



UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL CONDEMNS MURDERS OF FIVE PEOPLE IN ALGERIA

Paris, 17 May - UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor today denounced the murders of two university directors, two women and a history teacher in Algeria.

"We must condemn this climate of terror and intolerance that has led to the slaying of these five innocent people," Mr Mayor said. "These brutal murders are a cowardly attempt to quash human rights, freedom of the press, freedom of expression, the right to education, ideals that UNESCO defends. The world community can no longer stand by silently. These criminal acts must stop once and for all. A solution based on dialogue that will lead to reconciliation and peace must be found."

Yahia Benchohra, 36, director of university social services in Tiaret, 240 kilometres southwest of Algiers, was shot to death Tuesday, the Algerian daily *Liberté* reported today.

Mohand Mokhbi, director of post-university training in Algeria's National School of Administration, died Monday in a Paris hospital from bullet wounds suffered during an assault on 19 April, according to press reports.

Fatma-Zohra Aissaouine, 22, and Aicha Brernous, 20, were killed Monday in Maghnia in western Algeria, *Liberté* reported.

The body of Azzedine Saidj, 29, was found Monday in Bordj El Kiffan, east of the capital Algiers, according to news reports released today. Mr Saidj was a history teacher and worked at an Arab-language newspaper as well as a continuing education television show broadcast each Friday on Algerian television.
