

## Law Enforcement Against the Eradication of Thuggery in Brimob Company 2, Battalion A, Buntu Bedimbar Village, Tanjung Morawa District, Deli Serdang Regency

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### ABSTRACT

**Background.** The phenomenon of thuggery in Indonesia, particularly in Deli Serdang Regency, continues to grow, even amidst increasingly difficult economic conditions and rising unemployment. These ongoing incidents of thuggery seriously disrupt public order and security.

**Objective.** The aim of this research is to provide a general overview of the police's efforts in maintaining public security and order, enforcing the law, and providing protection, maintenance and services to the community in order to maintain security.

**Method.** The research method used in this thesis is empirical legal research. Empirical legal research can also be called sociological legal research and field research. Sociological legal research is based on primary data.

**Results.** Law enforcement against thuggery in the Mobile Brigade Unit 2, Battalion A, Buntu Bedimbar Village, Tanjung Morawa District, Deli Serdang Regency, has been adjusted to the substance of the Criminal Code (KUHP) itself. Because thuggery refers to several acts, it will be processed based on the crimes committed.

**Conclusion.** Law enforcement against thuggery still faces obstacles. These obstacles include: Internal and External constraints, such as inadequate facilities and infrastructure, disrupted information networks, a lack of evidence and witnesses, and public apathy in assisting the police.

### KEYWORDS

Empirical Legal, Law Enforcement, Mobile Brigade

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### INTRODUCTION

Thugs are heroic figures who often commit crimes using violence and do not discriminate against their victims, both men and women, ordinary people and law enforcement officers and so on (de Barros dkk., 2022; Worede dkk., 2025). The phenomenon of thuggery in Indonesia, especially in Deli Serdang Regency, is starting to develop, even now, amidst increasingly difficult economic conditions and rising unemployment. (Bhatti et al., 2021) As a result, people of working age are starting to look for ways to earn income, usually through extortion and intimidation, by providing services that are not

that are not actually needed by society or others.

The act of thuggery under the guise of a mass organization that threatened the manager of the Irian supermarket in Tanjung Morawa, Deli Serdang Regency, went viral after being uploaded by residents to social media. According to information gathered, the incident occurred on Friday, January 25, 2025, when the Irian supermarket located on Jalan Perintis Kemerdekaan, Pekan Tanjung Morawa, was visited by a group of men in orange mass organization uniforms. They forced the business owner to remove the free parking sign in the shop yard and demanded that the manager collect parking fees for vehicles in the shop yard (Ma'ruf dkk., 2025; Subba Reddy dkk., 2024). In addition, the perpetrators also asked for used cardboard boxes made from store goods to be handed over to them.

The government has officially issued policies and operations to eradicate thuggery as part of its efforts to create a sense of security for the community. However, there have been cases where thug groups have established patronage relationships with influential figures, including law enforcement officers themselves (Kleynhans, 2022; Perevalova & Kisser, 2023). This creates a situation where thuggery is not just a social problem, but also part of a broader political and economic dynamic.

The phenomenon of collusion between authorities and thugs complicates eradication efforts. Thugs are often used by certain parties to secure political or business interests (Levy & Yusuf, 2024; Rakhmanova, 2022). For example, in elections, groups of thugs can be used as a force to mobilize the masses, maintain "security," or even carry out political intimidation. This article will examine the dilemma of law enforcement against thuggery in Indonesia, by examining the factors that contribute to the persistence of thuggery, despite efforts to eradicate it (Minařík, 2024; Rayanti dkk., 2022). This article will also highlight how collusion and the involvement of certain parties complicate the handling of thuggery and offer solutions for more effective and transparent law enforcement.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research method used in this thesis is empirical legal research. Empirical legal research can also be called sociological legal research and field research. Sociological legal research is based on primary data (Bances-Espinoza dkk., 2022; Owada dkk., 2023). Primary data is data obtained directly from the community as the primary source through field research. Primary data can be obtained through interviews or questionnaires. The scope of empirical legal research is the effectiveness of the law, meaning the extent to which the law actually applies in everyday life. Empirical legal research is aimed not only at citizens but also at law enforcement.

The data collection techniques in this study refer to the methods proposed by (Dudziński dkk., 2023; Morgan dkk., 2023), which include literature review and interviews. Literature review is a data collection method conducted through the examination of various written sources such as books, scientific journals, research results, and other relevant documents that support empirical analysis. In the context of this study, literature review serves as a theoretical basis that strengthens the findings from field methods such as interviews. Meanwhile, interviews are used as an additional technique to obtain primary data directly from sources who have involvement or in-depth knowledge of the topic being studied. Interviews can be conducted face-to-face with respondents or indirectly by sending a list of questions to be answered at a specific time. These two methods complement each other, as literature studies provide a strong conceptual framework, while interviews provide more contextual and in-depth empirical data, making the research results more valid and comprehensive.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Law enforcement against acts of thuggery by the Mobile Brigade Unit of Company 2, Battalion A in Buntu Bedimbar Village was carried out using a normative and empirical approach at the same time (Li et al., 2022). In this case, the Mobile Brigade Corps (Brimob) officers not only take action when violations occur, but also serve as representatives of the state, ensuring legal certainty in public spaces. Within this framework, thuggery is not categorized as a "new crime," but rather returned to the category of crimes already regulated in the Criminal Code. In other words, each act of thuggery is examined and categorized based on the type of crime, such as extortion, threats, assault, or acts of vandalism (Brasó-Broggi & Bortlová-Vondráková, 2025; Dass dkk., 2024). Therefore, law enforcement carried out by Brimob must be in accordance with the principle of legality (*nullum crimen sine lege*) as regulated in the Criminal Code.

In practice at Company 2 Brimob, officers first identify the elements that constitute thuggery in the field, then classify them into the most appropriate Criminal Code article. For example, if a thug forces a victim to hand over money using threats of violence, then the elements of "coercion," "threat," and "unlawful gain" will be tested based on the provisions of Article 368 of the Criminal Code. Based on Article 368 paragraph (1), a person who uses violence or the threat of violence to force another person to hand over goods or money can be punished with imprisonment of up to nine years. If on the other hand there is a threat to get the victim to do something specific (for example, hand over goods or pay a sum of money), then the threat can be qualified under Article 369 of the Criminal Code, which regulates threats with the intent to extort.

Law enforcement in Company 2 Brimob pays close attention to proving the elements of thuggery as stipulated in the Criminal Code. Officers are required to prove objective elements such as coercion and intent to gain profit, which are subjective elements (Narikiyo dkk., 2025; Öztürk & Stoffregen, 2022). Furthermore, compliance with legal procedures is crucial to ensure that officers' actions do not violate human rights or applicable criminal provisions. For example, if officers fail to follow legal procedures during an arrest or detention, this could create room for the suspect's defense or the emergence of objections to the legal process. Therefore, Brimob's actions must adhere to the principles of proportionality and professionalism (Bhavana dkk., 2023; Daihl dkk., 2025). In this regard, internal unit policies, leadership oversight, and the creation of standard operating procedures (SOPs) are crucial to ensuring law enforcement runs smoothly and without deviation.

**Table 1.** Forms of thuggery and law enforcement actions in brimob company 2

Forms of Thuggery Identified		Description of Activities	Law Enforcement Actions Taken	Outcome
Illegal (Extortion)	Levies	Forcing local residents and traders to pay unauthorized fees	Routine patrols, arrests, and legal processing	Decrease in reported cases
Intimidation Threats	and	Threatening individuals to gain control or compliance	Preventive monitoring and direct intervention	Increased public safety perception
Organized Crime	Street	Group-based criminal acts such as robbery and vandalism	Joint operations with local police	Reduction in criminal networks
Control of Spaces	Public	Illegal occupation of markets and parking areas	Area sterilization and regulation enforcement	Restoration of public order

The findings of this study indicate that thuggery practices in Brimob Company 2, Battalion A, located in Buntu Bedimbar Village, Tanjung Morawa District, Deli Serdang Regency, manifest in various forms, including illegal levies, intimidation, organized crime, and control over public spaces. Among these, illegal levies and intimidation were the most dominant forms, directly affecting the economic activities and psychological well-being of the local community. Law enforcement efforts carried out by Brimob personnel demonstrate a combination of preventive, repressive, and pre-emptive strategies. Preventive measures, such as routine patrols and community engagement, have proven effective in reducing opportunities for criminal activities. Meanwhile, repressive actions, including arrests and legal prosecution, have contributed to deterring repeat offenses, although challenges remain in ensuring long-term behavioral change among offenders.

In Tanjung Morawa District, especially Buntu Bedimbar Village, Brimob Company 2 plays a very important role considering that this area is vulnerable to thuggery practices, such as extortion or illegal levies in market areas, along highways, and commercial areas (Hoegler dkk., 2023; Kumar dkk., 2022). Law enforcement by Brimob in this location usually begins with preventive patrols, mapping vulnerable locations, internal intelligence operations, and firm (repressive) action if a clear violation is found. Once sufficient evidence and the elements of the crime are met, regional police officers (Polres/Polsek) are involved in the investigation. During the handling process, the classification of the action, whether it includes extortion under Article 368 of the Criminal Code, threats under Article 369 of the Criminal Code, assault under Article 351 of the Criminal Code, or vandalism under Article 406 of the Criminal Code, will determine the next legal path.

In conclusion, the implementation of law enforcement in eradicating thuggery in Company 2 Brimob Battalion A in Buntu Bedimbar Village shows conformity with the substance of the Criminal Code because thuggery behavior remains linked to existing Criminal Code offenses. Brimob plays a role as a law enforcement officer who transforms the practice of thuggery into a criminal object through proper classification into the provisions of the Criminal Code including Articles 368 and 369 and other articles if the action contains additional criminal elements. The handling process requires complete evidence and carefully clarified elements of the crime, accompanied by effective internal supervision, fair procedures, and a professional attitude from law enforcement officers (Sridadi dkk., 2023; Vera-Ortega dkk., 2023). Therefore, Brimob's actions are not merely superficial enforcement, but rather part of the state's enforcement of the rule of law in the region.

Law enforcement against thuggery in the Mobile Brigade Corps Battalion 2A, Buntu Bedimbar Village, Tanjung Morawa District, Deli Serdang Regency, has been adjusted to the substance of the Criminal Code itself. Because thuggery encompasses several acts, it will be processed based on the crimes committed (Matuzov & Masyagutova, 2023; Oliveira Gonçalves dkk., 2023). In general, thuggery is an act that leads to extortion and threats as explained in Articles 368 and 369 of the Criminal Code.

The law enforcement process for thuggery itself has been adjusted to the substance of the Criminal Code itself. Because thuggery refers to several acts, it will be processed based on the crime committed (Henderson, 2025). In general, thuggery is an act that results in extortion and threats, as explained in Articles 368 and 369 of the Criminal Code. However, in essence, thuggery is not only related to these articles (Rasmayanti dkk., 2023). In Buntu Bedimbar Village District, thuggery also includes acts of theft with violence, as regulated in Article 365 of the Criminal Code. In the process of enforcing the law on thuggery in accordance with the Criminal Code,

The obstacles faced in law enforcement efforts against thuggery in BriG Ademassunit II, Battalion A, Buntu Bedimbar Village, include interrelated internal and external constraints.

Internally, limited resources and infrastructure are one of the inhibiting factors, such as the use of conventional fingerprint scanners that complicate the process of identifying perpetrators. In addition, poorly connected information networks further complicate investigations because perpetrators are now more organized and clever in carrying out their actions, including breaking up and selling stolen goods to various places to cover their tracks. Externally, the lack of evidence and witness statements is a serious obstacle because these two elements are crucial to the successful resolution of cases (Senichkina dkk., 2025; Siddiqi dkk., 2023). Difficulties also arise due to the apathy of the public, who are reluctant to provide information to the police; many witnesses give unclear statements, making it difficult for investigators to reconstruct the chronology of events. Public participation is essential to strengthen the information network and assist in the investigation process.

## CONCLUSION

The obstacles faced in law enforcement efforts against thuggery in BriG Ademassunit II, Battalion A, Buntu Bedimbar Village, include interrelated internal and external constraints. Internally, limited resources and infrastructure are one of the inhibiting factors, such as the use of conventional fingerprint scanners that complicate the process of identifying perpetrators. In addition, poorly connected information networks further complicate investigations because perpetrators are now more organized and clever in carrying out their actions, including breaking up and selling stolen goods to various places to cover their tracks. Externally, the lack of evidence and witness statements is a serious obstacle because these two elements are crucial to the successful resolution of cases. Difficulties also arise due to the apathy of the public, who are reluctant to provide information to the police; many witnesses give unclear statements, making it difficult for investigators to reconstruct the chronology of events.

## AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

Author 1: Conceptualization; Project administration; Validation; Writing - review and editing.

Author 2: Conceptualization; Data curation; Investigation.

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