

## Opinion of the People of Medan City about the Statement of the Mayor of Medan Regarding Shooting Dead the Begal Offender

Sylvana Patricia

Communication Sciences, Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara, Sumatera Utara

[sylvanapatricaa@gmail.com](mailto:sylvanapatricaa@gmail.com)

---

### ABSTRACT

In recent months, the act of robbery in Medan City has become increasingly troubling. Usually the robbery is carried out at night and with quiet street conditions. However, news circulated that the robbery was even carried out in the morning or afternoon where the conditions were crowded (many people were doing activities). The mayor of Medan, Bobby Nasution, did not remain silent seeing the situation. He asked the police to act decisively, including shooting dead the perpetrators if necessary. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to find out the opinion of the people of Medan City about the Mayor's statement regarding shooting dead begalers. The type of research used is qualitative research. Data collection techniques were carried out by interviews distributed through google form to the community in Mabar Village, Medan Deli District, Medan City, totalling 12 research informants. Data analysis was carried out through data reduction, data presentation and conclusion drawing. The results showed that the public's public opinion on the Medan Mayor's call to shoot dead the perpetrators of robbery was mostly approved by the community. The reason is that the community has been very restless and insecure about the actions of the perpetrators of the increasingly troubling Begal, especially for workers who go to or return from work in the middle of the night (early morning), the act of robbery that occurred around UMSU and the Ringroad area which became the main news, as well as the experience of people who have been victims of the action of begalings which is the reason people agree to the call. The existence of the Medan Mayor's call to shoot dead the perpetrators of Begal can provide a deterrent effect for the perpetrators of Begal not to commit acts of robbery again.

**Keyword : Public opinion, robbery, society in Medan City**

---



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/).

---

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Pembegalan or often abbreviated as begal is a group of people who help each other and help each other in carrying out their intentions, disturbing people on the streets, seizing property and not hesitating to kill. The existence of begals is very troubling to the community and disturbs the peace of society. Robbery is always synonymous with robbery, violence and even murder.

There are four types of robbery, namely robbery that is carried out only to kill and not take other people's property or goods, robbery that kills and takes other people's property, robbery that does not kill and only takes other people's property and robbery that aims to scare people who are on the road or an area. (p2k.stekom.ac.id).

In Indonesia, especially in Medan City, cases of robbery still grab the public's attention. This is because even though the police have acted optimally, robbery still occurs in several areas in Medan City. The North Sumatra Regional Police detailed the number of cases of theft with violence or the category of begal in Medan City almost penetrated almost 400 cases in the period from the beginning of 2023 until now. Of the 400 cases of robbery, only 93 cases were successfully resolved, while the remaining 306 cases are still in process. (medan.tribunnews.com).

In recent months, the act of robbery in Medan City has become increasingly troubling. Usually the robbery is carried out at night and with quiet road conditions. However, news circulated that the robbery was even carried out in the morning or afternoon where there were many people doing activities. The mayor of Medan, Bobby Nasution, did not remain silent seeing the situation. He asked the police to act decisively, including shooting dead the perpetrators if necessary. (regional.kompas.com).

The request from the Mayor of Medan apparently received a lot of support from the people of Medan City. In a poll held online on the polingkita.com page, 15,476 participants stated that they agreed with the call made by the Mayor of Medan about the death penalty for the perpetrators of robbery in Medan City. This states that the public is also fed up with the increasingly brutal and life-threatening robbers. (regional.kompas.com).

This is in line with research conducted by Sholicha (2019: 23) which explains that their opinions tend to be pro the news of the begal. Both directions of opinion, their opinions tend to be pro-begal news and the sharpness of the issue on the robbery case is very strong. In addition, it is hoped that the news that continues to be reported is able to criticise the government that currently the community is far from being safe from robbery.

Basically, the formation of public opinion is highly dependent on the communication process. People gain knowledge or information about problems that occur in society through the communication process. One of them is through the mass media. The slightest problem can develop quickly because of the news through the media. The media shapes public opinion to bring about significant change. The subject of public opinion is a

new issue that is controversial. The elements of public opinion are a controversial statement about a contradictory matter and the first reaction or new idea. (Sholicha, 2019)

Ruslan argues that opinions begin to form when there is a controversial and uncommon problem that appears in various media. Mass media has the ability to expose a fact and even form public opinion. The mass media is able to accompany the public to have an opinion on what is reported. The news that is displayed out by the mass media is an effective way of forming public opinion or opinion. It is certain that every news topic published by various mass media contains opinion formation. Through the news or opinions that develop, having an influence on one's views can mean that the published news can form public opinion. (Sholicha, 2019).

The call put forward by the Mayor of Medan by using the online portal polingkota.com to see public opinion on the call, has proven that the Mayor of Medan indirectly wants to know the reaction of the people of Medan City about the death penalty against the perpetrators of the begal. However, it is still considered less than optimal. This is because there are still many people who do not know the site or online portal poll.

Therefore, seeing this phenomenon, researchers want to conduct a more specific research related to public opinion about the call to shoot to death put forward by the Mayor of Medan against the perpetrators of the crime of begal. The researcher wants to know the reaction of the community related to the proposal, as well as the expectations of the community related to the perpetrators of the begal. Here the researcher also wants to know whether there are people who object or disagree with the call put forward by the Mayor of Medan. For this reason, the researcher made this description as the background of his research problem with the title 'Opinion of the Medan City Community About the Mayor's Statement Regarding Shooting Dead Begal Offenders'.

## **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Communication**

The term communication in English is called 'communication' which comes from the Latin 'communicatio' and comes from the word 'communis' which has the same meaning. The same here has the meaning of meaning. So in other words, it can be interpreted that if there are two people involved in communication in the form of conversation, then communication will occur or take place as long as there is a common meaning about what is being communicated, (Effendy, 2011).

Carl. I. Hovland argues that communication is a systematic effort to formulate firmly the principles of conveying information and forming one's opinions and attitudes. From this definition, it can be explained that the study of communication is not only specifically the process of conveying information, but also the formation of public opinion and public attitude. Which in social and political life has a very important role, (Effendy, 2011: 10).

### **2.2. Public Opinion**

Public opinion has developed since the 18th century and is usually referred to as public opinion. In the free sense in the 18th century era, public opinion was still closely related to private public opinion, meaning that public opinion limited something general. There is an approach in the social field in mass communication, especially in interpersonal communication which requires that messages from the mass media can be conveyed to the public. What is meant by the public here is a heterogeneous public. (Rumanti, 2015).

### **2.3 Debriefing**

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), robbery is the process, method, act of robbing, and robbery on the road. This act of robbery is often carried out by a person or group of thieves against motorists, which often results in the loss of the victim's life. Usually, this robbery occurs in a quiet place or a place away from the crowd. (Khairunnisa, 2017). According to a University of Indonesia Criminologist, Bambang Widodo Umar, there are four causes of robbery, which is dominated by teenagers. The first cause is the culture of consumerism and materialism. The next cause is due to the impact of the media, especially films and games that show many scenes of violence in a vulgar manner. The third cause is weak social supervision, both from parental supervision and security supervision from external parties - in this case the community. The fourth cause is the limited job opportunities for the lower class of society which can then spur someone to look for other ways to get money. (Khairunnisa, 2017).

## **3. RESEARCH METHODS**

The type of research used in this study is qualitative research. Denzin & Lincoln (1994) explain that qualitative research is research that uses a naturally interpreted background through phenomena that occur and is carried out using existing methods. Ericson (1968) provides additional understanding that qualitative research is a study conducted to find and describe narratively the activities being carried out and the impact resulting from these activities (Anggio & Setiawan, 2018).

Another opinion was also expressed by Nelson et al (1992) who gave the opinion that qualitative research can be seen as a bricolage (solution) where a researcher can carry out various forms of research and other activities, such as in-depth interviews, observation, document interpretation, history, reflection and

introspection. Bricolage in a qualitative research is a complex discovery. This is because bricolage is a phenomenon that can be researched and analysed. Brikolase in qualitative research can also function as a medium of connection between research findings and existing theories (Rukin, 2019).

Researchers chose this type of qualitative research because qualitative research can describe more specifically the results of the researcher's research, namely public opinions on the Medan Mayor's call to shoot dead the perpetrators of Begal.

This research was conducted from July 2023 to April 2024. The location of this research is in Mabar Village, Medan Deli District, Medan City, North Sumatra.

#### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

##### 4.1 Results

The description of research informants contains general data about people who are research subjects, such as name, age, gender and so on. The description of the research informants will be described in the following table:

**Table 4.1**  
**Description of Research Informants**

No	Name	Age	W/M	Job
1	La Saufa yardha	23 y.o	Woman	Student
2	Tasya Surya Kartika	22 y.o	Woman	Student
3	Denisa Felia Putri	23 y.o	Woman	Fresh Graduate
4	Cindy Clara Afifah	23 y.o	Woman	Employee
5	Ikhyar Agung S.	23 y.o	Man	Entrepreneur
6	M. Dhiya Falah	23 y.o	Man	Entrepreneur
7	M. Fadel Andika	25 y.o	Man	Employee
8	M. Reza Fachrian	25 y.o	Man	Announcer
9	Siti Mutia Hazira Nst	25 y.o	Woman	Free
10	Putri Ega Sari	25 y.o	Woman	Free
11	Dwie Syafitri	23 y.o	Woman	Administrative Office
12	Popi Selviana Adella	23 y.o	Woman	Employee at PT. Jasa Marga

Data Source: research results, 2024

Robbery that occurs in Medan City is not a new thing. Over the past few years, the number of robbery activities that have occurred in Medan City has increased. The peak is the action of Begal which is carried out in the morning or afternoon and in crowded places, such as on highways, small supermarkets and so on. There are several opinions from research informants related to how they know the activities or activities of Begal that are so troubling, namely as follows:

Based on the results of interviews with respondent Denisa Felia Putri, explaining that she first heard news about the troubling Begal action from the news of the robbery that occurred at UMSU, the following is an excerpt from her interview:

"I saw the news and heard from local people, the first time I knew when there was a robbery in the UMSU area was told by my brother who lived there".

On the other hand, based on the results of interviews with several research respondents, namely La Saufa yardha, Dwie Syafitri and Popi Selviana Adella explained that they knew the news about the rampage that occurred in Medan City from news that was widely reported or published through social media. Be it from news accounts or personal accounts of social media users.

Based on the opinions of the research informants, it can be concluded that the people of Medan City first learned about the rampant news about robbery that troubled the community in Medan City from the news. Whether it is from news accounts or personal accounts of social media users.

Based on the opinions of the research informants, it can be concluded that the people of Medan City first learned about the rampant news about robbery that troubled the community in Medan City from news spread on social media and heard firsthand the testimonies or experiences of people they knew who had experienced or seen cases of robbery and experienced it directly. The effect of this news caused the people of Medan City to become restless and afraid to carry motorized vehicles, especially at night. Many people also feel panicked and anxious about the actions of the robbers.

There are several areas in Medan City that have become places or facilities for robbery cases. There are several opinions from research informants regarding their opinions about areas that have the potential to become a place of robbery, namely as follows:

Based on the results of interviews conducted by research respondents named La Saufa yardha and Denisa Felia Putri, they explained that according to them the areas in Medan City that often occur (prone to) acts of

robbery are the Mabar and Ringroad areas. These areas, allegedly, are the areas where the bandits carry out their actions. However, according to research respondent Siti Mutia Hazira Nst explained that she had never directly seen the Begal perform their actions in these areas. Only heard from people who have experienced it.

Based on the opinions of the research informants, it can be concluded that some research informants stated that the Medan Deli Sub-district area is one of or has been a place where the Begal acted to commit robbery. However, the community has never directly witnessed the action carried out by the Begal. Another opinion said that usually the most potential areas for the Begal to commit acts of robbery are in the Mabar and Ringroad areas. Therefore, people who already know the points or places where Begal performs its actions always drive with vigilance and avoid passing the road during the night hours.

News about the acts of robbery that occurred in Medan City and were broadcast on various media platforms also varied. These acts of robbery are actions that are very troubling to the people of Medan City because they can endanger themselves. There are several opinions from research informants related to news about the acts of robbery committed by the Begal, namely as follows:

Based on the results of interviews with research informants La Saufa yardha and Tasya Surya Kartika explained that the news of robbery that is often reported by various media is about robbery, murder and rape and the begals who carry sharp weapons.

According to Denisa Felia Putri explained that the news that attracted the attention of the people of Medan City was the news of student robbery around UMSU. The following is an excerpt from her interview:

“Robbery in the UMSU area which occurred when he wanted to buy fried rice at midnight, robbery in the Ringroad area which occurred at 3am which resulted in the death of the victim”.

On the other hand, according to M. Fadel Andika and Popi Selviana Adella explained that the news of the robbery that occurred in Medan City that they often read and hear is news about the victims of the robbery who are in critical condition, minor to severe injuries and so on.

Based on the opinions of the research informants, it can be concluded that the news about robbery received and heard by the people of Medan City either directly or using electronic media and social media is news about acts of robbery ranging from robbery, murder to rape committed by the Begal. The acts of robbery that occur have also claimed lives. This is because the Begal who carried out the robbery action by carrying various types of sharp weapons. For the specifics of the robbery that occurred in Medan City, which is very imprinted on people's memories, is the case of robbery in the UMSU and Ringroad areas.

The act of robbery that disturbs the people of Medan City is a serious concern for the Medan City Government. Even the Mayor of Medan once gave a call to shoot dead the perpetrators of Begal who disturbed the community, as follows:

Based on the results of interviews conducted with several research respondents, namely La Saufa yardha, Tasya Surya Kartika, Cindy Clara Afifah, M. Dhiya Falah, and M. Reza Fachrian explained that they agreed with the Medan Mayor's call to shoot dead the perpetrators of the begal who disturbed the community and road users. The following quote from one of the research respondents, Ikhyar Agung S., is as follows:

“Agree, because Begal in Medan does not see the human rights of the victims they rob. Thus, a regulation can be made to allow shooting dead Begal with the aim of reducing the high level of crime in Medan City.”

Another opinion was expressed by Denisa Felia Putri who explained that she agreed with the call from the Mayor of Medan about shooting dead the perpetrators of Begal. The following is an excerpt from her interview:

“Actually I 50/50 agree. Because so that there is a deterrent effect on the perpetrators of Begal and can eradicate the robbery in Medan City because there have been too many victims who not only lost their personal property but also their lives. But one side if the Government implements the Mayor's call, can deprive human rights. So if it can be eradicated without having to be shot dead more, it is better”.

However, one respondent named Popi Selviana Adella explained that the research did not approve of the Medan Mayor's call. This is because it is not in accordance with Human Rights (HAM), following the interview excerpt:

“My opinion does not agree with the statement to shoot the perpetrator dead. I think it is better to arrest and give severe punishment that can make a deterrent effect so that they do not repeat it again”

Based on the opinions of the research informants, it can be concluded that most of the people of Medan City agree on the Medan Mayor's call to shoot dead the perpetrators of the robbery. This is because the Begal have been too sadistic and cruel in committing robbery to rape and murder that eliminates the lives of their victims. If this call is enacted, the people of Medan City hope that it can provide the maximum deterrent effect for other Begal perpetrators. However, a small part of the community does not agree with the Mayor's call. This is because it is not in accordance with human rights.

In addition to opinions from people who agree with the Mayor's call to shoot dead the perpetrators of the crime, research informants also heard other opinions from other communities about the Medan Mayor's call, which are as follows:

According to most of the research respondents, after the call of the Mayor of Medan was spread, many people agreed with the call. This is represented by the results of an interview conducted by Ikhyar Agung S. Who explained that:

“Many agree too, because the community has been so restless with the rampant cases of robbery that occurred in Medan City which caused many victims to be harmed, especially those who work at night using motorbikes”.

However, there were a small number of respondents, namely La Saufa yardha, M. Reza Fachrian and Popi Selviana Adella who explained that they did not agree with this matter. This is based on human rights and a sense of humanity towards fellow humans. According to them, it is better to be given a severe punishment.

Based on the opinions of the research informants, it can be concluded that other opinions heard by the community from other communities who also discussed the Medan Mayor's call to shoot to death the perpetrators of the begal are partially agreed and partially disagreed. People who feel that the actions of the perpetrators of Begal are inhumane feel that the Medan Mayor's call is a way or form of eradicating robbery and can provide a deterrent effect/fear to other perpetrators of Begal. However, people who are concerned with human rights feel that it is an inappropriate punishment because it violates human rights.

According to the people of Medan City, the Medan Mayor's call has not been realized. It is still just a call and discourse to see the reaction of the community to the call. Based on the results of interviews with all research respondents stated that, the Medan Mayor's call related to the shoot-to-kill action of the Begal has not been realized, and is still just a discourse. The following is an interview quote from Denisa Felia Putri who stated that:

“Not yet, because it seems that without being shot dead the Government has directed some of the Police to eradicate Begal, and many have also been arrested.”

Based on the opinions of the research informants, it can be concluded that according to the community until now the call or statement of the Mayor of Medan about shooting dead the perpetrators of Begal who committed the act of robbery has not been realized. It is still a call to see the reaction of the community. However, the people of Medan City also speculate that in one case there may be a perpetrator who was shot because he tried to escape. Although the call has not been well realized, the community also considers that the police apparatus is always responsive to cases of robbery and is still trying to take effective prevention against the perpetrators of robbery.

Basically, many people agree with the call from the Mayor of Medan about shooting dead the perpetrators of robbery. Many reasons underlie the motives of the people of Medan City to approve the matter.

Based on the results of interviews with research respondents related to whether or not the community agrees with the Medan Mayor's call to shoot dead the perpetrators of Begal, almost all research respondents agreed. The following is an interview quote from Tasya Surya Kartika:

“Agree so that there are no more victims of Begal, because Begal is very dangerous for all people. Especially people who want to make a living who go home or go to work at night.”

Similarly, a research respondent named Ikhyar Agung S explained that the crime rate in Medan City is very high. For this reason, the firmness in ensnaring criminals must be carried out more harshly and cruelly. The following is an excerpt from his interview:

“I agree, the reason is because the crime rate in Medan City is very high, therefore there is also a need for the perpetrators of robbery to be dealt with harshly so that they can be an example to others. Because robbery in Medan City is very violent, there is no fear of taking human life. Therefore, for the sake of mutual security, it is good that the regulation is made firm so that it aims to crack down on the level of crime in Medan City”.

The same thing was also stated by Putri Ega Sari in taking action against the perpetrators of Begal, the police must take firm action. This is done so that people who have driving activities on the highway feel safe when traveling at night. The following are excerpts from the interview “Agree so that no one does Begal anymore, so that life is peaceful. Pity for money seekers who want to go home or go to work at midnight and dawn must feel anxious about being afraid of being robbed”

However, a different thing was stated by research respondent Popi Selviana Adella who stated that the action of shooting dead the perpetrators of the Begal was not a good solution in eradicating robbery. This is because it is not in accordance with human rights (HAM). According to him, the perpetrators of begal can be punished as severely as possible but do not have to take someone's life.

Based on the opinions of the research informants, it can be concluded that the Medan Mayor's call to shoot dead the perpetrators of robbery is approved by the people of Medan City. The reason is that the perpetrators of Begal have been very troubling to the community. The robbery that occurred in Medan City was also very cruel and violent. It is believed by most of the people of Medan City can provide a powerful deterrent effect for the perpetrators of Begal. Another reason is that the Mayor's call can also provide a safe effect for workers who return or go to work in the middle of the night and early morning (dawn).

The people of Medan City believe that by implementing the Medan Mayor's call about shooting dead the perpetrators of robbery can minimize the act of robbery. Based on the results of interviews conducted with

research respondent Denisa Felia Putri, she explained that the call to shoot to kill the perpetrators of robbery can minimize robbery. The following is an excerpt from his interview:

"I think it can minimize robbery which has a deterrent effect on other perpetrators of robbery. Because they rob without thinking about taking the lives of others. It's better to shoot them dead than to disturb Medan residents."

The same thing was also stated by research respondents Ikhyar Agung S. and M. Fadel Andika who explained that the act of shooting dead the perpetrators of the Begal can provide a deterrent effect and provide fear of other Begal when they want to carry out their actions. The following are excerpts from his interview:

"It can, because the perpetrators must have decreased and other perpetrators who hear the news of the dead shooting will think again to commit robbery against the citizens of Medan city and provide a deterrent effect and cause other perpetrators to be afraid to carry out robbery"

However, a different opinion was expressed by Popi Selviana Adella, who explained that shooting dead the perpetrators of the begal only caused chaos. This is because shooting dead beggars can have an unacceptable effect on the gang of Begal who have been shot dead. The following is an excerpt from his interview:

"No, by shooting dead the Begal will make more chaotic robbery in Medan City because surely other genk Begal want to retaliate or arguably do not accept that the victim is their friend."

Based on the opinions of the research informants, it can be concluded that according to some of the people of Medan City, the action of shooting dead the perpetrators of robbery in Medan City is not a good idea to the perpetrators of Begal. In addition, because the act of robbery is already a very troubling act and threatens the lives of victims, the community feels that shooting dead is the most appropriate effort to provide a deterrent effect and minimize robbery. However, a small part of the community gives the opinion that this is not entirely able to minimize the act of robbery. Because it can trigger riots because other Begal who do not accept their friends are shot dead.

Therefore, there are several inputs put forward by the community in order to eradicate or minimize acts of robbery in Medan City that have troubled the community. Based on the results of interviews with research respondents La Saufa yardha and M. Fadel Andika explained that other efforts that can be made besides shooting dead the perpetrators of Begal on the spot are patrols at night to anticipate crime and the community cooperates with the Police and TNI to tighten security, add guard posts in each sub-district or Kelurahan and often conduct patrols.

On the other hand, another opinion was expressed by Denisa Felia Putri who explained that the police could form a special unit team for the police to catch the perpetrators of Begal, if the perpetrators of Begal resisted, then they could shoot dead on the spot or take the victim hostage and kill him.

Then, another opinion was also expressed by Ikhyar Agung S. explained that one way to reduce the high crime rate in Medan City is by increasing police posts on the road, then installing CCTV on the road and mobile patrols carried out by the Police in collaboration with the local community.

Based on the opinions of the research informants, it can be concluded that in addition to the shoot-to-kill action, other efforts that must be made by the Government can be done by increasing security such as night patrols to secure people who go to or return from work in the midnight or early morning hours, then cooperating with the TNI to hold guard posts in each sub-district or Kelurahan, cooperating with the community to carry out routine night guards and installing CCTV on every road in order to monitor the condition of Medan City roads.

There are many hopes and desires of the people of Medan City to the Medan City Government in taking action against robbery that occurs in Medan City. Based on the results of interviews with research respondents Denisa Felia Putri, namely as follows:

"Hopefully this kind of incident will be ready soon, hopefully there will be no more acts of robbery in Medan City and many jobs will be opened so that people will not be short of money so that these people so that there are no more Begal, and for drug users and dealers can also be handled properly."

Another hope was expressed by M. Reza Fachrian who explained that the perpetrators of the robbery who had eliminated the lives of the perpetrators of the robbery.

"Hopefully the perpetrators of Begal can be in place, imprisoned for life, install and illuminate the lights on the roads in the City, patrol more actively not just photos, and arrest all drug dealers. That's all because that hasn't been realized properly"

On the other hand, research respondent Siti Mutia Hazira Nst explained that her hope related to the action against the perpetrators of Begal is to further improve security in Medan City and quickly investigate the cases of robbery so that the community is not restless and feels safe. Likewise, the opinion expressed by Dwie Syafitri explained that the Government and the Police apparatus should be firmer on the law and not release the perpetrators of the robbery and thoroughly investigate the intent and purpose of the robbery.

Based on the opinions of the research informants, it can be concluded that the community's hope for the Medan City Government in eradicating acts of robbery in Medan City is that the Police and Government apparatus are more strict in taking action against cases of robbery. Do not give promises without concrete

evidence, open employment opportunities so that the perpetrators of Begal can get a job and eradicate the spread and distribution of narcotics because usually the act of robbery is always related to narcotics.

#### 4.2 Discussion

Public opinion represents a form of communication that emerges as a collective response from the public, often triggered by particular attention towards a specific issue. One of the pressing concerns currently gaining significant attention in Medan City is the rise of street muggings (begal). These incidents have become a serious public concern as they do not only occur at night but also during broad daylight, often in crowded public areas, heightening the community's sense of insecurity.

This situation aligns with Tosepu's (2018) view, which explains that public opinion serves as a means for society or groups of individuals to express their thoughts, ideas, or aspirations—either based on direct experiences or through various media channels. Public opinion can be conveyed collectively or individually (Tosepu, 2018).

Based on the research findings, most residents of Medan first became aware of the surge in street mugging incidents through news circulating on social media, as well as firsthand accounts from acquaintances who either witnessed or experienced such crimes. The spread of these stories and reports has instilled fear among the citizens, making them increasingly anxious about driving motorbikes, especially at night. Many feel panic and distress as the attacks carried out by muggers have grown more brutal. It is evident that public opinion in Medan has been largely shaped by the widespread dissemination of news and personal experiences regarding these criminal acts.

This phenomenon resonates with Rumanti's (2015) statement, which highlights that public opinion forms due to strong currents of influence, general potential groups, prevailing situations, and the direction of opinion—whether positive or negative. If these factors are carefully considered, public opinion can be shaped effectively and with quality outcomes.

A collective perspective among society must persist for public opinion to remain strong. The more people are informed about or witness such muggings firsthand, the more entrenched and widespread public concern becomes. Research findings indicate that public opinion in Medan is fueled by news and information about mugging incidents—ranging from robbery and murder to sexual assault—committed by the muggers, some of which have resulted in fatalities. The attackers often carry sharp weapons, adding to the level of threat. Notably, some of the most remembered incidents occurred near UMSU and along the Ringroad area.

Rumanti (2015) asserts that the persistence of public opinion can have a significant impact, particularly when it originates from credible and influential groups or individuals. Such opinions tend to be more effective. Therefore, to influence public sentiment effectively, the foundation of the message must be solid, or it risks losing momentum and public attention.

The rising number of muggings in Medan has caused widespread anxiety among residents. In response, the Mayor of Medan once made a public statement advocating for law enforcement to implement a shoot-on-sight policy against armed muggers actively committing these crimes. This declaration elicited various reactions from the community. A large segment of the population perceived the Mayor's statement as a breath of fresh air and a source of hope, particularly for those feeling unsafe and fearful of these violent acts. Research findings show that most citizens support the Mayor's call for decisive action, including shooting muggers who are caught in the act. They argue that these criminals have grown increasingly ruthless—committing robbery, sexual assault, and even murder. The hope is that such firm measures will serve as an effective deterrent to other potential offenders.

However, a minority of residents oppose the Mayor's stance, arguing that it violates human rights principles. This reflects Rumanti's (2015: 63-65) discussion regarding changes in public opinion, emphasizing that proper, objective, honest, and transparent handling of public sentiment—aligned with its intended function—can drive meaningful societal change. The Mayor's statement has, in turn, sparked new public discourse, influencing the broader opinion on how to address the street mugging crisis.

Essentially, the Mayor's call for a shoot-on-sight policy acts as a barometer for the local government to gauge public reaction. The majority of citizens agree with the policy, citing the extreme threat posed by muggers and the terror they instill. Many believe that this approach will not only act as a deterrent but also enhance public safety, especially for those traveling late at night or early in the morning for work.

From the perspective of Medan's citizens, implementing a shoot-on-sight policy could serve as a strong warning to muggers. Given that their actions have caused widespread fear and endangered lives, many residents view this as the most appropriate measure to address the problem. Nonetheless, some believe it may not completely eliminate street crime and could potentially lead to further unrest, as surviving members of criminal gangs may retaliate against law enforcement or the public.

This perspective is consistent with Rumanti's (2015) explanation of benchmarks, methods, and techniques in gauging public opinion. The emergence of public opinion can reveal how open the community is to discussing and managing their views. The more transparent and trusting the public becomes, the more honest

and objective their opinions will be. Using the right methods, people are encouraged to express their views—whether positive or negative—honestly and constructively.

In conclusion, public opinion regarding the Mayor of Medan's shoot-on-sight directive reflects the public's reaction to the alarming prevalence of street muggings and the government's efforts to address it. This policy serves not only as a means to test public response but also as an attempt to solve the ongoing problem with the active participation of the community.

This aligns with Leonard W. Doob's perspective (in Tosepu, 2018), which states that forming public opinion involves several key characteristics. It must be based on facts rather than mere rhetoric, often arises in reaction to specific issues, and seeks resolution. Public opinion typically represents the views of the majority and allows room for responses, participation, and even counter-opinions from members of society—particularly from those directly affected or threatened by the issue at hand.

## 5. CONCLUSION

The public opinion regarding the Mayor of Medan's call for a shoot-on-sight policy against street muggers (begal) is largely supported by the citizens. The primary reason for this approval is the heightened sense of fear and insecurity among residents due to the escalating mugging incidents. This concern is particularly strong among workers who commute late at night or in the early hours of the morning. Notably, areas around UMSU and the Ringroad have become hotspots for such crimes, frequently making headlines. Additionally, many citizens have either personally fallen victim to these muggings or know someone who has, further reinforcing public support for the Mayor's directive. The Mayor's statement advocating for the use of lethal force is perceived as a way to deliver a strong deterrent effect, discouraging muggers from committing further crimes. This call to action was made in response to widespread public concern, with the government acknowledging the anxiety and lack of safety felt by the community. Moreover, the Mayor's announcement aimed to gauge public reaction and demonstrate a firmer stance in combating street muggings. However, the Mayor's shoot-on-sight directive has also sparked opposition from a small segment of the population. Critics argue that such measures violate human rights principles. Some community members believe that other punitive actions, such as life imprisonment or strict legal penalties that do not involve taking the lives of perpetrators, could serve as more humane yet equally effective deterrents. They fear that the use of lethal force might provoke retaliatory violence or even more anarchic behavior from criminal groups unwilling to accept the deaths of their members.

## 6. REFERENCE

- Anggito, Albi & Setiawan, Johan. (2018). *Metode Penelitian Kualitatif*. Sukabumi: CV. Jejak.
- Anshori, Akhyar. (2019) *Opini Masyarakat Kota Medan Terhadap Penulisan Serentak dan Legislatif Tahun 2019*. Jurnal Interaksi. Vol. 03 No. 02.
- Anne, Gregoty. (2014). *Perencanaan dan Manajemen Kampanye Public Relation*: Alih Bahasa Dewi Darmayanti. Jakarta: Erlangga.
- Abrar Adhani et al. (2015). *Komunikasi Dan Isu Publik*. Surabaya: ASPIKOM.
- Effendy, Onong uhana. (2011). *Komunikasi, Teori dan Praktek*. Bandung: PT. Remaja Rosdayarka.
- Helaluddin & Wijaya, Hengki. (2019). *Analisis Data Kualitatif: Sebuah Tinjauan Teori dan Praktik*. Malang: ISBN.
- Jaya, I Made Laut Mertha. 2020. *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif dan Kuantitatif*. Yogyakarta: Penerbit Anak Hebat Indonesia.
- Milyane, Tita Melia, et al. (2022). *Pengantar Komunikasi*. Bandung: Widina Bhakti Persada.
- Panjaitan, Fathur Rahman & Harahap, M. Said. (2021). *Community Opinion On The Personal Brand of Bobby Nasution to Prospective Medan Mayor in 2020*. Jurnal Commicast. Vol. 02 No. 01. ISSN: 2723-7672.
- Rumanti, Maria Assumta. (2015). *Dasar-Dasar Publik Relations: Teori dan Praktik*. Jakarta: PT. Grasindo.
- Rukin. (2019). *Metodelogi Penelitian Kualitatif*. Sulawesi Selatan: Yayasan Ahmar Cendekia Indonesia.
- Sugiyono. (2013). *Metode Penelitian Pendidikan*. Bandung: CV. Alfabeta.
- Tati Sarihati et al. (2019). *Komunikasi Politik, Media Massa dan Opini Publik*. Depok: Rajawali Press.
- Tosepu, Ahmad Yusrin. (2018). *Pendapat Umum dan Jajak Pendapat: Teori, Konsep dan Aplikasi*. Surabaya: Jakad Media Publisng.
- Yasir. (2020). *Pengantar Ilmu Komunikasi: Sebuah Pendekatan Kritis dan Komprehensif*. Yogyakarta: CV. Budi Utama.