



THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL CONDEMNS THE SHOOTING OF ALGERIAN JOURNALIST TAHAR DJAOUT

Paris - After the shooting of the Algerian journalist Tahar Djaout on 26 May, the Director-General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor, issued the following statement:

"It is with great emotion that I learnt of the attack against Tahar Djaout in Algiers on 27 May 1993.

"An influential journalist, he has defended freedom of expression and has fought in favour of a genuine democracy respectful of human rights and based on tolerance.

"A talented writer, winner of the Prix Méditerranée in 1991 for 'Les Vigiles' (published by Le Seuil), he has promoted his country's cultural identity and affirmed his faith in words and in dialogue.

"Whenever a journalist and a creator, a man of the word and of the imaginary, is struck by the bullets of intolerance and by the knives of sectarianism, it is UNESCO's duty to express its indignation and to raise its voice to condemn senseless violence.

"In the name of the international community of knowledge and of the mind, I pray that Tahar Djaout wins the battle he is currently fighting against death.

"I especially hope that humanity comes back to its senses and finds a way to end the crimes that are committed against the human spirit, today in Algeria, yesterday in Florence, and for the past few years in the former Yugoslavia."

At the time the Director-General made the statement on 2 June, Mr Djaout was still fighting for his life. He died later the same day.
