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Abstract

The Philippines: the problem of the "private armies"

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On 13 March 1987, Philippine President Corazon Aquino issued a directive to her Local Government and National Defense Secretaries to disband "all private armies and other armed groups" operating in the country. The paper deals with the origins, operations and the difficulties of a potential disbandment of these private armies. The obvious reluctance to the dissolution of the private armies and particularly of the CHDF (Civilian Home Defense Forces), coming from AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) circles.