UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL CONDEMNS MURDER OF ALGERIAN NEWSMEN

Beijing, 4 September - UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor condemned today the murder of two Algerian journalists.

Brahim Gueroui, a political cartoonist at the Algiers daily El Moujahid, and Saïd Tazrout, a newsman at the French-language newspaper Le Matin in Tizi Ouzou, east of Algiers, were murdered Sunday according to press reports. A media tally shows that 40 journalists have been murdered in Algeria since May 1993.

Speaking here where he attended the opening of the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women, Mr. Mayor said, “Once again I must condemn in the strongest possible terms this aggression against those whose task it is to inform the public. There can be no democracy without a press free of intimidation and threats, and we will continue to defend Algeria’s journalists until it reaches the condition of tolerance and dialogue. I extend my deepest condolences to the family and colleagues of Mr. Gueroui and Mr. Tazrout.”

****