

CNN Multichoice African Journalist 2016 finalists announced

Finalists in the prestigious CNN MultiChoice African Journalist 2016 Competition were announced by Ferial Haffajee, chair of the independent judging panel. This year, the competition received 1637 entries - a record number - from 38 countries across the continent, including French and Portuguese-speaking Africa.



There are 38 finalists from 14 countries:

- Adedayo Eriye Oketola, Saturday Punch, Nigeria
- Aderonke Bello, naij.com, Nigeria
- Ancillar Mangena, Forbes Africa, South Africa
- Asha Ahmed Mwilu & Rashid Idi, Kenya Television Network, Kenya
- Ati Metwaly, Al Ahram Weekly, Egypt
- Bento Venâncio, Jornal Domingo, Mozambique
- Bidossèssi Appolinaire Agoïnon, Office de Radiodiffusion et Télévision du Bénin, Benin
- Cheboite Kigen, Daily Nation Newspaper, Kenya
- Chika Oduah, Nigeria, Freelancer at African Story Challenge, Media Initiative, Kenya
- Cleófas Viagem, STV, Mozambique
- Conan Daniel Businge & Gerald Tenywa, New Vision, Uganda
- Coulibaly Zoumana, Le Patriote, Ivory Coast
- Diana Neille, Richard Poplak, Shaun Swinger and Sumeya Gasa, Daily Maverick Chronicle, South Africa
- Dominic Omondi, The Standard, Kenya
- Eromo Egbejule, Freelancer at Ventures Africa, Nigeria
- Faten Hayed, El Watan, Algeria
- Fidelto Emidio Bata, STV, Mozambique
- Folashade Adebayo, The Punch, Nigeria
- Garreth van Niekerk, City Press, South Africa
- Isaac Otidia Amuke, Commonwealth Writers, Kenya
- James Oatway, The Sunday Times, South Africa

- Jay Caboz, Forbes Africa, South Africa
- Jean-Luc Emile, Teleplus, Mauritius
- John Grobler, Namibia, and Fiona Macleod, Oxpeckers Investigative Environmental Journalism, South Africa
- Lawrence Seretse, The Botswana Gazette, Botswana
- Mia Malan, Mail & Guardian, South Africa
- Teresa Fuquiadi, Jornal Nova Gazeta, Angola
- Veronica Narkwor Kwabla, Tv3 Network, Ghana
- Veronica Onuchi, TVC News Africa, Nigeria
- Yemisi Akinbobola, Ogechi Ekeanyanwu and Paul Bradshaw, IQ4News for Premium Times, Nigeria

The independent judging panel for the awards, chaired by Ferial Haffajee, chair of the Judging Panel and Editor-in-Chief, City Press, South Africa, includes: Debo Adesina, Editor-in-Chief, Guardian Newspapers, Nigeria; Jean-Paul G rouard, former Editor-in-Chief, France T l visions; Eleni Giokos, Africa Correspondent, CNN; Fernando Gonalves, Editor, Savana, Mozambique; Anton Harber, Editor-in-Chief, eNCA, South Africa; Joel Kibazo, Media and Public Affairs Consultant; Amadou Mahtar Ba, Co-Founder and Executive Chairman, AllAfrica Global Media; Wanja Njuguna, Senior Lecturer, Namibia University of Science and Technology and CNN Journalist of the year 2000; David Ohito, Digital Editor, The Standard Media Group, Kenya and Jos  Sebastiao Paulo, Professor of Journalism, University Agostinho Neto, Angola. The competition is once again supported by the following sponsors, who continue to lend their valuable support to the awards: African Development Bank, Dow, Ecobank, GE, IPP Media and MSD (MSD is known as Merck in the U.S. and Canada).

The finalists will enjoy an all-expense paid four day programme of workshops, media forums and networking in Johannesburg, South Africa, culminating in a gala award ceremony in October 2016.

Tony Maddox, executive vice-president and managing director of CNN International said: "This year has seen a record number of entries for the CNN MultiChoice African Journalist Awards, from a diverse array of countries across the continent. The passion which African journalists display for telling compelling and top class stories knows no bounds. Once more, CNN proudly continues its commitment to encouraging inspiring journalistic excellence with these awards."

Greg Beitchman, vice president, content sales and partnerships, CNN International: "The African Journalist Awards continues to maintain its place as the most prestigious Pan African journalist competition. CNN encourages, promotes and recognises excellence in journalism across all platforms, so we are particularly pleased to be able to support journalists who represent the continent's thriving news industry in all its forms. With our MultiChoice partners, we look forward to yet another thrilling Awards ceremony celebrating the very best journalism Africa has to offer."

The CNN MultiChoice African Journalist 2016 competition is open to African professional journalists, whether directly employed or freelancers, working in the continent of Africa who have produced a story which has been made available as a printed publication or broadcast through an electronic medium (television; radio or digital platform) whose primary audience are based in Africa.