

Rwanda missionaries awarded top humanities prize

Reuters, April 22, 1994

OVIEDO, Spain, April 22 (Reuter) - Spanish missionaries in war-ravaged Rwanda and Burundi were on Friday awarded the 1994 Prince of Asturias Prize for Communication and Humanities, one of Spain's most prestigious awards, the jury announced.

The jury made special mention of Sister Pilar Espolin, who with two other Spanish nuns ran a hospital in the Rwandan town of Kibuye, and gave several graphic accounts of violence in Rwanda's tribal war by telephone to Spanish state radio.

Most Spanish missionaries have now been evacuated.

"The jury wanted to emphasise with this award the new frontier in communication opened by missionaries based in Rwanda and Burundi in face of the tragic events in those countries," the announcement said.

A total of eight Prince of Asturias prizes, named after Spain's Crown Prince Felipe and each worth five million pesetas (about \$35,000) are awarded every year in areas including international cooperation, sport, arts, literature and social sciences.

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