

## Barriers to Law Enforcement Regarding Refugees in Indonesia

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### ABSTRACT

**Background.** Indonesia serves as a transit country for refugees awaiting placement in third countries under the facilitation of the UNHCR. As Indonesia has not ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol, the refugees' stay is temporary, often extending from 5 to 15 years. During this period, they are housed in government-provided shelters with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Refugees, as legal subjects, must adhere to Indonesian laws. However, the stress and uncertainty they face may lead some to commit legal violations, challenging the law enforcement process.

**Purpose.** This study aims to explore: (1) the types of legal violations committed by refugees, (2) the factors hindering law enforcement actions against refugees, and (3) the formulation of ideal norms for justice in law enforcement regarding refugees in Indonesia.

**Method.** This research employs a normative-empirical approach, analyzing regulations and conducting interviews with law enforcement officials to identify barriers and solutions.

**Results.** Findings reveal that refugees often commit minor legal violations, such as unauthorized work or theft. Challenges include language barriers, limited knowledge of refugee rights among law enforcement, and lack of comprehensive policies.

**Conclusion.** The study highlights the need for improved legal frameworks, training for law enforcement officials, and better integration of refugee management systems to ensure justice and compliance with existing laws.

### KEYWORDS

Indonesia, Justice System, Law Enforcement, Legal Violations, Refugees.

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### INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of global refugees has become an increasingly pressing issue in recent decades. According to data from UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), the number of refugees worldwide continues to rise each year, primarily due to conflicts, wars, natural disasters, and human rights violations (Acero & Thomson, 2022). Refugees are individuals who are forced to leave their home countries due to urgent reasons, such as threats to their lives, freedoms, or personal safety. In many cases, refugees have no choice but to leave behind everything they own in search of safety and protection in another country. By the end of 2022,



more than 108 million people worldwide were forced to flee, including international refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons. One of the main causes of forced migration is conflict and war. Many regions of the world, particularly the Middle East, Africa, and Central Asia, have experienced prolonged armed conflicts that have forced millions of people to escape from their homes (Alrejfal et al., 2022). The civil war in Syria, for example, has resulted in over 13 million people being displaced, both internally and to neighboring countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, and Jordan. In addition to Syria, conflicts in Yemen, South Sudan, and Afghanistan have also contributed to a significant number of refugees. War not only devastates infrastructure and economies but also triggers ethnic, religious, and political violence that exacerbates the security situation for civilians.

In addition to conflict and war, natural disasters are also a major factor driving forced migration (Anasti, 2020). The worsening effects of climate change have exacerbated the frequency and intensity of natural disasters such as floods, droughts, storms, and wildfires. Small island nations, particularly in the Pacific region, face the risk of land loss due to rising sea levels, while areas in Sub-Saharan Africa are vulnerable to prolonged droughts and crop failures. These natural disasters often destroy livelihoods, homes, and access to vital resources such as clean water, forcing communities to seek safer and more habitable places in other countries. Human rights violations are also a significant cause of forced migration. In some countries, authoritarian governments or armed militia groups often perpetrate persecution against specific ethnic, religious, or political groups (Assunção et al., 2023). An example is the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar, where the Muslim Rohingya minority has been targeted by violence and systematic persecution by the Myanmar military, leading hundreds of thousands of people to flee to neighboring countries such as Bangladesh. Violations of these basic rights include arbitrary detention, torture, sexual violence, and even genocide. In such situations, refugees often face extremely high risks if they remain in their home countries.

In 1951, the United Nations (UN) established the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, which came into effect on April 14, 1954 (Azzutti, 2022). This convention was designed to provide legal guidelines and protections for individuals recognized as refugees, namely those who are compelled to leave their home countries due to a well-founded fear of persecution. To ensure the implementation and oversight of the convention, the UN created a special body called the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The primary mandate of UNHCR is to work with various countries to ensure that refugees receive the proper protection as outlined in the provisions of the international convention. The role of UNHCR is not limited solely to refugees but also includes other categories of individuals in need of protection. One important category is asylum seekers, individuals who have not yet been officially recognized as refugees but have left their countries and applied for asylum in another country (Barak et al., 2020). Asylum seekers, like refugees, are also vulnerable to dangers and require humanitarian assistance and legal protection. Therefore, UNHCR pays significant attention to asylum seekers, particularly in ensuring that their status determination processes are conducted fairly and in accordance with international standards.

International cooperation is a crucial element in effectively addressing the refugee and asylum seeker crisis as a whole. No single country can solve this issue alone. As a result, UNHCR collaborates closely with various countries, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations to develop joint solutions (Berk, 2021). The protection concept implemented by UNHCR also focuses on developing international legal instruments that guarantee the basic rights of refugees and asylum seekers. These rights include the right to work, access to social security, and the right to obtain and utilize travel facilities. The protection provided by UNHCR is not only

intended to alleviate the suffering of refugees who have lost their homes and sense of security but also aims to ensure that their human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected, according to the specific circumstances faced by each individual (Carroll et al., 2020). One of the most fundamental rights is the right to non-refoulement, which prohibits the return of refugees to their home countries where they would face persecution or serious threats. These threats may be based on reasons such as race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or differing political opinions.

Refugees leave their homelands for various reasons, which are generally related to serious threats to their lives, such as war or persecution (Chen et al., 2022). In many cases, refugees face danger not only from conflicting groups but also from their own governments, which are often responsible for those threats. Governments that are supposed to protect their citizens frequently become the perpetrators of persecution, leaving them without any protection. This situation creates a condition resembling indirect death sentences, where refugees are forced to live in suffering and uncertainty (Cortright et al., 2020). If other countries refuse to provide protection or assistance, these refugees become increasingly isolated and deprived of their basic rights to lead a decent life.

As a country with a strategic geographical position, Indonesia faces various consequences, including the opening of its territory to international migration flows. Indonesia's location, close to countries that frequently experience conflict, war, or socio-economic crises, makes it a transit destination for thousands of asylum seekers (Douvris et al., 2022). These asylum seekers come to Indonesia seeking temporary protection before they can reach their final destination, such as Australia. Indonesia is not a final destination for these refugees but serves as an important transit point in the global migration route, particularly for those fleeing violence or political instability in their home countries.

Although Indonesia has not ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol, which are the main legal foundations for refugee protection under international law, Indonesia has demonstrated its commitment to protecting human rights through the ratification of various international human rights instruments and the development of national human rights regulations (Fine et al., 2020). These steps are part of Indonesia's moral responsibility as a member of the United Nations, which participates in the implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This commitment aligns with the country's goals outlined in the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution, where one of Indonesia's missions is to contribute to maintaining world order based on independence, lasting peace, and social justice.

However, despite Indonesia's commitment to human rights enforcement, the country still lacks specific legal regulations that directly govern the status and rights of asylum seekers and refugees within its territory (Fisher et al., 2020). The absence of these specific regulations means that Indonesia is not legally obligated under international law to handle refugees according to the standards set by the 1951 Convention (Flores-Macías & Zarkin, 2022). Nevertheless, Indonesia continues to play a role in providing assistance and temporary protection to the refugees and asylum seekers within its borders, though this role is more driven by moral and humanitarian responsibilities than by formal international legal obligations.

The refugee situation in Indonesia reflects the complexity of the global refugee crisis, in which Indonesia serves as a transit country for thousands of refugees, most of whom come from conflict-affected countries such as Afghanistan, Myanmar (particularly the Rohingya ethnic group), Syria, Iraq, and Somalia (Goldstein et al., 2020). These refugees flee violence, persecution, and political instability in their home countries in hopes of finding protection in a third country. According to UNHCR data, Indonesia hosts approximately 13,000 refugees, but this number

fluctuates as new asylum seekers arrive. The primary destination countries for these refugees include Australia, the United States, Canada, and several European countries (Jassal, 2020). Although Indonesia is not a final destination, its strategic geographic position makes it an important stop for refugees hoping to eventually be resettled in a third country through programs coordinated by UNHCR.

The status of refugees in Indonesia is temporary, as Indonesia is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention or the 1967 Protocol (Jennings et al., 2021). As a result, refugees in Indonesia do not have permanent legal status and are not allowed to work, thus they must rely on humanitarian assistance provided by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR. The process of resettling in a third country takes a long time, with waiting periods that can range from 5 to 15 years. During this waiting period, refugees are placed in accommodations provided by the Indonesian government with the support of IOM. While they receive basic necessities such as food, shelter, and healthcare services, the living conditions of refugees during this waiting time are often filled with uncertainty and limitations, both in terms of access to education and job opportunities (Karimpour et al., 2021). This creates significant psychological stress for refugees, particularly as their future hinges on a resettlement decision for which the timeline is highly uncertain and prolonged.

Refugees in Indonesia often face a range of complex legal issues due to their limited living situations (Li et al., 2021). One of the primary factors is the high psychological stress caused by past trauma, uncertainty about the future, and unstable living conditions while waiting for resettlement. Additionally, refugees in Indonesia are not allowed to work formally, leading to economic hardships that often drive them to engage in illegal activities, such as working unlawfully or getting involved in minor crimes. Limited access to education also means that many refugee children miss out on learning opportunities, worsening their situation in the long run (Liao et al., 2020). Legal violations involving refugees usually take the form of theft, violence, or illegal work, arising from frustrations and high-pressure living conditions.

Law enforcement regarding refugees in Indonesia faces several serious obstacles. One of the main challenges is the ambiguity surrounding the legal status of refugees in Indonesia, as the country has yet to ratify the 1951 Refugee Convention and lacks a clear national legal framework for addressing refugee issues (Lin & Long, 2021). This uncertainty often causes law enforcement officers to hesitate or lack a solid legal basis to address violations involving refugees. Furthermore, limited law enforcement resources, both in terms of personnel and budget, mean that cases involving refugees are often not prioritized. Weak coordination among relevant agencies, such as the police, immigration authorities, and international organizations like UNHCR, also hampers effective law enforcement processes (Lockie, Dawes, et al., 2021). On the other hand, the often-negative public perception of refugees and the potential for discrimination can influence law enforcement decisions, where refugees may be seen as a “burden” or “threat,” further worsening their situation in the eyes of the law.

The urgency of this research is high given the increasing number of refugees in Indonesia and the complexity of the situations they face (Lockie, Moreno, et al., 2021). This study aims to delve deeper into the legal issues faced by refugees, including legal violations, socioeconomic conditions, and challenges in law enforcement processes that are often unjust. By understanding these issues, this research hopes to provide constructive policy recommendations to enhance the protection of human rights for refugees in Indonesia, as well as facilitate better cooperation among the government, international organizations, and civil society (Magaña et al., 2022). Furthermore, this research also aims to contribute to the academic and public discourse regarding refugee issues in

Indonesia, which are often overlooked, and to encourage a change in public perceptions of refugees, thus creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for those in need of protection.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research method used in this study is normative juridical, which focuses on the analysis of applicable legal norms and their implementation in the context of refugee protection in Indonesia (Martínez-Schuldt & Martínez, 2021). In this approach, a legislative perspective is adopted to examine various regulations and policies governing the status and protection of refugees, including an analysis of relevant international conventions as well as existing national regulations, even though Indonesia does not yet have specific laws regarding refugees (Massé, 2020). Additionally, a conceptual approach is also applied to examine the fundamental concepts related to human rights, refugee protection, and relevant law enforcement in the context of this research.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Obstacles in Law Enforcement Against Refugees in Indonesia

Law enforcement concerning refugees in Indonesia faces various complex and multidimensional obstacles that require serious attention from both the government and society. As a transit country, Indonesia hosts thousands of refugees fleeing conflict, persecution, and human rights violations in their home countries (Maupin et al., 2020). However, the ambiguity of refugees' legal status, due to the lack of clear and specific regulations, makes them vulnerable to rights violations and discrimination. Moreover, limited law enforcement resources and a lack of coordination among relevant agencies exacerbate the situation, creating significant challenges for fair and effective law enforcement. Coupled with often-negative public perceptions of refugees, this situation creates an unsupportive environment for efforts to enforce laws and protect their human rights.

Refugees and asylum seekers who successfully enter Indonesian territory often reside in Immigration Detention Centers (Rudenim). However, their presence sometimes triggers cases of transnational crime. In this context, the role of the police is crucial to maintaining public order. As a law enforcement agency, the police have a responsibility to ensure security and prevent criminal acts, including transnational crime, in accordance with Law No. 2 of 2002 on the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia. The police, as a protector of society, have duties that include pre-emptive actions (deterrence), preventive actions (prevention), and repressive actions (management). The pre-emptive role focuses on creating secure conditions by monitoring and detecting potential security disturbances early, while the preventive role involves the police's presence in the community to prevent crime. If security disturbances occur, the repressive role is enacted to respond and restore the situation to a conducive state.

Even though refugees have settled in Indonesia, the government remains responsible for monitoring them to prevent legal violations. This supervision is essential to avoid actions that may violate applicable regulations, such as immigration violations possibly committed by refugees, including illegal work, property ownership, or drug abuse (Millar & O'Doherty, 2020). In facing this situation, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) acts as a mediator offering solutions to the challenges faced by refugees. Given the limited national laws in Indonesia governing refugees, the IOM serves to provide support and facilities, including voluntary return options for refugees. However, not all solutions offered by the IOM are accepted by the Indonesian authorities or the refugees themselves, with many of them ignoring or even rejecting the voluntary repatriation offers made. This situation is further exacerbated by incidents in several Rudenim, such



as the escape of an Afghan asylum seeker from Rudenim Pontianak on February 23, 2012, and riots occurring among immigrants or with the local community in Rudenim Riau on July 28, 2012.

In reality, many refugees prefer to leave the facilities provided by the IOM and choose to attempt to cross to Australia through traditional harbor routes in Indonesia, such as those in the Port of Ratu, Sukabumi. This decision is potentially dangerous, given the numerous cases of boats carrying refugees capsizing at sea due to inadequate facilities and the seaworthiness of the boats used. In facing these challenges, Indonesia needs two main frameworks for solutions (Morton et al., 2020). First, the importance of establishing international cooperation with neighboring countries, such as Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Australia, to jointly address these migration issues. Second, Indonesia must collaborate with international agencies focused on immigration issues, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which can provide assistance and guidance in managing refugee situations.

Since 2001, the Indonesian government has established Presidential Decrees as guidelines for handling refugees. However, addressing refugees in Indonesia requires a more integrated approach, considering that the issue occurs across various provinces. Several relevant legal instruments in Indonesia can be applied to international refugees within the country. For instance, Law No. 1 of 1946 on the Indonesian Penal Code stipulates that all criminal acts apply to anyone violating the law in Indonesia. Additionally, Law No. 6 of 2011 on Immigration also regulates sanctions for individuals who intentionally enter or exit Indonesia without going through legitimate immigration checks. A circular from the Directorate General of Immigration in 2002 outlines procedures for handling foreigners claiming to be asylum seekers and refugees, including the need to protect them from deportation to countries that could jeopardize their lives and freedom.

Although Indonesia has yet to ratify the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol, nor does it possess specific legal regulations governing asylum seekers and refugees, the country still has an obligation to address refugee issues. Indonesia does not have a direct obligation to handle refugees within its territory, as many of these issues are left to the UNHCR. However, the question of Indonesia's commitment to international refugee regulations remains critical, given that there has been no ratification of the convention. In Roman law, there is a principle "*pacta tertiis nec nocent nec prosunt*," which states that an agreement does not confer rights and obligations on third parties that are not involved. This principle is also addressed in Article 34 of the Vienna Convention of 1969. However, the Vienna Convention of 1969 includes exceptions whereby a state that has not ratified a convention may still be bound by provisions within that convention.

In the context of refugees, despite Indonesia not having ratified international conventions, the country still has obligations to manage refugee issues. Refugees in Indonesia are also required to abide by national legislation, including provisions contained in the 1951 Refugee Convention requiring them to adhere to local laws and regulations. According to principles of international law, states should not impose criminal sanctions on refugees fleeing from areas where their lives or freedoms are threatened, provided they promptly report themselves to local authorities and provide legitimate explanations regarding their presence (Mughan et al., 2020). However, immigration law violations remain a serious issue in Indonesia, particularly concerning illegal crossings by refugees. This is perceived as a threat to national security and a violation of immigration regulations established in Law No. 9 of 1992, requiring any individual entering or leaving Indonesia to possess valid travel documents.

The phenomenon of refugees in Indonesia is often seen as bringing negative impacts to the country functioning as a transit nation. These refugees may potentially engage in various criminal

activities, and their presence can burden both the transit and destination countries, which must provide facilities for them funded by taxpayer money. This situation often triggers local community rejection in both transit and destination countries. The arrival of refugees from outside Indonesia has created various new problems for the government, including an increase in cases of theft, sexual violence, and human trafficking. To date, addressing the issues of refugees and asylum seekers in Indonesia remains partial and limited. Some of these limitations include minimal human resources, inadequate budgets, and insufficient facilities and means in relevant institutions. Additionally, supervision at land, sea, and air routes remains weak, and there are constraints in the technological field. This is compounded by unclear legal conditions and weak diplomatic aspects in handling refugee issues.

In the context of Indonesian national law, there are significant gaps and limitations in addressing the problem of refugees entering its territory, ultimately leading to poor coordination among institutions on the ground. Many regional governments, such as in Banten Province, express reluctance to have their regions used as temporary shelters for refugees (Pike et al., 2021). For example, the Banten Provincial Government feels burdened by the presence of refugees apprehended in Labuan, Banten, which even requires them to provide healthcare services for them. It is ironic that attention is given to refugees while many local communities still lack adequate access to healthcare services, despite these actions being based on humanitarian grounds.

Regarding violations committed by refugees, there are several common forms of violations. Some of these include illegal entry into Indonesia, involvement in fights, committing rape, and damaging facilities provided for refugees. Various violations arise from the diverse backgrounds of the refugees' countries of origin, compelling them to adapt to a new environment and different cultures. This adjustment is an effort to achieve harmony both within themselves and with their surroundings. Unfortunately, the inability to adapt can lead to conflicts, anger, depression, and other negative emotions responding to their experiences.

The causes of these violations often stem from differences in national rules, cultures, and customs between Indonesia and the refugees' countries of origin. Furthermore, the lack of Immigration Detention Centers (Rudenim) in Indonesia contributes to this problem. Currently, there are only 13 Rudenim functioning to accommodate refugees, with a total occupancy reaching 3,111 people (Ray et al., 2023). Therefore, on average, each Rudenim can only accommodate around 300 people, leading many refugees and asylum seekers to choose to escape and live outside the Rudenim facilities. Conditions in the Rudenim have exceeded capacity, causing many refugees and asylum seekers to stay in lodgings or among the local community.

In terms of security, personnel safeguarding Rudenim claim they cannot handle the situation alone, especially since they must monitor hundreds of asylum seekers. Consequently, Rudenim consistently coordinates with local police officers to address issues involving escaping asylum seekers. Addressing this problem requires a more comprehensive and integrative approach, involving cooperation among various government agencies and related institutions to ensure that refugee issues can be managed more effectively while minimizing adverse impacts.

### **Reforming the Legal Status of Refugees in Indonesia**

As a transit country for refugees, Indonesia faces serious challenges regarding the existing legal framework. The limitations of Indonesia's national laws concerning refugees are evident in the absence of specific legislation that governs the status, rights, and obligations of refugees within the country. Although there are some regulations related to immigration, the existing laws tend to be general and do not specifically address refugee issues (Sarteschi, 2021). For example, Law No. 6 of

2011 on Immigration does not provide an in-depth explanation regarding refugees and asylum seekers, leaving them in a position of uncertainty and vulnerability. This results in legal ambiguities, both for the refugees themselves and for the institutions responsible for their handling.

The impact of not having specific laws regarding refugees is significant. Refugees arriving in Indonesia lack adequate protection guarantees, which should be afforded in accordance with international standards. Their unclear legal status puts them at risk of facing deportation or unlawful detention. Additionally, in the absence of clear regulations, refugees become more susceptible to exploitation and criminal acts, either by third parties or in their interactions with the local community. The lack of a strong legal framework also creates challenges for local governments, which often feel overwhelmed by the presence of refugees but lack clear guidelines on how to manage the situation.

In Indonesia's refugee law context, the waiting times ranging from 5 to 15 years create complex and challenging situations for both the refugees themselves and the legal system. Refugees, often coming from high-stress backgrounds, find themselves in extremely vulnerable conditions (Schweitzer Dixon, 2021). This prolonged stress can often lead to unlawful behavior, whether intentional or not. As legal subjects, refugees are expected to comply with regulations in Indonesia, but the reality shows that they are often not treated fairly in the law enforcement process. Law enforcement actions taken against refugees sometimes do not consider their difficult backgrounds and the psychological conditions they experience, resulting in ethical and justice-related issues.

Legal violations committed by refugees can vary, ranging from minor offenses like immigration administrative violations to more serious violations such as violence or other crimes. However, even when they commit violations, it is essential to remember that refugees should not be regarded as criminals. In many cases, the infractions result from extremely stressful and complex situations they are facing. Therefore, law enforcement must adopt a sensitive approach that understands the broader context of refugees' lives. Law enforcement officials often encounter challenges in carrying out legal processes against refugees. Some hindering factors include a lack of understanding regarding the legal status of refugees, unclear regulations governing their treatment, and limitations in resources and training to handle cases involving refugees.

Facing these challenges, there is a need for formulating ideal norms that guarantee justice in law enforcement for refugees. One possible approach is to implement restorative justice principles, where law enforcement focuses not only on punishment but also on the recovery and reintegration of refugees into society (Seror & Portnov, 2020). In this regard, clear and specific regulations are needed concerning how refugees should be treated in legal processes, including the rights they possess and the procedures that must be followed. Additionally, training for law enforcement personnel to understand the complexities of the situations refugees face is crucial, enabling them to apply a more humane approach to law enforcement.

Legal reform related to refugees' status in Indonesia is a crucial step toward creating a fair and effective legal system for individuals seeking international protection. To date, Indonesia does not have specific laws governing refugees, resulting in legal voids and difficulties in enforcing laws related to refugees' status and rights. To improve this situation, there needs to be clear regulations establishing the rights and obligations of refugees, as well as the procedures that must be followed to apply for asylum seeker status. With clear legal norms, refugees can more easily understand their position in Indonesia and can effectively assert their rights.

One important aspect of this reform is establishing more realistic timelines for the processing of refugee status. Currently, the extremely long waiting times, which can reach 5 to 15 years, create



significant pressure for refugees, who are often already in vulnerable psychological states (Varalakshmi & Swetha, 2020). By shortening the duration of administrative processes and ensuring transparency at each stage, refugees will be better able to lead more stable and productive lives. Establishing clear deadlines will also reduce the uncertainty that may trigger unlawful behavior by refugees, as they will not feel trapped in prolonged legal limbo.

Regarding legal violations committed by refugees, it is essential to understand that not all actions considered illegal stem from malicious intent. Many violations arise due to the difficult conditions and pressures they face. Therefore, legal reform should take into account the social and psychological context of refugees during law enforcement processes. For instance, unlawful actions by refugees, such as immigration violations, may result from confusion regarding their legal status or an inability to comply with applicable legal requirements. Consequently, the legal system should strive to distinguish between criminal offenses and more administrative infractions, providing more rehabilitative solutions rather than repressive punishments.

There is a necessity for creating specific laws about refugees in Indonesia to address legal gaps and provide clarity regarding the rights and obligations of refugees seeking protection in the country (Winograd et al., 2020). Such legislation would help establish a more structured and effective legal framework that includes procedures for applying for asylum seeker status, protections for human rights, and mechanisms for fair law enforcement. With clear regulations in place, refugees not only can understand their legal positions but also facilitate law enforcement officials' handling of cases involving refugees, thus creating a safer and more orderly environment for all parties involved.

## CONCLUSION

There are several significant obstacles affecting the handling of this issue. The limitations of existing laws, including the absence of specific legislation regarding refugees, have resulted in weak coordination between government institutions and law enforcement agencies. Additionally, negative stigma toward refugees, a lack of public understanding of migration issues, and limited resources also serve as hindering factors. With long waiting times to obtain refugee status, many are forced to violate the law, increasing the risk of criminalization and creating tensions with the local community. Therefore, reform of the legal framework is essential to create better protection for refugees in Indonesia. The formulation of specific laws regarding refugees must be a priority, focusing on regulating their rights and obligations as well as ensuring a transparent and fair asylum application process. Moreover, this reform should also include training for law enforcement personnel and efforts to raise public awareness of the refugee situation. With these measures, it is hoped that a more effective system in addressing refugee issues will be established, one that not only guarantees their rights but also maintains community security and order.

## AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

Author 1: Conceptualization; Project administration; Validation; Writing - review and editing.

Author 2: Conceptualization; Data curation; Investigation.

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