Legal Protection of the Rights of the Defendant in Criminal Trials through Electronic Media

Ida Bagus Anggapurana Pidada
Faculty of Law Mahendradatta University
Jl. Ken Arok No 12 Denpasar
E-mail: ajuzt.angga@gmail.com

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.51825/nhk.v4i1.11078

ABSTRACT
The Covid19 pandemic also affected the law enforcement process in Indonesia, including the law enforcement process in court. In the online trial, the problem is how the position / existence of the judge who should be able to control the trial process who is not in the same room as the defendant. It is feared that the existence of this difference in location will result in the weakening of the judge's decision making to be able to dig deeply the hidden truths in a case. Operational constraints in the availability of an internet connection also have the potential to become a problem in the implementation of criminal proceedings. Trials with electronic media are one of the modern legal solutions that cannot be avoided along with the advancement of the digital world and globalization. Even so, the rights of the defendant in the trial using electronic media must also be guaranteed protection for the sake of upholding justice in the law. This type of research is normative juridical legal research. The normative juridical approach is a research that examines the study of documents, namely using various secondary data such as statutory regulations, court decisions, legal theory, and it can be in the form of the opinions of scholars. Legal protection for the defendant in a trial using electronic media is regulated in the Supreme Court Regulation No. 4 of 2020 concerning Electronic Administration and Trial of Criminal Cases in Courts. Legal protection for the rights of the defendant has been regulated in Law Number 8 of 1981 concerning Criminal Procedure Law in articles 50 to Article 68. In addition, legal protection for the rights of the accused as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (DUHAM) also applies.

Keywords: rights, defendant, electronics, trial
ABSTRAK


Kata Kunci: hak, terdakwa, elektronik, persidangan
Preliminary

Human rights in the Indonesian constitution are clearly regulated in Chapter XA which is regulated in Article 28 A to Article 28 J of the 1945 Constitution. Regulations related to Human Rights are regulated to strengthen the existence of legal protection for every citizen to obtain justice before the law. Legal protection is all efforts in providing protection for rights and providing assistance to provide a sense of security to everyone, legal protection for victims of crime as part of community protection, legal protection can be provided in various forms, such as through written law or unwritten law such as for example, the provision of restitution, compensation, medical services and legal assistance.

Legal protection is also an action or effort that aims to protect people from arbitrary actions by the authorities who are not in accordance with the rule of law, to create order and order so as to enable humans to enjoy their dignity as humans. In realizing legal protection that upholds the principle of justice it is affirmed in law enforcement as stipulated in Article 27 Paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, reads: ¹

"All citizens are equal before the law and government and are obliged to uphold the law and government without exception." ²

Every citizen has the same rights to legal protection in an equal position. This equality includes equality which can guarantee the rights of the defendant at trial. Trial in the Big Indonesian Dictionary, namely the root word session which means meeting to discuss something. ³ A trial that is open to the public is basically the right of the defendant, namely the right to be tried in a court session that is open to the public. This principle is also referred to in Article 153 paragraph (3) of the Criminal Procedure Code: ⁴

"For the purpose of examination, the head judge at trial opens the trial and declares it open to the public, except in cases concerning decency or the accused are children."

In principle, there is an obligation to carry out an open trial to provide legal protection to both the victim and the accused. Ideally, a trial is one that is clear, visible and known to the public. Illegal and clandestine trials may result in the failure to fulfill the provisions of Article 153 paragraph (3) of the Criminal Procedure Code so that the court's decision can be canceled for the sake of upholding the law. ⁵

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic since the end of 2019 has not only had a high mortality rate but also caused various other problems, both economic and social problems. Facing this, governments in various countries are trying with all their efforts to minimize losses, both by reducing the number of casualties and overcoming economic problems in society. ⁶

The Covid19 pandemic also affected the law enforcement process in Indonesia, including the law enforcement process in court. This is because the country is trying its best to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic to save people's lives and reduce the spread of the pandemic. It is also feared that the court could become a means of

---


⁴ Ibid.

spreading this pandemic so that a Cooperation Agreement between the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia, the Attorney General's Office, the Ministry of Law and Human Rights of the Republic of Indonesia Number 402 / DJU / HM.01.1 / 4/2020, Number KEP.17 / E / Ejp / 4 has been arranged. / 2020 and Pas Number 06.HH.05.05 Year 2020 concerning the Implementation of Trials by Teleconference or also known as using electronic media. 

The Supreme Court (MA) also issued Supreme Court Regulation No. 4 of 2020 concerning Electronic Administration and Trial of Criminal Cases in Courts. This regulation regulates how the implementation of criminal proceedings in criminal cases within the scope of the general court, military, and courts using digital technology with electronic media.

In the online trial, the problem is how the position / existence of the judge who should be able to control the trial process who is not in the same room as the defendant. It is feared that the existence of this difference in location will result in the weakening of the judge's decision making to be able to dig deeply the hidden truths in a case. Operational constraints in the availability of an internet connection also have the potential to become a problem in the implementation of criminal proceedings.

The United States enacted The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) as a result of the 116th Congress of The United States of America which was held on January 3, 2020 in Washington DC. The CARES Act is one of the public legal instruments that implements fiscal stimulus policies and allows the use of video conferencing in criminal cases in court during the emergency period that has been determined since the President of the United States declared an Emergency Statement through the National Emergencies Act until 30 days after the Emergency Statement is revoked. The application of the use of video conference or phone conference media is used in certain criminal cases and juvenile delinquency cases.

The obstacles encountered in the regulation of Virtual Courts in the United States are more or less similar to regulatory practices in Indonesia. Regulations regarding Virtual Courts in the Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure are often inconsistent with Supreme Court Decisions. This often raises the question of whether Virtual Courts are unconstitutional or not. And the need to standardize the implementation of the same Virtual Courts in all fifty states with the same technology standards.

The online case registration system in the e-court application, although it is only at the stage of the case registration level, there have been seen several levels of satisfaction for justice seekers relating to the efficiency of case payments as a form of quick, simple and low cost services, with details as follows

1. The system is designed to save time and money,
2. Case Payments in the system can be done in multi-channel channels,
3. Documents are not scattered because the system is automatically archived.

Trials with electronic media are one of the modern legal solutions that cannot

---


be avoided along with the advancement of the digital world and globalization. Even so, the rights of the defendant in the trial using electronic media must also be guaranteed protection for the sake of upholding justice in the law. Technological sophistication requires a modern lawyer to protect the right of the defendant, especially in the field of litigation in the court which is now in the e-court system. It cannot be denied, the e-court system has not been categorized perfectly in its implementation.

Therefore, it is necessary to further discuss how the rights of the defendant must be protected even though the trial uses electronic media both based on the criminal procedure law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (DUHAM), or based on the Perma which regulates the use of electronic media in criminal proceedings.

Research methods

This type of research is normative juridical legal research. The normative juridical approach is a research that examines the study of documents, namely using various secondary data such as statutory regulations, court decisions, legal theory, and it can be in the form of the opinions of scholars. This research built based on secondary data in the form of theory, meaning and substance from various literature and laws and regulations, and primary data obtained, observations and field studies, and then analyzed by normative laws and theory. According to Soerjono Soekanto, a normative juridical approach is legal research which is carried out by examining library materials or secondary data as the basic material for research by conducting a search on regulations and literature related to the problem under study. The approach used in this study is the case approach (The Case Approach) and the statutory approach (The Statute Approach). The data analysis method used in this research is descriptive qualitative analysis method.

Result and Discussion

Legal Protection of the Defendant based on the Criminal Procedure Code

According to Philipus M. Hadjon, legal protection is a protection of human dignity and recognition of human rights owned by legal subjects. This legal protection protects the legal subject from arbitrariness. The legal protection originates from Pancasila and the concept of the rule of law. In essence, legal protection is the right to be obtained by all citizens fairly and equitably, including to the accused in court proceedings. This legal protection aims to protect the defendant from arbitrary actions by the authorities who often issue policies that are not in accordance with the rule of law. Therefore, legal protection is needed to create order and order in society. Legal protection for the accused in court through electronic media can be seen in various sources of law, both national and international law.

Article 1 number 15 Law Number 8 Year 1981 Concerning Criminal Procedure Law Defendant is a suspect who is prosecuted, examined and tried in court. Although the defendant is a person who based on provisional evidence is suspected of committing a crime, the defendant is also a human who has the right to be protected. Often court decisions result in injustice if there are mistakes in the process of proving a case. Therefore the defendant was given the opportunity to provide a defense of the charges against the criminal acts he had committed.

The rights of suspects and defendants are regulated in Law Number 8 of 1981 concerning Criminal Procedure Law in articles 50 to Article 68. Various aspects of
the rights of a suspect and defendant are protected by this law, including:

1. The right to a prompt hearing and trial. (Article 50). This guarantee is to prevent the possibility of a prolonged trial which causes the fate of a person in detention to be swayed which results in weakening of legal certainty and the potential for arbitrary and improper treatment by state officials. This arrangement is also intended to make the trial run simpler, faster and at a more affordable cost (speedy trial).

2. Right to be notified in clear & easy to understand language (Article 51)

3. The right to provide information freely to investigators or judges (Article 52). The free testimony of the defendants in court greatly affects the verdict taken by the judge on the legal case that befell him. Therefore, a suspect or defendant must be guaranteed to be free from various pressures, coercion, torture and fear from other parties in the process of case examination.

4. The right to get an interpreter (Article 53), the defendant is also given special rights if he is mute or deaf as stipulated in article 178.

5. The right to self-select legal counsel at each level of examination. (Article 54)

6. The right is granted free legal counsel by the State to accompany a suspect or defendant at every level of examination. (Article 56)

7. Right to communicate with legal counsel (Article 57)

8. The right to contact and receive visits from private doctors (Article 58)

9. The right to contact the family for legal assistance or guarantees for suspension (Article 59)

10. Right to contact and receive visits (Article 60 and article 61)

11. The right to write to legal advisors and be provided with writing instruments (Article 62)

12. The right to visit clergy (Article 63)

13. The right to be tried before a trial open to the public (Article 64)

14. Right to present witnesses and expert witnesses (Article 65)

15. Right to appeal (Article 67)

16. The right to claim compensation and rehabilitation. A suspect or defendant has the right to demand compensation for being arrested, detained, prosecuted or due to other actions, without any reason based on law or because of mistakes regarding the person or the law applied to him.

Legal protection for the defendant has been regulated in the criminal procedure law, so even though the trial is conducted through electronic media, it must still ensure the fulfillment of the defendant's rights. Thus, the rights of defendants as regulated in the Criminal Procedure Code must also be considered in providing legal protection for the accused for the sake of upholding the presumption of innocence before a final and binding court decision is made. In order to provide legal protection in online courts, before using video conferencing in an oral argument, the parties must conclude an agreement (agreement) that determines what media or platform to use.

Legal Protection of the Defendant Based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Major of the characteristics of human rights (HAM) is universal because of that Human Right applies equally to all people. These human rights cannot be reduced, separated, and also cannot be revoked. This is because human rights are naturally owned by everyone from the time they are still in the womb. Human
Legal Protection of the Defendant in Criminal Trials through Electronic Media

Rights are also owned by suspects and defendants who are guaranteed in the regulation of international human rights and national human rights. This is confirmed in the statement contained in article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which stipulates that every human being develops independently and is equal in dignity and dignity.

In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), there are several articles which regulate the protection of the rights of suspects and defendants. The rights include:

1. The right not to be tortured (torture), cruel and inhuman treatment which can also be degrading.
2. (Article 5 UDHR)
3. The right to complain in the event of a violation of the defendant/suspect's human rights which is guaranteed by the Constitution or the law, the defendant has the right to have the opportunity to report to a competent national court (Article 8 UDHR).
4. The right to be treated properly which no defendant may be treated arbitrarily to be arrested, demonstrated, or thrown away (Article 9 UDHR)
5. The right to be treated fairly because everyone has the right in the same place so that it can be enforced fairly and openly by a free and impartial court in all charges against him (Article 10 of the UDHR)
6. The right to the principle of presumption of innocence of the criminal act alleged to have come to him must not come until his guilt can be proven legally by the court (Article 11 DUHAM)

Legal Protection of the Defendant in Electronic Criminal Court Trials.

Trial arrangements through electronic media have been regulated in Perma Number 4 of 2020 concerning the Administration and Trial of Criminal Cases in Electronic Courts. However, the rights of the defendant are not specifically regulated in this Perma. Therefore, the rights of the defendant still follow the criminal procedure law in public hearings. However, there are special arrangements that are regulated in this Perma, including:

1. Trial Preparation

In the electronic trial it is regulated in article 7 paragraph 2 that both the defendant and the legal advisor must be in the same room so that it will better guarantee the defendant's rights to be able to communicate with his legal advisor. Even though in article 7 paragraph 2 it has been clearly regulated to protect the communication rights of the accused, in article 7 paragraph 3 it is stipulated that if this is not possible, the legal advisor must convene at the prosecutor's office or the court. In this case, there are conditions that provide room to limit the rights of the accused to be assisted directly by a legal advisor. This impossible condition is still subjective in nature so that it has the potential to harm the rights of the accused.

2. Witness Examination

The use of electronic media as a tool to provide testimony has fulfilled several conditions such as keterangan oral someone session before pengadilan (in accordance with Article 185 paragraph 1 of the Criminal Code), dengannya sworn in earlier (in accordance with Article 275 paragraph (2) jo.Pasal 303 HIR and Article 160 paragraph (3) jo. 185 paragraph (7) Criminal Code) and t Entang events.

---


13”PERMA_NOMOR_4_TAHUN_2020_1(1).pdf,” n.d.
Witness examination is determined in accordance with the criminal procedure law. The examination of witnesses is carried out in the courtroom even though it is carried out electronically as stipulated in article 11 paragraph 2.

Even so, in Article 11 paragraph 3 of Perma Number 4 of 2020 it regulates the possibility that the examination of witnesses / expert witnesses will be carried out in various places as determined by the judge / panel of judges. The existence of conditions that allow separate places between the judge and the witnesses will weaken the examination of witnesses by judges who are not in the same room. This condition can be detrimental to the defendant’s rights in the witness testimony which can explain the case that occurred to relieve the defendant. Trials using electronic media can affect the process of examining witnesses, expert witnesses and evidence because witnesses cannot be confronted directly, making it difficult for public prosecutors, judges and legal advisors to explore facts through questions to witnesses / expert witnesses.

3. Examination of the Defendant

The examination of the accused is determined in accordance with the criminal procedure law. Electronic examination of a defendant is regulated in Article 13 paragraph 2. The testimony of the accused was heard from the place where the defendant was detained accompanied / not accompanied by his legal advisor. If the defendant is not detained, his testimony is heard in court, prosecutor’s office or other places determined by the judge / panel of judges through a ruling. The existence of a separate place between the accused and the judge / panel of judges can weaken the rights of the defendant to be able to convey his testimony in self-defense.

Online trials can affect the evidentiary process because the defendant cannot be confronted directly, making it difficult for public prosecutors, judges and legal advisors to explore facts through questions to the defendant.

It cannot be denied that in trials in Indonesia there are still defendants who have been wrongly arrested. Therefore, the statement of the defendant is still very important to be heard clearly by the judge / panel of judges because it is not certain that the defendant is guilty in the case or at least the defendant’s guilt is not as serious as what the public prosecutor has been charged.

4. Textual Constraints at Trial

Court regulations using electronic media often experience technical problems in their application. Therefore, due to natural event of technical problems such as problems of electronic device or network connection has been set up regulations to be able to delay the criminal proceedings for a maximum of 60 minutes. In case of experiencing technical problems, the officer is obliged to fix the disturbance so that it can run properly and the trial must be opened immediately when the disturbance has ended. If the disturbance does not end for 60 minutes, the trial can be postponed and resumed according to the trial schedule as stipulated in Article 17 of the Supreme Court Regulation Number 4 of 2020. Meanwhile, public access is regulated in accordance with the prevailing laws and regulations. Users of applications using the Zoom, webex or applications online more during the trial.

---


using electronic media poses potential risks diretasnya data and its use to be able to disrupt proceedings.

**Closing**

Legal protection for the defendant in a trial using electronic media is regulated in the Supreme Court Regulation No. 4 of 2020 concerning Electronic Administration and Trial of Criminal Cases in Courts. Legal protection for the rights of the defendant has been regulated in Law Number 8 of 1981 concerning Criminal Procedure Law in articles 50 to Article 68. In addition, legal protection for the rights of the accused as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (DUHAM) also applies which regulates the protection of the rights of suspects and defendants. Trial arrangements through electronic media have provided protection in case preparation, witness examination and examination of defendants. Legal protection for the defendant also has been regulated in the criminal procedure law, such as

1. The right to a prompt hearing and trial,
2. Right to be notified in clear & easy to understand language,
3. The right to provide information freely to investigators or judges,
4. The right to get an interpreter. The right to self-select legal counsel at each level of examination,
5. The right is granted free legal counsel by the State to accompany a suspect or defendant at every level of examination,
6. Right to communicate with legal counsel,
7. The right to contact and receive visits from private doctors.
8. The right to contact the family for legal assistance or guarantees for suspension
9. Right to contact and receive visits
10. The right to write to legal advisors and be provided with writing instruments
11. The right to visit clergy
12. The right to be tried before a trial open to the public
13. Right to present witnesses and expert witnesses
14. Right to appeal
15. The right to claim compensation and rehabilitation

So even though the trial is conducted through electronic media, it must still ensure the fulfillment of the defendant's rights. Thus, the rights of defendants as regulated in the Criminal Procedure Code must also be considered in providing legal protection for the accused for the sake of upholding the presumption of innocence before a final and binding court decision is made.

Even though it has been regulated, there is a weakening of the rights of the defendant in this regulation so that it has the potential to violate the human rights of the defendant in an electronic trial. Trials using electronic media are a breakthrough in modern law in line with advances in digital technology and globalization. Even so, the rights of the defendant in the trial using electronic media must also be guaranteed protection for the sake of upholding justice in the law. To guarantee the rights of the defendant, there are 3 most important things that must be guaranteed, namely the right of the defendant to be accompanied directly by a legal advisor, direct examination of witnesses by the Supreme Court and examination of the defendant's testimony face-to-face by the judge / panel of judges.

**References**


