UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL LAMENTS THE DEATHS OF JOURNALIST, STUDENT AND DRIVER IN BURUNDI

Paris, 7 April - UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor today lamented the deaths of a television journalist, a student and driver in Burundi.

Francis Vincent, a South African producer with the British news service Worldwide Television News (WTN), his driver and a student working as a translator died Thursday evening following an ambush of their vehicle 12 kilometres north-east of Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi, according to news reports.

"Too many journalists stand at the front lines of terrifying conflicts risking their lives to inform us," the Director-General said. "We must all work to assure free and secure working conditions for journalists. As we recall the massacres that began a year ago in neighbouring Rwanda, we should spare no effort to prevent the situation in Burundi from escalating into a similar tragedy."

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