

UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL CONDEMNS MURDER OF ALGERIAN TELEVISION STAFF MEMBER

Paris, 21 December - UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor today condemned the murder in an Algiers suburb of an Algerian Television staff member.

Mohamed Belkacem, chief of an Algerian Television production unit, was kidnapped today by unknown assailants near his home in the Baraki suburb of Algiers and killed, according to media reports.

"I condemn in the strongest possible terms this murder of a staff member of an Algerian media organization," Mr Mayor said. "A free and independent press, vital to a free democratic society, cannot operate without the dedicated work of such persons. I extend my deepest condolences to the families and colleagues of Mr B elkacem."
