

POLICE PROFESSIONALISM IN COMBATING SEXUAL CRIMES FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF FIQH SIYASAH

Peran Saputra Utama¹, Moch. Iqbal², Ismail³
Universitas Islam Negeri Fatmawati Sukarno Bengkulu
peransaputra98@gmail.com

Abstract

Sexual crimes remain one of the most serious criminal offenses in Indonesia because they threaten human dignity, public morality, and social security. The increasing number of sexual crime cases requires law enforcement officers, particularly the Indonesian National Police, to perform their duties professionally, fairly, and accountably. This study aims to analyze the professionalism of the Bengkulu Regional Police in combating sexual crimes based on Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police and to examine its implementation from the perspective of Fiqh Siyasah. This research employed an empirical legal approach using qualitative methods. Data were collected through interviews, observations, documentation, and literature studies involving investigators of the Women and Children Protection Unit, legal experts, and victims or their families. The findings indicate that police professionalism has generally been implemented in accordance with the authority stipulated in Law Number 2 of 2002 through law enforcement, victim protection, criminal investigation, and public services. Several obstacles remain, including limited human resources with specialized competence, inadequate supporting facilities, difficulties in gathering evidence, and persistent social stigma that discourages victims from reporting sexual crimes. From the perspective of Fiqh Siyasah, police professionalism reflects the implementation of governmental responsibility based on the principles of justice (*al-'adalah*), trustworthiness (*al-amanah*), and public benefit (*al-maslahah*). Professional law enforcement should therefore prioritize legal certainty while simultaneously protecting victims' dignity and promoting social welfare. Strengthening institutional capacity, improving investigators' competencies, and integrating ethical values derived from Fiqh Siyasah are essential to achieving more effective, humane, and justice-oriented law enforcement.

Keywords: *Police professionalism, sexual crimes, Law Number 2 of 2002, Fiqh Siyasah, law enforcement*

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a constitutional state governed by the rule of law, requiring every public institution to exercise its authority in accordance with legal principles, justice, and accountability. The Indonesian National Police play a strategic role in maintaining public order, enforcing criminal law, protecting citizens, and delivering public services. These responsibilities become increasingly important in responding to sexual crimes, which continue to threaten human dignity, individual rights, and public security (Suryana et al., 2025).

Sexual crimes constitute one of the most serious forms of criminal offenses because their consequences extend beyond physical harm to include psychological trauma, social stigma, emotional distress, and long-term impacts on victims' quality of life. Effective law enforcement therefore requires professional police officers who possess legal competence, ethical integrity, and the ability to provide victim-oriented services throughout the criminal justice process. Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police establishes the legal basis for police authority in maintaining security, enforcing criminal law,

conducting investigations, and protecting the community. Police professionalism encompasses technical competence, institutional responsibility, transparency, impartiality, and accountability in carrying out these statutory duties. Professional law enforcement is expected to strengthen public trust while ensuring legal certainty and justice for victims of sexual crimes (Nawawi, 2010).

The increasing incidence of sexual crimes in Bengkulu Province demonstrates that law enforcement agencies continue to encounter significant practical challenges. Limitations in specialized human resources, difficulties in obtaining evidence, inadequate supporting facilities, and the reluctance of victims to report crimes remain important obstacles affecting the effectiveness of criminal investigations and victim protection. These conditions indicate that evaluating police professionalism requires attention to both legal compliance and institutional performance. Fiqh Siyasah offers a broader normative framework for assessing governmental authority in the administration of justice. Government institutions are expected to implement public policies based on the principles of *al-amanah* (trustworthiness), *al-'adalah* (justice), and *al-maslahah* (public welfare). Police officers therefore function not only as law enforcement officials but also as public servants responsible for protecting society and safeguarding the rights and dignity of every individual affected by criminal acts (Purba et al., 2024).

Previous studies have primarily examined police professionalism from the perspectives of criminal law, institutional performance, and victim protection. Limited attention has been given to integrating Law Number 2 of 2002 with the principles of Fiqh Siyasah in evaluating police professionalism in handling sexual crimes. This gap highlights the need for a more comprehensive analysis that combines positive law with Islamic public law to assess the implementation of police authority in practice. This study aims to analyze the professionalism of the Bengkulu Regional Police in combating sexual crimes based on Law Number 2 of 2002 and to evaluate its implementation from the perspective of Fiqh Siyasah. The findings are expected to contribute to the development of legal scholarship concerning police professionalism while providing recommendations for improving law enforcement practices that are professional, accountable, humane, and oriented toward justice and public welfare (Diamond & Uchiyama, 1999).

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed an empirical legal research design using a qualitative approach to examine the professionalism of the Bengkulu Regional Police in combating sexual crimes based on Law Number 2 of 2002 and its implementation from the perspective of Fiqh Siyasah. A qualitative approach was selected to obtain a comprehensive understanding of law enforcement practices, institutional performance, and the experiences of stakeholders directly involved in handling sexual crime cases. The research adopted a descriptive-analytical design to describe empirical findings and analyze their conformity with statutory regulations and the principles of Fiqh Siyasah.

The research was conducted at the Bengkulu Regional Police, particularly within the Women and Children Protection Unit (Unit PPA) of the Criminal Investigation Directorate, as the primary institution responsible for investigating sexual crime cases. The research location was selected because it has direct authority in receiving reports, conducting criminal investigations, providing victim protection, and implementing criminal law enforcement related to sexual offenses. Primary data were obtained through in-depth interviews with police investigators, legal practitioners, and relevant informants involved in handling sexual crime cases, while secondary data were collected from statutory regulations, official documents, academic literature, and scientific journal articles relevant to the research topic.

Data were collected through interviews, observations, documentation, and literature review. Interviews were conducted purposively to obtain information regarding police professionalism, institutional challenges, investigative procedures, and victim protection mechanisms. Observations were undertaken to examine institutional practices and supporting facilities related to criminal investigations. Documentation involved reviewing investigation reports, institutional profiles, applicable legislation, and other official records supporting the research. Data were analyzed using the interactive model consisting of data collection, data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. Research credibility was ensured through source triangulation, methodological triangulation, prolonged engagement, member checking, and the examination of relevant documentary evidence to enhance the validity and reliability of the findings.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Police Professionalism in Combating Sexual Crimes at the Bengkulu Regional Police

The implementation of police professionalism in combating sexual crimes at the Bengkulu Regional Police reflects the institutional commitment to enforcing criminal law while protecting the rights and dignity of victims. Law Number 2 of 2002 assigns the Indonesian National Police the responsibility to maintain public security, enforce the law, provide protection, and deliver public services. These responsibilities require police officers to perform their duties with professionalism, integrity, impartiality, and accountability throughout every stage of criminal investigation (Sutherland, 1950).

Research findings indicate that investigators assigned to the Women and Children Protection Unit (Unit PPA) have carried out their responsibilities in accordance with applicable legal procedures. Sexual crime reports are processed through registration, preliminary investigation, evidence collection, witness examination, victim interviews, and coordination with the public prosecutor before the case proceeds to prosecution. These procedures demonstrate institutional compliance with criminal procedural law while ensuring that victims receive appropriate legal protection during the investigative process.

Professionalism is reflected not only in procedural compliance but also in the manner investigators interact with victims. Sexual crime cases involve sensitive personal experiences that often result in psychological trauma and emotional distress. Investigators therefore apply a victim-centered approach by creating a supportive interview environment, protecting victims' confidentiality, and minimizing repeated questioning that may increase psychological pressure. Such practices contribute to improving victims' willingness to participate in legal proceedings (Wolak et al., 2004).

Institutional coordination represents another important aspect of police professionalism. Sexual crime investigations require collaboration with prosecutors, forensic medical personnel, psychologists, hospitals, and social service agencies. Effective coordination enables investigators to obtain forensic evidence, medical examinations, psychological assessments, and social support necessary for strengthening criminal investigations while safeguarding victims' rights throughout the judicial process.

Research findings also demonstrate that investigators have attempted to improve public confidence through transparent investigative procedures and responsive public services. Victims and their families receive information regarding investigation progress, legal procedures, and available protection mechanisms. Transparent communication reduces uncertainty during criminal proceedings and strengthens public trust in law enforcement institutions.

Educational and preventive activities complement investigative functions within the Bengkulu Regional Police. Public legal education, community outreach programs, and awareness campaigns concerning sexual violence are conducted to increase legal awareness and encourage early reporting of criminal offenses. Preventive activities demonstrate that police professionalism extends beyond criminal investigation toward broader community protection and crime prevention (Harper & Hogue, 2015).

The implementation of professional policing remains influenced by the competence of individual investigators. Specialized knowledge regarding victim protection, forensic interviewing techniques, digital evidence management, and psychological communication has become increasingly important in responding to the complexity of sexual crime cases. Continuous professional training therefore constitutes an essential component of institutional capacity development.

Research findings reveal several practical challenges affecting police professionalism. Limited numbers of investigators specializing in women and children protection, increasing case workloads, technological developments associated with cyber-enabled sexual crimes, and difficulties in obtaining sufficient evidence frequently prolong investigative processes. These conditions require institutional adaptation through improved human resource development and technological support.

Social factors also influence the effectiveness of criminal investigations. Victims frequently hesitate to report sexual crimes because of fear, shame, family pressure, or social stigma. Delayed reporting often complicates evidence collection and reduces opportunities to obtain comprehensive forensic documentation. Police professionalism therefore depends not only on institutional performance but also on community willingness to cooperate throughout the legal process.

Evaluation of the implementation of Law Number 2 of 2002 indicates that the Bengkulu Regional Police have generally fulfilled their statutory responsibilities in combating sexual crimes through lawful investigations, victim protection, institutional collaboration, and preventive legal education. Continued improvements in investigator competence, institutional facilities, multidisciplinary cooperation, and public awareness remain necessary to strengthen professional policing and enhance the effectiveness of criminal justice services for victims of sexual crimes (Benomran, 2002).

Factors Affecting Police Professionalism in Combating Sexual Crimes

The effectiveness of police professionalism in combating sexual crimes is influenced by multiple institutional, legal, and social factors. Professional law enforcement depends not only on statutory authority but also on organizational capacity, investigator competence, institutional cooperation, and public participation. Research findings indicate that the Bengkulu Regional Police have implemented their duties in accordance with Law Number 2 of 2002, although several supporting and inhibiting factors continue to influence the quality of criminal investigations and victim protection. Institutional commitment constitutes one of the principal factors supporting professional law enforcement. Investigators assigned to the Women and Children Protection Unit demonstrate a strong commitment to conducting investigations in accordance with applicable legal procedures while prioritizing the rights and protection of victims. This commitment is reflected in the application of standard operating procedures, ethical conduct during investigations, and continuous efforts to improve the quality of public services provided to victims and their families (Sesunan, 2026).

Professional competence also plays a significant role in determining investigative quality. Sexual crime investigations require specialized knowledge in criminal law, forensic

examination, victim interviewing techniques, and psychological communication. Investigators possessing adequate technical skills are better equipped to collect evidence, examine witnesses, and build legally sufficient case files. Continuous education and professional training therefore contribute substantially to strengthening institutional performance and improving the quality of criminal justice services. Inter-agency collaboration represents another important supporting factor. Sexual crime investigations frequently require cooperation with prosecutors, forensic physicians, psychologists, hospitals, social workers, and child protection institutions. Such collaboration enables investigators to obtain comprehensive evidence while ensuring that victims receive appropriate medical treatment, psychological counseling, and legal assistance. Effective institutional coordination also reduces procedural delays and improves the overall efficiency of criminal case management (Chiswick, 1983).

Community participation contributes directly to successful law enforcement. Public willingness to report criminal offenses, cooperate during investigations, and provide relevant information facilitates evidence collection and accelerates the investigative process. Legal awareness within society also encourages greater confidence in law enforcement institutions and strengthens public support for efforts to prevent sexual crimes through community-based prevention initiatives. Human resource limitations remain one of the primary obstacles affecting police professionalism. Research findings indicate that the number of investigators assigned to the Women and Children Protection Unit is not always proportional to the increasing number and complexity of sexual crime cases. Heavy workloads may prolong investigation periods and reduce opportunities for investigators to provide intensive assistance to victims throughout the legal process. Infrastructure and technological resources also influence the effectiveness of criminal investigations. Sexual crime cases increasingly involve digital evidence requiring advanced forensic technology and specialized investigative equipment. Limited access to modern forensic facilities and information technology may reduce the efficiency of evidence collection, digital analysis, and case documentation. Institutional investment in technological development therefore remains essential for improving investigative performance (Abel et al., 1987).

Victim-related factors present additional challenges during criminal investigations. Many victims experience fear, psychological trauma, embarrassment, or pressure from family members that discourage them from reporting criminal offenses promptly. Delayed reporting frequently complicates the collection of physical evidence and witness testimony, thereby affecting the overall effectiveness of criminal investigations. Victim protection mechanisms and psychological support services are therefore essential components of professional policing. Social stigma continues to influence both reporting behavior and post-investigation outcomes. Victims of sexual crimes often encounter discrimination, victim-blaming, and negative social perceptions that discourage cooperation with law enforcement agencies. These conditions require police institutions to strengthen public legal education while promoting greater community awareness regarding victims' rights and the importance of reporting sexual violence without fear of social exclusion (Satoto, 2014).

Evaluation of these findings demonstrates that police professionalism at the Bengkulu Regional Police has been strengthened by institutional commitment, professional competence, inter-agency collaboration, and community participation. Human resource shortages, technological limitations, evidentiary challenges, victim reluctance, and persistent social stigma continue to affect the effectiveness of law enforcement. Strengthening institutional capacity, expanding specialized training, improving forensic infrastructure, and

enhancing public legal awareness remain essential strategies for developing a more professional, responsive, and victim-centered policing system.

Analysis of Police Professionalism in Combating Sexual Crimes from the Perspective of Fiqh Siyasah

The implementation of police professionalism in combating sexual crimes can be comprehensively examined through the perspective of Fiqh Siyasah, particularly the concept of *al-sultāh al-tanfīdhīyah* (executive authority), which emphasizes the responsibility of government institutions to implement public policies for the protection of society and the realization of justice. Within this framework, the Indonesian National Police function not merely as law enforcement officers but also as public officials entrusted with safeguarding the rights, dignity, and security of every citizen. Law Number 2 of 2002 provides the legal basis for these responsibilities by assigning the police authority to maintain public order, enforce criminal law, and protect the community. The implementation of these statutory responsibilities therefore represents both a constitutional obligation and an ethical responsibility that seeks to ensure legal certainty while promoting social welfare. Police professionalism should consequently be evaluated not only by the successful completion of criminal investigations but also by the institution's ability to protect victims, uphold justice, and strengthen public confidence in the legal system (Sutherland, 1950).

The principle of *amanah* (trustworthiness) constitutes one of the most fundamental values in Fiqh Siyasah for assessing police professionalism. Public authority is regarded as a trust that must be exercised responsibly, honestly, and transparently for the benefit of society. Research findings demonstrate that investigators at the Bengkulu Regional Police have attempted to fulfill this responsibility by conducting criminal investigations in accordance with statutory procedures, protecting the confidentiality of victims, and providing legal services without discrimination. The implementation of investigative procedures, evidence collection, witness examination, and victim assistance reflects institutional efforts to perform official duties responsibly while maintaining professional ethics. The realization of *amanah*, however, extends beyond procedural compliance because it also requires continuous improvement in institutional integrity, accountability, and public service quality. Strengthening professional ethics and institutional responsibility therefore remains essential to maintaining public trust in law enforcement agencies (Krismen, 2021).

The principle of *al-'adalah* (justice) provides another important analytical framework for evaluating police professionalism. Justice within Fiqh Siyasah requires public institutions to protect individual rights without discrimination while ensuring equal treatment before the law. Sexual crime investigations demand particular attention because victims frequently experience psychological trauma, intimidation, and social pressure throughout the legal process. Professional investigators are therefore expected to provide legal protection while respecting victims' dignity, privacy, and psychological condition. Research findings indicate that investigators have adopted victim-oriented investigative approaches by minimizing repeated interviews, protecting confidential information, and coordinating with supporting institutions when necessary. These practices illustrate that substantive justice is achieved not only through legal punishment of offenders but also through the protection and recovery of victims affected by criminal acts (Destiani et al., 2023).

The implementation of police professionalism may also be analyzed through the principle of *al-musawah* (equality), which emphasizes equal access to justice for every member of society. Equal treatment requires police officers to provide legal services regardless of gender, age, social status, religion, or economic background. Victims of sexual crimes frequently belong to vulnerable groups, including women and children, making equal

protection particularly important within criminal investigations. Research findings demonstrate that the Women and Children Protection Unit has implemented investigative procedures specifically designed to accommodate the needs of vulnerable victims through specialized interview techniques and victim-centered services. Equal access to legal protection strengthens public confidence in law enforcement institutions while reinforcing the constitutional principle that every citizen possesses the same legal rights and protections (Raharjo & Angkasa, 2011).

The concept of *al-maslahah* (public welfare) occupies a central position within Fiqh Siyasah because every governmental policy should ultimately promote social benefit while preventing harm. Police professionalism contributes to public welfare by ensuring that sexual crimes are investigated effectively, offenders are held legally accountable, victims receive appropriate protection, and future criminal behavior is prevented through law enforcement and public education. Research findings indicate that preventive legal education conducted by the Bengkulu Regional Police complements criminal investigations by increasing public awareness regarding sexual violence and encouraging community participation in crime prevention. Professional policing therefore serves broader social objectives by strengthening legal awareness, reducing criminal opportunities, and promoting public security through effective law enforcement (Indarti, 2016).

Empirical findings also reveal several institutional challenges that require critical evaluation from the perspective of Fiqh Siyasah. Limited numbers of specialized investigators, inadequate forensic technology, insufficient psychological support services, and increasing case complexity continue to influence the effectiveness of criminal investigations. These conditions demonstrate that the implementation of governmental responsibility has not yet been fully optimized despite the existence of an adequate legal framework. Institutional limitations should not be viewed solely as administrative problems but also as governance issues affecting the realization of justice and public welfare. Government institutions therefore bear a continuing obligation to strengthen institutional capacity, improve professional competence, and provide adequate resources to ensure effective law enforcement (Rahman et al., 2023).

Community participation represents another essential element in achieving the objectives of Fiqh Siyasah. Effective law enforcement cannot rely exclusively on government institutions because public cooperation significantly influences the success of criminal investigations. Victims who report criminal offenses promptly, witnesses who provide accurate testimony, and communities that reject social stigma all contribute to strengthening the criminal justice process. Research findings indicate that fear, shame, and negative public perceptions remain important barriers preventing victims from seeking legal protection. Public legal education and community awareness programs are therefore necessary to create an environment that supports victims while encouraging broader participation in preventing sexual crimes (Ritonga & Panjaitan, 2024).

The overall findings demonstrate that the professionalism of the Bengkulu Regional Police has generally reflected the fundamental principles of Fiqh Siyasah through the implementation of justice, trustworthiness, equality, and public welfare within criminal investigations. Several institutional challenges continue to affect the effectiveness of policy implementation, particularly those associated with human resources, technological infrastructure, multidisciplinary coordination, and community participation. Continuous institutional reform, professional capacity development, and stronger collaboration among law enforcement agencies, government institutions, and society are therefore required to ensure that police professionalism not only fulfills the objectives of Law Number 2 of 2002

but also realizes the broader values of Fiqh Siyasah in protecting human dignity, strengthening justice, and promoting sustainable public welfare (Purba et al., 2024).

CONCLUSION

The implementation of police professionalism in combating sexual crimes at the Bengkulu Regional Police has generally been carried out in accordance with Law Number 2 of 2002 through law enforcement, victim protection, criminal investigation, and inter-agency cooperation. Professional policing is demonstrated by the application of lawful investigative procedures, victim-oriented services, and preventive legal education aimed at strengthening public trust and ensuring justice for victims of sexual violence. Several challenges continue to affect the effectiveness of policy implementation, including limited specialized human resources, inadequate technological facilities, difficulties in obtaining evidence, and persistent social stigma that discourages victims from reporting criminal offenses. From the perspective of Fiqh Siyasah, the implementation of police duties reflects the principles of *amanah*, *al-'adalah*, *al-musawah*, and *al-maslahah*, which emphasize governmental responsibility to protect human dignity, uphold justice, and promote public welfare. Strengthening institutional capacity, professional competence, multidisciplinary collaboration, and community participation is therefore essential to improving police professionalism and ensuring more effective, humane, and justice-oriented law enforcement in addressing sexual crimes.

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