

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background

Transnational crime is a serious threat in the era of globalization. By definition, transnational crime is structured and systematic, not an individual crime but rather a crime committed by a community. This form of transnational crime can also be seen in smuggling networks, how criminal routes are established to connect trade networks between countries.<sup>1</sup>In this era of globalization, transnational crime is increasingly developing as cross-border access becomes more open.

This transnational crime is increasingly posing a serious threat to international security. This is based on the numerous impacts that will be threatened as this spread, including economic, political, and human impacts.<sup>2</sup>Even in a report made by the UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, losses experienced due to transnational crime cases in the Southeast Asia region reached USD \$100 million every year.<sup>3</sup>

The above conclusion indicates that transnational crime poses a significant threat to the international community because its movements involve numerous and structured affiliations that span national borders. This crime is also a consequence of globalization itself. Diplomacy has significantly changed the world order, particularly

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<sup>1</sup>Reichel, Philip L., and Jay S. Albanese. *The Handbook of Transnational Crime and Justice: Second Edition*. Sage, 2014. Pg 7

<sup>2</sup> Pinatih, Mahendra, and Purwanti, "Aseanapol and the Challenges of Human Trafficking in the Southeast Asia Region: A Case Study of Thailand and Cambodia.". *Journal of Social and Political Sciences (JISIP)* 12, no. 3 (2023): Page 439. <https://doi.org/10.33366/jisip.v12i3.2804>.

<sup>3</sup>UNODC. "Human trafficking." UNODC, united nations officer on drugs and crime, 2020. <https://dataunodc.un.org/dp-trafficking-persons>.

through increasingly open access between countries, which has, to some extent, led to the spread of various forms of transnational crime.

As we know, globalization has caused many significant changes in the world's social order. In line with David Held's argument, many economic and social changes have occurred, resulting in unique regional and global interconnections, more extensive and intense than in previous periods, challenging and reshaping political communities, and specifically the modern state.<sup>4</sup>The effect is of course to create many new spaces where countries are not the only actors in the global economy.<sup>5</sup>

The growth of transnational crime is a consequence of globalization. Globalization has created a world of interconnectedness and interdependence. National borders have blurred, and information, ideas, and people can move easily and quickly.<sup>6</sup>Of course, globalization is a very influential starting point, this is indicated by the many individuals who take advantage of it to gain profits from the opening of cross-border trade.

Transnational crime has emerged as an illegal activity oriented towards cross-border crime, a consequence of globalization itself. Therefore, we must be aware of this growing trend and all countries must anticipate it, as the annual losses from transnational crime are enormous, as reported by the UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), which can reach USD \$100 million per year.<sup>7</sup>In addition,

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<sup>4</sup> Held, *Regulating Globalization? The Reinvention Politics*. Vol. 15(2). international sociology, 2000. Pg 397

<sup>5</sup> Prof. Drs. Budi Winarto, MA., *Dynamics of Contemporary Global Issues*. 1st ed. Yogyakarta: CAPS (center of academic publishing service), 2014. Page 118

<sup>6</sup> Friedmann, "Transnational Relations and World Politics, by Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye, Jr." *Political Science Quarterly* 88, no. 1 (March 1, 1973): Pg 161. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2148689>.

<sup>7</sup> UNODC. "Human trafficking." UNODC, united nations officer on drugs and crime, 2020. <https://dataunodc.un.org/dp-trafficking-persons>.

advances in the field of communication and the industrial revolution 5.0 have encouraged developments that have a fairly central role in the development of this transnational crime.<sup>8</sup>

The threat of transnational crime also poses a serious threat to the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia. Indonesia's geographic location and abundant resources, both natural and human, are reasons why it is particularly vulnerable to this crime. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), Indonesia's land area is 1,892,410.09 square kilometers.<sup>9</sup> Meanwhile, the population reached 155,523,750 people with an average age of 25-29 years.<sup>10</sup> With the geographical area and population as above, transnational crime is certainly a very real threat, especially since many of Indonesia's borders are adjacent to the sea, making it very vulnerable to its spread.

Indonesia itself must be vigilant against transnational crime, particularly human trafficking and drug smuggling. According to data presented by National Police Chief General Listyo Sigit Prabowo, the number of human trafficking cases in 2024 increased to 837 cases, a 557% increase from 2022, with a total of 3,208 victims in

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<sup>8</sup>Arindrayani, Angelica Putri, and Sarah Anabarja. "Transnational Organized Crime: Human Smuggling in the Chinese Snakeheads Network." *Intermestic: Journal of International Studies* No 8 (2), no. 2 (2024): p. 449. <https://doi.org/10.24198/intermestic.v8n2.4>

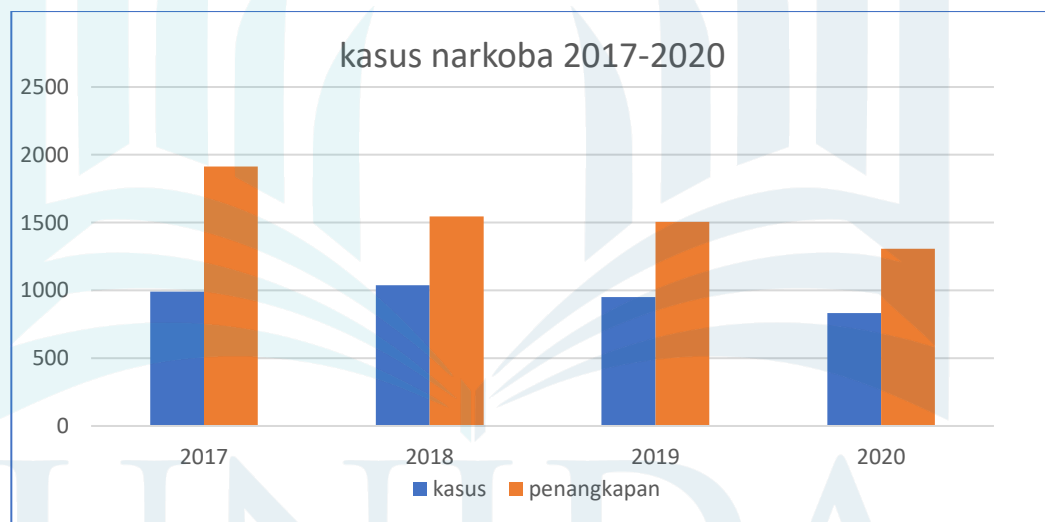
<sup>9</sup> Ministry of Home Affairs, "Area and Number of Islands by Province 2023." Jakarta, 2023. <https://www.bps.go.id/id/statisticstable/3/VUZwV01tSlpPVlpsWIRKbmMxcFhhSGhEVjFoUFFUMDkjMw==/luas-daerah-dan-jumlah-pulau-menurut-provinsi2023.html?year=2023>.

<sup>10</sup>Khoirul, F, Muhammad Khoirun, Husain Nanda, Hana Setya, Muhammad Nur, Zaenal Abdi Maulana, and Hasna Lulu Fauziyyah. "Population of Indonesia." *Malahayati Nursng Journal* 4, no. 31601900074 (2022): Page 43.

2023.<sup>11</sup> Meanwhile, narcotics cases reached 7,773 with a total of 12,137 suspects, with total assets of Rp. 1,127,254,197,376,000 in evidence.<sup>12</sup>

Indonesia's border areas, which are often directly adjacent to the open sea, also pose a significant risk to the spread of transnational crimes such as human trafficking and narcotics, as the sea serves as a highly vulnerable distribution route. The head of the National Narcotics Agency (BNN RI), Commissioner General of Police Martinus Hukom, Sik, Msi., stated that approximately 80% of narcotics smuggling is carried out by sea, with the remainder using land routes and airports.<sup>13</sup>

Source: BNN RI



**Table1.1 BNN RI**

<sup>11</sup> Indonesian National Police: "The National Police Chief Records 982 Human Trafficking Cases Throughout 2023." Jakarta: TBNews, nd<https://tribrataneews.sulut.polri.go.id/kapolri-catat-ada-982-kasus-tpo-di-sepanjang-2023/>.

<sup>12</sup> BNN RI, "Narcotics Cases." <https://Puslitdatin.Bnn.Go.Id/Portfolio/Data-Statistik-Kasus-Narkoba/>, 2023

<sup>13</sup> BNN RI, "Head of BNN RI, Loudly Declares His Stance Against Drugs, Coastal and Border Communities Deserve to be Called the Saviors of the Nation's Generation."

The chart above shows data on the number of drug cases and arrests. From 2017-2020, there were 7,773 drug cases, with evidence valued at Rp1,127,254,197,376.00.<sup>14</sup> This figure is certainly very worrying considering that the more cases of drug abuse there are, the more Indonesian citizens are involved as perpetrators.

The numerous drug smuggling cases have undoubtedly led to increased drug abuse by Indonesian citizens. According to a report from the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), in 2023, there were a total of 1,350 drug cases with 1,748 suspects and 12.4 tons of narcotics as evidence. Furthermore, the BNN also successfully arrested and dismantled more than 37 networks during 2023.<sup>15</sup> Other law enforcement agencies are also actively working to uncover drug syndicates. This collaboration has had a significant impact on efforts to eradicate drug smuggling. In 10 years, 7,013 cases have been uncovered, totaling 43,053.41 kg of evidence. Air transportation was the most frequent route, with 3,367 cases, followed by sea transportation with 803 cases.<sup>16</sup>

In human trafficking cases, many Indonesian citizens fall victim to human trafficking. According to data from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at least 3,703 Indonesian citizens were victims of online scams between 2020 and 2024, and 40% of them were suspected of being victims of human trafficking.<sup>17</sup> Judging from this data, human trafficking is a very worrying issue due to the high number of suspected victims.

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<sup>14</sup> BNN RI, "Narcotics Cases." <https://puslitdatin.bnn.go.id/Portfolio/Data-Statistik-Kasus-Narkoba/>, 2023.

<sup>15</sup> BNN RI, "Measurement of Drug Abuse Prevalence in 2023."

<sup>16</sup> Ministry of Finance, "Examining-the-Last-10-Years-of-the-Nation's-Struggle-Against-Drug-Smuggling."

<sup>17</sup> PMK, "Strengthening Data and Innovation in Handling Victims of Human Trafficking (TPPO) \_ Coordinating Ministry for Human Development and Culture."

This is due to numerous factors, including poor border security and an inadequately connected law enforcement system.

The potential losses from various forms of transnational crime are enormous, both economically and politically, and in terms of human resources. Indonesia is required to further enhance its efforts to address these transnational crimes. Indonesia has recognized the potential for transnational crime, particularly in human trafficking and narcotics cases, through efforts to strengthen cross-border immigration systems and operational efforts conducted by internal law enforcement agencies such as the Indonesian National Police, Immigration, and the National Narcotics Agency (BNN).

Interpol international police is an organization that focuses on handling transnational crimes and international crimes.<sup>18</sup> Every country that joins Interpol is required to have an agency that functions as a national central bureau/NCB Interpol in each country. Indonesia itself has had an NCB Interpol since 1952, although the National Police's Interpol Division of Transportation was only established in 2010. And the Indonesian National Police's Interpol Division of Transportation and NCB Interpol have also made many efforts to handle this transnational movement.

Both Interpol Indonesia and the Indonesian National Police's Interpol Division of Inter-Police Relations (DIVHUBINTER) have made numerous efforts to address transnational crime. These efforts have been ongoing since 1952, both through collaborative relationships and joint operations. Many joint operations have been conducted, including Operation Maharlika III, Days of Sea, Opson VIII, Global Action Airport Days, Sunbird, and many others. Operation Maharlika is the most interesting to study.

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<sup>18</sup> POLRI, "DIVHUBINTER POLRI - International Relations Division of the Republic of Indonesia National Police."

Operation Maharlika is quite interesting to study because the findings are quite interesting. What is striking about this operation is that it was carried out when COVID-19 attacked all parts of the world, which was carried out from February 24 to March 20, 2020. This operation was actually an action in response to the rampant acts of terrorism carried out by the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group, which is suspected of being the pioneer of the meeting between militants affiliated with ISIS, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria in Manila, Philippines in 2017.<sup>19</sup>

This operation was led directly by Interpol, with participation from related ASEAN countries such as Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Operation Maharlika III was implemented with funding from the governments of Japan, the UAE, the United Arab Emirates, and the Interpol Foundation. The findings are also very interesting to discuss, as they uncovered numerous crimes, including the arrest of terrorism syndicates, human trafficking, and narcotics, which have made Southeast Asia a distribution route.

Transnational crime, a serious threat in the era of globalization, not only undermines security and stability but also threatens the five main aspects of the Maqasid Sharia (Islamic Principles): religion, life, reason, posterity, and property. By destroying lives and posterity through drug abuse and human trafficking, as well as threatening state property and security, these crimes clearly contradict the objectives of Islamic law, which emphasizes the welfare of the people. Therefore, handling transnational crime must be supported by the principles of Maqasid Sharia, which focus not only on legal enforcement but also on prevention, victim rehabilitation, and

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<sup>19</sup>GFATF, “Operation Mahardika III.” April 27, 2020, <https://www.gfatf.org/archives/interpol-arrests-hundreds-crackdown-terrorist-routes-in-southeast-asia/>.



community empowerment as part of efforts to create sustainable peace and prosperity.<sup>20</sup>

Given the complexity of transnational crime and its impact on state sovereignty, this research is crucial in examining how Operation Maharlika III played a role in Indonesia's efforts to address the issue. It also aims to identify the challenges faced and the effectiveness of the strategies implemented in this operation.

Thus, this research focuses on Indonesia's efforts in combating transnational crime. It is hoped that this research will contribute to the development of a better national security strategy and serve as a reference for other countries in addressing transnational crime in an integrated manner.

### **1.2. Formulation of the problem**

1. How did transnational crime develop before Operation Maharlika III?
2. How is Indonesia's effort to address transnational crime through Operation Maharlika III?

### **1.3 Research purposes**

1. Understanding the development of transnational crime before Operation Maharlika III
2. Learn about Indonesia's efforts to address transnational crime through Operation Maharlika III

### **1.4 Benefits of research**

The benefits of this research are:

Academic benefits:

- a. To contribute knowledge and information related to Indonesia's efforts to overcome transnational crimes, especially those in Indonesia.

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<sup>20</sup> Ahmad Sarwat, Lc., Maqosid Syariah.



- b. To provide additional information for international relations researchers, especially those who study transnational and cross-border crime issues.

Practical benefits:

- a. As the author's final assignment to complete his undergraduate studies in the International Relations study program, Faculty of Humanities, Darussalam Gontor University.
- b. As the author's final assignment to complete his undergraduate studies in the International Relations program, Faculty of Humanities, Darussalam Gontor University.
- c. It is hoped that the results of this research can be used to complement the treasury of international relations knowledge.

### **1.5 Literature review**

Numerous studies have examined Indonesia's efforts to address transnational crime, making it easier for researchers to find references to strengthen their research. The author drew on several journal articles as references related to transnational crime and Indonesia's efforts to address it, strengthening his research. He found several articles related to the topic under study, while the Mahardja III operation was obtained from several reports on official websites and from other sources. This allows him to use these as sources for future development.

The following are some articles collected to support and strengthen this research,

1. The first study was conducted by Ni Komang Desy Arya Pinatih, Yustika Mahendra, and Asih Purwanti. With the title "Aseanapol and the Challenges of Human Trafficking in the Southeast Asia Region: A Case Study of Thailand and Cambodia," Southeast Asia is geographically the third most populous region in Asia after South Asia and East Asia. Southeast Asia also has a very large area and is an archipelago. Its member countries are still categorized as developing

countries except for Singapore which has been included as a developed country. This makes Southeast Asia a destination for international crime, this is compounded by the weak border control system of each country.

Transnational crime is a significant issue in the region, with Southeast Asia being a major hub for illegal trade in goods such as small arms, nuclear smuggling, and human trafficking. It also includes the smuggling of counterfeit goods, including narcotics. Human trafficking is a prevalent crime in Southeast Asia, with human trafficking occurring from less developed countries like Laos, Cambodia, and the Philippines to more developed countries like China, Malaysia, and Thailand. With these serious issues, ASEAN must strengthen its border system, either through domestic enforcement or through collaboration with neighboring countries. Southeast Asia, through ASEAN, has been working on numerous collaborations to address transnational crime for over two decades. These include formulating policies and engaging in collaborative activities to combat transnational crime, such as the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime, the ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting (AFMM), the ASEAN Chiefs of National Police (ASEANAPOL), and the ASEAN Senior Official on Drug Matters (ACTIP). This will facilitate handling and anticipation of transnational crimes in the Southeast Asia region.<sup>21</sup>

This journal helps researchers understand the cooperation undertaken by Southeast Asian countries in handling transnational crime cases and the steps taken by ASEAN countries to anticipate by strengthening the border system or

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<sup>21</sup>Pinatih, Ni Komang Desy Arya, Yustika Citra Mahendra, and Asih Purwanti. "Aseanapol and the Challenges of Human Trafficking in the Southeast Asia Region: A Case Study of Thailand and Cambodia." *Journal of Social and Political Sciences (JISIP)* 12, no. 3 (2023): 442. <https://doi.org/10.33366/jisip.v12i3.2804>.

immigration system and cross-border countries. This research has several similarities with the author's research, which both discuss the efforts made by Southeast Asian countries in handling transnational crime cases. This differs in that the case study taken by the author focuses more on Indonesia's efforts in handling transnational crime cases by using the case study of Operation Maharlika III.

2. The next research is a study conducted by Fikri Madani Tara Putra and Anindito R. Wiraputra. With the title "Immigration Policy in Efforts to Eradicate and Prevent Human Trafficking". The problem of human trafficking crimes is a very risky thing to happen in Indonesia, it is very contrary to human rights norms where this crime can enter from abroad or sent from within the country. This human trafficking is caused by the ease of foreign workers entering Indonesia and the ease of foreign tourists who want to visit Indonesia. Some individuals abuse this by using it to commit human trafficking. Non-procedural workers enter as an act of human trafficking. Indonesia has fenced off this human trafficking by creating Law No. 21 of 2007 concerning the eradication of human trafficking. Immigration is a crucial actor in this case because it is the main gateway for the entry of foreign nationals. It is expected that immigration will implement a selective policy in accepting foreign nationals entering Indonesia and also supervise every foreign migrant worker from passport issuance to inspections at immigration checkpoints. Indonesia must restrict every Indonesian citizen from the lure of becoming an Indonesian migrant worker and also supervise foreign migrant workers who will work in Indonesia.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Putra and Wiraputra, Putra, Fikri Madani Tara, and Anindito R. Wiraputra. "IMMIGRATION POLICY IN EFFORTS TO ERADICATION AND PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING" Fikri." Journal of Law and Border Protection 2, no. 1 (2020): p. 59. <https://doi.org/10.52617/jlbp.v2i1.183>.

This writing also discusses how to strengthen borders or cross-border efforts as an anticipation of the spread and increase in transnational crime, this clearly helps the author to add references in the writing that is being done. The thing that makes it different from this research is that this research discusses what efforts Indonesia's efforts in transnational crime do not focus on 1 policy such as immigration policy alone.

3. The next research is a scientific paper written by Felix Ferdin Bakker, Andhika Parama Putra, and Respati Triana Putri entitled "The Role of ASEAN in Tracking the Main Issues of Transnational Crime in the Southeast Region." From this research, it is intended that Southeast Asia is no longer just a transit but has become a destination for human trafficking. This is understandable because countries in Southeast Asia are still in the development phase where many factors such as difficulty finding work, social inequality, poverty and many other factors. Southeast Asia has agreed to improve communication by exchanging information regarding immigration and also standardizing immigration in each country.<sup>23</sup>

This research discusses how Southeast Asia has now become a destination country for transnational crimes so that every country must cooperate in handling it. This is in line with the research that the author will discuss and the difference is that the author focuses on Indonesia as the research material.

4. The next research is a research conducted by Muhammad Irfansyah Hasan entitled "Transnational Crime and the Implementation of Indonesian Criminal

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<sup>23</sup>Bakker, Felix Ferdin, Andhika Parama Putra, and Respati Triana Putri. "The Role of ASEAN in Tackling the Main Issues of Transnational Crime in the Southeast Asia Region." *Journal of Law and Border Protection* 2, no. 1 (2020): Pg 47. <https://doi.org/10.52617/jlbp.v2i1.182>.

Law" in this research it is discussed that transnational crime is a real threat to the Indonesian state in the form of illegal logging, cyber crime, drug trafficking, and drugs experiencing very significant developments which can be classified as crimes that are always a priority. Transnational crime as a new phenomenon that is the result of the globalization process. This crime involves networks that exist regionally and internationally. Therefore, various countries must cooperate very quickly by exchanging information and data to anticipate its spread. Prevention and handling must continue to be improved because it is very threatening to people's lives in the economic, socio-cultural, order, and security fields both nationally and regionally.<sup>24</sup>

This research provides additional reference material for law enforcement in Indonesia regarding transnational crimes, and how state officials should collaborate in handling them. This research focuses on the legal field, thus fundamentally differing from this study.

5. The next research is a research conducted by Shinta Agustina entitled "Trafficking in Women and Children as a Transnational Crime: Problems and Its Solutions in Indonesia". Trafficking in persons, especially children and women, has become a problem for the global community today, this is caused by the nature of the crime which is generally carried out across territorial borders, and is carried out in an organized manner by organizations or between individuals of an international nature. The losses caused by this crime can reach thousands of dollars each year. In general, trafficking victims are women and children, although it cannot be denied that there are victims from men. In this case, the governments of source countries have not been able to accommodate

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<sup>24</sup>Hasan, Muh. Irfansyah. "TRANSNATIONAL CRIME AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INDONESIAN CRIMINAL LAW 1 By: Muh. Irfansyah Hasan 2." *Lex Crimen VII*, no. 7 (2022): Page 13.

children's rights optimally as regulated in the convention on the rights of the child. Indonesia is one of the sources of international trafficking, in facing this problem the government must work hard to eradicate the problem of trafficking to its roots. This can be attempted preventively and repressively.<sup>25</sup>

This research discusses human trafficking, which is very helpful in developing the material for the paper because it shares the same overarching theme, transnational crime, thus adding to the writing references available. However, this research differs in its material. This research focuses on women and children, making it significantly different from the research topic being studied here.

## **1.6 Theoretical and Conceptual Framework**

### **1.6.1 Transnational Crime**

Transnational crime is a crime that refers to criminal acts that occur across national borders and can affect global security.<sup>26</sup> This crime essentially involves many elements that could be described as highly structured, making it nearly impossible for this transnational crime to involve only one country. The nature of this crime is also characterized by its highly structured and well-organized implementation.

Transnational crime arises from factors of globalization itself. The ratio of transnational crime to the increasing openness of globalization makes transnational crime a serious threat in this era of globalization. By definition, transnational crime is structured and systematic, not an individual crime but rather a crime committed by a community. This form of transnational crime can also be seen in smuggling networks,

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<sup>25</sup> Agustina, "Trafficking in Women and Children as a Transnational Crime: Problems and Their Solutions in Indonesia." *Projustitia Law Journal*. Projustitia Law Journal, 2006.

<sup>26</sup> Maras, Marie-Helen. *TRANSNATIONAL*. CRC Press Taylor & Francis Group 6000 Broken Sound Parkway NW, Suite 300 Boca Raton, FL 33487-2742, 2015.

how criminal routes are established to connect trade networks between countries.<sup>27</sup>In this era of globalization, transnational crime is increasingly developing as cross-border access is increasingly opened.

Globalization is a factor in the rapid development of this transnational crime trend. The acceleration of the communication and information revolution is a further factor, and the unpreparedness of countries in controlling the flow of goods and crossing countries is another supporting factor.<sup>28</sup>Transnational crime is essentially a byproduct of globalization's aspirations, with the goal of narrowing borders, free markets, and open information being paramount. This has led to significant immigration problems.

Transnational crime encompasses many aspects of crime, such as human trafficking, narcotics, arms trafficking, and several other crimes. Transnational crime is often a major crime with severe criminal penalties. Affiliations within this transnational crime range from countries, organizations, to individuals. ASEAN itself is a region highly vulnerable to this type of crime, as ASEAN not only serves as a distribution channel for various types of transnational crime but has also become a target for these channels.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Reichel, Philip L., and Jay S. Albanese. *The Handbook of Transnational Crime and Justice: Second Edition*. Sage, 2014. Reichel and Albanese, *The Handbook of Transnational Crime and Justice: Second Edition*. Page 10

<sup>28</sup> Williams, Phil. "Transnational Organized Crime and National and International Security: A Global Assessment." *Society Under Siege, Volume One. Crime, Violence and Illegal Weapons*(1997): Page 11.

<sup>29</sup> Bakker, Felix Ferdin, Andhika Parama Putra, and Respati Triana Putri. "The Role of ASEAN in Tackling the Main Issues of Transnational Crime in the Southeast Asia Region." *Journal of Law and Border Protection* 2, no. 1 (2020): Pg 47. <https://doi.org/10.52617/jlbp.v2i1.182>.



### **1.6.2 International Cooperation**

The author uses international cooperation to support and assist him in solving the problem formulation. International cooperation is an agreement between two or more countries based on the national interests of each country. Cooperation is based on a common goal or common interest. Cooperation is impossible without a common goal.<sup>30</sup>This is the basis for the formation of cooperation.

According to KJ Holsti, cooperation is based on a problem that occurs at the national, regional, or global level. He also discussed how cooperation can take many forms, including negotiation, cooperation, bargaining, and so on.<sup>31</sup>This demonstrates that cooperation is a crucial element in international life. All parties are interconnected and need each other, so no country can stand alone. This is based on the needs of each country that is unable to meet its own domestic needs.

### **1.6.3 Maqosid Syariah**

Maqashid Syariah is the primary goal pursued by Islamic law in establishing its laws. This concept emphasizes that Islamic law is not merely ritualistic, but is designed to safeguard the well-being of humanity in all aspects of life. According to Ali Ahmad Al-Jurjawi's book "Panorama Maqashid Syariah," maqashid syariah focuses on protecting five basic human needs: religion, life, intellect, posterity, and property. This understanding demonstrates that all sharia regulations must aim to safeguard these five elements to create a balanced and harmonious life.<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Eni. "Theory of International Cooperation." *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*, 6(11), 951–952., no. Mi (1967): p. 5.

<sup>31</sup> Holsti, K J. *International Politics: A Framework for Analysis*. Prentice-Hall, 1967. pp. 208-209

<sup>32</sup> Dr. Sutisna et al., *Panorama of Maqosid Syariah*. Edited by MEI Dr. Abdurrahman Misno BP. 1st ed. Indonesian Science Media, 2021. Page 136

In determining sharia law, the maqasid sharia is used as a framework for ijtiḥad and reform. The book "Maqasid al-Syariah, Ijtihad Methods and Reform of Islamic Family Law" by Dr. Agus Hermanto emphasizes that maqasid sharia is a fundamental guideline for maintaining the public interest or welfare of Muslims, as well as a benchmark for legal validity. The concept of the five main maqasid: religion, life, reason, lineage, and property is also explained as aspects that are the main focus in establishing laws to ensure that they bring benefits and prevent harm.<sup>33</sup>

Apart from that, these two books agree that maqashid sharia has a methodological dimension in its application, where classical and contemporary scholars use maqashid as a basis for understanding and developing Islamic law so that it is relevant to contemporary conditions. Imam Al-Syatibi's thoughts are explained in the book "Panorama of Maqashid Syariah" and discussion of the ijtiḥad method in the book "Maqashid al-Syariah" by Dr. Agus Hermanto is an important reference in integrating maqashid sharia into modern Islamic legal practice so as to bring justice and prosperity to the people.

Transnational crimes such as terrorism, narcotics, and human trafficking essentially undermine the goals of sharia. Terrorism threatens life and religion, narcotics damages the mind and soul, while human trafficking violates honor, destroys offspring, and robs people of their right to life. Therefore, every state effort to eradicate transnational crime can be seen as a concrete manifestation of the principle of self-control and self-control, in line with Islamic principles.

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<sup>33</sup> Ahmad Sarwat, Lc., Maqasid Syariah. Edited by Fatih. First. Fiqh Publishing House, Jalan Karet Pedurenan no. 53 Kuningan Setiabudi South Jakarta 12940, 2019. Page 8

وَلَا آمِينَ الْبَيْتَ الْحَرَامَ يَبْتَغُونَ God willing God آمِنُوا لَا تَحْلُوا شَعَائِرَ  
 الْمَسْجِدِ الْبَرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ God willing فَضْلًا مِّن رَّبِّهِمْ وَرِضْوَانًا وَإِذَا حَلَلْتُمْ فَاصْطَادُوا وَلَا  
 تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ

Which means "And help you in (doing) righteousness and piety, and do not help in committing sins and enmity." (QS. al-Mā'idah [5]: 2).

Although this operation involved non-Muslim majority countries, the use of Maqasid Syariah as an analytical framework is in line with the universal nature of its principles, which essentially represent basic human needs that have been widely recognized in international law and human rights. The five main objectives of Maqasid Syariah protecting religion, life, mind, descendants, and property can be mapped directly to the objectives of global security operations. In the context of Operation Maharlika III, the principle of *ḥifẓ al-dīn* (protecting religion) is implemented universally by guaranteeing religious freedom for all citizens, protecting places of worship from the threat of terrorism, and preventing the persecution of minorities, which is in line with the operation's goal of creating social stability. The principle of *ḥifẓ al-nafs* (protecting the soul) is relevant to assessing efforts to rescue victims of human trafficking and eradicate life-threatening terrorism. *ḥifẓ al-'aql* (protecting the mind) is crucial to analyzing the destructive impact of drug crimes. Meanwhile, *ḥifẓ al-nasl* (protecting offspring) and *ḥifẓ al-māl* (protecting property) serve as ethical benchmarks for understanding the harmful effects of sexual exploitation and financial crimes. Thus, Maqasid Sharia is not positioned as a theocratic source of law, but rather as a philosophical analytical tool that offers a universal lens for assessing the public benefit of a security operation. This approach allows research to transcend geographical and cultural boundaries to focus on a shared fundamental goal: protecting human dignity, a compelling and academically acceptable argument in an international context.

## **1.7 Hypothesis**

Operation Maharlika III is a form of international cooperation implemented by Indonesia to address transnational crime. Crimes such as drug smuggling, human trafficking, and cyber threats are growing, so their handling cannot rely solely on enforcement. In addition to prosecuting perpetrators, this operation also targets the root causes at the community level to ensure more effective and sustainable prevention.

Its success is influenced by psychological and social factors such as trust, perceptions of fairness, and cooperative motivation, which enable constructive collaboration. Conflict resolution involves direct negotiation and third-party mediation, as well as developing respectful communication skills, active listening, and managing emotions. Fair rules and procedures, along with gradually building trust, are key to maintaining a sustainable solution without triggering new conflicts. Furthermore, psychological barriers such as fear and extreme attitudes must be overcome by building empathy and reducing prejudice to maintain effective dialogue.

## **1.8 Research Methodology**

### **1.8.1 Research Design**

This research, which discusses "Indonesia's efforts in handling transnational crime: Operation Maharlika III," uses a qualitative method. This method was adopted by the author because the author drew research sources from scientific articles in the form of journals and books related to this study. The approach used is a qualitative descriptive approach.

Qualitative research is a scientific approach that reveals a social condition by explaining a phenomenon correctly, formed by words based on appropriate data collection and analysis techniques and obtained from scientific research.<sup>34</sup> This method provides an overview of the topic to be discussed

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<sup>34</sup>Moleong, LJ "QUALITATIVE RESEARCH METHODS." Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya,

through a phenomenon and is explained with an appropriate concept and theory to be used as a research reference.

#### **1.8.2 Research Object**

In this research, the object will focus on Indonesia's efforts in dealing with transnational crime: Operation Maharlika III.

#### **1.8.3 Data collection technique**

The data used to support this research was obtained from books, articles, and journals as research sources and quoted according to the theme. This research includes official data or documents obtained through the official website.

#### **1.8.4 Data Analysis Techniques**

There are three steps used by researchers: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. In the data reduction stage, researchers attempt to summarize and clarify statements by eliminating unimportant elements and organizing the data to meet the desired objectives. In the second stage, data presentation, the author explains how all the collected data is combined to form a single, easily understood conclusion. The final stage, data analysis, involves drawing conclusions, where researchers double-check the validity and suitability of the data to arrive at clear conclusions.

### **1.9 Writing system**

In this research, the author will divide the writing systematics into four chapters, including:

## **Chapter I Introduction**

This chapter will explain the background of the problem being addressed in this research. Furthermore, the researcher will discuss the problem formulation and the benefits to be gained from this research. This chapter will then proceed to present previous research related to the title of this research, followed by a description of the conceptual framework and methods used in this study.

## **Chapter II: Transnational Crime in Indonesia**

In this second chapter, the author will discuss how Indonesia is trying to eradicate and anticipate efforts from transnational crimes, especially in cases of human trafficking and narcotics distribution, both from efforts carried out by internal Indonesia and externally by carrying out cooperation or joint operations with foreign countries or organizations before the Maharlika III operation was carried out.

## **Chapter III: Operation Maharlika III.**

In this chapter, the author will discuss how Operation Maharlika became an effort by Indonesia and several ASEAN countries to build cooperation in eradicating transnational crime in the region. In this chapter, the author will also discuss the impact of Operation Maharlika III on transnational crime.

## **Chapter IV: Conclusions and Suggestions**

Chapter four presents the conclusions of the article, "Indonesia's Efforts in Handling Transnational Crime Cases: Operation Maharlika III." Several suggestions are offered for future improvement. The conclusions and suggestions are based on the previous chapters.