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Misuse of Police Escort Convoys: A Juridical Analysis of Viral Cases from the Perspective of Pancasila Social Justice and Public Trust

Safira Widya Attidhira¹, Ade Saptomo²

¹Universitas Borobudur, Jakarta, Indonesia, Safira.Attidhira@gmail.com

²Universitas Borobudur, Jakarta, Indonesia, Adesaptomo@yahoo.com

Corresponding Author: Safira.Attidhira@gmail.com¹

Abstract: The misuse of police patrol and escort (patwal) services has become a viral phenomenon on Indonesian social media, with cases such as the RI-36 official vehicle (January 2025), Celeste Anastasia's use for a "nail appointment" (December 2024), and police escort vehicles disrupting ASEAN Summit delegations (September 2023), generating public concern and giving rise to the "No Viral, No Justice" phenomenon as a reflection of declining public trust in police institutions. This study aims to analyze the juridical aspects of police escort misuse, examine its impact on Pancasila social justice principles, and formulate preventive policy recommendations using normative legal methods with descriptive-analytical approaches through literature studies of Law No. 2/2002 on the Police, Law No. 22/2009 on Traffic and Road Transport, and Police Regulation No. 14/2011 on Police Code of Ethics. The research findings indicate that escort misuse violates Traffic Law Articles 134-137 regarding priority vehicles, police code of ethics, and potentially constitutes abuse of authority, while contradicting the second and fifth principles of Pancasila, resulting in decreased public trust and perceptions of unfair law enforcement. The study concludes that escort misuse constitutes a serious legal violation contrary to Pancasila values, necessitating regulatory reform through revision of Police Regulations with clear criteria, strengthened internal oversight, firm sanctions without favoritism, and reform commitment from police leadership to restore public trust.

Keywords: Police Escort Misuse, Pancasila Social Justice, Public Trust, Viral Cases, Police Reform

INTRODUCTION

Droit ne donne, plus que soit demandé. Police patrol and escort services (hereinafter referred to as patwal) as stipulated in Article 14 paragraph 1 points a and b of Law Number 2 of 2022 concerning the Indonesian National Police (hereinafter referred to as Law 2/2022) constitute part of police duties to conduct escort and patrol activities for community and government activities as needed, as well as to organize all activities ensuring security, order, and smooth traffic flow on roads. Referring to Government Regulation Number 43 of 1993

concerning Road Infrastructure and Traffic of the Republic of Indonesia (hereinafter referred to as PP 43/1993), regulations regarding types of vehicles entitled to priority are established, with police escorts holding second priority. However, their use is limited to state interests and specific emergency services as regulated in Law Number 22 of 2009 concerning Traffic and Road Transport (hereinafter referred to as Law 22/2009).

Ironically, in Indonesia, the use of police escorts is often misused for the interests of specific groups or individuals. Cases developing on social media demonstrate frequent misuse of this facility by certain individuals with power, such as public officials and celebrities who lack the urgency described in the law. Issues developing in society regarding escort misuse include the following cases.

First, the RI-36 official vehicle case in January 2025, which used police escorts and arrogantly pointed at drivers in the Sudirman area (CNN Indonesia, 2025). Second, Celeste Anastasia's use of police escorts for a nail appointment in December 2024 (Kompas, 2025). Third, police escorts disrupting ASEAN Summit delegations in September 2023 (Tempo, 2023). Fourth, the Pajero Sport convoy case in August 2020 (Kompas, 2022). Fifth, the Cianjur accident case in 2023 resulting in student fatalities (Detiknews, 2023). These issues have decreased public trust in police institutions and questioned police integrity itself. In 2015, convoys of Lamborghini cars in Jakarta and Harley Davidson motorcycles in Yogyakarta also received priority road rights and police escorts (Tribunnews, 2015).

These societal phenomena have created social upheaval and made society critical regarding the meaning of justice and equality before the law, while demonstrating the real crisis of legitimacy in Indonesia's law enforcement institutions. Police escort misuse in Indonesia not only violates legal aspects but also undermines Pancasila social justice perspectives and public trust as essential elements in a healthy democratic system.

This research offers an integrative approach combining juridical analysis with ethical and social reflection. This study is expected to bridge positive legal analysis existing in society with Pancasila normative values and digital social dynamics adhering to "no viral, no justice," where law enforcement only shows progress after cases become public spotlight. This represents one parameter of the crisis in public trust toward police institutions and law enforcement generally. This research aims to examine the juridical aspects of escort misuse, its implications for social justice based on Pancasila values, and offer concrete problem-solving solutions to prevent future abuse of authority.

Based on existing and developing problems in society, the authors formulate three main issues as follows. First, how does the juridical analysis of police escort misuse according to existing regulations? Second, what is its impact on Pancasila social justice principles? Third, what recommendations can prevent similar misuse?

METHOD

This legal research employs normative legal writing (normative research). Normative legal research constitutes research based on legal materials focusing on reading and studying both primary and secondary legal materials to produce new opinions, theories, or concepts as prescriptions for solving existing and formulated problems regarding escort regulations in society. Existing problems are analyzed using justice theory to examine escort use from the perspective of justice, particularly Pancasila and equal rights as Indonesian citizens.

Data sources used comprise primary legal materials, secondary legal materials, and tertiary legal materials. Primary legal materials refer to Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Police, Law Number 22 of 2009 concerning Traffic, Government Regulation Number 43 of 1993 concerning Road Infrastructure and Traffic of the Republic of Indonesia, Police Chief Regulation Number 14 of 2011 concerning Police Code of Ethics, and several other related regulations. Secondary legal materials used include books, journals, and news existing and developing in Indonesian society. Data collection techniques employed library research

through legal document analysis and identification of future legal needs. All existing legal materials are then analyzed using descriptive-analytical methods regarding regulations and existing social impacts.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Juridical Analysis of Police Escort Misuse According to Existing Regulations

Article 7 paragraph (3) juncto Article 8 paragraphs (1) and (2) of Police Regulation 4/2017 provides detailed explanation regarding authority delegation to the Police for conducting escorts to specific lists of state or government officials whose lists have been regulated in said regulation. However, no single article in any regulation permits escort activities for community needs, creating ambiguity for society and the general public. Referring to Article 134 of Law 22/2009, escort use is only intended for state interests and emergency conditions. However, through existing cases, facts frequently demonstrate that escort use often exceeds authority, violates law, and breaches professional ethics as police members (Albertus Agung Yonathan and Amad Sudiro, 2025).

Police-published procedures for escort service rental involve contacting TMC 1212 or visiting local Regional Police to complete administrative requirements and make administrative payments (Nalia Sakhailla, 2024). Sugeng Teguh Santoso, Chairman of Indonesia Police Watch (IPW), argues that escort use for civilian purposes should be prohibited as only public officials may use such facilities. Meanwhile, its designation for civilians only permits escort services when facing life-threatening situations. Therefore, it can be concluded that escort use by civilians constitutes legal violation.

Escort misuse is often referred to Article 18 paragraph (1) of Law 2/2002, stating that for public interest, police officials may execute their duties and authority according to their own judgment. Judgment contained in said regulation should still uphold human rights. This authority then gives birth to police discretion as regulated in Article 15 paragraph (2) letter k. Additionally, referring to Article 65 paragraph (1) of Government Regulation Number 43 of 1993 concerning Road Infrastructure and Traffic (hereinafter referred to as PP 43/1993), it explicitly states that priority rights are only given to vehicles such as fire departments on duty, ambulances carrying patients, vehicles handling traffic accidents, head of state or foreign guest vehicles, and convoys for specific interests based on police consideration. The absence of clear parameters and articles regarding police consideration often causes abuse of authority and power in escort use for personal or group interests (I Made Adi Putra et al., 2020).

The Caleste Anastasia case represents one form of escort misuse where escorts were used for personal interests visiting beauty salons. Additionally, the RI-36 case using arrogant escort services demonstrates widespread road superiority violating other road users' rights. Furthermore, the Audi vehicle case following police escorts causing fatalities in Cianjur represents police arrogance and escort misuse existing in Indonesia.

In such real cases, violations extend beyond Law 22/2002 to include police code of ethics violations. Regarding abuse of authority, this also contradicts the Criminal Code (hereinafter referred to as KUHP) and Law Number 30 of 2014 concerning Government Administration (hereinafter referred to as Law 30/2014). Abuse of authority due to police officials' negligence in decision-making constitutes administrative error, yet police are considered to commit abuse of authority with sanctions extending beyond administrative to criminal penalties (Muhammad Jufri Dewa et al., 2023). Escort misuse referring to Article 287 paragraph (4) of Law 22/2009 results in imprisonment of maximum one month or maximum fine of Rp250,000 (two hundred fifty thousand Rupiah). Unfortunately, sanction implementation remains suboptimal as society has normalized such practices and the Government lacks intention to enforce and promote escort use law enforcement.

To reduce abuse of authority and facilitate oversight, police discretion as regulated in Law 2/2002 must be further regulated to ensure legal certainty principles and respect for human

rights as guaranteed in the 1945 Constitution can be implemented (Agus Susanto Y Mohune, 2017). Further regulation can be conducted through legislative revision or implementing regulation issuance regulating and limiting such clauses to prevent absolute power and arbitrary behavior by officials or specific groups.

Pancasila Social Justice Perspective on Escort Misuse

Plato emphasizes justice theory concepts on harmony and alignment, defining justice as "the supreme virtue of the good state," while just individuals are defined as "the self-disciplined man whose passions are controlled by reason." Plato's developed justice conception is formulated in expressions of giving each person their due rights, necessitating law enforcement and existing legislation creation. According to this theory, issues requiring legal regulation must reflect justice as the main purpose of law is guiding society toward virtue, making them worthy citizens of an ideal state. Meanwhile, according to Aristotle, justice as citizenship occurs when individuals can enjoy public facilities, both administrative and physical, without disturbing others' rights in the process (Bahder Johan Nasution, 2014).

Analyzed from this justice theory, police escort misuse conflicts with Plato's justice theory because escort functions that should serve state interests during emergencies are used for personal or group interests without strategic issues. When police duties and functions no longer serve as guardians within public interest scope but merely become elite facilities, this creates disharmony in social structure. Additionally, police escort misuse also violates Aristotelian distributive justice because escort access is not provided based on objective needs but rather social status and power. Such misuse constitutes dangerous structural injustice for the state as it threatens social harmony and ethical governance principles.

Police escort facility use by specific groups represents a form of treatment inequality between officials or public figures and general society or the people generally. Inappropriate and arbitrary escort use violates principles of just and civilized humanity contained in the second principle of our nation's foundation, Pancasila. Beyond the second principle, this also conflicts with social justice principles for all Indonesian people contained in the fifth principle. This constitutes the root of social dissatisfaction and distrust toward state institutions. However, Pancasila as the way of life for citizens should properly serve as daily life guidance for both civilians and government officials (Nazwa Azahra and Taun, 2023).

Escort use by specific groups from celebrities, officials, or upper-middle-class society demonstrates that access that should be equitable becomes elitist. Siren use, forced eviction of other road users, and special treatment provision create unfairness in society, subsequently generating gaps between people and officials. This also negatively impacts Indonesia's legal image as it appears purchasable or negotiable.

Police escort misuse also conflicts with Article 28I paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (hereinafter referred to as the 1945 Constitution), where everyone has the right to freedom from discriminatory treatment and the right to protection against discriminatory treatment. Social justice encompasses not only economic forms but also justice in public services and state treatment of its people. Police as law enforcers alongside officials and government as regulators should act fairly in providing services to increase public trust in the state. Such arbitrary actions threaten social cohesion and create potential conflicts.

Justice can be understood and measured through existing legality established by the Government as regulator through legislation. The existence of legislation further regulating escort prohibition for civilians will provide legal certainty, benefit, and justice for all Indonesian people, certainly with law enforcement support by existing Law Enforcement Apparatus (APH) in Indonesia (Abid Zamzami). Achieving social justice must be based on justice, order, and regulation ensuring everyone has the right to receive equal rights without privilege to create general welfare (Irman Syahriar et al.).

When social justice can be applied and firmly regulated in civilian escort use concepts, this will create inclusive and just civil society (Adi Syahputra Indah, 2024). This will indirectly impact ensuring equal opportunities, reducing social and economic gaps, increasing community participation, encouraging solidarity and cooperation, protecting human rights, and implementing fair public policies addressing discrimination.

Impact of Escort Misuse on Public Trust

Through the above descriptions, police escort convoys not only impact traffic order disruption but also indirectly affect public perspectives on police institutional credibility and integrity. Meanwhile, on the other hand, public trust constitutes the main foundation of law enforcement social legitimacy in Indonesia, so when this is damaged, the effectiveness and authority of such institutions are questioned.

From these cases creating social media buzz regarding escort misuse, the phenomenon "no viral, no justice" is recognized, indicating that Indonesian society feels law is only enforced after public pressure because cases become spotlight. However, law recognizes the principle of equality before the law. Escort misuse actions worsen conditions by making civilians think that those protected by law are only a handful of elites with access to power, and there is impunity for violators with privilege. Police and law enforcement institution legitimacy experiences decreased public trust due to inconsistent law enforcement.

Moreover, such cases also demonstrate failure of internal institutional accountability mechanisms. Law enforcers expected to protect society only act after public pressure. Meanwhile, public trust in police as state institutions constitutes important prerequisites in legal systems, so escort misuse and unfair treatment create dissatisfaction and public feelings that law acts discriminatorily. If prolonged, this will create public perceptions antipathetic toward law and its institutions, eventually leading to legitimacy crises toward police that will weaken law enforcement in Indonesia.

Digitalization in Indonesia makes news spread faster, creating public sentiment toward cases existing in society and significantly impacting public trust in police (Diana Sapitri et al., 2025). Such treatment inequality reflects existing structural problems because lower-class society feels they lack equal rights to receive state services, while those in power with privilege can enjoy special treatment. Existing regulatory ambiguity, public normalization, and lack of government attention negatively impact road ethics and people's rights. It can be concluded that escort misuse impacts legitimacy damage, inequality creation, and democracy foundation threats. Therefore, escort case handling must be conducted transparently, accountably, and without favoritism so public trust recovery processes can truly begin.

CONCLUSION

Police patrol and escort (patwal) misuse by police personnel and privileged road users has become a systemic phenomenon violating law, professional ethics, and Pancasila values. This research demonstrates that escort use inconsistent with existing legislation, such as Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning Police, Law No. 22 of 2009 concerning Traffic, and Police Regulation No. 14 of 2011 concerning Police Code of Ethics, potentially constitutes abuse of authority and ethical violations. Escort use must be guided and limited by several principles: necessity principle, actions truly taken for police duties, purpose principle, and balance principle between benefits and disturbances provided.

Escort misuse contradicts the second and fifth principles of Pancasila, namely principles of just and civilized humanity and social justice for all Indonesian people. Social impacts of such practices are very real: decreased public trust in law enforcement institutions, treatment inequality in public spaces, and emergence of dissatisfaction symptoms leading to state institutional legitimacy crises, particularly police. Government implementation should be consistent in law enforcement. Besides harmonizing and aligning existing regulations, the

Government can also provide legal education to society regarding proper siren use and which vehicle types can receive road priority.

Recommendations. Through these descriptions, the authors provide several recommendations that can be implemented to restore public trust in police institutions and minimize abuse of power by officials and specific civilian groups. There are three recommendations that can serve as implementation references.

First, strengthening regulations regarding police escort convoys. In existing legislation, clauses regarding other interests according to police consideration are not specifically limited, impacting misinterpretation and bias in society regarding other interests. Such strengthening revision can be conducted through improvement or revision of Police Chief Regulations regarding escorts in Indonesia. Additionally, creating clear Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) is important for providing legal certainty to the public, where such SOPs must be published for public access.

Second, increasing police oversight to prevent abuse of power. Regular oversight can be conducted through internal audits regarding escorts and their administration. Additionally, whistleblowing systems or violation reporting easily accessible to the public are needed for reporting personnel actions. Entered cases must also be given transparency regarding their handling so society knows the extent of law enforcement accuracy in Indonesia.

Third, restoring public trust in police so police image as law enforcement apparatus can be restored. Improving such image can be conducted through thorough investigation and firm sanctions against violations occurring thus far. Additionally, police must commit to leadership reform. Police must also conduct socialization regarding state facility use limitations to prevent arbitrariness and increase public oversight. Certainly, such improvements cannot operate independently. Harmonization and commitment among related institutions such as the Indonesian National Police, Indonesian House of Representatives, Indonesian Attorney General's Office, and other relevant institutions are needed.

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