

Insight

Charles Molele FAIR Executive director

Let me start by saying I am deeply honored and humbled to be appointed as FAIR's new executive director with effect from May 1 2014.

I have a profound respect and passion for this organization and the work it does under difficult circumstances. It is indeed a great privilege to be at the helm of an organization that is championing investigative journalism in Africa.

Investigative journalism has an important role to play in African development. As we continue to grow as an organization, each new day offers us a chance to work together, to pursue new opportunities and to improve upon the past.

We [**myself and the Board**] promise to turn around the organization and work tirelessly to ensure our members are fully supported in their work and professions. Going forward, we have a clear plan for the organization and we will be outlining it soon at board level on how to move forward.

If we work together I am sure we're going to see a more streamlined organization with a clear strategy and vision and mission. As one member quipped recently, let us renew our commitment to FAIR and continue to make it the flagship of Pan Africanism in investigative journalism.

I could not be more proud to be at FAIR at this time of change and renewed enthusiasm. Thank you in advance for your support.

★ Charles Molele, Executive Director, Forum for African Investigative Reporters (FAIR)

Announcements

NEW SECRETARIAT

CHARLES MOLELE 'FAIR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'

Charles who is a South African national is our new Executive Director. Charles is a former Political Editor of the New Age and brings to FAIR his 20 years experience in journalism. He has previously worked in senior positions in the Mail & Guardian, Saturday Star, Sunday World, ThisDay and Sunday Times. He has covered general news, investigations, court and politics. And also worked as a senior reporter for the 'I' have reported on major political stories in South Africa since 1994 including conflict in Africa. His career highlights include covering Kenya's violent post-elections (2007/08), Zimbabwe's divisive general elections of 2008, Mozambique's food riots in 2010 and the historic re-election of US President Barack Obama in 2012. Charles is currently pursuing a Master's in Business Administration degree with the Management College of Southern Africa.

RICHARD MGAMBA 'FAIR PAN AFRICAN EDITOR'

Richard Mgamba has joined us as our new FAIR Pan African Editor. He brings with him a wealth of IJ experience into our forum. Richard is a Tanzanian award-winning investigative journalist with 19 years experience. Currently Richard is the Managing Editor of the English-language daily newspaper, The Citizen, which is published in Dares Salaam, Tanzania's capital city. From the post Rwandan genocide to the Congo crisis, mining to albinos' killings, arms trafficking to grand corruption in Tanzania and the Great Lakes region, are some of the major stories that Richard has investigated and reported on comprehensively in the recent past. Richard is the previous winner of the CNN-Multichoice Africa journalist of the year award (2008) and overall winner of European Union Lorenzo Natali Awards on Human Rights, Democracy and Development for Africa (2009). For the past five years, Richard has been engaged in the training of local journalists and African journalists as well, on Financial Journalism. The topics that Richard lectures on include investigating money laundering, tax evasion, corruption and other financial related crimes committed by both local and multinational corporations.

TANDIWE QASHA 'FAIR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'

Tandiwe Qasha is FAIR's new Administrative Officer. She brings to FAIR a hands-on expertise in Office Management and administration. She previously worked at the Durban based firms of Goldkeys International Prepacks and Blakes & Associates. Tandiwe who is media savvy owing to her previous experience in the media environment when she worked at Ikhwezi Newspaper Kokstad is going to reshape FAIR's records, membership index and manage toolkits to help assist our ever growing continental membership.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS & TREASURER

Christophe Assogba from Benin and Kenyan investigative journalist **Kassim Mohammed** have joined the FAIR Board. This follows the resignation of **John Grobler** (which was ccd to all members) and **Rafael Marques de Morais**. Rafael resigned to concentrate on over a dozen pending cases filed against him by military generals in both Angola and Portugal.

FAIR together with other organisations is participating in Rafael's defence. Owing to these two positions in the board and using the precedent of the members with the next highest number of votes from the AGM 2013 Assogba and Kassim were co-opted to join the FAIR Board complete with all the privileges and rights of a full board member. Assogba was elected as the new FAIR treasurer.



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* On May 16 2014, FAIR member and Liberian investigative journalist Evelyn Kpadeh won two awards, The Human Rights Reporter and Development Reporter of the Year.

The annual awards were organized by the Press Union of Liberia, in recognition of journalists who have over the years worked tirelessly and professionally in reporting and highlighting issues in the various segments of the Liberian society.

"I share these awards with FAIR with smiles and I believe it just didn't happen because of me alone but also because of the support I got from 'FAIR as an organisation' over the years." said Kpadeh, who is currently executive producer and senior reporter of the Liberia Women Democracy Radio.

*FAIR members and Sunday Times investigative unit Mzilikazi wa Afrika, Rob Rose & Stephan Hofstatter also scooped a top prize at the annual Standard Bank Sivukile Journalism Awards for their exposé on Dinah Pule, former South African Communications Minister.

Earlier this year, the trio, Rose, Hofstatter and Wa Afrika, also won the runner-up prize at the annual 2013 Taco Kuiper for the same story disgraced Pule. The minister was later forced to resign from Cabinet as a result of the investigation into her corrupt affairs.

*On World Press Freedom Day, Wanjohi Kabukuru's investigation, *Link Between Mombasa and Illegal Wildlife Trade*, won the Best Environment Reporting Award.

The story was supported by FAIR Grants and this is testimony of good usage of donor funding and quality reporting.

Wanjohi Kabukuru reports: Mombasa, Kenya's second most important city and coastal resort capital is a place of hedonism, business and history all rolled in one.

Regarded as east Africa's sea gateway Mombasa adamantly refuses to let go the one crucial history it has stuck to for over 600 years. That history is of trade in ivory.

For more information please visit the website <http://www.shout-africa.com/news/africa-inside-the-illegal-wildlife-trade/>

NEWSFLASH

*FAIR is set to take part in the South Africa Dialogue on Land Grabs, to be held in Phokeng, North West Province, on 26 June 2014, and hosted by the Royal Bafokeng Nation. FAIR chairperson Mzilikazi wa Afrika will be part of the Panel Discussion at the SA Dialogue. The panel will include government, Traditional Authorities, Civil Society Organisation and Trade Unions.

*FAIR chairperson Mzilikazi wa Afrika has been invited to join the board of Global Investigative Journalists Network. FAIR wishes Mzi well during the elections, scheduled for June 9-16 2014. After the election, the new board will replace the volunteer group as the leadership of the organization until the next membership meeting, which will take place in October 2015 at the conference in Norway.



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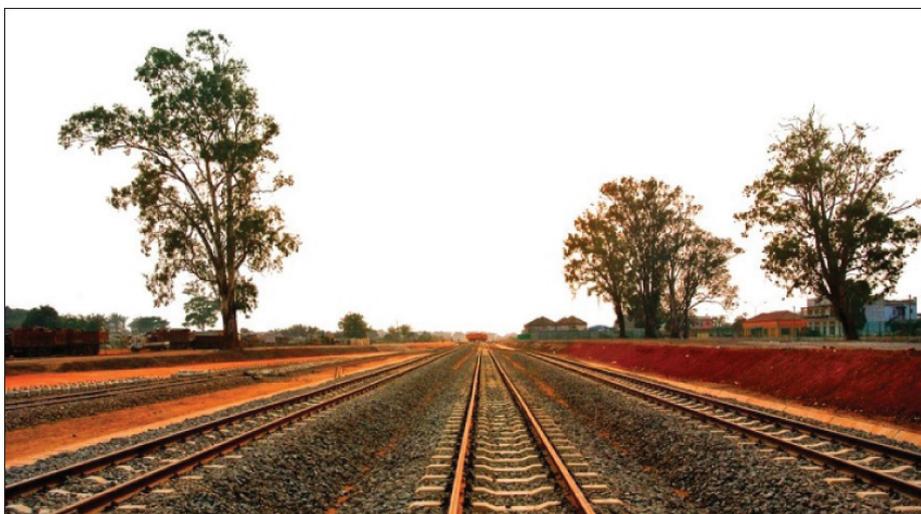


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1. Railway: Angola's iron, snake forked tongue By John Grobler in Luau, Angola



Angola's rehabilitated **Caminho de Ferro de Benguela** has spawned government-backed construction projects and a new, Chinese, middle class. The Africa Report delves beneath the success story, where opaque deals keep far too many on the wrong side of the tracks.

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On an early Sunday morning, a China Railway Engineering Corporation locomotive rolled into Luau's newly rebuilt station all glittering steel and chrome but otherwise still empty to drop off a team of Chinese workers who had come to construct Luau's new international airport 10km outside of town

For more information please visit the website <http://www.theafricareport.com/Central-Africa/railway-angolas-iron-snake-forked-tongue.html>

2. Illegal logging persists in Liberia By Silas Kpana'Avoung Siakor

The story deals with illegal logging companies in Liberia which are allegedly stealing forests with impunity, ignoring presidential decrees, and have not even paid the miniscule compensation they are owing to forest communities. Silas Kpana'Avoung Siakor is Liberian environmentalist and member of FAIR. He was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize in 2006 for his revealing of illegal logging in Liberia and its connection to the civil war, leading to export sanctions from the United Nation Security Council. For more information please visit the website <http://www.pambazuka.org/en/category/features/91569>

NEWSFLASH

The Mail & Guardian has launched New Africa Digital News Platform based in Nairobi, Kenya



New editor of Mail & Guardian Africa, Charles Onyango-Obbo

The Mail & Guardian Africa will be edited by Charles Onyango-Obbo, formerly the co-founder of Uganda's leading independent title, The Monitor, which became part of the Nation Group in 2000.

He was later appointed Executive Editor for Africa & the Digital Media Division of the Nation Media Group operating out of Nairobi and was also a columnist for Daily Nation, The East African, The Monitor (Uganda), and The Citizen (Tanzania), writing mostly on African political and democratic transition issues, the political economy of new technologies, and social trends.

He is also a member of the board of directors of the Institute of Economic Affairs, Nairobi, Kenya. *"From our Nairobi headquarters, and with all the social tools we can muster, Mail & Guardian Africa will be home to every African voice imaginable, tackle the continent's failures without fear, and shine the light on its great possibilities intelligently,"* says Onyango-Obbo.

Mail & Guardian Africa aims to be the leading and most important commercially successful contemporary voice on African issues.

For more information please visit the website <http://www.mgafrica.com>

The International Campaign against the Wall of the Moroccan Occupation in Western Sahara has just launched its website in four languages: www.removethewall.org

The campaign hopes that the new website would become an interactive forum for exchanging ideas, information and experiences amongst us so that we all could move the campaign forward.

For more information on the Western Sahara situation, **read:** *"The last Colony of Africa"*. The West often portrays itself as the champion of democracy, rule of law and human rights.

Yet, when we look at Western Sahara, the hypocrisy and dishonesty in such portrayals are laid bare. The story of Western Sahara *"The plight of its people and their struggle for freedom"* is willingly and deliberately ignored by Western powers and mainstream international media despite the fact that it is the last colony standing in the African continent.

To read the full article about the conflict of Western Sahara. For more information please visit the website <http://www.independentworldreport.com/2009/09/the-last-colony/>

News

★ Thailand

Two journalists, Thanapol Eawsakul and Pravit Rojanaphruk, were detained in Thailand, Reporters Without Borders announced last month. *"The army is continuing its efforts to halt the flow of news and information, imposing its editorial line on news organizations and ordering them not to publish anything that might fan the conflict."*

Reporters Without Borders revealed that 19 editors and publishers were summoned to a meeting called to discuss coverage of the news in an **"abnormal situation"**, while General Prayuth, appointed by the king as head of the NCPO.

The Thai government also threatened news organizations with closure if they used Facebook pages to **"fan the conflict"** or to undermine peace and public order. According to Reporters Without Borders, 14 stations won't be allowed back on the air "unless they undertake not to disturb the peace and public order."

★ Libya

Newspaper editor Muftah Bu Zeid was **killed in Benghazi** last month, according to The Voice of Libya. He was the editor of Berniga, a weekly newspaper.

Mr. Abu-Zaid appeared on the "Libya Al Ahrar" TV the night before his murder, criticizing the government and current state of chaos that is sweeping the country. He had received a number of threats on his life from unknown sources. He was also urged to leave the country 24 hours before he was assassinated.

For more information please visit the website <http://www.poynter.org/tag/mediawireworld/>

Center for Investigative Journalism (CIJ) Conference and Summer School

Bookings are now open for this year's CIJ Investigative Journalism Conference and Summer School. The event will take place on 4-6 July at Goldsmiths, University of London. Three days of hands on training, talks and workshops, as well as computer security walk-in clinic.

This year's keynote speakers include Pulitzer-prize winning journalists **Dana Priest** (*The Washington Post*), **Aron Pilhofer** of *The New York Times*, **Julian Assange** and **Sarah Harisson** of *Wikileaks* (by Skype) and **Lena Thiele**, *Europe's leading creator of interactive documentaries*.

For more information please visit the website www.cij.org/events/2014-07-05

Food for the Radio Mind

Details

Dates: 2 – 4 July 2014

Venue: Wits Club, University of the Witwatersrand, Braamfontein, Johannesburg

Cost: Full conference fee (including coffees, lunches and welcome event) R3500

Early bird fee (available until 31 May 2014) R2500

Single day: R1500

Bursaries available for community radio

Inquire about group discounts

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Notice

Mzilikazi wa Afrika, chairperson of the board, has been asked to make closing remarks at the *Integrity and Corruption in the Media: How the Leadership Guiding Principles Promote Professionalism* conference, to be held in Johannesburg, SA, on June 4-5 2014.

The two-day conference is targeted mainly at media owners. The conference hopes that media owners not only sign on to African Media Initiative's LGPs, which have strong clauses on ethics, working conditions, but also take away some of the discussions and implement the guidelines in their respective companies and newsrooms.

Among the speakers expected to address the conference is Trevor Ncube, chairman of Alpha Media Holdings, Wangethi Mwangi, former editorial director of The Nation Group in Kenya and Henry Muhanika, secretary general of the Media Owners Association of Tanzania.

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