



# Implementation of the Law for Police Members Regarding the Sale of Firearms and Ammunition (A Case Study at the West Papua Regional Police)

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**Abstract:** This study examines the implementation of criminal law against members of the Indonesian National Police involved in the sale of firearms and ammunition, with a specific case study at the West Papua Regional Police. Using a normative juridical and qualitative approach, the research analyzes the coherence between Emergency Law No. 12 of 1951, Law No. 2 of 2002 on the National Police, and internal regulations such as the Chief of Police Regulations on firearms control and the professional code of ethics, as well as their application in practice. The findings show that the acts of trading and controlling firearms by police officers clearly fulfill the elements of illegal possession and participation in crime, thus giving rise to full criminal and ethical liability. Law enforcement in this case reflects a dual-track accountability system: criminal proceedings before the general court and internal disciplinary and ethical sanctions, including the possibility of dishonorable discharge. However, the case also reveals structural weaknesses in firearms supervision, internal control mechanisms, and integrity culture. The study recommends strengthening multi-layered oversight, improving firearms management systems, and institutionalizing firm, transparent sanctions to reinforce police professionalism and public trust.

**Keywords:** Criminal Law Enforcement, Illegal Firearms, Police Accountability, West Papua Regional Police

## 1. Introduction

The enactment of Emergency Law No. 12 of 1951 was a preventative measure to suppress firearms crime (Agusetiawan, 2025). This government preventive effort deserves appreciation as a basic reference in responding to the development of crimes involving firearms, making monitoring illegal possession crucial (Yudistira, 2022). Normatively, Indonesia is a country with quite strict regulations regarding civilian firearm ownership (Alfi, 2024). These regulations are contained in various legal frameworks, ranging from Emergency Law No. 12 of 1951, Law No. 8 of 1948, to Government Regulation in Lieu of Law No. 20 of 1960. Furthermore, there are derivative regulations issued by the National Police, such as the Chief of Police Decree No. Skep/244/II/1999 and the Chief of Police Decree No. 82 of 2004 concerning the Implementation of Supervision and Control of Non-Organic Weapons.

Under Indonesian legal regulations, police officers are strictly prohibited from engaging in the sale of firearms or ammunition (Muhammad, 2024), as such actions violate statutory provisions and the police professional code of ethics (Hasibuan & Wibowo, 2024). This prohibition refers to Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police, which stipulates that firearms may only be used for official purposes to maintain security and order (Parengkuan et al., 2022). Furthermore, criminal provisions regarding the possession and trade of firearms without a permit are regulated in Emergency Law Number 12 of 1951 (Hermawan, 2025). Violators of this prohibition face not only criminal sanctions under the law but also disciplinary sanctions and professional ethics codes, which can lead to dishonorable discharge. It reinforces the institution's commitment to integrity and professionalism as the primary foundations for carrying out its duties.

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Received: Nov 30, 2025;

Revised: Dec 08 2025;

Accepted: Dec 18, 2025;

Published : Dec 30, 2025



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A firearm is a device made entirely or partially of metal and equipped with mechanical components, such as a barrel, trigger, spring, and chamber, which discharges bullets or gas through the barrel with the aid of explosives (Simarmata & Yusuf, 2024). While firearms are permitted for self-defense purposes, their use is illegal without official permission (Sasela, 2023). As a human creation, firearms have evolved over thousands of years. Their function has also changed with the advancement of civilization, initially being used only for war, but later expanding to include other purposes (Mulkan & Wulandari, 2022).

The prohibition on the manufacture of firearms has been emphasized in Article 1, paragraph (1) of Emergency Law Number 12 of 1951. This article states that anyone who without the right to bring into Indonesia, makes, receives, tries to obtain, hands over or tries to hand over, controls, carries, stores, uses, or removes from Indonesia firearms, ammunition, or explosives, can be subject to the death penalty, life imprisonment, or temporary imprisonment with a maximum sentence of 20 years (Rasyid et al., 2025). To prevent the misuse and circulation of illegal firearms, the government then established several additional regulations, including Law No. 12/Drt/1951 as an amendment to the Ordonantie Tijdelijke Bijzondere Strafbepalingen and Law No. 8 of 1948, as well as the Decree of the Chief of Police No. Pol.: Skep/82/II/2004 concerning Guidelines for the Implementation of Supervision and Control of Non-organic Weapons of the TNI/Polri (Akbar et al., 2023).

Law Number 8 of 1948 stipulates that any person who, without authorization, makes, receives, attempts to obtain, surrenders, or attempts to surrender, possesses, carries, stores, transports, conceals, uses, or removes firearms, ammunition, or explosives from Indonesian territory shall be subject to the death penalty, life imprisonment, or a maximum imprisonment of 20 years (Lembong, 2021). Under this provision, Indonesian law explicitly affirms that the possession of firearms without a permit constitutes a criminal offense. In addition, the misuse of firearms poses a significant threat to public security and order.

The ownership and use of firearms by civilians is influenced by various factors, particularly security. For some, firearms are considered a means of self-protection, while for others, they can be used to commit crimes (Batubara, 2019). The greatest concern regarding the misuse of illegal firearms includes serious acts such as terrorism, as well as simple acts with complex motives, such as shooting specific individuals (Manuhutu et al., 2023). Given these conditions, law enforcement against the circulation of illegal firearms in West Papua must continue to be strengthened, making it interesting to study from a law enforcement policy perspective. According to Barda Nawawi Arief, law enforcement policy is part of the overall criminal policy, in addition to formulation (legislative) policy and executive policy (Sandera et al., 2022). The phenomenon of mass violence and criminal acts involving the use of force appears to be occurring with increasing frequency in Indonesia. Various incidents are reported one after another, indicating that this issue has become a trend requiring serious attention (Saputra, 2021).

From a theoretical perspective, this study aims to contribute to the development of discourse on the criminal accountability of law enforcement officers in Indonesia, particularly regarding the concept of dual-track accountability. This study emphasizes that members of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) are subject not only to formal criminal sanctions but also to internal disciplinary mechanisms and professional codes of ethics, so that any violation of firearms-related regulations carries dual consequences. This approach enriches the Indonesian criminal law literature by emphasizing that the accountability of law enforcement officers is not monolithic but multidimensional, encompassing both positive law and professional integrity. Thus, this study highlights the interaction between criminal law and police ethics mechanisms as a conceptual framework for understanding internal and external oversight of security forces. Specifically, this study fills an existing research gap by focusing on the criminal and ethical responsibility of Polri members in West Papua, a region that has previously received little academic attention. Unlike previous studies that generally focus on illegal firearms

ownership in general or distribution at the national level, this study emphasizes the specific geographic context and a distinct actor: Polri members involved in the sale of firearms and ammunition. This approach allows for a more detailed analysis of law enforcement policies, including how internal and external mechanisms are actually implemented in the field, thus providing a new perspective on the challenges of implementing criminal law and police ethics in conflict-prone areas.

## 2. Materials and Methods

The type of legal research used is normative juridical, which assesses the coherence of legal rules, such as whether existing regulations comply with legal norms and whether the commands or prohibitions contained align with legal principles (Rizkia & Fardiansyah, 2023). Furthermore, this research also assesses whether a person's actions are in accordance with applicable legal norms or principles. This research is qualitative, conducted using a descriptive and analytical approach. The focus of the research emphasizes processes and meanings, including the perspectives and respondents involved, with a theoretical foundation as a guide to ensure the research remains focused and aligned with conditions in the field.

Primary data is data obtained directly from the field through interviews, observations, or other data collection methods related to the research topic (Haifa et al., 2025). Secondary data is data sourced from literature such as books, theses, articles, and relevant legal theories. Meanwhile, tertiary legal data is supporting data that explains or interprets primary and secondary legal material, usually obtained indirectly through the internet, journals, or other publications.

Data analysis is conducted by compiling and organizing data into patterns and categories to identify themes and formulate working hypotheses. Secondary data was retrieved from literature studies, while field data from observations and interviews were systematically processed and then analyzed using qualitative methods. Conclusions were drawn deductively, moving from the general to the specific, to address the issue of the application of criminal law to police officers who sell firearms and ammunition.

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Criminal Law Enforcement for Police Members Involved in the Sale of Firearms and Ammunition

Criminal law enforcement against Indonesian National Police (Polri) members involved in the sale of firearms and ammunition within the West Papua Regional Police is based on the provisions of Emergency Law Number 12 of 1951 as the primary legal basis. This law imposes severe criminal sanctions on anyone who trades or transfers firearms without a permit. In the police context, this regulation is reinforced by National Police Chief Regulation Number 8 of 2021 concerning the Supervision and Control of Non-Organic Firearms within the National Police, which expressly prohibits police officers from trading in official firearms (Aritonang et al., 2025). This provision serves as a reference for law enforcement officers within the West Papua Regional Police to take firm action against any form of abuse of authority by individual members of the National Police.

Based on the results of the case development, on Friday, November 6, 2020, officers again arrested Rosita at Rendani Airport. Rosita acted as a distributor and supplier of firearms from the Philippines, working in collaboration with Soni and Melki. On the same day, police also arrested Calvin at his home in Susweni Village, where he hid the firearms consigned by Melki. This case demonstrates that the illegal firearms trade in West Papua involves a vast and organized network, requiring firm action under applicable law.

Investigations of Soni, a police officer, revealed that he possessed several firearms: an ARMSCOR .45 pistol with ammunition, two .45-caliber Colt pistols (M1911A1 U.S. Army series), a revolver, several magazines, and dozens of .45- and .38-caliber bullets. At the

time of his arrest, Soni was attempting to sell one pistol in the SP 2 area of Manokwari for Rp 25,000,000, but the transaction had not yet taken place.

Legally, the suspects' actions fulfill the elements stipulated in Article 1 paragraph (1) of the Emergency Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 12 of 1951 in conjunction with Article 55 paragraph (1) point 1 of the Criminal Code. The element of "whosoever" is fulfilled because the suspects were proven to be legal subjects who committed the crime. The elements of "receiving" and "controlling" are proven by the testimony of witnesses and suspects that Calvin received and controlled two revolvers from Melki. The element of "carrying" is also fulfilled, because Calvin intentionally brought the firearms from Manokwari Harbor to his home in Susweni Village. Furthermore, the element of "participating in the act" is proven because this crime was committed together by Soni, Rosita, and Calvin, with each suspect having a different role in the distribution of the illegal firearms.

In assessing the effectiveness of criminal law enforcement against members of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) involved in the sale of firearms and ammunition at the West Papua Regional Police, clear benchmarks are needed so that the law enforcement process can be conducted objectively and transparently. This assessment focuses not only on the application of criminal sanctions but also on the extent to which officers within the West Papua Regional Police (Polda Papua Barat) implement applicable legal provisions, implement dual accountability mechanisms between criminal and ethical processes, and ensure respect for the principles of justice and human rights. Thus, law enforcement against Polri members within the West Papua Regional Police (Polda Papua Barat) reflects the integrity, professionalism, and commitment of the Polri institution to uphold the rule of law and maintaining public trust.

Law enforcement against Polri members who sold firearms within the West Papua Regional Police can be seen through Soerjono Soekanto's theory, which emphasizes the importance of aligning legal values with concrete actions to maintain public order (Yudhayana & Aziz, 2024). The application of criminal and ethical regulations in this case reflects this effort. However, Satjipto Raharjo's perspective cautions that law enforcement in Indonesia is often trapped in conventional patterns that tend to favor certain groups. Therefore, the enforcement process must be carried out fairly and not protect those in positions of power (Rahardjo, 2006).

Possession of a firearm without a permit is a criminal act that can be subject to legal sanctions, as stated in Article 1 paragraph (1) of Emergency Law Number 12 of 1951, which states that anyone who possesses a firearm illegally can be processed and punished according to applicable provisions (Temarwud et al., 2022).

The enforcement of criminal law against members of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) involved in firearms sales within the West Papua Regional Police (Polda) reflects the strong internal oversight and discipline within the National Police. This case, involving an organized network, demonstrates that abuse of authority not only results in legal violations but also undermines the institution's legitimacy in the public eye. Therefore, the use of Emergency Law No. 12 of 1951 and Regulation of the Chief of Police No. 8 of 2021 is a crucial basis for closing the gap for irregularities while ensuring that officers involved are prosecuted criminally and ethically. From an institutional perspective, the effectiveness of enforcement is measured not only by the success in uncovering the perpetrators but also by the institution's ability to improve control mechanisms, tighten firearms oversight, and develop an organizational culture that rejects all forms of irregularities. With this approach, law enforcement is expected to not only resolve cases but also strengthen the systemic integrity of the National Police in the long term.

### ***3.2 Criminal Liability for Police Members as Perpetrators of Firearms and Ammunition Sales Based on a Case Study at the West Papua Regional Police***

Criminal liability for members of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) involved in the sale of firearms and ammunition within the West Papua Regional Police is based on legal provisions that expressly prohibit and sanction the possession and distribution of

illegal firearms. Emergency Law Number 12 of 1951 serves as the primary basis, specifically Article 1 paragraph (1), which stipulates that any person who unauthorizedly possesses, carries, stores, or sells firearms is subject to severe penalties. For Polri members, this provision is reinforced by Regulation of the Chief of Police Number 8 of 2021 concerning the Supervision and Control of Non-Organic Firearms within the Polri Environment, which explicitly prohibits the misuse of official firearms, either for sale or transfer to others without permission.

A case study at the West Papua Regional Police (Polri) revealed the involvement of a Polri member named Soni, who was found to possess and attempt to sell several firearms, including an ARMSCOR 45 pistol, two Colt M1911A1 pistols, and one revolver with ammunition. His actions were not isolated, but rather carried out in collaboration with Rosita, the foreign arms supplier, and Calvin, the custodian of the weapons on consignment. This organized work pattern strengthens the evidence that these National Police officers not only abused their authority but also played an active role in the illegal firearms distribution network, making criminal liability unavoidable.

Legally, the actions of Soni and the other perpetrators fulfill the elements of a crime as stipulated in Article 1 paragraph (1) of Emergency Law Number 12 of 1951 in conjunction with Article 55 paragraph (1) point 1 of the Criminal Code concerning participation. The element of "whoever" is fulfilled because they are legal subjects who can be held accountable; the elements of "control" and "carry" are fulfilled through physical possession of the firearms; the element of "trading" is proven through the attempted firearm transaction for Rp 25,000,000; while the element of "participation" is evident from the division of roles between Soni, Rosita, and Calvin. If these elements are met, criminal liability can be fully imposed on the involved Polri members.

Besides the criminal proceedings, Polri members are also required to undergo ethical accountability as stipulated in National Police Chief Regulation Number 7 of 2022 concerning the National Police Professional Code of Ethics and National Police Chief Regulation Number 1 of 2019 concerning Procedures for Dishonorable Discharge (PTDH). In the case of firearms sales, the actions of Polri members can be categorized as serious violations that undermine the integrity and discipline of the organization, thus resulting in an ethical process that can lead to PTDH. This dualism of criminal and ethical processes is a form of internal control mechanism aimed at maintaining the professionalism, credibility, and accountability of the police institution.

The criminal liability of Polri members in the case of firearms and ammunition sales at the West Papua Regional Police is directly related to the concepts of objective and subjective blame, as explained by Roeslan. The act of selling or misusing firearms is clearly prohibited by law and thus meets the element of objective blame. This prohibition is stipulated in Emergency Law Number 12 of 1951, which stipulates that any unauthorized possession, control, or distribution of firearms is a criminal offense. For members of the Indonesian National Police, their position as law enforcement officers strengthens the aspect of objective criticism, because they have the authority and legal knowledge to ensure that firearms are used according to the rules. However, when they are involved in illicit trafficking, the deliberate act and abuse of authority demonstrate the fulfillment of subjective blame (Saleh, 1983).

Once both forms of blame are met, criminal liability can be fully applied to the perpetrators of the crime. In the context of the West Papua Regional Police case study, the perpetrators not only violated general criminal provisions, but also violated the Indonesian National Police's professional code of ethics and disciplinary obligations as stipulated in Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police and the National Police Chief's Regulation concerning the Indonesian National Police's Professional Code of Ethics. The mechanism ensures that law enforcement continues even if the perpetrators come from within the law enforcement institution itself. Thus, criminal liability serves as an instrument to emphasize that anyone who commits a crime, including members of the Indonesian National Police (Amrani & Ali, 2015), can still be prosecuted and sanctioned according to applicable law (Saleh, 1983).

At the institutional level, the National Police officers who committed these acts were also recorded as violating Indonesian National Police Regulation Number 7 of 2022 concerning the National Police Professional Code of Ethics, specifically provisions regarding integrity and the prohibition of abuse of authority. A case study of the West Papua Regional Police indicates that these actions not only fulfill criminal elements and undermine public trust in the police institution, as the perpetrators had access and authority that should have been used to maintain security. Therefore, the criminal accountability procedure for National Police officers is not only intended to provide a deterrent effect but also to ensure the restoration of institutional integrity through transparent and consistent law enforcement (Waluyo, 2022).

#### 4. Conclusions

The enforcement of the law against members of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) involved in the sale of firearms and ammunition within the West Papua Regional Police (Polda) demonstrates that law enforcement continues to operate even when the perpetrators are within the police force. This case illustrates that unlawful acts, particularly those related to the illegal distribution of firearms, are treated as crimes requiring firm action in accordance with statutory regulations. Therefore, investigators ensure that every investigation is conducted based on evidence and applicable legal provisions. In its implementation, regulations such as Emergency Law Number 12 of 1951 remain the primary basis for prosecuting perpetrators of unauthorized firearms trafficking. Internal Polri regulations, including the Chief of Police Regulation regarding the code of ethics and discipline, are also used to impose additional sanctions within the professional sphere. The combination of criminal sanctions and ethical sanctions demonstrates that the Polri institution strives to maintain internal integrity while ensuring that legal processes are carried out according to standards.

From a conceptual perspective, the findings of this study can serve as a basis for developing a more comprehensive criminal and ethical accountability model for members of the Indonesian National Police. This model emphasizes the integration of formal criminal accountability with internal disciplinary mechanisms and a professional code of ethics, so that any violation of firearms regulations is viewed not only from a legal perspective but also from a professional and integrity perspective. This approach allows for the establishment of a systematic framework to prevent abuse of authority and increase transparency and internal accountability within the police institution.

Furthermore, this study has limitations that require consideration, including the limited number of cases, limited access to internal data from the West Papua Regional Police, and its focus on a single study area. Therefore, further research can be directed at collecting data from various regions in Indonesia, conducting comparative analyses across regions, and evaluating the effectiveness of internal and external oversight mechanisms. These efforts will enrich our understanding of the dynamics of law enforcement regarding firearms misuse by officers and support the development of more adaptive and evidence-based policies.

This case also demonstrates the need for stricter internal oversight of Polri members, especially in the management of firearms and ammunition. Improved oversight can prevent abuse of authority and minimize the opportunity for members to become involved in the illegal distribution of weapons. Furthermore, efforts to foster and improve the integrity of members are crucial to preventing similar incidents from recurring.

Overall, the application of the law in this case demonstrates that law enforcement is working effectively, prioritizing the principles of justice, transparency, and accountability. The handling of the case of a member of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) involved in the sale of firearms and ammunition is a reminder that the police profession does not make someone immune from the law. Firm action is also a step to maintain public trust in the National Police (Polri), particularly in handling sensitive cases related to public safety.

Based on these conclusions, it is recommended that law enforcement against Polri members involved in the sale of firearms and ammunition within the West Papua Regional Police be done consistently and transparently. Investigation procedures need to be strengthened with multi-layered oversight to ensure that every violation is dealt with according to regulations, both through criminal and internal disciplinary mechanisms. In addition, the official firearms control system needs to be tightened through more accurate record-keeping, regular audits, and the use of technology to minimize opportunities for misuse.

Furthermore, it is recommended that the integrity and professionalism of Polri members be improved through ethics training, strengthening organizational culture, and imposing strict sanctions for violators as a deterrent. Internal reporting mechanisms also need to be improved so that personnel can report indications of irregularities without fear of pressure or retaliation. These efforts are expected to prevent the recurrence of abuse of authority and ensure that public trust in the National Police institution is maintained.

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