces in Indonesia that is rich in fishery resources. This province is known as the Thousand Island Province or Archipelago Province, with thousands of islands spread along the coastline of around 11,000 km.² Its geographical location, which is mostly ocean, makes sea-related crimes also common in Maluku. Such as illegal fishing, illegal oil, illegal mining, illegal logging, all of which use the vast ocean of Maluku as a means of committing crimes. Likewise, the circulation of narcotics, the circulation of illegal weapons and human trafficking whose modus operandi is through sea routes.

Ambon City as a small city that is the center of government, education and economy in Maluku, has also developed into a center for various crimes in Maluku. These various crimes certainly grow and develop in Ambon City because of the support of the geographical location of Ambon City and Maluku as a whole as an Island Province. Data on Handling Cases of Subdit IV/Tipidter Dit Reskrimsus Polda Maluku during the period 2019 to 2024, cases of fuel hoarding or smuggling of BMM (illegal oil) are cases that often occur. Approximately 30 cases of illegal oil in the last 5 years whose modus operandi always uses sea routes to carry out their crimes. Meanwhile, for drug crime data throughout 2021 to 2023, there were 162 cases and Ambon City is the center of drug trafficking/transactions in Maluku Province.³ The sea route is the main mode of drug distribution in Ambon City and its surroundings.

The geographical location which is mostly surrounded by water makes Ambon City very vulnerable to cross-border crimes. Because there are many entry points. Geographical characteristics and the characteristics of its society which are tough, rough and heterogeneous are also factors that trigger crime. In addition to various causal factors such as high unemployment rates, the increasingly difficult economy, so that economic demands make people blind and reckless in committing crimes. Various factors that cause crime are studied in various criminology literature on theories of the causes of crime, so based on the description above, the author is interested in studying and analyzing it with the Title: Criminological Study of Crime in Ambon City Which is Characterized by Islands.

METHODS OF THE RESEARCH

The type of research used in this study is empirical legal research. The empirical legal research method is a legal research method that functions to be able to see the law in a real sense and examine how the law works in the community environment.⁴ Empirical legal research is more directed at social research. The research location used in this study is the agency related to the problems raised, namely the Criminal Investigation Unit (Satreskrim) of the Ambon Island Police & P.P Lease. In accordance with the research location as described above, the target population/respondents in this study are those who occupy strategic positions in agencies that are directly involved in preventing and overcoming crimes that occur in Ambon City. The types of data used in this study are Primary Data and Secondary Data. The type of empirical legal research, according to Ronny Hanitijo Soemitro, is legal research that obtains its data from primary data or data or data obtained directly

² S. Kopong dkk, Kebijakan Kriminal Illegal Fishing di Perairan Maluku, *Holistik Analisis Nexus*, 1 no 7 (2024): 196-205

³ Data from the Directorate of Special Criminal Investigation of the Maluku Regional Police, processed by the Author on September 12, 2024

⁴ Irwansyah, *Penelitian Hukum Pilihan Metode dan Praktik Penulisan Artikel*, Yogyakarta: Mira Buana Media, 2020, p. 174

from the community.⁵ While primary data sources are obtained through field studies and interviews and secondary data sources are obtained through literature studies. The data collection technique used in this study is primary data obtained through field studies (observations) and interviews with parties related to the problems raised. As well as literature studies to obtain secondary data to complement existing primary data. Data analysis used in this study is qualitative data analysis. Qualitative research is a study that is descriptive in nature, tends to use analysis and shows more of its meaning process. The qualitative data analysis method is a method of processing data in depth with data from observations, interviews and literature.⁶

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. General Overview of Ambon City

Geographically, Ambon City is located at 30 34'4.80" - 30 47'38.4" South Latitude and 1280 1'33.6" - 1280 18'7.20" East Longitude, where overall Ambon City borders Central Maluku Regency. According to Government Regulation Number 13 of 1979, the total area of Ambon City is 377 km² and based on the results of the 1980 Land Use Survey, the land area of Ambon City was recorded as 359.45 km². Ambon City has administrative boundaries, namely to the West it borders Hatu Village from Leihitu Barat District, Central Maluku Regency, to the East it borders Suli Village from Salahutu District, Central Maluku Regency, to the South it borders the Banda Sea and to the North it borders Hitu, Hila and Kaitetu Villages, Leihitu District, Central Maluku Regency. The climate in Ambon City is a tropical maritime climate and a seasonal climate, because Ambon Island is surrounded by the sea. Therefore, the climate here is greatly influenced by the ocean and occurs simultaneously with the seasonal climate, namely the West or North season and the East or Southeast season. The change of seasons is always interspersed with the Pancaroba season which is a transition from the two seasons.

Ambon City is the capital of Maluku Province which has 5 sub-districts in it and all of its territory is on 1 (one) island. Most of the Ambon City area is hilly. With the existing geographical conditions, Leitimur Selatan sub-district is the furthest sub-district which is \pm 26.84 km from the capital if passing Jalan Sultan Hasanudin towards Passo and is \pm 16.99 km from the capital if passing Jalan Pattimura towards Soya. With the geographical conditions of Ambon Island which is surrounded by the sea, the climate here is greatly influenced by the ocean and occurs simultaneously with the seasonal climate.⁷

B. Types and Patterns of Crime in Ambon City, Which is Characterized by Islands

1. Conventional Crime

The number of public order disturbances due to crimes that occurred in 2022 was 584 cases. When compared to 2021, there was an increase of 247 cases or 67.86%, the risk of the population being affected by crime was 108 people/100,000 population and the time of the crime was 14.20'13", with details of conventional crimes as many as 583 cases and violations as many as 1 case. The number of traffic accidents that occurred in 2022 was 58 incidents

⁵ Ronny Hanitijo Soemitro, dalam bukunya Mukti Fajar & Yulianto Achmad, *Dualisme Penelitian Hukum Normatif & Empiris*, Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 2010, p. 154.

⁶ Meiryani, *Memahami Perbedaan Analisis Kualitatif dan Analisis Kuantitatif Dalam Penelitian Ilmiah*, Binus University, 2021, <https://accounting.binus.ac.id/2021>

⁷ Badan Pusat Statistik Kota Ambon, *Kota Ambon Dalam Angka*, Banten: Aska Putra Pratama, 2024, p. 56-57

with details of 24 fatalities, 25 serious injuries and 30 minor injuries.⁸ The prominent cases throughout 2022 can be seen in the table below⁹

Table 1. Prominent Cases Throughout 2022

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Intentionally causing fire / flood | 4 case |
| Rape | 4 case |
| Murder | 4 case |
| Aggravated theft | 16 case |
| Violent theft | 4 case |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 1 case |
| Gambling | 1 case |
| Endangering public safety | 1 case |

Source: Data processed by the Author based on interview results

Based on the data above, there were 8 prominent cases throughout 2022. However, of the 8 cases, the most prominent were theft cases with 16 cases. Meanwhile, cases of murder, rape, intentionally causing fire and theft with violence were 4 cases each. Furthermore, motor vehicle theft, gambling and endangering public safety, each 1 case.

In 2023, the number of crimes increased to 1150 cases or 188.22%, the risk of the population being subject to crime was 312 people/100,000 population and the time of the crime was 04.58'28". Meanwhile, the number of traffic accidents that occurred throughout 2023 was 135 cases, an increase of 77 cases or 132.76% with details of 35 fatalities, 128 serious injuries and 24 minor injuries¹⁰ The prominent cases throughout 2023 can be seen in the table below.

Table 2. Prominent Cases Throughout 2023

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Intentionally causing fire / flood | 1 case |
| Rape | 1 case |
| Kidnapping | 1 case |
| Murder | 2 case |
| Aggravated Theft | 14 case |
| Theft with Violence | 9 case |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 25 case |

Source: Data processed by the Author based on interview results

Based on the table above, there were 7 prominent cases throughout 2023. Of the 7 cases, motor vehicle theft was the most common case, namely 25 cases. Furthermore, there were

⁸ Report on Public Order and Security Disturbances of the Ambon Police in 2022, Assistant Staff for Operations of the Police, Operations Control Bureau

⁹ Interview with the Head of Criminal Investigation Unit of Ambon Island Police and PP Lease, AKP M. Ainum Yaqin, S.I.K, MH, Monday, February 10, 2025, 10.00 WIT

¹⁰ Report on Public Order and Security Disturbances of the Ambon Police in 2023, Assistant Staff for Operations of the Police, Operations Control Bureau

14 cases of aggravated theft and 9 cases of violent theft. There were 2 cases of murder. While deliberately causing fires, rape, and kidnapping each had 1 case.

In 2024, crimes that occurred throughout 2023 decreased by 114 cases or 6.47%, the risk of the population being exposed to crime was 292 people/100,000 population and the time of the crime was 05.20'00". The number of traffic accidents in 2024 was 114 cases. Decreased by 21 cases or 15.56% with details of 22 fatalities, 27 serious injuries and 74 minor injuries.¹¹ The prominent cases throughout 2024 can be seen in the table below.

Table 3. Prominent Cases Throughout 2024

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Intentionally causing fire / flood | 1 case |
| Rape | 2 case |
| Murder | 2 case |
| Severe Abuse | 5 case |
| Aggravated Theft | 27 case |
| Theft with Violence | 5 case |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 15 case |
| Gambling | 2 case |

Source: Data processed by the Author based on interview results

Based on the data above, there were 8 prominent cases throughout 2024. The most cases were aggravated theft with 27 cases, followed by drug cases with 26 cases and motor vehicle theft with 15 cases. Meanwhile, theft with violence and serious assault each had 5 cases. Rape, murder and gambling as many as 2 cases. While intentionally causing a fire 1 case.

2. Transnational Crime

There are many activities that can be grouped as transnational crimes, for example drug trafficking, migrant smuggling, human trafficking, money laundering, smuggling of firearms, counterfeit goods, wildlife, cultural property, even some aspects of cybercrime. The transnational crimes that have occurred in the jurisdiction of the Ambon Island Police can be seen in the table below.

Table 4. Transnational Crime Data in the Period 2022-2024

| Kasus | Jumlah Kasus | Tahun |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| Narkotika | 25 | 2022 |
| Penyelundupan Senjata Api | 1 | |
| Tindak Pidana ITE/ <i>Cyber Crime</i> | 5 | |
| Narkotika | 20 | 2023 |
| Perdagangan Orang | 2 | |
| Tindak Pidana ITE/ <i>Cyber Crime</i> | 7 | |
| Narkotika | 26 | 2024 |
| Tindak Pidana ITE/ <i>Cyber Crime</i> | 12 | |
| Penyelundupan Senjata Api | 1 | |

¹¹ Report on Public Order and Security Disturbances of the Ambon Police in 2024, Assistant Staff for Operations of the Police, Operations Control Bureau

Source: Data processed by the Author based on interview results

Based on the data in the table above, in 2022 there were 4 cases of transnational crime, namely 25 narcotics cases, 1 firearms smuggling case and 5 ITE criminal acts. While in 2023, there were 3 cases, namely 20 narcotics cases, 2 human trafficking cases and 7 ITE criminal acts. Furthermore, in 2024, there were 3 cases, namely 26 narcotics cases, 12 ITE criminal acts and 1 firearms smuggling case. Narcotics cases in 2022 were 20 cases, decreasing in 2023 to 20 cases. However, it increased to 26 cases. Meanwhile, ITE (cyber crime) crimes are crimes that continue to increase from 2022 which was only 5 cases, in 2023 it increased to 7 cases until 2024 it increased to 12 cases.

3. Social Conflict-Based Crime

Social conflict is a relationship carried out by individuals or groups that is followed by acts of mutual threats and violence between one another.¹² Ambon City as the capital of Maluku Province is the center of all aspects of life. Ambon City is the main destination for people in Maluku Province and even people outside Maluku to seek a living and work. Thus, Ambon City has become a heterogeneous city in various aspects, be it ethnicity, religion, race and class. Even heterogeneous in terms of education level and different social status/economic level. Ambon was also hit by a social conflict in 1999 which caused many casualties and property losses. So that Ambon City is very vulnerable to social conflict-based crimes.

The social conflict that occurred throughout 2022 was a clash between two groups of youth in Ambon City because they were taunting each other. The conflict began when youth from Kailolo Village taunted youth from Kei. The conflict escalated into a fight between residents from Kei and Kailolo Village in the STAIN Batu Merah Village area.¹³ In 2023, there was a social conflict between two residents of Hitu and Wakal Village. Throughout 2023, there were 9 cases handled by the Ambon Island Police & PP Lease. It has been recorded that since 2000, the two residents have clashed over trivial matters. Every personal problem inevitably turns into a conflict between villages.¹⁴ Meanwhile, in 2024 there were no crimes based on social conflict in Ambon City and its surroundings.

C. Efforts to Combat and Prevent Crime in Ambon City, Which Has Island Characteristics

Marc Ancel stated that modern criminal science consists of three components, namely "Criminology", "Criminal Law" and "Penal Policy". He said that "Criminal law policy or penal policy" is a science and art that has a practical purpose in formulating laws, implementing laws and implementing court decisions, in this case criminal law regulations.¹⁵ So criminal law policy (penal policy) is not just a technique of criminal legislation in a normative and systematic dogmatic juridical manner but more than that must be carried out with various juridical, sociological, historical approaches or various other social science disciplines including criminology.¹⁶ The term criminal law policy is interpreted as a rational effort to overcome crime by using criminal law means. The

¹² Ajeng Dwi Pratiwi, Idris Harahap, Vira Madhani, Konflik Dalam Masyarakat Global, *Education 2* no 2 (2022), p. 81

¹³ <https://ambon.go.id/antisipasi-bentrokan-pemkot-bangun-pos-permanen-di-stain/>.

¹⁴ https://www.malukuterkini.com/2023/03/07/konflik-antar-warga-wakal-hitu-polisi-siapapun-terlibat-akan-ditindak/#google_vignette.

¹⁵ Barda Nawawi Arief, *Bunga Rampai Kebijakan Hukum Pidana*, Bandung: Citra Aditya Bakti, 2002, p. 23.

¹⁶ John Kenneddy, *Kebijakan Hukum Pidana (Penal Policy) Dalam Sistem Penegakan Hukum Di Indonesia*, Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 2017, p. 58

definition of criminal law policy can be viewed from the perspective of legal politics and criminal politics. Viewed from the perspective of legal politics, criminal law policy means how to strive for or create and formulate good criminal legislation. While criminal law policy when viewed from the perspective of criminal politics is an effort or policy to overcome crime with criminal law.

Based on the crime statistics that have been described previously, conventional crimes such as theft, aggravated theft, rape, assault, and so on can be handled using the Criminal Code. Transnational crimes such as drug trafficking, crimes related to ITE (cyber crime), firearms smuggling, human trafficking and so on, can be handled using laws outside the Criminal Code, which are related to these crimes. Social conflicts that have occurred in Ambon City and its surroundings have so far been reported to the police using conventional crime categories such as assault. Meanwhile, the police want the handling of social conflicts that often occur such as the Wakal and Hitu conflicts to be resolved using Law Number 7 of 2012 concerning Handling of Social Conflicts so that handling is more optimal.

Crime prevention efforts or criminal policies are essentially also an integral part of social policy, namely policies or efforts for social welfare. So that criminal policies aim to protect society so that they can create welfare for society.¹⁷ In general, criminal policies can be divided into 2, namely through the penal route (criminal law) and through the non-penal route (not/outside criminal law). Crime prevention efforts can be divided into two, namely through the "penal" route (criminal law) and through the "non-penal" route (not/outside criminal law). The penal route focuses more on repressive efforts (action/eradication/suppression) after a crime occurs. While the non-penal route focuses on preventive efforts (prevention/deterrence/control) before a crime occurs.¹⁸ So if we discuss crime prevention strategies in Ambon City which is characterized by an archipelago with a non-penal approach, we need to: 1) Identify what crimes are prominent; 2) Look for the causes or factors causing the crime; 3) Solutions/resolutions to the causal factors, for example to reduce the unemployment rate, the local government opens up job opportunities that can absorb workers, or community participation to open up job opportunities that can employ other people so as to reduce the unemployment rate; 4) Pay full attention to the geographical conditions of Ambon City which is characterized by an archipelago (vulnerable to control) and connectivity between regions/areas; 5) Pay attention to human resources/personnel and infrastructure needed to support crime prevention efforts, especially at the entry points to Ambon City (Airports, Ferry Ports and so on). So that it can minimize the level of narcotics circulation in Ambon City.

CONCLUSION

Based on the description that has been explained above, it can be concluded that the characteristics of crime in Ambon City which is characterized by an archipelago are forms of crime that are influenced by geographical conditions as an archipelago with 3 forms of crime occurring in Ambon City, namely conventional crime (including traffic accidents), transnational crime and crime based on social conflict. Efforts to combat crime in Ambon City which is characterized by an archipelago are by using two approaches, namely the penal approach (criminal law) and the non-penal approach (non-criminal law) as a preventive or prevention effort. It is necessary to identify the form of crime, the causal

¹⁷ Barda Nawawi Arief, *Masalah Penegakan Hukum dan Kebijakan Penanggulangan Kejahatan*, Bandung: Citra Aditya Bakti, 2001, p. 74

¹⁸ Yanti Amelia Lewerissa, *Kebijakan Kriminal Perburuan Burung Wallacea Di Kepulauan Aru*, *Sasi*, 27 no 3 (2021): 303 - 313

factors so that we can find out how to solve the causes of the crime. It is necessary to pay attention to the range of control and connectivity as the main factors for the success of handling crime in an area characterized by an archipelago such as Ambon City and the participation of all parties is needed in overcoming crime in Ambon City.

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