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IWU Adds "Scholars at Risk" Professor

Jeffery Hanna
Illinois Wesleyan University

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CONTACT: Jeff Hanna or Stew Salowitz, 309-556-3181

IWU Adds "Scholars at Risk" Professor

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. -- For the first time, Illinois Wesleyan University has a visiting professor from the international Scholars at Risk Network.

Emmanuel Tatah Mentan, a political scientist and former journalist from Cameroon with nearly 20 years of teaching experience at educational institutions in Cameroon, Rwanda, and the U.S., has joined IWU as a visiting scholar and assistant professor in the political science department.

Mentan earned his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Nigeria in Nsukka.

In the early 1990s, he suggested on a popular Cameroon radio program that having more than one political party is a necessity in any country claiming to be a democracy, as Cameroon then was. His remarks and subsequent writings led to a period of harassment and intimidation, including several arrests, torture, and continuing threats of violence.

Fearing he would be murdered, he fled Cameroon with his family in 2001 and has been in the U.S. since, working as a visiting professor at the University of Minnesota, then as the Lentz Post-doctoral Fellow in Peace and Conflict Resolution Research at the University of Missouri.

The Scholars at Risk Network is an international network of over 80 colleges and universities in the U.S. and around the world that arranges short-term academic positions for scholars of any discipline and from any country who suffer violence or other threats because of their work, prominence, or exercise of basic rights. These teaching positions allow scholars to continue their work in safety and allow universities to demonstrate concretely their commitment to academic freedom.

A prolific scholar, Mentan teaches in both English and French. His most recent scholarship includes a chapter entitled "Imperialism and Militarism in Africa: The Political Economy of French Arms Sales and Military Interventions, 1960-1980," which appeared in *Africa at the Crossroads: Between Regionalism and Globalization*, published in May 2004.