

## Analysis Of Transnational Organized Crime Activities in West Sulawesi Adolescent Case: Drugs Trafficking in Fringe Community

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### ABSTRACT

Changes resulting from globalization based on information systems and technology that very fast make countries seem borderless. Not only related to the country's economic growth, but the development of globalization also impacts transnational criminal activities that have experienced significant growth in various parts of the world. Countries with lower levels of national security have greater difficulties in dealing with the globalization of crime. Weaknesses and vulnerabilities in the security sector are the main reasons the country is increasingly becoming a stage for transnational organized crime, especially drug trafficking. The movement towards drug trafficking activities in Indonesia has targeted urban areas and has also taken root in fringe communities such as in the province of West Sulawesi. The target of drug trafficking activities has also targeted adults and teenagers. It is evident from the increasing number of cases of drug users among teenagers in West Sulawesi, which occupies the 18th position out of 34 provinces in Indonesia. In this study, the analysis will be carried out on the drug trafficking movement among adolescents in West Sulawesi, which will later produce a guideline that can be used as reference material by various parties. With this case, the local government and stakeholders regarding handling drug trafficking cases among adolescents in West Sulawesi

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### I. Introduction

The process of globalization has brought significant changes to the international world order. Globalization is considered good, in particular, in improving the economy and the interdependence that ensures the growth of a region or society itself. However, it has also caused many negative impacts because the process has weakened the ability of the state to guarantee state security. Changes resulting from globalization based on information systems and very fast technology have made many countries seem borderless. The issue of national borders that have not been managed properly is even an indicator that the country is very weak. Therefore, boundaries and territorial areas play a very significant role in determining the existence of a country. On the other hand, the state is also a tool to control the flow of goods, ideas, and even ideology. TNOC (Transnational Organized Crime) has threatened many common interests globally. TNOC undermines security and stability, the rule of law, core democratic values, poverty alleviation efforts, and the creation of a level playing field for legitimate business activities.

Illegal trade practices have also contributed to the spread of organized crime, weakened government institutions and markets, cast a shadow over lawlessness that undermined public trust, and destabilized entire communities and economies. Without responsibility and cooperative and strong law enforcement partnerships, transnational criminal syndicates and networks will continue to undermine the stability and security of all countries through their illicit companies and network groups, especially in drug trafficking. Drugs trafficking is one of several types of TNOC that has more attention due to its impact on the state.

The cultivation, trafficking, and consumption of illegal drugs is perhaps the longest-standing organized crime problem in the Pacific region. In the past few years, evidence of the manufacture and trafficking of psychotropic substances has created a new dimension to the TNOC problem, especially drug trafficking (Schloenhardt, 2017). Archipelago coastlines, maritime boundaries, and vast ocean areas are difficult to maintain or carry out security patrols, especially in countries with limited financial, technical, and

human resources. Of course, making it easier for small vessels to remain undetected and cross international borders clandestinely. The amount of trade by sea is very difficult to monitor and control. UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) reports that about 5,000 ships are crossing the Pacific Ocean on any given day. Large shipments can be unloaded from carriers to smaller ships, and then the smaller ships hide in many small islands and uninhabited atolls, waiting for their next move. The rapidly expanding regional transport network to Asia, North and South America is also a factor and is likely to increase the use of islands as transit areas (Schloenhardt, 2007).

In this case, various types of drugs originate from one country and enter another country and are not detected by the national security authorities. Types of illegal drugs that have been smuggled include stimulants, marijuana, heroin, cocaine, opium, and illegal drugs in tablet form. These drugs also vary with their use and production, and the preventive or punitive measures available also vary (Male, 2016). As a developing country in the Southeast Asia region, Indonesia is still one of the destinations for international drug trafficking routes. Its strategic geographical location makes Indonesia one of the destinations for drug trafficking in various ways. It is evidenced by international narcotics network traffickers (ASEAN, 1995). The rise of illicit drug trafficking in Indonesia is inseparable from the many *modus operandi* used by transnational crime actors, who always take advantage of border areas between countries, land, sea, or air (Deplu, 2000).

The TNOC group holds substantial control over Indonesian manufacturing and drug trafficking activities. For example, West African criminal groups have operated in Indonesia, often using Cambodia as a center for their financial and distribution activities. Medicines sourced outside Indonesia are usually sourced from Europe, India, and Iran and then shipped via Cambodia, Thailand, and Malaysia before arriving on Indonesian soil. The role of organized crime groups from China and Iran is also present in the Indonesian drug industry (UNODC, 2020). There are three reasons why illicit drug trafficking syndicates have targeted Indonesia to distribute drugs in Indonesian territories. First, the demand for drugs in Indonesia can be very high. Second, flanked by the geographical location of Indonesia with two oceans, and the third

reason is that law enforcement against drug dealers has estimated which loopholes can be passed and is influenced by the efforts of the drug network to continue even though the actors are in detention (Herindrasti, 2018). This fact reports from the Directorate of Drug Crimes, Bareskrim Polri, cases of illicit drug trafficking in Indonesia from 2016 to 2017, which have increased in terms of the number of suspects. In 2016 alone, the number of suspects from Indonesian citizens reached 60,255, while foreign nationals (WNA) were 132 people. In 2017 there was an increase of 62,972 for Indonesian citizens and 136 foreigners. In 2018 the Directorate of Drug Crimes, Bareskrim Polri, noted a decrease in drug suspects from the Indonesian citizen sector, namely 57,840, while foreigners experienced an increase of 151 people (Herjuno, 2020).

If we draw further on the issue of illicit drug trafficking in Indonesia, according to the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), which has identified drug use in Indonesia, the results of this identification show that drug users in Indonesia have reached 4.7 million people or around 2.2%. Furthermore, according to BNN, the average number of users is 10-59 years old; around 5.9% of the Indonesian population has tried drugs once in their life, and drug abuse has been very severe to many young people around 16 years old on average for the first time (Herjuno, 2020). Drug trafficking as perceived by law enforcement agencies. Based on the results of the 1996 Youth Gang Survey, the study provides primary data and epidemiological analysis of juvenile gang drug trafficking, including age, gender, and race/ethnicity of the gang members involved; the relative level of the problem in urban, suburban, and rural areas; and youth gang involvement in other crimes (Decker, 1999). Children and youth are rightly at the forefront of public and political attention about drugs and drug trafficking. However, too often, the threat to children and youth posed by drugs is declared without adequate oversight of the suitability and effectiveness of the measures taken to protect them.

Drug use in early adolescence can affect development; adolescents who use drugs have a higher risk of health problems. Moreover, it is good to know that the onset of drug use in adolescence can lead to long-term use and dependence more quickly than starting in adulthood. Thus, there is a policy regarding the importance of prevention and intervention that

correctly targets adolescent drug users. Threats to youth caused by drugs focus on the steps and policies to protect them.

This study explicitly discusses problems related to drug trafficking among adolescents in Indonesia, especially in West Sulawesi. Some researchers argue that many teenagers turned into drug trafficking operations during the cocaine epidemic in the late 1980s. Others argue that the extent to which youth groups are involved in drug trafficking is unclear (Decker, 1999). This analysis will discuss the involvement of youth in drug trafficking. Teenagers are directly involved with drug sales, which inevitably leads to other crimes. In comparison, several studies have found a weak causal relationship between the involvement of youth groups in drug trafficking and violent crime (James C. Howell, 2002). West Sulawesi is a province that is still relatively young. However, its very strategic geographical location makes West Sulawesi not only a target for activities related to economic improvement or other activities. Nevertheless, it also does not escape the target or target to become the goal of drug trafficking activities. As an area mostly part of the fringe community, West Sulawesi is a very strategic destination for drug traffickers. In 2019, West Sulawesi was ranked 18th out of 34 provinces as drug users. The position of West Sulawesi has dropped one place from rank 18 in 2018 for drugs (Mamujupos, 2020). In the West Sulawesi region, Polewali Mandar district ranks first in drug abuse among adolescents in West Sulawesi, followed by Mamuju district in second.

## II. Data and Methodology

In this study, the method used is qualitative. The primary purpose of qualitative research is to provide a detailed and complete explanation of the research topic (Wyse, 2016). The second methodological approach to be used is process tracing. Process tracing is a qualitative analysis method that tries to "see and look for empirical evidence in a specific phenomenon with the aim of both creating and testing an alternative explanation for the case." This method also involves a search mechanism for historical explanations and chronological illustrations of an issue or event that can provide new knowledge or test the relevance of previous theoretical bases (Wyse, 2016).

Furthermore, the expectation of a casual relationship between research variables is commonly used based on theory or to determine a causal relationship between predetermined variables.

In this research itself, the specific type of process tracing used is inductive process tracing. In other words, without building detailed hypotheses or theoretical expectations, researchers will directly conduct empirical observations. The actual situation of the causal relationship to find out was intended between the variables studied and got a contextual picture of the relationship. This study provides an overview of the development of TNOC in West Sulawesi, which focuses on drug trafficking activities among adolescents. In this study, the subject is the activity of a group of teenagers who are involved in drug trafficking activities. In addition, it will also observe local government policies, especially related agencies, in managing the TNOC movement in West Sulawesi.

This study emphasizes data collection through various methods, including:

1. The interview method is carried out with parties who have authority on the topic of this research, both government agencies and the police,
2. In addition, the FGD method carried out with several elements of the community,
3. Document-based research, which consists of primary and secondary documents;
4. Internet-based research method. The results of this data collection are then accumulated and analyzed.

To analyze the data that has been collected in this study using descriptive analysis. The results of the descriptive analysis in this study are used to determine how severe the level of drug use in adolescents in West Sulawesi Province is, especially those found in the fringe community. Then, this research also provides solutions both in the short and medium-term.

## III. Result and Discussion

The rapidly developing era of globalization, where security issues increasingly vary from traditional and non-traditional security, also changes the international world order. Globalization is considered good, especially

in increasing the economy and interdependence that ensures the growth of a country and society. Due to the free flow of globalization, many negative impacts arise, significantly weakening the ability of the state to guarantee state security. After the Cold War ended in 1989, new security threats emerged that did not only have a military dimension. The negative impacts include the emergence of two types of security threats, such as non-military security threats and non-traditional security threats. These make a country experience environmental degradation, economic prosperity, the emergence of transnational organized crime, and the migration of people worldwide (Terriff, 1999).

Transnational organized crime or TNOC includes non-traditional security threats, one of which is drug trafficking which can damage the stability and security of the country. The spread of drug trafficking, especially the drug trade route, indeed threatens not only to be concentrated in one country but also threatens several countries at once. Then, it is on the threat in a particular geographic location, so the drug trafficking was not focused. Of course, drug trafficking is threatening the state and at the individual level. One of the characteristics of TNOC on drug trafficking, which is a non-traditional security threat, is not seen as a military threat because it does not originate from problems in the military field but rather from economic, environmental, social and other issues. Non-traditional security threats are often seen as domestic problems of a country or are within the scope of authority of domestic law enforcement officials, even though these threats are transnational.

The consequence of non-traditional threats must be appropriately handled and effectively because they involve countries to overcome them. The problem of drugs has worried many countries in the world. The United Nations

Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) also noted that there are 269 million people worldwide or equivalent to 5.3% of the global population of the world's population with an age range between 15 and 64 years who have consumed drugs, at least these people have consumed drugs in 2018 (UNODC, 2020). The impact during the Covid-19 pandemic on drug markets was very influential. For example, the scarcity of medicines in various countries has resulted in rising drug prices. It also impacted the unemployment rate and reduced opportunities due to the Covid-19 pandemic when it broke out at the end of 2019. In addition, the disproportionate impact of the world community falling into poverty (from an economic perspective) and high-stress levels, forcing people to use drugs. Then, there is the trade and cultivation of drugs to get additional economic or money. This vulnerable and marginalized group (the fringe community) includes poor youth willing to pay the price for drug problems and spread drug trafficking indirectly. The increase in numbers due to drugs from 2011 to 2019 saw a significant decrease in Indonesia.

The decrease was around 0.6%, from 4.53 million people (2.40%) to 3.41 million (1.80%). Almost one million people in Indonesia influenced by drugs will be saved (BNNP, 2020). Related agencies such as the National Narcotics Agency, in their annual reports, show tangible evidence and the hard work of BNN together with other agencies in implementing the Prevention and Eradication of Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (P4GN) in Indonesia. In this case, the researcher takes a case study in West Sulawesi Province because West Sulawesi is a province that has a community component with the lowest economic level (BPS, 2021). It can come to the variety of available jobs, income levels, and consumer levels were seen from them, which can call in several districts in West Sulawesi Province, namely categorized as fringe communities.

The results of the 2020 report said that the province of West Sulawesi had a declining prevalence of drug abuse from 2014 to 2019. It is still the province that is still carrying out

large-scale regional development and will be added later to be close to the new capital city in East Kalimantan, Penagan must watch out. Moreover, outsiders and foreigners can enter several strategic paths for the spread of drug trafficking. The drug trade, which can be smuggled through land and sea routes, must be considered by the agency and even local government components that lead to fringe communities in several districts, especially villages with low economic levels. Relevant agencies and local governments must also comprehensively and continuously implement a balanced supply reduction through eradication efforts, with demand reduction through prevention, rehabilitation, and community empowerment efforts.

#### Application of Rational Choice Theory to Fringe Community West Sulawesi

Using the unit of analysis of rational choice theory, researchers can see social phenomena because they are seen from individual actions to determine a choice. Cases of drug trafficking in the fringe community are some of the reasons why local governments, elements of society, and related agencies must pay attention to this drug trafficking. Although the annual report in 2020 states that there is a decreasing rate of drug use, we must pay attention to the movement of this drug distribution route. Considering the contours of the West Sulawesi region, on the west side is the coast, and the east side is mountains and hills (highlands). The fringe community triggers to move silently in selling and spreading these drugs, both illegally and for sale.

In the RCT, five elements can be seen as triggers, namely constraints, which are choices that have been set at the beginning but have something or an obstacle. So, the choices that individuals have chosen usually have constraints. In addition, individuals must be faced with several alternatives when obstacles arise. The alternatives here are other options that have a social impact. Then, there are benefits from the choices that the individual has chosen. Usually, this benefit has a positive or negative effect depending on the choice

chosen at the beginning. Then, with a strong belief or determination, the individual makes his choice repeatedly for the sake of social status. In the people of West Sulawesi, the fringe community, some use drugs as an effect for fieldwork (oil palm and gardening workers), which are categorized as hard work due to their low economic level. In addition, some teenagers trade drugs in very small quantities, such as only 0.5 grams and are sold cheaply for the first purchase, then for the second purchase, and so on, they are sold at normal prices. If the teenager manages to get ten buyers, then the teenager (student or student) is given free 0.5 grams of drugs that he can use.

In the RCT, this choice was forced due to economic factors. The reason is that if an individual sells drugs, from an economic point of view, it will be fulfilled. In another case, the effect is only on the body and satisfaction for individuals who do not sell drugs and only consume drugs because the heavy work will be completed quickly. After all, their bodies are strong after consuming drugs. Interviewing the Head of the West Sulawesi BNNP and FGD, those who consume drugs will introduce them to their friends. They also consume together and buy the drugs. Automatically, the work is completed on time, and it will get extra money. RCT believes that every choice, depending on the individual who was using and trading drugs, is influenced by socioeconomic conditions and the development of information that is already very broad.

#### Prevention of Drugs Trafficking Cases in the Teenage Fringe Community in West Sulawesi Province

West Sulawesi is one of the areas with the highest number of drug abuse cases in Indonesia. It is recorded that there have been 2,248 drug addicts in West Sulawesi and can be said to be ranked 18th in drug abuse in Indonesia. The smuggling route is suspected of coming from Central Mamuju and Pasangkayu Regencies. Even in Majene Regency, a methamphetamine factory was found on August 19, 2018. The

methamphetamine factory was found in a residential complex. The level of public understanding about drugs is very minimal, especially in the province of West Sulawesi. From the FGD submissions conducted by researchers, many parents refused to understand or refused to know that their children were using drugs. In addition, in a village, some people do not want to report one of their people regarding drug use and drug sales for fear of damaging the village's image, because automatically, if they are reported, the police will come to raid the village.

So, several activities have been carried out by the West Sulawesi BNNP as an agency that seeks prevention, rehabilitation, and community empowerment regarding drugs, including: Prevention and Community Empowerment (P2M), here the task is to advocate for anti-drug development to stakeholders related to providing communication, information, education to the community and increasing community participation. It is also seen that the purpose of this activity is to increase the community's deterrence from being involved in drug abuse and illicit trafficking and to suppress demand so that there is no increase or increase in the number of drug abuse in the West Sulawesi region; Empowerment of alternatives in densely populated areas to provide skills or activities that provide business opportunities to people in drug-prone areas as a source of income so that they are not tempted to consume or distribute drugs for the sake of economic fulfilment; and Conducting community empowerment such as early detection of urine tests in all agencies in West Sulawesi district, very useful for tracking drug use in government agencies and BUMN. In addition, it is also carried out at several universities in West Sulawesi.

#### IV. Conclusions

Based on the description of the discussion in the writing of the final report of this research, conclusions can be drawn, namely that people in West Sulawesi use drugs as an immune system to work in the field; usually, those who use drugs are palm oil workers. The heavy work forces them to use drugs to

complete the work faster and meet the target. Then, there are also those in the fringe community with a very low economy selling and distributing drugs by smuggling, and the target is teenagers. Then, the assessment from the FGD was conducted, and the interview results showed that many people, especially the village community, did not dare to report their residents involved in drugs. It is still considered taboo and does not believe that one of its citizens is a user and trading drugs.

In connection with the results found in this study, it can be suggested that agencies and local governments should always work together in drug trafficking cases because the contours of the region in West Sulawesi are unique, namely in the form of coastal and hilly mountains. It has triggered many secrets or illegal drug trade routes. In addition, West Sulawesi is also prone to the entry of terrorist groups who have fled in the forests of West Sulawesi. There is narco-terrorism, namely the sale of drugs by radical groups of terrorist actors. The proceeds from these drugs are used to finance terrorist activities throughout Indonesia.

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