

All the CNN Multichoice African Journalist 2010 finalists

Joel Kibazo, chair of the independent judging panel in the CNN MultiChoice African Journalist 2010 Awards, has announced the finalists. The competition, now in its 15th year, received entries from 975 journalists from 40 countries throughout Africa, including French and Portuguese speaking Africa.



Announcing the finalists, Kibazo said: "2010 is a record-breaking year for entries to these awards. Not only do the numbers continue to grow each year, but the standard rises too. I was particularly impressed by the increasing number of journalists that crossed borders in pursuit of stories. This maturing of journalism, across the continent, combined with technological advances, created a greater body of work and made the awards more exciting to judge."

Reflecting on the role of the awards, Kibazo added: "The competition is now truly established as a way for African journalists to better their lives. I firmly believe the quality and number of people entering reflects the fact that the awards offer a fantastic opportunity to change an individual's future."

The 27 finalists from 15 countries:

- Halima Abdallah Kisule, East African, Uganda
- Kofi Akpabli, freelance for *Daily Graphic*, Ghana
- Njaka Andriamahery, *TV Plus*, Madagascar
- Pelu Awofeso, freelance for *NEXT on Sunday*, Nigeria
- Najlae Benmbarek, 2M TV, Maroc
- Teresa Chirwa, Zodiak Broadcasting Station, Malawi
- DispatchOnline Team, *Daily Dispatch*, South Africa
- Mustafa Haji Abdinur, co-founder SIMBA Radio, Somalia
- Thanduxolo Jika, *Daily Dispatch*, South Africa
- Zipporah Karani, KTN, Kenya
- Charles Kariuki, World Vision Kenya for NTV
- Alexandre Lebel Ilboudo, *Le Patriote*, Côte d'Ivoire
- Lucas Ledwaba, *DRUM*, South Africa
- Tsitsi Matope, *Public Eye*, Lesotho
- Emmanuel Mayah, *Daily Sun*, Nigeria
- Kassim Mohamed, Star FM, Kenya
- Oarabile Mosikare, Botswana for *Mail & Guardian*, South Africa
- Francis Mugo Mwangi, freelance for NTV, Kenya
- Boniface Mwangi, freelance for *The Star*, Kenya
- Rose Ramsay, eNews, South Africa
- Sam Rogers, e.tv, South Africa
- Sergio José Siteo, Rede de Comunicação Miramar, Moçambique
- Leon Ssenyange, NTV, Uganda

- Lamia Tagzout, *El Watan*, Algérie
- Sebastião Vemba, *Novo Jornal*, Angola
- Kaara Wainaina, NTV, Kenya
- Roseline Wangui, NTV, Kenya

Mustafa Haji Abdinur awarded Free Press Africa Award

This year the recipient of the Free Press Africa Award is Mustafa Haji Abdinur, co-founder of SIMBA Radio in Mogadishu and founder of Somali Media for Peace and Development (SOMEPEP). He is awarded this prize for his work in Somalia including the 'Peace Journalism' initiative which he launched with the help of fellow Somali journalists. The award is also in recognition of all the journalists in Somalia who have put their lives at risk in telling the story.

There are nine journalists who died during 2009 whilst fulfilling their professional duties:

- Abdulkhafar Abdulkadir Hasan, freelance
- Mohamed Amin Adan Abdulle, Radio Shabelle
- Hassan Zubeyr Haji Hassan, Al-Arabiya
- Mohamud Mohamed Yusuf, Radio IQK
- Mukhtar Mohamed Hirabe, Radio Shabelle
- Nur Muse Hussein, Radio IQK
- Abdirisak Mohamed Warsame, Radio Shabelle
- Said Tahlil Ahmed, HornAfrik
- Hassan Mayow Hassan, Radio Shabelle

The winners of the competition will be announced at an award ceremony and gala evening in Kampala, Uganda on Saturday, 29 May 2010.

The hosts for the evening will be Isha Sesay, presenter of CNN International's weekly programme 'Inside Africa' and Dr Ronnie Mich Egwang, a well-known Ugandan presenter.

Judging panel

The independent judging panel, chaired by Joel Kibazo, journalist and media consultant, includes: Ikechukwu Amaechi, editor, *Daily Independent*, Nigeria; Jean-Paul G  rouard, deputy editor-in-chief, France 3 TV; Ferial Haffajee, editor-in-chief, *City Press*, South Africa; Arlindo Lopes, secretary eneral, Southern African Broadcasting Association; Jos   Lu  s Mendon  a, press counsellor, Angolan Permanent Delegation to UNESCO; Zipporah Musau, managing editor, magazines, The Standard Group, Kenya; Kim Norgaard, CNN bureau chief, South Africa.

Tony Maddox, executive VP and MD of CNN International said: "The CNN MultiChoice African Journalist Awards celebrates its 15th anniversary this year, coinciding with CNN celebrating 30 years as the world's pioneering news provider. As CNN

encourages, promotes and recognises excellence in journalism at all levels, we are particularly pleased to be able to support journalists who represent our future. I have witnessed the quality and excellence of work in this competition strengthen year on year, and am proud that it continues to maintain its place as the most prestigious pan-African journalist awards.”

Collins Khumalo, president MultiChoice Africa, said: “We congratulate the 27 finalists of this year's awards. The great success that this event has enjoyed over the past 15 years makes the CNN MultiChoice African Journalist Awards the one honour that journalists and media houses throughout the continent want to be associated with. Through these awards, MultiChoice in partnership with CNN, continue to acknowledge and celebrate the best journalistic talent and skills that Africa's media have to offer.”

Finalists hosted in Kampala

The Kampala Serena is the delegate hotel for the CNN MultiChoice African Journalist Awards 2010. The hotel will host finalists, judges, attending media and guests from across the continent. The finalists will have an all expenses paid five-day programme of workshops, media forums, networking and have the opportunity to see some of the sights of Kampala.

Sponsors include: Coca-Cola Africa; Ecobank, IPP Media, Tanzania; Kampala Serena Hotel; Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD); NN24 Nigeria; Research In Motion (RIM), the company behind the BlackBerry solution; Safebond Africa Ltd and A24 Media.

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