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The role of the Banda Aceh City Police in addressing vigilantism: An analysis of Article 13 Of Law No. 2 Of 2002 on The Indonesian National Police

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the role of the Banda Aceh City Police in combating vigilantism and to identify the obstacles encountered in its implementation. This study employs an empirical-juridical method using both a legal and a conceptual approach. Research data were obtained through interviews with officials from the Banda Aceh City Police and supported by relevant legal materials and literature sources, then analyzed using qualitative descriptive methods. The results indicate that the Banda Aceh City Police's role in combating vigilantism is carried out through three approaches: preemptive, preventive, and repressive. Preemptive efforts are carried out through raising public awareness and promoting legal compliance, as well as through outreach, public education, and communication with community leaders and the younger generation. Preventive efforts are carried out through patrols, security measures, surveillance, raids, and monitoring to prevent disturbances to public safety and order. Meanwhile, repressive measures are carried out by receiving reports, identifying those involved, conducting investigations, and enforcing the law against perpetrators of violence. In implementing these measures, the Banda Aceh City Police face challenges such as difficulty in identifying perpetrators because the acts are committed spontaneously and involve many people, a limited number of witnesses willing to provide testimony, and low participation by some members of the public in supporting the law enforcement process. This study also found that the lack of statistical data specifically classifying acts of vigilantism constitutes a limitation in quantitatively measuring the effectiveness of countermeasures. Therefore, addressing acts of vigilantism requires strengthening community participation, raising legal awareness, and implementing more structured recording and documentation of incidents to support the ongoing evaluation of response efforts.

Keywords: Police; Banda Aceh City Police; vigilante justice; law enforcement; legal awareness.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Article 1, paragraph 3 of the 1945 Constitution states that the Republic of Indonesia is a state based on the rule of law. In Indonesia's legal system, violations must be resolved through official legal channels established by law enforcement authorities. The government enacts laws to ensure order and peace within the nation. Without laws, society would create its own rules, leading to chaos—namely, conflicts among members of society. Laws arise from human social interactions based on awareness and behavior in community life. Legal provisions are arranged in an interconnected manner within a structured legal system to prevent arbitrariness in lawmaking. As a nation governed by the rule of law, Indonesia implements this system to maintain stability and order and to ensure justice for all its citizens (Irawan et al., 2025).

The meaning of law enforcement in a structured approach: institutions involved in law enforcement—such as the police, prosecutors, and courts—carry out their functions by contributing to ensuring justice is served, maintaining order, and protecting the rights of the public in accordance with applicable laws. As law enforcement agencies, these institutions bear a crucial responsibility within a country's judicial system. In addition to carrying out law enforcement duties, they are also responsible for ensuring that the justice process proceeds objectively and transparently (Pratama & Pangestika, 2024). Law enforcement officials also play a role in shaping the public's perception of restorative justice. There are still many issues within society that view law enforcement as merely imposing sanctions, so the perception of restorative justice needs to be addressed. Therefore, law enforcement officials can conduct outreach and training on the principles of restorative justice and how the public can participate in the process. The concept of law enforcement can be viewed from the perspective of its legal objects. This means that law enforcement can be viewed from both a broad and a narrow perspective; the broad perspective considers both formal legal values and the values held by contemporary society (Setiadi, 2018).

As the primary state law enforcement institution, the Indonesian National Police (Polri) operates pursuant to Law No. 2 of 2002. Under Article 1, Paragraph 1, all police conduct must strictly align with statutory mandates rather than individual or institutional discretion. In addition to criminal investigation, Polri is legally obligated to maintain public security, deliver protection, and provide community service. Thus, policing activities represent a professional commitment to constitutional governance and fundamental human rights (Sembiring & Halimah, 2023).

According to Rahardjo (2007), the police serve as a critical social institution embedded within society, functioning as guardians of social equilibrium to prevent private conflicts from escalating into collective violence. The core function of policing lies in its protective and preventive dimensions—instilling a psychological sense of safety and ensuring that legal mechanisms serve human dignity rather than destructive ends. Prescriptively, Article 13 of Law No. 2 of 2002 outlines the primary statutory duties of the or *Kepolisian Republik Indonesia* (Polri) for maintaining public safety and order, enforcing the law, and providing protection, guidance, and service to the community. Under this mandate, maintaining public safety constitutes a fundamental state obligation executionally entrusted to the police. The statutory framework serves to preserve social stability, ensure public safety, and uphold legal certainty within society.

Despite this clear statutory foundation, vigilantism remains a major legal problem in Banda Aceh, reflecting a persistent societal tendency to bypass the judicial process. For instance, in 2024, a 50-year-old man (RD) died after being subjected to mob violence due to alleged immoral behavior, leading Polresta Banda Aceh to name six suspects (Erzansyah, 2024). In another case, a violent assault on a victim (Muhammad Yudhi) by two individuals (SL and ML) illustrated how personal disputes are violently executed outside formal legal channels (Fajri, 2024). Similarly, a suspect (EP, 26) accused of theft in Peunayong was violently beaten by a crowd before police arrived at the scene (Redaksi, 2026). Although public participation in crime prevention is valued, police authorities continuously emphasize that arresting and prosecuting suspects remain the exclusive legal authority of state law enforcement.

Persistent acts of extrajudicial violence highlight significant operational challenges in executing preventive and repressive police functions. Cases involving severe injury or loss of life emphasize the

urgent need for rapid police response, proactive legal education, and strengthened public trust in formal legal channels. Therefore, this study analyzes the operational strategies and challenges of the Banda Aceh City Police in combating vigilantism in accordance with their statutory obligations under Article 13 of Law No. 2 of 2002.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Indonesian National Police

The Polri is the country's national law enforcement agency, serving as the primary institution responsible for maintaining public security and order while reporting directly to the President. Its jurisdiction covers the entire territory of Indonesia, where it performs functions related to law enforcement, public protection, community guidance, and public service. The institution is headed by the Chief of the Police or *Kepala Kepolisian Republik Indonesia* (Kapolri), who holds overall responsibility for Polri's strategic direction and operational management. In fulfilling its duties as mandated by Law No. 2 of 2002, Polri faces various challenges, largely stemming from its direct engagement with the community. Consequently, the relationship between the police and the public they serve does not always reach its full potential. Building public trust is a challenging process, as it requires continuous communication, frequent social interaction, and personal commitment from every police officer.

If the police are regarded as law enforcement officers who conduct investigations and inquiries based on judicial authority, then institutional independence and closer collaboration with other law enforcement bodies responsible for the implementation of criminal justice are essential. The police are a legal institution situated within a broader social ecosystem that can influence all of the organization's activities. Therefore, the police's duties, as defined by their authority, are crucial, as they directly impact the fulfillment of their responsibilities and the performance of the police institution (Sembiring & Halimah, 2023).

2.2. Vigilatism

Vigilatism constitutes an unlawful act in which an individual arbitrarily punishes another person who is perceived to have committed a criminal offense or other wrongful conduct. This type of behavior typically stems from unresolved conflicts between the parties involved, resulting in feelings of resentment that eventually motivate the perpetrator to seek personal retribution outside the legal process (Fitriati, 2012).

The problem with vigilantism can be seen in the strong urge among the masses to immediately subdue criminals. This urge manifests as a spontaneous reaction that bypasses the established legal process. In practice, these actions are often accompanied by various forms of physical violence—such as beatings, slaps, and other aggressive acts against the perpetrator. These actions are carried out by the perpetrator with the aim of preventing further unlawful acts and subduing the alleged offender of the vigilante action. However, such actions actually reveal a flaw in the proper principles of law enforcement.

Such actions result in injuries to the perpetrator, ranging from minor to severe injuries, and can even lead to death. The behavior of a mob that attacks or subdues a perpetrator with violence is generally motivated by the desire to prevent the perpetrator from escaping. In addition, these actions are also triggered by the mob's inability to control their emotions in response to the perpetrator's actions. This uncontrolled emotional state ultimately leads to acts of vigilantism. Although vigilantism is not permitted in Indonesia because it violates applicable laws and norms, such incidents frequently occur within communities (Sakti et al., 2024).

3. METHOD

This study employs an empirical legal research method, which examines applicable legal provisions and relates them to their application and implementation in practice (Muhaimin, 2020). This study employs a statutory approach by analyzing the provisions of Article 13 of Law No. 2 of 2002 on the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia as the normative foundation for examining the role of the police in addressing

acts of vigilantism. Primary data for this study were obtained through interviews with officials from the Banda Aceh City Police to gather information regarding the police's duties and role in addressing acts of vigilantism. Meanwhile, secondary data was obtained through a literature review covering legislation, legal textbooks, academic journals, and articles relevant to the criminal offense of vigilantism as well as the duties and authorities of the police. Tertiary data was obtained from sources that serve to provide explanations and insights into the primary and secondary legal materials, such as legal dictionaries and legal encyclopedias.

4. RESULT AND ANALYSIS

4.1. Indonesian National Police

In its capacity as the country's primary law enforcement and public security institution, the Polri is expected to provide reliable protection and quality public services by carrying out its responsibilities with competence and professionalism. Over time, the need for a sense of security has continued to grow, both in terms of quality and quantity. As part of its duties and functions, the Polri operates in accordance with Article 1, paragraph (5) of Law No. 2 of 2002. This provision states that public security and order are constantly evolving conditions and constitute a key prerequisite for the smooth progress of national development. This is reflected in the maintenance of public order, the proper enforcement of the law, and the creation of a sense of security, enabling the public to thrive and strengthen its capacity to confront various forms of legal violations and disturbances that could cause discomfort. To effectively carry out its responsibilities, the Polri is supported by functional units entrusted with protecting public safety and preserving social order in line with the provisions outlined in Law No. 2 of 2002 (Ranofika et al., 2023).

The Polri has the authority to ensure public safety and order within the jurisdictions where they are stationed. The role of the police is not limited to enforcing the law after a violation has occurred, but also involves efforts to prevent various security disturbances, including actions taken by members of the public on their own initiative without following established legal procedures. Article 13 of Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia stipulates that Polri is responsible for preserving public security and social order, upholding the law, and delivering protection, public guidance, and services to the community. These statutory responsibilities constitute the fundamental basis upon which every police unit performs its functions in promoting a safe, orderly, and harmonious society. Through the execution of these responsibilities, disputes and legal issues arising within society are expected to be addressed in compliance with the prevailing legal framework, thereby preventing actions that may disrupt public order. Within Indonesia's criminal justice system, the police perform a broader function than simply enforcing legal norms, as they are also entrusted with safeguarding public security and ensuring the protection of the community (Arif, 2021).

4.2. The Crime of Vigilantism

The phenomenon of individuals taking the law into their own hands—often referred to as vigilantism—has become an increasingly prominent social issue in Indonesian society. This phenomenon refers to actions taken by groups or individuals who administer their own form of justice to punish someone suspected of breaking the law, without going through the proper legal process. In such incidents, vigilanteism often involves various forms of punishment, ranging from abusive and hurtful language to violent acts that can cause serious injury or even death to the accused. This phenomenon typically arises as a direct response to public dissatisfaction with the formal legal system, which is perceived as failing to deliver justice or protect the public interest in a swift and decisive manner (Malik et al., 2024).

In practice, vigilantism is generally viewed as an expression of solidarity with victims of crime or as a way to vent frustration over the slow response from law enforcement authorities. However, in the long run, such actions have severe consequences, both for those who commit them and for society as a whole. Vigilantism creates legal uncertainty, instills fear, and undermines trust in state institutions. In fact, Indonesia's legal system stipulates that all stages of law enforcement—from arrest and investigation

to sentencing—may only be carried out by authorized parties in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP) (Mayesti & Marpaung, 2025).

4.3. The Role of the Banda Aceh City Police in Combating Vigilantism in Accordance with Indonesian Law

The police are a law enforcement agency that plays a vital role in the criminal justice system. Pursuant to Article 13 of Law No. 2 of 2002 on the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia, the police have three primary duties: maintaining public safety and order; enforcing the law; and providing protection, guidance, and services to the public. These three duties are equally important, and they can be carried out simultaneously and complement one another in accordance with the conditions of the community and environment in question. In carrying out their duties, the police must adhere to the law and respect religious values, ethics, and social norms (Republik Indonesia, 2002).

Based on the results of a research interview the author conducted on May 14, 2026, with one of the investigators at the Banda Aceh City Police Department, Miswardi, S.H., M.H., the author found that the Banda Aceh City Police Department plays three roles in combating vigilante justice. *First*, preemptive measures—initial steps taken before a criminal act or violation occurs. The goal of these efforts is to eliminate malicious intent through persuasive approaches, including outreach, education, and moral appeals, so that the public will comply with existing norms and laws.

Preemptive measures are carried out by the Banda Aceh City Police as part of their policing functions, referring to the initial steps taken to prevent violations or crimes by fostering public awareness and compliance with existing laws and norms. This approach emphasizes persuasive and educational methods. Based on the interview findings, it was also revealed that every Monday, the Banda Aceh City Police conduct awareness-raising and legal compliance initiatives for the public by explaining the importance of adhering to laws and regulations and referring all legal matters to the appropriate authorities, thereby preventing potential disturbances to public safety and order from the outset. Examples of preemptive measures include legal education, public outreach, guidance for the younger generation, engagement with community leaders, and activities aimed at instilling discipline and legal awareness. Through these preemptive efforts, the police's role extends beyond mere law enforcement to that of a community development facilitator, working to create a safe and orderly environment.

In light of the provisions of Article 13 of Law No. 2 of 2002 on the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia, the preemptive measures carried out by the Banda Aceh City Police can be interpreted as an implementation of the police's functions in providing protection, guidance, and service to the community. Various activities—such as legal education, public outreach, youth development programs, and engagement with community leaders—are not merely aimed at enhancing public legal awareness and compliance but also serve as a means to strengthen the partnership between the police and the community. In efforts to combat vigilantism, this approach plays a strategic role in fostering public understanding that every alleged criminal act must be resolved through applicable legal procedures and cannot be justified through acts of violence or unilateral sanctions imposed by the community.

Second, preventive measures actions taken through a proactive approach to prevent the emergence of problems, damage, or violations before they actually occur. The primary focus is on minimizing risks and ensuring security. In the context of police work, preventive measures are efforts aimed at minimizing the likelihood of crime or security issues. Based on the interviews conducted, it was found that the Banda Aceh City Police frequently carry out patrols, security operations, guard duties, raids, and surveillance to create safe and orderly conditions in the community. In relation to Article 13 of Law No. 2 of 2002, these preventive actions constitute a concrete manifestation of the Banda Aceh City Police's duties in maintaining public safety and order. Patrols, security operations, guard duties, raids, and surveillance are carried out to create safe conditions while preventing security disturbances, including acts of vigilantism. In this context, the presence of police within the community plays a vital role in preventing mass violence and ensuring that all legal matters are resolved through established mechanisms.

Third, in the context of police work, repressive measures are law enforcement actions taken after a violation or crime has occurred—such as arresting suspects, conducting investigations, and imposing

penalties on perpetrators—to ensure order and justice in society. Based on the results of the interviews conducted, the Banda Aceh City Police also collaborate with community leaders, village officials, and educational institutions to improve legal literacy among the public. This partnership is carried out through a humanistic approach and active communication, so that the public realizes that every lawbreaker still has the right to be processed in accordance with existing regulations. Taking the law into one's own hands not only violates the law but can also result in property damage, serious injury, or even loss of life. Therefore, the Banda Aceh Police Department continues to educate the public so that all criminal matters are referred to the appropriate authorities for resolution through a fair legal process in accordance with applicable regulations.

The Banda Aceh Police Department is also increasing the speed of its response to reports from the public to prevent incidents of taking the law into one's own hands at the scene. The rapid deployment of police officers into the community is expected to calm the emotions of the crowd and create a safe environment. Through the continuous implementation of preemptive, preventive, and repressive measures, the Banda Aceh Police Department strives to ensure public safety and order while reducing the incidence of vigilantism in the city of Banda Aceh. These efforts demonstrate that the police are not only tasked with enforcing the law but also with protecting, safeguarding, and serving the community to maintain social stability and a sense of justice in society.

The police have a mandate to carry out governmental duties, in addition to playing a role in realizing a society based on humanistic values. As a clear component of the state apparatus, this institution has an obligation to execute or drive the wheels of government. This is clearly stipulated in Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia. The functions of the police are among the government's responsibilities in maintaining public safety and order, enforcing the law, and providing protection, oversight, and services to the community (Hasibuan, 2023).

Based on this description, the role of the Banda Aceh City Police in addressing acts of vigilantism can be viewed through the three primary police duties as stipulated in Article 13 of Law No. 2 of 2002. First, in maintaining public safety and order, the police carry out various preventive measures, such as patrols, guard duties, security operations, and surveillance in areas deemed to have the potential to cause security disturbances. Second, in carrying out its law enforcement function, the police take action against parties involved in acts of vigilantism through the processes of identification, investigation, and interrogation, up to and including arrest, in accordance with applicable legal provisions. Third, in providing protection, guidance, and services to the public, the police carry out various preventive efforts through legal education and outreach, community development, and collaboration with community leaders, village officials, and schools or educational institutions.

These three tasks are fundamentally interconnected and inseparable in efforts to address vigilante actions. Preemptive measures are taken to foster public legal awareness and understanding before violations occur. Furthermore, preventative measures are aimed at preventing disturbances to security and public order, while repressive measures are taken when acts of vigilantism have already occurred to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice. Thus, the Banda Aceh City Police's role encompasses all three duties mandated by Article 13 of Law No. 2 of 2002.

4.4. Challenges Faced by the Banda Aceh City Police in Combating Vigilantism

The phenomenon of vigilantism has become a critical issue because such actions undermine the rule of law—as communities take over the role of law enforcement—leading to legal uncertainty and a diminished sense of security, particularly in the city of Banda Aceh. The rise in vigilantism among the public indicates serious problems in maintaining order and enforcing the law. This situation often arises when residents punish individuals suspected of committing crimes without following proper legal procedures.

This situation reflects a low level of legal understanding as well as a lack of trust among some members of the public in the enforcement of the law by the competent authorities. One type of action that frequently occurs is assault, mob violence, and other forms of violence against suspects accused of theft or certain crimes. Many individuals engage in these actions driven by deep-seated emotions and a

desire to mete out swift punishment without considering the individual's rights or the potential legal consequences. Over time, a culture of vigilantism can give rise to other methods, such as acts of terror that target both psychological and physical well-being. Therefore, to foster a society that understands and adheres to the law, the government must immediately cultivate moral integrity—starting with law enforcement officials—by educating the public on the importance of legal compliance, while simultaneously taking firm action against any individual or group that resorts to vigilantism to resolve the legal issues they face. Furthermore, prevention can be carried out by the community itself, the government, and the existing criminal justice system. Considering the facts, many cases of vigilantism have been halted even when loss of life has occurred—which clearly violates human rights (Bachri, 2022).

In light of this, it is crucial for law enforcement officials, particularly the police, to give serious attention to preventing and addressing vigilante actions through preventive measures, protection, and firm action to ensure security and order in society. However, based on the results of a research interview the author conducted on May 14, 2026, with one of the investigators from the Banda Aceh City Police Department, Miswardi, S.H., M.H., the author found that the role of the Banda Aceh City Police Department in efforts to address vigilante actions faces obstacles once such incidents have already occurred. These challenges include: *first*, difficulty in identifying the perpetrators; this difficulty is inextricably linked to the nature of vigilante acts, which generally occur spontaneously and involve large crowds.

This situation makes the identification process more difficult because perpetrators can blend into the crowd after the incident has taken place. The difficulty is compounded when no witnesses are willing to provide testimony or supporting evidence that could help the police uncover the perpetrators' identities. Furthermore, situations involving large crowds can also hinder the investigation process due to limited information regarding the sequence of events and the involvement of each individual in the incident. Not everyone present at the scene can be immediately categorized as a perpetrator; therefore, the police must conduct a thorough examination to distinguish between those actively involved, those merely present at the scene, and those attempting to prevent the violence from occurring. Therefore, the process of identifying perpetrators requires the support of adequate evidence, such as surveillance camera footage, video documentation, witness statements, and other information that can clarify the role of each party. Diligence in this process is essential to ensure that law enforcement actions are based on sufficient facts and evidence and do not result in errors in determining who is legally responsible.

Second, the lack of witnesses willing to provide information. This obstacle—the reluctance of witnesses to provide testimony—indicates that the law enforcement process faces not only technical challenges in identifying perpetrators but also issues related to community participation. Healey (1995) explains that factors contributing to witnesses' reluctance to cooperate with the criminal justice system include fear, strong community ties, and deep-seated distrust of law enforcement officials. These conditions indicate that a witness's willingness to provide testimony is influenced not only by legal considerations but also by security concerns, social relationships within the community, and the level of public trust in law enforcement officials. In the context of addressing vigilante justice, community involvement plays a crucial role in helping the police obtain initial information and the evidence needed to uncover a criminal incident. If members of the public who are aware of or witnessed the incident are unwilling to provide testimony, the investigative process may face obstacles because the police lose one of the sources of information that could be used to clarify the chronology of events and identify the parties involved.

Third, there is a tendency within the community to protect perpetrators from vigilante justice. In such circumstances, the police need to build more open and communicative relationships with the community to foster trust and a willingness to cooperate in the law enforcement process. The approach taken should not only focus on repressive measures after incidents of vigilantism occur but also include preventive efforts through improved communication, legal education, and strengthening community involvement in maintaining security and order. The public needs to be made to understand that providing information to law enforcement officials is a form of participation in supporting the establishment of legal certainty and justice, not merely an action that could lead to social conflict. Thus, building public trust in

the police is a crucial aspect of overcoming obstacles in addressing vigilante actions, as a positive relationship between the public and law enforcement can foster transparency and strengthen cooperation in investigating and preventing similar incidents.

Upon further analysis, these three obstacles indicate that the challenges faced by the Banda Aceh City Police in addressing vigilantism are not only related to limitations in the post-incident law enforcement process but are also linked to the social conditions of the community and the patterns of interaction between the police and residents. The difficulty in identifying perpetrators highlights the importance of strengthening surveillance systems and documentation of incidents in public spaces, while the low willingness of witnesses to provide testimony underscores the need for security guarantees and protection for members of the public who are willing to assist in the law enforcement process. Theoretically, a witness's reluctance may be influenced by fears of retaliation, kinship ties or group solidarity, feelings of shame, certain social norms, or the perception that the information provided will not be effectively followed up by law enforcement. Similarly, the community's tendency to protect perpetrators may be influenced by social proximity, family ties, or the desire to maintain relationships within the community. Therefore, these obstacles must be addressed not only through repressive measures but also through more integrated operational strategies, such as increasing police patrols and surveillance in areas prone to conflict, optimizing CCTV monitoring in public spaces, implementing rapid-response protocols for reports of mass violence, strengthening legal education through village officials and community leaders, and providing easily accessible reporting channels that instill a sense of security among the public. In cases where witnesses fear for their safety, coordination with agencies authorized to provide witness protection is also crucial so that the public can be confident that providing information to law enforcement will not put them at greater risk. Thus, efforts to combat vigilantism must focus on strengthening police capacity while simultaneously building public trust, so that the processes of identifying perpetrators, gathering information, and enforcing the law can be carried out more effectively.

In this context, active community involvement is a key element that can support the police in overcoming obstacles to addressing vigilante actions, particularly in gathering information and building trust between the community and law enforcement officials. Community involvement is an essential component of Community Policing (Polmas), consistent with the objectives of Polmas as outlined in Article 7 of Police Regulation No. 7 of 2008 on the Basic Guidelines for the Strategy and Implementation of Community Policing in the Performance of the National Police's Duties. It is explained that the objective of Community Policing is to foster cooperation between the police and the community based on a shared understanding, so that issues disrupting public safety and order can be addressed. The goal is to create a safe, orderly, and comfortable environment, as well as to improve the quality of life for the community. It is desirable to have equal cooperation between the police and the community in maintaining security, provided that the police remain approachable and friendly toward residents. To realize a community-oriented police force that is close to the public, police officers need to get to know and pay attention to the residents in their vicinity (Kepolisian Negara Republik Indonesia, 2025). The police's duty to maintain public safety is the responsibility of the government—that is, the state—because national security is a constantly evolving condition and a crucial prerequisite for a nation's development. Community involvement will assist the police in fostering security and order, as residents are more familiar with and understand their surroundings. By establishing continuous, two-way communication—for example, through discussions or community meetings in a shared space—the police can more easily obtain information and support from the community (Aswin & Jumadi, 2020).

Through the Polmas approach, the police are not only tasked with enforcing the law but also collaborate with the community to enhance understanding of the law and prevent vigilante justice. The police's presence within the community—through activities such as legal education, dialogue-based patrols, the Police-Community Cooperation Forum (FKPM), and various other social initiatives—can strengthen public trust in the police. With a good relationship between the police and the community, any issues that arise in the social environment can be resolved through established legal channels, without the need for violence or unfair actions. Furthermore, consistent use of persuasive and educational approaches

will help the community understand that taking the law into one's own hands is a criminal offense subject to criminal penalties.

The success of the Banda Aceh City Police in addressing vigilantism depends on how actively the community participates in maintaining security and order in their neighborhoods. The public is urged to actively assist by reporting any signs of criminal activity to the police and to refrain from being provoked into using violence against those who commit crimes. Increased legal awareness will foster the mindset that anyone who commits a criminal offense still has the right to be tried in accordance with applicable law. Therefore, cooperation between the police, the government, community leaders, and all segments of society is crucial in creating a safe environment and preventing the spread of a culture of vigilantism in the city of Banda Aceh.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and discussion regarding the role of the Banda Aceh City Police in addressing acts of vigilantism, it can be concluded that the Banda Aceh City Police have carried out their role through three approaches: preemptive, preventive, and repressive. Preemptive efforts are carried out through raising public awareness and promoting legal compliance, as well as through outreach, public education, and communication with community leaders, the younger generation, and other segments of society. These efforts are aimed at fostering an understanding that every alleged criminal offense must be resolved through legal mechanisms and must not be addressed through violence or the imposition of unilateral sanctions. Preventive measures are carried out through patrols, security operations, guard duties, raids, and surveillance to maintain public safety and order and to prevent the escalation of situations that could trigger acts of vigilantism. Repressive measures, meanwhile, are carried out through the receipt of reports, the identification of those involved, investigations, inquiries, and the enforcement of the law against those who commit acts of violence in accordance with the provisions of applicable laws and regulations. The implementation of these three approaches demonstrates that the role of the Banda Aceh City Police has encompassed the duties of the police as stipulated in Article 13 of Law No. 2 of 2002 on the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia.

In its efforts to address vigilante actions, the Banda Aceh City Police still faces several obstacles, namely difficulties in identifying perpetrators because the actions are carried out spontaneously and involve many people, a limited number of witnesses willing to provide testimony, and a lack of participation by some members of the public in supporting the law enforcement process. These obstacles indicate that combating vigilantism does not rely solely on the police's capabilities but also requires active community involvement in providing information, serving as witnesses, and referring suspected criminal acts to the appropriate authorities. Furthermore, the lack of statistical data specifically classifying acts of vigilantism constitutes a limitation in quantitatively measuring progress and the effectiveness of mitigation efforts. Therefore, this study assesses the role of the Banda Aceh City Police primarily based on the implementation of preemptive, preventive, and repressive measures, as well as the obstacles encountered, rather than on statistical measurements of decreases or increases in the number of cases.

Based on these findings, efforts to combat vigilantism need to be continuously strengthened through increased public awareness and legal compliance initiatives, the optimization of preventive measures and police responses, and enhanced coordination among the police, community leaders, village officials, educational institutions, and the public. In addition, a more structured system for recording and documenting incidents characterized by vigilante actions is needed, even though such incidents may be classified in legal proceedings based on the type of criminal offense committed. The availability of more structured records will help the police identify patterns of incidents, evaluate their handling, and formulate more appropriate prevention strategies. Thus, efforts to address vigilantism in Banda Aceh can be carried out more comprehensively by integrating prevention, law enforcement, and community participation.

Ethical Approval

This study was conducted in accordance with established ethical principles for empirical legal research involving documentary analysis and a professional interview. Formal ethical approval was not required because the study involved minimal-risk, non-interventional legal research focusing on the institutional role of the Banda Aceh City Police in addressing vigilantism. The documentary component relied on statutory regulations, legal literature, academic journal articles, official materials, and other publicly available legal sources. The empirical component was limited to an interview with an investigator from the Banda Aceh City Police to obtain professional information regarding police duties, preventive and enforcement measures, and institutional challenges in addressing acts of vigilantism. The study did not involve victims of violence, alleged offenders, minors, vulnerable participants, clinical procedures, medical records, or the collection of sensitive personal data from members of the public. Ethical safeguards were applied by ensuring voluntary participation, informed consent, respectful professional attribution, responsible use of the interview information, and confidentiality of any non-public institutional information disclosed during the interview.

Informed Consent Statement

Informed consent was obtained from the interview informant before data collection. The informant was informed about the objectives of the study, the interview procedures, the voluntary nature of participation, the intended academic use of the information, and the right to decline to answer particular questions or discontinue participation without penalty. The interview information was used solely to support the empirical and normative legal analysis. Where the informant's name and professional position were reported in the manuscript, such attribution was made with the informant's permission. Information not intended for public disclosure was treated confidentially and was not included in the manuscript.

Authors' Contributions

Y.A.S.A.B. contributed to the conceptualization of the study, development of the research framework, literature review, collection of primary, secondary, and tertiary legal materials, preparation and implementation of the interview, qualitative analysis, interpretation of the findings, and preparation of the original manuscript draft. M.S.A. contributed to methodological supervision, validation of the empirical-juridical approach, interpretation of police law and criminal-law issues, refinement of the statutory analysis, critical review, and editing of the manuscript. B. contributed to research supervision, validation of the findings, interpretation of the institutional and law-enforcement implications, refinement of the discussion and conclusion, and final review of the manuscript. All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

Disclosure Statement

The authors declare that there are no competing interests or conflicts of interest related to this study. No financial, personal, professional, political, law-enforcement, or institutional relationships improperly influenced the research design, selection of the interview informant, interpretation of the interview information, legal analysis, or reporting of the findings. Access to the interview informant and institutional information was provided solely for academic research purposes and did not affect the independence of the analysis or conclusions.

Data Availability Statement

The data supporting the findings of this study consist of statutory regulations, legal literature, publicly available institutional and policy materials, and interview notes obtained from a professional informant at the Banda Aceh City Police. Publicly accessible legal and documentary materials are available from the sources cited in the manuscript. The complete interview notes and any non-public institutional information are not publicly available to protect professional confidentiality and applicable institutional considerations. Relevant non-sensitive and non-confidential supporting information may be made available by the corresponding author upon reasonable request, subject to the informant's consent and applicable institutional requirements.

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