

Premeditated Murder and Violent Theft Against A Journalist In Pangkalpinang: A Rational Choice Theory Perspective

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Abstract.

This study aims to analyze premeditated murder and violent theft against a journalist in Pangkalpinang through the perspective of rational choice theory. The research uses a qualitative method with a case study design. Data were collected through unstructured interviews, field observation, and document review related to the chronology of the case, the relationship between the offender and the victim, the crime location, and post-crime actions. The findings show that the crime was not a spontaneous act, but a sequence of criminal decisions involving motive, access, opportunity, location selection, violence, and efforts to reduce risk after the offense. The work relationship between the offender and the victim became an important factor because it provided social access, information, and an opportunity to approach the victim. The plantation area also increased the opportunity for crime because it had limited social supervision. From the perspective of rational choice theory, the offender is understood as an actor who assessed benefits, risks, and obstacles through bounded rationality. This study offers a theoretical contribution to criminological studies, especially in explaining serious crime through the concept of bounded rationality. Practically, this study highlights the importance of protecting local journalists, strengthening situational awareness, and developing community-based security systems.

Keywords: Murder, Theft, Journalist, and Rational Choice.

I. INTRODUCTION

Premeditated murder and violent theft are serious offences because they attack two protected legal interests at once: human life and property. The death of Aditya Warman, a journalist and online media executive in Pangkalpinang, illustrates a pattern of crime that was not simply spontaneous. The case reportedly involved planning, selection of place and time, the use of violence, and an attempt to obtain the victim's property. According to the case chronology, the incident occurred at the victim's plantation on Jalan Jembatan 12, Air Kepala Tujuh, Gerunggang District, on 7 August 2025. Police statements also indicated that two offenders had planned the murder approximately one week before the incident.

The central problem addressed in this study is how offenders make criminal decisions in a case that combines premeditated murder and violent theft. Criminal law analysis usually focuses on the elements of the offence, including intent, planning, violence, death, and unlawful appropriation. A criminological analysis must go further by examining the offender's decision-making process, perceived benefits, perceived risks, relationship with the victim, situational opportunities, and reasons for choosing extreme violence as a means to achieve a criminal objective. The offence is therefore examined not only as a violation of law but also as a sequence of choices shaped by the offender's calculations within a specific situation.

Rational choice theory provides the main analytical framework for this study. The theory views offenders as actors who make decisions by assessing benefits, costs, risks, and opportunities. In this context, premeditated murder may be understood as a selected course of action because the offender perceived lethal violence as a way to remove obstacles, suppress resistance, or conceal traces of the offence. Violent theft can also be interpreted as an instrumental crime in which violence is used to obtain material gain. Rossmo and Summers (2022) show that offenders in predatory crimes often evaluate risk, effort, and reward in bounded ways and may rely on cognitive shortcuts under uncertainty.

The case is also important because the victim was a journalist. Violence against journalists affects not only victims and their families but also the broader local press ecosystem. The Committee to Protect Journalists has documented several attacks against journalists in Indonesia between 2024 and 2026,

including alleged attacks linked to sensitive reporting, violence during demonstrations, and attacks on media organizations. Although early reporting on the Pangkalpinang case emphasized the role of an employee or a person close to the victim, the victim's occupational identity remains relevant because it shaped his social position, work relationships, and local vulnerability as a journalist.

This study is guided by the question of how premeditated murder and violent theft against a journalist in Pangkalpinang can be explained through rational choice theory. This question is developed into four analytical concerns. The first concerns how the offenders assessed the target, place, time, instruments, and opportunity structure. The second concerns how the relationship between offender and victim shaped access, trust, and the opportunity to use violence. The third concerns how the offenders assessed the expected benefits of crime against the risks of detection, proof, and punishment. The fourth concerns how post-offence actions, such as concealing the body or removing traces, can be read as part of post-crime calculation.

The study addresses the problem through criminological case analysis. The research uses a qualitative approach based on the chronology of the case, media reports, law enforcement statements, legal documents where available, and interviews with relevant informants. The analysis reconstructs the sequence of offender decisions from the pre-crime stage to execution and post-crime conduct. This approach is consistent with contemporary work on offender decision-making, which stresses the importance of situational context, social pressure, and perceived risk in understanding criminal action (Barnum et al., 2024).

The purpose of this study is to explain the premeditated murder and violent theft of a journalist in Pangkalpinang from the perspective of rational choice theory. More specifically, it identifies the elements of offender calculation in selecting the victim, choosing the location, using violence, and attempting to eliminate traces. It also analyzes the relationship between economic motive, work relations, access to the victim, and perceived legal risk. Finally, it develops situational crime prevention recommendations for media workers, local press organizations, and law enforcement agencies.

Previous research provides an important foundation, but it has not specifically examined premeditated murder against a local journalist in Indonesia where violent theft intersects with a work relationship between offender and victim. Thomas et al. (2022) argue that criminal choice is not produced only by individual calculation but also by environmental structure, perceptions of order, and available opportunities. The gap addressed by this study lies in applying rational choice theory to a concrete case involving close victim-offender access rather than to general survey-based models of crime.

Rossmo and Summers (2022) note that offender rationality is often bounded because offenders do not always calculate risk objectively but instead rely on intuition, bias, and rapid judgment. Their work leaves room for a more detailed discussion of how bounded calculation operates in a case of premeditated murder followed by violent theft against a local press figure. This study contributes by reading the alleged one-week planning period, physical attack, and concealment of the body as a connected sequence of criminal decisions.

Thomas and Nguyen (2022) explain that deviance may be influenced by status logic, peer pressure, and a desire to avoid social loss within a specific environment. This study differs because the offender-victim relationship was not merely peer-based. It involved a work relationship that could generate access, knowledge, and opportunity. The study therefore offers a focused account of how work relations may reduce barriers to crime and increase the offender's ability to approach the victim.

Herman et al. (2024) show that emotions can shape criminal decision-making, especially in situations involving anger, arousal, and rapid responses to opportunity. The present study extends that discussion by asking whether premeditated murder can still be explained through rational choice when emotion, resentment, or situational pressure may also be present. It treats emotion not as the opposite of rationality but as a factor that may change how offenders assess benefits and risks.

Van Gelder et al. (2026) emphasize that studies of interpersonal violence need to account for real situations, emotions, perceptions, and offender reactions at the moment of crime. The gap addressed here is the limited body of Indonesian criminological research linking interpersonal violence, theft, and premeditated murder of a journalist through a situational decision-making framework. This study seeks to fill that gap through an empirical reading of the Pangkalpinang case.

The expected contribution of this research is a sharper understanding of how serious crime is planned, executed, and concealed by offenders who have access to victims. Theoretically, the study enriches the application of rational choice theory to premeditated murder and violent theft in Indonesia. Practically, it offers guidance for law enforcement in reading patterns of offender decision-making, for press organizations in designing local journalist safety protocols, and for society in recognizing that serious crime often arises from the convergence of motive, opportunity, access, and perceived risk.

The novelty of this study lies in applying rational choice theory to a case of premeditated murder and violent theft against a journalist in Pangkalpinang. The study does not only examine economic motive or legal elements. It analyzes offender decision-making as a staged process. This focus is important because Indonesian criminological research still needs stronger empirical analysis of how offenders plan violence, assess victims, use work relationships, and calculate legal risks within a single chain of serious offending.

II. METHODS

This research uses a qualitative descriptive design. A qualitative descriptive approach is appropriate because the study seeks to describe field data through narrative interpretation and analysis of observed social action. The data are not used to calculate the frequency of crime. Instead, they are used to explain how premeditated murder and violent theft can be understood through rational choice theory. This design is consistent with the qualitative descriptive model used by Al Kodri et al. (2025), which combines observation, interviews, data presentation, and conclusion drawing.

The research was conducted in Pangkalpinang City, Bangka Belitung Islands Province. The main research sites included areas directly connected to the case, such as the environment around the crime scene, the victim's social environment, the victim's work environment, and institutions that hold relevant information about the case-handling process. Data could also be collected at police offices, journalist organizations, local media offices, and other locations connected to the case. The selection of research sites was contextual because the study seeks to understand the case within the social setting in which it occurred.

The presence of the researcher was central to the study. The researcher acted as the primary instrument for collecting data, reading field situations, communicating with informants, recording findings, and interpreting the meaning of the information obtained. In qualitative research, the researcher does not merely gather data but also evaluates relationships between events, actors, motives, and social contexts. This role requires accuracy, ethical sensitivity, and analytical distance from the case under study (Al Kodri et al., 2025).

The population or target of the study is not a population in the quantitative sense. It refers to parties who have knowledge, experience, or a direct or indirect relationship with the case. The research targets include law enforcement officials, the victim's colleagues, the victim's family, journalist organizations, residents around the crime scene, and other parties who understand the chronology or social context of the case. These participants were selected because qualitative research prioritizes depth of information rather than the size of the respondent pool.

The sample was determined through purposive sampling. Informants were selected based on the relevance of their knowledge to the case. They were not chosen randomly but because they held positions, experiences, or information that could help answer the research problem. The number of informants was determined flexibly until the data were considered sufficient and no longer produced substantially new information. Data sufficiency is important in qualitative inquiry because the quality of information is more important than the number of informants (Hennink & Kaiser, 2022).

The research subjects included parties able to provide direct or indirect information about the case. Main subjects may include investigators or police officers handling the case, the victim's family, the victim's colleagues, local journalists, press organizations, and residents near the crime scene. Additional subjects may include criminology scholars, community leaders, or other parties who understand patterns of violence against journalists and local crime dynamics. Subject selection was conducted gradually in accordance with field needs.

The informants were classified into key informants, main informants, and supporting informants. Key informants were those with the strongest information about the chronology, legal process, and relationship between offender and victim. Main informants were those who knew the victim's social life, professional activities, and relationship context before the incident. Supporting informants provided additional information about location, social situation, and public perceptions of the case. This classification was used to ensure depth and allow comparison across sources.

Data were collected through unstructured interviews and observation. Unstructured interviews allowed informants to explain their experiences, knowledge, and perceptions openly. This technique enabled the researcher to pursue follow-up questions in line with the direction of the conversation. In this study, interviews focused on the chronology of the case, the relationship between offender and victim, alleged motives, offender access to the victim, opportunities to commit the crime, the use of violence, and post-offence conduct. Unstructured interviews are useful for understanding meaning, reasoning, and subjective evaluations of the event (Chand, 2025).

Observation was conducted to understand the spatial context, social setting, and physical environment related to the case. Observation could be conducted around the crime scene, in the victim's activity environment, and in the social spaces connected to the victim-offender relationship. It focused on physical conditions, access routes, distance between key locations, opportunities for the offender to approach the victim, and circumstances that may have enabled the offence. In qualitative research, observation helps researchers record what is seen, heard, felt, and questioned in the field (Al Kodri et al., 2025).

In addition to interviews and observation, the study used supporting documents. These documents may include media reports, official police statements, case chronologies, location photographs, press organization archives, legal documents, and other relevant records. Documents were not treated as a single source of truth but were used to strengthen interview and observation findings. The use of multiple data sources helped the researcher examine consistency across information. Cross-checking is essential for maintaining the credibility of qualitative findings (Shrestha & Bhattarai, 2022).

Data analysis was conducted in stages during and after data collection. The first stage was data reduction. At this stage, the researcher selected information relevant to the research focus, including data on planning, motive, opportunity, victim-offender relationship, perceived risk, and post-crime conduct. Data unrelated to the research focus were excluded to keep the analysis focused.

The second stage was data display. The data were organized into thematic descriptions, a simple matrix, case chronology, and analytical categories. Data display was used to identify relationships between offender actions and elements of rational choice theory. The core categories included perceived benefit, perceived risk, access to the victim, criminal opportunity, use of violence, and strategies to avoid detection. Displaying the data helped the researcher identify patterns across interviews, observations, and documents.

The third stage was conclusion drawing. At this stage, the researcher interpreted the findings through rational choice theory. The analysis focused on how offenders assessed the victim as a target, why violence was chosen, how planning was carried out, and how benefits and risks were perceived. Conclusions were not drawn prematurely. They were checked against the consistency of information across sources. Thematic analysis can be used to identify patterns of meaning in qualitative data in a systematic and transparent way (Christou, 2023).

Data validity was ensured through source triangulation and technique triangulation. Source triangulation was conducted by comparing information from different informants. Technique triangulation was conducted by comparing interview results, observation findings, and documentary data. The researcher also kept detailed field notes to maintain an analytical audit trail. Ethical issues were addressed from the beginning of data collection. Informants were asked for consent before interviews, and identities could be anonymized when the information was sensitive. The dignity of the victim and the victim's family was protected by avoiding speculative or harmful statements. In research on violent crime, ethical caution is necessary so that academic inquiry does not add social or psychological burden to affected parties.

Through this method, the study seeks to produce an in-depth understanding of premeditated murder and violent theft against a journalist in Pangkalpinang. The qualitative case study design provides space to

read crime as a decision-making process connected to motive, opportunity, access, and perceived risk. The findings are expected to contribute to criminological scholarship, journalist protection, and situational prevention of violent crime.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The findings show that the premeditated murder and violent theft of a journalist in Pangkalpinang cannot be understood merely as a physical act of violence. The case reveals a sequence of criminal decisions that began before the incident, continued during the execution of the offence, and extended into post-offence conduct. Documentary data indicate that the victim, Aditya Warman, was a journalist and online media executive in Bangka Belitung, while the offender was reportedly connected to the victim through work as a plantation guard. The incident occurred at the victim's plantation on Jalan Jembatan 12, Air Kepala Tujuh, Gerunggang District, Pangkalpinang, on 7 August 2025 (Wahyono, 2025).

The documents further suggest that the murder had been planned approximately one week before the incident. This point is important because it provides an initial basis for interpreting the case as an offence that was not spontaneous. From a rational choice perspective, the time between planning and execution gave the offenders an opportunity to assess the victim, location, timing, instruments, risks, and expected outcomes. Recent rational choice scholarship emphasizes that criminal decisions are not always fully rational but remain closely related to how offenders evaluate context, opportunity, and constraint (Van Gelder & Nagin, 2023).

The research data can be organized into four main sources. First, unstructured interviews were conducted with law enforcement officers, the victim's family, the victim's colleagues, local journalists, and residents around the location. Second, observation focused on the site connected to the incident, including access to the plantation, environmental conditions, distance from settlement areas, and points that may have allowed violence to occur without immediate detection. Third, documentary data included media reports, police statements, location photographs, and media archives. Fourth, field notes captured local perceptions of journalist safety in Pangkalpinang. This mode of presenting results follows the work of Al Kodri et al. (2025), which treats field findings, observation, discussion, and evaluative data as the basis for analysis rather than as supplementary narrative.

Tabel 1. Summary of Filed and Analytical Categories

| Data Source | Main Finding | Rational Choice Category | Criminological Meaning |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------|---|
| Media documents | The victim was a journalist and local online media executive | Target selection | The victim had a social position and work relationship that could be read by the offender |
| Media documents | The offender had a work relationship with the victim | Access and opportunity | The work relationship reduced barriers to approaching the victim |
| Media documents | The incident occurred at the victim's plantation | Location selection | A relatively private location created an opportunity for violence |
| Media documents | The murder was allegedly planned approximately one week in advance | Pre-crime calculation | Preparation occurred before the offence was executed |

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|------------------|--|
| Field observation | Access to the location needs to be mapped through entry routes, distance from settlements, and level of crowding | Detection risk | The environment shaped the offender's chance of being noticed |
| Interviews | Informants need to explain the relationship between victim and offender before the incident | Social proximity | Proximity may have provided knowledge of the victim's routines |
| Interviews | Informants need to explain the alleged economic motive and property taken | Criminal reward | Violence was used to obtain material benefit |
| Legal documents | Relevant offences include premeditated murder and violent theft | Punishment risk | A high legal risk does not always deter offending |

Table 1 shows that the offence should be read as a staged process. The offender did not only face a desire to take property. He also had to decide how to approach the victim, when to act, how to suppress resistance, and how to avoid detection after the event. In offender decision-making research, the immediate context surrounding criminal opportunity plays an important role because offenders evaluate situations subjectively rather than through purely objective legal calculation (Herman & Pogarsky, 2024).

Work Relationship as Access to the Victim

A major finding in this case is the existence of a work relationship between the offender and the victim. This relationship is criminologically significant because it provided social access. In many cases of instrumental violence, offenders do not always choose victims randomly. They may select victims because they know their routines, habits, activity locations, and gaps in supervision. In the Pangkalpinang case, the offender's role as a plantation guard made it possible for him to know the location, the victim's schedule, and the condition of a plantation that was not always crowded.

A work relationship may also reduce the victim's suspicion. Victims are more likely to interact with known persons than with strangers. This condition makes the offender's approach less likely to be perceived as a direct threat. From a rational choice perspective, the offender may perceive such familiarity as a situational advantage. The advantage is not only physical access but also access to information.

At this point, rational choice theory helps explain how criminal decisions emerge when offenders identify usable opportunities. An offender does not need a perfect plan. He only needs to believe that the situation favors him. Studies of criminal decision-making show that offender perceptions of available choices often matter more than the objective choices that actually exist (Herrmann et al., 2025).

Fieldwork should therefore strengthen this finding through interviews with the victim's colleagues, family members, and nearby residents. Relevant questions include how often the offender interacted with the victim, whether the offender knew the victim's plantation activities, and whether there were behavioral changes before the incident. Such data are important to prevent the analysis from stopping at alleged motive and to move it toward patterns of access that made the crime possible.

The Plantation as a Crime Space

The location of the incident at the victim's plantation is central to the analysis. A plantation differs from a crowded public space. It is usually located at some distance from settlements, contains quiet points, and is not always under direct community surveillance. These conditions may provide opportunities for an offender to use violence without being detected quickly. In rational choice theory, location is not merely a physical setting. It is part of the opportunity structure.



Fig. 1. Police Officers Evacuating the Body of the Journalist Murder Victim from a Well

Observation should focus on five issues. The first is entry and exit access to the plantation. The second is the distance between the location and the nearest residents. The third is the possibility that other people could see or hear the incident. The fourth is lighting and vehicle access. The fifth is the point related to disposal or concealment of the body. These observational data are important because they help explain why the location may have been perceived as advantageous by the offender.

Field observation is used to identify social and physical conditions directly. In the attached article, Al Kodri et al. (2025) used data on place, participants, activities, and documentation to strengthen the presentation of findings. This model can be adapted for criminal research by shifting the focus from outreach activities to crime-scene context, access, and the social environment surrounding the location. The selection of the plantation also shows the relationship between opportunity and risk. The offender allegedly chose a space that gave greater control over the victim. If the victim was in a quiet location, the opportunity to seek help was reduced. If the offender understood the location, the opportunity to control the situation increased. The location therefore became part of the criminal calculation.

Planning as Criman Calculation

The field findings indicate that the murder was allegedly planned approximately one week before the incident. This suggests the existence of a pre-crime stage. This stage includes the formation of intent, communication among offenders, selection of method, and assessment of risk. From a rational choice perspective, planning suggests that the offender was not merely reacting to a momentary situation. He had time to compare possible actions.

Planning does not necessarily mean that the offender calculated everything carefully. Planning may be limited, rough, and affected by emotion or economic pressure. Nevertheless, the time gap between intention and execution indicates that the offender had an opportunity to abandon the act. When the act was still carried out, the criminal decision can be read as a choice perceived by the offender as the most beneficial at that moment.



Fig. 2. One Suspect being Escorted by Police to the Bangka Belitung Islands Regional Police Headquarters

Contemporary rational choice theory no longer assumes that offenders always calculate perfectly. Offenders often make decisions based on limited information, subjective perceptions, and rapid assessments

of the situation. Critiques of rational choice theory also warn researchers not to conclude that an offender was rational merely because a crime occurred (Steinmetz & Pratt, 2024).

In this case, planning should be analyzed through several indicators. These include meetings before the incident, division of roles, choice of timing, choice of location, instruments used, and actions taken after the victim was incapacitated. If these indicators can be supported through legal documents or interviews with law enforcement officials, premeditated murder can be explained as a structured sequence of choices.

Violence as a Means of Appropriating Property

The case contains two main dimensions: premeditated murder and violent theft. The first dimension concerns the death of the victim. The second concerns the appropriation of property or material gain. In criminological analysis, violence may function as a means of achieving an economic goal. The offender used violence because he perceived it as a way to eliminate victim resistance.

Violence in this case did not stand alone. It served as an instrument to control the situation. When the victim was perceived as an obstacle, the offender could choose extreme violence to remove that obstacle. This choice reveals the relationship between economic motive, control over the victim, and the attempt to reduce the risk of failure. In rational choice terms, the act can be read as a morally deviant but instrumentally structured cost-benefit calculation.

This analysis must remain cautious. The researcher should not simplify the case into the claim that the offender wanted property and therefore killed the victim. The process needs to be explained. First, the offender assessed that the victim possessed something worth taking. Second, the offender had access to approach the victim. Third, the offender assessed violence as an effective method. Fourth, the offender assessed that the risk of arrest could be reduced through post-offence conduct.

Violent theft in this case therefore demonstrates the relationship between material motive and the selection of violent means. Rational choice theory shows that crime is not triggered only by motive but also by the offender's evaluation of opportunity. Research on criminal context confirms that offender decisions must be examined through the convergence of individual actors, opportunities, and concrete situations (Van Gelder & Nagin, 2023).

Post-Offence Conduct as Risk Reduction

Another finding requiring analysis concerns action after the crime. In a murder case, post-offence conduct may include concealing the body, removing evidence, taking the victim's property, fleeing, or constructing an alibi. If field data indicate that the offender disposed of or concealed the body, this conduct should be read as a continuation of criminal calculation.

From a rational choice perspective, offender decision-making does not stop when violence has been committed. The offender continues to make decisions after the victim is incapacitated. Post-offence decisions are directed toward reducing the risk of detection, delaying discovery, or preserving the proceeds of the crime. Such conduct forms part of risk management.

At this stage, the researcher needs to distinguish impulsive action from patterned action. If the offender selected a particular place to conceal the body, that choice should be analyzed through the offender's knowledge of the location. If the offender took specific property, that choice should be analyzed through use value or resale value. If the offender attempted to avoid investigators, that conduct indicates the offender's perception of legal risk.

This context strengthens the argument that premeditated murder and violent theft in Pangkalpinang formed one chain of decisions. The first decision concerned intent and planning. The second concerned the use of violence. The third concerned property appropriation. The fourth concerned attempts to avoid legal consequences.

The Journalist as Victim and Occupational Vulnerability

The victim's identity as a journalist adds an important social dimension. In this study, the victim should not be understood only as an individual target of violence. He was also part of the local press community. Violence against him may generate insecurity among journalists, especially local journalists who have high mobility, broad social networks, and frequent contact with many parties

Although the initial motive must be proven through the legal process, the victim's status as a journalist remains relevant in criminological analysis. Local journalists often work in social spaces close to sources, residents, workers, and local economic networks. Such proximity may strengthen access to information but may also increase vulnerability when social relations turn into conflict or are exploited for crime.

From a rational choice perspective, the victim's occupation may shape offender perception. The offender may perceive the victim as someone with assets, networks, or specific routines. The offender may also believe that a work relationship or social proximity provides an opportunity to approach the victim without major obstacles. Journalist protection should therefore not focus only on threats linked to reporting. It should also consider risks arising from work relations, mobility, and personal activities related to professional life.

Rational Choice Analysis

Based on the findings, rational choice theory explains four main processes. The first is target selection. The victim was selected not only because of personal identity but also because of relationships, access, and opportunities known to the offender. The second is location selection. The plantation functioned as a space that allowed the offender to reduce interference from others. The third is the selection of violence. Violence was used to control the victim and facilitate theft. The fourth is post-offence conduct. These actions show the offender's effort to reduce the risk of arrest.

The analysis should not claim that all offender decisions were fully rational. The offender may have had limited information, emotional pressures, economic stress, or biased risk assessment. Rational choice theory is therefore used here as a theory of bounded rationality. The offender may make decisions that appear reasonable from his subjective standpoint, but those decisions remain unlawful, harmful, and morally wrong. Recent research on criminal choice emphasizes that moral and situational contexts can shape whether a person evaluates criminal action as feasible or worthwhile (Herman & Pogarsky, 2024).

In the Pangkalpinang case, the alleged one-week planning period indicates room for deliberation. The work relationship provided access. The plantation provided opportunity. Violence provided control. Post-offence conduct provided a perceived chance to delay discovery. Together, these elements show the relationship between motive, opportunity, and risk in criminal decision-making.

Implications for Crime Prevention

The findings have several prevention implications. First, local media workers need safety protocols when meeting people with work, business, or conflict relationships. Second, activities in isolated locations should be accompanied or communicated to family members and colleagues. Third, local press organizations can establish rapid reporting systems when journalists cannot be contacted within a reasonable period. Fourth, law enforcement agencies can strengthen risk mapping for journalists with high field mobility.

These implications do not place responsibility for the crime on the victim. Situational prevention aims to reduce offender opportunity, not to blame the victim. In rational choice theory, prevention can be pursued by increasing the risk of detection, reducing expected rewards, strengthening guardianship, and restricting offender access to targets. In this way, the study not only explains the case but also offers practical direction for preventing similar offences.

IV. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that the premeditated murder and violent theft of a journalist in Pangkalpinang formed a chain of criminal decisions shaped by motive, access, opportunity, work relationship, location selection, violence, and post-offence conduct. From a rational choice perspective, the offender did not act only because of economic pressure. He also assessed the opportunity to approach the victim, control the situation, obtain material benefit, and reduce risk after the offence.

The theoretical contribution of this study lies in showing that rational choice theory can explain serious crime involving planning and extreme violence. Offender rationality in this case is not understood as perfect calculation but as bounded rationality shaped by information, social relations, perceived risk, and the immediate crime setting. The study therefore extends the use of rational choice theory to premeditated murder that intersects with violent theft and the occupational vulnerability of local journalists.

The study also has practical implications for journalist protection. Protection needs to be strengthened especially for activities carried out in isolated places, risky work relations, and field settings with limited supervision. Press organizations, law enforcement agencies, and local media communities need practical safety systems, including activity logs, rapid reporting, accompaniment in high-risk locations, and safety education for regional journalists. These measures are important for reducing the opportunities offenders may exploit through access, trust, and weak situational control.

The study is limited because it focuses on a single case in Pangkalpinang. Its findings cannot be generalized to all cases of violence against journalists. The depth of analysis also depends on the availability of informants, legal documents, official statements, and field observations. This research should therefore be understood as a criminological reading that can be strengthened by case files and court decisions when they become available.

Future research can compare several cases of violence against journalists in Indonesia to identify patterns linking occupation, offender access, economic motive, and the selection of violence. Further studies can also develop a situational prevention model for journalists in regional settings. For the wider public, this study contributes to awareness that serious crime often emerges from the convergence of intent, opportunity, access, and weak social supervision. Crime prevention therefore requires the involvement of families, communities, professional organizations, law enforcement agencies, and local residents.

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