**Judges' Efforts to Uphold the Principles of Legal Justice and Human Rights in Imposing Sanctions in Drug Cases**

**Nurul Naeni Septian1, Inagatha Setyarahma Pangastuti2**

 1Magister Ilmu Hukum, Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya, Indonesia

2 Magister Ilmu Hukum, Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya, Indonesia

correspondent : nurulnaenis@gmail.com

***Abstract***

Drug abuse in Indonesia is still quite high. Since 1971, Indonesia has been named a country with a drug emergency due to the high distribution and use of drugs. In East Java, specifically in May 2024, the East Java Regional Police were handling five cases of narcotics abuse. In Surabaya, from 2018-2024 the Surabaya District Court has handled 8799 narcotics cases. The development of drug cases in Surabaya has shown a significant increase in recent years. This city is included in the region with the highest drug cases in East Java, which is ranked second in Indonesia. This study aims to analyze the judge's decision on how the judge applies a fair decision and upholds principle of legal justice and human rights in deciding drug abuse cases in Surabaya. The research method used is normative legal research using a case study approach. in the case studied in this study, the judge decided that the defendant was sentenced to seven years and eight months in prison and was charged a fine of 1 billion rupiah with a subsidiary of one year. In this study, the judge attempted to give a decision to the defendant with a sentence commensurate with the criminal act that had been committed. The judge has also decided the case based on the principle of legal justice and does not violate human rights in force in Indonesia*.*

***Keywords:***  *Drug Abuse, Legal Justice, Human Rights*

1. **INTRODUCTION**

The abuse of illegal drugs in Indonesia continues to occur frequently. Based on data released by the National Narcotics Agency (BNN), the cases of narcotics abuse in Indonesia are very high. According to BNN reports, the cases of narcotics abuse in Indonesia in 2022 reached 1,780 cases, and in 2023 slightly decreased to 1,125 cases. Meanwhile, according to data released by the Indonesian National Police (POLRI) in 2024, POLRI has dealt with 17,855 drug cases across Indonesia up to 2024 (Humas Polri, 2024)[[1]](#footnote-1). The abuse of narcotics in Indonesia is indeed quite concerning as it involves teenagers both as distributors and users.

The development of drug cases in Surabaya has shown a significant increase in recent years. This city is included in the region with the highest drug cases in East Java, which is ranked second in Indonesia. The Surabaya Police continue to make major arrests and disclosures, including cross-provincial drug networks. Evidence such as crystal methamphetamine and ecstasy in large quantities are often confiscated in joint operations between the police and the BNN. Eradication and prevention continue to be improved, especially by involving various stakeholders for prevention among young people (Sianturi and Hikmah 2024).

Surabaya and East Java face major challenges in drug trafficking members. In 2023, East Java was recorded as the region with the second-highest drug cases in Indonesia, with around 5,000 to 6,000 cases reported. In Surabaya itself, the Polrestabes often convey the amount, such as the statement of 40 kg of crystal methamphetamine and 26,000 ecstasy pills. Drug trafficking in this region involves a complex inter-provincial network, and the BNN and Polda Jatim continue to strengthen eradication and prevention efforts.

In East Java, specifically in May 2024, the East Java Regional Police were handling five cases of narcotics abuse (Humas Polri, 2024). These five cases may increase given the trend of narcotics abuse in various regions in East Java, including Sidoarjo, Madura Island, and Surabaya, which have recorded numerous narcotics cases in recent years. The East Java Regional Police have made efforts to prevent narcotics abuse through various programs such as counseling, guidance, and outreach to all elements of society, so the number of cases does not increase.

In Surabaya, the issue of drug abuse also remains a significant problem for law enforcement authorities that has not been resolved until now. According to data provided by the East Java BNNP, Surabaya is one of the cities where the production of LL-logo pills, a type of narcotic drug, takes place. In May 2024[[2]](#footnote-2), the East Java Regional Police successfully secured a drug factory in Surabaya that had produced 6,780,000 Carnophen pills with the LL logo (Humas Polri, 2024).

This case indicates that Surabaya is one of the areas in East Java used as a site for the production of illegal drugs. Even as a major city with a high level of surveillance, the production of narcotics still occurs, suggesting a significant business operation that remains undetected by law enforcement from the beginning. Additionally, the lack of community involvement in addressing narcotics abuse in Surabaya also poses a challenge for the police in dealing with drug abuse offenders (Nasution et al., 2024).

According to a release by the Surabaya District Court, cases of narcotics and psychotropics abuse in Surabaya remain quite high. Moreover, with the sociological condition of the community being very heterogeneous with various social backgrounds, the potential for drug abuse is widespread[[3]](#footnote-3) (Kristian et al. 2021). This situation has prompted law enforcement authorities to continue working to eradicate narcotics and psychotropic cases in Surabaya to protect future generations from becoming victims, despite various challenges encountered.

The Surabaya District Court has released data showing that from 2018-2024, it has handled 8,799 narcotics and psychotropics cases. Narcotics cases have become the most prevalent special criminal cases successfully resolved by the Surabaya District Court. One such case is the ruling 1041/Pid.Sus/2024/PN.Sby involving the defendant GS (a pseudonym) who was charged with a criminal act violating in Pasal 114 ayat (1) Undang-Undang No. 35 of 2009[[4]](#footnote-4) on Narcotics Abuse. The ruling sentenced the defendant to seven years and eight months in prison and imposed a fine of 1 billion rupiahs with a subsidiary sentence of one year in prison if the fine is not paid.

In essence, drugs categorized as narcotics and psychotropics have medicinal benefits when used in doses prescribed by doctors or pharmacologists. However, if misused, whether consumed or distributed for personal gain, it can lead to addiction, affecting the user's nervous system and behavior, and disrupting the social fabric of society[[5]](#footnote-5) (BNN RI, 2024). Therefore, Indonesian law prohibits the use and distribution of narcotics and psychotropics in the general population. Even in the medical field, the distribution of narcotics is regulated by the Ministry of Health and related authorities to prevent misuse by individuals seeking personal gain.

We cannot deny that the threat of narcotics is very close to the community, especially children and teenagers who can be inadvertently infiltrated by irresponsible distributors[[6]](#footnote-6) (Muanam et al. 2021). It is not surprising that there are many cases in Indonesia involving teenagers as both users and distributors of narcotics. According to reports from the Indonesian National Police[[7]](#footnote-7), the percentage of teenagers involved in narcotics abuse cases, either as users or distributors, reached 183 percent in 2021 (Iskandar, 2021; Mulia, 2017). This situation is certainly concerning for society, especially if the number continues to increase year by year.

Therefore, this study aims to provide an overview of how law enforcement officers impose penalties on defendants in narcotics abuse cases in Surabaya as an effort to educate and inform the public that narcotics abuse cases will be punished according to the violations committed, to create a deterrent effect for the perpetrators and prevent recurrence in the future. This research examines how the judge's decision addresses drug abuse involving the defendant GS. In cases of drug abuse, particularly those involving drug trafficking under Pasal 114 Ayat (2) of the Narcotics Law, penalties can range from the death penalty to imprisonment of at least five years up to twenty years, along with fines of no less than 1 billion Rupiah and up to 10 billion Rupiah, depending on the severity of the violation.

In the ruling Number 1041/Pid.Sus/2024/PN.Sby[[8]](#footnote-8), the defendant GS was sentenced to seven years and eight months in prison, plus a fine of 1 billion Rupiah with a substitute sentence of one year in prison if the fine is not paid (Putusan/1041 Pid.Sus 2024/Pn.Sby, 2024). This research seeks to evaluate whether the sentence imposed on the defendant GS aligns with the principles of justice in relation to the penalty given. Additionally, this research will analyze the judge's decision-making process regarding the sanctions imposed on the defendant, examining whether it complies with the applicable regulations and whether it adheres to the principles of legal justice enforced in Indonesia

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1. **METHOD**

This study employs normative legal research, which describes the issues based on applicable legal theories and laws on narcotics abuse with reference to the verdict 1041/Pid.Sus/2024/PN.Sby. The research method used is an analytical approach with a legal concept analysis approach and a case study approach. As normative legal research, this study focuses on examining the use of positive law and the principle of justice related to the judge's verdict in cases of illegal drug abuse in Surabaya (Putusan/1041 Pid.Sus 2024/Pn.Sby, 2024). To support this research, This research also uses a literature review approach to deepen the study.

1. **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Drug abuse, or what is termed as a narcotics and psychotropics crime in criminal law, is a special criminal case with the highest number of cases in the Surabaya District Court's reports until 2024. The abuse of any type of narcotic without a doctor's prescription or trading such substances will be subject to punishment as stipulated in the law governing drug crimes in Indonesia, which is Undang-Undang Nomor 35 of 2009 concerning Narcotics Abuse.

The regulation in No. 35 of 2009 replaces Law Number 22 of 1997 and regulates various aspects related to narcotics, from the classification of types of narcotics to the regulation of narcotics use permits for medical and scientific purposes, as well as sanctions for perpetrators of narcotics crimes, whether they are users or traders of similar drugs (BPK RI 2009).

Legal points classify that drug use is permitted for the development of scientific knowledge and not allowed for treatment involving cocaine, marijuana, and heroin (category I). Narcotics that can be used for treatment with a high risk of dependence, such as morphine (category II), and narcotics that can be used for treatment with a low risk of dependence, such as codeine (Category III), are also detailed. Violations of the rules may result in criminal penalties, and rehabilitation may be provided if the user is proven to be a victim of abuse according to the established standard rules.

In this study, narcotics abuse, which is deliberately committed in violation of the law, was investigated. Pasal 5 Undang-Undang No. 35/2009 tentang Penyalahgunaan Narkotika, which includes all forms of activities and/or interactions with Narcotics Precursors. This means that every perpetrator, whether a user or distributor, will be sanctioned according to the crime committed through the judge's verdict in court, thus ensuring the enforcement of justice in society.

The data shows that the most widely circulated type of narcotics in the community is crystal methamphetamine. Crystal methamphetamine is quite popular in Indonesia, with the highest number of cases, totaling 32,734 cases as of 2023 . According to health experts, crystal methamphetamine refers to methamphetamine, a powerful stimulant that affects the central nervous system. This substance increases physical and mental activity, leading to increased energy and decreased appetite. However, continuous use of crystal methamphetamine can cause severe addiction, brain damage, mental disorders, and various other health issues.

Badan Narkotika Nasional (BNN) report related to drug abuse in Surabaya indicates that the city continues to face significant challenges in combating drug abuse. BNN data from 2024 shows that although there has been a decline in the prevalence of drug abuse in some areas, major challenges remain, especially in large cities like Surabaya.In Surabaya, as in many other areas, the most widely abused types of narcotics are crystal methamphetamine, marijuana, methamphetamine (crystal methamphetamine), and ecstasy (BNN RI, 2024). Drug use is predominantly male, accounting for about 74.5% of total users. Although the prevalence is decreasing, the number of methamphetamine users remains significant, indicating the need for stronger prevention measures and more effective rehabilitation programs. Civil society, educational institutions, and local governments must collaborate to educate the public to avoid narcotics.

One of the highlights by BNN is the importance of family resilience as a key factor in preventing drug abuse and promoting a collaborative approach with various stakeholders to strengthen these prevention measures at the local and national levels, including through family education patterns. This means that in smaller scopes such as families, parental roles in educating children have a significant impact on shaping behavior, attitudes, and character later in life. This is something the government should also encourage by being proactive in educating the public to stay away from narcotics, thereby creating a law-abiding, safe, and peaceful society.

Crystal methamphetamine is often misused because of its euphoric effect, which makes users feel calm as if they are floating (Kristian et al. 2021). However, repeated use can cause various long-term negative effects, including depression, anxiety, and cell damage to organs, especially the heart and brain. In a medical context[[9]](#footnote-9), methamphetamine is often used to treat narcolepsy and obesity, but its use is strictly regulated and closely monitored by the government to prevent damage due to its strong effects on users (Fachrul and Prasanty 2023). If used outside of these conditions, the user can be prosecuted under Law No. 35 of 2009 concerning narcotics abuse for misusing authority as regulated by law.

Perpetrators involved in activities such as offering or selling crystal methamphetamine to the public with any motive will be sanctioned according to Pasal 114 Ayat (1) UU No. 35 Tahun 2009. The prohibition of consuming, distributing, and storing narcotics outside of medical needs and scientific development in medicine and pharmacy is due to the malicious intent of making these substances an economic commodity that damages public behavior and health[[10]](#footnote-10) (Iriani 2015; Aulia, Danial, and Jumena 2022).

Determining a verdict in court relies on three main principles in positivist legal dictionaries: the principle of legal certainty, the principle of justice, and the principle of legal utility. These principles are used by a judge in making a decision during a trial. In addition, considerations from the legal representatives[[11]](#footnote-11), public prosecutors, and witness testimonies are also references for judges in deciding a criminal case (Rawls 1999).

This research employs normative legal methods, which describe the issues based on prevailing legal theories and narcotics abuse laws, with a focus on the verdict 1041/pid.sus/2024/PN.Sby. The research uses an analysis method involving legal concept analysis and case study approaches. As a normative legal study, it aims to examine the use of positive law and the principle of legal justice in relation to the judge's verdict in cases of drug abuse in Surabaya.

* 1. **The Justice Law in Indonesian**

In Indonesia, the concept of justice in law is an effort by legal enforcers to ensure that legal actions and government policies are conducted fairly and equitably, without regard to a person's background (Sianturi and Hikmah 2024). The principle of justice is the main foundation for law enforcement in deciding a case to avoid conflicting with human rights. It also serves as a basis for the government, policymakers, and law enforcement in issuing policies, creating laws, or imposing penalties or verdicts on lawbreakers[[12]](#footnote-12) (Widiatama, Mahmud, and Suparwi 2020).

In practice, experts such as John Rawls, Thomas Aquinas, and Jeremy Bentham define the principle of justice with several key points for its proper implementation (Widiatama, Mahmud, and Suparwi 2020). First, a fair legal process: this means that legal enforcers must be transparent in deciding cases, impartial, and non-discriminatory, creating a balanced and equal trial. Second, equality before the law[[13]](#footnote-13); this means that everyone is treated equally under the law, regardless of social status, gender, race, or religion (Rahardjo 2010). For example, during a trial, everyone is granted the same rights to defend themselves fairly. Third, the law must provide mechanisms to restore the situation of those harmed by unlawful acts, including compensation or restitution to victims of criminal acts. Fourth, the law must distribute rights and obligations fairly among all members of society, including the allocation of resources, protection of human rights, and equitable provision of public services.

Fifth, proportionate penalties should be imposed on criminals according to the seriousness of the crime committed. Therefore, the punishment should be proportional to the principles of justice in Indonesia. Sixth, social relationship restoration, where justice includes a restorative approach in which criminals are encouraged to correct their mistakes to restore the social relationships damaged by the crime. Furthermore, the application of the principle of justice in Indonesia must also accommodate cultural diversity, customs, and local norms as long as they do not conflict with internationally recognized human rights principles, thereby achieving complete legal order. Additionally, the implementation aims to create a harmonious, peaceful, and prosperous society, leading to public order.

A prominent legal expert in Indonesia, Bagir Manan, who once served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Indonesia, in his book "Indonesian Positive Law: A Theoretical Study," stated that justice in Indonesian law must encompass both distributive justice and corrective justice. According to him, the law should not benefit only one party or group but should ensure the equitable distribution of rights and obligations to all citizens[[14]](#footnote-14) (Adhar, Marlina, and Affan 2021). In law enforcement, he also emphasizes the importance of integrity and professionalism among legal officers to ensure justice is achieved in society.

In addition, Satjipto Rahardjo said a legal expert known as the initiator of progressive law theory, emphasizes that the law must serve human interests and place justice as the primary goal of law enforcement efforts (Rahardjo, 2010). According to him, justice does not reside solely in the text of the law or as a mere decoration in court, but legal justice must be applied in society. The law must be flexible and adaptable to social developments to provide substantial justice for the Indonesian people.

Based on these two perspectives, it can be concluded that justice in law is the ultimate goal. Justice should be the strong foundation for law enforcers in making decisions so that all parties involved in a legal case can receive equal rights and ensure that every decision in a trial is beneficial to everyone[[15]](#footnote-15), both the perpetrator and the victim (Marlina et al. 2024). In this context, the substance of the law as a medium to achieve justice for humanity can be realized.Criminal acts involving narcotics, as defined by law, involve the deliberate consumption, distribution, and storage of narcotics for the purpose of use or economic gain, which has the potential to disrupt the social fabric of society. Narcotics abuse[[16]](#footnote-16) is divided into two types: the first is the distribution of narcotics, either through sale or direct delivery, with indications of possession and control of narcotics for profit (Iriani 2015; Aulia, Danial, and Jumena 2022).

The second type is the use of narcotics with indications of possession, control, or use of narcotics for personal use without the right and against the law. In most cases, this type is adjudged as victimization, and the sanctions include rehabilitation to eliminate the side effects of drug use. The first type is subject to sanctions according to applicable law. In narcotics crime cases, the law differentiates sanctions for distributors and users (Iskandar 2021). This is based on the harm caused; users generally only harm themselves, while distributors can cause widespread damage and harm the community. Therefore, the legal policy for narcotics abuse perpetrators is not always the same. Rehabilitation sanctions are only given to those declared victims of narcotics abuse.

The verdict against defendant GS, as stated in verdict 104/Pid.Sus/2024/PN.Sby, where the defendant was accused of narcotics abuse by possessing, controlling, and distributing crystal methamphetamine obtained from a person named Antok (a fugitive) for IDR 3,000,000, was sentenced to seven years and eight months in prison with a fine of IDR 1 billion with an additional one-year sentence if the fine is not paid and a mandatory payment of IDR 2,000 to be handed over to the state. The judge's verdict shows that the criminal act of narcotics distribution for personal profit has been determined according to Undang-Undang No. 35 Tahun 2009 on narcotics abuse.

This verdict is also strengthened by the principles of justice and legal certainty, which are the judge's references in making decisions. Therefore, the punishment received by Mr. GS in this context is the judge's effort to fulfill the primary goal of law, which is justice. Justice, as the ultimate goal of law, can be realized when judges make decisions impartially and are open to considering the seriousness of the law violation committed. Thus, the judge's decision will have a positive impact on law enforcement. When considering the defendant's case in verdict 1041/Pid.Sus/2024/PN.Sby, the judge's effort to uphold justice has been achieved based on several points.

The case described in this verdict involves the defendant GS, who was charged with narcotics crimes. In the context of the principle of justice, referring to the theory of legal justice principles presented in Brian Z Tamanaha, this verdict can be analyzed from several perspectives. *First*, the judge sentenced the defendant GS to seven years and eight months in prison and a fine of IDR 1 billion with an additional one-year prison sentence if the fine is not paid[[17]](#footnote-17) (Tamanaha and Brian Z 2017). This punishment is intended to provide retribution proportional to the violation of the law by distributing crystal methamphetamine to the public[[18]](#footnote-18), in accordance with the retributive purpose of criminal law (Nasution et al., 2024).

*Second*, the legal process that the defendant underwent, including detention, trial, and examination of evidence as written in the judge's verdict, shows that the defendant was given the opportunity to defend himself and the verdict was made based on evidence and testimonies presented in court. This aligns with the principle of procedural justice, which emphasizes the importance of a fair and transparent process, thus avoiding suspicion towards the judge in sentencing the defendant.

*Third*, in the trial, the defense attorney accompanying the defendant requested that the judge give the fairest or most lenient sentence to the defendant, despite the violation of the law with evidence of possession, control, and distribution of crystal methamphetamine for personal profit. This shows that the judicial system has a mechanism to correct sentences if they are considered too heavy or disproportionate to the violation committed. Thus, the judge's decision is not made unilaterally; the judge provides room for the defendant to confirm the legal violation committed before rendering a decision.

*Fourth*, the Distributive Justice applied by the judge by imposing fines and confiscating the defendant's property for the state, where resources (both legal and illegal) are redistributed to the state to maintain balance and prevent unlawful gains from the criminal acts committed by the defendant. Overall, this verdict reflects an effort to uphold justice in the context of criminal law by considering various principles of justice[[19]](#footnote-19) (Yuanita 2022). Therefore, the judge's verdict against the defendant in the narcotics abuse case, as stipulated in Law No. 35 of 2009 on narcotics and psychotropic substances[[20]](#footnote-20), has been carried out and decided by the court with an emphasis on the principle of legal justice (Dewanto 2020).

* 1. **Human Rights Law by Judge Vedric**

Drug abuse[[21]](#footnote-21) is a serious offense that must be met with strict sanctions because it is a criminal classified as an extraordinary crime (Fatima, Junaidi, and Arifin 2023). As a nation based on the rule of law, Indonesia must impose penalties that create a deterrent effect on drug offenders to prevent further harm, particularly to the younger generation, who are the nation's future. Although classified as an extraordinary crime, sanctions for drug offenders must respect the inherent rights of the perpetrators, ensuring that human rights are upheld even as appropriate punishments are given in accordance with their actions. Judges must balance these considerations when sentencing.

The decision number 1041/Pid.Sus/2024/PN.Sby related to a narcotics case, the concept of human rights (HAM) is reflected in several elements of this ruling: *First*, The Right to a Fair TrialThe defendant, GS, was brought to trial with the right to legal assistance from his lawyer, M. Zainal Arifin, S.H.MH. This reflects the principle of the right to a fair defense, as recognized in international human rights, where every individual has the right to be represented and accompanied by a lawyer. *Second*, The Right Not to Be Punished Without Clear Legal Basis: The court handed down the verdict based on clear regulations, namely Pasal 114, ayat (1) Undang-Undang Nomor 35 tahun 2009 concerning Narcotics. This ensures that the defendant is not punished arbitrarily, in accordance with the principle of legality in law and human rights at Indonesia

*Third*, Consideration of Humanitarian Rights in Sentencing. The decision also took into account mitigating factors for the defendant, such as the defendant's honest confession, polite demeanor, and family responsibilities . This demonstrates a humanitarian aspect in sentencing, where the punishment is not merely retributive but also educational and constructive. When a judge makes a ruling against a defendant in a narcotics case, as in the case of GS, the judge will consider a sentence that does not violate the human rights inherent to the individual. This is because in Indonesia, human rights (HAM) are protected by various regulations, primarily found in Undang-Undang No. 39 Tahun 1999[[22]](#footnote-22) on Human Rights and the Constitution of Indonesia (UUD 1945).

The concept of human rights applies to all aspects of life, including the judicial process for narcotics cases (Triwahyuningsih 2018; Sundary and Muslikhah 2024). When a judge issues a decision in a narcotics case, the application of human rights must include several key aspects such as the right to a fair trial, the right to humane treatment, and the right not to be punished in a brutal and arbitrary manner.

In this case, the judge has ensured that the defendant received a fair and non-discriminatory trial. This includes the right to be represented by a lawyer, the right not to be convicted without valid evidence, and the right to be given the opportunity to defend oneself. In narcotics cases, this is reflected in the trial process that involves legal representation for the defendant and a court procedure that is in accordance with the applicable law.

As stated, in the human rights law of Indonesia[[23]](#footnote-23), including Pasal 9 Undang-Undang No. 39 tahun 1999 (BPK RI 1999) , it is mentioned that everyone has the right to be free from degrading treatment. In the context of narcotics cases, even though the defendant has committed a crime, this right must still be respected. The judge considers mitigating factors such as the defendant’s behavior during the trial, the confession of guilt, and family responsibilities, all of which indicate that although the defendant is sentenced, they are still treated humanely.

In Pasal 11 Undang-Undang No. 39 Tahun 1999, it is also stated that no one may be punished without a clear legal basis. In narcotics cases, sentencing is based on applicable laws, such as Undang-Undang No. 35 Tahun 2009 abaut narcotics. The defendant can only be sentenced if proven guilty based on sufficient evidence and in accordance with the law. In the context of imposing penalties on defendants in narcotics cases, several human rights principles are applied. The Right to Fair Treatment During Detention, While the defendant is detained, they still have the right to be treated with respect and dignity. The defendant must not be tortured or treated in a degrading manner, as stated in Pasal 33 Undang-Undang No. 39 Tahun 1999 and Pasal 28G UUD 1945.

Apart of that, Triwahyuningsih[[24]](#footnote-24) (2018) said the proportional punishment is part of implementatiton od human right in Indonesia. The application of human rights in sentencing requires that the punishment given is proportional to the crime committed. In narcotics cases, judges usually consider mitigating factors such as the defendant’s admission of guilt, remorse, and the family responsibilities the defendant bears. This ensures that the punishment is not only retributive but also considers the humanitarian conditions of the defendant (Marlina et al. 2024).

In Indonesian constitution, This right is recognized in Indonesian human rights law and the 1945. Defendants who have served part of their sentence and demonstrated good behavior during detention can apply for a pardon, remission, or sentence reduction[[25]](#footnote-25) (Pound 2000). This shows that human rights are still applied even after the sentence is imposed. Therefore, in GS's case, we can conclude that human rights have been applied to the best extent possible. Although narcotics abuse in Indonesia is a serious offense, the law ensures that the defendant receives what is rightfully theirs. Even though the crime committed is serious[[26]](#footnote-26), Indonesian law still treats the defendant with respect, processes them fairly, and imposes proportional sanctions according to the principles of justice and humanity (Firman, Sinaga, and Bungana 2023).

1. **CONCLUSION**

This verdict reflects strict law enforcement against narcotics crimes, including imprisonment, fines, and the confiscation of evidence. The decision shows the court's commitment to combating the distribution of narcotics and providing a deterrent effect, as well as the court's effort to uphold the law by adhering to the principle of justice and human rights. Deciding on criminal cases of drug abuse must take into account the principles of justice and human rights. This consideration is part of the effort to enforce fair laws that uphold humanitarian values. Indonesia, as a state governed by the rule of law, must avoid enforcing the law arrogantly, even when dealing with serious offenses like drug abuse. The judge's decision in such cases reflects how the legal system strives to balance justice with human rights, ensuring fairness across various cases. Every element of the verdict, from the punishment to the management of evidence, is in accordance with applicable legal provisions and aims to enforce justice, thereby creating a harmonious, safe, and law-abiding society. In this verdict, the judge has imposed a proportional sentence on the defendant, with seven years and eight months in prison, a fine of IDR 1 billion, and an additional one-year sentence if the fine is not paid by the defendant.

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