

PRESS RELEASE

UNESCO Director-General condemns killing of social media producer Jorge Méndez Pardo in Colombia

Paris, 4 July 2024 - Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, has condemned the killing of social media producer Jorge Méndez Pardo, in a rural part of the municipality of Tibú, Norte de Santander, in Colombia on 27 June.

“I condemn the killing of Jorge Méndez Pardo and call for an investigation to ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice. Social media producers like Jorge must be protected alongside journalists, given their critical role in providing information to audiences,” said **Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General**.

Jorge Méndez Pardo, also known as “Jeykon el líder”, was a well-known local social media producer and ran a Facebook page *La Gabarra con una imagen diferente*. He was reportedly shot and his body was found next to his vehicle.

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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