

UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL CONDEMNS MURDER OF KASHMIRI JOURNALIST

Beijing, 8 September - UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor today expressed outrage over a parcel bomb explosion Thursday in Srinagar, India that took the life of a Kashmiri photo-journalist and wounded two other newsmen.

Mushtaq Ali, 30, died several hours after a parcel bomb exploded in the office of the British Broadcasting Corporation and Reuters News Agency at Srinagar in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, according to news reports. Mr Ali was a photo-journalist for the French news service Agence France Presse and a cameraman for India's Asian News International.

"I condemn this brutal and morally unjustifiable act and offer my deepest condolences to the family and colleagues of Mushtaq Ali," the Director-General said in Beijing, China, where he is attending the Fourth World Conference on Women. "Any attack against freedom of the press is ultimately an attack against every democratic and human rights value that we cherish. I call on all concerned journalists, intellectuals and leaders to condemn these acts whenever and wherever they occur."
