

# Social Media and the Shortcut Blade for Justice Seekers

Rivaldhy N. Muhammad<sup>1</sup>, Lestari Wulandari S<sup>2</sup>, Rif'iy Qomarrullah<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia <sup>2 3</sup> Universitas Cenderawasih, Indonesia

e-mail: rivaldhy@ecampus.ut.ac.id

#### Abstract

The existence of social media has changed the structure of people's lives, becoming a necessity for people in the digital world. This age is open without time and place restrictions. The aim of this article is to highlight this phenomenon and explore how social media can act as an instrument of justice and law enforcement. The method used in this work follows the rules of literary research. In addition, the discussion in this journal is as follows: (1) The use of social media in public can bring many advantages, but also disadvantages. This can especially affect the law and the judiciary; and (2) Law enforcement officials, as well as police investigators, prosecutors, judges and advocates, in enforcing the law, especially in legal matters, have caused considerable anxiety in the community. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the court institution as a place that presents an atmosphere and a sense of peace for justice seekers, so that the main task of the court in carrying out justice and peace among the people is not as desired.

Keywords: Social media, justice, law enforcement.

# INTRODUCTION

In a world where official institutions seem to turn a blind eye to the plight of victims of sexual crimes, especially women, justice is an elusive and challenging pursuit [1], [2]. The Law on Sexual Assault Offenses, in force for six years, failed to deal with these crimes effectively, especially when powerful individuals were involved. Justice in real life is often rare commodity difficult to achieve [3]. However, in the digital realm, an interesting phenomenon occurs. Social media, ignoring societal divisions such as class, education, a race, religion, and gender, has emerged as a powerful force to fight for equality and justice [4]. In Indonesia, social media serve as a valuable tool for information and connecting with others. It has become an important aspect of our lives in modern times, allowing us to reach distant relatives, make new friends and stay connected to the world. Instead of focusing on the negative aspects, let us explore the positive aspects that social media bring [5]. In terms of justice, there are several examples in Indonesia where social media have played a critical role in exposing abuse and rallying support for victims. This has led to demands for a fair and impartial investigation. Social media have become an integral part of internet users, enabling us to share messages through various media such as a text, a video and audio.



Indonesia has a reputation as a country that upholds the principles of the rule of law, ensuring that all violations are dealt with in accordance with the established rules. However, many legal cases in Indonesia are very disturbing public perception of justice. Take, for an example, the case of a grandmother who stole three cocoa pods, and received a month's sentence as a consequence. However, the most recent incident involved a student who, in an act of valor, took the life of a mugger to protect his girlfriend and now faces the potential for a lifetime behind bars. This particular case serves as a stark reflection of the country's discriminatory law enforcement practices. While those who commit acts of corruption, plunder the people's wealth, continue to roam freely, those who are socio-economically disadvantaged easily entangled in the legal system, which ends in prison.

The fifth precept of Pancasila states that all Indonesian people must have social justice. However, in reality, injustice is still rampant in this country. One form of injustice that has caught the attention of society is legal injustice. The hashtag #No Use to Report Police is popular on social media due to public frustration with police performance. In law enforcement, there are three aspects that must be considered: legal certainty, expediency, and justice. Unfortunately, it seems that existing laws fail to provide justice, certainty and benefit because they are not enforced effectively. The cases of Putri and Pinangki are clear examples of how justice is compromised, legal certainty is belittled, and society is not benefited. To guarantee justice in law, decision makers in law enforcement must not only adhere to legal articles but also have a moral compass that reflects the current state of society. By incorporating legal benefits and legal certainty with conscience, complete legal justice can be achieved. This is what is known as a law driven by conscience. The question that arises then is: what is the moral compass of law enforcers in our country? Is it based on the values of truth and goodness or is it influenced by external interests that are not related to law enforcement?

Social media, with its inherent rules and potential legal implications, serves as an accessible platform for individuals of all backgrounds. Despite the existence of privacy settings, there are still gaps in maintaining confidentiality, because people of all ages use the content we share. It is critical that we reconsider the ethical implications of our social media contributions. The author acknowledges the widespread influence of social media on various factions of society, particularly its impact on law enforcement practices. These thought-provoking concepts, which are the center of the author's exploration, are appropriately packaged in an evocative title: "Social Media and the Wise Tools of Justice Seekers".

## METHOD

The method used to examine and examine the problems in this article uses a library research approach, because the focus point of the analysis revolves around legal issues in the implementation of justice and peace through social media platforms [6]. Through a comprehensive review of the existing literature and lectures received by the author, the 343



aim was to gather information on the subject of the writing and various supplements. Conducting a literature study involves collecting data by understanding and analyzing the theories found in the relevant literature [7]. The process of studying literature in research includes four stages, namely preparing the necessary tools, compiling a bibliography, managing time, and reading or recording research material [8]. Data collection involves sourcing and a building on information from various outlets such as books, journals, and previous research. Library materials obtained from various references were subjected to critical analysis, digging in a depth to support the arguments and ideas put forward.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### 1. Social Media and Legal Principles

As quoted in Source Notes: "The term sociology of law was first used in 1882 by a famous philosopher from Europe. Anziolotti saw law as a social reality rather than a rule. Anziolotti also sees law as a social phenomenon that is different from normative law as a positive norm in national legislation. According to Emile Durkheim, legal sociology is a science that studies social facts. Social facts are ways of behaving, thinking, and exerting external forces. Coercion on the individual. Sociology of law is an intrinsic knowledge of law that is studied on the basis of social behavior in social life and patterns of human behavior in social situations. An Indonesian sociologist emphasized that legal sociology is a branch of knowledge that is studied in terms of studies and facts by analyzing the relationship between law and phenomena in society, as well as various legal problems in society [9]. One of the developments of this era is the development of social media as a means of public communication. Social media is an online communication tool that allows its users to share, interact, share and create business easily without space or time limitations. The development of social media has changed human civilization around the world. Social media, both print and electronic, can create a world without borders that leads to social dynamics in society. The development of social media also offers many benefits in various fields of human life. Social media can provide benefits for the public to be aware of various events in Europe and other parts of the world, and social media can make it easier for someone to talk directly to other people in the United States. Other countries or parts of the world. The development of social media in addition to bringing benefits to society also has a negative impact on society [10]. Excessive use of social media can take up all day and make a person individualistic and indifferent to the people around him. Frequent use of social media also makes work unproductive.

#### 2. Information Disclosure and Voice of Justice

In the digital realm, survivors of sexual crimes find a powerful platform to attract the attention of authorities and demand justice. This was proven in the East Luwu case, where the local police initially ignored a mother's complaint regarding the rape of her daughter by her biological father. However, when the story garnered attention on social media and angered millions of netizens, the National Police intervened, and the father was brought to justice. Indonesian netizens show high sensitivity and concern for victims of sexual



crimes, empathizing with their experiences. It is important for netizens to continue to monitor such crimes until the perpetrators are held accountable, and the victims get true justice [11]. Only through collective pressure, anger, and determination to fight sexual misconduct can technology and governments be forced to take these crimes seriously. Let us unite to turn cyberspace into a legitimate arena to prosecute sex offenders.

## 3. Justice in a Positive Law Enforcement Perspective

In a modern state hierarchy, the task of enforcing the law is carried out by the judiciary and bureaucracy commonly referred to as the executive branch. The existence of laws and regulations that are in accordance with the positive legal basis in the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia allows for judicial discretion which is the essence of a rule of law state. This is achieved through an independent judiciary that is not subject to the influence of executive, legislative or judicial factors [12]. The principles of freedom of justice and respect for the rule of law are an integral part of national life. In cases where a person is convicted, they should be treated with equal consideration by receiving the appropriate corporal punishment or fine according to the sentence established for their crime. The implementation of law in society is not only based on the legal awareness of the community but is also heavily influenced by the decisions made by law enforcement officials [13]. Unfortunately, there are some legal provisions that are not properly enforced because law enforcement agencies ignore the rule of law. Upholding justice by officials who are entrusted with protecting and working with the community is very important. There is no wiser word than calling on all law enforcers to always maintain dignity and behave well. The temptation of power has the potential to compromise their ultimate intentions and responsibilities.

#### 4. Judicial Institutions and Law Enforcement Apparatus Objectivity

The link between the judiciary and law enforcement agencies cannot be separated from the laws and regulations formed by the legislature. The independence of the judiciary, the autonomy of the courts and judges to carry out their duties without interference or control from other entities, both government and private, is a very important aspect [14]. This term also has a normative connotation, referring to the level of independence that courts and judges should have. In practical terms, the pinnacle of judicial independence is widely considered to be independence from other government actors, although this is difficult to achieve. This form of judicial independence is highly appreciated by those who perceive courts as having a unique responsibility to protect individuals and minorities from illegitimate or unfair treatment by governments or oppressive majorities. However, achieving this independence is difficult due to the fact that other branches of government often have the authority to challenge or obstruct the enforcement of court decisions, and may even retaliate against decisions that are contested. The judiciary, known as the "least dangerous" branch, has no control over military or economic resources, making it the least capable of defending itself of the other



branches. The ambiguity surrounding the definition of judicial independence has fueled the debate and confusion that exists, leading some scholars to question its analytical usefulness. Ultimately, the disagreement around this concept stems from two main sources. First, there are conceptual disagreements regarding the different types of independence that courts and judges can have. Second, there is normative disagreement about the desired level of judicial independence [15].

The practical importance of judicial independence arises when courts settle disputes involving powerful actors or institutions that have influence over them. The stronger the actors involved, the greater the need to maintain the independence of the courts. However, if both parties to the dispute are equally strong, the balance of power can offer some protection. Despite the various scientific analyzes of populism, it is best understood as a political strategy. This strategy involves using symbolic performance to create and navigate spheres of power that span government and everyday life, which now includes social media. The field of digitally mediated communication has evolved from an academic collaboration tool to what we now know as new and social media. The platform is hailed as a way for marginalized individuals to participate in civic engagement and promote democratic ideals. However, the current state of social media and networking sites sugest that they may be hindering democracy instead of promoting the free and equal ideals they claim to support. Thus, it is very important to build a coherent dialogue that upholds democratic principles. New and social media are seen as tools to amplify voices that are often unheard and circumvent state control over media and content.

According to a popular saying, it is believed that law and justice go hand in hand. However, reality often contradicts this notion, as laws can sometimes be unfair and even violate their own principles. This can undermine the sense of justice in society, even though the law has been upheld. Our relationship with social media has undergone significant changes in recent years. The prevalence of misinformation on these platforms has increased, overshadowing the reliable information provided by experts, particularly in the health sector. Preliminary studies conducted during the lockdown period suggest a potential link between excessive use of social media and increased prevalence of mental health problems. Technology has greatly accelerated the spread of ideas, relationships and information, with social media playing a key role in this revolution. This has changed communication and access to information on a national and global scale. The ease with which information can be shared and distributed has a profound impact on many aspects of modern life, changing our mindsets, social relationships and engagement with social justice and activism. Social media has given individuals new avenues for communication and collaboration. Platforms such as feeds, profiles and groups have facilitated global access to organizations, enabling them to increase visibility through sharing and networking. Consequently, contemporary communications students are now studying these virtual platforms and may even pursue careers centered on the creation and dissemination of digital content. The strength of social media lies in its ability to amplify voices, disseminate information instantly and encourage collaboration among diverse groups of people.



# 5. Healthy Law Enforcement and Judicial Institutions

Accountable law enforcement, or the concept of being responsible for enforcing the law, involves efforts that can be explained clearly to society, the state, and the justice system. Ensure certainty regarding the legal aspects of the existing legal system, while taking into account the interests of justice and society. Law enforcement cannot be separated from the legal system itself. While the legal system is part of a series of interconnected processes that must be followed by law enforcers and the public, in the end it maintains legal certainty. Unfortunately, law enforcement in Indonesia is a major concern, as people are not deterred from breaking the law and are well-educated on how to avoid punishment. This clearly shows the poor law enforcement in this country. To overcome this problem, the following steps are needed: updating and completing existing legal documents, improving the ethical and intellectual quality of law enforcement officials, establishing an independent organization to monitor the law enforcement process, providing adequate incentives for law enforcement, disseminating laws and regulations broadly to ensure compliance, and increase the involvement of law enforcement at all levels of society. This commitment to responsible law enforcement, especially by judges, advocates, prosecutors and the police is expected to be an example for the whole community [16].

Law plays an important role in maintaining a harmonious and prosperous society, upholding the cultural values of the Indonesian nation. It is the responsibility of all members of society to preserve and promote these values. However, there are cases where legal decisions are seen as ignoring justice, leading to dissatisfaction with the judiciary. Indonesia 've unique dynamics requiring deeper understanding of legal concepts, as Western law may not always be in line with the country's context. The process of educating the nation must be approached with wisdom and prudence, ensuring that political and legal decisions are not solely driven by authority. Justice should not be mere rhetoric, but guiding principle that transcends self-interest. Our legal system must be able to adapt to various sources of law that exist in society [17].

## CONCLUSION

Social media provide law enforcement agencies access to members of the community who have concerns and questions about how they and their family members can reduce the risk of various types of criminal victimization. Websites and social media pages are important platforms for posting crime prevention tips, which can be adapted to the emphasis on crime prevention at different months of the year. Another social media format for crime prevention education is the development of blogs that focus on crime prevention as a subject for exchange of information and investigations. An additional suggestion is to ensure a crime prevention web chat by police leaders where they interact with citizens on how to prevent different types of crime.



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