

# Indonesian Troops Kill German Tourist

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LHOKSEUMAWE, Indonesia - Indonesian troops shot and killed a German tourist and wounded his wife in Aceh province, where the government is battling a separatist insurgency.

Luther Hendrik Albert, 54, was shot dead and Elizabeth Margert, 49, was wounded in the ankle in the coastal village of Lhok Gayo on Wednesday night as troops investigated "suspicious flashlights" near a house, said military spokesman Lt. Col. Firdaus Komarno.

The soldiers called out to the couple to identify themselves, but the pair did not respond and turned off their flashlights. The troops then fired several warning shots, Komarno said.

Indonesia Security Minister Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and the German Embassy, which has warned its citizens not to visit the troubled province, announced investigations of the incident.

It remains unclear why the two, who had tourist visas, were in Aceh, the northern province where the government is waging a military offensive against the Free Aceh Movement. More than 100 people have been killed and clashes between the two sides have occurred daily.

The Free Aceh Movement has been fighting for independence since 1976. About 12,000 people have been killed in the conflict, most of them civilians.

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