

PRESS RELEASE

UNESCO Director-General condemns killing of social media producer Jaime Vásquez in Colombia

Paris, 21 May 2024 - Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, has condemned the killing of journalist and social media producer Jaime Alonso Vásquez Giraldo in Cúcuta, Norte de Santander province, Colombia on 14 April.

“I condemn the killing of Jaime Vásquez and call for a thorough investigation to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice. Impunity for such crimes must not be tolerated as it only emboldens those who seek to silence critical journalists,” said **Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General.**

Jaime Vásquez was a columnist, blogger and social media producer, notably covering local governance issues. He was shot and killed by two unidentified assailants inside a local store. He was reportedly receiving police protection at the time of his killing.

UNESCO promotes the [safety of journalists](#) through global awareness-raising, capacity building and by coordinating the implementation of the [UN Plan of Action](#) on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

Read more: [UNESCO Observatory of Killed Journalists](#)

About UNESCO

With 194 Member States, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization contributes to peace and security by leading multilateral cooperation on education, science, culture, communication and information. Headquartered in Paris, UNESCO has offices in 54 countries and employs over 2300 people. UNESCO oversees more than 2000 World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks; networks of Creative, Learning, Inclusive and Sustainable Cities; and over 13 000 associated schools, university chairs, training and research institutions. Its Director-General is Audrey Azoulay.

“Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed” – UNESCO Constitution, 1945.

More information: www.unesco.org

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