

## UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL CONDEMNS KILLINGS OF ALGERIAN MEDIA EMPLOYEES

Paris, 16 October - UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor today condemned the killings of two Algerian media employees.

Abdelwahab Sadaoui, business manager of *Al Chaab*, a government-controlled Arabic language daily newspaper, was found dead yesterday of gunshot wounds in Chettia, 200 km west of Algiers, after being kidnapped the day before by a gang of armed men, according to press reports. They also said Rabah Bouguerra, a driver for Société d'Impression d'Alger, had been killed in the Algiers suburb of Bab El Oued on Friday.

"I must condemn in the strongest terms such attacks on employees of Algeria's media organizations, who do their jobs despite great danger," Mr Mayor said. "These two persons were providing the invaluable infrastructure without which a free and independent press cannot operate. I extend my deepest condolences to the families and colleagues of Mr Saadaoui and Mr Bouguerra."

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