Reforming Indonesia's Post-Suharto Military

In 1998, the resignation of Indonesian president Suharto opened the door for widespread change. Suharto's three-decade long authoritarian regime had woven the military deeply into the fabric of public affairs. A small group of military leaders saw an opportunity to forge new institutional relationships better suited to an emerging democratic era. Their internal efforts set the stage for additional civilian-led reforms. ProPatria, a local non-governmental organization, coordinated policy development and advocacy, eventually winning legislative support. Two new ISS case studies highlight these military-led and civilian-led efforts.

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ISS Featured Interview

Juwono Sudarsono, Indonesia's minister of defense from 2004 to 2009, reflects on his efforts to neutralize the political role of the military and its dominance of the Indonesian government. Under his leadership, the military scrutinized the defense acquisition process in an effort to reduce corruption and relinquished control of the police force.
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