

THE EFFECTIVENESS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT SANCTIONS AGAINST NARCOTICS CRIMES IN MEDAN CITY (A CASE STUDY OF DECISION NUMBER 1891/PID.SUS/2025/PN MDN)

Bobbi Hendra¹, Tri Reni Novita²

¹Fakultas Hukum, Universitas Muslim Nusantara (UMN) Al Washliyah, Indonesia

Email: bobbihend@gmail.com

²Fakultas Hukum, Universitas Muslim Nusantara (UMN) Al Washliyah, Indonesia,

Email: trireni@umnaw.ac.id

Abstract

Law enforcement against narcotics crimes is an important instrument to protect society from the destructive impacts of narcotics abuse and illicit trafficking, particularly in the city of Medan, which has a high level of vulnerability. This study aims to analyze the effectiveness of the enforcement of criminal sanctions against narcotics offenders based on Decision Number 1891/Pid.Sus/2025/PN Mdn, using a normative juridical legal research method with a case study approach, supported by court decisions, interviews with judges, as well as statutory regulations and doctrines of criminal law. The results of the study indicate that the imposition of criminal sanctions has been carried out based on lawful and convincing evidence in accordance with Law Number 35 of 2009 on Narcotics, and reflects efforts to create a deterrent effect and provide protection to the public. However, the effectiveness of law enforcement is still influenced by several factors, including the quality of evidence, inter-agency coordination, limited facilities and infrastructure, low legal awareness among offenders, and high rates of recidivism. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen sentencing consistency, rehabilitation efforts, the capacity of law enforcement officers, institutional coordination, and active community involvement in the prevention of narcotics crimes

Keywords: *Law Enforcement, Criminal Sanctions, Narcotics Crimes*

1. INTRODUCTION

Narcotics crimes constitute extraordinary crimes that continue to increase and have serious impacts on individuals, society, and national stability, including in the City of Medan as an urban area with a high level of vulnerability. The government has established a firm policy through Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics; however, the effectiveness of law enforcement still faces various challenges, such as weak evidentiary processes, differences in legal interpretation, and court decisions that do not yet fully reflect justice and deterrent effects.

The enforcement of criminal sanctions for narcotics offenses requires a judicial process that is objective, consistent, and transparent, not merely oriented toward the severity of punishment. In the City of Medan, the high circulation of narcotics demands synergy among law enforcement officers from the investigation stage to the trial process. Analysis of

Journal of Law and Justice

ISSN: 3124-419X (Online Media) Vol: 1, No: 1, Page: 39 - 44

Link: <https://e-journalbarokahpublisher.com/index.php/jihuk>

court decisions that have obtained permanent legal force serves as an important means to assess the extent to which criminal law is effectively implemented in combating narcotics crimes.

One concrete example is the case involving the defendant ANDY alias AHUI, who was caught red-handed possessing and trading methamphetamine-type narcotics based on public information and disclosure by the Narcotics Investigation Unit of the Belawan Port Police Resort. The evidence confiscated was proven laboratorially to be Methamphetamine Group I in accordance with the Narcotics Law. This case reflects the complexity of evidentiary processes as well as the important role of law enforcement officers in uncovering narcotics trafficking networks in the City of Medan.

In facing such complexity, systemic steps are required in the form of enhancing the capacity of officers with technological support, strengthening inter-agency coordination, and applying a sentencing approach that is proportional between repressive and rehabilitative aspects. Judges are expected to prioritize substantive justice, particularly for users, without reducing firmness toward dealers and traffickers. On this basis, this research focuses on “The Effectiveness of the Enforcement of Criminal Sanctions Against Narcotics Crimes in the City of Medan (Case Study of Decision Number 1891/Pid.Sus/2025/PN Mdn).

2. METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted at the Medan District Court located at Jl. Pengadilan Kelurahan No. 8, Petisah Tengah, Medan Petisah District, Medan City, North Sumatra, using a normative juridical research type with a qualitative approach focusing on the study of legal norms and their application in criminal justice practice, particularly through analysis of Decision Number 1891/Pid.Sus/2025/PN Mdn related to narcotics crimes. The data sources in this research consist of primary data in the form of court decisions, interviews with law enforcement officers handling narcotics cases in the City of Medan, as well as related official documents, and secondary data in the form of legislation such as Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics, the Criminal Code (KUHP), the Criminal Procedure Code (KUHP), legal literature, scientific journals, and tertiary legal materials. Data collection techniques were carried out through library research, documentation, observation, and interviews, while the data analysis technique was conducted descriptively-qualitatively by describing and interpreting data systematically to assess the effectiveness of criminal sanction enforcement, judicial considerations, and forms of sentencing in the decision studied in order to answer the research problem formulation.

3. RESULTS / CASE STUDY / EXPERIMENT / DEMONSTRATION / APPLICATION FUNCTIONALITY

Decision Number 1891/Pid.Sus/2025/PN Mdn reflects the serious effort of the court in enforcing narcotics law firmly and normatively in the City of Medan. However, the effectiveness of enforcing criminal sanctions is also influenced by external factors such as coordination among law enforcement officers, high recidivism rates, as well as support for rehabilitation and prevention policies. Therefore, the effectiveness of narcotics sentencing does not depend solely on judicial decisions, but also on the performance of the criminal justice system in an integrated and sustainable manner.

In Decision Number 1891/Pid.Sus/2025/PN Mdn, the enforcement of narcotics criminal law is strongly influenced by normative factors, particularly the quality and completeness of the indictment and the fulfillment of the elements of the offense. A clear and

Journal of Law and Justice

ISSN: 3124-419X (Online Media) Vol: 1, No: 1, Page: 39 - 44

Link: <https://e-journalbarokahpublisher.com/index.php/jihuk>

precise indictment facilitates judges in conducting evidentiary examination and ensures that decisions remain within the corridor of the principle of legality. In addition, the clarity of regulation in Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics provides a firm legal basis and enhances legal certainty in the imposition of criminal sanctions.

In Decision Number 1891/Pid.Sus/2025/PN Mdn, the judge identified that the main obstacle in narcotics law enforcement in the City of Medan lies in the complexity of narcotics trafficking networks. Cases that reach the court generally involve only field actors such as couriers or small-scale dealers, while intellectual actors behind major networks are difficult to uncover. This condition demonstrates structural limitations in law enforcement that cause narcotics eradication efforts not to address the root of the problem comprehensively.

In Decision Number 1891/Pid.Sus/2025/PN Mdn, the judge emphasized that improving the effectiveness of narcotics criminal sanction enforcement must begin with consistency and certainty in sentencing. Consistent and proportional decisions are believed to strengthen deterrent effects and build public trust in the judiciary. The judge considered that punishment must be imposed according to the level of guilt and the role of the defendant in order to reflect substantive justice, so that legal legitimacy and public compliance may increase.

4. DISCUSSION

Decision Number 1891/Pid.Sus/2025/PN Mdn shows that the judge imposed criminal sanctions on the perpetrator of narcotics crimes based on the lawful and convincing fulfillment of the elements of the offense in accordance with Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics. In his considerations, the judge assessed the type and quantity of narcotics, the active role of the defendant in trafficking, as well as the impact of the act on the people of the City of Medan, which is categorized as vulnerable to narcotics. The imposition of imprisonment is still considered relevant as a repressive and preventive means to provide a deterrent effect while protecting society from the dangers of narcotics.

Based on interviews with the Presiding Judge of the Panel, the effectiveness of criminal sanction enforcement is not determined solely by the length of the sentence, but also by the certainty and consistency of law application. The judge emphasized the importance of proportionality between the level of the offender's guilt and the severity of the sentence, as well as the need for differentiation of punishment based on the perpetrator's role, particularly between users and dealers. Consideration of aggravating and mitigating circumstances, the attitude of the defendant, and the objectives of punishment—retribution, prevention, and protection of society—serve as the main basis to ensure that decisions reflect justice and legal utility.

Overall, the decision reflects the serious effort of the court in enforcing narcotics law firmly and normatively in the City of Medan. However, the effectiveness of criminal sanction enforcement is also influenced by external factors such as coordination among law enforcement officers, high recidivism rates, and support for rehabilitation and prevention policies. Therefore, the effectiveness of narcotics sentencing depends not only on judicial decisions, but also on the performance of the criminal justice system in an integrated and sustainable manner.

The evidentiary factor is also a key determinant of the effectiveness of law enforcement. The judge based the decision on lawful evidence, such as witness testimony, narcotics evidence, and expert testimony, obtained through proper legal procedures. The quality of investigation and the professionalism of law enforcement officers greatly influence the strength of evidence in court. Investigations conducted in accordance with criminal

Journal of Law and Justice

ISSN: 3124-419X (Online Media) Vol: 1, No: 1, Page: 39 - 44

Link: <https://e-journalbarokahpublisher.com/index.php/jihuk>

procedural law strengthen the legitimacy of the judicial process and prevent procedural defects that may weaken the decision.

In addition to juridical factors, sociological factors also influence law enforcement in this case. The high circulation of narcotics in the City of Medan forms the background that encourages a firm stance by the court, aiming to protect society and provide deterrence. The low level of legal awareness among narcotics offenders also becomes a judicial consideration in imposing punishment, so that sanctions are not only repressive in nature but are also expected to have preventive and educational impacts.

Other supporting factors include judicial facilities and infrastructure, coordination among law enforcement officers, and national sentencing policies. Adequate judicial facilities and good coordination between investigators, public prosecutors, and the courts facilitate the judicial process and increase the effectiveness of law enforcement. On the other hand, national narcotics eradication policies constitute a macro framework influencing the orientation of decisions, so that narcotics criminal law enforcement is implemented firmly, consistently, and in an integrated manner.

In Decision Number 1891/Pid.Sus/2025/PN Mdn, the judge identified that the main obstacle in narcotics law enforcement in the City of Medan lies in the complexity of narcotics trafficking networks. Cases brought to court generally involve only field actors such as couriers or small-scale dealers, while intellectual actors behind major networks are difficult to uncover. This condition demonstrates structural limitations in law enforcement that cause narcotics eradication efforts not to comprehensively address the root of the problem.

The next obstacle relates to evidentiary aspects. The handling of narcotics cases heavily depends on physical evidence and witness testimony, while in practice witnesses are often reluctant to testify due to fear and minimal witness protection. This situation weakens the quality of evidence in court and potentially hampers the effectiveness of law enforcement. In addition, limited laboratory facilities and supporting technical infrastructure also slow down the examination process of narcotics evidence.

The judge also highlighted limitations in human resources, budget, and the high workload of law enforcement officers. The large number of narcotics cases is not proportional to the number and capacity of officers, thereby affecting the quality of case handling. Suboptimal inter-agency coordination, whether between the police, the prosecution service, or other institutions, also constitutes an obstacle causing law enforcement to operate less effectively and in a fragmented manner.

In addition to structural and technical obstacles, cultural and conceptual factors also influence narcotics law enforcement. Low community participation due to a culture of fear of reporting, high recidivism rates, and the limited effectiveness of imprisonment indicate that law enforcement has not fully produced a deterrent effect. Therefore, the judge assessed that combating narcotics crimes requires a more comprehensive approach through strengthening protection for officers and witnesses, optimizing rehabilitation, enhancing institutional coordination, and supporting adequate policies and budget allocation.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that the enforcement of criminal sanctions against perpetrators of narcotics crimes in Decision Number 1891/Pid.Sus/2025/PN Mdn has been carried out in accordance with the provisions of Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics. The judge applied criminal sanctions based on the fulfillment of the elements of the offense proven lawfully and convincingly through evidence presented in

Journal of Law and Justice

ISSN: 3124-419X (Online Media) Vol: 1, No: 1, Page: 39 - 44

Link: <https://e-journalbarokahpublisher.com/index.php/jihuk>

court. Based on the research results, it can be concluded that the enforcement of criminal sanctions against perpetrators of narcotics crimes in Decision Number 1891/Pid.Sus/2025/PN Mdn has been carried out in accordance with the provisions of Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics. The judge applied criminal sanctions based on the fulfillment of the elements of the offense proven lawfully and convincingly through evidence presented in court. The obstacles faced by law enforcement officers in taking action against perpetrators of narcotics crimes in the City of Medan include limitations in uncovering organized narcotics networks, difficulties in evidentiary processes, limitations in human resources and supporting facilities, low community participation, and high recidivism rates. In addition, psychological pressure and threats from narcotics networks also constitute serious obstacles for law enforcement officers. Efforts to improve the effectiveness of enforcing criminal sanctions against narcotics crimes need to be carried out comprehensively. These efforts include strengthening consistency and proportionality in sentencing, enhancing inter-agency coordination among law enforcement institutions, developing the capacity and integrity of officers, optimizing the role of rehabilitation, and increasing community participation. In addition, the utilization of technology and periodic evaluation of narcotics policies also constitute strategic measures.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author expresses gratitude to all parties who have provided support and contributions in the preparation of this research. Appreciation is conveyed to law enforcement officers and parties from the Medan District Court. In addition, the author extends appreciation to academics and researchers whose works have become important references in developing the theoretical framework and legal analysis in this research.

Special gratitude is conveyed to the author's family for their prayers, moral support, and motivation provided throughout the research process until the writing of this article. The author realizes that this research still has limitations; therefore, constructive criticism and suggestions are highly expected for the improvement of future research.

REFERENCES

- Achmad Ali. *Revealing the Veil of Law*. Jakarta: Chandra Pratama, 1996.
- Andi Hamzah. *Several Notes on Perpetrators and Fault in Criminal Law*. Jakarta: Aksara Baru, 1986.
- Arikunto, Suharsimi. *Research Procedures: A Practical Approach*, Revised Edition. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, 2006.
- Barda Nawawi Arief. *Problems of Law Enforcement and Criminal Law Policy in Crime Prevention*. Jakarta: Prenada Media, 2001.
- Hazewinkel-Suringa. *Introduction to Criminal Law*. Jakarta: Pradnya Paramita, 1982.
- Moeljatno. *Principles of Criminal Law*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, 2002.
- Muladi. *Selected Topics on the Criminal Justice System*. Bandung: National Legal Development Agency, 2005.
- Peter Mahmud Marzuki. *Legal Research*. Surabaya: Prenada Media Group, 2005.
- Roeslan Saleh. *Another Aspect of Criminal Law*. Jakarta: Ghalia Indonesia, 1981.
- Romli Atmasasmita. *Legal Reform, Human Rights and Law Enforcement in Indonesia*. Bandung: Refika Aditama, 2001.
- Soerjono Soekanto. *Foundations of Legal Science*. Bandung: PT. Citra Aditya Bakti, 1993.

Journal of Law and Justice

ISSN: 3124-419X (Online Media) Vol: 1, No: 1, Page: 39 - 44

Link: <https://e-journalbarokahpublisher.com/index.php/jihuk>

Soerjono Soekanto and Sri Mamudji. *Normative Legal Research*. Jakarta: Rajawali Pers, 2013.

Sudarto. *Law and Criminal Law*. Bandung: Alumni, 1986.

Sunaryati Hartono. *Legal Research in Indonesia at the End of the 20th Century*. Bandung: Alumni, 1994.

The 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia.

Law Number 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics.

Law Number 8 of 1981 concerning Criminal Procedure Law (KUHAP).

Law Number 5 of 1997 concerning Psychotropics.

Law Number 48 of 2009 concerning Judicial Power.

Regulation of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia Number 1 of 2020

Concerning Sentencing Guidelines.

Barda Nawawi Arief. *Selected Topics on Criminal Law*. Bandung: Citra Aditya Bakti, 2003.

Abdul Wahid and Muhammad Irfan. *Narcotics and Psychotropics in Indonesian Criminal Law*. Bandung: Refika Aditama, 2005.

Eddy O.S. Hiariej. *The Principle of Legality and Legal Discovery in Criminal Law*. Yogyakarta: UII Press, 2009.

Bambang Poernomo. *Principles of Criminal Law*. Yogyakarta: Liberty, 1987.

Chairul Huda. *Special Offenses*. Jakarta: Rajawali Pers, 2011.