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**“Regulating Private Security Companies (PSCs) and Private Military
Companies (PMCs) under the Law of Timor-Leste”**

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Abstract

The use of Private Security Companies (PSC) and Private Military Companies (PMC) for providing security services in conflict and post-conflict situations in many countries has been the subject of ongoing critical discussion among many scholars and media for many years. These companies are also operating in a post-conflict country such as Timor-Leste. However, they are not properly regulated and their number has been increasing since the country's independence in 1999.

This paper provides an assessment of the legal status and responsibilities of PSCs and PMCs, and their impact on Timor-Leste national law and on its recovery efforts. It examines key legal issues, such as the definition of PSCs and PMCs, the scope and limits of operations, proposed approved and prohibited activities, accountability, and the regulatory framework for the and monitoring and management of PSCs and PMCs.

The paper uses primary and secondary data gathered from the Timor-Leste government, PSC offices in Timor-Leste, and UN documents relating to PSCs and PMCs. It also utilises cases and national legislations relating to the use of PSCs and PMCs from other countries, such as the United States, the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Indonesia.

In addition, the paper examines the impact of PSCs and PMCs on Timor-Leste national law and society and endeavours attempts to provide an appropriate statute that can be enacted to manage and regulate these companies in Timor-Leste.

Keywords: Timor-Leste, PSC/PMC operation, society and security.
