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## **Declare yourself to be possessing a Criminal Act Because You Have Magical Powers as Meant in Article 252 of Law No. 1 of 2023 concerning Criminal Code**

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*Received: 05-07-2023    Reviewed: 15-07-2023    Accepted: 07-08-2023*

### **Abstract**

The meaning of the criminal policy of witchcraft is a formal offense. Witchcraft as a formal delict does not necessarily mean the death of someone who has been bewitched as a result, but the relationship between the witchcraft and the person who hired her. That relationship will be seen as a criminal act of conspiracy. Witchcraft offenses aim to prevent the emergence of new crimes in the form of fraud, extortion, or the emergence of victims as a result of people claiming to have supernatural powers. The delict of witchcraft is also intended to prevent the practice of taking the law into their own hands by members of the public against someone who claims to have supernatural powers and is capable of committing acts that can cause suffering to other people. Efforts to criminalize acts of witchcraft aim to increase the sense of security and justice for the community in relation to realizing the ideals of the nation as part of national development, so that it requires law enforcement and a legal culture. In this case, the role of legal experts and all law enforcers in providing legal protection to the community is important.

**Keywords:** declare yourself, criminal act, magical powers, law enforcement, Criminal Code

### **Introduction**

Sorcery and divination began to be practiced long before human civilization began, and since then sorcerers and sorcerers have been trying to reinvent the ways in which witchcraft practices and rituals are carried out. The beginning of magic is in the form of natural rituals such as dancing, chanting, banging objects and pantomime movements with the aim of influencing nature. Various kinds of magic appear, such as magic to avoid accidents, prevent death, make it easier to catch/kill animals, etc.

Witchcraft is closely related to belief and religion as well as devil worship in ancient times. In the story that refers to Satan as a "resistance" figure who was originally valued and glorified by God, but became a figure who was arrogant and rebelled against God.

Furthermore, Satan is the result of human imagination as something evil and must be shunned by humans who crave peace and tranquility of life. However, those who worship Satan do not regard Satan as something evil and must be avoided. For followers of Satan the conception of Satan is a god who is a helper who is ready to help at any time. So here it has been seen that there is a difference in perception or interest between Satan's followers and God's followers as mentioned above. In other words, Satan's followers have become enemies for God's followers so that it becomes a confrontation for their interests in this world.(Clements, 2019)

It is said that in the 16th and 17th centuries many sorcerers/sorcerers obtained better social security, thus stimulating the need to become a sorcerer as one's career or profession. As a result of this kind of situation, magicians/sorcerers are exclusively part of the people's belief system. Many members of the community strengthen their position in society by providing various rewards for any services provided to the sorcerer/magician.(Güemes & Cusumano, 2022)

In 1490 in Europe arose the doctrine of seeking, finding and destroying sorcerers/sorcerers wherever they were. The hunt was approved by local religious leaders, so there was a large-scale hunt because of the fear of witchcraft that had spread widely. It often happens that a person is accused of being a witch, due to unbearable torture he claims to be a magician/magician. Finally punished by being burned or buried alive even though they were innocent, some were even expelled from their villages. Such a trial really does not reflect legal certainty and human rights which in essence have existed since humans were born. Laws regarding witchcraft/magic have actually been made since the Roman Empire and the same laws were made by the governments of England, France, Germany and other European countries. Which essentially prohibits all forms of magic such as making wax dolls, summoning demons, love spells, the practice of astrology and divination.(Ager, 2022)

But 2 centuries later, namely in 1951, all kinds of laws, courts and regulations regarding sorcerers/magicians which were implemented in various places only caused shock and chaos in society so that the laws on witchcraft/magic's were abolished. This development is really encouraging for the sake of human rights, so that there will be no more abuse of authority which results in someone becoming a scapegoat for being accused of witchcraft. On the other hand, sorcerers and sorcery got new fuel, became rampant again and were free to carry out their practices, so that the victims of magic/magic continued to fall.

In Indonesia, the position of shamans in the social category is manifested in society as their expertise and work related to magic/magic and medicine. *Dukuns* are highly valued and expected in community life but are sometimes feared and avoided. Within these limits, apart from being a shaman as a healing force, a dukun can also act as someone who can harm other people.(Altinay & Dağdeviren, 2022)

The practice of *dukuns* like this is considered detrimental and shocks the community. In reality, the practice of witchcraft/magic in Indonesia often occurs and creates side effects that can be categorized as criminal acts that harm and threaten society. The social reactions that arise against the practice of witchcraft/magic in Indonesia include, among other things, abuse, beatings, murders aimed at sorcerers/magic so that these crimes are threatened in the Criminal Code.(Gultom & Bago, 2018)

The meaning of the criminal policy of witchcraft in the Criminal Code is a formal offense. Witchcraft as a formal delict does not necessarily mean the death of someone who

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has been bewitched as a result, but the relationship between the witchcraft and the person who hired her. That relationship will be seen as a criminal act of conspiracy. Witchcraft offenses aim to prevent the emergence of new crimes in the form of fraud, extortion, or the emergence of victims as a result of people claiming to have supernatural powers. The delict of witchcraft is also intended to prevent the practice of taking the law into their own hands by members of the public against someone who claims to have supernatural powers and is capable of committing acts that can cause suffering to other people. (Surya et al., 2020)

Efforts to criminalize acts of witchcraft aim to increase the sense of security and justice for the community in relation to realizing the ideals of the nation as part of national development, so that it requires law enforcement and a legal culture. In this case, the role of legal experts and all law enforcers in providing legal protection to the community is important. The normative meaning, witchcraft is a formal offense that is prohibited is the action not the result. The meaning of social integration is an effort to support the realization of a law-abiding society, so the criminalization of witchcraft is aimed at maintaining social stability so that they protect each other and not retaliate by taking the law into their own hands. (Baharudin, 2007)

### *Formulation of the problem*

- a. What is the reason for the legalization of declaring oneself capable of committing a crime because it has supernatural powers as referred to in Article 252 Law No. 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code?
- b. What offenses are used in Article 252 of Law No. 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code?

## **Literature Review**

### *Principles of Restorative Justice*

The concept of a restorative justice approach is an approach that focuses on conditions for the creation of justice and balance for the perpetrators of crime and the victims themselves. Procedural and criminal justice mechanisms that focus on punishment are changed to dialogue and mediation processes to create an agreement on a more just and balanced settlement of criminal cases for victims and perpetrators. (Br.Siregar et al., 2023)

Restorative justice itself has the meaning of restoring justice, while restoration here has a broader meaning than what is known in the conventional criminal justice process of restitution or compensation for victims. With this restorative justice approach, this approach focuses on the direct participation of perpetrators, victims and the community in the process of resolving criminal cases. Restorative justice is considered as a new form of thinking that can be used to address dissatisfaction with the current performance of the criminal justice system. (Sulbadana et al., 2023)

## **Research Method**

Type research used that is normative juridical approach research used is approach legislation (State Approach) and Approach Case (Case Approach) by taking primary sources of legal materials obtained through interviews, legislation and jurisprudence, then secondary

legal materials sourced from literature, books, opinions of legal experts, research results, as well as tertiary legal materials originating from dictionaries and encyclopedias.

Method analysis study, this is with decipher condition nor facts about object research. Legal facts this analyzed with various law, theory as well as doctrine or opinion purposeful expert. In order to find the answer on problem to be discussed further, the data obtained from study this in the form of data from results studies libraries and studies document to ingredients primary, secondary, and law tertiary.

## **Results and Discussion**

### ***The reason for the legalization of declaring oneself capable of committing a crime is because it has supernatural powers as referred to in Article 252 of Law No. 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code.***

From ancient times to modern times, when we look at the fact that witchcraft still exists, apart from the need for rules governing witchcraft itself because of the acts of witchcraft that exist in people's lives . Recently, news emerged of accusations against one person or a family having occult knowledge or being a witch doctor which ended in chaos and vigilantism carried out by residents. Thus, in this case, it is very necessary to have a criminal law regulation against the crime of witchcraft in the Criminal Code, because witchcraft can always occur anywhere, besides that criminal law does not recognize retroactive or retro-active.(Al Buchori et al., 2021)

It was stated that the drafting of the Criminal Code cannot be separated from the idea/policy of developing a national legal system based on Pancasila as the values of life to aspire to. This means that the renewal of the national criminal law should also be based on and oriented towards the basic ideas of Pancasila which contain in it a balance of values/ideas/paradigms (1) religious morals (Divinity); (2) humanity (humanistic); (3) nationality; (4) democracy; (5) social justice. The value system of Indonesian society is tied to its national legal system, namely the balanced value of Pancasila.(Fitrah, 2021)

If the national legal system is seen as a legal substance, then it can be said that the national legal system is the Pancasila legal system. When elaborated further, it will be based on/oriented to the three pillars/balanced values of Pancasila, namely oriented to "Divine" values (religious morality), oriented to Human values (humanistic), and oriented to "Societal" values (nationalistic, democratic, social justice . Pancasila is the source of all sources of law, so that all legal provisions included in efforts to reform the law, especially criminal law must make Pancasila a source. So that the reform of criminal law reflects and contains the values of the precepts in Pancasila. Renewal of criminal law should be carried out by exploring and studying unwritten sources of law and legal values that live in society, among others in religious law and customary law. Law is created from extracting values that live in society, because that's why law created in accordance with the circumstances and conditions of the local community.(Harianja et al., 2019)

Indonesia is a country known for its diverse culture with all kinds of different customs, beliefs and habits in each region. Spiritual life in Indonesia is very strong and has religion which is a moral and spiritual source which is considered as part of a tradition that is never abandoned. Belief in supernatural powers or occult knowledge is part of the culture of human

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life. The practice of belief in supernatural powers is generally done in the form of witchcraft. Witchcraft is black magic that is very detrimental and endangers other people or the lives of the surrounding community which can be performed remotely and at close range which is usually fatal for the victim affected by witchcraft, such as contracting a strange disease which can even result in someone's death. Santet is not only developing in Indonesia, but also developing in other countries. (Surya et al., 2020)

The definition of witchcraft is an occult act performed with charms, spells, amulets, and involving the devil, so that it can affect the body, heart, or mind of the person being enchanted without having to touch it. The harm caused by the act of witchcraft can be seen directly and clearly on the victim of witchcraft, but it is difficult to explain logically or medically. The consequences of witchcraft can make people suffer for a long time, both physically and mentally, so that the victim of witchcraft can die. In Indonesia, the problem of witchcraft has become a social phenomenon that has led to prolonged polemics. Witchcraft by the community is considered a heinous act that causes social unrest and harms the community, but it becomes a dilemma because until now there is no positive law that regulates witchcraft as a form of guaranteeing legal certainty in society. The criminalization policy is to stipulate an act that was originally not a crime to become a crime in a statutory regulation.

In essence, the criminalization policy is part of the criminal policy by using criminal law means, and therefore it is included as part of the criminal law policy. Witchcraft is an act that is considered against the law and should be criminalized. Witchcraft is a spiritual crime (metaphysics), a new crime with an old dimension. Philosophically, witchcraft can be classified as a crime because witchcraft is recognized and believed to exist in people's lives which causes anxiety and loss, but cannot be prevented and eradicated through law due to difficulties in proving it. So from these reasons it is necessary to form a new concept of criminal acts regarding witchcraft which aims to prevent acts of witchcraft from happening.

In the view of Islam, emphasized in his research findings, that Islamic law strictly prohibits and forbids people who come to the point where they even believe in the words of witchcraft, especially people who have knowledge of witchcraft who provide assistance to people who ask for their help. Because it is an act of shirk and is hated by Allah SWT. (M & Irfan, 1970)

***Article 252 of Law No. 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code reads***

Any person who declares himself to have supernatural powers, informs, gives hope, offers or provides service assistance to other people that because of his actions can cause illness, death or mental or physical suffering of a person, shall be punished with imprisonment for a maximum of 1 year and 6 months or a fine at most category IV; If each person referred to in paragraph (1) commits the said act to seek profit or make a livelihood or habit, the sentence can be added 1/3.

Article 252 of this crime is a formal offense so there is no need for consequences arising from the crime. Actions that can be punished if someone states that he has the power to cause disease etc. This crime needs to be criminalized because it is highly criminogenic (can lead to other crimes) and victimogenic (potentially can cause harm to various interests). Apart from

that, it can also provide protection for individual interests (prevent fraudulent practices) and protect religiosity and peace of religious life which is harassed by shirk. (Faisal et al., 2023)

The act of witchcraft in Indonesia has resulted in several forms of unrest in society, including the large number of perpetrators of witchcraft who are not punished like other criminals, the number of victims of witchcraft is increasing every day, the families of the victims are demanding justice due to the loss they experience as a result of the act of witchcraft. In addition, the destruction caused by witchcraft crimes includes social chaos, insecurity, and even worse situations, such as damage to the balance of society's sense of justice, distrust of the government, reduced tolerance among members of society and dysfunction of the state law apparatus. (Anwar, 2021)

An example of a case of witchcraft that made the image of Indonesian law enforcement worse was the case of the 1998 witchcraft massacre in East and West Java as an implication of people's distrust of the law. Cases of accusations against a number of residents who were assumed to be witchcraft witches until the massacre of 250-300 people in the Banyuwangi, Tasik, and Genesis areas in 2010 in North Tapanuli, North Sumatra where a family was burned alive in their house because the local community suspected one family is said to have occult or witchcraft knowledge, secondly in 2011 in Kekes Hamlet, Trenggalek, East Java this incident was the same as the incident in 2010 where a family suspected of having witchcraft or witchcraft was burned alive in his own house, the third in 2012 in August in Malang, East Java, the grave of a person suspected of being a witch doctor was dismantled by the community because the community did not want this witch doctor to be buried in the village. This happens because the community wants to uphold justice on their own, without regard to the rules and norms of the law that apply. As a result, when accusations were made against a group of people, the community reacted negatively by carrying out sweeps, arrests, which were followed by massacres without any prior legal process. (Saputra, 2012)

This situation illustrates that law enforcement in Indonesia is not running as it should. Such law enforcement causes a loss of confidence in the law itself. State guarantees for security or a sense of security which is a human right of every citizen as a form of respect for human values themselves. Furthermore, the meaning of the criminal policy of witchcraft in Article 252 Paragraph (2) is intended for those who work as witch doctors. Certainly the witchcraft shamans receive benefits from the tenants or users of their services (Pidana, 2020). And usually this profit is not a small profit, so that the profession of witchcraft shamans can be used as a promising livelihood. By not being positive about witchcraft as a criminal offence, in reality someone who has knowledge of witchcraft can freely offer witchcraft services without fear. This is what prompted the government to include criminalization articles on witchcraft.

Besides that, it is also to prevent vigilante behavior by the community against someone who is accused of being a shaman or perpetrator of witchcraft. Attempts to criminalize witchcraft in general aim to: a) prevent public fraud in general which can be carried out by people who claim to have supernatural powers to help commit crimes (false shamans) b) prevent people from seeking parties who claim to have supernatural powers to help commit crimes c) prevent the public from taking the law into their own hands (eigenrichtim) against people who are deemed to have supernatural powers d) encourage the public to always think rationally, objectively and scientifically for the betterment of the nation and state. (Pundari,

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Ketut N, Tjukup, 2020)

Whereas based on the intent of Article 252 to prevent the practice of taking the law into their own hands, the value construction is built on the basic idea of prevention orientated towards social defense policy. The value perspective that you want to emphasize is reflected in relative theory characterized by the fact that the purpose of crime is to prevent crime from happening and as a means of correcting criminals. So that the formulation of criminal policies on witchcraft can prevent witchcraft practices that can harm other people. However, the act of witchcraft is an act that is detrimental and deserves to be punished or criminalized. Even though there are problems in proving the offense of witchcraft, at least through the upcoming criminal policy it is hoped that it will be able to tackle the crime of witchcraft in society in a preventive manner.

***What offenses are used in Article 252 of Law No. 1 of 2023 concerning the Criminal Code?***

Offenses in criminal law can be divided into formal offenses and material offenses. Formal offenses are offenses whose formulation places more emphasis on actions without requiring any consequences from those actions. So a formal offense is considered to have been committed if the perpetrator has committed a series of acts formulated in the formulation of the offense. Consequences are not a measure of the offense that has been committed or not, but emphasizes the deed. Philosophically, the unlawful nature of the offense of black magic is an act that is disgraceful according to law. Qualification of the elements of the offense formulation becomes the basis for formulating the act of witchcraft.

Philosophy of punishment for the offense of witchcraft, criminal law is not used as a means of revenge, but aims to prevent acts of witchcraft from being carried out. If someone declares himself to have supernatural powers and at the same time offers himself with his magical abilities to cause suffering to other people, then this act can be said to fulfill the elements of the offense formulation. The intent of the legislators, the formulation of formal offenses, is to prohibit certain actions from being carried out without requiring any consequences from these actions to occur. Formal offenses are considered to have been completed if the perpetrator has completed the (series) of actions formulated in the offense formulation. In a formal offense, the consequence is not an important matter and is not a requirement for the completion of the offense.

Proof in formal offenses is sufficient by proving that a person has committed the intended act, namely the relationship between the sorcerer and the person who hired him so that this relationship will be seen as a crime of conspiracy. If proven, then that person can be subject to criminal sanctions. If the act has fulfilled all the elements contained in the formulation of a crime, the act is a crime. Obstacles lead to proof, even though witchcraft does not need to be proven because it is still difficult to accept logically. What needs to be proven is the dissemination of someone's ability to use witchcraft, whether it is for profit or not. The legal realm is not the place to prove the existence of witchcraft.

According to the Chief of Police Regulation No. 8 of 2021 concerning the handling of criminal acts based on restorative justice, in handling them must meet general and special requirements. General, which applies to the handling of criminal acts based on restorative justice in the activities of carrying out the functions of the Criminal Investigation,

investigation or investigation. Whereas specifically, it applies to the handling of criminal acts based on restorative justice in investigations or investigations. These general requirements include material and formal. Material, among others, does not cause anxiety and/or rejection from the community, does not impact social conflict, does not have the potential to divide the nation, is not radicalism and separatism, and is not a repeat offender based on a court decision. While the formal includes peace between the two parties and the fulfillment of the victims' rights and the responsibilities of the perpetrators.

Fulfillment of victims' rights and perpetrators' responsibilities can be in the form of returning goods, compensating for losses, compensating for costs incurred as a result of criminal acts, and compensating for damages caused as a result of criminal acts. Fulfillment of the rights as mentioned above is evidenced by a statement in accordance with the agreement signed by the victim.

## **Conclusion**

The reconstruction of the values that want to be protected in the criminal policy of witchcraft is adapted to the basic idea of reforming Indonesian criminal law, which originates from the National Legal System (SISKUMNAS) which aims to maintain the balanced values of Pancasila, in accordance with the philosophy of the nation.

On the other hand, the reconstruction of values that want to be protected are values that live and grow in society (religion, custom and culture) in Indonesia. Uphold the religious cultural values of the Indonesian people. The meaning of the criminal policy of witchcraft in the Criminal Code is a formal offense. Witchcraft as a formal delict does not necessarily mean the death of someone who has been bewitched as a result, but the relationship between the witchcraft and the person who hired her.

That relationship will be seen as a criminal act of conspiracy. Witchcraft offenses aim to prevent the emergence of new crimes in the form of fraud, extortion, or the emergence of victims.

As a result of people claiming to have supernatural powers, the crime of witchcraft is also intended to prevent vigilante practices by members of the public against someone who claims to have supernatural powers and is capable of committing acts that can cause suffering to other people.

Efforts to criminalize acts of witchcraft aim to increase the sense of security and justice for the community in relation to realizing the ideals of the nation as part of national development, so that it requires law enforcement and a legal culture. In this case, the role of legal experts and all law enforcers in providing legal protection to the community is important. The normative meaning, witchcraft is a formal offense that is prohibited is the action not the result.

The meaning of social integration is an effort to support the realization of a law-abiding society, so the criminalization of witchcraft is aimed at maintaining social stability so that they protect each other and not retaliate by taking the law into their own hands.

Philosophically, witchcraft can be classified as a crime because witchcraft is recognized and believed to exist in people's lives which causes anxiety and loss, but cannot be prevented and eradicated through law due to difficulties in proving it. So from these reasons it is necessary to form a new concept of criminal acts regarding witchcraft which aims to prevent



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acts of witchcraft from happening.

Philosophically, occult science in general is a type of science for the purpose of having the ability or performing miraculous or occult acts, acts that are not proper, which exceed the capabilities of ordinary humans, often also referred to as supernatural or metaphysical sciences, because it involves things that are not visible or visible to the ordinary human eye and are out of the ordinary.

Culture influences the law in society. Mysticism as knowledge that influences the human mindset eventually appears in the form of culture. The process of culture influences the law to become a legal culture. Philosophically, the existence of mystical in legal culture can be seen from three aspects namely, ontological aspect, epistemological aspect, and axiological aspect.

This can be an obstacle to legal development in adapting to changes and progress in the world today. In this way, the existence of mysticism as a legal culture must be placed in the right position and must be accompanied by appropriate legal verification efforts if it is to become part of a written provision, as is the case in Article 252 of the Criminal Code regarding witchcraft.

The normative meaning, witchcraft is a formal offense that is prohibited is the action not the result. The meaning of social integration is an effort to support the realization of a law-abiding society, so the criminalization of witchcraft is aimed at maintaining social stability so that they protect each other and not retaliate by taking the law into their own hands.

From a juridical point of view, there are no regulations that strictly regulate the existence of dukun santet, resulting in people being more inclined to choose "public justice" or taking the law into their own hands for those suspected of being witchcraft by committing acts of violence which sometimes result in death.

Actions carried out by the community on the grounds that if the perpetrators who are suspected of being witchcraft are handed over to law enforcement officials, it is likely that they will not get the justice expected by the community.

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