

Europe funds training for African journalists

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DAKAR, April 12 (Reuter) - The European Union has donated \$193,000 to improve the quality of journalism in west and central Africa, an EU statement issued in the Senegalese capital said on Tuesday.

It said two three-week courses for a total of 20 journalists would be held in Dakar by Inter Press Services (IPS), a news agency run by the non-aligned movement and based in Amsterdam.

“These courses are intended to improve the level of reporting on issues of development, human rights and democracy,” the statement said.

Participants are working reporters from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Mali, Rwanda, Senegal and Zaire.

IPS course organiser Peter da Costa told Reuters the Rwanda student was his agency’s local correspondent in the central African country, awash in a tribal bloodbath since its president was killed last week.

“Since the fighting started he has completely disappeared and we have no way of knowing what has happened to him, I hope he’s alright,” da Costa said.

He said the first course would be held from May 24 to June 10 and the second, for a different batch of 10 journalists, in November.

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