

## **The Phenomenon Of Collective Violence Among Children: A Criminological Analysis Of A Beating Case Resulting In Death In Karawang Regency**

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### **Abstract**

This study examines children's involvement in collective violence resulting in death in Karawang Regency, focusing on criminogenic factors and the patterns and characteristics of group violence. The main issues discussed are how social, environmental, and individual factors influence children's involvement in fatal gang violence, and how patterns of collective violence among children are formed. This study aims to analyze the causes of children's involvement in collective violence, identify the patterns and characteristics of these collective actions, and assess the criminogenic factors that influence children's behavior. The method used is normative juridical legal research supported by an empirical approach and a criminological perspective. Data were obtained through a literature review of laws and regulations, court decisions, and scientific literature, as well as field studies in the form of interviews with public prosecutors handling related cases. All data were analyzed qualitatively using a descriptive approach. The results indicate that children's involvement in collective



violence is influenced by weak parental supervision, negative peer influence, and the psychological conditions of adolescents who tend to be impulsive and emotionally dominated. Group dynamics reinforce aggressive behavior and reduce individual responsibility. This study concludes that preventing collective violence by children requires integrated efforts through law enforcement, strengthening the role of the family, fostering a positive social environment, and early intervention against criminogenic risk factors.

### **KEYWORDS**

*Violence, Children, Criminology, Mob Attack*

## **Introduction**

Indonesia is a major nation that upholds the rule of law. The existence of positive law in Indonesia is a crucial element in creating a safe, secure, and peaceful society. One branch of law that plays a role in maintaining order and security for citizens is criminal law. The criminal law currently in force in Indonesia is essentially codified, a legal system whose provisions are formulated, structured, and compiled into a comprehensive set of laws and regulations. Most of the norms governing prohibited acts and their sanctions are contained in a systematically compiled book, the Criminal Code (KUHP), thus serving as the primary reference for the application of criminal law in Indonesia.<sup>1</sup>

In relation to crime, violence is often an accompanying element, or even inherent in the form of crime itself. According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, violence is the actions of an individual or group of individuals that pose a risk of injury or death to another person, or result in physical damage or property damage to another person.<sup>2</sup> This violence has formed a

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<sup>1</sup> Moeljatno, *Asas-Asas Hukum Pidana* (Jakarta: Rineka Cipta, 2008).

<sup>2</sup> KBBI Daring, "Kekerasan," accessed January 20, 2026, <https://kbbi.kemendikdasmen.go.id/entri/kekerasan>.

distinctive character in the study of crime. The more frequent and widespread violent crimes become in society, the stronger the public's belief that this type of crime is a serious problem and requires special attention. This situation ultimately shapes the public's perception of the dangers of violent crimes. Essentially, violence is a form of aggressive behavior that can be carried out by anyone, such as hitting, stabbing, kicking, slapping, punching, or biting, all of which are considered forms of violence. However, under certain conditions, violence can be viewed as normal, while the same actions, if carried out in different situations, can be categorized as deviant behavior.<sup>3</sup> The term violence is used to describe a form of human behavior that involves the use of force against another person. This behavior can be overt, easily seen and felt directly, or covert, not always visible to the naked eye. Furthermore, violence can be offensive, aimed at injuring or harming another party, or defensive, as an effort to defend oneself from a specific threat.<sup>4</sup> So, violence includes various actions that use physical and non-physical force in interactions between individuals.

On the other hand, children also play a strategic role as the next generation of the nation whose existence is very important in determining the continuity of the life of society and the state.<sup>5</sup> Di sisi lain, anak juga memegang peran strategis sebagai generasi penerus bangsa yang keberadaannya sangat menentukan keberlangsungan kehidupan masyarakat dan negara.<sup>6</sup> Children are legal subjects who constitutionally and legally receive special protection from the state. This protection is affirmed in Article 28B paragraph (2) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, which states that "every child has the right to survival, growth and development and the right to protection from violence

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<sup>3</sup> Muhammad Mustofa, "Prevensi Masalah Kekerasan Di Kalangan Remaja" (Universitas Indonesia, 1996).

<sup>4</sup> Thomas Santoso, *Teori-Teori Kekerasan* (Jakarta: Ghalia Indonesia, 2002). hlm. 11.

<sup>5</sup> Indah Sri Utari and Benny Sumardiana, "Prevention of Violence Againsts Children During the Covid-19 Pandemic Perspective of Criminology," *Journal of Law and Legal Reform* 3, no. 1 (January 31, 2022): 85–110, <https://doi.org/10.15294/jllr.v3i1.54836>.

<sup>6</sup> Chairul Bahriah, dkk., *Hukum Pidana Anak* (Banten: PT SADA KURNIA PUSTAKA, 2024). Hlm.2.

and discrimination".<sup>7</sup> However, in social reality and law enforcement practice, children are not always solely victims of crime. In certain situations, children can also act as perpetrators, including crimes committed collectively or in forms of collective violence involving more than one person.

In Karawang Regency, West Java, a brawl occurred between junior high school students on Jalan Raya Ciwelut, Gempol Karya Village, Tirtajaya District, involving two groups of students from SMPN 1 Tirtajaya and SMPN 2 Tirtajaya. In the incident, a student with the initials A (14 years old) became the victim. The victim, who was only carrying a wooden branch, suffered serious injuries to the head due to a slash from a sharp weapon in the form of a sickle used by the perpetrator. The victim received treatment at Karawang Regional Hospital, but ultimately died from the injuries suffered. Karawang Police, through the Jatanras Team and the PPA Unit, secured the perpetrator with the initials I (15 years old) along with a number of witnesses for the purposes of the legal process. For his actions, the perpetrator was charged under Article 80 paragraph (3) of Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection, for committing violence that resulted in the loss of the victim's life. This case shows that there was an act of serious violence carried out by children collectively.<sup>8</sup>

Normatively, the act of mob violence is regulated in Article 170 of the Criminal Code (KUHP), which emphasizes that the use of violence together against people or objects resulting in death is a serious crime. In addition, Article 262 of Law Number 1 of 2023 stipulates that "If the violence as referred to in paragraph (1) results in the death of a person, the perpetrator

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<sup>7</sup> "Undang-Undang Dasar Negara Republik Indonesia Tahun 1945 Tentang Hak Anak," Pub. L. No. 28B (1945), <https://peraturan.bpk.go.id/Details/101646/uud-no-->.

<sup>8</sup> Cikwan Suwandi, "Tawuran Pakai Ranting vs Celurit Tewaskan Pelajar SMP Di Karawang, Luka Parah Di Kepala," *TribunJabar*, 2025, <https://jabar.tribunnews.com/2025/07/07/tawuran-pakai-ranting-vs-celurit-tewaskan-pelajar-smp-di-karawang-luka-parah-di-kepala>.

is threatened with a maximum prison sentence of 12 years.”<sup>9</sup> However, when the perpetrator of the act is a child, law enforcement cannot be separated from the special provisions as stipulated in Law Number 11 of 2012 concerning the Juvenile Criminal Justice System. The Juvenile Criminal Justice System Law emphasizes that children in conflict with the law must be treated humanely, taking into account their needs according to their age and prioritizing the principle of the child's best interests. This is reflected in Article 2 of the Juvenile Justice System Law, which emphasizes the principles of protection, justice, non-discrimination, and restorative justice. On the other hand, crimes that result in the loss of life also require legal certainty and justice for the victim, thus creating a normative dilemma in the application of criminal sanctions to child perpetrators of serious violence. Furthermore, Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection emphasizes that children who commit crimes must still be viewed as children in need of guidance and protection, not merely objects of punishment. Thus, the juvenile criminal justice system is required to be able to balance the objectives of punishment, the interests of victims, and the state's obligation to guarantee the protection and rehabilitation of children.

Based on the background that has been presented, this study formulates the problem regarding the factors underlying the involvement of children in the assault that resulted in death in Karawang Regency, the patterns and characteristics of collective violence carried out by children, and the criminogenic factors that contributed to their involvement in the case.

## Methods

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<sup>9</sup> “Undang-Undang (UU) Nomor 1 Tahun 2023 Tentang Kitab Undang-Undang Hukum Pidana,” No. 262 Ayat (4) (2023), <https://peraturan.bpk.go.id/Details/234935/uu-no-1-tahun-2023>.

This research employs a normative juridical legal research method supported by an empirical approach with a criminological and juridical-sociological perspective. The research type employed is qualitative research, emphasizing understanding the process and meaning from the perspective of the research subjects. The data obtained in this study are grouped into three types: primary data, secondary data, and tertiary data.<sup>10</sup> The data obtained in this study are grouped into three types: primary data, secondary data, and tertiary data. Primary data comes from interviews with relevant parties. Secondary data is obtained through literature review, which includes laws and regulations, court decisions, books, scientific journals, and other literature relevant to this research. Meanwhile, tertiary data consists of supporting materials consisting of legal dictionaries, the Great Indonesian Dictionary, and encyclopedias.<sup>11</sup> Data collection in this study was conducted through literature review and fieldwork. The data collection technique used was free-form but directed interviews with relevant parties. In the data analysis stage, the data obtained from the research activities were analyzed qualitatively and then descriptively, explaining and describing the relevant issues.

## Result and Discussion

### 1. Factors Behind Children's Involvement in Mob Attacks That Resulted in Death in Karawang Regency

**TABLE 1.** Crime Overview Data in Karawang Regency by Karawang Police 2025

Data Categories			2024	2025	Information
Motor Vehicle Theft (Curanmor)			-	238 cases	most dominant crime

<sup>10</sup> Ali Zainuddin, *Metode Penelitian Hukum* (Jakarta: Sinar Grafika, 2011).

<sup>11</sup> Soerjono Soekanto, *Pengantar Penelitian Hukum* (Jakarta: UI Press, 1986).

Aggravated Theft (Curat)	-	120 cases	Prominent categories
Fraud	-	105 cases	-
Embezzlement	-	100 cases	-
Domestic Violence	-	130 cases	-
Mob attack	-	65 cases	Collective violent crimes
Cases Related to the Child Protection Law	-	62 cases	Involvement of children in certain criminal cases
Total Crimes	1.640 kasus	1.330 cases	Down ±18,9%
Case Completed and Handled	1.330 kasus	740 cases	Case resolution decreased significantly

Source: Kantor Berita Inspirasi [Rakyat.id](https://www.rakyat.id)

The Karawang Police recorded a general decline in the number of crimes throughout 2025, from 1,640 cases in 2024 to 1,330 cases in 2025, a decrease of approximately 18.9%. This indicates a positive trend in crime prevention efforts in the region. Despite the decline in the number of reports, the number of cases resolved by the Criminal Investigation Unit also decreased significantly, from 1,330 cases successfully resolved in the previous year to only 740 cases in 2025, or a decrease of approximately 30%. This is one of the challenges to the effectiveness of law enforcement in Karawang Regency. Of the various types of crimes reported, assault was one of the most prominent crime categories, recorded at 65 cases throughout 2025. Although the number is lower than other types of crimes such as motor vehicle theft (238 cases) or aggravated theft (120 cases), assault cases remain a prominent figure on the crime map and reflect the potential for collective action that is disturbing the community. In addition to general statistics, the category of violations of the Child Protection Law was also recorded at 62 cases, indicating that children were also involved in crimes related to violence and legal negligence throughout 2025.

The assault case that resulted in death in Karawang Regency reflects the phenomenon of collective violence involving children as

perpetrators. Collective violence against children is a form of crime committed collectively by a group of children, often triggered by emotional factors, group solidarity, or social conflicts developing within the youth community.<sup>12</sup> This phenomenon cannot be understood solely as a violation of the law, but rather as a social symptom that has complex criminological roots.

Factors that influence criminal acts or crimes occur if there is a combination of personal or internal factors with social or environmental factors, which are called external factors.<sup>13</sup> The most fundamental internal factor in the occurrence of crime is a person's intention, while the external factor that plays a major role is the availability of opportunity in the surrounding environment. Crime tends to occur when these two elements meet: when a person has the urge or desire to act and simultaneously finds the opportunity to do so. Conversely, if the intention is present but not supported by an opportunity, the likelihood of crime is reduced. Likewise, if an opportunity presents itself but is not accompanied by intention on the part of the individual concerned, criminal acts generally will not occur.<sup>14</sup> Because adolescents are a component of society, juvenile delinquency is perceived and interpreted by society as reprehensible. The first factor underlying the involvement of children in a mob attack between two groups of junior high school students in Tirtajaya District, Karawang, which ended in a physical clash outside the school environment, relates to the emergence of rivalries, intergroup challenges, and conflicts that develop outside the supervision of school officials and parents. These conditions shape social relationships among children that tend to be compartmentalized within

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<sup>12</sup> Nora Faradila, "Analisis Kriminologi Terhadap Kejahatan Kekerasan Yang Dilakukan Secara Bersama-Sama Oleh Anak Di Kota Bukittinggi," *Unes Law Review* 5, no. 1 (2022): 211–19.

<sup>13</sup> Endah Sri Astuti, Brigita Feby Florentina, Umi Rozah, "TINJAUAN KRIMINOLOGIS TINDAK PIDANA PENGEROYOKAN OLEH ANAK YANG MENYEBABKAN KEMATIAN DI KABUPATEN WONOSOBO," *DIPONEGORO LAW JOURNAL* Volume 8, no. 1792–1807 (2029).

<sup>14</sup> Marwan Setiawan, *Karakteristik Kriminalitas Anak & Remaja Dalam Perspektif Pendidikan, Juvenile Delinquency, Narkotika, Hukum, Hak Anak, Agama, Dan Moral* (Bogor: Ghalia Indonesia, 2015).

group solidarity, thus encouraging the formation of intergroup conflict that ultimately escalates into violence. The second factor is the influence of group norms and peer pressure. In a brawl, children may become involved because they feel the need to maintain the group's reputation, solidarity, or to avoid being perceived as cowards. This kind of social pressure often reduces individual control over the consequences of actions, making violence more likely to occur within groups. The third factor refers to the lack of supervision and social control. This mob attack took place outside the school environment, namely in an area near a rice field, meaning minimal supervision from parents and school authorities when the conflict escalated. This unsupervised situation makes it easier for children or students to engage in excessive behavior, including the use of sharp weapons. The fourth factor is the child's inability to manage conflict non-violently, which is an important factor contributing to the occurrence of violence in this case.

Based on the facts in the trial of case number 4/Pid.Sus-Anak/2025/PN Kwg, the results of Litmas (Community Research) on child perpetrators essentially concluded that the factors causing children to be involved in this crime were due to the following: Lack of attention from parents to child clients to instill good values and how to behave in responding to negative things; The client's social environment with the client's friends greatly influences the client where the client tries to imitate what he has seen and heard; The client's age is in the adolescent phase, thus influencing the client's mindset and actions in making decisions where ego and emotion are prioritized over logic without considering the risks and consequences. This incident shows that children do not yet have adequate skills in resolving disputes through rational and peaceful means. Brawls used as a means of conflict resolution reflect the child's failure to control emotions, restrain aggressive impulses, and consider the legal and social consequences of their actions. This behavioral pattern is in line with the characteristics of adolescents in conflict situations, who tend to prioritize group solidarity and

emotional responses compared to efforts to resolve problems constructively. This condition indicates that the process of coaching, character education, and internalization of values for peaceful conflict resolution in the family, school, and community environments is not yet optimal.

## **2. Patterns and Characteristics of Collective Violence Perpetrated by Children in Karawang Regency**

Collective violence perpetrated by children in Karawang Regency exhibits certain patterns and characteristics that distinguish it from individual acts of violence. In this context, collective violence refers to acts of violence committed jointly by more than one child against a victim, often triggered by social conflict, group solidarity, or momentary emotional impulses. These patterns and characteristics reflect group dynamics and social conditions that influence children's behavior as perpetrators of violence.

One of the main patterns of collective violence against children in Karawang Regency is the involvement of more than one perpetrator in a single incident. Mob violence is generally carried out spontaneously or planned, with each group member assuming a specific role, whether as an active perpetrator, a supporter, or a provocateur. This group pattern gives children a false sense of courage due to the division of responsibility, so they feel that the moral burden and legal risks are not entirely borne individually.<sup>15</sup> Group violence also exhibits escalation, where initially minor conflicts can escalate into serious violence due to encouragement and support from other group members. In this situation, children's self-control becomes increasingly weakened due to the influence of group dynamics.

The characteristics of perpetrators of collective violence are generally

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<sup>15</sup> Yulianis Safrinadiya et al., "Kejahatan Kekerasan Dan Brutalisme Massa (Perspektif Kriminologi)," *Al' Adl : Jurnal Hukum*, Volume 14 (2022), <https://ojs.uniska-bjm.ac.id/index.php/aldli/article/view/6284>.

dominated by adolescents between 14 and 19 years old, namely in the transition phase from childhood to adulthood. At this age, children are in a period of identity discovery, so their emotional state is still unstable and not yet fully mature. In this phase, impulsivity tends to be high, while the need for acceptance and recognition in the social environment is very strong. This situation makes children more easily pushed to take spontaneous actions without adequate consideration of the risks. Furthermore, the majority of perpetrators are boys, which is inseparable from the social construct that positions men as figures who must demonstrate courage, toughness, and physical strength. This view is often reinforced by peer pressure, so that children are encouraged to stand out to gain recognition and position within their social group.<sup>16</sup> These psychological characteristics make children more vulnerable to engaging in aggressive behavior, especially when they are in a social environment that justifies the use of violence.<sup>17</sup> In addition, most perpetrators come from social environments that have low social control, whether from the family, school or community.<sup>18</sup> This situation reinforces the tendency for children to form informal groups with their own values and norms, including justifications for violence. Another prominent characteristic of collective violence against children is the use of direct physical violence, such as repeated hitting, kicking, or using blunt objects against the victim.<sup>19</sup> This violence is often perpetrated without rational consideration of the consequences, potentially resulting in serious injury or even death. These acts of violence demonstrate a decline in empathy for the victim, with children focusing more on emotional outbursts or group

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<sup>16</sup> Dia Tri Caang, "SANKSI TINDAK PIDANA KLITIH YANG DILAKUKAN ANAK DIBAWAH UMUR DI YOGYAKARTA DALAM TINJAUAN MAQĀSĪD SYARĪ'AH," *Universitas Islam Indonesia*, 2022, 1–44, <https://dspace.uui.ac.id/handle/123456789/39210>.

<sup>17</sup> Meydiningrum and Eko Darminto, "PERILAKU AGRESIF DITINJAU DARI PERSPEKTIF TEORI BELAJAR SOSIAL DAN KONTROL DIRI," *Jurnal BK UNESA* Vol. 11 No (2020), <https://ejournal.unesa.ac.id/index.php/jurnal-bk-unesa/issue/view/2078>.

<sup>18</sup> Dippo Alam, "KEKERASAN VERBAL DAN NON-VERBAL YANG DILAKUKAN SECARA KOLEKTIF DITINJAU DARI PERSPEKTIF KRIMINOLOGI," *Supremasi Hukum* Volume 19 (2023): 54–63.

<sup>19</sup> Lilis Karlina, "FENOMENA TERJADINYA KENAKALAN REMAJA," *Jurnal Edukasi Non Formal*, 2020, 147–58, <https://files01.core.ac.uk/download/pdf/553315072.pdf>.

interests than on the victim's safety. Group violence also tends to be more brutal than individual violence due to the mutual triggering effect among group members.

Collective violence against children in Karawang Regency is generally triggered by trivial social conflicts, such as intergroup disputes, teasing, or misunderstandings. These conflicts then escalate into gang violence due to the children's inability to manage their emotions and resolve them constructively. These characteristics indicate that collective violence against children is often impulsive and unplanned. Children tend to act based on fleeting emotions without considering the legal and social consequences of their actions.

Another pattern seen in collective violence against children is the perpetrators' low level of legal awareness. Children generally don't understand that collective assault can result in severe criminal penalties, especially if it results in death.<sup>20</sup> This lack of legal understanding leads children to underestimate the risks of their actions. This characteristic indicates a gap between applicable legal norms and children's understanding of the law. As a result, children are more likely to engage in violent acts without fear of the legal consequences they will face. Therefore, the chronology of this case not only depicts a series of criminal events but also concretely demonstrates how background factors, patterns of collective violence, and criminogenic factors play a role in children's involvement in the assault that resulted in death in Karawang Regency.

### **3. Criminogenic Factors Contributing to the Involvement of Children as Perpetrators of Mob Attacks Resulting in Death**

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<sup>20</sup> Putu Kayla Yunita Dewi, Anak Agung Sagung Laksmi Dewi, and I Made Minggu Widyantara, "Sanksi Pidana Terhadap Pelaku Pengeroyokan Yang Menyebabkan Kematian (Putusan Nomor 399/Pid.B/2020/PN Dps)," *Jurnal Preferensi Hukum* 3, no. 2 (April 30, 2022): 385–90, <https://doi.org/10.55637/jph.3.2.4948.385-390>.

One form of juvenile delinquency that has caused unrest in Karawang Regency is the crime of gang violence perpetrated by a group of teenagers, resulting in death. This incident has raised concerns among the Karawang Regency community. According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, gang violence itself means the process, method, or act of ganging up, while the word "mengeroyokan" itself means a mass attack (a large group of people) or a group fight.<sup>21</sup> From a criminological perspective, collective violence against children is a manifestation of the process of forming deviant behavior which is influenced by the social environment, culture of violence, and weak social control.<sup>22</sup> Children, as individuals still in the psychological and emotional developmental stage, are susceptible to peer pressure, thus losing the ability to assess the legal and moral consequences of their actions. This condition makes mob violence no longer an individual act but a collective act that strengthens the perpetrator's courage and aggressiveness.

The involvement of children in a violent assault that resulted in death in Karawang Regency cannot be understood solely as individual deviant behavior, but rather as the result of the interaction of various interrelated criminological factors. Children, as legal subjects who are still in the psychological and emotional development stage, are highly vulnerable to the influence of their environment.<sup>23</sup> It can be analyzed that the criminogenic factors that caused the involvement of children in the assault case that resulted in death in Karawang Regency, are divided into two factors, namely internal factors and external factors:

#### 1) Internal Factors

Internal factors are one of the causes that influence a child's behavior

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<sup>21</sup> KBBI Daring, "Pengeroyokan," accessed January 21, 2026, <https://kbbi.kemendikdasmen.go.id/entri/pengeroyokan>.

<sup>22</sup> Indah Sri Utari, *Kontrol Sosial Dan Tren Perilaku Menyimpang Anak Dalam Studi Kriminologi* (Semarang: Sanggar Krida Utama, 2018).

<sup>23</sup> Ayu Bulan Runtino and Indah Sri Utari, "Efektivitas Penerapan Restorative Justice Terhadap Pelaku Tindak Pidana Anak: Studi Di Pengadilan Negeri Semarang" Vol.1 (2025): 274–297, <https://bookchapter.unnes.ac.id/index.php/hk/article/view/467>.

and originate from within the child himself.<sup>24</sup> Thus, internal factors can be understood as factors that drive deviant behavior in children, originating from the individual's internal aspects. From this research perspective, these internal factors also play a role in the crime of gang violence resulting in death perpetrated by children. The internal factors in question include the following:

a. Age Factor

It is known that the child who committed the assault in Karawang Regency was in the adolescent age range, namely the age when children are in the phase of searching for their identity. Based on the Karawang District Court Decision Number 4/Pid.Sus-Anak/PN Kwg, the perpetrator was recorded as only 15 years old. This age is a developmental period marked by increasing emotional turmoil and the urge to assert one's existence, including the desire to no longer be seen as a small child who is considered weak or unable to fight back when feeling threatened.<sup>25</sup> During adolescence, children tend to be unable to carefully consider the consequences of their actions, have low emotional stability, and have not yet reached psychological maturity. These conditions can be driving factors for acts of violence committed collectively.

b. Character Factors

According to the Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language, character is defined as the nature, disposition, or psychological traits, morals, and manners that distinguish one individual from another. Meanwhile, in the sociological dictionary, character is understood as a distinctive

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<sup>24</sup> Kartini Kartono, *Patologi Sosial (2) Kenakalan Remaja* (Jakarta: Rajawali Pers, 2006).

<sup>25</sup> Zahratul'ain Taufik and Rahmadani, "KENAKALAN ANAK DAN PENYEBABNYA DITINJAU DARI SUDUT PANDANG KRIMINOLOGI & VIKTIMOLOGI," *Jurnal Cahaya Mandalika* Vol. 4 No. (2023), <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.36312/jcm.v4i3.2461>.

characteristic inherent in the basic structure of a person's personality.<sup>26</sup> Based on these two definitions, it can be concluded that character is an individual's unique identity reflected in their behavioral patterns and attitudes, which are formed and influenced by the social values they receive. When linked to the character of the child as the perpetrator of the crime of mob violence in Karawang Regency, it can be understood that this character is formed through the child's habits in interacting with the social environment, especially in association with negative peers. The greater the child's exposure to negative information and influences, the more deviant character is formed. This condition then influenced the child perpetrator to commit the crime of mob violence that resulted in death in Karawang Regency.

## 2) External Factors

External factors are factors that influence deviant behavior in children that originate outside the child. These factors can originate from the family environment, such as disharmonious family conditions, parental divorce, lack of communication between family members, or internal conflict within the family, which can trigger negative behavior in adolescents. Furthermore, a less conducive residential environment or social community also plays a role in shaping deviant behavior in children. Another equally important factor is the influence of mass media, particularly broadcasts or content that depict scenes inappropriate for children and adolescents, which can encourage juvenile delinquency. External factors include:

### a. Lack of Parental Supervision Factor

Parental presence and supervision significantly influence the development of a child's character and behavioral patterns. If

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<sup>26</sup> Soerjono Soekanto, *Kamus Sosiologi* (Jakarta: Balai Pustaka, 1993).

this supervision is inadequate, children are at risk of engaging in actions that could harm themselves or others. Parental responsibility extends beyond monitoring children's activities to providing guidance, instilling moral values, and providing direction so that children can behave in accordance with social norms. Weak supervision leaves children with too much freedom of movement without clear controls, making them more susceptible to negative peer influence and deviant behavior.<sup>27</sup> Conversely, consistent and responsible supervision can foster awareness and self-control in children, as they feel their every action is being watched by their parents. This awareness encourages children to be more cautious and avoid actions that violate social norms and the law, including acts of violence such as gang violence.

b. Factors Contributing to the Existence of Organizations That Tend to be Negative

The adolescent social environment can foster the formation of informal, unstructured, and unofficial groups. These groups are generally formed by students or teenagers as a forum for gathering, interacting, and sharing experiences. In essence, the existence of peer groups is not always negative, as they foster a sense of togetherness and solidarity among members. However, when such groups develop without clear oversight and values, this solidarity can turn into a drive to excessively defend peers, even through deviant or illegal means.<sup>28</sup> In this context, the influence of the social

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<sup>27</sup> Yeni Yasyah Sinaga and Ahmad Maulana Anshori, "FAKTOR PENYEBAB TINGGINYA KENAKALAN DAN KRIMINALITAS REMAJA DALAM MASYARAKAT," *Jurnal Dakwatul Islam* Vol.7 No.1 (2022), <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.46781/dakwatulislam.v7i1.582>.

<sup>28</sup> Beatrix Agustina Ganta and Christiana Hari Soetjningsih, "Hubungan Konformitas Teman Sebaya Dan Kecenderungan Kenakalan Remaja Laki-Laki," *Jurnal Imiah Psikologi* Vol. 10 No (2022): 404–11, <https://doi.org/10.30872/psikoborneo>.

environment is very strong in shaping individual behavior. This idea is in line with the view of A. Lacassagne, who emphasized that the social environment plays a significant role in encouraging someone to commit crime; a negative environment can be a fertile ground for the growth of deviant behavior. Furthermore, this condition can also be explained by Albert Bandura's Social Learning Theory, which states that individuals learn through the process of observing and imitating the behavior of others. Adolescents who are in groups with negative behavioral tendencies will more easily imitate aggressive or violent actions carried out by other members, especially when such behavior is supported or reinforced by the group. Thus, the existence of an undirected peer group can be a criminogenic factor that contributes to children's involvement in collective violence.<sup>29</sup>

c. Social Media Factors

Social media and various forms of electronic media can be additional factors influencing children's involvement in acts of violence, including abuse and gang violence. The abundance of digital content, lacking educational content and often portraying violence as normal, has the potential to shape children's thinking in a deviant direction.<sup>30</sup> Continuous exposure to violent media can influence how children understand and respond to conflict, leading to aggressive behavior being perceived as a justifiable way to resolve problems. This situation encourages children to imitate the behavior they see in the media, even when such behavior clearly violates social norms and legal provisions. For

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<sup>29</sup> John Santrock, *Adolescence Perkembangan Remaja* (Jakarta: Erlangga, 2003).

<sup>30</sup> Daffa Aqilah, Denny Soestrisna As, and Agung Fauzi, "Dampak Media Sosial Terhadap Tindak Kenakalan Remaja," *Edu Sociata: Jurnal Pendidikan Sosiolog* Vol. 6 No. (2023), <https://jurnal.stkipbima.ac.id/index.php/ES/article/view/1176>.

example, television shows or digital content depicting group fights can negatively impact a child's psychological and moral development.<sup>31</sup> Such shows do not provide educational value, because social life should basically be built on the principles of peace, mutual respect, and conflict resolution through means that do not involve violence.

d. Lack of Religious Norms Factor

A lack of appreciation for religious values is one factor contributing to deviant behavior in children. Religious norms serve as a fundamental moral foundation in shaping attitudes, behavior patterns, and an individual's awareness of the need to obey rules and avoid actions that could harm themselves or others.<sup>32</sup> If religious teachings are properly instilled in a person, they will develop a strong sense of self-control, enabling them to distinguish between right and wrong, including avoiding violent behavior. Conversely, a weak understanding and application of religious norms can cause children to lose their moral compass, making them more susceptible to negative influences from their surroundings. From a spiritualist perspective, a close relationship with religious values is believed to suppress the tendency to commit reprehensible or criminal acts, while distancing an individual from religious teachings can potentially increase the risk of deviant behavior, including violence and mob violence.

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<sup>31</sup> Inggit Annisa Nurfethia Gunawan, Suryani, and Iwan Shalahuddin, "Dampak Penggunaan Media Sosial Terhadap Gangguan Psikososial Pada Remaja: A Narrative Review," *Jurnal Kesehatan* Vol. 15 No (2022): 78–92, <https://doi.org/10.23917/jk.v15i1.17426>.

<sup>32</sup> Muhamad Taufik, Pandu Hyangsewu, and Isni Nur Azizah, "Pengaruh Faktor Religiusitas Terhadap Perilaku Kenakalan Remaja Di Lingkungan Masyarakat," *Jurnal Rontal Keilmuan PKn* Vol. 6 No. (2020).

Based on the legal facts revealed in Decision Number 4/Pid.Sus-Anak/2025/PN Kwg, the child's involvement in the assault that resulted in death cannot be viewed as an isolated act. This behavior is the result of a social process occurring within the child's social environment.<sup>33</sup>

Viewed from the perspective of *Social Learning Theory* As stated by Albert Bandura, there is no difference between the learning process of normal people and people with disabilities.<sup>34</sup> Learning social behavior can be done in several ways, namely through observation and direct experience. According to this theory, social learning can be done in two ways: Observational Learning And Direct Experience. In the way Observational Learning This process is very effective on children because they tend to do what they see as long as there is no prohibition against it, the act is an acceptable act, even if it is a crime. Then in this way Direct Experience Children who play passively become victims of other children, but as they develop, they overcome this by retaliating and learning to defend themselves. Thus, acts of violence committed by children demonstrate a learning process through observing and imitating the behavior of others. Children learn aggressive behavior patterns from their surroundings, both through direct interaction with peers and from social experiences that normalize violence as a means of conflict resolution. In the context of this mob violence, the presence of a group reinforces deviant behavior, so that children are encouraged to imitate and repeat acts of violence without considering the legal consequences.

Furthermore, if it is associated with *Differential Association Theory* As stated by Edwin H. Sutherland, children's involvement in gang violence can be understood as the result of an intense social process with peer groups who have a tendency towards deviant behavior.<sup>35</sup> Children

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<sup>33</sup> "Putusan Nomor 4/Pid.Sus-Anak/2025/PN Kwg" (n.d.).

<sup>34</sup> Tholib Effendi, *Dasar-Dasar Kriminologi* (Malang: Setara Press, 2017).

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid*, hal 126.

acquire definitions that support lawbreaking through ongoing interactions with their group. Values, attitudes, and justifications for the use of violence are more widely accepted than those that oppose such behavior. This leads children to view collective violence as normal, even as a form of group solidarity.

Meanwhile, from the perspective of Social Control Theory, acts of gang violence carried out by children indicate weak social ties that should limit deviant behavior.<sup>36</sup> Social control theory essentially explains various perspectives that emphasize how human behavior is controlled by surrounding social bonds and rules. In the context of juvenile delinquency and crime, this theory sees deviant behavior as closely related to sociological factors such as family conditions, the role of education, and the influence of dominant social groups in a person's life. If parental supervision is inadequate, a child's attachment to school weakens, and social and legal values are not firmly ingrained, then a child's ability to control themselves also tends to decline. These weakened social bonds make children more susceptible to negative environmental influences and increase their likelihood of engaging in violent acts, especially when under pressure or group solidarity.

Thus, the involvement of children in a deadly assault in Karawang Regency has drawn the attention of the Karawang District Attorney's Office, leading to the establishment of the "Prosecutor Goes to School" program as a preventative measure against collective violence perpetrated by children. This program is conducted by Public Prosecutors from the Karawang District Attorney's Office at junior and senior high schools in Karawang Regency. During this legal counseling, prosecutors not only explain the causes and impacts of criminal acts but also provide an understanding of

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<sup>36</sup> *Ibid*, hal 132.

the legal consequences that can be imposed on perpetrators.<sup>37</sup> This program aims to embrace students to stay away from illegal behavior, while also raising legal awareness for the future of the younger generation and the sustainability of the nation.

## Conclusion

This study shows that children's involvement in collective violence that resulted in death in Karawang Regency is the result of the interaction of various interrelated factors. Family conditions that provide insufficient supervision and instill values, the strong influence of the peer environment, and the unstable psychological character of adolescents who tend to prioritize emotions are the main triggers for children to become involved in group violence. The pattern of violence that occurs shows a false solidarity within the group that actually encourages the courage to commit aggressive acts without considering the legal consequences or social impact. Furthermore, criminogenic factors such as weak social control in the residential environment, exposure to deviant behavior, and social learning processes from peers strengthen children's tendency to imitate and repeat acts of violence. Thus, this problem cannot be understood solely as an individual error, but also reflects the suboptimal function of families, schools, and communities in providing guidance and supervision to children. Based on these findings, the Karawang District Attorney's Office has implemented preventative measures through the "Prosecutor Goes to School" program, which includes legal counseling. Thus, law enforcement officers are expected to continue to pay attention to the principles of child protection and prioritize a developmental approach, so that case handling not only provides a deterrent effect, but also opens up opportunities for

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<sup>37</sup> Wawancara dengan Jaksa Fungsional Kejaksaan Negeri Karawang pada tanggal 19 Agustus 2025

children to improve themselves and return to developing naturally in their social environment.

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