



The Depletion of Public Trust: The Case of Brigadier J and Its Implications for the National Police

Reynaldi Julyan Nur Rachman

Faculty of Law, Universitas Widya Gama Malang, didiganteng960@gmail.com

Zulkarnain

Faculty of Law, Universitas Widya Gama Malang, zulkarnain@widyagama.ac.id

Abstract

The murder case of Brigadier J has created a wave of public distrust towards the National Police. This incident sparked a debate about transparency and integrity in law enforcement in Indonesia. Through analysis of media and public reactions, this article explores the factors that led to the decline in public trust. The findings show that a lack of disclosure of information and handling of cases that are considered unfair contribute to this crisis of trust. Implications for the National Police include the need for systemic reform and increased accountability to restore public trust. This research highlights the importance of effective communication and transparency in rebuilding relationships between the police and the community. This research method is normative legal research. Data sources in this research use primary, secondary and tertiary data sources. Normative juridical analysis.

Keyword: Case, Implications, National Police

INTRODUCTION

The news of the death of a policeman named Brigadier J who died due to a shootout at the police official house has caused an uproar in the community and caused a lot of controversy among the public and legal experts related to the news. Brigadier J died at the official residence of Inspector General Ferdy Sambo after receiving a number of shots. The death of Brigadier J was only revealed by the police in a press conference on Monday, July 11, 2022, even though the incident occurred on July 8, 2022.

This was conveyed by the Public Relations Division of the National Police. So the police also conducted further investigations. The next day, on July 12, 2022, the South Jakarta Metro Police delivered an explanation about the alleged death of Brigadier J. At that time, the inactive Jakarta Metro Police Chief, Kombes Budhi, explained that Brigadier J was killed in a shootout at Inspector General Sambo's house, which began with allegations of sexual harassment by Brigadier J to Inspector General Sambo's wife in Magelang based on a report dated July 9, 2022

that entered the South Jakarta Police.

The media and public attention was related to this incident, so on July 12, 2022, the National Police Chief, General Listyo Sigit Prabowo, then formed a Special Team related to the case of the police shooting at the house of Inspector General Ferdy Sambo. The special team is led directly by the Deputy Chief of Police Komjen Gatot.

National Police Chief General Listyo Sigit Prabowo announced a new suspect in the case of the alleged murder of Brigadier Nofriansyah Yoshua Hutabarat or Brigadier J. After conducting the case, the Special Team (Timsus) designated the former Head of the Profession and Security Division of the National Police, Inspector General of Police Ferdy Sambo, as a suspect. "This morning the case was held, and the team has decided to designate FS as a suspect," said the National Police Chief in a press conference at the National Police Headquarters.

On July 18, 2022, the National Police Chief deactivated Inspector General Sambo from the position of Head of the Propam Pori Division. This was announced directly by the National Police Chief. Furthermore, on July 26, 2022, Bharada E was examined by Komnas HAM. Komnas HAM as an independent external special team examined Bharada E and a number of aides Inspector General Sambo and Bharada E fulfilled the summons on Tuesday with a number of police escorts. Then on July 27, 2022, the victim of Brigadier J was re-autopsied. Brigadier J's body was re-autopsied at the Sungai Bahar Regional Hospital, Muaro Jambi, Brigadier J was then buried officially, which was previously buried by the family's victim himself.

On August 3, 2022, Bharada E was designated as a Murder Suspect in a case that had led to self-defense and then turned into murder. Bharada E also became a suspect in this murder. He was then was charged with multiple markets related to the death of Brigadier J in the shooting case at Inspector General Ferdy Sambo's house. Not only was he charged with murder, Bharada E was also charged with the article of participation. Furthermore, on August 4, 2022, Ferdy Sambo underwent an examination at the Criminal Investigation Branch of the National Police. Inspector General Ferdy Sambo apologized for the alleged murder that occurred at his official house.

In addition, as many as 25 police officers have also been examined in the investigation of the death of Brigadier J and the 25 police members have been examined for alleged unprofessionalism in handling the crime scene (crime scene). Shortly after, Sambo was transferred to the Yanma National Police along with the Profram Division Karoprovos Brigadier General Pol Benny Ali and Karopaminal Brigadier General Hendra Kurniawan.

On August 6, 2022 Ferdy Sambo Placed in Mako Brimob Shortly after being mutated, Inspector General Ferdy Sambo is now placed in Mako Brimob for 30 days by the Special Inspectorate (Itsus) of the National Police. This is related to the investigation of alleged ethical violations allegedly committed by Ferdy Sambo.

Ferdy Sambo is suspected of violating procedures in handling the case of the death of Brigadier Nofriansyah Yoshua Hutabarat or Brigadier J. He is said to be unprofessional in terms of taking CCTV. On August 7, 2022, Brigadier Ricky was designated as a suspect in the premeditated murder. Brigadier Ricky himself is the aide to Inspector General Ferdy Sambo's wife. Brigadier Ricky is suspected of Article 340 of the Criminal Code. The article regulates premeditated murder.

Furthermore, on August 8, 2022, Bharada E admitted that there was no shootout and this case This was conveyed by Bharada E's new lawyer, Muhammad Boerhanuddin. This statement dismissed the initial chronology that said Brigadier J was killed after being involved in a shootout with Bharada E. Boerhanuddin is now Bharada E's legal advisor replacing the previous lawyer. He also said that his client explained about the former projectiles at the crime scene., namely the official house of the Head of the Propam Police Division at the Police Complex, Duren Tiga, South Jakarta (Jakarta). He said Bharada E admitted that the former projectiles at the crime scene were only an alibi. Brigadier J's gun, he said, was deliberately fired at the wall to give the impression that there was a shootout and Bharada E had also changed the information on the investigation report (BAP). In the latest BAP, Bharada E also revealed a number of names involved in the death of Brigadier J. Lawyers said more than one person was said to be involved in the death of Brigadier J.

On August 12, 2022, the National Police also examined Inspector General Ferdy Sambo. During the examination, Ferdy Sambo admitted that he was angry and emotional after receiving a report from his wife, Putri Candrawathi. This was conveyed by the Director of Criminal Investigation of the National Police, Brigadier General Andi Rian Djajadi in a press conference, To the police, Sambo also said that Putri admitted to experiencing an act that hurt the dignity of the family of Brigadier J in Magelang. Upon the report, Sambo also asked Bharada Richard Eliezer and Bripka Ricky Rizal to kill Brigadier J.

Meanwhile, Ferdy Sambo's lawyer, Arman Hanis, read Ferdy Sambo's apology through his cellphone. This was conveyed by Arman when met at Ferdy Sambo's private house, Jl Saguling III, Duren Tiga, Mampang Prapatan, South Jakarta, "To the institution that I am proud of, the National Police, and especially to the National Police Chief who I respect very much, I

apologize and especially to my colleagues in the National Police who have been directly affected by this case, once again I apologize due to the emergence of various interpretations and submissions of information that are dishonest and hurt trust public to the institution of the National Police,” he further stated “Allow me to take responsibility for all the actions that I have done in accordance with the applicable law.”

Then on August 12, 2022, the Director of General Crimes of the Criminal Investigation Department, Brigadier General Andi Rian Djajadi, stated that the report on July 9 regarding Putri Candrawathi's sexual harassment was stopped. At the same time, the report on the attempted murder of Bharada Richard Eliezer with the reported Brigadier Joshua was also stopped.

Furthermore, on August 19, 2022, the Criminal Investigation Branch of the National Police designated Inspector General Ferdy Sambo's wife, Putri Candrawathi, as a suspect in the premeditated murder of Brigadier Nofriansyah Yoshua Hutabarat or Brigadier J. Putri is the fifth suspect in the case. Putri was charged with premeditated murder, the same article charged to her husband, Ferdy Sambo. In one of these articles, Putri is suspected of deliberately participating in planning in advance to take the lives of others as regulated in Article 340, subsidiary 338 juncto Article 55 juncto Article 56 of the Criminal Code.

Then on August 26, 2022, Inspector General Ferdy Sambo was dismissed from the police based on an ethics hearing. The ethics hearing then decided to dismiss the former Head of the Propam Police Division disrespectfully. The verdict was delivered by the chairman of the National Police Intelligence Division, Komjen Ahmad Dofiri, at the National Police Headquarters on Thursday, August 25, 2022. In the ethical decision, there are two points decided in the Sambo ethics hearing as follows: One sanction is ethical, namely the violator's behavior is declared a reprehensible act. The two administrative sanctions are:

- a) placement in a special place for 4 days from August 8 to 12, 2022 at the Police Brimob Corps Detention Center where placement in a special place has been undertaken by the violator,
- b) dishonorable dismissal or PTDH as a member of the police.

Furthermore, on September 28, 2022, the file of the defendant Ferdy Sambo et al was declared complete. The Attorney General's Office stated that the case of alleged premeditated murder against Brigadier Nopriansyah Yosua Hutabarat with the suspect Ferdy Sambo et al was complete “The formal and material requirements have been met as specified in the Criminal

Code,” said Jampidum of the Attorney General’s Office Fadil Zumhana “The investigator handed it over to the prosecutor for trial,” and Ferdy Sambo et al were immediately put on trial.

On October 10, 2022, Sambo et al's file was transferred to the Central Jakarta District Court. The South Jakarta District Court through the Public Relations Officer of the South Jakarta District Court, Djuyamto, also said that it had prepared several things. “Preparations for the technical administration of the receipt of file transfers, coordination of court security, press media coverage and so on”.

Then on October 17, 2022, Ferdy Sambo et al were heard, the Central Jakarta District Court had made a schedule for the hearing, namely Monday, October 17, 2022, the trial schedule for Ferdy Sambo, Putri Candrawathi, Ricky Rizal, and Kuart Ma’ruf. Tuesday, October 18, 2022, the trial schedule for Richard Eliezer Pudiang Lumiu (Bharada E) and Wednesday, October 19, 2022, the trial schedule for 6 obstruction of justice suspects. The murder case of Brigadier J involving the former Head of the Profession and Security Division of the National Police, Ferdy Sambo, has been in the spotlight in Indonesia. This incident not only tarnished the image of the National Police, but also triggered public distrust of law enforcement institutions in this country.

The case that occurred in 2022 revealed various inconsistencies in the handling and investigation carried out by the National Police, as well as showing efforts to cover up the truth. Brigadier Nofriansyah Yosua Hutabarat or Brigadier J, a police member who served as Ferdy Sambo's aide, was found dead with a gunshot wound at Sambo's official house in Jakarta. In the initial investigation, the National Police stated that Brigadier J's death occurred due to a shootout between himself and his colleague, Bharada E. However, as time went by, various new facts and evidence emerged that indicated irregularities in the official version of the National Police. The public and the media began to question the veracity of the statements given by the authorities.

Public distrust grew when indications of case engineering efforts were found by high-ranking officials of the National Police. Various media reported the destruction of evidence, intimidation of witnesses, and manipulation of information carried out to cover up Ferdy Sambo's involvement in this case¹. This case then became a national issue that attracted widespread attention from various circles, including human rights activists, academics, and politicians.

¹ BBC News Indonesia. "The Case of Brigadier J: Allegations of Fabrication and Its Impact on the Image of the National Police." BBC News Indonesia, 15 September 2022

The impact of Brigadier J's case cannot be underestimated. Public trust in the National Police, which is supposed to be at the forefront of law enforcement and state security, has experienced a drastic decline. According to a survey conducted by the Indonesia Survey Institute (LSI), the level of public trust in the National Police has decreased significantly after this case emerged². This is a big challenge for the National Police to restore the image and public trust that has been eroded. This introduction will discuss in depth the implications of the Brigadier J case on public trust in the National Police. This research will examine various factors that affect public perception, how the media plays a role in shaping public opinion, as well as efforts that can be made by the National Police to restore this trust. In addition, the broader implications of this declining public trust in the country's stability and security will also be discussed.³ In order to provide a comprehensive picture, this research will use a qualitative approach by collecting data from various sources, media analysis, and similar case studies in other countries. Thus, it is hoped that this research can make a meaningful contribution in understanding the dynamics of public trust in law enforcement institutions and finding effective solutions to overcome the trust crisis that is being faced.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach to analyze the impact of the Brigadier J case on public trust in the National Police. The qualitative approach was chosen because it allows researchers to deeply understand the perceptions, experiences, and views of society towards law enforcement institutions in a complex social context⁴. The methods used in this study include literature studies, in-depth interviews, and media analysis.

1. Literature Studies

A literature study was conducted to collect secondary information and data relevant to the case of Brigadier J and its implications for public trust in the National Police. The sources used in literature studies include books, journal articles, research reports, and official documents from related agencies⁵. This literature study aims to understand the historical and theoretical context regarding public trust, as well as to identify factors that affect public perception of law

² Indonesia Survey Institute. "Survey on the Level of Public Trust in the National Police After the Brigadier J Case." LSI, October 2022.

³ Indonesia Lawyers Club. "Public Discussion: Declining Public Trust in the National Police and Its Implications for National Security." ILC, October 20, 2022.

⁴ Creswell, John W. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Sage Publications, 2013.

⁵ Yin, Robert K. *Case Study Research and Applications: Design and Methods*. Sage Publications, 2017.

enforcement institutions.

2. Media Analysis

Media analysis was carried out to understand how the case of Brigadier J was reported and framed by various mass media, as well as how the news affected public opinion towards the National Police. Data sources in media analysis include news, opinion articles, and special coverage from print, online, and television media⁶. This media analysis uses content analysis techniques, which involves coding and categorizing news content based on themes, narratives, and viewpoints presented by the media.

In addition, the researcher also analyzed public comments and responses that appeared on social media related to the case of Brigadier J. Data from social media was collected and analyzed to understand public perceptions and reactions to media reports and the actions of the National Police in handling this case. The analysis techniques used include sentiment analysis and social network analysis, which help identify patterns of interaction and influence of opinions in the digital space⁷.

3. Data Triangulation

To ensure the validity and reliability of the research findings, the researcher used the data triangulation method. Data triangulation is carried out by comparing and contrasting findings from various data sources, namely literature studies, in-depth interviews, and media analysis⁸. By using various data sources, researchers can obtain a more comprehensive and in-depth picture of the impact of the Brigadier J case on public trust in the National Police.

4. Data Analysis

Data analysis is carried out iteratively and continuously throughout the research process. Researchers use an inductive approach in data analysis, where findings arising from empirical data are used to develop understanding and theories regarding the phenomenon being studied⁹. The analysis process involves the stages of organizing data, coding, identifying themes, and interpreting findings. The results of the data analysis are then presented in a systematic narrative form and supported by excerpts from interviews and other data sources.

⁶ Krippendorff, Klaus. *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology*. Sage Publications, 2018.

⁷ Hansen, Derek, Ben Shneiderman, and Marc A. Smith. *Analyzing Social Media Networks with NodeXL: Insights from a Connected World*. Elsevier, 2010.

⁸ Denzin, Norman K. *The Research Act: A Theoretical Introduction to Sociological Methods*. McGraw-Hill, 1978.

⁹ Guest, Greg, Kathleen M. MacQueen, and Emily E. Namey. *Applied Thematic Analysis*. Sage Publications, 2012.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of this study revealed several important findings related to the impact of the Brigadier J case on public trust in the National Police. The findings were obtained through data analysis from literature studies, in-depth interviews, and media analysis. Here are some of the key findings that were successfully identified:

1. Decline in Public Trust in the National Police

The case of Brigadier J has had a significant impact on the decline in public trust in the National Police. Based on a survey conducted by the Indonesia Survey Institute (LSI), the level of public trust in the National Police decreased drastically after this case emerged. Before this case emerged, around 70% of respondents stated that they had high trust in the National Police. However, after the case of Brigadier J, the figure dropped to 45%.¹⁰ This decline shows how much negative impact this case has on the image and reputation of the National Police in the eyes of the public.

2. Public Perception of the Integrity and Transparency of the National Police

In-depth interviews with various sources revealed that the public has a negative perception of the integrity and transparency of the National Police in handling the case of Brigadier J. Many respondents stated that the National Police failed to show transparency in the investigation process and tended to cover up the existing facts. Several speakers also expressed their disappointment with the case engineering efforts carried out by the National Police, which further deteriorated the image of the institution in the eyes of the public.

3. The Role of the Media in Shaping Public Opinion

Media analysis shows that the mass media plays an important role in shaping public opinion regarding the case of Brigadier J. Intensive and continuous media coverage of this case has strengthened the public's negative perception of the National Police. The media not only reported the facts that occurred, but also presented critical analysis and opinions on the actions of the National Police. The news carried out by the media also gave rise to a wide public discussion on social media, which also influenced the public's view of this case and the National Police in

¹⁰ Indonesia Survey Institute. "Survey on the Level of Public Trust in the National Police After the Brigadier J Case." LSI, October 2022.

general¹¹.

4. Long-Term Impact on the National Police

The decline in public trust in the National Police has significant long-term implications. According to the experts interviewed, if the National Police does not immediately take steps to restore public trust, the impact could be very detrimental, both in terms of operations and institutional legitimacy. Low public trust can reduce the effectiveness of the National Police in carrying out its duties, as well as reduce public support for law enforcement efforts carried out by the National Police¹².

The discussion of the results of this study will explore more deeply the factors that contribute to the decline in public trust in the National Police, as well as the implications of these findings;

1. Factors Causing a Decline in Public Trust

One of the main factors that caused a decrease in public trust in the National Police was the lack of transparency and accountability in handling the case of Brigadier J. The public felt that the National Police was dishonest and tended to cover up important facts, which caused suspicion and distrust¹³. In addition, the existence of case engineering efforts by National Police personnel further strengthens the negative perception of the public. The inability of the National Police to handle this case professionally and transparently has damaged the image of the institution in the eyes of the public.

Another contributing factor is intensive and critical media coverage. The mass media, both print and online, have played an important role in shaping public opinion regarding the case. Repeated news and critical analysis presented by the media have influenced the public's view of the National Police. The discussions that took place on social media also helped to reinforce this negative perception, as the public could easily share their information and opinions regarding the case¹⁴.

¹¹ Social Media Analysis, November 2022.

¹² Public Discussion at Indonesia Lawyers Club, October 20, 2022.

¹³ BBC News Indonesia. "The Case of Brigadier J: Allegations of Fabrication and Its Impact on the Image of the National Police." BBC News Indonesia, 15 September 2022.

¹⁴ Social Media Analysis, November 2022.

2. Implications of Declining Public Trust in the National Police

The decline in public trust in the National Police has broad and complex implications. In terms of operations, the National Police may face difficulties in carrying out their duties if the public no longer believes in the integrity and honesty of the institution. Low public trust can reduce the effectiveness of the National Police in enforcing the law and maintaining security, as the public may be reluctant to cooperate with the police or provide the necessary information for¹⁵ investigations.

In terms of legitimacy, a decline in public trust can damage the reputation of the National Police as a credible law enforcement agency. If the public no longer trusts the National Police, the legitimacy of the institution can be questioned, which can ultimately disrupt the stability and security of the country. In the long term, if public trust is not restored immediately, the National Police may face a serious legitimacy crisis, which could negatively impact law enforcement and national security efforts¹⁶.

3. Efforts to Restore Public Trust

To restore public trust, the National Police needs to take concrete steps that demonstrate their commitment to transparency, accountability, and professionalism. Some recommendations that can be done include:

- a) **Transparency in the Investigation Process:** The National Police must ensure that each investigation process is carried out in a transparent and open manner for public scrutiny. Accurate and complete information must be conveyed to the public to avoid speculation and suspicion.
- b) **Internal Reform:** The National Police needs to carry out internal reforms to improve existing systems and procedures. This includes increased training and education for police members, as well as the implementation of strict sanctions against individuals proven to have committed violations.
- c) **Cooperation with the Media and the Community:** The National Police needs to establish good cooperation with the media and the public to rebuild trust. This can be done through effective communication, counseling, and active involvement in the community.

¹⁵ Patton, Michael Quinn. *Qualitative Research & Evaluation Methods*. Sage Publications, 2015.

¹⁶ Public Discussion at Indonesia Lawyers Club, October 20, 2022.

- d) Independent Supervision: Establish an independent supervisory institution that can monitor and evaluate the performance of the National Police objectively and transparently.

These efforts are expected to help the National Police in restoring public trust and restoring their reputation as a credible and professional law enforcement agency.

CONCLUSION

The case of Brigadier J involving Ferdy Sambo has become an important turning point in public perception of the National Police. The study shows that the case has led to a significant decline in public trust in the National Police, as well as revealing various factors that contribute to this change in perception. The conclusion of this study summarizes the main findings and broader implications of Brigadier J's case against the National Police and public trust.

REFERENCES

- BBC News Indonesia. *The Case of Brigadier J: Allegations of Fabrication and Its Impact on the Image of the National Police*. BBC News Indonesia, 15 September 2022.
- BBC News Indonesia. *The Case of Brigadier J: Allegations of Fabrication and Its Impact on the Image of the National Police*. BBC News Indonesia, 15 September 2022.
- Creswell, John W. *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches*. Sage Publications, 2013.
- Denzin, Norman K. *The Research Act: A Theoretical Introduction to Sociological Methods*. McGraw-Hill, 1978.
- Guest, Greg, Kathleen M. MacQueen, and Emily E. Namey. *Applied Thematic Analysis*. Sage Publications, 2012.
- Hansen, Derek, Ben Shneiderman, and Marc A. Smith. *Analyzing Social Media Networks with NodeXL: Insights from a Connected World*. Elsevier, 2010.
- Indonesia Survey Institute. *Survey on the Level of Public Trust in the National Police After the Brigadier J Case*. LSI, October 2022.
- Indonesia Lawyers Club. *Public Discussion: Declining Public Trust in the National Police and Its Implications for National Security*. ILC, October 20, 2022.
- Indonesia Survey Institute. *Survey on the Level of Public Trust in the National Police After the Brigadier J Case*. LSI, October 2022.
- Krippendorff, Klaus. *Content Analysis: An Introduction to Its Methodology*. Sage Publications,



2018.

Public Discussion at Indonesia Lawyers Club, October 20, 2022.

Patton, Michael Quinn. *Qualitative Research & Evaluation Methods*. Sage Publications, 2015.

Public Discussion at Indonesia Lawyers Club, October 20, 2022.

Social Media Analysis, November 2022.

Yin, Robert K. *Case Study Research and Applications: Design and Methods*. Sage Publications, 2017.