

The Professionalism of the Indonesian National Police in Addressing Gang related Disturbances in Traditional Markets Within the Jurisdiction of Bogor Regency

Wendy Setia Wiguna*, Henny Nuraeny, Jacobus Jopie Gilalo

Universitas Djuanda, Indonesia

Email: wendysetiawiguna@gmail.com*, henny.nuraeny@unida.ac.id,
jopie.gilalo@unida.ac.id

ABSTRACT

This study examines the professionalism of the Indonesian National Police in handling thuggery disturbances in traditional markets within the jurisdiction of Bogor Regency, along with the forms of legal protection provided to business actors and the broader impacts of thuggery on market security, order, and economic activity. The research employed a normative juridical method with a statute approach, relying on primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials collected through library research. The findings reveal that police professionalism in addressing thuggery has not been fully optimal. Although the police have carried out both preventive and repressive measures in accordance with applicable regulations, the handling remains reactive, incidental, and unsustainable, failing to eliminate thuggery practices comprehensively. Legal protection provided by local governments and law enforcement officials tends to be normative and administrative in nature, lacking effective integration and neglecting victim assistance and recovery aspects. Thuggery has been proven to produce significant negative impacts on traditional market environments, including the erosion of security and public order, the emergence of informal power structures that supplant formal authority, increased operational burdens on small traders through illegal levies, and declining market competitiveness. Furthermore, thuggery undermines public trust in law enforcement institutions and discourages investment in the micro, small, and medium enterprise sector. This research concludes that an integrated, cross-sectoral approach is essential, encompassing strengthened whistleblower protection, intensified security measures, improved inter-agency coordination, and policy-level reforms in traditional market governance to effectively eradicate thuggery and ensure sustainable legal protection for market business actors.

Keywords: police professionalism; thuggery; traditional market; legal protection; law enforcement.

INTRODUCTION

Traditional markets are one of the main pillars of the national economy that functions as a center of people's economic activities, especially for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Traditional markets remain the center of the people's economy that plays an important role in the distribution of basic necessities and as a space for community social activities that take place every day. Traditional markets are an integral part of the local economic structure that absorbs labor and sustains the lives of the lower middle class, plays an

important role in distributing basic necessities that are untouched by modern retail, and becomes a space for socio-economic interaction that is typical of Indonesia (Ministry of Trade of the Republic of Indonesia, 2021).

In many areas, including Bogor Regency, traditional markets such as Cibinong Market, Leuwiliang Market, Citeureup Market, and Cisarua Market are the main bases of the household economy, because the majority of business actors are small and micro traders who depend on their family income from buying and selling activities in the market.

Thuggery is a social phenomenon that has long developed in various urban and rural areas in Indonesia. The term thug itself comes from the word *free man* which literally means a free person, that is, an individual who is not bound by a formal work structure (Anderson, 2022). However, in social development in Indonesia, the term has shifted its meaning to individuals or groups who commit acts of intimidation, violence, or coercion to gain economic benefits illegally. Thuggish activities are often found in various public spaces that have high economic activity, including traditional markets. The existence of thuggery in informal economic activities shows that there are gaps in the system of supervision and law enforcement. This condition can give rise to various forms of illegal practices such as illegal levies, illegal ownership of parking lots, and acts of intimidation against traders (Nuraeny, 2021).

In a criminological perspective, thuggery is often associated with social, economic, and cultural factors that develop in society. Economic inequality, limited employment, and weak social control are some of the factors that encourage the emergence of informal groups that carry out violent activities to gain economic benefits. In traditional market environments, this condition is often exacerbated by weak supervision and the complexity of social relations between traders and certain groups that have influence in the region. Thuggery then developed into an informal system that regulates various economic activities such as security, parking, and the distribution of goods. In some cases, the practice is even considered something common by some people because it has been going on for a long time. This condition shows that thuggery is not only a problem of crime, but also related to the social structure that develops in society. Therefore, efforts to handle thuggery must be carried out systematically through legal, social, and institutional approaches (Fauzi, 2023).

The phenomenon of thuggery that occurs in traditional markets often has various negative impacts on people's lives. One of the most obvious impacts is the emergence of insecurity for traders and market visitors. The practice of illegal levies carried out by thugs also causes increased economic costs that must be borne by traders. This condition can ultimately lower the level of welfare of small traders who depend on trading activities in traditional markets. In addition, intimidation and violent practices carried out by thugs can also disrupt security stability in the market environment (Kurniawan, 2021).

In the law enforcement system in Indonesia, the police have a strategic role in maintaining public security and order. These tasks include prevention, enforcement, and community development activities in order to create conducive security conditions. Police professionalism is one of the main factors that determine the success of the implementation of these duties. Professionalism is not only related to the technical ability of police officers in enforcing the law, but also includes integrity, professional ethics, and commitment to providing services to the community. In the context of handling thuggery in traditional markets, police professionalism is very important because police officers must be able to act decisively while

still upholding the principles of justice and human rights. In addition, the police must also be able to build good relationships with the community in order to create cooperation in maintaining environmental security (Hartono, 2022).

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Thuggishness in the traditional market environment cannot be separated from the various factors that influence the emergence of such behavior. Economic factors are one of the main causes that encourage individuals to engage in thuggery activities. Limited employment opportunities and low levels of education often cause some people to choose the informal route to meet their living needs. In addition, social environmental factors also have a considerable influence in shaping thuggery behavior. A permissive environment for acts of violence and intimidation can strengthen the existence of thug groups in society. This condition is exacerbated by weak law enforcement which provides space for the group to continue operating (Suryadi & Iqbal, 2020).

According to the study of criminal law and criminal sociology, thuggery is a form of social deviation that develops due to an imbalance between legal norms and social practices in society. In some cases, thugs are even able to build an organized network that makes it difficult to eradicate them thoroughly. This condition suggests that thuggery is not only related to individual actions, but can also develop into a group phenomenon that has a specific structure and system (Hidayat, 2023).

The thought about thuggery is also explained by Prof. Heny Nuraeny who states that thuggery is a social phenomenon that is closely related to the weak social control system and economic inequality in society. According to him, thuggery often develops in informal economic spaces that have high activity but lack adequate supervision from law enforcement officials. This condition causes certain groups to take advantage of the situation to gain economic advantage illegally. Thuggish Ness in this context is not only seen as a criminal act, but also as a social phenomenon that indicates an imbalance in the social system of society (Nuraeny, 2020).

The Bogor Regency area as one of the areas with a large population has many traditional markets that are the center of people's economic activities. The high level of trade activity in the region makes traditional markets a space vulnerable to various forms of security disturbances, including thuggery. In some cases, the practice of illegal levies and intimidation of traders is still found in some traditional markets. This condition shows that efforts to handle thuggery still require serious attention from law enforcement officials. The existence of the

police as an institution responsible for maintaining public safety is very important in dealing with these problems (Hidayat, 2022).

The professionalism of the police in dealing with thuggery is not only measured by the success in carrying out legal action, but also by the ability to prevent and foster the community. A preventive approach through patrol activities, legal counseling, and cooperation with market managers can be an effective step in preventing the emergence of thuggery practices. In addition, the police must also be able to build public trust so that the public dares to report various forms of criminal acts that occur in the market environment. With cooperation between the community and the police, efforts to handle thuggery can be carried out more effectively and sustainably (Prasetyo, 2024).

The threat of thuggery in traditional markets is not just an ordinary criminal act, but has developed into a structural problem that has a direct impact on the economic stability of the people and the security of business actors. Regarding illegal levies, intimidation, enforcement of security fees, and control of parking areas by thugs are complaints that often appear in traders' forums and reports to local governments. Thugs take advantage of the vulnerability of small traders who do not have access to adequate legal protection, so they are forced to submit to unofficial rules imposed by thug groups in order to be able to sell. This condition causes an increase in traders' operational costs, disruption of the comfort of doing business, and it is not uncommon for traders to suffer financial losses due to repeated pressures and threats made by the group (Bogor Regency Government, 2023).

From a legal perspective, this situation is contrary to the principle of legal protection as affirmed in Article 28D paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution which states that everyone has the right to legal certainty and fair protection. In addition, Article 33 of the 1945 Constitution also places the state as a guarantor of people's economic activities so that they can run safely and orderly. This means that business actors in the traditional market have a constitutional right to obtain state protection against all forms of threats that interfere with their freedom to do business. However, the reality on the ground shows that the state's function in ensuring the legal security of business actors has not run optimally, thus creating a gap between ideal legal norms and empirical practices (Undang-Undang Dasar Negara Republik Indonesia Tahun 1945).

The thuggery that is rooted in traditional markets also shows the weak supervision and enforcement of the law at the local government level. Although there have been regulations on public order and market management, various regulations on public order, and the regulation of levies, the implementation of these regulations has not been fully able to prevent the infiltration of thug groups. The market apparatus that is supposed to maintain order often lacks the capacity, resources, or even the courage to prevent intimidating acts committed by thugs. As a result, traders are the most vulnerable and often choose to remain silent for fear of the threat of reprisals (Peraturan Daerah Kabupaten Bogor Nomor 2 Tahun 2021 tentang Ketertiban Umum dan Ketentraman Masyarakat).

Various community reports show that thuggery in traditional markets does not stand alone, but is connected to deviant practices such as *pungli*, land tenure, illegal security, and collusion between officials and certain groups. This condition shows that the problem of thuggery is not only a criminal issue, but also a structural problem in market management and legal protection. In the context of legal research, this phenomenon is important to study because

it concerns the interaction between legal norms, the behavior of officials, the rights of business actors, and the effectiveness of the market security system (Nadaa, 2023).

The behavior of thuggery has caused significant economic losses. Small traders in traditional markets have to incur routine costs that are not legal to pay for security, which when totaled can reach hundreds of thousands to millions of rupiah per month. This burden ultimately increases the selling price of goods, reduces the competitiveness of traditional markets, and affects local inflation. These losses are not only experienced by business actors, but also affect regional economic conditions more broadly (BPS Kabupaten Bogor, 2023).

The decline in public interest in traditional markets indirectly increases the dominance of modern markets and *e-commerce*, which have better security and surveillance systems. If thuggery is not eradicated, traditional markets can lose their function as the center of the people's economy, leading to job losses and weakening of the local economy

The legal vulnerabilities experienced by traders are further exacerbated by their lack of understanding of the legal rights that should be obtained. Many traders are unaware of legal protection mechanisms, do not know reporting procedures, or are afraid to report for fear of reprisals. This shows that there is a serious gap between the applicable law and the ability of the public to access it. In the research of empirical juridical methods, this condition is one of the indicators of the ineffectiveness of legal norms when they cannot be practiced by legal subjects who should benefit from them (Soekanto, 2020).

In the context of traditional market governance, the presence of thuggery led to the emergence of an informal power system that replaced the official authority of the government. This creates *dual authority* within the market: formal authority (government) and informal authority (thugs). When informal authority is more dominant, the law no longer functions as a regulator of public behavior, but is replaced by unwritten rules imposed by thugs.

Law enforcement officials themselves face limitations in eradicating thuggery in the market, ranging from the lack of patrols, low supervision, to legal processes that often do not provide a deterrent effect. Some cases of thuggery that are successfully acted upon are usually only carried out sporadically through police operations, rather than through systemic approaches. In fact, thuggery is a criminal act that can be charged with various articles, including threats, extortion, vandalism, and other minor crimes (Undang-Undang Nomor 1 Tahun 2023 tentang Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Pidana, Pasal tentang Pemerasan dan Ancaman).

The thuggery that occurs in the traditional market of Bogor Regency also affects the effectiveness of local government public policies, especially in terms of market structuring and revitalization. The local government has carried out a number of physical revitalization programs of the market to increase the comfort and competitiveness of traditional markets, but these efforts do not have a significant impact if market security remains controlled by thugs. Thuggery hinders government programs because traders are often afraid to follow organizational instructions if they conflict with the interests of informal groups that dominate the market. This shows that the success of public policy does not only depend on physical infrastructure, but also on ensuring legal security for business actors (Rahardjo, 2009).

The phenomenon of thuggery also has an impact on market management by local governments. Thugs who control certain areas often block the market structuring, revitalization, or relocation efforts carried out by the Trade Office. Traders have become all

wrong because they are between government interests and pressure from thug groups. As a result, the implementation of market governance policies is slow, not optimal, and even causes horizontal conflicts. Legally, this condition shows a weakness in the function of *the bestuurszorg* of the local government, namely the responsibility to provide safe and orderly public services for the community (Hadjon, 1987).

Although the Bogor Regency Government has issued several public order policies, these actions have not addressed the root of the problem of thuggery. Many traders complain that the existing policies are only administrative in nature without touching on structural issues such as supervisory mechanisms, levy transparency, or market security governance. This gap between policy and implementation reinforces the need for research that can map the effectiveness of legal protection and analyze structural barriers in eradicating thuggery (Soekanto, 2014).

In addition, thuggery has an impact on the investment climate of MSMEs in the traditional market. The fear of traders to develop and expand their businesses is a major obstacle to local economic growth. Small investors are reluctant to invest, distributors are reluctant to increase supply, and new traders are reluctant to open businesses in markets that are known to be prone to thuggery. On a macro level, this phenomenon will affect Regional Original Revenue (PAD) from the traditional market sector. This makes this research important as a scientific analysis of the relationship between legal security and regional economic development (Roestamy, 2023).

If this condition is not addressed immediately, the traditional market can lose its attractiveness and lose competition with modern retail which is much safer and more orderly. In fact, local governments have an obligation to maintain the sustainability of traditional markets as people's economic assets. Thus, this research is also important in the context of protecting small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) which play a major role in absorbing labor and maintaining local economic stability in accordance with the 1945 Constitution (Undang-Undang Dasar Negara Republik Indonesia Tahun 1945, Pasal 33).

Various cases of thuggery that have emerged in Bogor Regency also show a recurring pattern: intimidation of new traders, control of parking lots and loading and unloading by certain groups, and the emergence of unofficial levies ahead of the big day. This pattern illustrates the existence of an informal power system that runs parallel to the official system of government. From a legal perspective, the existence of an informal system that is more dominant than formal rules show the weak function of law as *social control* (Soekanto, 2012).

This research is also important considering the potential involvement of officials in protecting the practice of thuggery, or at least allowing thuggery to develop without firm action. This situation raises serious problems in the aspect of *law enforcement*, including the integrity of law enforcement officials. Without consistent law enforcement, business actors will not have a sense of security to do business. This creates *legal uncertainty* that is contrary to the principles of the rule of law.

In the midst of this complexity, business actors in the traditional market of Bogor Regency actually have clear legal protection rights, both based on laws, regional regulations, and trade regulations. However, the effectiveness of these rights depends on the extent to which government officials and law enforcement can ensure their implementation. Therefore, it is very important to conduct research that analyzes the legal protection that traders should receive and how the reality is on the ground.

Research on the legal security of business actors from the threat of thuggery also has important academic value because it can fill the gap in literature that specifically discusses the relationship between law, security, and traditional markets. Most studies only highlight criminal or social aspects, not from the perspective of direct legal protection of business actors. Thus, this research will provide a new perspective in the study of people's economic law.

Based on all these descriptions, it is clear that there are serious problems related to legal protection for business actors in traditional markets from the threat of thuggery. There is a gap between the ideal legal norms and the practices that occur in Bogor Regency. Therefore, this research is important to analyze how legal protection should be provided, what the barriers are, and how effective law enforcement strategies can be formulated.

Based on the description that has been presented in the background above, the author formulates the problem which is divided into 2 (two) parts, which are as follows: 1) How is the professionalism of the police in handling and securing disturbances of thuggery in the traditional market environment in the jurisdiction of Bogor Regency? 2) What is the form of legal protection provided by local governments and law enforcement officials to business actors in traditional markets from the threat of thuggery? 3) How does thuggery affect security, order, and economic activity in the traditional market environment?

Based on the identification of the problems that the author has stated above, this study aims to: 1) To analyze the professionalism of the police in handling and securing disturbances of thuggery in the traditional market environment in the jurisdiction of Bogor Regency. 2) To find out the form of legal protection provided by local governments and law enforcement officials to business actors in traditional markets from the threat of thuggery. 3) To analyze the impact of thuggery on security, order, and economic activity in traditional market environments.

METHODS

Research methods were procedures or ways of obtaining correct knowledge or truth through systematic steps. In this research method, the research method used is clearly stated (Roestamy, Suhartini, & Yumarni, 2020).

The method used in this study is a normative juridical research method.

Approach

The method used by the author in this study is to use the Normative Juridical approach method, which is writing that uses literature studies as long as it is necessary and also by conducting interviews to complete the literature study (Yumarni, Roestamy, & Suhartini, 2020). The normative juridical legal research model is an approach that focuses on the analysis of legal texts, legal norms, and applicable legal rules. This approach examines how the law should be applied and identifies the legal rules that are relevant to an issue or case (Roestamy, 2024). Statute approach This approach is carried out by examining and analyzing various laws and regulations related to legal protection, public order, traditional market management, and enforcement of thuggery practices, both at the national and regional levels (Scott, 2017).

Data Collection Techniques

The data collection technique is carried out using the *Library Research* Method where data is obtained from certain sources, namely:

- 1) Books related to the research conducted.

- 2) Scientific Writings. Online legal source articles
- 3) Legal materials consisting of Laws and other regulations relevant to the title of the thesis.

Data Types and Sources

The sources of materials used in this study are divided into 3 (three), namely primary legal materials, secondary legal materials and tertiary legal materials, which will be described as follows:

Primary legal materials are *library research* materials, which have legal materials that are binding on the problem to be researched, where in this case the primary legal materials consist of laws and regulations, official records or treatises in making laws and regulations, the primary legal materials used by the author are as follows:

The primary legal sources used include:

- a) Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia of 1945 (1945 Constitution)
- b) Criminal Code (KUHP)
- c) Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP)
- d) Law No. 23 of 2014 concerning Regional Government
- e) Law No. 8 of 1981 concerning the Enforcement of Criminal Law
- f) Bogor Regency Regional Regulation on Public Order
- g) Bogor Regency Regional Regulation on Traditional Market Management
- h) Presidential Instruction and National Police Chief's Instruction on the Eradication of Thuggery
- i) Regulation of the Minister of Trade on the Management of Traditional Markets
- j) Official Documents of the Regional Government of Bogor Regency

Secondary Legal Materials

Secondary legal materials, which are literature materials that provide explanations of primary legal materials, consisting of: books, scientific writings, results of previous research, and other materials related to the title of this research. The data used to solve the problem in this study is secondary data, namely obtained from the results of Pustaka research by studying books and journals related to this research.

Tertiary Legal Materials

Tertiary legal materials are materials that provide instructions and explanations of primary and secondary laws, such as: legal dictionaries, encyclopedias, and other legal materials that can be used to support this research.

Data Collection and Analysis Techniques

In normative legal research, data collection is carried out by *library research* or searching the legal literature with the aim of searching and finding legal materials and then analyzing them.

Data Analysis Methods

In normative legal research, the data analysis method used is qualitative analysis, which is by explaining the relationship between legal facts and legal principles contained in the law, in the following way:

- 1) Primary legal materials are analyzed by interpretive methods according to legal science. For example: authentic interpretation, and systematic interpretation.
- 2) Secondary legal materials are analyzed by the *content analysis* method of the reading materials used.

Research Location

For the purposes of this research, the author took the location, namely:

- 1) Library of Djuanda University Bogor
- 2) Traditional Markets in Bogor Regency

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Police Professionalism in Handling and Securing Disturbances of Thugs in the Traditional Market Environment in the Jurisdiction of Bogor Regency

The professionalism of the police in handling thuggery disturbances in the traditional market of Bogor Regency is an important indicator of the success of the state's function in ensuring public security and order. Traditional markets as a public space that is dense with economic activities require the presence of police officers who are not only repressive, but also preventive and humane. In this context, the professionalism of the National Police is reflected in the ability of the apparatus to understand the social characteristics of the market and apply the law fairly and proportionately (Undang-Undang Nomor 2 Tahun 2002 tentang Kepolisian Negara Republik Indonesia).

The preemptive approach is carried out through the provision of *kamtibmas* appeals to traders and market managers as a form of legal education. This step aims to build collective awareness to reject all forms of intimidation and illegal levies. However, the results of observations show that most traders are still reluctant to report the practice of thuggery due to fear of possible reprisals from the perpetrators. This condition shows that the preemptive approach has not been fully effective without a guarantee of real protection for the complainant (Observation Results, 2026).

The jurisdiction of Bogor Regency has high social complexity because traditional markets are the center of interaction of people from various backgrounds. These conditions make the market vulnerable to thuggery practices such as illegal levies, intimidation, and illegal land grabbing. Therefore, police professionalism is required to be able to read potential security disturbances early on and take effective preventive measures (Soekanto, 2021).

The handling of thuggery in the traditional market of Bogor Regency cannot be done incidentally, but must be done through a planned and sustainable security pattern. The professionalism of the police is reflected in the mapping of vulnerable areas, the proportional placement of personnel, and the implementation of routine patrols. This effort shows that market safeguarding is not just a response to reports, but is part of the *kamtibmas* maintenance strategy (Nawawi Arief, 2022).

In the repressive aspect, the Police have carried out control operations against the practice of thuggery in the traditional market environment. The action was carried out through raids, arrests, and coaching against parties who were indicated to carry out illegal levies. However, field findings show that these actions tend to be incidental and have not touched the root of the structural thuggery problem (Nawawi Arief, 2022).

The aspect of professional ethics is also an important indicator in assessing the professionalism of the police. Responsive, transparent, and empathetic attitude towards public reports is part of a fair public service. However, field findings show that not all traders' reports are followed up quickly, casting doubt on the effectiveness of the legal protections provided (Peraturan Kapolri Nomor 14 Tahun 2011 tentang Kode Etik Profesi Kepolisian Negara

Republik Indonesia).

In the perspective of victimology, thuggery in traditional markets places traders as victims who suffer losses not only economically, but also psychologically and socially. Henny Nuraeny emphasized that victims of crime are often in a weak position due to unequal power relations, so they are reluctant to report the events they experience to law enforcement officials. This condition is in line with the findings of the field in this study, where traditional market traders in Bogor Regency tend to choose a silent attitude as a mechanism for self-protection. Therefore, the professionalism of the police is not enough only to be measured by the success of the prosecution, but also by the ability of the authorities to provide a sense of security, protection, and real partiality to victims so that they dare to access justice (Nuraeny, 2020).

In the aspect of enforcement, the professionalism of the police is tested through the courage and firmness of the apparatus in enforcing the law against the perpetrators of thuggery. Strict law enforcement but still upholding legal procedures shows the integrity of the police institution. In Bogor Regency, the effectiveness of enforcement is highly dependent on the consistency of the authorities in implementing the law indiscriminately (Hiariej, 2021).

However, police professionalism is not only measured from the aspect of enforcement, but also from the preventive approach carried out. Coaching to market traders, communication with market managers, and community involvement in maintaining security are part of modern policing strategies. This approach is in line with the concept of community policing which places the community as a police partner (Kunarto, 2020).

In practice, preventive approaches often face obstacles in the form of low trust of traders in law enforcement officials. Fear of back-and-forth from *thuggers* caused some traders to be reluctant to report. This condition requires the professionalism of the police in building trust through responsiveness, transparency, and protection of whistleblowers (Mulyadi, 2021).

Police professionalism is also closely related to the ability of the apparatus to cooperate with local governments and market managers. Synergy between agencies is an important factor in creating an effective market security system. Without good coordination, the handling of thuggery tends to be partial and unsustainable (Manan, 2020).

In the context of Bogor Regency, the success of securing traditional markets is greatly influenced by the role of police leaders in directing policies and internal supervision. Professional leadership will encourage members to act in accordance with the standard operating procedures and code of conduct of the police. This aspect is an important foundation in maintaining the professionalism of the institution (Peraturan Kepala Kepolisian Negara Republik Indonesia Nomor 14 Tahun 2011 tentang Kode Etik Profesi Kepolisian Negara).

Police professionalism must also be seen from the ability of the apparatus to respect human rights. The arbitrary handling of thuggery can actually cause new legal problems and damage the image of the police. Therefore, every security measure must be carried out proportionately and accountably (Komnas HAM RI, 2023).

Evaluation of police professionalism in handling thuggery needs to be carried out on an ongoing basis. This evaluation includes the effectiveness of security, the level of reduction in security disturbances, and the satisfaction of the market community with the performance of the police. Without evaluation, efforts to handle thuggery have the potential to be stagnant and not adaptive to the development of crime modes (Friedman, 2020).

According to academic views, the professionalism of law enforcement officials must be

oriented towards substantive justice and the protection of small communities. In the context of traditional markets, the police are required to side with the interests of traders as a vulnerable group. This approach strengthens the legitimacy of the police as a protector of the community (Roestamy, 2022).

Field findings also show that police professionalism is greatly influenced by the communication pattern between the apparatus and market traders. Officials who are open, accessible, and responsive to traders' complaints tend to gain higher trust. On the other hand, an overly formal and distanced approach often discourages traders from interacting with the police.

This study also found that the limitations of police professionalism in handling thuggery are influenced by internal factors, such as the limited number of personnel and the high workload. Traditional markets that have a high intensity of economic activity require special security patterns that are different from other security objects. Without adequate resource support, the professionalism of the apparatus is difficult to realize optimally.

In addition to internal factors, external factors such as latent patterns of thuggery and informal power relations also affect the effectiveness of handling by the police. Perpetrators of thuggery often take advantage of legal loopholes and traders' economic dependence to maintain their influence. This condition requires police officers to have early detection capabilities and a more in-depth intelligence approach.

In the practice of handling cases, the police officers admitted that there were limited resources, both in terms of the number of personnel and supporting facilities. The large area of the traditional market and the large number of traders cause supervision cannot be carried out optimally at all times. This condition is a challenge in maintaining the consistency of securing traditional markets in Bogor Regency.

The results of field observations also show that coordination between the police, market managers, and local governments is still not fully optimal. In some cases, the handling of thuggery has been slow due to overlapping authority and a lack of a structured coordination mechanism. This has an impact on the effectiveness of law enforcement in the market environment.

Nevertheless, there are real efforts from the police to improve professionalism through preventive approaches. Market *sambang* activities, dialogue with traders, and fostering market environmental security are strategies that are considered effective in preventing the re-emergence of thuggery practices. This approach shows a paradigm shift in policing from mere enforcement to community service and protection.

From the results of these observations, it can be concluded that the professionalism of the police in handling thuggery in the traditional market of Bogor Regency has shown positive developments, but still needs strengthening. This strengthening is especially needed in the aspect of whistleblower protection, increasing the intensity of security, and strengthening cross-sector coordination so that the handling of thuggery can run sustainably and effectively (Roestamy, 2025).

Police professionalism is also closely related to cross-sector coordination. The results of the study show that coordination between the police, local governments, and market managers has not been fully integrated in one integrated security system. As a result, efforts to deal with thuggery are often partial and unsustainable.

Forms of legal protection provided by local governments and law enforcement officials for business actors in traditional markets against the threat of thuggery

Legal protection for traditional market business actors in the Bogor Regency area is a joint responsibility between the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia and the Regional Government. This protection is not only realized through criminal law enforcement against perpetrators of security disturbances, but also through conducive administrative policies and market management. Synergy between agencies is a determining factor for the effectiveness of legal protection for market traders (Asshiddiqie, 2020).

Local governments carry out the function of legal protection through traditional market management authority, including the regulation of public order and the security of the market environment. These efforts are realized through the issuance of regional regulations, the assignment of police units to the civil service, and coordination with the police apparatus. The presence of local governments is important because traditional markets are public spaces that are the center of economic activities of small communities, so they require special protection from intimidation and extortion practices. Law enforcement officials, especially the police, play a direct role in providing repressive legal protection to business actors who are victims of thuggery. These actions include receiving reports, investigations, investigations, and law enforcement against the perpetrators of crimes. In addition, the police also have a preventive function through routine patrols, community coaching, and community approaches to prevent security disturbances in traditional markets (Ridwan HR, 2020).

From a victimization perspective, traditional market business actors can be categorized as victims of structural crime because they are in a weak economic and social position. Victims of crime often do not dare to report due to fear of further threats and distrust of the authorities. Therefore, legal protection is not enough just with action, but must be accompanied by security guarantees and assistance for victims so that their rights are truly fulfilled (Nuraeny, 2020).

Synergy between local governments and law enforcement officials is a determining factor for the effectiveness of legal protection for traditional market business actors. Weak coordination can lead to the practice of thuggery continuing latently, even though regulations are in place. On the contrary, strong collaboration between local governments, police, and market managers can create a sustainable sense of security and increase the courage of traders to report crimes.

In a normative context, the police have the authority to provide protection, protection, and services to the community as stipulated in Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia. The legal protection provided to market traders is realized through preventive, repressive, and protection efforts for victims of criminal acts. This function is the juridical basis for the involvement of the National Police in maintaining the security of traditional markets (Undang-Undang Nomor 2 Tahun 2002).

Legal instruments used by local governments include regional regulations on public order, market management policies, and the assignment of the Pamong Praja Police Unit. However, the effectiveness of such instruments is highly dependent on implementation in the field. Weak oversight and lack of coordination often lead to regulation being only normative, while the practice of thuggery remains covertly in traditional market environments (Hadjon, 2021).

Meanwhile, the Bogor Regency Regional Government has the authority to manage the

market and enforce public order based on the principle of regional autonomy. Local governments are responsible for providing regulations, infrastructure, and a supervisory system that is able to create a safe and orderly market environment. Failure to perform this function has the potential to weaken legal protections for market traders (Manan, 2020).

Based on the results of observations with police officers in Bogor Regency, legal protection of market traders is carried out through routine patrols, integrated raids, and enforcement of illegal levy practices. The authorities stated that the step was aimed at providing a sense of security and preventing the re-development of thuggery practices. However, the effectiveness of these safeguards is highly dependent on the consistency and sustainability of safeguarding activities.

The results of observations with traditional market traders show that the presence of police officers has a positive impact on the sense of security in running a business. Traders feel more protected when the authorities are actively patrolling and responsive to reports. However, some traders still feel that legal protection is not fully optimal due to concerns about post-reporting intimidation.

Legal protection by the police is also realized through the implementation of Law Number 31 of 2014 concerning the Protection of Witnesses and Victims. In practice, the police try to provide security guarantees for traders who are willing to report criminal acts. However, field findings show that socialization of victims' rights still needs to be improved (Undang-Undang Nomor 31 Tahun 2014).

Effective legal protection must also include aspects of victim recovery, both psychologically and economically. It is not enough for the state to stop acts of thuggery, but also to restore the sense of security and legal trust of business actors. This recovery is important so that victims can return to carrying out economic activities normally without the shadow of intimidation and threats.

The Bogor Regency Regional Government also plays a role in legal protection through the issuance of regional regulations on public order and market management. The regulation is the legal basis for control and supervision actions in the market environment. However, the effectiveness of local regulations is highly dependent on coordination between local governments and law enforcement officials (Yuliandri, 2021).

The results of field observations show that coordination between the National Police and local governments in some cases has not been optimal. The overlap of authority and limited communication between agencies causes the handling of security disturbances in the market to be slow. This condition has a direct impact on the effectiveness of legal protection for traditional market traders (Roestamy, 2025).

Nevertheless, there are synergistic efforts that have begun to be developed, such as joint operations between the police, Satpol PP, and market managers. This operation aims to bring order to illegal practices and increase supervision in the market environment. This collaborative approach reflects a more comprehensive legal protection effort.

The legal protection provided by the local government also includes non-penal aspects, such as the development of traders and market arrangements. Good arrangement will reduce the potential for conflict and minimize the space for *thuggers* to move. Therefore, market structuring policies are an important part of the legal protection strategy.

From a social justice perspective, legal protection for traditional market traders should be

oriented towards siding with weak economic groups. Market traders need real protection in order to run a business without pressure and threats. Impartial legal protection will actually widen social inequality (Rahardjo, 2020).

Evaluation of legal protection by the National Police and the Bogor Regency Regional Government shows that the efforts made have had a positive impact, but still need strengthening. This strengthening is mainly needed in the aspects of whistleblower protection, increasing the intensity of security, and strengthening cross-sector coordination.

Thus, legal protection for traditional market business actors in Bogor Regency must be carried out in an integrated manner between the police and local governments. Sustainable synergy, professionalism of the apparatus, and responsive regional policies will be the key to creating a safe, orderly, and fair traditional market.

The Impact of Thuggery on Security, Order, and Economic Activity in Traditional Market Environments

Thuggishness in the traditional market environment has a direct impact on the decline in the level of security and public order. The practice of intimidation, illegal levies, and illegal occupancy of spaces creates a persistent fear among traders and market visitors alike. This condition causes the market to lose its function as a safe and comfortable public space, thereby hampering people's social and economic activities (Soekanto, 2021).

Thuggery is not only a problem of individual crimes, but also a social phenomenon that has a wide impact on people's lives. The existence of thuggery in the public space, especially in the centers of economic activity, has the potential to damage social order and security. The impact is not only felt by the immediate victims, but also by the community as a whole.

One of the main impacts of thuggery is the disruption of public security. Acts of intimidation, threats, and violence perpetrated by thugs create collective fear. This condition causes people to be reluctant to report criminal acts because they are afraid of reprisals. In the long run, this insecurity can reduce the quality of social life. The loss of security is the most obvious impact of street crime. Thuggery thus weakens the function of the law as a protector of society.

From the security aspect, thuggery causes latent and systemic disturbances. The perpetrators of thuggery do not always commit open violence, but use a covert threat that is difficult to detect. The results of field observations show that this situation makes traders tend to be passive and choose to adjust rather than deal with the risk of conflict (Roestamy, 2025).

Disturbances to public order are also a real impact of thuggery in traditional markets. The activities of thugs that are allowed to take place can form a pattern of informal territorial control, which ultimately replaces the functions of official authority. The order that is supposed to be maintained by the apparatus and market managers is disturbed, because formal rules are defeated by informal power built through threats and violence (Rahardjo, 2020).

The impact on market order is also very significant. Thuggery often interferes with market governance, such as the arrangement of stalls, the distribution of goods, and parking management. This irregularity causes the market to become chaotic and reduces the effectiveness of management by local governments. In the long run, this disorder weakens the authority of the law in the market environment (Ridwan HR, 2021).

Thuggishness also has a significant economic impact, especially for small and medium business actors. The practice of extortion and illegal levies increases business costs illegally.

This condition reduces profits and hinders business development. In the long run, thuggery can lead to business closures and increased unemployment. This economic impact shows that thuggery is not only a crime against individuals, but also against the economy of society (Anwar, 2023).

The economic impact of thuggery is felt directly by traditional market business actors. Illegal levies charged to traders add unofficial operational costs, thereby reducing business profits. In the long run, this condition can lead to a decrease in the competitiveness of small traders and weaken the people's economic structure that is the main characteristic of traditional markets.

In addition to the economic impact, thuggery also has an impact on the social order of society. The presence of thug groups creates informal power relations that replace formal law. In these conditions, society is more subject to power than law. Crimes that systematically dominate public spaces can undermine the social structure and social control of society. *Thuggishness* is a symbol of the weakening of legal norms (Reksodiputro, 2022). *Thuggishness* also has an impact on declining productivity and traders' motivation. The fear and psychological pressure experienced by the victim caused a decrease in work morale and reluctance to develop a business. The market, which should be a space for economic growth, has instead turned into a space of uncertainty that hinders innovation and business sustainability.

Thuggery also has a negative impact on law enforcement. When thugs operate openly, there is a perception that law enforcement officials are absent or helpless. This perception lowers public trust in the law and state apparatus. In the long run, these conditions can encourage people to seek justice informally. The impact of thuggery is also felt in the psychological aspects of the victim. Victims often experience prolonged trauma, anxiety, and fear. This psychological impact affects the quality of life and productivity of victims. From a victimological perspective, psychological loss is a serious form of victimization. Therefore, the handling of thuggery must pay attention to the recovery of the victim, not just the action against the perpetrator. Thuggery also has an impact on the investment climate and regional economic development (Nuraeny, 2020). The unsafe business environment makes investors reluctant to invest capital. This hinders economic growth and regional development. In this context, security is the main prerequisite for development. Thuggery can thus be a serious obstacle to sustainable development (Muladi, 2022).

Another impact of thuggery is the increasing dependence of society on informal protection mechanisms. When formal laws are ineffective, people tend to seek protection from other parties, including thugs. This condition creates a vicious circle that is difficult to break. *Thuggishness* also has an impact on the quality of local governance. The inability of local governments to deal with thuggery reflects weak security governance. This condition lowers public trust in the government. In the long run, it can disrupt social and political stability (Ridwan HR, 2021).

Results in the field with traditional market traders in Bogor Regency show that thuggery has an impact on decreasing the sense of security in doing business. Traders admitted that they had to incur additional costs outside of official provisions to avoid disruptions, thereby increasing the operational burden of the business. This practice directly harms small traders who have limited capital. In terms of economic activity, thuggery causes a decrease in the

productivity and competitiveness of traditional market traders. Unofficial fees charged by *thuggers* reduce traders' profits and potentially increase the selling price of goods. As a result, the appeal of traditional markets is declining in the eyes of consumers.

Thuggery also has an impact on consumers' interest in shopping in traditional markets. An unsafe and disorderly market environment makes consumers feel uncomfortable. In the long term, this condition encourages a shift in consumer preferences to modern markets that are considered safer and more orderly, thus threatening the sustainability of traditional markets.

From the perspective of social order, thuggery creates informal power relations that are contrary to the principle of the rule of law. The perpetrators of thuggery often act as if they have authority, while the state apparatus does not appear to be dominant. This condition gives rise to the perception that the law is not present effectively in the market environment (Asshiddiqie, 2020). The social impact of thuggery can also be seen in the decline in public trust in law enforcement officials and local governments. When the practice of thuggery takes place openly without firm action, there is a perception that the state is not present in protecting citizens. This loss of trust has the potential to increase the distance between the public and the authorities, which ultimately weakens the effectiveness of law enforcement (Friedman, 2020).

Furthermore, thuggery in traditional markets can trigger social inequality and horizontal conflicts between business actors. Traders who cannot afford illegal levies are often under greater pressure, while those who can afford it tend to choose the path of compromise. This condition creates social injustice among fellow traders and undermines the solidarity of the market community. The results of the field findings show that the psychological impact of thuggery is also felt by traders. Fear, anxiety, and uncertainty are part of the daily activities of market traders. This psychological impact not only affects business performance, but also the quality of life of traders and their families.

Thugs that are not taken seriously also have the potential to develop into more organized crime. Traditional markets can become the basis for other illegal activities if the state fails to carry out supervision and law enforcement. Therefore, the impact of thuggery is not only local, but also has the potential to disrupt regional security stability. In the context of Bogor Regency, the impact of thuggery on traditional market economic activities shows the relationship between security and welfare. Unsafe markets tend to experience a decline in merchant transactions and revenue. This shows that market security is the main prerequisite for people's economic growth.

The impact of thuggery also has implications for public trust in the government and law enforcement officials. When security disturbances are allowed to drag on, the public will judge that the state is incapable of protecting the interests of the small people. This decline in trust can undermine the legitimacy of state institutions at the local level.

An evaluation of the impact of thuggery shows that partial handling is not enough to restore market security and order. An integrated approach is needed that involves law enforcement, market management, and merchant empowerment. Without an integrated approach, the negative impact of thuggery will continue to recur.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research and discussion of the professionalism of the National Police in handling the security of thuggery disturbances in the traditional market environment

in the jurisdiction of Bogor Regency, it can be concluded that the professionalism of the police in dealing with thuggery has not been fully optimal because although normatively it has carried out its duties in accordance with laws and regulations through preventive and repressive measures, empirically the handling is still reactive, incidental, and not yet sustainable so that it has not been able to eliminate the practice of thuggery completely; Meanwhile, the forms of legal protection provided by local governments and law enforcement officials still tend to be normative and administrative, have not been effectively integrated, and focus more on law enforcement and enforcement without prioritizing aspects of assistance and victim recovery; The impact of thuggery itself has proven to be significant to security, order, and traditional market economic activities, namely causing fear and discomfort, causing material losses through illegal levies and immaterial losses in the form of psychological pressure that reduces the productivity of traders, which as a whole has the potential to hinder business continuity and weaken the people's economy in the region.

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