

THE
CARTER CENTER



Participant Biographies

African Regional Conference on the Right of Access to Information

Accra, Ghana

February 7-9, 2010

Rights Committee in parliament. She is also an Eminent person of the ECOWAS Council of the Wise and a Founding Member of the Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET).

Chris Anderson

Chris Anderson was appointed Director, Corporate & External Affairs Africa for Newmont in July 2005 having previously served as Group Executive, Social Responsibility in Newmont Mining Corporation in Denver, USA. Prior to joining Newmont, Dr. Anderson was Executive General Manager Public Affairs for Normandy Mining Limited, Australia's largest gold company. He was Chief Executive of the South Australian Museum from 1993-1998 and previously taught anthropology at the Universities of California at Los Angeles, Queensland and Adelaide. He has also worked as a private consultant to Indigenous, government and private organizations in Australia, the US, Japan and Europe. Dr. Anderson is a specialist in community relations, stakeholder engagement and management and cross-cultural consultation. A graduate of the University of Queensland in Australia, Dr. Anderson received his B.A. (Hons.) in Anthropology. He holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology and a Diploma of Organizational Psychology from Queensland University. Dr. Anderson has written and edited over 40 publications, television documentaries and curated major exhibitions of Indigenous art. He is a recipient of the Australian Human Rights Award for Print media and a co-recipient of the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award for Race Relations (US). He has also been a Pacific Rim Foreign Exchange Scholar at UCLA. He is the past Chair of the International Council on Mining & Metals Indigenous Peoples Issues Working Group.

Amare Aregawi

Amare Aregawi is the chairman of Transparency Ethiopia and chairman of Nile Media Network. He finished high school in Ethiopia, and then spent three years in England. He was a member of the armed struggle for 12 years, particularly in newspaper and radio. After the fall of the previous government, he became the General Manager of Ethiopian Television and Ethiopian Newsagency from 1991-1996. He is general manager and managing editor of his own media company, the Media and Communications Center, which he started in 1996 and which publishes "The Reporter" Newspaper and ethiopianreporter.com in both English and Amharic. Six years ago he established Horn of Africa Press Institute, a press freedom research and training center he still directs. At present he is working hard to establish a school of communications and is married with three children.

Kojo Asante

Head of Programs at the Center for Democratic Development, Ghana (CDD-Ghana), an independent research think-tank promoting Ghanaian/African democratic development; Mr. Asante has been researching and advocating on Ghanaian/African democratization and governance issues for the last five years. His interest and experience over this period covers issues such as legal and constitutional reforms, parliamentary strengthening, elections, NGO/civil society development and protection, anti-corruption, local government and decentralization as well as natural resource governance and human rights. Mr. Asante is a trained Barrister and holds an M.A. in Africana Studies.

Ghana, he was the Manager of the Command Center of the Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO), Ghana's largest domestic election observation group that deployed over 4,000 election observers and used for the first time the parallel vote tabulation methodology to independently verify presidential results. He has also been an active member of the Freedom of Information Coalition advocating for the passage and effective implementation of a credible Right to Information legislation in Ghana.

Abraham Azubuiké

Abraham Azubuiké is the Chief Librarian and Head of the Information Management and Services Section of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. He has been associated with the UN/ECA since 1998, first as consultant from 1998 to 2000, and since 2001 on a regular basis. From 1991 to 1997, he was the Senior Reference Librarian of the Vienna International Centre (VIC) Library - a common information facility of United Nations system organizations in Vienna, Austria. Before then, he was Principal Librarian at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) in Ibadan, Nigeria. He is the co-convenor of Access to Information Network–Africa (ATINA), as well as the International Conference on African Digital Libraries and Archives (ICADLA). He has also conceived and/or organized several UN/ECA sponsored conferences and workshops on access to knowledge and information for development and democracy. He has published and spoken extensively on access to information for development and democracy. He has a Master of Business Administration from The Open University, Milton Keynes, United Kingdom; a Master of Library Studies from the University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria; and a Bachelor of Education (honours) from the University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria.

Amadou Mahtar Ba

Amadou Mahtar Ba is Executive Director of the African Media Initiative (AMI), a ten-year program seeking to profoundly change the continent's media landscape by improving media freedom, strengthening professional standards and increasing public and private investment in the media sector. Mr Ba is also a co-founder and President of AllAfrica Global Media – owner and operator of <http://allafrica.com> - a multi-media content service provider, systems technology developer and the largest distributor of African news and information worldwide. Prior to starting AllAfrica, Mr. Ba served from 1996 to 2000 as Director of Communications and Marketing for BICIS Bank, a subsidiary of the French banking group BNP Paribas. From 1993 to 1996, Mr. Ba helped lead the successful restructuring and privatization of the Panafrican News Agency (PANA). Mr. Ba is a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Council for the Future of journalism, representing the African continent, as well as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Knight International Journalism Fellowship administered by the International Center for Journalists. Mr. Ba was educated in Senegal, France and Spain and is fluent in 5 languages. He holds a Masters degree from the Ecole Française des Professionnels de la Communication in Paris.

Gabriel Baglo

Gabriel Baglo is Africa Director of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and Executive Director of the Federation of African Journalists (FAJ). Baglo was West Africa Coordinator for the IFJ-Media for Democracy Programme (2000-2003) implemented in collaboration with the West African Journalists Association (WAJA) for the media in West Africa and with the support of the European Commission. From 1990, he worked as journalist at the Public Television (TVT) in Togo, and the independent Crocodile Newspaper. He became Secretary General of the Togo Union of Independent Journalists, UJIT (1997-2000) and member of the Steering Committee of the West African Journalists Association, WAJA. Appointed in 2003 as IFJ Africa Director, he has been at the forefront of the main issues affecting journalism profession in Africa, the working journalists in the media industry, the violations of press freedom, access to information, media law reforms and media development. Baglo is member of the Steering Committee of the Africa Centre for Freedom of Information (AFIC), and also member of the Steering Committee of the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD). The IFJ Africa Office and Secretariat of the FAJ is based in Dakar, Senegal.

James Banda

James Banda is a 36-year-old Zambian, married with five children; he is a people person who enjoys working with and for people, especially children. He is by profession a teacher of geography, English language and literature and guidance counselor. He holds secondary teacher's and guidance, counseling and placement diplomas, and is completing his B.Ed. in guidance and counseling with the Zambian Open University this year. He was subject teacher, head of geography section and school counselor for seven years, and coordinated guidance, HIV and AIDS and child rights and participation programmes under the Education Department in Sinazongwe District, Southern Province from 2004 to 2008. Since September 2008 he has been with the Zambian Civic Education Association as Child Participation in School Governance Project Officer. He is also responsible for the Right to Know, Right to Education Project. His core duties include developing project proposals; planning and implementing activities; managing project resources; training and advocacy; monitoring and documenting project activities and outcomes. He has also contributed to writing and producing the 'Children's School Councils Operations Manual' (2009) and coordinated the 2009 DFID/ Idasa & ZCEA's Right to Know, Right to Education field baseline survey in Zambia and wrote the report.

Leslie Bar-Ness

Leslie Bar-Ness is currently the Government Relations Manager for Symantec Corporation, focusing on state and local governments in the United States and state and national governments in Latin America. She works with elected officials and appointed policy makers on issues of importance to Symantec such as data security and storage and consumer protection in an online environment. Previously, Ms. Bar-Ness served in the administration of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. In her role of as the Deputy Director in the Silicon Valley, she was responsible for advance and communications in the San Francisco Bay Area and served as a key policy aide in the areas of high technology, bio-technology and economic development. Prior to joining the Schwarzenegger administration, Ms. Bar-Ness also held a number of positions with the City of San Jose and local non-profits that addressed youth violence and gang involvement. Her work in education and economic development began in the early 1990's when she held a post in San Salvador, El Salvador that assisted newly repatriated refugee communities rebuild their rural infrastructure. Leslie Bar-Ness holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Dominican University of California and a Master of Social Work from San Jose State University.

Owen Barder

Owen Barder is an economist and Director of aidinfo at Development Initiatives, a programme that aims to reduce poverty by making resources for poverty reduction more accountable and effective. He is a Visiting Fellow at the Center for Global Development in Washington DC. He is also the presenter of Development Drums, a podcast about development issues. He is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Owen has worked at the UK Department for International Development, the office of the British Prime Minister, the British Treasury, the South African Treasury, and the Center for Global Development. He is a member of the Board of Twaweza, which promotes accountability in East Africa. From 2000 to 2004, Owen was a non-executive director of OneWorld. Owen set up the UK Government's first website, in his spare time, to publish the budget online. Owen blogs at www.owen.org.

Guy Berger

Professor Guy Berger is head of the School of Journalism and Media Studies at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa. A former editor and political prisoner, he convened the first major conference

on Freedom on Information in post-apartheid South Africa in 1995. More recently, he researched and edited the publication Media Legislation in Africa ? a comparative legal survey, for UNESCO, in 2007. It is online at:

[http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-](http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=1657&URL_DO=DO_TOP)

[URL_ID=1657&URL_DO=DO_TOP](http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php-URL_ID=1657&URL_DO=DO_TOP)

Calland practiced law at the London Bar. He holds an LLM from the University of Cape Town, a Diploma in World Politics from the London School of Economics and a BA (Hons) Law from the University of Durham.

Jimmy Carter

Jimmy Carter, thirty-ninth president of the United States, founded The Carter Center with his wife Rosalynn in 1982. He continues to provide leadership for the Center, serving on the Board of Trustees and engaging in Center programs. He has led Center election observation delegations in the Americas, Africa, and Asia. Under his leadership, the Center has engaged in conflict mediation in Ethiopia and Eritrea, North Korea, Liberia, Haiti, Bosnia, Sudan, Uganda, the Great Lakes region, Venezuela, and Nepal. The author of twenty-four books, he is also a University Distinguished Professor at Emory University. On December 10, 2002, the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Nobel Peace Prize to President Carter “for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development.”

Rosalynn Carter

Rosalynn Carter, as First Lady of Georgia and First Lady of the United States, took on a continuing role as

around unhindered access to information to promote participatory and accountable development. They believe the task of transforming the culture of administration into a more democratic one remains a serious challenge in the new Liberia. Accordingly, access to information will remain key in creating a less corrupt

diverse as undertaking a national survey of educational and health providers, conducting a national training need assessment as well as an assessment of micro-enterprise programs in Liberia.

Filifing Diakité

Filifing Diakité was the first radio journalist to initiate ICT promotion in the media through a weekly radio magazine of 20 minutes on the radio called Guintan “the voice of women”. He has been promoting ICT since 1999. He was the iConnect coordinator in Mali and hopes to inspire other journalists in Mali to help promote ICT useage. He is very happy to be very well known nationally and internationally through ICT activities and received the AISI medias Award in 2004. On human right issues and access to information, Filifing DIAKITE managed a radio programme to promotion women and children’s right from 1996 to 2005. Many civil society organizations participated to these activities. In 2003On behalf on the Journalist Network on human right coordinated an advocacy project for more access to citizens and particularly journalist to the administration’s information. He received a Master in Law and a Diploma in Advanced, Specialized Studies in journalism in Democracy, focusing on Rights of press and good governance at the University of Montreal, Canada. Now Filifing is helping the Malian authorities in the utilization of ICT in good governance through different activities

Fatima Diallo

Currently an Assistant Lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the University of Ziguinchor, Miss Fatima Diallo is concurrently a fellow at the African Studies Center of Leiden in The Netherlands, where she is researching “Constitutionalism and Legal Movement in Africa: Reflexivity of the Rule of Law in the Senegalese Information Society (The Case of the Lower Casamance). Generally, she is interested in the legal and political stakes in the construction of the information society with a focus on issues relating to the impact of information and communication technologies on the democratization process in Africa. Having previously worked on constitutional law and the Rule of Law in Senegal, she is a member of the Coordination committee of the African Constitutional Law Network (RADC). At the RADC, she joined the leadership of the working group on Access to Information which provides a platform for reflection on legal, institutional and structural issues pertaining this fundamental right in African countries.

Ramata Diaoure

Rahamata Diaouré has been working as a journalist in

Boubacar Dicko

Born in Tonka, Mali in 1965 Mr. Boubacar Mahamadane Dicko received his primary school certificate in 1981 and the baccalaureate for his secondary studies from the Lycée Franco Arabe de Tombouctou in 1984. He obtained a university law degree from the École Nationale d'Administration in 1990 and upon graduation began working with an organization that worked in collaboration with the Association Subaahi Gumo (ASG) where he served as a project supervisor. The experience he gained working in this capacity led to his interest in a range of management projects including the conceptualization and implementation of education development projects, health and democratic governance efforts, the monitoring and evaluation of project activities, the management and facilitation of communication between various non-governmental organizations as well as non-governmental organization personnel management. In 1999, after a decade working in these sectors, Mr. Dicko entered into civil service with the Malian government. Since then he has served as the administration and finance director for the Ministry of Health, as a member of the Cabinet for the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, and transportation, as well as the Commissioner for Institutional Development where he is responsible for the monitoring and implementation of access to information efforts within the government administration and the Institutional Office of PARAD.

Mukelani Dimba

Mukelani Dimba is the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Open Democracy Advice Centre (ODAC) in South African and Chairperson of the Africa Freedom of Information Centre, a pan-African Freedom of Information (FOI) advocacy organisation in Uganda. He has a background in labour law and management. At ODAC he provides training and consultancy services, research coordination and advocacy. The training and consultancy services unit provides advice to public and private institutions on best compliance strategies for South Africa's Right-to-Information laws and helps civil society formations and members of the public to deal with those laws. He is the convener of South Africa's National Information Officers Forum and has worked on FOI legislation in Mozambique, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Ghana, where he has advised civil society formations on campaigning for Right-to-information laws, advised foreign members of parliament on drafting these laws, advised foreign governments on implementation strategies and done research on behalf of development agencies. He has given papers on FOI at a number of international fora in Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, Cameroon, NamiD.0004 Tc00-21.9 -1.1d2 Tw01 r.16 TD

Research Department of the World Bank. Additionally, he was Assistant Professor of Finance at New York University and has published extensively in the areas of International Finance, Labor and trade. Mr. Diwan is a Lebanese and Canadian national with a Ph.D in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley.

Lilian Ekeanyanwu

Nathaniel Ganda

Thomas Gbow

Demirew Getachew

Currently Demirew Getachew is the Head of the Ethiopian Economic Association (EEA) Secretariat office. Before joining EEA in April 2005, he has been the head of Planning and research Department at the Ministry of Revenue. He was also the head of the Modeling and Policy Analysis Division at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development. Mr. Getachew has an MSc degree in economics.

Elaine Geyer-Allély

Elaine Geyer-Allély was Country Representative in Mali for the Carter Center's Global Development Initiative from 2003 to 2006 and then a consultant for the Americas Program in 2007. During this period she worked with the Malian government to design and implement an Access to Information Strategy in six pilot government agencies in order to create greater transparency and facilitate citizen access to basic documents. With a background in environmental policy she completed a post-graduate certificate in Biodiversity Conservation and Management in 2009. She is currently based in Geneva, Switzerland and working as a consultant on Environment, Development and Governance issues.

Joseph Gitari

Joseph Gitari is the Program Officer in charge of the Human Security and Social Justice portfolio at the Ford Foundation Office for West Africa. Between 1997 and 2003, he was Program Officer responsible for the Human Rights and Social Justice at the Ford Foundation's Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi, Kenya. As a grant-maker, Joseph's interests are in human rights, security, freedom of expression and organizational development. Before joining the Foundation, he worked for over 10 years (1985-1996) with Amnesty International's International Secretariat in London in various capacities. He was Amnesty International's Africa Regional Development Coordinator, (1994-1997), Development Coordinator, (Anglophone Africa) (1992- 1994) and Special Projects Officer, (1991-92), Campaign and Membership Department. He is also the Founding Editor (1990) Global Justice a Journal of the Centre for Rights Development; University of Denver, Colorado. Mr. Gitari trained as a journalist at the University of Nairobi, Kenya and holds a Bachelor degree in Mass Communications and Political Science from University of Denver, Colorado, USA;

requests made under the Act; and developing submissions for Parliament on changes that need to be made to strengthen the Act. A Medical Doctor by training Carolyn is a proponent of the benefits of Access to Information for the enjoyment and protection of all rights. She has presented locally and internationally on ATI in Jamaica and written several short articles on the process for local and international publication. She is also Chairperson of the Access to Information Advisory Stakeholders Committee.

Cheryl Gopaul

Dr. Cheryl Gopaul is a Senior Governance Advisor with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) working with their bi-lateral aid programme in Ghana. She is Co-Chair with the Attorney General of the Governance Sector Group as part of the Multi-Donor Budgetary Support. She holds a PhD in Development Studies, specialising in planning for sustainable development and governance. She has a Master's in Environmental Planning and Management and B.A. (Hons) in Applied Geography & Planning, and studied International Negotiations in Switzerland. Dr. Gopaul is a specialist in good governance - democratisation; elections; parliamentary governance; public sector reforms; decentralization/local governance; capacity development; civil society; legislative and institutional reforms; anti-corruption, accountability and transparency; policy dialogue; sustainable development and environment. She has more than 28 years working experience in international development, good governance, development programming, high level policy dialogue, aid effectiveness and donor harmonization. Before joining CIDA, she worked with UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, and various governments and private sector companies in Latin America, the Caribbean, USA and Canada. She was a former Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture in Guyana and has straddled the academics, teaching international development and sustainable development courses at the University of the West Indies and summer course at George Washington University.

Annie Goranson

Annie Goranson is Discovery Attorney with Symantec Corporation. As Discovery Attorney, Ms. Goranson works with both customers and Symantec's internal teams on various e-Discovery and information management issues. Previously, Ms. Goranson was Corporate Counsel for Symantec where she was responsible for managing the company's litigation matters

develop the agenda for federal and local government reform in Mexico. He completed his Ph. D. coursework in Political Science at the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris and holds two Masters Degrees, in Public Policy from IEP-Paris and in Economics and International Politics from Johns Hopkins University.

Mamadou Bara Guéye

Bara Guèye is a rural economist who has been working for more than twenty five years in promoting local development and participatory approaches in West Africa. Before he joined the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in 1993, he was an academic trainer and researcher. He set up and had coordinated the IIED Drylands Programme's Sahel office from 1993 to September 2005, when the programme became an independent organisation named "Innovation, Environnement et Développement en Afrique (IED Afrique). IED Afrique has focused its work on promoting participatory natural resource management, sustainable agriculture and research and policy advocacy on the transformations of family farming in West Africa. Over the recent years an emphasis has also been put on supporting the governance and decentralisation processes in

Vinicius Hodges

Vinicius S. Hodges was born in Liberia and educated in the United States. He studied journalism and was the 1999 Recipient of the CNN African Journalist Award in South Africa for Radio – the first Liberian to win that coveted award. In 2005 he contested for his home seat in the Liberian Parliament and won. In the House he serves as Chairman for the House Standing Committee on Information, Broadcasting and Culture & Tourism. He has five children.

Charlayne Hunter-Gault

Charlayne Hunter-Gault is an award-winning journalist with more than 40 years in the industry. She spent six years as CNN's Johannesburg bureau chief and correspondent before returning to NPR in 2005 as a special correspondent, where she previously worked as the network's chief correspondent in Africa. Before NPR she spent 20 years with PBS, where she worked as a national correspondent for *The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*. She began her journalism career as a reporter for *The New Yorker*, worked as a local news anchor for WRC-TV in Washington, D.C. and as Harlem bureau chief for *The New York Times*. She has received two Emmy awards and two Peabody awards, the 1986 Journalist of the Year Award from the National Association of Black Journalists, the 1990 Sidney Hillman Award, the American Women in Radio and Television award, the Good Housekeeping Broadcast Personality of the Year Award, the 2004 National Association of Black Journalists Award, awards from Amnesty International for her Human Rights reporting, and an award for international reporting from the New York Chapter of the Association of Black Journalists for an *Essence Magazine* article. Hunter-Gault has been inducted into the National Association of Black Journalists Hall of Fame and holds numerous honorary degrees. She is on the boards of The Carter Center, The Committee to Protect Journalists, the Peabody Awards, the Taco Kuiper Awards for Investigative Journalism and is vice president of the Clara Elizabeth Jackson Carter Foundation. She is co-chairman of the Africa Media Initiative (AMI) and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She currently works as a freelance journalist and special Africa correspondent for NPR, and she is the Africa Bureau Chief for *Essence Magazine*. Hunter-Gault has written for several magazines and authored many books. Her latest book is *New News Out of Africa: Unweaving the African Renaissance*

Angelo Izama

Curtis Jarrett

Curtis is a 1972 graduate of the University of Liberia with over 30 years of working experience in different disciplines. He was employed at the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism and have worked with this institution for the last 11 years. He began as th

Patricia Jonason

Patricia Jonason is Assistant Professor in the Public Law Department at Södertörn University Stockholm, Sweden. She teaches Administrative, European and Human Rights Law. Her research interests are principally in the Right of Access to Information as well as in the Environmental Governance. She holds a PhD in Public Law from the University of Paris XII, France (2001), with a comparative doctoral dissertation about Data Protection and the Right of Access to Information in France and in Sweden. Patricia Jonason is the co-director of a new International School for Transparency (IST) that is to be established between the University of Cape Town, South Africa, and the University of Södertörn, Sweden.

Malcolm Joseph

Malcolm Wleemogar Joseph is the Executive Director of the Center for Media Studies & Peace Building, a leading NGO in Liberia that works to strengthen the media and consolidate peace, democracy, human rights and development. A professional journalist and civil society activist for more than a decade, Mr. Joseph has been vice president, Press Union of Liberia (PUL); vice president, West African Journalist Association (WAJA); National Coordinator, International Federation of Journalists/ Mano River Union Media Project; Regional Executive Committee Member, WACSO; Member of the Panel of Experts, 2003 Journalist of Tolerance Award-IFJ; and Management Committee Member of the International Alert sponsored Liberia Media Project. Program Coordinator of the Liberian Media Law and Policy Reform Process; Vice Chairman, Board of Directors, West African Network for Peace Building (WANEP-Liberia); and Chairman of the Liberian Coalition for Free Expression. Mr. Joseph holds a Master of Arts (MA) in International Relations and Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) Degree in Mass Communication as well as over a dozen certificates in various disciplines. He lectures at the African Methodist Episcopal University and the United Methodist University in Monrovia. Malcolm is a 2009 Stanford fellow on democracy, development and the Rule of law at Stanford University in California USA.

Sophie Mukenge Kabongo

Sophie Mukenge Kabongo is the project coordinator of fesmedia Africa the continental media project of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), since February 2009. One of her main responsibilities is the management and implementation of the African Media Barometer (AMB) in 26 African countries. The AMB, a home-grown self-assessment tool based on regional standards, provides for a comprehensive description and measurement of national media landscapes. Being a precondition for freedom of expression, the guarantee of access to Information is an important aspect of the AMB analysis. Moreover, Mrs Mukenge Kabongo contributes since 2007 to the annual publication of "Zero Tolerance for Corruption" by the Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID) and presented her paper on the re-negotiation of the relevance of Germany's colonial history on the Post-colonial Popular Culture Symposium of the University of Otago in New Zealand in 2009

Nigeria. He has considerable experience in legal and human rights advocacy cum litigation. Some of the issue areas that Mr. Kadiri has been involved with in the course of his work, include public advocacy and litigation on freedom of expression and media freedom generally, strengthening african human rights protection mechanisms, international justice and international human rights law advocacy, security sector reform in Nigeria, West Africa and in the larger African continent. He has also been involved with undertaking public interest litigation generally, advocacy on reforming Nigerian media laws, strengthening the freedom of the press and more importantly working towards ensuring the establishment of a culture of transparency and accountable governance in several African countries through advocating for the enactment of national legislation that allows public access to government held information. In the past, Mr. Kadiri worked with Media Rights Agenda, Nigeria as its Legal officer where he amongst other things worked on the Nigerian Freedom of Information Bill, amongst others. He has also served as the Nigerian Country Advocate for the Global Internet Policy Initiative where he partic

Sampa Kangwa-Wilkie heads the Freedom of Expression and Media Law Policy Programme at the Media Institute of Southern Africa, a regional media rights advocacy organisation working in 11 countries in Southern Africa. She is currently Project Manager for the Windhoek+20 Campaign, a continental coalition of organisations lobbying for the adoption of an African Platform on Access to Information (APPAI) at the UNESCO 20th Anniversary of the Windhoek Declaration on Press Freedom in 2011. Sampa holds a Masters Degree in Mass Communication from the University of

also been involved in training
ing all those years, he practiced
roadcasting Corporation in the
uman rights causes, in Africa,
ber of African and international
He was educated at the City

Dawit Kebede is an Ethiopian print media journalist. After graduating with a degree in journalism and communication from Unity University, he became a columnist in Ethiopian newspapers on socio-political issues. He later worked at Habesha magazine, a bilingual health journal. In 2004 Dawit founded and became editor-in-chief of **Hadar Newspaper** which has been critical of the policies of Prime Minister Zenawi's government. During the 2005 Ethiopian general election, Dawit criticized the Ethiopian government by writing articles and editorials demonstrating that the EPRDF might have

International Council on Social Welfare, an international organization working to promote social

Africa Regional Coordinator Emmanuel Kuyole is leading our research, advocacy, technical assistance and capacity-building for the West and Southern Africa regions. For the past eight years, Emmanuel has worked on economic justice campaigns at ISODEC in Ghana. Prior to that, Emmanuel was the program officer for the Structural Adjustment Participatory Review Initiative, reviewing the impact of lending and policy advice in select African countries. Emmanuel also played a central role in framing Ghana's ambitious EITI approach.

Alfredo Libombo

Alfredo Libombo, a journalist by profession, started working as a news reporter at Radio Mozambique in 1976, a year after Mozambique's independence from Portugal. He then worked with SAVANA newspaper, one of the first independent newspapers after Mozambique adopted multiparty democracy in 1992. He has a vast experience as a trainer in journalism and human rights related issues. He is now the Executive Director of MISA-Mozambique, a Chapter of MISA (Media Institute of Southern Africa), which is a regional organization that aims to promote a free, independent, pluralistic, sustainable and competent media environment in Southern Africa as a prerequisite for free expression. He has been involved since 2001 in efforts to promote freedom of expression and media freed

District, winning that seat and serving as area Member of Parliament until 2006. In 2006, she was re-elected to the Uganda Parliament. The same year, she was appointed Minister- Government Chief Whip, a position she served in until her appointment to the information and National Guidance Ministry in February 2009, to-date.

Patrick Matibini

Dr. Matibini is a prominent Constitutional Lawyer, scholar, freedom of information advocate, and media law expert from Zambia. In 2002, he was involved through the Zambia Independent Media Association (ZIMA) in the drafting of Freedom of Information Bill, Independent Broadcasting Authority Bill, and Broadcasting Bill for consideration by the National Assembly. He is the author of several publications on freedom of information and media laws, including one book, “The Struggle for Media Law Reforms in Zambia” (2006). Most recently, he was the Chair of the National Constitutional Conference (NCC) Interim Committee in 2008, which established the rules to govern future NCC deliberations. He is also a member of the Electoral Reforms Technical Committee, a government body appointed to review the country’s current electoral process and make recommendations to ensure the conduct of free and fair elections. Dr. Matibini is the founder of and partner at the law firm Patmat Legal Practitioners and continues to be practicing lawyer. In addition, he has been a professor at the Zambia University School of Law since 1993. He holds Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Law (LLB and LLM) and a PhD, all from the University of Zambia. In April 2009

(WBI), which he currently coordinates. Within the broader framework of promoting good governance, he has focused on initiatives fostering access to public information through policy dialogue, technical assistance and knowledge sharing. Among others, he currently supports this type of efforts in Argentina, Chile, El Salvador and Bangladesh, among others, and is the coordinator of the Access to Information Working Paper Series at

Cameroon. He was a member of the National Ad-hoc Commission for the Fight against Corruption and has served as a Commonwealth Observer for Zanzibar's elections in 2000. He was appointed as a member of the High Level Audit Committee of the African Union in August 2007, who undertook a general audit review of the Organs and Institutions of the African Union as well as the nature of the relationships among them. The Committee concluded its work in February 2008. Mr Muna was actively involved in the TI working group that helped to draft the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and has written a guide to the convention published by TI. He was elected to the TI Board at the 2004 Annual Meeting, elected as Vice-Chair of the TI Board in 2005 and re-elected to that office at the 2008 AMM.

Innocent Mwape

Venkatesh Nayak

VENKATESH NAYAK (Venkat) is Programme Coordinator, Access to Information Programme, with the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI). CHRI is an international, independent, non-profit NGO working for the practical realisation of human rights of people. Venkat completed his Masters and M.Phil degree in History from the Jawaharlal Nehru University and was a doctoral research fellow at this University. He was closely associated with the public

Keith, 22 years old and a daughter Maya, 3 years old. He loves reading, is a keen golfer and loves traveling. Ncube is a devout Christian.

Anne Nderi

Anne Nderi is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya and holds a Bachelors of Laws Degree from the University of Nairobi, and a Post

Benson Ochieng

Adhiambo Odaga

Sina Odugbemi

Sina Odugbemi is program head of the Communication for Governance & Accountability Program (CommGAP) at the World Bank. He is also the Practice Lead on Governance and Reform in the Operational Communication Department. He has over 20 years of experience in journalism, law, and development communication. Before he joined the World Bank in 2006, he spent seven years in the UK's development ministry, DFID. His last position was Program Manager and Adviser, Information and Communication for Development. Mr. Odugbemi holds a Bachelor's degree in English (1980) and

Jean-Baptiste Otshudi

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with the Ghana Law Reform Commission, and also a commissioner of the National Media Commission. She

those countries. WBI designs and delivers learning programs that create opportunities for policymakers, civil servants, technical experts, business and community leaders, parliamentarians, civil society stakeholders, as well as universities and local training institutes, to foster analytical, technical, and networking skills to support development. In 2008, WBI reached some 39,500 participants, 50 percent of whom were government officials, 30 percent were from Sub-Saharan Africa, and 34 percent were women.

Peter Quaqua

Peter Quaqua is the third of nine children born to Liberian parents from Lofa County. He's currently the President of the Press Union of Liberia, the umbrella organization for journalists and media institutions in Liberia. He previously served the Union as Assistant Secretary-General from 2004 to 2006 and Secretary-General from 2006 to 2008 before he was elected President. He has 14 years of experience working as a journalist in conflict and post-conflict Liberia both in the government and private press (radio, newspaper and online). Peter spent seven of those fourteen years advocating for media rights, press freedom and free speech in his various roles in the Press Union of Liberia. He studied mass communications and political science at the University of Liberia where he obtained a Bachelors of Arts Degree. He also holds a certificate in radio production from the Egyptian Institute for African Broadcasters in Cairo and is a Chevening Fellow of the University of York Conflict Management and Post-conflict Recovery Studies- England, UK. Chevening is a fellowship program of British Council. Peter has presented a few papers including "In Defense of Journalists" and "The Impact of Regional and International Dynamics on Reintegration Programmes."

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Rakesh Rajani

Rakesh R. Rajani is the Head of Twaweza (meaning 'we can make it happen' in Swahili), a new ten-year initiative to enhance access to information, citizen agency and public accountability in East Africa. Until the end of 2007 he served as the founding Executive Director of HakiElimu, an independent organization that promotes public engagement and enables citizens to hold government to account in Tanzania. Rakesh's interests include the connections between information, public pressure and social accountability; political economy of policy making; and budget transparency and public engagement. Rakesh advises/serves on several boards, including Aidspan – a watchdog of the Global Fund, the International Budget Partnership (IBP), the Foundation for Civil Society in Tanzania (FCS), the Tanzania Media Fund (TMF), the Governance Notice-board at REPOA (TGN), and the Hewlett/Gates Foundations initiative on Quality

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Negbalee Warner

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Kwame Yankson

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Lee Catherine Booker is an intern for the Carter Center's Access to Information Project. She graduated cum laude with an AB in English from Georgetown University in December 2008. She studied International Law and Security in Florence, Italy, before joining the Carter Center in August 2009. While at Georgetown, she served as the university's Chapter Coordinator of Students for Barack Obama and worked with President Obama's national campaign and local grassroots organizations in Washington, DC.