Argentina: Charges Against Military Rebels To Be Dropped

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On July 26, Argentine Defense Minister Italo Luder announced that charges would be dropped against most senior and junior military officers who participated in coup attempts against former President Raul Alfonsin's government. Luder said the new government was also considering the early release of 18 generals and admirals convicted or accused of human rights violations during the 1976-83 military dictatorship. Among the top officers who could benefit from such a de-facto amnesty are two former military heads of state, Jorge Videla and Eduardo Viola. Videla is serving a life sentence. Rather than prosecuting participants in coups from the Alfonsin years, Luder said, the government of President Carlos Menem would try to convince officers to apply voluntarily for early retirement from the armed forces. (Basic data from DPA, 07/26/89)

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