

July 18, 2003

INDONESIA: TROOPS BATTLE ACEH REBELS

Indonesian troops waging war on separatist rebels in Aceh Province have killed at least 25 guerrillas in two of the bloodiest days of their offensive, the military said. According to military figures, 481 rebels have been killed since the start of the offensive on May 19. The authorities say that 992 rebels have been captured or surrendered and that 43 military and police officers have been killed. The Committee to Protect Journalists, based in New York, said the Indonesian government had prevented local and foreign reporters from investigating the situation in Aceh.

Copyright 2003, Agence France-Presse