

## UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL CONDEMNS MURDER OF COLOMBIAN RADIO JOURNALIST

Paris, 17 August - UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor today condemned the murder of a Colombian radio journalist.

Four persons shot Ivan Pelayo, 30, while he was broadcasting a radio programme in Puerto Rondon, 250 kilometres north-east of Bogota, according to press reports. An extreme left-wing guerrilla group later claimed responsibility for the murder of Mr Pelayo, director of Llanoramica Estereo radio station.

"I am shocked by the spiral of violence in Colombia that has led to the assassination of Mr Pelayo and so many others," Mr Mayor said. "Guns may silence the voice of one. But they cannot deafen the resounding need for countless others to have an independent, pluralistic and free press, an essential component of any democratic society. Those who provide information bear an important responsibility and should be ensured of every facility and protection to assume it."

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