

Is Corona Virus an Extraordinary Biological Weapon? (Indonesian Media Perspective in the Early COVID-19 Pandemic)

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Abstract

The coronavirus phenomenon at the beginning of 2020 provoked many conspiracy theories from experts in various scientific fields. One opinion supported by many related facts is the suspicion of the coronavirus or COVID-19 as a biological weapon of mass destruction. This research aims to review and describe the phenomenon of the coronavirus, which is considered a biological weapon of mass destruction, based on the facts circulating in various media in Indonesia during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. This type of research is descriptive qualitative with a framing analysis approach based on the perspective of Erving Goffman. The source of data in this research is credible news about the coronavirus. The results of the research have found that five facts support the alleged coronavirus as a biological weapon of mass destruction, which consists of (1) Recognition of indications that the coronavirus is an artificial virus; (2) The fact that the coronavirus is a threat; (3) Not all countries in the world comply with UN multilateral treaties on weapons of mass destruction; (4) A statement that the coronavirus was intentionally produced in a laboratory; and (5) The existence of United States interests. As for the refutation of the allegation of the coronavirus phenomenon as a mass murderer, the results of this research indicate that there are four corroborating rebuttals, namely: (1) China's denial of the accusation of the maker of the coronavirus; (2) There is no research that proves that the coronavirus is a biological weapon; (3) A statement that there is no intentional element of the Corona Virus outbreak; and (4) There is no evidence of US accusations against China as the maker of the coronavirus.

Keywords:

Mass Destruction;
Biological Weapons;
Covid-19; Indonesian
Mass Media, Early
Pandemic

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1. Introduction

Since the World Health Organization (WHO) stated that COVID-19 has spread throughout the world (Sun et al., 2020), this phenomenon has shaken the peace of all countries globally, including Indonesia, which is also one of the countries that encounter the impact of the global pandemic of COVID-19 (Djalante et al., 2020; Wargadinata et al., 2020). Since that time, everything related to the virus has become very interesting to discuss, as news and information exposed by the media about the COVID-19 phenomenon has also become very important (Zhao et al., 2020). This reporting is important because the public needs information about COVID-19, and they tend to access information through the media (Shahzad et al., 2020).

Various information accessed by the public about COVID-19, such as tips and tricks for dealing with the pandemic (Pennycook et al., 2020), viruses that threaten health (Bastani & Bahrami, 2020), education (Wargadinata et al., 2020), and even viruses which is very dangerous

for all people's lives (Hua & Shaw, 2020; Hsu, 2020). This encourages the importance of reviewing and researching the news about COVID-19 as an extraordinary object in terms of the phenomenon of the emergence of this virus. In addition, there are many public assumptions and facts that state the emergence of a virus such as COVID-19 with a duration of every 1000 years.

Reviews and research on COVID-19 provide tremendous benefits, not only during a pandemic like now, but studies on this phenomenon will always be needed in the future. Marc Lipsitch is an epidemiologist who has researched the coronavirus; his research conveyed the research's main objective: all countries can detect coronavirus cases more effectively (Lipsitch et al., 2020). In addition to determining policies and guidelines for dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, it is also a top priority to standardize awareness and care itself (Panzeri Carlotti et al., 2020), and the coronavirus pandemic is a new disease pandemic that threatens health, economy, and human life style (Foddai et al., 2020) and the tendency of the public to access sources of information about the coronavirus tends to be carried out continuously and very massively through various existing media (Cinelli et al., 2020) because the transformative potential of the media can provide and responding to social problems (Porter & Hellsten, 2014). Therefore, it is an important issue to observe in study of the COVID-19 pandemic based on media studies with a framing analysis approach based on Erving Goffman's perspective (Adams & Goffman, 1979).

So far, studies that explore the COVID-19 phenomenon on the public tend to discuss studies on the public's response to the media, which are based on three perspectives, namely: *first*, the psychological impact of quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic and how to overcome it (Brooks et al., 2020); *second*, YouTube content about COVID-19 in English and Chinese is classified as interesting with 21,288,856 cumulative views and has useful information (Khatri et al., 2020); and *third*, the potential use of Google Trends (GT) to monitor public anxiety over the COVID-19 epidemic infection in Taiwan shows that searches related to COVID-19 and face masks in Taiwan are increasing rapidly, to a peak when COVID-19 cases are being reported continuously. Likewise, the search for handwashing increased gradually in periods of face mask shortages (Husnayain et al., 2020).

From this trend, it appears that the research that has been conducted tends to focus on the study of data on electronic platforms, in the form of psychological impacts, the content presented, and user access. In comparison, this research is a research that will use a descriptive qualitative research method with a framing analysis approach based on Erving Goffman's perspective, with a data focus in the form of news about the presumption of the COVID-19, which is considered a biological weapon of mass destruction. Therefore, this research position has a focus and objectives that will provide results and novelty in studying the COVID-19. The purpose of this research is to review and describe the COVID-19 phenomenon, which is considered a biological weapon of mass destruction based on news facts and expert views in Indonesia.

The purpose of this paper is to complement the shortcomings of existing studies based on the initial assumption of the emergence of COVID-19 as a biological weapon of mass destruction. From several assumptions regarding the emergence of COVID-19, phenomenologists in the 21st era also have suspicions about some biological parties' interference in the presence of this virus. Reporting from *Worldometers*, the victims of the COVID-19 case on Thursday, April 14, 2020, recorded 2,075,528 people who were confirmed positive for COVID-19, with the death toll reaching 134,286 people. As of January 20, 2020, the beginning of this coronavirus's emergence, this figure includes a very high death rate. The comparison is with similar pandemic cases, such as MERS, which claimed 858 deaths, and SARS, with 774 deaths a year for seven years. This is

what triggers the presumption of the emergence of COVID-19, including a biological weapon of mass destruction.

The suspicion of COVID-19 as a biological weapon becomes strong or weak, along with the emergence of news on various platforms. *Framing* news instrumental in influencing the public perception of a statement and assumptions (Fahrimal et al., 2020). Such as Indonesian news reported by Liputan 6 (Indonesian television news program broadcast on SCTV) on January 2020, entitled “*Virus Corona Berasal dari Laboratorium Senjata Biologis China, Benarkah?*” or “*Coronavirus Comes from China's Biological Weapons Laboratory, is that true?*”. This news content's informs the origin of the emergence of the coronavirus as stated by various sources, both according to research and expert research. However, the *framing of the* title used led the public to think that there were interests of parties and groups which led to the initial assumption that COVID-19 was China's biological weapon. Framing analysis examines media construction, including news, by linking to the groups' reality behind it (Mitozo et al., 2020). The classification stage in framing analysis stops at the title and continues in content analysis and the presentation of the content presented (Rosas-Moreno & Joyce, 2017). Therefore, the truth of the allegation that COVID-19 is a biological weapon of mass destruction can be explored using framing analysis theory.

2. Research Methods

This research uses a descriptive qualitative research method using framing analysis based on the perspective of Erving Goffman. According to Goffman, framing analysis is defined by situations constructed by the organizational principles that govern events and the involvement of subjectivity (Goffman, 1961). The framing analysis method is part of content analysis that evaluates the discourse on competition between groups that appear in the media. Framing theory is a theoretical approach that has been used and applied in the study of communication, politics, and social movements (Scheff, 2005). This analysis is used to determine how the reality of actors, groups, or others is constructed by the media (Denzin et al., 1981).

Framing analysis has two approaches, namely psychological and sociological concepts. Psychological concepts tend to emphasize how a person processes information on himself, while sociological concepts tend to look at the social construction of reality (Reid et al., 2020). This study uses sociological concepts in framing analysis theory. According to Goffman, sociologically, the idea of framing analysis maintains the stages of classification, organization, and interpretation actively based on real-life experiences in their understanding (Goffman, 2006). Interpretation schemes are called frames, which allow individuals to localize, perceive, identify and label events and information (Linström & Marais, 2012).

The primary data sources in this research are credible news, expert opinions, official documents from various government agencies, minutes of association meetings, credible articles, and official videos regarding COVID-19 cases whose validity is guaranteed in several sources—media in Indonesia. The media sources can be accessed online through news media links. The secondary data sources in this study are literature and various other sources in magazines, bulletins, publications from various organizations, attachments from official bodies such as ministries, study results, theses, survey results, historical studies, etc. Covid phenomenon. -10. Researchers use this secondary data to strengthen the findings and complement the information that has been collected (Tanzeh, 2018). Data collection techniques in this study were reading and observation techniques, listening techniques, and note-taking techniques. While the data validation technique of this research increases persistence, triangulates sources, and discusses with research experts. At the same time, the data analysis techniques in this study are data reduction techniques, data presentation techniques, and conclusion drawing techniques (Miles & Huberman, 1992).

3. Results and Discussion

In this discussion, the researcher will present the data taken from credible and trustworthy news sources. Based on the research objectives, researchers will review and describe the coronavirus phenomenon, which is considered a biological weapon of mass destruction based on news facts and expert views. Therefore, the results of this study consist of the following discussions: (1) coronavirus; (2) suspicion that the coronavirus is a biological weapon of mass destruction; and (3) proof of allegations.

An Overview of Coronavirus

Coronavirus is a virus that can be found in humans and animals (Kumar, 2020). Some of these viruses can infect humans and cause various diseases. It starts from common diseases such as flu to more fatal diseases, such as *Middle East Respiratory Syndrome* (MERS) and *Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome* (SARS). Then gave this virus the name COVID-19, which stands for *coronavirus disease* (corona infectious virus), and the number 19 indicates it appeared in 2019 (Sohrabi et al., 2020). Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a new infectious disease caused by the acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). This virus is considered to be natural and of animal origin through a spillover infection. Its true origin is unknown, but the first time, this virus was identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, the capital of province Hubei, China. Since that time, the virus has spread globally and has resulted in a continuous pandemic (Chan et al., 2020).

The coronavirus spread between humans is very fast through liquid *droplets* from the mouth and nose. When a person is infected and talks, coughs, or sneezes, the virus spreads like the flu. A person's droplets can remain in the mouth or nose of other people around them and then be absorbed into the breath. This occurs during close contact, which is between one and two meters or three to six feet. A person contracting this disease is caused by inhaling liquid droplets exhaled by an infected person. However, these fluid droplets are relatively heavy and are not contagious over long distances. Because these liquid droplets usually fall to the ground or onto an object's surface. A person can become infected by touching a contaminated surface and then touching their face between the eyes, nose, or mouth without washing their hands first. Any other droplets that come out will remain in the air. Transmission of this disease occurs during the first three days after the onset of symptoms, although the spread may have occurred before symptoms appeared (National Institute of Health, March 17, 2020).

Common symptoms caused by COVID-19 are fever, cough, fatigue, shortness of breath or even shortness of breath, muscle pain, production of phlegm and mucus, loss of smell and taste, sore throat, and other symptoms. In some common cases, this virus causes mild symptoms such as fever, but in others, it progresses to pneumonia, multi-organ failure, cytokine storms, and even death. It is known that the symptoms caused by COVID-19 vary widely and are increasing. *The Center for Disease Control and Prevention* (CDC) believes that coronavirus patients can experience these symptoms between two days until 14 days after exposure to the virus. While generally, these symptoms appear around five days. In some cases, even the virus does not cause any symptoms. A person who is studied has a strong and healthy immune system can be infected without feeling any symptoms. So, the danger that can occur when it is free to interact with many people and spreads without being noticed before (Doremalen et al., 2020).

Recommended steps to prevent transmission of coronavirus infection are frequent hand washing with soap for at least 20 seconds, stay away from crowded places, maintain physical distance and contact with other people (especially those showing symptoms), quarantine, cover coughs, and do not touch your face with unwashed hands. The CDC recommends covering the mouth and nose with tissue when coughing or sneezing. If not available, you can use the inside of the elbow. Besides, the use of a face mask or mask is highly recommended. The CDC also recommends using cloth facemasks in public settings where long-distance social measures are

difficult to implement. Strategies *social distancing* or social restrictions itself aims to reduce contact with people infected with another large group. It does this by closing schools, workplaces, public locations, restricting travel, and closing and canceling events with large-scale attendees. Social restrictions also mean that a person must be at least 1.8 meters apart from other people. After implementing *social distancing* by maintaining distance and staying at home, many areas can maintain effective transmission rates (Andersen et al., 2020).

So far, no drug has been found that is known to be effective at preventing COVID-19. Guidelines National Institutes of Health do not recommend any medication for the prevention of COVID-19, either before or after exposure to the virus outside clinical trial settings. According to the World Health Organization, at the early of the outbreak, there are no available vaccines or antiviral treatments specifically for COVID-19. Once granted an Antivirus Emergency Use Authorization for patients hospitalized with severe COVID-19. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak COVID-19 is the Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) on January 30, 2020, and a pandemic on March 11, 2020. Local transmission of the disease has occurred in most countries in the six WHO regions (World Health Organization, 2020).

The effect of the ferocity of the coronavirus attack is the expansion of the death toll. More than 3.74 million cases were reported in 187 countries and territories as of May 6, 2020. These cases resulted in more than 263,000 deaths and more than 1.23 million people recovered. Meanwhile, the Google platform summarizes the summary statistical data of COVID-19 cases in Indonesia, reaching 12,348 cases with a death rate of 895 people and 2,317 recovered. Until now, the COVID-19 pandemic has become increasingly alarming. Currently, the Corona Virus, as the cause of COVID-19 originating from Wuhan, China, has spread to almost the entire country. Only three provinces have no corona cases in Indonesia, namely NTT, Bengkulu, and Gorontalo. Indonesia itself is in the second-highest percentage of deaths in the world. Until now, it is not known how long the corona pandemic will end. Meanwhile, twenty global companies are competing to create a vaccine for COVID-19. However, it will take a long time to clinically test the performance of a vaccine and its availability for the public interest. The clinical trial itself takes at least 18 months (Jawa Pos, April 1, 2020).

Alleged Coronavirus as a Biological Weapon of Mass Destruction

The existence of the coronavirus had sparked a feud between the United States and China. The two countries involved in a trade war then blamed each other for the virus's origin. As the country with the third-highest percentage of deaths globally, Iran calls corona a part of the US biological weapon. This allegation is not without reason because the COVID-19 case is similar to an attack on war using biological weapons (Jawa Pos, April 1, 2020, 2020). In a war, there is often the use of various viruses, bacteria, or germs that cause illness or death. This virus is sometimes aimed at plants, animals, and even humans directly to destroy the enemy. One party in the war uses this *biological agent* as a weapon. *Biological weapons* are generally used because they are cheap; although they were formed through long research and are relatively expensive, they are also secret. Its effectiveness is also recognized because it is easy to spread, undetectable, and very dangerous, even more, deadly than nuclear weapons. As Shankar & Mehendale stated that anthrax is a zoonotic disease, but it has long been considered a potential biological weapon because of its ability to cause massive death through the deliberate release of spores (Shankar & Mehendale, 2014) further (Soeliongan, 2020) also states that bacteria, viruses, and fungi, including the category of bioterrorism that can be genetically engineered to inflicted heavy damage, even more so than the bombing, so that this silent killer action can destroy lives globally.

Weapons of mass destruction (WMD) themselves is produced in various forms and forms. In general, defense strategies use this weapon against large-scale enemies. NATO classifies weapons of mass destruction into four categories: biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological.

Meanwhile, artificial viruses are the most terrible weapons of mass destruction. It can be designed and created by computers. As a result of the CRISPR gene-editing technique's emergence, the combination virus can be produced and released anywhere. To avoid world conflicts that can occur in biological warfare, almost every region in the world signed the Biological Weapons Convention in 1975. The agreement explicitly prohibits the use and development of such weapons (Liputan6, April 4, 2019).

The UN itself has banned the use of biological weapons, including *weapons of mass destruction* other than nuclear and chemical. The prohibition through the *Biological Weapons Convention* has not been effective because it has not been equipped with a verification system for the states' compliance to the provisions contained therein (Jawa Pos, April 1, 2020). Although an agreement to prohibit the use of weapons of mass destruction has been signed and explicitly prohibits, it does not mean that organizations and parties with access to CRISPR and know enough about the virus's knowledge cannot produce artificial viruses. Smallpox, for example, one of these diseases is said to have been artificially modified to attack. So is the danger of the virus *illusion*, which the USSR bioscience experts once said was engineered. John Soros and Bill Gates have also specifically warned about this kind of threat to the world (Liputan6, April 4, 2019).

WHO classified three causes for the corona pandemic: *natural infections*, laboratory (*accidents accidental release*), and biological material *deliberate use* (Jawa Pos, April 1, 2020). Thus, the COVID-19 outbreak has generated various public speculations because of its massive and concurrent attacks worldwide and claimed many lives. In the military world, this kind of phenomenon is classified as a weapon of mass destruction. Because the coronavirus causes human annihilation through a virus that cannot be controlled and results in natural selection, this allegation was later linked to bioterrorism. Then if the biological weapon is proven, observers are increasingly looking for who made it. It could be that it has something to do with the trade war between the United States and China. Competition between developed countries to influence the world and efforts to control the world economy continues. This is the background for the emergence of allegations of the interests of developed countries (Portonews, March 27, 2020).

The echo heard so far has been accusing the United States and China of the origins of COVID-19. He was starting from a spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Zhao Lijian, who mentioned the possibility of the coronavirus entering Wuhan because US soldiers brought it. This statement has not been proven. He conveyed through a Twitter account and a video description of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). They testified that several Americans had died due to the coronavirus Flu. Not accepting this, US President Donald Trump, in his tweet, called this pandemic a Chinese virus. The dispute has continued until now and was thrown at each other by officials from the two countries (Oktarianisa, 2020). The suspicion of COVID-19 has the scheme to be whether it is a natural virus that develops or is it a virus made by a party that is deliberately made with a specific purpose (Porto News, March 27, 2020). It is known that the US President has deployed his Government to launch an investigation and find out whether the Coronavirus is indeed a man-made result in the virology laboratory in Wuhan, China. Trump had addressed the matter at a White House press conference after many previously speculated that China made the virus in the Wuhan laboratory as a biological weapon (bioweapon).

Meanwhile, Italy, which was the country worst affected by Covid 19, then raised negative allegations against Russia after assisting. The death toll in Italy reached 14,000 and beat the death toll in China. This prompted Russia along with several countries to assist. Russia sent nine planes and more than a hundred experts and medical supplies such as PPE and ventilators. However, a source alleged that the shipment contained laboratory disinfecting and sterilization equipment for prevention and chemicals. Italy then became angry because 80% of the aid was deemed useless. The report also accused Russia of sending doctors to spy in Italy. Experts in Italy also

believe that the package's delivery is only a means of enhancing Russia's geopolitical reputation (Serambinews, April 6, 2020).

Besides, there are also allegations that China and Russia are strengthening cooperation to intensify the global war against the pandemic. Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed this on Friday, March 20, 2020. The Chinese President made this statement in late-night telephone communication with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Chinese leader said Beijing was willing to make joint efforts with Russia and other countries that wanted to work with them to safeguard global public health security (Serambinews, April 6, 2020). The relationship between the two countries seems to be improving. The Chinese President has continually praised Russia for launching a series of effective preventive and control measures. On the other hand, the Russian leader also expressed a lot of praise, saying that the united Chinese Government and people had made important achievements in preventing and controlling the coronavirus outbreak. He also praised China for providing support and assistance to many other countries affected by Corona. Russia has also denied accusations by the US of China as the virus's source (CNBC Indonesia, April 27, 2020).

Proof of Allegations

This research will present supporting data and rebutting allegations of the coronavirus as a biological weapon phenomenon of mass destruction, which is said to have occurred once every 1000 years, sequentially starting with a discussion of the alleged supporters a discussion of refuting the allegations.

Supporter of Conjecture

This study found various kinds of data that support the alleged coronavirus as a biological weapon of mass destruction. The data is summarized in the Table 1.

Table 1.
Support for Alleged Coronavirus

Supporters of Alleged	Sources
Recognition of a signal that the COVID-19 is an artificial virus	The Statement University of Indonesia Intelligen Observer, Dr. Connie Rahakundi Bakrie
The facts coronavirus is a threat	Indonesian Spokesman, Dahnil Anzar Simanjuntak
Not all countries in the world are compliant with the UN multilateral agreement on weapons of mass destruction.	Kompasiana's, March 26, 2020
A statement that the Coronavirus was deliberately produced in a laboratory	Former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), Philip Giraldi
United States interests	CNBC Indonesia, April 16, 2020

Recognition of a Signal that the Covid 19 Virus is an Artificial Virus.

Dr. Connie Rahakundini Bakrie expressed this statement in a discussion held at Bentara Budaya Kompas. While reminding the President of the Republic of Indonesia to think about an alternative Military Emergency Status, he also stated the reality of COVID-19, a mass destruction virus. According to him, the term weapons of mass destruction itself means all weapons and devices that can kill or cause serious injury to a large number of humans through the release,

spread, and impact of toxic chemicals or disease organisms and radiation (Porto News, March 27, 2020).

This is in line with Astronacci International, which states that Covid 19 is a biological weapon created by the United States and Israel to win the Trade War with China and an attack on Iran. According to allegations of video recordings on the YouTube channel Astronacci International, this virus is the work of a group of people from all over the world called the Illuminati. The goal is to stop China's rule in the world economy and military by forming the Economy Big Star (CNN Indonesia, March 12, 2020). It was stated that the Economy Big Star controls the World Bank and the IMF (International Monetary Fund), which will provide loans for the economic recovery of countries that are bankrupt due to the impact of Covid 19. The loans then have choking interest rates, while the two banks' source of funds is wealthy businessmen. After successfully forming the Economic Big Star in the Illuminati theory (CNN Indonesia, March 12, 2020). Besides that, there has not been a single country that has prepared a strategic plan as an action against attacks *biodefense*. There is no central institution that provides a specific budget or doctrine. Connie expressed this in his statement on the same occasion (CNN Indonesia, March, 12, 2020).

Facts of Coronavirus as a Threat

Indonesian spokesman Dahnil Anzar Simanjuntak stated that the COVID-19 virus is a real non-military threat and has become a fact today. This is proven by its broad impact on many aspects, from politics, social, economy, and culture. Victims continue to fall, and many countries have failed to cope with this pandemic even though they have exerted all the constitution's mandate to protect their people (Jawa Pos, April 1, 2020). The impact the emergence of the COVID-19 virus has massively attacked every country around the world. Although previously developed countries were always able and proud to handle their citizens' health problems, this time, it did not apply. All rich countries, developed countries, even superpowers failed to overcome it. The number of victims who continue to fall makes these countries shocked and unprepared. This has been proven in several countries, for example, Italy, America, Germany, France, and many more (Porto News, March 27, 2020). Not All Countries In The World Comply With The UN Multilateral Treaty On Weapons Of Mass Destruction.

The UN multilateral agreement on weapons of mass destruction was only signed by 109 countries and ratified by 22 countries. The agreement is the first convention aimed at halting the production and prohibiting biological weapons to mass extermination. This agreement was motivated by the prevention of biological warfare in the world. Until now, the fact that the use of biological weapons has not disappeared. For example, during the Zimbabwe war for independence in 1964-1979, cholera bacteria were used as their weapon to win. During the Gulf War in 1990-1991 and the terrorist attacks on the US from September to October 2001. After that, there have also been accusations against Russia, Iran, and other countries using biological weapons. Until now, many countries in the world have developed biological weapons of mass destruction under intelligence protection in secret and on behalf of *National Security* (Kompasiana, March 26, 2020). According to sources, if the COVID-19 virus is part of biological weapons development, it will certainly be difficult to get recognition from the developing country concerned because this virus has become the biggest crime against humanity, even though it was previously designed to be a powerful weapon to paralyze the enemy (Kompasiana, March 26, 2020).

The Statement that the Coronavirus was Intentionally Produced in a Laboratory

Philip Girdali mentioned this statement in an article published by the Strategic Culture Foundation on Thursday, March 5, 2020. He stated that the coronavirus did not occur due to natural processes due to genetic mutations but was deliberately produced by a laboratory party.

It was stated that it could be concluded from several reports about the existence of a viral component related to HIV or *Human Immunodeficiency Virus*, which could not have occurred naturally. It makes more sense that the coronavirus has been developed or even produced to be used as a weapon. These allegations point to the Wuhan Institute of Virology for frequent laboratory 'leaks.' The laboratory technician realized this accident, leading to the virus entering animal and human populations (Independensi, March 24, 2020).

Experts at the Pentagon claim that the National Biosafety Laboratory, one of China's most advanced laboratories, hides 1,500 of the world's deadliest pathogens, one of which is named SARS-CoV 2, which escaped the laboratory. The city of Wuhan is also the first city in the world to confirm a coronavirus case in December 2019 (Grid Hype, April 17, 2020). A book entitled 'The Eyes of Darkness' published in 1981, also discusses China's military laboratories that create biological weapons. Dean Koontz's book is indeed a literary work that tells the story of a mother who finds her son and finds a laboratory that has been in discussion. The laboratory in question is Biosafety in Wuhan, which has the highest level of studying deadly viruses and is located 32 km from where the coronavirus first emerged. The book's story is similar to the corona phenomenon, but the author stated that he did not predict an outbreak in 2020 (Grid Health, March 17, 2020).

Besides, Philip Giraldi also explained the possibility that the United States made it. This is due to China's claims which are considered a direct threat to security and economic domination for the US. He suspects Washington created and unleashed the virus intending to undermine Beijing's economic and military growth. According to Philip, the US President could be reckless like that. Besides, he also suspected that Israel was involved in the project. The reason is that from 2005 to 2009, the two countries secretly developed the Stuxnet computer virus to destroy the control and operating systems of Iranian computers used in nuclear research (Independensi, March 24, 2020). According to Philip, the suspicion that the US created the coronavirus in the remainder of the biological weapons research that was once widespread at Ft. Detrick, Maryland, is very likely related to Israel as its partner. This is supported by Israeli scientists' claims who have almost succeeded in developing the Coronavirus vaccine, and it is available in 90 days. Moreover, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark Milley, said that the US is also making a similar vaccine in a military laboratory (Independensi, March 24, 2020).

There is an Interest in the United States.

The heat of the Persian Gulf due to the cold war between the US and Iran continues. Since two decades ago, the US accused Iran of possessing biological weapons, then attacked by killing the country's number one general, Major General Qassem Soleimani (Accurate, January 12, 2020). America's interest in Iran has aroused some experts' suspicion that currently, Iran is the only country in the world with many official fatalities exposed to Covid 19. Of the 290 members of the Iranian People's Representative Council, 20 people or 8% are declared exposed. COVID-19 (Independensi, March, 24, 2020).

Its interests towards China also accompany suspicion of America as a perpetrator. Biological attacks have special characteristics such as a party's motives, opportunities, abilities, and mentality. The coronavirus Outbreak occurred just before the Chinese New Year, which is always celebrated on a large scale in China (Defense Department, n.d.). Another factor can be seen from the phenomenon that occurred in 2002 when the US started a trade war against China, and a year later, the SARS outbreak occurred in 2003. Currently, since 2018 the US had started another trade war against China and was followed by the corona outbreak in 2019. The African swine flu outbreak in China once had a significant impact on the economy compared to war. This virus

became known as a fairly efficient biological weapon, as happened in Cuba in the 1970s and Russia in 2010, which accused the US of being behind the outbreak (Defense Department, n.d.).

The opinion that America is behind the corona outbreak is increasingly supported by a statement in an article published by Independent UK, which states that the country is still researching the virus of mass destruction. Although in 1969 the US officially abandoned its biological weapons program, Fort Detrick continued its 'defensive' research against deadly pathogens in August 2019. The Army's Infectious Diseases Medical Research Institute says that its main mission is to protect fighters from biological threats (Defense Department, n.d.).

Conjecture Dispute

Researchers also found various kinds of data that refute the allegation that the coronavirus is a biological weapon of mass destruction. The data is summarized in the Table 2.

Table 2.
Rebuttal to the Alleged Coronavirus

Exceptant Alleged	Source
Rebuttal China on charges maker coronavirus	Chinese government
No research proves that corona is a biological weapon.	Site
A statement that there was no element of the intent of the plague coronavirus	Ex-Head of Strategic Intelligence Agency (KaBais) TNI, Soleman B Ponto
There has been no evidence of allegations The US over China as the maker of coronavirus	the Chinese government

China's Denial of Accusations of Coronavirus Maker

The Chinese government has denied the allegations that the US made of making the Coronavirus for biological weapons of mass destruction at the Wuhan Institute of Virology. On the contrary, the Chinese government suspects that US Military Agents developed this virus. This statement was made during an international activity in China. Until now, the two countries still deny each other the accusations that were raised (Porto News, March 27, 2020). China has denied the possession of sensitive biological weapons (Liputan6, January 27, 2020). He insisted and said that even the WHO had found no evidence that the coronavirus was man-made.

Meanwhile, the Chinese government's official statement has linked the coronavirus to originating from wild animals consumed by humans (Defense Department, n.d.). As Director of the *Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention*, Gao Fu stated that the source of the virus came from wild animals sold in the marine animal market in Wuhan illegally and is now labeled "Ground Zero" (Grid Hype, April 17, 2020).

Deputy Head of the Wuhan Virology Institute, Dr. Yuan Zhiming, spoke up and clarified the accusations. According to him, the coronavirus is something that is far beyond human intelligence to create this. "Some scientists believe that to synthesize viruses requires extraordinary intelligence or workload, so I never believed that we humans today can create such a virus," he explained. Dr. Yuan stated that the accusations leveled against China were merely speculation. The deputy director of the Wuhan Virology Institute, Shi Zhengli, told the press that he guaranteed

the Corona outbreak had nothing to do with the laboratory in February. He proved that there were no infected members, staff, or retirees. (Kompas, March 20, 2020).

There Is No Research That Proves That Corona is a Biological Weapon

There has been no independent research that proves that the coronavirus is a biological weapon. On the contrary, the suspicion that has emerged states that this virus comes from natural factors. In line with the study of Andersen et al. (2020) revealed that the spread of corona is due to natural symptoms. Dany Shoham, a former Israeli military intelligence officer who studies China's biological warfare, argues about the coronavirus's possible leak. According to him, although in principle the virus infiltration might occur, either because of a leak or because of infection without realizing it, and it could be that this case occurred at the Wuhan Virology Institute, so far there is no evidence or indication for this incident (Liputan6, January 27, 2020).

The Statement Deliberate No Elements Of Coronavirus Outbreak

Ex-Head of Strategic Intelligence Agency (KaBais) TNI, Soleman B Ponto look that plague the coronavirus which alarmed the world today does not have the element of intent or attack biological allegedly belonging to China. As stated in the Indonesia Lawyers Club (ILC) tvOne event, Tuesday night, February 4, 2020. According to him, indicators of intent have not been found in the deadly virus. That is, this is not artificial but natural, which is now being searched for the cause. According to Soleman, non-military products can be used as weapons, such as nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, in its development. However, he views that the coronavirus, which came from Wuhan, China, cannot be concluded as a form of engineering. According to him, after several days of seeing developments, it turned out that the experts had been able to see that the previous coronavirus made track records. The opinion of the coronavirus being used as a biological weapon, according to Soleman, is still difficult to prove. In contrast to the hypothesis of a nuclear or chemical method used as a weapon of mass destruction, it is inanimate or controllable. However, this biology is a living item that may return to the maker. When looking at developments, a party can't make it specifically (Viva, April 2, 2020).

Analysis of genomic sequence data from the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 reported by science daily shows that the virus is a natural evolution product and not genetic engineering in the laboratory (Shahrajabian et al., 2020). According to Christian Andersen, Ph.D., a Professor of Immunology and Microbiology at Scripps Research, after comparing the available genomic sequence data for known coronavirus strains, we can firmly determine that SARS-CoV-2 originated from natural processes (Kompas, March 20, 2020).

There Is No Evidence of US Accusations of China as a Coronavirus Maker.

US accusations of China as a maker of the coronavirus are indeed accompanied by research conducted by US officials who visited the Laboratory in Wuhan. However, the results of the visit have not proven their allegations. According to Mark Milley, General Chair of the US Joint Generals quoted by South China Politico's Morning Post; they do not know for sure. They cannot conclude the cause of the emergence of the coronavirus. US officials who have visited the laboratory sent a diplomatic cable in January 2018 to Washington warning about safety and management weaknesses in the laboratory (Tribun Jateng, April 15, 2020).

The Wuhan Virology Institute in China is a laboratory that houses more than 15,000 types of deadly viruses. The £ 34 million laboratories are affiliated with the Academy of Sciences Chinese, which was completed in 2015 and officially opened in 2018. The laboratory has

three testing rooms, two animal storage rooms, a virus bank, and a veterinary surgery room. Twenty-four scientists can work at the site simultaneously (Pikiran Rakyat, April 21, 2020).

A researcher named Zhang Huajun has shown how he and his colleagues were wearing protective clothing and passing through the airtight chamber before entering the core of the laboratory. He said the building was designed so that air could only flow from the outside into the lab, not the other way around. Therefore, he ensured that no virus would leak through the air that would come out of the laboratory (Pikiran Rakyat, April 21, 2020).

4. Conclusion

Regarding the news about the alleged corona as a weapon of mass destruction, this research found five facts supporting the allegation that the coronavirus is a biological weapon of mass destruction and four facts to disprove it. The five supporters are (1) Recognition of a signal that the COVID-19 is an artificial virus; (2) Facts coronavirus is a threat; (3) Not all countries in the world comply with the UN multilateral agreement on weapons of mass destruction; (4) A statement that the coronavirus is intentionally produced in a laboratory; and (5) There is an interest in the United States. Meanwhile, the deniers of the allegation are: (1) China's denial of the accusation of making the coronavirus; (2) no research proves that corona is a biological weapon; (3) A statement that there is no intentional element of the coronavirus outbreak; and (4) There has been no evidence of US accusations against China as the maker of the coronavirus.

The coronavirus had indeed become a deadly pandemic outbreak in 2020. Suspicions will continue to rise, and it isn't easy to ascertain the truth. Therefore, of course, we must be vigilant and always take care of the health of ourselves and those around us. If the suspicions that have arisen are true, the government must, of course, further strengthen the country's resilience in all fields, especially in the military, economy, and health. Researchers suggest developing further studies of the phenomena that cause this great pandemic. A study on a pandemic is very much needed in the future to become the vigilance of the parties in charge and all aspects of society to continue to maintain security and safety together.

NOTES

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