



The Reunion as a Catalyst for Divorce: A Case Study of the Padang Religious Court, Indonesia

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Abstract

The occurrence of reunions has been recognized as a contributing reason to the increasing divorce rates in Padang City, with evidence of infidelity frequently associated with these gatherings. This paper examines the research gap about the function of reunions in divorce proceedings within the Religious Court jurisdiction of Padang City. The main aim is to investigate the impact of Islamic legal principles on divorce cases prompted by considerations connected to reunion. The study use a descriptive qualitative methodology to collect empirical data from real-world examples for comprehensive examination. This research distinctly emphasizes the convergence of social activities, such reunions, with legal and theological contexts, providing innovative insights into their role in marital strife. The results suggest that reunions may serve as a catalyst for marital breakdown, especially when preexisting relational difficulties are present. Court proceedings frequently exhibit elevated emotional tension, with judges and legal practitioners crucially responsible for upholding civility. Mediation efforts are often impeded by mistrust arising from reunion situations. Nonetheless, the application of Islamic law principles, including the prevention of harm and the promotion of justice, provides fair resolutions for both parties while striving to uphold the sanctity of marriage when possible. This research enhances the debate by recognizing reunions as a distinct and consequential social catalyst in divorce cases and suggesting Islamic legal strategies to alleviate their effects. These findings offer a novel viewpoint for policymakers and legal professionals to tackle rising issues in family law.

Keywords: Divorce, Islamic law, Reunions, Religious Court

Abstrak

Terjadinya reuni telah diakui sebagai alasan yang berkontribusi terhadap meningkatnya angka perceraian di Kota Padang, dengan bukti perselingkuhan yang sering dikaitkan dengan pertemuan ini. Penelitian ini meneliti kesenjangan penelitian tentang fungsi reuni dalam proses perceraian di wilayah hukum Pengadilan Agama Kota Padang. Tujuan utamanya adalah untuk menyelidiki dampak dari prinsip-prinsip hukum Islam terhadap kasus-kasus perceraian yang dipicu oleh pertimbangan-pertimbangan yang berhubungan



dengan reuni. Penelitian ini menggunakan metodologi kualitatif deskriptif untuk mengumpulkan data empiris dari contoh-contoh dunia nyata untuk diperiksa secara komprehensif. Penelitian ini secara jelas menekankan konvergensi kegiatan sosial, seperti reuni, dengan konteks hukum dan teologis, memberikan wawasan inovatif tentang peran mereka dalam perselisihan perkawinan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa reuni dapat menjadi katalisator bagi keretakan perkawinan, terutama ketika ada kesulitan relasional yang sudah ada sebelumnya. Proses pengadilan sering kali menunjukkan ketegangan emosional yang tinggi, dengan hakim dan praktisi hukum yang sangat bertanggung jawab untuk menegakkan kesopanan. Upaya mediasi sering kali terhambat oleh ketidakpercayaan yang timbul dari situasi reuni. Meskipun demikian, penerapan prinsip-prinsip hukum Islam, termasuk pencegahan bahaya dan penegakan keadilan, memberikan resolusi yang adil bagi kedua belah pihak sambil berusaha untuk menegakkan kesucian pernikahan jika memungkinkan. Penelitian ini meningkatkan perdebatan dengan mengakui reuni sebagai sebuah konsekuensi sosial yang berbeda.

Kata Kunci: Perceraian, Hukum Islam, Reuni, Pengadilan Agama

Introduction

Marriage is an institution that has a crucial role in the lives of individuals, religion, society, and the social environment.¹ The bond of marriage creates a strong basic foundation in forming the family, which then acts as the smallest unit in the social structure of society. For individuals, marriage provides the emotional comfort, stability, and support necessary to face life's challenges.² From a religious perspective, marriage has a very important spiritual value because it forms a bond recognized by sharia, as well as a means to maintain the honor and dignity of the individual.³

The role of marriage is not only limited to individual and religious aspects but also has a significant impact on the wider community. In society, marriage creates greater social bonds, which connect families and form a close social network.⁴ Families formed from harmonious marriages tend to produce emotionally stable children, which in turn makes a positive contribution to society. In addition, the living environment filled with harmonious families also creates an atmosphere that is more conducive to moral and spiritual development.⁵

¹ Firdaus et al., "The Principles of the Concept of Maslahah in Islamic Family Law of a Wife Looking for Living Husband Taking Care of Household Work," *Al-Istinbath: Jurnal Hukum Islam* 9, no. 1 (May 2024): 259-84, <https://doi.org/10.29240/JHI.V9I1.8464>.

² Syaflin Halim et al., "The Communication Patterns of Husband and Wife Couples in Resolving Household Conflicts: Islamic Family Law Perspectives," *KARSA Journal of Social and Islamic Culture* 32, no. 1 (June 2024): 33-71, <https://doi.org/10.19105/karsa.v32i1.13280>.

³ Imam Hafas, "Pandangan Hukum Islam dan Hukum Positif Terhadap Pernikahan Anak Tiri Pada Masyarakat Desa Rombuh Pamekasan," *Al-Qadha* 7, no. 1 (July 2020): 16-28, <https://doi.org/10.32505/qadha.v7i1.1458>.

⁴ Desminar Desminar et al., "The Role of Religious Education on Islamic Legal Awareness in Relation to Marriage in Kuantan Hilir: Case Study of Unrecorded Marriage Practices," *SYAMIL: Jurnal Pendidikan Agama Islam (Journal of Islamic Education)* 12, no. 1 (July 2024): 41-56, <https://doi.org/10.21093/SY.V12I1.8601>.

⁵ Firdaus et al., "Views of Usul Fiqih And Islamic Family Law on Concerned Marriage Cases in Padang City," *Dusturiyah: Jurnal Hukum Islam, Perundang-Undangan Dan Pranata Sosial* 13, no. 2 (December 2023): 215-33, <https://doi.org/10.22373/dusturiyah.v13i2.20373>.

However, not all marriages can go according to expectations. A marriage that is not harmonious or ends in divorce can have negative impacts, such as emotional disturbances, stress, and instability for the couple and children.⁶ Tension in marriage can also have an impact on an individual's mental and physical health, as well as affect their social relationships.⁷ So what is called divorce arises. Divorce has a variety of negative impacts, not only for the couples involved, but also for the children, extended family, and the surrounding community. In children, parental divorce often leads to emotional instability, which can impact their mental development, education, and social relationships later in life.⁸

Many factors trigger divorce such as infidelity, domestic disharmony, economic problems, to differences in values and life goals.⁹ However, the issue of reunion as a significant factor causing divorce is still rarely discussed in the literature, especially in the context of Islamic law. This gap is important because reunions, which are generally considered a moment of positive reconnection, can give rise to new dynamics in the husband-wife relationship, including reviving past relationships that have the potential to threaten the integrity of the marriage. Further analysis of this phenomenon is needed to understand how reunions can be a trigger for conflict in marriage and how Islamic legal perspectives respond to these dynamics, especially in cases handled by the Padang Religious Court Class 1A.

Based on the data obtained, the divorce rate in the Class 1A Religious Court of Padang City has fluctuated in recent years. In 2021, there were 1,676 divorce cases processed by the court. This figure then decreased to 1,352 cases in 2022 but increased again in 2023 with a total of 1,404 divorce cases. This data shows that many couples choose divorce as the final solution to their problems.¹⁰ One of the significant factors in the increase in the divorce rate in 2023 is the reunion phenomenon. Based on data from the Padang City Class 1A Religious Court, in 2021 there were only 31 divorce cases caused by reunions, but this number increased to 54 cases in 2022 and jumped sharply to 220 cases in 2023. This phenomenon raises concerns because reunions, which initially aimed to strengthen friendships and friendships, actually triggered rifts in the household. Many couples who attend reunions find themselves meeting up with ex-partners or old friends who once had an emotional relationship with them, which then triggers a return of old feelings and, in some

⁶ Muhazir Muhazir and Azwir Azwir, "Divorce Bureaucracy in the Sharia Space: Examining Practices in Langsa City, Aceh," *At-Ta'fikir* 17, no. 1 (September 30, 2024): 44–55, <https://doi.org/10.32505/at.v17i1.9491>.

⁷ Rasyidin and Mayang Diwana, "Faktor Perceraian Suami Perantau Dalam Perspektif Hukum Keluarga," *Al-Qadha : Jurnal Hukum Islam Dan Perundang-Undangan* 8, no. 2 (December 2021): 144–59, <https://doi.org/10.32505/qadha.v8i2.3577>.

⁸ Syaflin Halim et al., "Upaya Janda Cerai Mati Dalam Menjaga Ketahanan Keluarga: Studi di Jorong Kayu Gaduh Kenagarian Tanjung Gadang Kabupaten Sijunjung," *Menara Ilmu* 17, no. 2 (April 2023): 109–15, <https://doi.org/10.31869/mi.v17i2.4285>.

⁹ Afgan Nugraha, Amiruddin Barinong, and Zainuddin Zainuddin, "Faktor Penyebab Terjadinya Perceraian Rumah Tangga Akibat Perselingkuhan," *Kalabbirang Law Journal* 2, no. 1 (2020): 53–68, <https://doi.org/10.35877/454ri.kalabbirang30>.

¹⁰ Pengadilan Tinggi Agama Kota Padang, "Data Statistik Perkara," *PA-Tanjung Redeb.Go.Id*, 2024.

cases, leads to infidelity or infidelity.¹¹¹² Reunions that are supposed to be moments of happiness and nostalgia often turn into a source of division, especially if the meeting involves long, unresolved feelings.¹³

This study is faced with a gap between the findings in the field that after the reunion based on 2023 data, as many as 220 cases of couples filing for divorce were caused by school reunions that led to infidelity. Another gap exists in the existing literature, especially related to reunions as a cause of divorce. Previous literature has identified various factors triggering divorce, such as social, psychological, and economic problems expressed by Khataybeh (2022) in the context of divorced women in Jordan, including social stigma and psychological pressure.¹⁴ Other factors such as infidelity, domestic violence, and the influence of bad associations are also widely studied, as explained by Nugraha et al. (2020)¹⁵ and Tirbuana (2023).¹⁶ Nugraha et al. highlighted the rise of reunions as one of the elements influencing infidelity, while Tirbuana emphasized the role of domestic violence and husband temperament as the main factors in divorce. In addition, Buyukkececi & Leopold (2021) showed that family dynamics and social interaction can influence divorce decisions,¹⁷ while Mutalibovna (2022) underlined the importance of women's literacy in preventing divorce in Uzbekistan.¹⁸

However, while these studies provide valuable insights, the specific focus on reunions as a cause of divorce is still very limited, especially in the context of Islamic law. This study seeks to fill this gap by analyzing reunions as a specific factor that triggers divorce in the Padang Religious Court Class 1A. Comparing findings from various studies, this study expands the understanding of the dynamics of divorce through the lens of Islamic law, which has not been widely explored in the previous literature.

Therefore, this study offers a new contribution to divorce literature by exploring the phenomenon of reunion as a cause of divorce from the perspective of Islamic law. This is because reunions are the cause of divorce, which has increased quite significantly by looking

¹¹ Badan Pusat Statistik Kota Padang, "Jumlah Perceraian Menurut Sebab Dan Bulan Di Kota Padang 2020-2022," *Padangkota.Bps.Go.Id* (Padang, 2022).

¹² Pengadilan Tinggi Agama Kota Padang, "Statistik Perkara 2023," *PA-Tanjung Redeb.Go.Id*, 2024.

¹³ Andalusia and Yasniwati, "Konsep Bimbingan Perkawinan Pra Nikah Untuk Mengurangi Tingginya Perceraian Karena Reuni Di Sumatera Barat," *Nagari Law Review* 7, no. 3 (June 2024): 626-38, <https://doi.org/10.25077/nalrev.v.7.i.3.p.626-638.2024>.

¹⁴ Yousef Damen Al Khataybeh, "The Consequences of Divorce on Women: An Exploratory Study of Divorced Women Problems in Jordan," *Journal of Divorce and Remarriage* 63, no. 5 (2022): 332-51, <https://doi.org/10.1080/10502556.2022.2046396>.

¹⁵ Nugraha, Barinong, and Zainuddin, "Faktor Penyebab Terjadinya Perceraian Rumah Tangga Akibat Perselingkuhan."

¹⁶ Nurul Jihan Tribuana, Usman, and Thahir Maloko, "Perceraian Akibat Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga (Studi Kasus Pengadilan Agama Barru Kelas II)," *Qadauna: Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa Hukum Keluarga Islam* 2, no. 2 (2023): 114-27, <https://doi.org/10.55606/lumen.v2i2.220>.

¹⁷ Zafer Buyukkececi and Thomas Leopold, "Sibling Influence on Family Formation: A Study of Social Interaction Effects on Fertility, Marriage, and Divorce," *Advances in Life Course Research* 47, no. 100359 (2021): 1-9, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.alcr.2020.100359>.

¹⁸ Amonova Manzura Mutalibovna, "Causes Of Family Divorce And Issues Of Its Elimination," *Journal of Positive School Psychology* 6, no. 11 (2022): 1565-72.

at data from 2021-2023 which continues to be high.¹⁹ In addition, based on the author's observations, indications of infidelity and communication between couples that occur after the reunion, especially school reunions, are also the main factors for the divorce to occur.²⁰ This study tries to fill the gap in the field and existing literature by examining how reunion can cause divorce in the jurisdiction of the Class 1A Religious Court of Padang City. The novelty of this study lies in its unique focus, which is to explore reunions as a triggering factor for divorce that has rarely been discussed in previous studies. The purpose of this study is to identify and analyze the impact of Islamic law on divorce cases triggered by reunions in Class 1A Religious Courts. So the limitations of this study are the reasons for divorce due to reunion, dynamics and communication in the trial, views on mediation as a solution, the impact of reunion on life before divorce, and the application of Islamic law in divorce cases due to reunion.

Using a qualitative descriptive approach oriented to collecting empirical data from the field. The purpose of the study is to analyze divorce cases due to reunion at the Padang Religious Court Class 1A. The object of this research is a case of divorce due to reunion. The subjects of this study are judges who handle divorces with reunion cases, advocates, ex-husbands, and ex-wives. The chosen research location is the Padang Religious Court Office Class 1A. Primary data collection is taken directly through direct interviews and participatory observation of the parties involved as the subject of the research and trial process. Meanwhile, secondary data from official documents, books, and relevant archives to strengthen the results of the research. Data analysis will use techniques from Miles and Huberman with inductive conclusions. The stages are data collection, data reduction, data appearance, and inductive conclusion.

Divorce Law and Reunion Factors that Impact Divorce

In Indonesia, divorce is regulated by religious law as well as state law. The divorce process is not only related to the termination of the marriage bond, but also includes child custody, the division of property, and the responsibilities of each party after the divorce.²¹ In Islam, divorce is known as talaq, which is the husband's right to break the marriage bond.²² However, wives also have the right to request a divorce through a lawsuit in a religious court if there are valid reasons according to Sharia.²³ Divorce law in Islam can be categorized

¹⁹ Padang, "Statistik Perkara 2023."

²⁰ Penulis, "Observasi Proses Persidangan Perkara Perceraian Akibat Reuni Di Pengadilan Agama Kelas 1A Kota Padang" (Padang, 2024).

²¹ Jumni Nelli et al., "The Immorality of a Husband as the Cause of a Working Wife to File for Divorce Lawsuit in Indonesia," *Juris: Jurnal Ilmiah Syariah* 22, no. 1 (2023): 119-32, <https://doi.org/10.31958/juris.v22i1.7392>.

²² Muhazir Muhazir, Azwir Azwir, and Zubir Zubir, "Legal Institutions in Resolving Divorce Cases in Aceh," *Al-Istinbath: Jurnal Hukum Islam* 9, no. 1 (May 30, 2024): 211-230, <https://doi.org/10.29240/jhi.v9i1.8529>.

²³ A Zamakhsyari Baharuddin and Rifqi Qowiyul Iman, "At-Tafriq Al-Qadhā'i And The Religious Courts' Authority In Deciding A Divorce," *Syariah: Jurnal Hukum Dan Pemikiran* 20, no. 1 (June 2020): 1-12, <https://doi.org/10.18592/sjhp.v20i1.3493>.

into several types, namely mandatory, sunnah, mubah, makruh, and haram, based on the situation behind it.²⁴

First, divorce can be mandatory when in a marriage there is a serious violation of sharia, such as domestic violence, infidelity, or other conditions that endanger one of the parties. In these cases, divorce is considered the best solution to protect the rights and safety of one of the parties.²⁵

Second, divorce can be sunnah when there is a situation where one or both parties feel that they are no longer able to fulfill the obligations of marriage, but there is no serious violation of sharia. For example, in a situation where the couple can no longer live in harmony despite various efforts to make peace, divorce may be a better way to avoid a protracted dispute.²⁶

Third, divorce can be amenable or permissible in situations where marriage no longer brings benefits or happiness to both parties, but there are also no things that make divorce a necessity. At this point, divorce is a decision taken voluntarily by both parties in the absence of heavy external pressure.²⁷

Fourth, divorce is considered makruh when there is no strong reason for divorce, but the married couple still chooses to end their marriage. In this case, divorce is not recommended because it can cause losses both for the couple and for the children involved.²⁸

Fifth, divorce can be haram if it is done without a valid reason or only based on unwarranted momentary desires. In this situation, divorce is considered a violation of sharia because it ignores the importance of maintaining marriage bonds and maintaining family welfare.²⁹

Divorce can be caused by various factors that affect the harmony and stability of the household. One of the factors that has attracted attention lately is the phenomenon of reunion as a trigger for divorce. Reunions, which were originally intended to rekindle old relationships and renew friendships, can have an unexpected impact on home life. Many couples who attend reunions rediscover old friends, including ex-girlfriends or people who were once emotionally close to them in the past. This can trigger feelings of nostalgia which in some cases leads to the return of old feelings of love.³⁰

Reunions often give rise to situations where individuals are dealing with memories that can shake their feelings toward their current partner. In some cases, the feelings that arise from this reunion cannot be controlled, and eventually trigger infidelity. The infidelity that occurs as a result of a reunion can be very destructive to trust in a marital relationship,

²⁴ Muhammad Syaifuddin, Sri Turatmiyah, and Annalisa Yahanan, *Hukum Perceraian* (Jakarta Timur: Sinar Grafika, 2022).

²⁵ Budi Handrianto, *Cerai: Pintu Darurat Pernikahan* (Jakarta: Gema Insani, 2022).

²⁶ Syaifuddin, Turatmiyah, and Yahanan, *Hukum Perceraian*.

²⁷ Hafidz Muftisany, *Fenomena Cerai Keluarga Muslim* (Sidoarjo: Intera, 2021).

²⁸ Faqihuddin Abdul Kodir, *Qira'ah Mubadalah* (Yogyakarta: IRCiSod, 2021).

²⁹ Mazroatus Saadah, *Pergeseran Penyebab Perceraian Dalam Masyarakat Urban* (Lamongan: Academia Publication, 2022).

³⁰ Indira Aprilia Sani, Sahmiar Pulungan, and Nurcahaya, "Analisis Putusnya Perkawinan Akibat Pertengkaran Karena Media Sosial Di Pengadilan Agama Kota Kisaran," *Kamaya: Jurnal Ilmu Agama* 6, no. 4 (2023): 472-86.

as it is often driven by strong emotional bonds from the past.³¹ Not infrequently, an affair that starts with a reunion ends in divorce, as the betrayed couple finds it difficult to accept back the partner who has betrayed them with someone from the past. The jealousy and distrust that arise from this reunion is often the main trigger for divorce, especially if one of the partners feels that the reunion has damaged the trust that has been built over the years.³²

Analysis of Divorce Cases Due to Reunion at the Religious Court in Padang

A marriage that can no longer be maintained ends in divorce. So various factors are the decision to marry. One of the factors that makes marriage a divorce in Padang City recently is reunion. The reunion is a wedding destroyer in 2023 after Eid al-Fitr in Padang City. This is suspected to be the phenomenon of old love blossoming again when at the reunion place, especially the school reunion. So this study continues the research with data collection. The data that the author has collected is now entering the analysis stage. The data collected by the author through observation and interviews can be known as follows:

Table 1. Observation Data on Divorce Cases Due to Reunion at the Class 1A Religious Court of Padang City³³

No.	Indicator	Result Record
1	Reasons for Divorce Due to Reunion	During the trial, a reunion is the reason for divorce by the divorcing party, the reunion triggers conflicts in the relationship. Judges and advocates examine this matter in depth, including asking about the impact of reunion on domestic harmony.
2	Dynamics and Communication in Conferences	The interaction between the ex-husband and wife seems tense, but judges and advocates play an active role in maintaining professional communication. They provide space for both sides to present their arguments clearly and try to minimize further conflicts.
3	Views on Mediation as a Solution	Mediation is sought by the judge as a first step before making a final decision. However, the responses from both parties are different. So that the result did not reach an agreement.
4	The Impact of Reunion on Married Life Before Divorce	In the trial, it was stated that reunions caused significant tension in the marriage, including jealousy and suspicion, which ultimately worsened the condition of the household before the divorce occurred.
5	Application of Islamic Law in Divorce Cases Due to Reunion	Judges and advocates use sharia principles in assessing the reasons for divorce and provide relevant legal guidance following Islamic law. Like the rule of <i>fiqh ad-dhararu yuzâlu</i>

³¹ Bernat Sitorus and Putra Ignatius Sinuansa Sidauruk, "Perceraian Dalam Pandangan Kristen," *Majalah Ilmiah Methoda* 12, no. 1 (April 2022): 24-31, <https://doi.org/10.46880/methoda.vol12no1.pp24-31>.

³² Renaldi Saputra, Bambang Iswanto, and Wahdatun Nisa, "Problematika Long Distance Marriage Anak Buah Kapal (ABK) Dalam Menjaga Ketahanan Rumah Tangga Perspektif Hukum Keluarga Islam," *Innovative: Journal Of Social Science Research* 4, no. 3 (June 2024): 10415-28, <https://doi.org/10.31004/Innovative.V4I3.11679>.

³³ Penulis, "Observasi Proses Persidangan Perkara Perceraian Akibat Reuni Di Pengadilan Agama Kelas 1A Kota Padang."

(Harm must be eliminated), the origin of marriage is continuity and something that is a perfect condition for the obligation then it is also obligatory, and articles 114 and 116 of the KHI.

Based on the results of observations, *first*, the reason for divorce due to reunion was mentioned in the trial as one of the main factors that triggered domestic conflicts. *Second*, the dynamics and communication in the trial between the ex-husband and wife look tense, but judges and advocates play an active role in maintaining professional communication. *Third*, the view of mediation as a solution was also discussed, where one party rejected reconciliation, while the other party was more open to mediation, even though it did not result in an agreement. *Fourth*, the impact of reunions on married life before divorce is significant, with reunions considered to worsen the domestic situation. *Fifth*, the application of Islamic law in this case is used to assess the rules of fiqh and articles from the Compilation of Islamic Law (KHI) as a reference in decision-making.

Related research supporting these results can be seen in a study by Mutiara et al. (2023), which shows that reunions often trigger emotional tension in marriages, especially when jealousy and distrust are involved.³⁴ Meanwhile, research by Saputra et al. (2020) found that mediation in the context of divorce is often unsuccessful if one party does not have a strong commitment to reconciliation.³⁵

Table 2. Interview Data with Judges Handling Divorce Cases Due to Reunion at the Class 1A Religious Court of Padang City³⁶

No.	Indicator	Reduce Answer
1	Reasons for Divorce Due to Reunion	Reunions can lead to jealousy and incompatibility, which can potentially disrupt household harmony. Reunion can be considered a significant factor if it exacerbates an existing conflict.
2	Dynamics and Communication in Conferences	Communication between divorced parties is often influenced by disappointment and distrust. The judge facilitates the maintenance of productive communication, and the quality of communication during the trial can influence the divorce decision, following Article 116 of the KHI.
3	Views on Mediation as a Solution	Mediation is a step that is sought before divorce and is often effective if both parties are ready to reconcile. However, the mediation efforts that have been carried out still failed.
4	The Impact of Reunion on Married Life Before Divorce	Reunions can result in jealousy and exacerbate problems in a marriage, especially if it involves an ex-partner. In court, the emotional impact and evidence submitted are considered in

³⁴ Dwi Utamika Mutiara, Nurul Huda Prasetya, and Arif Affandy, "Interpretasi Tokoh Agama Tentang Pentingnya Pemahaman Manajemen Emosional Di Masa Krusial 1 Sampai 5 Tahun Awal Pernikahan Dalam Urgensi Preventif Perceraian Di Kec. Patumbak," *UNES Law Review* 6, no. 1 (November 2023): 3627-37, <https://doi.org/10.31933/unesrev.V6I1.1163>.

³⁵ Muhammad Alvin Saputra et al., "Urgensi Mediasi Terhadap Sengketa Pembagian Harta Bersama," *Jurnal USM Law Review* 7, no. 2 (2024): 788-803, <https://doi.org/10.26623/julr.v7i2.9012>.

³⁶ Yurni, "Interview Hakim Yurni Yang Menangani Kasus Perceraian Akibat Reuni Di Peradilan Agama Kelas 1A Kota Padang" (Padang, 2024).

		making divorce decisions following Article 116 of the KHI.
5	Application of Islamic Law in Divorce Cases Due to Reunion	The principles of Islamic law that apply include the rules "harm must be eliminated" and "origin in marriage is continuity." If the reunion causes a rift, divorce could be the solution. The decision also refers to Article 116 of the KHI regarding "persistent disputes" as grounds for divorce.

Based on the results of interviews with judges who handle divorce cases due to reunions, *first*, reunions can trigger conflicts in marriage, especially through jealousy and incompatibility that worsen already fragile relationships, although reunions are not a common reason for divorce. *Second*, the dynamics of communication in a trial are often full of emotional tension, and judges play an important role in maintaining a conducive atmosphere. *Third*, the view towards mediation, in this case, suggests that mediation can be effective if both parties are open to reconciliation, although in the case of reunions, mistrust is often an obstacle. *Fourth*, the impact of reunions on married life before divorce is significant, especially the involvement of the ex, which exacerbates domestic problems. *Fifth*, the application of Islamic law in divorce cases due to reunion considers sharia principles such as the elimination of harm and the continuity of marriage, which are used as guidelines in decision-making.

Related research known from Yuliantika & Santoso (2024) shows that meetings with people from the past as well as new people from one of the parties often trigger jealousy in marriage, which leads to domestic conflicts.³⁷ This is in line with the research of Soleh et al. (2024), which found that poor communication in divorce proceedings often worsens the situation.³⁸

Table 3. Interview Data with Advocates Handling Divorce Cases Due to Reunion at the Class 1A Religious Court of Padang City³⁹

No.	Indicator	Reduce Answer
1	Reasons for Divorce Due to Reunion	Reunion can be associated with disputes that disturb domestic harmony so that it can be used as a valid argument in court. The Islamic legal rule "Ad-dhararu yuzâlu" supports divorce to remove the harm of the reunion.
2	Dynamics and Communication in Conferences	Communication during the trial was filled with strong emotions. As an advocate keeping clients able to articulate their arguments clearly and encourage dialogue that proves the negative impact of reunions in relationships.
3	Views on Mediation as a	Mediation is carried out before formal divorce to explore

³⁷ Nias Yuliantika and Lukman Santoso, "Strategi Manajemen Konflik Dalam Pernikahan Jarak Jauh," *JATISWARA* 39, no. 1 (March 2024): 45-58, <https://doi.org/10.29303/jtsw.v39i1.562>.

³⁸ Khusnul Lutfi Soleh, Muhammad Zakki, and Misbahul Huda, "Dinamika Khulu' Dan Peran Pengadilan Agama Sidoarjo: Analisis Peningkatan Perkara Cerai Gugat Pasca-COVID-19," *Jurisprudensi: Jurnal Ilmu Syariah, Perundang-Undangan Dan Ekonomi Islam* 16, no. 2 (2024): 453-67, <https://doi.org/10.32505/jurisprudensi.v16i2.9173>.

³⁹ Nelvi Sudirianti, "Interview Advokat Nelvi Sudirianti Yang Menangani Kasus Perceraian Akibat Reuni Di Pengadilan Agama Kelas 1A Kota Padang" (Padang, 2024).

	Solution	problem-solving. Mediation in this trial failed because the impact on the relationship was already deep.
4	The Impact of Reunion on Married Life Before Divorce	The impact of the reunion here is tension and distrust in the relationship. Reunion is a trigger factor for serious disputes that are linked to the loss of harmony so that it can justify a divorce lawsuit.
5	Application of Islamic Law in Divorce Cases Due to Reunion	Islamic law is used to defend clients on the principle that divorce is necessary to eliminate harm. Reunions can be considered relevant if they cause unresolved conflicts.

Based on the results of interviews with advocates, *first*, the reunion is considered one of the factors of a legitimate divorce because it triggers serious disputes that disturb the harmony of marriage and can be supported by Islamic legal principles such as "Ad-dhararu yuzâlu," which eliminates harm. *Second*, the dynamics of communication in trials related to reunions are full of emotions, so it is important to keep communication productive to convey arguments for the negative impact of reunions. *Third*, mediation is used to find a solution before divorce, but it has not succeeded in reconciling in this case. *Fourth*, the impact of reunions on married life before divorce is significant, causing tension and mistrust. *Fifth*, in the application of Islamic law, the reason for reunion for divorce is necessary to eliminate harm.

Research by Nabila (2024) shows that reunions and encounters with people from the past often give rise to jealousy that triggers problems in marriage, in line with the findings in this case.⁴⁰ Another study by Aslamiah et al. (2022) also found that mediation in divorce is often unsuccessful if one of the parties has lost trust due to prolonged conflict.⁴¹

Table 4. Interview Data with Former Husband and Wife Who Handled Divorce Cases Due to Reunion at the Class 1A Religious Court of Padang City⁴²

No.	Indicator	Reduce Ex-Husband's Answer	Reduction of Ex-Wife's Answer
1	Reasons for Divorce Due to Reunion	The reunion triggered the problems that existed before. Reunions lead to jealousy and suspicion, exacerbating existing conflicts.	The reunion sparked a major conflict. The husband's jealousy arises because the reunion reminds him of the past, and the relationship is already shaky before the reunion happens.
2	Dynamics and Communication in Conferences	Communication after the reunion was increasingly difficult and strained, resulting in arguments and	At the trial, communication feels tense and difficult, only through lawyers. Suspicion and distrust after the reunion exacerbated the

⁴⁰ Restu Paramasastra Nabila, "Pengaruh Kecemburuan Terhadap Kepuasan Pada Hubungan Romantis," *Indonesian Journal of Business Innovation, Technology, and Humanities* 1, no. 1 (2024): 2654–3575.

⁴¹ Nurazki Aslamiah, Sherina Ramadhianisha, and Siski Jasmine Azahra, "Kekerasan Dalam Rumah Tangga Sebagai Alasan Perceraian Di Pengadilan Agama Bandung Kelas 1A," *Al-Mashlahah: Jurnal Hukum Islam Dan Pranata Sosial Islam* 11, no. 2 (November 2022): 223–38, <https://doi.org/10.30868/AM.V11I02.5350>.

⁴² Ahmad Nadhir and Noora Erysha, "Interview Mantan Pasangan Yang Bercerai Akibat Reuni Di Pengadilan Agama Kelas 1A Kota Padang" (Padang, 2024).

		misunderstandings at the trial. The atmosphere feels formal and there is an irreparable distance.	situation.
3	Views on Mediation as a Solution	Mediation is considered too late to repair the relationship, although it helps the divorce process run more smoothly. The wife seemed uninterested in reconciling.	Mediation cannot repair a relationship that is already too far into conflict. However, mediation helps to resolve the divorce more peacefully.
4	The Impact of Reunion on Married Life Before Divorce	The reunion causes the wife to focus more on her friends, creating jealousy and distrust. This results in arguments and unhealthy communication.	The reunion made my husband doubt me more and created a feeling of being watched. The reunion was supposed to be positive, but instead it added to the tension and cut off our communication.
5	Application of Islamic Law in Divorce Cases Due to Reunion	Islamic law is well implemented, providing opportunities for mediation and divorce proceedings in accordance with sharia. Justice in the division of rights and obligations is fulfilled.	It feels that Islamic law is applied fairly, with judges providing opportunities for mediation and paying attention to our rights and obligations during the divorce process.

First, based on the data analyzed, reunions are triggers that exacerbate previous problems such as worsening communication, the onset of jealousy, and suspicion that exacerbate conflicts before reunions. *Second*, during the trial, the dynamics of communication become tense and only occur formally through lawyers. *Third*, mediation is considered incapable of repairing relationships that have already been damaged, but it helps the divorce process to take place peacefully. *Fourth*, reunions negatively impact marriages, creating mistrust, and tension that ultimately accelerates the divorce process. *Fifth*, Islamic law is considered to be applied fairly in this case.

Relevant research to these results is a study by Maloko & Rahman (2020), which found that external factors such as old love can trigger conflicts in already fragile marriages, especially when couples already have communication problems.⁴³ In comparison, research by Agustin & Musadad (2023) shows that although mediation is often used as an initial effort to save a marriage, its success largely depends on the level of trust left between the couple.⁴⁴

Divorce due to reunion is a social phenomenon that is rarely discussed but has a significant impact on domestic life. The reunion case reunites the couple with an old friend

⁴³ M Thahir Maloko and Arif Rahman, "Mengatasi Kejenuhan Suami-Istri Perspektif Ulama Mazhab," *Mazahibuna* 2, no. 2 (2020): 230-40, <https://doi.org/10.24252/mh.v2i2.16059>.

⁴⁴ Dian Agustin and Ahmad Musadad, "Disparitas Keberhasilan Mediasi Antara Perkara Perceraian Dan Sengketa Ekonomi Syariah Di Pengadilan Agama Surabaya," *MORALITY: Jurnal Ilmu Hukum* 9, no. 2 (December 2023): 192-206, <https://doi.org/10.52947/MORALITY.V9I2.357>.

or ex-lover, which triggers jealousy, distrust, and new conflicts in the marriage. This condition is exacerbated when communication between couples deteriorates after the reunion, creating an emotional distance that is increasingly difficult to repair. As one of the triggering factors for divorce, reunions pave the way for couples to reevaluate their relationship and, in many cases, speed up the divorce process due to unresolved issues.

First, the reason for the divorce is due to reunion. Reunions involving former partners or old friends often trigger emotional tension in marital relationships, as revealed in observations and interviews. Observational data shows that reunion is cited as one of the factors that worsened the domestic situation before the divorce. In interviews with judges and advocates, this reason was emphasized as a trigger for divorce, which exacerbated domestic problems that may have existed before. Interviews with the former couple also confirmed that the reunion only exacerbated long-standing tensions. Inductively, reunions provide space for hidden issues to come to the surface, especially those related to jealousy, distrust, and incompatibility.⁴⁵

Second, dynamics and communication in the conference. Communication during the trial process seemed tense, both in observation and interviews. The observation of the former husband and wife interacted in a tense atmosphere, but judges and advocates played a role in keeping communication professional. Interviews with judges and advocates confirm that tension in trials is often inevitable, but the urgency of keeping the flow of communication between clients and the court more focused on legal arguments than emotions. Interviews with ex-husband and wife, where their interactions are more facilitated through lawyers due to tension during the trial. This suggests that the trial serves as a formal communication arena, but the emotional issues rooted in the reunion continue to affect the way they interact with each other.⁴⁶

Third, the view of mediation as a solution. Mediation as one of the solutions before divorce is discussed both in observation and interviews, but the results are not always effective. Based on the observation that there is an imbalance, this imbalance reflects the dynamics of distrust that has grown due to the reunion, one of the parties feels that mediation will not repair the relationship that has been damaged. In interviews with judges, mediation is ineffective when one of the parties distrusts the reunion is irreparable. The advocate added that mediation is often advised before the divorce process, but its success depends heavily on the readiness of the parties to the dispute. In this case, even though the reunion is only a trigger, the impact is already significant enough to make mediation unable to rebuild the relationship that has already been damaged. From this, it can be seen that mediation can function effectively in other contexts, but in the case of divorce due to reunion, mistrust is the main obstacle.⁴⁷

⁴⁵ Patricia M Greenfield et al., "Long-Term Parent-Child Separation Through Serial Migration: Effects of a Post-Reunion Intervention," *School Community Journal* 30, no. 1 (2020): 267-98.

⁴⁶ Sani, Pulungan, and Nurcahaya, "Analisis Putusnya Perkawinan Akibat Pertengkaran Karena Media Sosial Di Pengadilan Agama Kota Kisaran."

⁴⁷ Nugraha, Barinong, and Zainuddin, "Faktor Penyebab Terjadinya Perceraian Rumah Tangga Akibat Perselingkuhan."

Fourth, the impact of reunion on married life before divorce. The impact of reunion on married life before divorce is very clear from the results of observations and interviews. Observational data show that reunions worsen domestic relationships by giving rise to deep jealousy and distrust. This was also acknowledged by the judge in his interview, who emphasized that reunions often exacerbate existing problems, especially if reunions involve former couples. In these cases, the reunion results in more severe tensions, causing couples to feel that there is no longer room for reconciliation. Advocates also highlight that reunions can be a big trigger that leads to divorce lawsuits, especially when reunions cause changes in behavior or habits that affect the dynamics within the household. Interviews with ex-husbands and wives also supported this, in which they stated that communication and trust became worse after the reunion. Inductively, the impact of this reunion makes it clear that reunions not only give rise to new conflicts, but also accelerate the fracture of previously fragile relationships.⁴⁸

Fifth, the application of Islamic law in divorce cases due to reunion. The application of Islamic law in handling divorce cases due to reunion is reflected in the use of fiqh rules and articles from the Compilation of Islamic Law (KHI). Observation of the trial, it can be seen that judges and advocates refer to sharia principles to assess the impact of reunion on marriage. Reunion is considered a factor that triggers conflicts that are difficult to resolve, with the application of rules such as "Ad-dhararu yuzâlu" (harm must be eliminated) in decision-making. The interview with the judge supported the use of sharia principles in the handling of the case, focusing on efforts to preserve the marriage as long as possible, but also respecting the decision to divorce if there is no way out. The advocate in his interview also asserted that although reunion is not specifically mentioned in Islamic law, it can be used as a basis for divorce if it causes significant harm in the relationship. Interviews with former husbands and wives showed that they felt Islamic law was applied fairly, especially in providing an opportunity for mediation before the divorce process resumed. From this it can be concluded that the application of Islamic law is used to create a balance between efforts to maintain marriage and the need to end potentially harmful relationships.⁴⁹

Conclusion

In the end, this study can be concluded that reunion is the trigger for couples in this study to divorce and become the cause of problems that previously existed to become bigger. This factor occurs because communication is disrupted so that it causes jealousy in the couple, to suspicion of infidelity from the husband. Based on the results of the research on Islamic law used in handling cases, in the Qur'an Surah Al-Baqarah verse 231, divorce should be carried out in a good and fair way, where divorce is carried out because the spouse cannot be mediated because of strong jealousy. *Second*, the fiqh rule "Ad-dhararu

⁴⁸ Maria Abranches and Nihaya Jaber, "Time and Displacement: Changed Temporal Experiences of Refugee Families after Reunion," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 2024, 1-24, <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2024.2381705>.

⁴⁹ Muhammad Iqbal, "The Functions and Objectives of Islamic Law and Their Correlation with Community Development," *Jurnal Al-Qadau: Peradilan Dan Hukum Keluarga Islam* 10, no. 2 (2023): 175-89, <https://doi.org/10.24252/al-qadau.v10i2.39370>.

yuzâlu" (Harm must be eliminated), where the reunion that triggers the divorce of the couple also triggers other problem factors to become rumored. *Third*, Al-ashlu fil 'aqdi al-nikah al-dawam" (Origin in marriage is continuity), where the reunion has broken the harmony of the couple due to jealousy and suspicion of the parties. *Fourth*, Article 116 of the KHI which is the basis of formal law in divorce, the basis for deciding on a divorce if the reunion causes prolonged conflict in the marriage. Based on the law used as a reference, the couple who is the subject of the study officially divorces because the mediation solution taken by the court cannot make the couple cancel the divorce. Although the dynamics and communication during the trial did not occur violently and it looked smooth just like that. In addition, the impact of reunion on the couple's life before they divorce is acknowledged by the couple in the trial that there is jealousy that exacerbates the problems that existed before the divorce due to the involvement of the former spouse or a third person.

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