

CNN MultiChoice African Journalist of the Year Awards finalists

Ferial Haffajee, Chair of the independent judging panel, announced finalists in the prestigious CNN MultiChoice African Journalist 2015 Competition. This year the competition received entries from 39 countries across the continent, including French and Portuguese speaking Africa, and ended with 31 finalists from 15 countries.

Finalists

- Fiifi Essilfie Anaman, Freelance for zonalsports.com, Ghana
- Benedicta Asimwe, Freelance for Daily Monitor, Uganda
- Femi Asu, Punch Newspaper, Nigeria
- Domingos Bento, redeangola.info, Angola
- Thomas Naadi Bitlegma, Viasat1, Ghana
- Sheriff Bojang Jnr, Freelance for West Africa Democracy Radio, Senegal
- Ruth Butaumocho, The Herald, Zimbabwe
- Ibrahima Diallo, Radiodiffusion Télévision Sénégalaise (RTS), Senegal
- Adewale Olugbenga Emosu, tribuneonline.com, Nigeria
- Chahinaz Samir Gheith, Freelance for Al-Ahram Hebdo, Egypt
- Carla Gonçalves, A Nação, Cape Verde
- Boldwill Hungwe, Zimbabwe Independent, Zimbabwe
- Ibanga Isine, Premium Times Newspaper, Nigeria
- Paul Kelemba, Freelance for The Standard on Saturday, Kenya
- Deo Gratias Tchédé Kindoho, Radio Bénin, Benin
- Julie Laurenz & Jacqueline Jayamaha, Freelance for e.tv, South Africa
- Petride Mudoola, Freelance for Sunday Vision, Uganda
- Abubakari Akida Mussa, Mtanzania Newspaper, Tanzania
- Pedro Paxi Pereira Ndoma, TV Zimbo, Angola
- George Oduor Otieno, Baraka FM, Kenya
- Hyacinthe Boowurosigue Sanou, L'Observateur Paalga, Burkina Faso
- Enock Sikolia & Charles Kariuki, NTV, Kenya
- Arison Tamfu, Cameroon Journal, Cameroon
- K?`la` Tu`b?`su`n, Blogger at ktravula.com, Nigeria
- Arukaino Umukoro, Punch Newspaper, Nigeria
- Bento Venâncio, Jornal Domingo, Mozambique
- Herman Verwey, Beeld, South Africa
- Kiundu Waweru, The Standard on Saturday, Kenya

- Sarah Wild, Mail & Guardian, South Africa



Judging panel

The independent judging panel, chaired by Ferial Haffajee, Editor-in-Chief, City Press, South Africa, includes:

- Debo Adesina, Editor-in-Chief, Guardian Newspapers, Nigeria;
- Nima Elbagir, Senior International Correspondent, CNN;
- Jean-Paul G  rouard, Editor-in-Chief, France T  l  visions;
- Fernando Gon  alves, Editor, Savana, Mozambique;
- Anton Harber, Caxton Professor of Journalism, University of the Witwatersrand;
- Joel Kibazo, Director of Communications and External Relations, African Development Bank Group;

- Amadou Mahtar Ba, Co-Founder and Executive Chairman, AllAfrica Global Media;
- Wanja Njuguna, Senior Lecturer, Polytechnic of Namibia & CNN Journalist of the year 2000; José Sebastião Paulo, Professor of Journalism, University Agostinho Neto, Angola;
- David Ohito, Digital Editor, The Standard Media Group, Kenya.

The following sponsors once again support the competition: A24 Media, African Development Bank, Dow, Ecobank, GE, IPP Media and MSD (known as Merck in the US and Canada).

Prizes

The finalists will enjoy an all-expense paid four-day programme of workshops, media forums and networking in Nairobi, Kenya, culminating in a Gala Award Ceremony in October 2015. In addition, winners from previous years will join this year's finalists for a special evening to celebrate 20 years of the awards.

Tony Maddox, Executive VP and MD of CNN International said, "The quality and breadth of entries in this 20th year is testament to the Awards' position as the most prestigious recognition for journalism across the continent. CNN is privileged to be involved in this important initiative to honour the outstanding work across multiple platforms, topics and journalistic disciplines. I salute the finalists for the great work that they have done and look forward to seeing their future achievements."

Greg Beitchman, VP, Content Sales and Partnerships, CNN International: "This year's ceremony promises to be a stellar moment in the long history of the Awards. A combination of the strong body of work to be showcased at the 2015 awards, the presence of a number of former winners and the backdrop of the vibrant city of Nairobi will make for an evening that celebrates the very best of African journalism."

Tim Jacobs, CEO MultiChoice Africa, adds, "We continue to be amazed by the resourcefulness and growth of journalists in the complexity and immediacy of the digital and online age of news and information. That is why we remain committed to nurturing and growing African journalists who have a huge responsibility and role to play and where tech-savvy readers have the ability to follow breaking stories and are not shy to engage in dialogue on a number of different platforms. For the past 20 years, the CNN MultiChoice African Journalist of the Year Awards have provided a voice for credible journalism. As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we can only commend the journalists for leaving no stone unturned in telling the important stories."

Imtiaz Patel, Group CEO, MultiChoice, concludes, "MultiChoice is delighted to once again be associated with these prestigious awards that give respect to the work done by journalists across the African continent. We congratulate all the finalists on their achievements and look forward to celebrating with the winners in Nairobi in October."

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