



## UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL CONDEMNS ASSASSINATIONS OF HAITI'S JUSTICE MINISTER, ALGERIA'S FORMER TV DIRECTOR

Paris - UNESCO's Director-General Federico Mayor strongly condemned the killings of Haiti's Justice Minister, Guy Malary, and the former Director of Algerian Television, Mustapha Abada, calling these acts of senseless violence and hatred and "crimes against the human spirit".

Mr Malary was killed by unidentified gunmen in his car shortly after leaving his office in Port-au-Prince. At least three other people were killed in the attack. UNESCO, indicated Mr Mayor, has always supported Haiti, and has recently mobilized significant resources to implement a programme in the Organization's fields of competence aimed at promoting the democratization process in the country. He expressed concern that Mr Malary's assassination might endanger this process, and reaffirmed his commitment to achieving full democracy and peace in Haiti, in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

The former Director of Algerian Television, Mustapha Abada, was shot dead near his home outside Algiers. The Director-General said the murder of Mr Abada is yet another attempt to silence Algerian intellectuals - writers, journalists, doctors - who are the real champions of democracy and freedom of expression. Their only weapons against the bullets of hate are their pens, cameras, knowledge and talent, but above all, their belief in tolerance and dialogue.

UNESCO, he added, is more committed than ever to the development of a culture of peace and democracy, one of its priority programmes, in order to promote freedom of expression, tolerance and respect for others.

To this end, Mr Mayor announced his decision to set up a monitoring service within the Organization's Human Rights Division, which will list all members of the intellectual community who are victims of violence and terrorism. This new service will be at the disposal of the Organization's governing bodies - its Executive Board and General Conference - and can, at their request, provide them with updated information so that they may take appropriate action.

The intellectual community, the Director-General stressed, is the very source of UNESCO's inspiration and action. The loss of intellectual resources - a true human wealth - constitutes a serious blow to the development of human resources, which the Organization has always placed at the centre of its activities.

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