



## UNESCO'S DIRECTOR-GENERAL DEPLORES MURDER OF ANGOLAN JOURNALIST

Paris, 18 January - UNESCO's Director-General Federico Mayor today deplored the murder of Ricardo De Melo, an Angolan journalist and founder of an independent daily newspaper.

Mr De Melo, 38, was shot and killed Wednesday on the steps of his Luanda home, according to news reports. He was the founder and editor of IMPARCIAL FAX, Angola's only independent daily newspaper.

"Mr De Melo's murder marks a sad day for freedom of the press in Angola," Mr Mayor said. "He was one of the few journalists in this country who understood the role of the media in an emerging democratic society. The loss of his voice has injured the democratic process that Angola is struggling to achieve. A society cannot be called democratic without a truly pluralistic and free press. UNESCO is committed to promoting a culture of peace and democracy which begins with the free flow of ideas through words and images."

\*\*\*