

## LEGAL ANALYSIS OF THE CRIME OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS THROUGH WATERS IN THE PERSPECTIVE OF CRIMINOLOGY (STUDY IN THE WATERS OF BELAWAN)

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### ABSTRACT

Belawan waters are waters that directly lead to the waters of the Malacca Strait and are a human trafficking route that is frequently traversed by perpetrators. The existence of cases of human trafficking that occur in the Malacca Strait area will certainly have an impact on the security of the strait. There are three main principles of national security that could be threatened by cross-border cases, namely sovereignty, territorial integrity, political, social, economic and cultural sustainability. This research aims to examine the factors causing human trafficking through Belawan waters from a criminological perspective; to determine the forms of supervision and law enforcement in Indonesian waters in eradicating criminal acts of human trafficking and to examine obstacles to law enforcement of criminal acts of human trafficking through Indonesian waterways. This research method uses normative legal research. The data used is secondary data with primary, secondary and tertiary legal materials as research data sources. The data obtained comes from statutory regulations and developing legal theories related to human trafficking. Data analysis was carried out using qualitative analysis. The results of this research are the first that factors causing human trafficking through Belawan waters include internal factors consisting of economic influence (poverty), negligence of victims, authoritarian societal cultural factors, lack of expertise or skills of victims, low education, lack of job opportunities, lack of access to information and occupational risks. Meanwhile, external factors can be influenced by weak immigration control in a country, lack of coordination between immigration and the police and the Indonesian Navy in the Belawan waters. Second, that the form of supervision and law enforcement in Indonesian territorial waters is to eradicate criminal acts of human trafficking by carrying out penal efforts through law enforcement in accordance with Law Number 21 of 2007 and non-penal efforts by prioritizing preventive efforts. Third, that Obstacles law enforcement of criminal acts of trafficking in persons through Indonesian waterways, including weak supervision by the police and immigration which does not provide information on trafficking in persons; Community indifference in preventing human trafficking cases; The case handling process can take a relatively long time; Development of the Modus Operandi for the Crime of Human Trafficking; There is a condition that the victim does not know that he is being exploited or is a victim of human trafficking; Minimal budget for law enforcement officers.

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### INTRODUCTIONS

Human trafficking is defined as "the recruitment, delivery, transfer, shelter, or reception of a person, by threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, kidnapping, fraud, lying or abuse of power or a vulnerable position or giving or receiving payment or obtaining a profit in order to obtain the consent of someone in power over another, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes at least exploitation to prostitute another person or other forms of sexual exploitation, labor, or forced servitude, slavery or similar practices of slavery, servitude or organ harvesting. (Akhirudin & Gunadi, 2024)

The development of human trafficking cases has become a concern for the Indonesian government. This is evidenced by the regulation of the issue of trafficking in persons in the provisions of Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons. In the law, the definition of human trafficking is based on the provisions of Article 1 paragraph (1) and Article 1 paragraph (2). Based on this provision, the legal substance is formal, because it is based on a process of proof for the purpose of the crime of trafficking, where the judge can impose a sentence (sentence) on a person who he believes has fulfilled the formal element. (Chandrawaty, 2020)

If we examine the definition definitively above, then in discussing human trafficking there are at least 3 (three) elements that are the main trigger (*causa prima*) or the cause of the case (*cassus belli*) of the crime of human trafficking (human trafficking) with the consideration that the victim has been categorized as an Adult (age + 18 years old or married), namely, 1) there is a Process, 2) by Means, and 3) to achieve the Goal (exploitation). Meanwhile, if the victim is a child (under the age + 18 years), then the elements that must be considered are: 1) there is a process, and 2) there is a purpose (exploitation), without having to pay attention to the WAY the trafficking occurs. (Sinaga et al., 2023)

Currently, the mode of crime is increasingly diverse in line with and in line with the increasing quality of human civilization which is marked by the occurrence of globalization that has hit all parts of the world, including Indonesia, which has an impact or implications in all aspects of life, so that the world becomes borderless. This has triggered the development of human trafficking crimes as an organized crime (the organized crime) and transnational crime (transnational crime). (Vishnu & Pratikno, 2024)

Based on the results of investigations conducted by many mass media and/or law enforcement officials, it is known that until now transnational crime activities have experienced an increasing trend in both quantity and quality, such as: goods and guns smuggling, drugs and human trafficking, illegal logging, and illegal fishing. If this condition is not pursued by concrete strategic measures involving all law enforcement agencies or institutions, it is feared that it will be more detrimental to the state in the short-term, medium-term, and long-term. From data obtained from the Trafficking in Persons Crime Task Force (Task Force), there were 864 cases in 2023. The number of suspects amounted to 1,014 people while the number of survivors of trafficking amounted to 2,710 people. Of those cases, the most common mode found was illegal Indonesian migrant workers (PMI), which was 525 cases. Then the mode as a commercial sex worker (PSK) was 283 cases. Then followed by the mode of child exploitation as many as 69 cases and the mode of making the crew as many as 7 cases. (Putri et al., 2025)

In 20203, human trafficking cases from the Ministry of Women and Child Protection data (Ministry of Women's and Children's Protection) were the main challenges of the problems faced. It was found that 1,581 people in Indonesia were victims of trafficking in the 2020-2022 period. From these cases, the victims were women and children. Almost the same as the data obtained from the PPA Symphony (Online Information System for the Protection of Women and Children) throughout 2020-2022, there were 1,418 cases and 1,581 victims of trafficking.

The main problem of Indonesia being the country of origin of human trafficking cases is economic factors and poverty levels. Indonesian citizens who are exploited become workers, laborers in plantations in Malaysia due to economic needs in Indonesia as a country of origin, and often for migrant women who are victims of sex trafficking. In addition to Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, South America and Europe are also destinations for human trafficking. The human trafficking routes used to Malaysia use more sea routes compared to air routes. By using fake travel documents, the perpetrators made fake documents to change the identity of trafficking victims. (Ihsana & Anggraini, 2025)

In addition to being a country of origin, Indonesia is also a destination country for human trafficking. The victims of human trafficking are from Thailand, using fake identities that enter by sea and air. . one of the destinations from regions in Indonesia such as the cities of Medan, Jakarta, Bandung, and Surabaya. Many victims of human trafficking from abroad who enter Indonesia are used as commercial sex workers and become illegal workers in mining in Indonesia. The current condition shows that Indonesia does not yet have a standard for the elimination of human trafficking. However, the efforts that have been made are in the form of repressive efforts by law enforcement who arrest the perpetrators of human trafficking with threats as stipulated in the law. But these efforts have not completely stopped human trafficking cases. Other efforts made by creating shelters for victims of human trafficking have not met standards and quality. (Step, 2022)

In addition, the cultural factor of corrupt officials in Indonesia, such as in the directorate general of immigration who are involved in making fake documents for travel abroad, makes Indonesia vulnerable to trafficking cases. In addition, weak coordination between government institutions has hampered the implementation of anti-trafficking strategies both regionally and globally. The rise of corrupt practices among law enforcement has hampered efforts to eradicate trafficking and allowed perpetrators to have impunity in committing their crimes. (Bachtar & Indawati, 2023)

Based on the above circumstances, currently the cases of human trafficking that occur in Indonesia have not been fully overcome by the Government. The existence of laws and regulations that limit and prohibit the crime of trafficking in persons, as well as the existence of law enforcement officials, has not been able to have a maximum impact on law enforcement related to the crime of trafficking in persons. The weak sub-systems of the system in law enforcement has affected law enforcement itself. Therefore, a juridical construction is needed in law enforcement against the crime of trafficking in persons in Indonesia. (Latif et al., 2025)

From a criminological perspective, there is still no solution to overcome human trafficking in Indonesian society. Meanwhile, when viewed from the perspective of victimology, the action that needs to be taken immediately is through preventive and repressive efforts. Human trafficking routes that occur in Indonesia take advantage of Indonesia's vast waters. Several vulnerable areas of waters become human trafficking routes between the waters of the Malacca Strait, the Sunda Strait, and the waters of Kalimantan. In this condition, the Malacca Strait becomes a vulnerable area to become a human trafficking route. This certainly has an impact on the safety of these waterways. Threats to security and state sovereignty are a threat due to the rampant cases of human trafficking through the waters in the Malacca Strait. For this reason, it is necessary to supervise and enforce the law on cases of human trafficking that occur in Indonesian waters. (Efendi et al., 2024)

The formulation of the problem in this study includes three main aspects that are the focus of the study. First, this study seeks to find out the factors that cause the occurrence of human trafficking crimes through Belawan waters from a criminological perspective. Second, this study wants to examine how the form of supervision and law enforcement is applied in Indonesian waters in an effort to eradicate the crime of trafficking in persons. Third, this study seeks to identify various obstacles faced by law enforcement officials in enforcing the law against cases of trafficking in persons that occur through Indonesian waterways.

The purpose of this study is to examine and understand in depth the factors that cause the occurrence of human trafficking crimes through Belawan waters from a criminological perspective. In addition, this study aims to find out and examine the forms of supervision and law enforcement carried out in Indonesian waters in eradicating the crime of trafficking in persons. Furthermore, this study also aims to identify and analyze the obstacles faced in the law enforcement process against human trafficking crimes carried out through waterways in Indonesia.

## METHOD

The research with the title Legal Analysis of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons Through Waters in a Criminological Perspective is a type of normative juridical research. This study focuses on the application of positive rules. This research is descriptive by explaining and describing and describing an analysis of legal rules. Analysis of

human trafficking crimes that occur especially in Indonesian waters, especially in the Strait of Malacca. (Bachtiar, 2019; Muhammad, 2024)

The management of data sources in this study uses secondary data consisting of primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials. The primary legal materials used include various laws and regulations related to the crime of trafficking in persons, including Law Number 8 of 1981 concerning the Criminal Procedure Law (KUHP), Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Elimination of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, and Law Number 48 of 2009 concerning Judicial Power, including implementing regulations and derivative provisions that are relevant to the implementation of efforts to counter criminal acts Human trafficking in a criminological perspective.

In addition, secondary legal materials in this study include various opinions of legal experts, scientific journals, scholars' opinions, jurisprudence, and the results of symposiums related to research topics. The secondary materials used are mainly in the form of reference books, scientific papers, and papers that are relevant to the problem being studied. The tertiary legal materials function as supporting sources that provide additional guidance in the analysis process, such as dictionaries, newspapers, and information obtained from the internet.

The data collection technique in this study was carried out through library research methods and field research. Field research aims to obtain primary data that is not available in written sources. Data collection was carried out through interviews using interview guides that had been prepared beforehand. The interview was held at the Class II Immigration Office of TPI Belawan to obtain direct information from related parties.

Furthermore, the collected data is analyzed qualitatively with a systematic and comprehensive approach. The analysis is carried out based on the overall data that has been obtained to find solutions to research problems. In the analysis process, legal theories are used as analytical knives to comprehensively decipher and interpret data in accordance with the research focus that has been formulated.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

### Modus operandi of trafficking in persons

The practice of trafficking in persons is a transnational crime that is carried out in a technological, systematic, and massive manner through the country's border area as an entry point for the perpetrator to send victims to the destination area. Through the rule of law in a country, it is used as a penal policy to prevent and stop criminals. Cooperation between countries, both regional, global and bilateral, is urgently needed in the prevention of human trafficking crimes. (Mudhoffar et al., 2024)

Human trafficking is the third most lucrative illegal trade in the world after weapons and drugs, and is a lower-risk activity than the sale of illegal weapons and drugs. The recruitment method is usually in the form of persuasion, high-paying jobs, art ambassadors, student exchanges, brides, contract marriages, worker placements, adoption, adoption of children with certain blood types just to find out what organs the child needs. There are cases where the need for organ transplantation, relocation from a known location to an unknown community, abuse of power, fraud through offers of high-paying jobs, coercion due to the victim being in debt, coercion through threats of violence, kidnapping, various conveniences and luxuries attract many village women who want to change their fate. (Wardana et al., 2024)

Many unlicensed recruitment agencies operating across the country engage in human trafficking activities at various levels. Some federally licensed agents are involved in human trafficking. These agencies often charge high fees, detain potential workers, or force recruited workers to work illegally abroad, leaving these workers vulnerable to human trafficking and other forms of abuse. (Latifa et al., 2024)

The vulnerable groups of trafficking to become victims are adults and children, men and women who are generally in vulnerable conditions, among others 1). Men, women and children from poor families in rural or urban slums; 2. People who have limited education and knowledge; 3. People involved in important economic, political and social issues; 4. Family members who have experienced a financial crisis, such as loss of income of parents or guardians, parents or guardians who are seriously ill or have died; 5. Children drop out of school; 6. Victims of physical, mental and sexual violence; 7. Job seekers; 8. Women and street children; 9. kidnapping victims; 10. Divorce

due to early marriage;11. Under pressure from parents or the work environment, including sex workers who believe that working abroad promises higher income. (Mudhoffar et al., 2024)

Human trafficking cases involving adult men are characterized by the fact that the victims are job seekers who are deceived by the splendid promises of labor agents. Malaysia is a destination for traffickers, where victims of trafficking work for very low wages and far below the standard of living and promises of the institutions that send them. (Akhirudin & Gunadi, 2024)

Another mode is to make victims as prostitutes as many as 282 cases. Suspects of human trafficking crimes are also known to use the mode of making victims as crew members (ABK) in 7 cases and child exploitation in 69 cases.

A way of working that takes advantage of the beautiful promises of criminals is also applied with a recruitment model: first, union members visit villages and offer jobs to the child's parents, if there are vacancies in restaurants or factories. , then the girls were sold. place of prostitutionSecond; personally approached and persuaded teenagers in shopping malls, but then they were sold. Every child or adolescent who is housed in a shelter has to bear the costs of his or her own expenses or has debts that sometimes cannot be paid even though they have worked. The recruitment model is usually an attractive job offer given by a trusted person who is insightful. The victims were offered jobs in restaurants, clothing industries, factories or as domestic workers. (Mudhoffar et al., 2024)

The perpetrator of the crime in the case of human trafficking commits acts of coercion against the victim with threats. Generally, the victims who are forced by violence are women who are mostly forced to "work" as sex slaves, pimps, pimps, employers, and others. In the case of human trafficking, the modus operandi that is often carried out is by using a labor recruitment company with a network of agents or brokers in the region. The perpetrators forged identities such as ID cards and passports in order to illegally leave and enter from Indonesia to other countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. And vice versa, foreigners who enter Indonesia in labor mode are often used as victims of human trafficking by perpetrators. Indonesia is often a destination for foreign criminals to send and trade victims to become workers in Indonesia, especially women who are used as commercial sex workers in Indonesia. For example, in the case that occurred in Bali. According to news in the online media Tempo, the migration authorities have made an attempt to arrest Foreign Citizens (WNA) from Russia who violate their residence permits by working as Commercial Sex Workers (PSK). This arrest was made during an immigration surveillance operation in the Bali region through information that had been obtained from the community. (Harefa & Bukittinggi, 2019)

Similar conditions also occurred in Jakarta and Bogor, where Indonesian immigration authorities have arrested 32 foreign nationals who are suspected of working as commercial sex workers at entertainment venues. The women consisted of 11 Vietnamese, 5 Kazakhstani, 5 Uzbekistan citizens, 5 Chinese citizens, 5 Moroccan citizens, and 1 Russian citizen. In general, from the various modus operandi above, victims of human trafficking are generally women and children. Women and children as victims of crime are the aggrieved parties, often neglected in the law enforcement system. The occurrence of human trafficking cases is carried out organized, systematic and involves various parties, and it is not uncommon for law enforcement officials to be involved in it. The involvement of government officials was carried out by the act of forging documents, the involvement of allowing perpetrators to enter illegally through border areas, proving that human trafficking cases involve various elements. The involvement of immigration officials, regional officials, and labor distribution companies has proven that human trafficking cases have involved various elements. (Duri et al., 2022)

The human trafficking route used by the perpetrators is not only by land, air but also more often used by water in sending victims to their destinations. Victims of human trafficking that occur in various places can be through prostitution, buying and selling human organs, labor by exploitation, drug trafficking, and illegal adoption. This certainly results in suffering for all victims of trafficking practices. Therefore, the crime of trafficking in persons is included in an extraordinary crime (extra ordinary crime) that is difficult to control, and requires a special way of eradicating it.

### **Obstacles to Law Enforcement of Trafficking in Persons through the Belawan Waterways**

Supervision of foreigners is carried out from the time of entry, residence and until leaving Indonesia. This aspect of service and supervision is inseparable from the nature of Indonesia's islands, with an extraordinary area of waters from Sabang to Marauke with the location of the Asian and Australian continents. Through the immigration supervision system policy, including the enforcement of immigration laws, both administrative and criminal acts, immigration is one of the efforts to prevent and enforce human trafficking in Indonesian territory. Currently, the scope of immigration no longer includes the regulation, the organization of the entry and exit of people from and into Indonesian territory, as well as the supervision of foreigners in Indonesian territory, but it has also been related to the prevention of people leaving Indonesian territory and deterrence of people. (Lasabuda, 2013)

At Belawan Port, the process of entering foreign ships is adjusted to permits and procedures. In supporting agency activities at the port, it generally involves related parties such as document management at the local Customs and Excise office, local Immigration office, local Port Quarantine and Health office, *Vessel Traffic Service* (VTS), local Port Business Entity, Syahbandar office and local Port Authority. An agency is a legally binding relationship that occurs when two parties agree to make an agreement, when one of the "agents" agrees to represent the other party called the "owner" (principal) on the condition that the owner still has the right to supervise, his agent regarding the authority entrusted to him. (Jitmau et al., 2025)

Through intensive supervision with the supervision of travel documents such as passports, and visas from Indonesian citizens and foreigners with standards set by the Government of Indonesia must be carried out professionally and comprehensively. This aims to prevent or protect at the beginning of possible mistakes in the implementation of travel for someone who wants to enter or leave Indonesia within a certain time. One of the real actions of immigration officers in checking documents is to check the applicant for immigration documents by checking the status and condition of the applicant directly at the time of the examination. This is as stipulated in Law Number 6 of 2011, Government Regulation Number 31 of 2013 and Regulation of the Minister of Law and Human Rights Number 8 of 2017. (Bouk et al., 2023)

The Belawan waters area is one of the trafficking routes for people entering Indonesia and exiting Indonesia. The law enforcement process, the occurrence of cases of human trafficking through Belawan waters are:

- 1) Weak supervision from the police and immigration does not reach information on trafficking in persons

The vastness of Belawan's waters, and the lack of facilities and infrastructure for police and immigration officers are obstacles to prevent human trafficking through Belawan waterways. Trafficking in persons can be detected by police and immigration officers if through normal channels such as the Port of Belawan using sea transportation and through the Port immigration checkpoint. But for areas outside the Port, where the perpetrators use rat routes through Belawan waters, this is certainly a difficulty for officers to reach information on human trafficking cases in Belawan waters. (Benoit, 2003)

Trafficking in persons through Belawan waterways is carried out in a planned manner, and is systematically structured so that it is not uncommon, can deceive or evade the supervision of officers. The lack of the number of Police officers and PPNS Immigration who are on duty in Belawan waters cannot reach the vast waters of Belawan so that the perpetrators of human trafficking crimes are used to carry out their actions.

In contrast to smuggling cases, usually perpetrators of human *trafficking cases* prefer to avoid normal traffic routes, while smuggling through traffic in and out of foreigners and Indonesian citizens such as ports and airports normally. It's just that the population documents or foreigners' entry documents are forged by the smugglers. (Rotua et al., 2023)

- 2) The community's indifference in preventing cases of trafficking in persons

The existence of people in the Belawan waters has a low level of education, most of the people work as fishermen and factory workers in the Medan Industrial Estate (KIM), thus influencing the mindset of the community to care about the environment. The low awareness of the community around the waters of Belawan is used by the

perpetrators to use the Port rat routes to carry out acts of human trafficking out of the region and abroad. The absence of community supervision, and public concern hinders law enforcement by the Police and PPNS Migration, so that law enforcement does not run optimally.

3) The process of handling cases can take a relatively long time

The investigation and investigation process in human trafficking cases depends on the level of complexity of the case being handled. The complexity of the case can be in the form of victims who are abroad, investigators do not know information about the perpetrators and the place where the trafficking took place, as well as sufficient evidence. Perpetrators are rarely detected because the place where human trafficking practices are often hidden, making investigators need to go undercover to get evidence and information. In the case of victims of trafficking who are exploited outside the territory of the Republic of Indonesia, for example, the exploitation of Indonesian migrant workers in Cambodia takes a long time. North Sumatra Regional Police investigators in addition to prioritizing arrests, also prioritize the safety of victims by providing protection to exploited migrant workers. (Immigration & Tando, 2022)

The protection of victims of migrant workers is carried out in accordance with Article 54 paragraph (1) of Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons which emphasizes that the Government of the Republic of Indonesia is obliged to protect the interests of victims and repatriate victims in coordination with representatives of the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the country. Communication with victims is limited by the perpetrators so that the victim also has difficulty providing information, as well as the arrest of foreign perpetrators who are caught in human trafficking are also challenges for investigators because they are not the authority of investigators of the Indonesian National Police. (Azzahra & Prasetyo, 2024)

Various efforts to prevent the crime of trafficking in persons have been carried out in various ways but the results are considered unsatisfactory, even efforts using legal means still do not show significant results. The use of legal remedies as *the ultimate remedium*, intended as one of the efforts to overcome social problems, including the field of law enforcement policy, as a rational effort to achieve community welfare. Prevention efforts are a crime prevention, where they are carried out before the crime occurs, this effort should take precedence over repressive efforts.

4) The Developing Modus Operandi of Human Trafficking

In the era of the Industrial 4.0 revolution and the influence of information technology that is increasingly reaching the world community, including Indonesia, it has influenced the modus operandi of the perpetrators of human trafficking crimes. This hinders the law enforcement process by law enforcement officials.

The development of technology due to globalization today has made the mode of human trafficking also increasingly developed, characterized by social media that can disseminate and obtain information, including job vacancies. The perpetrator took advantage of this moment to cooperate with other perpetrators to capture victims both at home and abroad. Job vacancy posts on social media made by the perpetrator are made as if they provide benefits so that the victim is easily tempted and ends up trapped. The victim who was entangled in the offer in the vacancy made him become exploited. This condition is a challenge for investigators to keep up with efforts in carrying out law enforcement. (Panjaitan et al., 2021)

For the Belawan waters, the development of information technology makes it easier for perpetrators to carry out their actions in the mode of various kinds of false information that are spread both through telecommunication media and the internet which aims to deceive law enforcement so that they can carry out actual crimes smoothly without being detected by law enforcement agencies.

5) The existence of a condition that the victim does not know that he is being exploited or is a victim of human trafficking

At the Belawan Water Port, it was found that the victim's witnesses did not know that they were being exploited. The victim considered that the work given was not as originally agreed so that the victim felt that he was just being deceived. The work given by the perpetrator violates the values of decency and the law makes the victim feel afraid

while doing the work. The investigator who secured the victim told that the victim was a victim of exploitation, then the victim only realized that the victim was a victim of exploitation or human trafficking, not just a victim of fraud. (Wiyanto, 2023)

#### 6) Lack of Budget for Law Enforcement Officers

In the waters of Belawan, there are several law enforcement agencies such as the Police, Immigration Investigators, and the Indonesian Navy, each of which has functions and duties in accordance with the law. The three agencies also have different operational budgets in carrying out their duties. This will affect the performance of officers in the field. For example, for Immigration officers, there is no budget for operations in the field such as patrolling the waters of Belawan to supervise the entry of foreigners who are victims of human trafficking, so that this hinders the prevention and enforcement of the occurrence of human trafficking crimes in the waters of Belawan. (Novita, 2012)

In addition, for the Police itself, there is no special budget for the operation of supervision and enforcement of human trafficking crimes, especially for the Belawan Port Resort Police. This lack of budget certainly makes the law enforcement agency selective in carrying out its duties and functions related to law enforcement against trafficking crimes.

Law enforcement against human trafficking is influenced by the country's legal system. Quoting the theory of the legal system from Friedman, the legal system is influenced by 3 (three) main elements, namely legal structure, legal substantiation, and legal culture, each of which complements and influences the running of the legal system. Likewise with law enforcement against trafficking cases.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research, it can be concluded that the crime of human trafficking through the Belawan waterway is caused by various interrelated factors, both internally and externally. Internal factors include weak economic conditions (poverty), low levels of education, lack of skills and access to information, and a culture of society that is still authoritarian. In addition, the negligence of victims and the lack of employment opportunities also increase vulnerability to human trafficking practices. On the other hand, external factors such as weak immigration supervision, lack of coordination between relevant agencies such as Immigration, Police, and the Navy, have also worsened the situation and opened opportunities for perpetrators to take advantage of legal loopholes in the Belawan waters.

Law enforcement efforts against human trafficking are carried out through two main approaches, namely penal and non-penal efforts. Penal efforts are realized through the application of the law in accordance with Law Number 21 of 2007 concerning the Eradication of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons. Meanwhile, non-penal efforts are carried out with a focus on prevention through increasing public awareness of the rights of women and children, empowering community groups in social protection, and strengthening protection programs for vulnerable communities. However, law enforcement still faces various obstacles, such as weak supervision and coordination between institutions, low public concern, lengthy legal processes, the development of crime modus operandi, victims' unawareness of the exploitation they experience, and limited budgets for law enforcement officials. These obstacles demonstrate the need for stronger synergy between governments, law enforcement officials, and communities in addressing trafficking in persons comprehensively and sustainably.

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