

Community Obligations and Participation in Oversight of Investigations Conducted by The Indonesian National Police

M. Rohmidhi Srikusuma^{1*}, Urip Giyono²

¹Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Hukum Graha Kirana

²Universitas Muhammadiyah Cirebon

¹drmidhilawyer@gmail.com, ²urip.giyono@umc.ac.id

Abstract

Investigation constitutes a crucial stage in the criminal justice system, as it determines the direction of law enforcement processes and has direct implications for the protection of human rights. The Indonesian National Police, as the institution vested with investigative authority, is required to perform its duties in a professional, transparent, and accountable manner, particularly following the enactment of the new national Criminal Code. In this context, public participation serves as an essential mechanism for overseeing investigative processes in order to prevent abuses of authority and to strengthen public trust in law enforcement institutions. This study aims to normatively analyze the obligations and participation of the public in overseeing investigations conducted by the Indonesian National Police, as well as to identify the forms, mechanisms, and challenges of such participation. This research employs a normative legal research method with a statutory approach and qualitative analysis of primary and secondary legal materials. The findings indicate that although constitutional and regulatory frameworks provide opportunities for public participation, mechanisms for public oversight of police investigations remain underdeveloped. Therefore, strengthening regulatory frameworks, enhancing public legal awareness, optimizing the role of external oversight institutions, and providing secure and transparent complaint mechanisms are necessary to ensure accountable and just investigative practices.

Keywords: investigation, public participation, oversight.

Abstrak

Penyidikan merupakan tahap krusial dalam sistem peradilan pidana karena menentukan arah proses penegakan hukum dan berimplikasi langsung pada perlindungan hak asasi manusia. Kepolisian Negara Republik Indonesia sebagai lembaga yang memiliki kewenangan penyidikan dituntut untuk menjalankan tugasnya secara profesional, transparan, dan akuntabel, terlebih dengan berlakunya Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Pidana nasional yang baru. Dalam konteks tersebut, partisipasi masyarakat menjadi instrumen penting dalam pengawasan penyidikan guna mencegah penyalahgunaan wewenang dan memperkuat kepercayaan publik terhadap aparat penegak hukum. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis secara yuridis normatif kewajiban dan partisipasi masyarakat dalam pengawasan penyidikan Kepolisian Republik Indonesia,

***M. Rohmidhi Srikusuma**

Email: drmidhilawyer@gmail.com

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serta mengidentifikasi bentuk, mekanisme, dan tantangan partisipasi tersebut. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah penelitian hukum normatif dengan pendekatan peraturan perundang-undangan dan analisis kualitatif terhadap bahan hukum primer dan sekunder. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa meskipun terdapat landasan konstitusional dan regulatif yang memungkinkan partisipasi masyarakat, mekanisme pengawasan publik terhadap penyidikan masih belum optimal. Oleh karena itu, diperlukan penguatan regulasi, peningkatan literasi hukum masyarakat, optimalisasi peran lembaga pengawas eksternal, serta penyediaan mekanisme pengaduan yang aman dan transparan untuk mewujudkan penyidikan yang akuntabel dan berkeadilan.

Kata kunci: *penyidikan, partisipasi masyarakat, pengawasan.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Investigation constitutes a foundational and strategic phase within the Indonesian criminal justice system, as it determines whether a criminal offense has occurred and who should be held responsible. As the entry point into formal legal proceedings, the investigation stage is not only concerned with the collection and validation of evidence but also with the protection of the fundamental rights of both suspects and victims. The Indonesian National Police (hereinafter referred to as the Police) is the principal institution mandated by law to conduct criminal investigations. In performing this function, the Police are expected to uphold due process, adhere to the rule of law, and ensure the protection of human rights in accordance with constitutional and international legal standards.¹

The enactment of the new Criminal Code (KUHP) and the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP), which came into force on January 2, 2026, marks a significant milestone in Indonesia's legal reform. These new codes replace the longstanding colonial legacy of Dutch criminal law and reflect a national commitment to aligning legal norms with contemporary values of justice. Substantively, the KUHP introduces a shift toward restorative justice and seeks to balance penal enforcement with the principles of proportionality, human dignity, and reintegration. Procedurally, the KUHAP introduces

¹ Zainal Arifin and Hary Masrukin, "Analisis Kewenangan Polri Dalam Melakukan Penyidikan Penangkapan Tindak Pidana Korupsi (Studi Di Kabupaten Nganjuk)," *Mizan: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum* 7, no. 2 (2018).

structural improvements intended to enhance legal certainty, fairness, and institutional accountability throughout the criminal justice process, particularly during the investigation phase.²

One of the central themes emphasized in these reforms is the necessity of strengthening public oversight of law enforcement institutions. Despite having broad investigatory powers, the Police have repeatedly been associated with practices that compromise human rights and due process, including excessive use of force, arbitrary actions, and lack of transparency. Such systemic issues not only impede the realization of justice but also diminish public trust in legal institutions. As stipulated in prevailing legal norms, the Police are not only responsible for law enforcement but also for guaranteeing the protection of individual liberties and the proper administration of justice.³

In this context, public participation in the oversight of police investigations is both a normative imperative and a practical necessity. Civic engagement functions as a democratic accountability mechanism that enables citizens to monitor and report instances of abuse or misconduct. Moreover, inclusive participation enhances the legitimacy of the criminal justice system by fostering transparency, responsiveness, and institutional credibility. Recent legal scholarship affirms that such involvement should not be treated as a peripheral or voluntary component but rather as an essential pillar of a rights-based and democratic criminal process.⁴

The establishment of external oversight mechanisms such as the National Police Commission (Kompolnas) reflects Indonesia's increasing attention to the role of public accountability in law enforcement. However, the effectiveness of these institutions depends significantly on the extent to which civil society is empowered to participate in oversight processes. In situations where legal pathways for public involvement are vague

² INP (Indonesian National Police), "INP Mulai Menerapkan Kode Pidana Dan Kode Prosedur Yang Baru," 2025.

³ Riska Kurnia Ningsih and Hadi Tuasikal, "Critical Review of Police Performance in Upholding Law Enforcement and Human Rights in Indonesia," *USM LAW REVIEW* 8, no. 1 (2025), <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.26623/julr.v8i1.11757>.

⁴ Dhadhag Anindito, Zulkarnaen Koto, and Joko Setiono, "Synergy Between the Police and the Community in Crime Prevention Efforts by the Directorate of General Criminal Investigation in Jambi Province," *JGSP: Jurnal Greenation Sosial Dan Politik* 3, no. 2 (2025), <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.38035/jgsp.v3i3>.

or inaccessible, oversight efforts may become merely symbolic or ceremonial. Therefore, there is a pressing need for legal reforms that provide procedural clarity, institutional support, and normative guarantees to facilitate meaningful civic engagement in police oversight.

Despite notable legal developments, the current regulatory framework lacks explicit codification of public participation mechanisms in the investigation process. Legal provisions remain fragmented and insufficiently structured to ensure consistent and effective public involvement. In practice, community efforts to monitor or report investigative misconduct face various institutional, procedural, and normative barriers, including lack of transparency, inadequate whistleblower protection, and weak access to information. These structural deficiencies create vulnerabilities that may permit investigative abuses to persist without adequate accountability.

Several recent studies have addressed concerns related to public trust and oversight in law enforcement and criminal justice systems. Ananda Wahyu Nursukma⁵ in 2024 found that police accountability and public reporting procedures significantly influence public perceptions of law enforcement, where limited procedural clarity reduces confidence and engagement in accountability mechanisms, highlighting the need for clearer institutional frameworks for community participation. Meanwhile, Misnah Irvita and Asriani Asriani⁶ in 2025 demonstrated that transparency and accountability in judicial and enforcement processes are strongly associated with institutional legitimacy and public trust, showing that greater openness fosters compliance and reduces cynicism toward justice institutions. Additionally, Nina Purwanti and Tri Eka Saputra⁷ in 2025 emphasized that institutional reform grounded in accountability and participatory governance enhances public trust in policing, suggesting that integrating community

⁵ Ananda Wahyu Nursukma and Emy Rosnawati, "Bridging Public Perception and Law Enforcement in Police Accountability," *Indonesian Journal of Law and Economics Review* 19, no. 3 (August 24, 2024), <https://doi.org/10.21070/ijler.v19i3.1200>.

⁶ Misnah Irvita and Asriani Asriani, "Transparency and Accountability in the Justice System: Building Public Trust and Justice," *Priviet Social Sciences Journal* 5, no. 4 (April 30, 2025): 26–40, <https://doi.org/10.55942/pssj.v5i4.367>.

⁷ Nina Purwanti and Tri Eka Saputra, "Reconstructing the Role of the Police in Building Public Trust in Police Reform Amidst the Threat of Terrorism," *Greenation International Journal of Law and Social Sciences* 3, no. 2 (August 26, 2025): 620–28, <https://doi.org/10.38035/gijlss.v3i2.501>.

engagement within institutional structures contributes to more democratic and responsive law enforcement. Collectively, these studies indicate a scholarly consensus on the need to strengthen legal and procedural mechanisms that facilitate meaningful public participation and oversight, thereby ensuring democratic accountability in criminal investigations and broader justice processes.

Accordingly, this study aims to examine, through a normative-juridical approach, the legal status, scope, and procedural mechanisms of public participation in the oversight of police investigations in Indonesia. The objective is to identify normative gaps in existing legislation, assess the alignment of current legal instruments with democratic and human rights principles, and propose reformative legal measures that can facilitate a transparent, accountable, and substantively just investigation process. In doing so, this study seeks to contribute to the broader discourse on strengthening public accountability in law enforcement and to support the development of a criminal justice system grounded in democratic governance and the rule of law.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This study employs a normative legal research method, also referred to as doctrinal legal research, which focuses on the analysis of legal norms and principles embedded within statutory regulations.⁸ The research primarily utilizes a statute approach, involving a systematic examination of legislative instruments that govern the powers, responsibilities, and oversight mechanisms of the Indonesian National Police. Key legal sources include primary legislation such as Law Number 2 of 2002 on the Indonesian National Police, the newly enacted Criminal Code (KUHP), the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHAP), and other related legal frameworks that regulate public participation in the criminal justice process.⁹

⁸ I Wayan Rideng, *Metode Penelitian Hukum Normatif*, Kertha Widya, vol. 1 (Jakarta: Rieneka Cipta, 2013).

⁹ Muhammad Siddiq Armia, *Penentuan Metode Dan Pendekatan Penelitian Hukum* (Banda Aceh: Lembaga Kajian Konstitusi Indonesia (LKKI), 2022).

Legal materials were collected through comprehensive library research, involving the identification, review, and interpretation of both primary and secondary legal sources.¹⁰ Primary legal materials consist of statutory laws and official regulations, while secondary sources include scholarly publications, legal commentaries, and academic journal articles that provide analytical perspectives on the implementation of police oversight and participatory justice. The collected data were analyzed qualitatively using a descriptive-analytical method, aimed at identifying normative gaps, interpreting legal provisions, and evaluating the extent to which the current legal framework aligns with the principles of democratic accountability, transparency, and the rule of law. This methodological approach facilitates the construction of a coherent legal argument grounded in authoritative legal sources and supported by academic discourse.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Legal Framework Governing Public Obligations and Oversight of Police Investigations

The Indonesian National Police (hereinafter referred to as the Police) is vested with the authority to conduct criminal investigations as part of the enforcement of criminal law in Indonesia. This authority is regulated under Law Number 2 of 2002 on the Indonesian National Police (hereinafter referred to as the Police Law), which positions the Police as an independent institution responsible for maintaining public order, ensuring security, providing protection, enforcing the law, and delivering services to the community, as stipulated in Article 13 of the Police Law.¹¹

The investigative authority of the Police is further affirmed in Article 14 letter (g) and Article 15 paragraph (2) letter (h) of the Police Law. These provisions emphasize that investigation constitutes an integral part of the law enforcement function inherent in the police institution. Accordingly, the exercise of investigative powers must be carried out in a professional and proportional manner, and in strict compliance with the principle of

¹⁰ Jonaedi Efendi and Prasetijo Rijadi, *Metode Penelitian Hukum Normatif Dan Empiris: Edisi Kedua* (Depok: Prenadamedia Group, 2022), <https://books.google.co.id/books?id=j1W6EAAAQBAJ>.

¹¹ Iskandar Sipayung, "Eksistensi Kepolisian Dalam Penuntutan Perkara Tindak Pidana Ringan Di Wilayah Hukum Polres Labuhan Batu," *Jurnal Ilmiah "Advokasi"* 9, no. 2 (2021).

due process of law, given that such powers have direct implications for the protection of human rights and the level of public trust in law enforcement agencies.

Moreover, the enactment of the new National Criminal Code reflects a significant shift in the direction of criminal law reform toward a more adaptive and rights-oriented legal system. This reform underscores that the investigation process should no longer be perceived merely as a repressive instrument, but must be conducted in a manner that upholds justice, transparency, and respect for human rights. The adoption of restorative justice principles and the recognition of every individual as a legal subject require investigators to exercise their authority in a proportional, accountable, and humane manner, taking into account the interests of both victims and suspects. Consequently, investigations under the framework of the new Criminal Code are not solely aimed at formal law enforcement, but are also directed toward achieving substantive justice and strengthening public confidence in the criminal justice system.¹²

From a constitutional perspective, citizens are guaranteed the right to justice, freedom of expression, and legal protection as enshrined in the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia. Although public participation in the investigation process has not been comprehensively regulated in the newly enacted Criminal Procedure Code and remains limited in academic discourse, the constitutional framework provides a legitimate basis for community involvement in monitoring investigative processes to ensure compliance with due process of law. Nevertheless, explicit normative provisions governing public participation in investigations remain relatively limited within both the Police Law and the Criminal Procedure Code, resulting in public involvement being largely channeled through complaint mechanisms, social control, and oversight by external institutions.¹³

¹² Eko Budi Sariyono, "Polri Untuk Masyarakat: Dalam Paradigma Pemidanaan Modern Berdasarkan KUHP Nasional Guna Mewujudkan Perlindungan Hukum Masyarakat," *Risalah Akademi Kepolisian: Prosiding Akademi Kepolisian: Kepolisian Untuk Masyarakat* 1, no. 1 (2025).

¹³ Veronika Devita Paramita Sari, "Sanksi Hukum Terhadap Penyidik Yang Tidak Memasukkan Alat Bukti Dalam Sebuah Proses Penyidikan Tidak Pidana Kekerasan Seksual," *Jurnal Kewarganegaraan* 8, no. 1 (2024).

These regulatory limitations have contributed to the suboptimal positioning of the public as independent overseers of the investigative process. In practice, public participation tends to be reactive, emerging primarily in response to allegations of procedural violations or abuses of authority by law enforcement officials. This condition highlights the need for a strengthened legal framework that is capable of accommodating public participation in a more structured, systematic, and sustainable manner, without undermining the independence and effectiveness of investigative functions.

Therefore, strengthening the role of the public in overseeing police investigations requires not only institutional commitment from law enforcement agencies but also regulatory reform that recognizes public participation as an integral component of the criminal justice system. Through clear legal provisions and accountable mechanisms, community involvement is expected to function as a preventive instrument against misconduct and abuse of power, while simultaneously reinforcing institutional legitimacy and enhancing public trust in the law enforcement process.

3.2. Public Participation in the Oversight of Police Investigations

Public participation in the oversight of police investigations may be exercised through various forms of social control, including the submission of complaints, criticism, and feedback concerning investigative processes perceived to be unprofessional or unlawful.¹⁴ This form of participation is not intended to interfere with the independence of investigative authorities, but rather to serve as a mechanism of public oversight, ensuring that investigative powers are exercised proportionally, objectively, and in accordance with the applicable legal provisions. Community involvement is expected to promote greater openness in the investigative process, thereby allowing for ongoing evaluation, minimizing the risk of procedural deviations, and enhancing the overall quality of law enforcement.

There are several concrete forms of public participation in supervising police investigations. First, members of the public may submit formal complaints regarding

¹⁴ Veronika Ari Herawati, "Police–Community Relations: Strengthening Trust, Collaboration, and Public Safety Outcomes," *Jurnal Puruhita* 7, no. 1 (2025), <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.15294/puruhita.v7i1.37894>.

irregularities in investigative procedures to official oversight bodies such as the National Police Commission (Kompolnas), the Ombudsman, or even the internal supervisory units of the police institution itself. Second, policing partnership programs, such as the Police and Community Partnership Forum (Forum Kemitraan Polisi dan Masyarakat or FKPM) reflect collaborative initiatives between law enforcement agencies and civil society aimed at jointly addressing issues of public order and security. These programs are designed to build mutual trust, foster two-way communication between the police and the public, and develop effective solutions through active community engagement.

A particularly significant mechanism for public oversight is the use of formal complaint channels, such as those provided through Kompolnas, which functions as an external oversight body for the Indonesian National Police. Kompolnas plays a strategic role in evaluating the performance and professionalism of police personnel, particularly in relation to criminal investigations. Based on reports and information submitted by members of the public, the commission is authorized to issue recommendations for corrective action in cases where there is evidence of abuse of power or procedural misconduct. Through this mechanism, public participation operates not only as a complaint channel but also as a tool for oversight that contributes directly to strengthening accountability and integrity within police investigations.

However, in practice, many citizens feel apprehensive about submitting complaints regarding alleged misconduct or abuse of power by police officers during investigations. This reluctance often stems from a perceived lack of follow-up by authorities, which discourages individuals from engaging in formal complaint processes. Furthermore, public trust in the police remains fragile, largely due to ongoing instances of abuse of authority and misconduct by certain individuals within the police institution. These conditions underscore the urgent need for stronger protective mechanisms for complainants and more effective institutional responses to ensure that public oversight functions as a meaningful and impactful component of police accountability.

The analysis demonstrates that public participation in the oversight of police investigations is normatively justified and constitutionally supported, yet remains

structurally weak due to the absence of explicit and comprehensive legal regulation.¹⁵ Although complaint mechanisms, civil society involvement, and external oversight institutions such as Kompolnas formally exist, their practical effectiveness is constrained by limited procedural clarity, insufficient legal protection for complainants, and weak institutional follow-up. As a result, public participation tends to operate in a reactive and incidental manner, rather than as an institutionalized component of the criminal justice process. This condition indicates that the current legal framework has not yet positioned the public as an independent and integral actor in ensuring accountability during the investigation stage, thereby limiting the preventive and corrective functions of public oversight.¹⁶

Accordingly, the problem of ineffective public participation in the oversight of police investigations can only be addressed through systematic legal reform that explicitly incorporates participatory mechanisms into the structure of criminal procedure law. Clear statutory provisions are required to regulate the scope, procedures, and legal guarantees of public involvement, including protection for complainants and mandatory institutional responses to public reports. By embedding public participation within the formal legal framework, oversight can function not merely as social criticism but as a legally recognized instrument of accountability. Such institutionalization is essential to prevent abuses of authority, strengthen the integrity of investigative processes, and ensure that the exercise of police power remains aligned with the principles of the rule of law, human rights protection, and substantive justice.

3.3. Strengthening Public Participation in the Oversight of Police Investigations

Public participation in the oversight of police investigations remains a critical yet underdeveloped component of Indonesia's criminal justice system. Despite existing legal frameworks that emphasize accountability and human rights protection, numerous

¹⁵ Muhammad Aarsal Sahban, "Strategies for Strengthening the Internal Supervision System of Indonesian National Police to Enhance Law Enforcement Integrity Toward Transparent and Accountable Legal Governance," *Enrichment: Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development* 3, no. 8 (November 11, 2025): 3426–42, <https://doi.org/10.55324/enrichment.v3i8.544>.

¹⁶ Irvita and Asriani, "Transparency and Accountability in the Justice System: Building Public Trust and Justice."

normative, institutional, and sociological barriers continue to obstruct meaningful civic involvement. These constraints reflect a systemic weakness in embedding community engagement as an integral part of the criminal process. In a democratic state governed by the rule of law, public oversight is not merely an aspirational value but a structural necessity to uphold transparency, prevent abuse of power, and reinforce the legitimacy of law enforcement. Consequently, efforts to strengthen public participation must not be limited to formal recognition in statutes but must also involve concrete, sustainable reforms. This includes revising regulatory frameworks, improving institutional capacity among oversight bodies, and advancing public legal literacy as a foundation for civic accountability.

A strategic entry point to institutionalizing public oversight lies in improving legal awareness among citizens through continuous and inclusive legal education. When the public is educated about their rights and obligations under the law, they are better equipped to recognize procedural violations, navigate complaint mechanisms, and engage constructively with law enforcement institutions. Legal consciousness, however, cannot be cultivated in a short period of time. Instead, it is the product of long-term engagement through both formal education systems and informal community-based initiatives. Therefore, investing in legal literacy programs is essential for cultivating a culture of legal compliance and participatory justice. A legally literate society is more likely to contribute proactively to the monitoring of police conduct and to demand institutional accountability through lawful and informed means.

The impact of public legal education extends directly to the quality of oversight over police investigations. Citizens who are aware of procedural safeguards, investigatory protocols, and due process rights are more capable of identifying investigative misconduct and submitting reports responsibly. This awareness not only promotes legal compliance but also strengthens democratic oversight by positioning the public as a legitimate counterbalance to coercive state power. When citizens are empowered with legal knowledge, they transition from being passive observers to becoming active agents of accountability. This transformation enhances institutional transparency and

simultaneously supports the broader goals of procedural fairness and substantive justice within the criminal justice system.¹⁷

Equally important is the role of external oversight bodies, which serve as intermediaries between the public and law enforcement institutions. In the Indonesian context, the National Police Commission (Kompolnas) exemplifies such a mechanism. Established under the Police Law, Kompolnas is tasked with assisting the President in shaping strategic policy directions and evaluating the institutional performance of the Indonesian National Police. Its functions include receiving public reports, issuing policy recommendations, and advising on key appointments such as that of the Chief of Police. While these mandates are significant, their effectiveness is contingent upon transparent procedures, adequate public engagement, and institutional responsiveness. As a civilian oversight body, Kompolnas has the potential to reinforce police accountability, provided its legal authority is supported by robust implementation and meaningful civic participation.¹⁸

Beyond institutional design, the accessibility and reliability of complaint mechanisms also determine the effectiveness of public oversight. A critical reform priority is the development of user-friendly, transparent, and secure reporting platforms that allow citizens to submit complaints without fear of retaliation. Digital tools such as the Dumas Presisi website and the dedicated WhatsApp service for police complaints represent early steps in this direction.¹⁹ However, the mere existence of these platforms is insufficient unless accompanied by legal guarantees for whistleblower protection and clear follow-up procedures. Effective complaint mechanisms must ensure confidentiality,

¹⁷ Busriadi and Muhammad Saleh, “Pengaruh Partisipasi Masyarakat, Sosialisasi Dan Edukasi Terhadap Peningkatan Kesadaran Hukum Masyarakat Dalam Memelihara Keamanan Dan Ketertiban,” *JIIP (Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Pendidikan)* 8, no. 5 (2025).

¹⁸ Amostian, Yusriyadi, and Ana Silviana, “Reformasi Polri Melalui Pembuatan Fungsi Dan Kewenangan Komisi Kepolisian Nasional Dalam Melakukan Pengawasan Eksternal Terhadap Polri,” *Jurnal Pembangunan Hukum Indonesia* 5, no. 3 (2023), <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.14710/jphi.v5i3.510-522>.

¹⁹ Rizky Wardana, Iqbal Arysepta Imam Mahbi, and Nabila Annisa Fuzain, “Police Authority Abuse Against Freedom of Expression: Case of Band Sukatani’s Intimidation,” *Journal of Law Justice (JLJ)* 3, no. 3 (December 2, 2025): 225–38, <https://doi.org/10.33506/jlj.v3i3.4532>.

prevent intimidation or criminalization of complainants, and foster public confidence in the system's ability to address misconduct impartially and expeditiously.

Furthermore, incentivizing public participation through recognition or rewards for constructive and evidence-based reports may serve as a complementary strategy to institutional reforms. Public acknowledgment of citizens who contribute to exposing misconduct or improving investigative integrity can stimulate broader engagement and foster a culture of collective responsibility in legal governance. This approach not only reinforces the public's role in ensuring investigative integrity but also serves to normalize civic oversight as a standard element of democratic policing. By encouraging responsible participation and recognizing its value, law enforcement institutions can rebuild trust and demonstrate their commitment to transparency, professionalism, and community partnership.

The institutionalization of public participation in the oversight of police investigations must be viewed not as an optional component of the justice system, but rather as a structural imperative for upholding democratic governance. Incorporating civic oversight into the criminal procedure framework ensures that the investigative powers of the state are exercised within the boundaries of accountability, legality, and public trust.²⁰ Legal reform must articulate the rights of citizens to participate, the obligations of law enforcement to respond, and the procedural standards that protect both complainants and officers. In doing so, the justice system affirms the public not merely as observers, but as co-guardians of justice. Their involvement is essential to achieving a transparent, accountable, and substantively fair system of criminal law enforcement.²¹

²⁰ Andrea M. Headley, "Accountability and Police Use of Force: Interactive Effects between Minority Representation and Civilian Review Boards," *Public Management Review* 24, no. 11 (November 2, 2022): 1682–1704, <https://doi.org/10.1080/14719037.2021.1916066>.

²¹ Richard A. Wise, Roger C. Mayer, and Scott M. Mourtgos, "Police–Public Trust: Toward a More Complete Perspective," *Behavioral Science & Policy* 11, no. 2 (October 29, 2025): 31–37, <https://doi.org/10.1177/23794607251384491>.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

Public participation in the oversight of police investigations conducted by the Indonesian National Police constitutes a fundamental element in ensuring accountability, transparency, and the protection of human rights within a democratic criminal justice system. The findings of this study reveal that normative, institutional, and sociological barriers have hindered the effectiveness of community oversight, ultimately contributing to diminished public trust in the investigative process. Although formal mechanisms such as the National Police Commission (Kopolnas) and digital platforms like Dumas Presisi have been introduced, their implementation has yet to guarantee secure, responsive, and legally protected access for complainants. Therefore, it is essential to strengthen the regulatory framework to ensure whistleblower protection, improve public legal literacy, and optimize the role of external oversight institutions so that public participation becomes a structurally embedded component of a substantively just criminal justice system.

The government should reform the legal framework governing public participation in police investigation oversight by prioritizing whistleblower protection, enhancing access to credible complaint mechanisms, and reinforcing legal education to foster a culture of active and constructive civic oversight. These efforts must be institutionalized through binding regulations to ensure long-term sustainability and alignment with democratic principles. In addition, cross-sectoral collaboration between law enforcement agencies, civil society, and academic institutions should be encouraged to develop integrated oversight models that reflect both legal norms and community needs.

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