



## UNESCO'S DIRECTOR-GENERAL CONDEMNS MURDER OF VLADISLAV LISTIEV

Paris, 2 March - UNESCO's Director-General Federico Mayor today condemned the murder of the journalist Vladislav Listiev, Director-General of the first public television network in the Russian Federation.

The text of the Director-General's reaction follows:

"This is for us a moment of great sadness. Vladislav Listiev played an important role in the movement toward democracy in Russia and was an example for us all. Mr. Listiev was a well-known and respected journalist who understood the importance of professionally operated media for the democracy and overall development of his country.

"I speak to those who believe that violence can alter the course of events in Russia or anywhere else: they are mistaken. I say with candour and conviction: the greatest homage we can pay to the memory of Vladislav Listiev is to persevere along the path of independent and free expression, which it is UNESCO's duty and mission to defend.

"UNESCO will continue its efforts so that journalists can benefit from conditions of work and security indispensable for freedom of expression and a free press.

"I offer my condolences to the family of Vladislav Listiev, who gave his life for the cause of tolerance, liberty and justice."

A prominent tele-journalist since the Perestroïka era and an ardent supporter of its reforms, Vladislav Listiev was murdered Wednesday evening near his home by unknown assailants. He had recently been named to head the first public television network in Russia.

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