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Salvadoran Rebels Report On Government Troop Casualties Since Late May

by Deborah Tyroler

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In a July 23 broadcast by rebel station RADIO VENCEREMOS, the FMLN (Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front) reported that government troops had suffered 360 casualties since the beginning of a counterinsurgency campaign in late May. Meanwhile, spokespersons for the Salvadoran army said they had inflicted 400 casualties on the rebels during the campaign, known as the Colonel Domingo Monterrosa offensive. Government troop casualties, said military sources, numbered only 186. RADIO VENCEREMOS denied the army report of rebel casualties, stating that the FMLN suffered only 17 casualties. Four of the casualties, said the rebel broadcast, were wounded in fighting in Chalatenango department and later murdered by government soldiers.

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