

## Spectators' Violence at Soccer Matches: A Complex Psycho-Social Phenomenon

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The aim of this research was to understand the root cause of the Soccer supporters' violence as well as to explore its pattern. A case study was taken from the Persebaya supporters, which are well known as "Bonek." This research was conducted using the integrative method of quantitative and qualitative design. The result indicated that the supporter's violent behavior isn't caused by one aspect only, but it is a multifaceted psychosocial problem, which includes an over-fanaticism, a lack of emotional control, a disappointing management of the soccer match, and a low socioeconomic status. If the main factors such as poverty, unemployment, the management of soccer match, and the emotional behavior control aren't improved, then the next outbreak of supporters' violence is only a matter of time and intensity.

*Key words:* supporter's violence, soccer, psycho-social

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk memahami akar kekerasan suporter Sepakbola dan menemukan pola tindak kekerasan yang dilakukan. Sebagai studi kasus diambil suporter Persebaya Surabaya yang lebih dikenal dengan sebutan Bonek. Penelitian dilakukan dengan metode kuantitatif dan kualitatif secara terintegrasi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa fenomena kekerasan suporter bukanlah beralur tunggal, tetapi bersifat multidimensi yang mencakup variabel psiko-sosial seperti fanatisme berlebihan, emosi individu, penyelenggaraan pertandingan yang mengecewakan, dan kondisi sosial-ekonomi. Bila kondisi dasar seperti kemiskinan dan pengangguran tidak diperbaiki, demikian juga manajemen penyelenggaraan pertandingan dan pengendalian emosi individu, maka pecahnya kekerasan suporter kembali hanya soal waktu dan intensitas.

*Kata kunci:* kekerasan suporter, sepakbola, psiko-sosial

Let us take a look at this excerpt:

"...at least three cars were burnt by the masses, then exploded, two trucks were almost burnt down and several cars were destroyed. This event happened at around 6 PM on Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup> 2006. Approximately 30 thousands Persebaya supporters went berserk. They destroyed the facilities in the stadium, burnt the seats and the billboards. Then, they went outside, burnt a Suzuki APV owned by the ANTV, a Toyota Kijang owned by the NAVY, and another car. After that, two police trucks were also burnt down. The raging masses also destroyed the cars in front of the stadium. Even a Toyota Kijang was toppled in the middle of the street ("Rusuh di Surabaya," 2006)

What would cross our mind when we read the news above? Most probably it would be a deep concern for the soccer condition in Indonesia, especially its supporter's violence. Not only they've caused so much troubles to the management of each club, but also they make the true fans worried, and even worst, they raise great fear to the common civilians who happen to meet them on the street. From the above description, it's clear that the violence isn't specifically aimed only to the opponent team along with their officials, but it is also aimed to the civilians and other objects which most probably have nothing to do with the match. For example, the public facility, the car of one of a private television station, an army's car, as well as the police one ("Persebaya-Arema Rusuh," 2006; "Kerusuhan Suporter," 2006). Then, we might wonder, is it really a natural effect of a sport event such as soccer? Must we express our defeat by violence? Isn't win or lose in sports a common condition? Or is it most probably the catalyst of all unfinished life stress and social problems, such as unemployment, economical pressure, as well as a gap in law and justice?

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