



## Transnational Narcotics Trafficking and the Role of NCB Interpol Indonesia: A Case Study from West Java

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### Abstract

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*This study aims to examine the role of the National Central Bureau (NCB) Interpol Indonesia in addressing transnational narcotics crimes in West Java Province between 2020 and 2023. With the increasing complexity of international drug trafficking networks, effective international cooperation becomes essential. This research employs a normative juridical approach with qualitative methods, drawing from primary and secondary legal materials including regulations, reports, and interviews. The findings reveal that the NCB Interpol plays a crucial coordinating role in cross-border law enforcement, particularly through mechanisms such as Red Notices, intelligence sharing, and coordination with domestic institutions including BNN and the National Police. Despite the progress made, challenges such as legal harmonization, jurisdictional issues, and technological barriers still hinder optimal cooperation. Strengthening legal frameworks and enhancing technical capacities are recommended to improve the effectiveness of transnational narcotics crime suppression.*

**Keywords:** Interpol, NCB, narcotics crime, international cooperation

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## INTRODUCTION

Transnational organized crime, particularly narcotics trafficking, remains a serious global threat that continues to evolve in complexity and scale. Unlike conventional crimes that are confined within a state's borders, transnational narcotics crimes often involve intricate networks operating across multiple countries, utilizing advanced technology, covert operations, and financial systems to carry out their illicit activities. These criminal networks use digital encryption, cryptocurrency, and maritime routes to evade detection, significantly complicating the efforts of law enforcement (UNODC, 2022). Transnational drug trafficking poses substantial threats not only to public health and national security but also to the integrity of legal institutions and law enforcement agencies. The illicit drug trade undermines the rule of law, promotes corruption, and contributes to instability in regions affected by drug-related violence and criminality (World Bank, 2021).

Indonesia, as an archipelagic nation with vast maritime borders and a strategic location between two continents and two oceans, has become a critical point in the global drug trade. The country's geopolitical position, bridging Southeast Asia and Oceania, makes it an attractive route for narcotics trafficking. Indonesia serves as both a transit hub for drugs coming from regions like the Golden Triangle in Southeast Asia, and as a destination market for illegal drugs. According

to reports from the National Narcotics Board (BNN), West Java, in particular, has become one of the most vulnerable regions, seeing a sharp rise in narcotics-related activities. The province's population density, its industrial activities, and its proximity to key international gateways such as Tanjung Priok Port and Soekarno-Hatta International Airport exacerbate the risks of drug trafficking in this area (BNN, 2023). The increase in methamphetamine seizures and the emergence of clandestine drug labs have further highlighted the growing challenge that local law enforcement faces in controlling narcotics crimes in the province (Interpol, 2022).

Given the international nature of these crimes, domestic efforts alone are insufficient. The complexity of transnational narcotics trafficking necessitates robust international cooperation. As the illicit trade extends across borders, it is imperative that countries work together to dismantle criminal networks. One of the most prominent institutions facilitating such cooperation is the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol). Through its National Central Bureaus (NCB), Interpol provides a vital platform for cross-border law enforcement collaboration. Each Interpol member country maintains an NCB, which acts as a liaison between national law enforcement agencies and Interpol's global network. In Indonesia, the NCB Interpol Indonesia operates under the Indonesian National Police (POLRI) and coordinates international police cooperation, including the facilitation of the issuance of Red Notices for fugitives, information sharing, and supporting joint investigations (Interpol, 2021).

The role of NCB Interpol Indonesia is particularly significant in coordinating the issuance and response to Red Notices, facilitating information exchange, tracking fugitives across borders, and collaborating on joint investigations. In regions like West Java, where transnational drug syndicates operate with increasing sophistication, the involvement of the NCB is critical in enhancing law enforcement capabilities. NCB Interpol Indonesia facilitates the exchange of vital intelligence, coordinates joint operations, and tracks drug traffickers across borders. A key example of successful collaboration is the 2021 Operation Hydra, where NCB Interpol Indonesia worked with BNN and other international law enforcement agencies to dismantle a major methamphetamine trafficking ring operating out of the region (BNN, 2023). These operations underscore the importance of NCB Interpol's coordination efforts in reducing the flow of narcotics into and through Indonesia.

However, despite the existing frameworks for cooperation, significant challenges persist. One of the primary barriers to effective international collaboration in narcotics control is the divergence in national legal systems. Differences in laws related to narcotics, such as Indonesia's death penalty for drug crimes, complicate extradition processes and the enforcement of joint operations. The Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs), designed to facilitate cross-border cooperation, are often hindered by bureaucratic delays and differing legal standards (UNODC, 2021). Additionally, the technological infrastructure of Indonesian law enforcement agencies remains inadequate to combat the increasingly sophisticated methods employed by traffickers, such as the use of dark web marketplaces for drug distribution. This gap in technological capability was highlighted in a 2021 audit by NCB Interpol Indonesia, which found that only a small percentage of law

enforcement officers were trained in cybercrime investigations, particularly in the dark web (Interpol, 2021).

Moreover, the constantly evolving tactics used by drug trafficking networks require continuous adaptation and innovation from law enforcement bodies. Transnational criminal organizations adapt quickly to law enforcement strategies, and drug traffickers often employ new routes, technologies, and methods to evade detection. For instance, the rise of cryptocurrency transactions for narcotics purchases and distribution via social media platforms such as Telegram has created new challenges for law enforcement. As identified by BNN (2023), the shift to online platforms has contributed to a sharp increase in arrests among youth involved in drug-related activities in West Java, further illustrating the growing complexity of narcotics distribution.

This study seeks to explore and evaluate the role of NCB Interpol Indonesia in combating transnational narcotics crime in West Java from 2020 to 2023. By examining the mechanisms of cooperation, institutional coordination, and the legal frameworks in place, this research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of how international policing cooperation can contribute to national crime prevention strategies. Additionally, the study will investigate the barriers faced by Indonesian law enforcement agencies, including bureaucratic challenges, technological gaps, and differences in legal systems, and will offer recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of these collaborations in the future.

## **THEORICAL FRAMEWORK**

This study applies neorealism as its theoretical lens, focusing on the structural constraints and national interests that shape state behavior within the international system. Developed by Kenneth Waltz, neorealism—or structural realism—argues that the international system is inherently anarchic, lacking a central authority to enforce rules among sovereign states (Waltz, 1979). In such a system, survival becomes the primary goal of every state, prompting them to prioritize security and self-reliance. This perspective is particularly relevant in analyzing how states respond to transnational threats, such as narcotics trafficking, which undermine internal order and national sovereignty.

In this context, Indonesia's participation in global law enforcement networks like Interpol is not merely a gesture of internationalism but a strategic response to protect national interests. From a neorealist perspective, cooperation among states occurs not because of shared values but because it serves mutual interests, particularly when facing common threats that transcend borders (Mearsheimer, 2001). Transnational narcotics trafficking presents one such threat, affecting not only public health and safety but also political and economic stability. Indonesia's engagement with Interpol is thus best understood as a rational choice to enhance its internal security by leveraging global intelligence and enforcement capacity (BNN, 2023).

Interpol provides a structured platform for states to exchange intelligence, issue Red Notices, and pursue joint operations against transnational criminal networks. In line with neorealism, such cooperation aligns with each state's interest in maximizing its security capabilities while minimizing vulnerabilities in a world

of uncertainty (Grieco, 1988). Indonesia, facing increasing narcotics-related threats—particularly in West Java—uses the National Central Bureau (NCB) as an operational arm to interface with Interpol. Through the NCB, the Indonesian government can respond more effectively to cross-border narcotics syndicates, thereby reinforcing its sovereign authority while engaging in selective internationalism (Interpol, 2023).

The NCB's role, as viewed through this framework, reflects Indonesia's strategy of defensive realism—strengthening internal capabilities while forming limited partnerships to counter non-traditional security threats. The issuance of Red Notices, facilitation of extradition, and coordination in regional operations are all instrumental functions that enhance Indonesia's capacity to respond to narcotics crimes without compromising its independence. Neorealism underscores that such engagement is not altruistic but guided by the calculation that international cooperation, when aligned with state interests, increases the relative gains in security (Jervis, 1999). Therefore, Indonesia's cooperation with Interpol is a rational move to balance autonomy with the necessity of international support.

Neorealism provides a critical analytical lens to understand Indonesia's participation in international policing frameworks like Interpol. By situating national security as the core motivator of state action, the theory helps explain why Indonesia chooses to engage in global cooperation in the fight against transnational narcotics crime. The strategic use of the NCB Interpol Indonesia to navigate the challenges of cross-border crime illustrates how international institutions can function as tools for states to pursue and secure their interests in an anarchic world. Thus, while transnational narcotics crime is a global issue, the Indonesian response—grounded in neorealist logic—remains rooted in the imperative of national security.

## METHODS

This research adopts a normative juridical approach combined with qualitative methods to explore the legal framework and institutional role of the National Central Bureau (NCB) Interpol Indonesia in combating transnational narcotics crime. The normative juridical approach is particularly effective in this context as it focuses on examining legal norms, statutory regulations, and international agreements that govern cross-border cooperation in drug law enforcement. By analyzing these legal frameworks, the study aims to identify the strengths and weaknesses of existing laws and regulations that impact Indonesia's ability to combat narcotics trafficking effectively.

In the context of qualitative research, Creswell (2014) defines qualitative research as an approach that focuses on understanding the meanings constructed by individuals or groups within specific social and cultural contexts. Qualitative research aims to explore the experiences, views, and perceptions of research subjects, thereby providing deeper insights into the phenomena being studied. In this case, the qualitative approach allows the researcher to understand the complex dynamics involved in international cooperation and drug law enforcement, as well as the challenges faced by NCB Interpol Indonesia.

The primary legal materials utilized in this study include national laws and regulations related to narcotics control, such as Law No. 35 of 2009 on Narcotics,

which outlines the legal framework for drug enforcement in Indonesia. Additionally, international conventions ratified by Indonesia, including the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988), provide essential guidelines for international cooperation in drug law enforcement. The study also examines bilateral and multilateral agreements involving Indonesia and other countries, as well as Interpol guidelines and procedural documents related to the issuance and implementation of Red Notices. These legal materials form the backbone of the research, allowing for a thorough understanding of the legal landscape surrounding narcotics control.

In addition to primary legal materials, secondary data were collected through document analysis, academic literature reviews, and news reports from credible media sources. Insights were also drawn from official reports published by the Indonesian National Police (POLRI), the National Narcotics Board (BNN), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Furthermore, public interviews with relevant stakeholders, available through institutional channels, provided valuable qualitative data that enrich the research findings. This combination of primary and secondary data sources ensures a well-rounded perspective on the challenges and opportunities faced by NCB Interpol Indonesia in its efforts to combat transnational narcotics crime.

The qualitative analysis employed in this study focuses on understanding the legal structure, identifying patterns of cooperation, and interpreting the effectiveness of mechanisms facilitated by NCB Interpol Indonesia. By examining the period from 2020 to 2023, the research reflects recent developments and challenges in international policing cooperation during a time of increased narcotics-related activity in West Java. This methodological framework enables a comprehensive and critical assessment of how international legal instruments and institutional coordination contribute to the mitigation of transnational narcotics crime in Indonesia.

## RESULTS

The findings from the analysis of primary legal materials, document reviews, and interviews reveal several key insights into the role of the National Central Bureau (NCB) Interpol Indonesia in the fight against transnational narcotics crime. This section discusses these findings in the context of the effectiveness of legal frameworks, institutional coordination, and operational challenges.

### *Legal Framework and International Cooperation*

The legal framework governing narcotics control in Indonesia is grounded in Law No. 35 of 2009 on Narcotics, which outlines a comprehensive strategy for addressing the illicit drug trade at the national level. The law classifies narcotics into three categories, mandates heavy criminal sanctions, and outlines the institutional responsibilities of agencies such as the National Narcotics Board (BNN) and the Indonesian National Police (POLRI). It also promotes the use of both preventive and repressive measures, including rehabilitation for users and punitive actions for traffickers. This robust legal framework allows the government to respond to domestic narcotics threats while establishing the foundation for international cooperation. Transnational narcotics crimes often transcend the capacity of national enforcement mechanisms due to their cross-border nature and

high levels of sophistication. Syndicates exploit maritime routes, digital platforms, and corrupt networks to move drugs from one jurisdiction to another (UNODC, 2022). Consequently, national laws such as Law No. 35 of 2009 must be supported by international legal instruments that allow for mutual legal assistance, coordinated enforcement, and information exchange with other countries. The lack of extraterritorial authority in domestic law enforcement necessitates collaborative measures for tracing suspects, assets, and trafficking routes across borders (BNN, 2023).

To address this gap, Indonesia ratified the 1988 United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which provides a framework for international legal cooperation (UN, 1988). The Convention emphasizes mutual legal assistance (MLA), including extradition, intelligence sharing, controlled deliveries, and asset confiscation—mechanisms critical for combating transnational drug networks. By integrating the Convention's provisions into domestic legal structures, Indonesia has aligned itself with international standards in drug control, enhancing its ability to pursue fugitives and conduct joint investigations with other signatory states (Kementerian Luar Negeri RI, 2022).

Beyond global conventions, Indonesia has also entered into bilateral and multilateral agreements with regional partners such as Malaysia, Thailand, and Singapore. These agreements allow for operational collaboration, the exchange of criminal data, and coordinated surveillance of maritime and air routes commonly used by traffickers (BNN, 2023). West Java, due to its strategic location near Tanjung Priok Port and Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, has been a key area where such agreements are activated. Joint task forces have been deployed to monitor vulnerable transit points and dismantle labs operating in industrial zones such as Bekasi and Karawang (Interpol, 2023).

These international partnerships have proven effective in improving the capacity of Indonesian law enforcement, particularly in the identification of drug networks, interception of illicit shipments, and arrest of foreign-linked perpetrators. For example, in 2022, coordinated operations with Malaysian authorities led to the capture of an international syndicate operating in Bandung (Interpol, 2022). Training programs and intelligence briefings held under the auspices of ASEANAPOL and Interpol have enhanced the capabilities of BNN and POLRI personnel, especially in tackling cyber-facilitated drug trafficking (ASEANAPOL, 2021). However, limitations in real-time intelligence exchange, jurisdictional overlaps, and legal inconsistencies between countries continue to hamper optimal enforcement outcomes (OECD, 2023).

While Indonesia's national legal framework provides a solid base for domestic narcotics control, its effectiveness against transnational narcotics crime heavily depends on sustained and evolving international cooperation. Treaties such as the 1988 UN Convention and regional bilateral agreements are vital in facilitating legal and operational harmonization. Nonetheless, the enforcement landscape remains complex, requiring continuous institutional strengthening, enhanced technological capabilities, and greater synchronization among law enforcement bodies across borders. These improvements are especially urgent in

high-risk areas like West Java, where local vulnerabilities intersect with international trafficking networks.

#### *Role of NCB Interpol Indonesia*

The National Central Bureau (NCB) Interpol Indonesia plays a critical role as a facilitator of international cooperation in law enforcement, especially in combating transnational narcotics crime. As the designated liaison between Indonesian law enforcement agencies—primarily the Indonesian National Police (POLRI) and the National Narcotics Board (BNN)—and their international counterparts, the NCB enables Indonesia to integrate into the global policing architecture coordinated by Interpol. This integration is not merely administrative but instrumental in operationalizing transnational efforts to disrupt and dismantle global drug trafficking networks. The NCB acts as the central hub for channeling international alerts, intelligence, and coordination that empower Indonesian authorities to respond effectively to cross-border narcotics threats (Interpol, 2023).

One of the most prominent tools employed by NCB Interpol Indonesia in this domain is the issuance and dissemination of Red Notices. Red Notices serve as formal requests to locate and provisionally arrest individuals pending extradition, particularly those involved in grave offenses such as international drug trafficking. In several high-profile cases, Indonesia has successfully issued Red Notices targeting fugitive drug lords whose criminal operations extended across Southeast Asia and beyond. Through collaboration with countries such as Malaysia, Thailand, and Australia, these notices have led to critical arrests and the unraveling of major drug syndicates operating regionally. Thus, the NCB's contribution in this area significantly enhances Indonesia's capacity to enforce international narcotics laws.

Despite its vital function, the NCB's operational capacity is constrained by limitations in institutional resources. Based on interviews with high-ranking POLRI officials, one of the pressing issues is the shortage of both trained personnel and financial support to meet the increasing demands of cross-border criminal investigations. As drug trafficking operations become more technologically advanced and geographically dispersed, the burden on the NCB to manage simultaneous operations intensifies. Without corresponding increases in funding, personnel, and technological capacity, the NCB's strategic impact risks being diluted (Interpol, 2023). This resource gap can hinder its ability to effectively coordinate transnational operations and limits its responsiveness to time-sensitive developments in the drug trade.

Political and legal complexities frequently undermine the efficiency of international law enforcement cooperation. Although Red Notices are a powerful instrument, their implementation is contingent upon the legal systems and political will of other states. Extradition processes, for instance, are often delayed or obstructed due to variations in bilateral agreements, diplomatic tensions, or legal incompatibilities. According to POLRI and BNN officials, there have been instances where foreign jurisdictions have been reluctant or slow to act on Indonesia's extradition requests for politically sensitive reasons. These delays can be detrimental, particularly when suspects exploit jurisdictional loopholes to avoid prosecution. Thus, political and legal barriers remain a significant hurdle for the NCB in fulfilling its mandate. Another core function of the NCB is to facilitate intelligence sharing among law enforcement bodies across jurisdictions. This

includes the dissemination of actionable intelligence related to narcotics trafficking routes, storage hubs, financial flows, and the identities of key individuals within trafficking organizations. In regions like West Java, where Indonesia faces significant narcotics inflows via maritime routes, real-time intelligence is essential. The NCB's collaboration with partners in the ASEANAPOL and Interpol networks enables Indonesian authorities to intercept shipments, uncover distribution networks, and monitor emerging threats. Intelligence sharing, when timely and accurate, serves as the backbone of effective narcotics interdiction strategies.

Nevertheless, a major operational challenge lies in the timeliness and reliability of shared intelligence. Several interviews with BNN and NCB officials indicated that bureaucratic procedures and technological disparities between countries often delay the flow of real-time data. For example, while Indonesia may possess intelligence on a suspicious vessel entering its waters, acting on such information depends on how swiftly foreign agencies respond or share complementary data. In many cases, these delays allow traffickers to evade detection or reroute their operations (Interpol, 2023). Such shortcomings in real-time intelligence exchange reduce the effectiveness of interdiction efforts and provide criminal networks the room to adapt and persist. This delay in intelligence transmission is symptomatic of broader institutional and infrastructural deficiencies that hinder transnational law enforcement. While the NCB has invested in secure communication systems and international liaison networks, the lack of standardized protocols across countries creates friction. Agencies operate within different technological ecosystems and legal standards, which limits interoperability. These inefficiencies often result in lost opportunities—drug shipments that go undetected, suspects who escape, and operations that fail to dismantle trafficking structures at their core. Addressing this requires a commitment not only from Indonesia but from the broader international community to streamline protocols and harmonize practices.

To overcome these challenges, Indonesia must reinforce the institutional capabilities of the NCB through increased investment in personnel training, technological modernization, and diplomatic engagement. The establishment of regional intelligence fusion centers, the adoption of secure AI-assisted data analysis tools, and the formalization of joint task forces with neighboring countries could significantly enhance the NCB's operational effectiveness. Additionally, legal harmonization through updated bilateral and multilateral agreements would improve extradition efficiency and reduce political friction. As transnational narcotics crime continues to evolve, the NCB must be positioned not only as a reactive entity but as a proactive, strategic force within the global law enforcement system (Interpol, 2023).

#### *Institutional Coordination and Challenges*

Institutional coordination between the National Central Bureau (NCB) Interpol Indonesia and local law enforcement agencies, such as the Indonesian National Police (POLRI) and the National Narcotics Board (BNN), has generally been effective, particularly in joint operations targeting transnational narcotics trafficking networks. The collaboration between these agencies has facilitated the exchange of intelligence, resources, and operational strategies, allowing them to

tackle complex criminal networks that span multiple countries. Through the NCB, Indonesia has been able to tap into global law enforcement networks and participate in coordinated efforts to dismantle drug trafficking operations that pose a significant threat to national and regional security. However, despite the overall effectiveness of this coordination, the research uncovered several challenges that hinder the smooth functioning of these interagency collaborations. One major issue identified was the presence of inconsistent communication channels between the NCB and various local law enforcement units. According to interviews with officials from POLRI and BNN, the flow of information between these agencies is sometimes delayed or disrupted, which can impede the timeliness of joint operations. In some cases, this lack of efficient communication has led to missed opportunities in intercepting narcotics shipments or apprehending criminals before they can escape to other jurisdictions.

In addition to communication challenges, the study also found a lack of standardized procedures for cross-agency collaboration. Each law enforcement agency involved in narcotics enforcement often has its own set of protocols and operational strategies, which can sometimes lead to discrepancies in how joint operations are carried out. For instance, one agency might prioritize intelligence gathering, while another may focus on tactical operations. Without a uniform approach, these differences can lead to misalignment in strategies and objectives, as highlighted by several interviewees. This misalignment can result in less coordinated efforts, making it harder to achieve the desired outcomes in transnational operations. Moreover, the varying levels of expertise within different law enforcement units can complicate collaboration further. The officials interviewed noted that while POLRI and BNN each bring valuable expertise to the table, there are instances where certain units may lack the specialized knowledge required to deal with complex international drug trafficking networks. This disparity in expertise can lead to operational inefficiencies, as agencies may not be fully prepared to handle the intricacies of cross-border narcotics operations. In some cases, law enforcement officers may struggle to understand the legal and procedural requirements of their counterparts in other countries, slowing down progress and potentially hindering the success of international efforts.

Despite these challenges, the collaboration between Indonesia's NCB and its international counterparts remains strong, primarily due to mutual trust and a shared goal of combating narcotics trafficking. The trust built over years of cooperative efforts has allowed the NCB to become an integral part of international networks, such as Interpol, and has facilitated smoother coordination during joint operations. As several interviewees from POLRI and BNN pointed out, the willingness to share information and work collaboratively is essential in overcoming the challenges that arise during the course of narcotics law enforcement. One significant aspect that has helped strengthen this collaboration is the shared goal of combating narcotics trafficking. Both Indonesia and its international partners understand the threat posed by transnational criminal organizations, and this common understanding helps bridge gaps that may otherwise exist. As one interviewee from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs explained, "Interpol Indonesia has become a crucial player in our diplomatic efforts to enhance regional cooperation in countering transnational crime." The involvement of the

NCB in regional initiatives demonstrates Indonesia's commitment to not only addressing domestic narcotics issues but also contributing to broader international efforts to disrupt the global drug trade.

Looking ahead, the continued success of the collaboration between Indonesia's NCB and its international partners will depend on addressing the challenges identified in the study. These include enhancing communication channels, standardizing interagency procedures, and ensuring that all participating law enforcement units are equipped with the necessary expertise and resources. Strengthening these aspects of cooperation will not only improve the effectiveness of national and international narcotics enforcement efforts but also contribute to the broader goal of combating transnational crime on a global scale.

#### *Case Studies and Impact on Narcotics Trafficking in West Java*

Several case studies discussed during the interviews underscored the pivotal role of NCB Interpol Indonesia in addressing narcotics trafficking, particularly in the region of West Java, which has become a hotspot for drug-related activities due to its proximity to international shipping routes. One of the most notable cases involved a coordinated operation between Indonesian authorities and their law enforcement counterparts in Malaysia and Singapore. This multi-country effort resulted in the seizure of a large shipment of methamphetamine and the arrest of multiple individuals involved in the trafficking syndicate. The operation highlighted the success of inter-agency collaboration and the effectiveness of Indonesia's integration into global law enforcement networks, with the NCB playing a crucial role in facilitating communication and logistical coordination between the countries. According to officials from the National Narcotics Board (BNN), this operation demonstrated the critical importance of timely and accurate intelligence exchange between law enforcement agencies across borders. The success of the operation depended heavily on the swift sharing of intelligence related to the trafficking network, the transportation routes, and the identities of the key players involved. The NCB, in its role as the intermediary between Indonesian agencies and Interpol, was instrumental in ensuring that intelligence was effectively communicated to the relevant authorities in Malaysia and Singapore, ensuring that coordinated action could be taken in real-time.

This case exemplifies the potential benefits of international cooperation and the effective use of NCB Interpol as a tool for global law enforcement efforts against narcotics trafficking. However, while the operation was successful in intercepting a significant drug shipment and making arrests, the results also highlighted certain limitations in Indonesia's ability to fully disrupt international trafficking networks. Despite the success of these operations, the interviews revealed that narcotics traffickers continuously adapt and evolve their strategies in response to law enforcement measures. As emphasized by a senior official from POLRI, *"The more we crack down on one route, the more traffickers innovate to find new ways to smuggle drugs into the country."* This observation underscores the dynamic and constantly evolving nature of the narcotics trade. Traffickers are highly adaptive and often find new ways to exploit weaknesses in the enforcement system. Whether through the use of new technologies, shifting trafficking routes, or employing more sophisticated methods of concealment, these criminal organizations are quick to adjust their tactics in response to enforcement actions.

The adaptability of narcotics traffickers represents a major challenge for international law enforcement. While joint operations like the one in West Java can produce short-term successes, they do not fully address the root causes of the problem or provide a long-term solution. The constant evolution of trafficking methods means that international law enforcement agencies must remain flexible and innovative in their strategies to stay ahead of criminal networks. As the trafficking routes and tactics evolve, so too must the methods used by law enforcement agencies like Interpol and national agencies to monitor and intercept illicit activities. This ever-changing landscape of the narcotics trade calls for a continuous re-evaluation of enforcement measures. The interviews revealed that, while agencies are successful in disrupting certain networks, the persistent adaptability of traffickers means that enforcement efforts can often feel like a whack-a-mole game, where dismantling one network simply leads to the emergence of another. As a result, maintaining the momentum of law enforcement efforts and ensuring that countries stay ahead of trafficking innovations is essential to long-term success.

One key aspect that has emerged from the case studies and interviews is the importance of innovation in law enforcement approaches. The constant evolution of the narcotics trade demands that law enforcement agencies not only respond quickly but also anticipate future developments. This includes investing in new technologies, data analytics, and cross-border coordination strategies to better track and intercept illicit drug shipments. The success of the West Java operation showed that when agencies are able to pool resources and intelligence, they can make significant progress in disrupting transnational narcotics operations, but this success must be matched by ongoing innovation and collaboration. The case studies discussed in the interviews underscore both the successes and challenges of international law enforcement cooperation, particularly through the NCB Interpol Indonesia. While joint operations have proven effective in addressing narcotics trafficking in regions like West Java, the narcotics trade's ability to adapt to enforcement measures remains a persistent challenge. The findings emphasize the ongoing need for flexibility, innovation, and collaboration in international law enforcement efforts. Only through sustained cooperation and continuous adaptation of enforcement strategies can the growing and evolving threat of transnational narcotics trafficking be effectively mitigated.

## CONCLUSION

The findings of this study suggest that NCB Interpol Indonesia has made notable progress in facilitating international cooperation in the fight against transnational narcotics crime. Through its role in coordinating operations and facilitating the exchange of intelligence, the NCB has contributed to several successful initiatives aimed at curbing narcotics trafficking. Its involvement in issuing Red Notices, organizing joint operations, and enhancing communication between Indonesian law enforcement and international counterparts has been crucial in addressing the challenges posed by the global drug trade. However, while these efforts have produced positive outcomes, there remain substantial challenges that hinder the full effectiveness of the NCB's operations. One of the key challenges identified is the lack of real-time intelligence sharing. Despite the NCB's central

role in facilitating the exchange of information between Indonesia and its international partners, there are gaps in the timely sharing of critical data that can impede the rapid response to emerging threats. As narcotics trafficking networks are increasingly agile and dynamic, the ability to exchange intelligence in real-time is essential for timely interventions. To address this issue, the study recommends enhancing real-time intelligence-sharing mechanisms within Interpol and across national agencies, ensuring that relevant information is swiftly communicated to operational teams on the ground.

Another challenge lies in the coordination between agencies within Indonesia. Although NCB Interpol Indonesia works closely with local agencies like POLRI and BNN, the study revealed that there is room for improvement in the way these agencies collaborate. Inconsistent communication channels and the lack of standardized procedures for cross-agency cooperation often result in misaligned strategies and delayed responses. Streamlining communication and establishing unified operational protocols across agencies will be critical in improving the overall efficiency of law enforcement efforts against narcotics trafficking. Additionally, the resource allocation for international legal cooperation remains a significant constraint. While Indonesia's commitment to combating narcotics trafficking is clear, the available resources for NCB Interpol Indonesia to engage in international operations are often insufficient to meet the growing demand for cross-border coordination. More robust investment in human resources, technological tools, and logistical support for the NCB would enable the agency to operate more effectively on the international stage. Increasing the budget for international legal cooperation, especially for joint investigations and extradition procedures, is essential to enhancing the NCB's capacity to disrupt transnational narcotics networks.

In terms of training and capacity-building, the study highlights the need for more comprehensive training programs for law enforcement personnel. As narcotics trafficking becomes increasingly complex, with new methods and technologies being employed by traffickers, it is vital that law enforcement agencies remain equipped with the knowledge and skills to effectively combat these threats. Training programs should focus not only on legal and procedural knowledge but also on practical skills related to intelligence gathering, cybercrime, and transnational crime coordination. By ensuring that officers are well-prepared to engage with international law enforcement counterparts, Indonesia can improve its ability to respond to narcotics-related challenges more efficiently.

The study also underscores the importance of regional and international collaboration in addressing the evolving nature of narcotics trafficking. While NCB Interpol Indonesia has made strides in building connections with neighboring countries, there is still much to be done in terms of fostering greater collaboration within regional law enforcement networks. Strengthening ties with countries in Southeast Asia, particularly in areas prone to trafficking routes, will enhance Indonesia's ability to tackle cross-border drug trade effectively. Building stronger partnerships with international organizations like Interpol, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and regional entities will create a more unified front against narcotics crime. Looking to the future, the continued strengthening of Indonesia's legal and institutional frameworks will be essential for

addressing the challenges posed by transnational narcotics trafficking. The combination of a proactive approach to international cooperation, coupled with improvements in internal coordination, intelligence sharing, resource allocation, and training, will allow Indonesia to adapt to the evolving threats posed by narcotics trafficking networks. By implementing these recommendations, Indonesia can enhance its ability to combat the growing drug trade and strengthen its role as an active participant in the international law enforcement community. The next few years will be critical in shaping the country's response to this persistent and dynamic challenge.

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