



Participant Biographies

African Regional Conference on the Right of Access to Information

*Accra, Ghana
February 7-9, 2010*

Samuel O. Ablakwa

Gbenga Adefaye

Estelle Akofio-Sowah

Currently the Country Lead of Google Ghana, Estelle is a highly motivated individual, committed to the social and economic development of Ghana. Previously the Managing Director of BusyInternet, Africa's hugely successful internet startup, highlights of her leadership there include launching an ISP which went on to be awarded ISP of the year 2008, winning a World Bank Incubator SME program grant and successfully raising the finances required to open two additional cafe outlets serving an average of 1000 clients per day. In 2008, Estelle was awarded Top African ICT Business Woman by the ForgeAhead African ICT Achievers Award Program in South Africa. A 2008 Class Fellow of the West African Leadership initiative (Aspen, Colorado), Estelle has a degree in Economics and Development Studies from the University of Sussex. Other work experience includes being the Conference and Banqueting Manager at La-Palm Royal Beach Hotel (Ghana's only 5-star hotel) and Project Manager of the National Poverty Reduction Program at ProNet (local NGO partner to WaterAid UK). From her twelve years work experience in Ghana, Estelle has a broad understanding of local conditions, politics, social dynamics and the ICT community.

Anthony Akoto Ampaw

Joseph Allan

Elizabeth Alpha-Lavalie

Elizabeth Alpha - Lavalie is a professional Banker turned politician. She was elected to parliament in 1996 and served as Chairperson of the Finance committee and the committee of Health and Social services. She was elected Deputy Speaker of the Sierra Leone Parliament in 2001 and served as Chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee. From 2000-2005 she was a member of the ECOWAS parliament and served as second rapporteur to the committee of Foreign Affairs Peace and Security. She is presently the Chairperson Human

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. In the 2008 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in 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 of 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-URL_ID=1657&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html. Berger describes himself as a media freedom activist, and has been deeply involved in the South African National Editors Forum since its inception in 1996. His current project is the staging of the 2nd World Journalism Education Congress in South Africa, 5-7 July 2010.

Richard Blum

Richard C. Blum is Chairman of Blum Capital Partners, L.P. and Co-Chairman of Newbridge Capital, LLC. Mr. Blum earned his B.A. and M.B.A degrees from the University of California, Berkeley. He was the recipient of UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business Alumnus of the Year Award in 1994 and is a member of the Advisory Board of the School. Mr. Blum serves as a director on a number of boards, including Playtex Products, Glenborough Realty Trust and is Chairman of CB Richard Ellis. He also serves as Co-Chairman of the World Conference on Religion and Peace and is Founder and Chairman of the American Himalayan Foundation and is a board member of the World Wildlife Fund and the Wilderness Society. He is also a trustee and a member of the executive committee of The Carter Center, founded by former President Jimmy Carter. Mr. Blum was appointed as a Regent in 2002 by Governor Davis to a 12-year term.

Kevin Bohrer

Kevin Bohrer is a program officer at the Hewlett Foundation, responsible for a Transparency and Accountability portfolio within the Global Development Program. Before joining the Foundation, Bohrer spent five years in Kenya as a foreign service officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development, where he promoted good governance and increased transparency and accountability in the use of public resources. In Kenya, he managed a grantmaking program to support local nongovernmental organizations engaged in advocacy and watchdog activities, and coordinated the Millennium Challenge Account Threshold Program, which was designed to improve the Kenyan government's public procurement system. Before going to Kenya, he served as a civil society specialist in the Africa bureau of USAID's Washington office; conducted research on refugee issues in Guinea; worked with the Land Tenure Center on natural resources management and property rights issues throughout Africa; and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Mauritania. Kevin has a B.S. in foreign service from Georgetown University, as well as M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Richard Calland

Richard Calland is Director of the Economic Governance programme at Idasa and Associate Professor in Public Law at the University of Cape Town, where he teaches law and heads the Democratic Governance & Rights Unit. He serves as part-time Executive Director of the Open Democracy Advice Centre (ODAC), which he founded in 2000. He has served as a consultant to the Carter Center, is a member of the International Advisory Group for the Medicines Transparency Initiative (MeTA) and provides regular strategic advice on politics and governance to a range of local and international corporates. He writes a political column for the South African Mail and Guardian, is a regular commentator in the media, and his most recent book was published in 2006. He is a Senior Associate of the Cambridge University's Programme for Sustainability Leadership, secretary-general of the African Network of Constitutional Lawyers, and co-director of the new International School for Transparency. Before coming to South Africa,

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 leader and advocate for positive change in the field of mental health. She created and chairs The Carter Center’s Mental Health Task Force. She is president of the Board of Directors of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving and president and co-founder of Every Child by Two, a campaign for early immunization. She is a member of The Carter Center Board of Trustees and the author of four books. In 1999, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America’s highest civilian honor.

Mario Claasen

Mario holds a Bachelor of Social Science (Honours) in Public Policy from the University of Cape Town and is currently completing his Masters thesis in the same field. He was a founder member of the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) in 1998 and has been an active volunteer since the TAC’s inception. He completed an internship with Health Systems Trust in 2002, working on the Local Government and Health Project. In 2003, he joined the TAC as a staff member as the Clinics Co-ordinator. During his time with the TAC and through his studies, he developed an interest in public budgeting processes and advocacy, with a focus on the health sector. Mario joined Idasa’s Children’s Budget Unit in March 2006. He has been coordinating the regional Imali Ye Mwana Network. Currently, he is the Senior Specialist: Networking and Training as well as one of the Project Managers of the Affiliated Network for Social Accountability (ANSA) in Africa at Idasa.

Francis Colee

Francis Colee holds a B.A. in political science with emphasis in international relations. He previously served as Coordinator for the Open Society Access Initiative, which is at the heart of the Programs at Green Advocates. Green Advocates is a non-profit, human rights organization in Liberia working to advance a wide range of issues through legal aid, consultation and support for environmental and human rights violations; the development of context-specific programs to empower poor rural communities to participate in national debates; the drafting and enactment of appropriate legislations on good governance; the promotion of transparency in governmental activities; and assistance in the strengthening and enforcement of existing human rights standards. Their programs and research findings serve as a platform that enables government to focus on the needs of the Liberian people and target resources effectively. Green Advocates actively works

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 society where the environment and fundamental rights are highly respected, there is increased participation in decision-making, and people receive better treatment from public officials.

V.C.R.A.C. Crabbe

João Carlos Cumbane

João Carlos S. Cumbane has significant experience as senior journalist. In the past 15 years he has worked for the public and private televisions and has actively collaborated with various newspapers and magazines in Moçambique. He attended several seminars, workshops, forums and courses on journalism and communication in the USA, Brazil, Japan, South Africa and Europe. JCC is an Associate Researcher at the Center for Democracy and Development Studies in Mozambique and currently serves as Press and Communication Advisor to the Minister of Public Service, Dr. Vitória Diogo and, concurrently, Director of Institutional Communication Office (including interface with the press) at the Technical Unit for Public Service Reform.

Colin Darch

Colin Darch was educated at the University of Oxford, and also holds a postgraduate library qualification and a doctorate in social and economic analysis from the University of Bradford in the United Kingdom. From the early 1970s onwards, he worked in universities and research centres in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Brazil as a librarian and academic, as well as pursuing a parallel career as an occasional radio and print journalist. Since 1992, he has lived and worked in Cape Town, South Africa, successively at the University of the Western Cape, the Adamastor Trust (a consortial body managing higher education institutional cooperation in the Cape Town area), and the University of Cape Town, where he is presently a Senior Information Specialist in the African Studies Library. With Peter G. Underwood, Darch is the author of *Freedom of Information and the Developing World: the Citizen, the State and Models of Openness* (Oxford: Chandos, 2009). He has published over 40 articles in English and Portuguese on topics of African history and bibliography. Apart from freedom of information issues, his current research interests include the political economy of intellectual property, especially copyright. He was a founder member of the Copy South Research Network.

O. Natty B. Davis II

Minister O. Natty B. Davis, II serves as a Senior Advisor to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf on a range of issues particularly related to the country's economic management and is a key Executive Branch liaison with Liberia's National Legislature. Previously, Minister Davis also served as the National Coordinator of the Liberia Reconstruction and Development Committee (LRDC) Secretariat for the Government of Liberia. In this role, Minister Davis was the lead Government official charged with donor coordination and was responsible for coordinating the implementation of Liberia's first Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS). Minister Davis has a range of experience both working for the Government of Liberia and in the private sector. In the early 1990s, he served as a Deputy Minister of Commerce as well as the coordinator of the Ministry of Finance's Economic Financial Management Committee. Minister Davis has worked extensively on a variety of HIV/AIDS-related projects in Botswana. His consulting experience includes projects as

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 2003 On 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 Mali for the past fifteen years primarily for the Journal l’Independent. She is editor in chief and manager for the new edition of a bi weekly publication, 22 Septembre, which she founded on July 13 2009 with three other journalists after having left the parent company because of editorial interests. In addition to editorial corrections and research she is in charge of investigating environmental, health, human rights and development questions. Mme. Diaouré graduated with a university degree in clinical psychology from Toulouse, France. She began working in Mali doing medical research, surveys and investigations as well as carrying out specialized consulting work centered on mental health and student development in the fields of pharmacy, medicine, and social anthropology. With specific regard to the Program for Institutional Development and State Reform in Mali, Mme Diaouré is responsible for providing full journalist coverage in her publication, and since its inception has contributed to the Government Administration Access to Information Strategy (SAISA) and has participated in training sessions organized by The Carter Center as well as the first day of recognition for the Right to Know.

Vitoria Dias Diogo

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, Namibia, the United States, Hungary and India and has undertaken FOI study visits to Sweden, the United Kingdom and India. Before joining ODAC, he was a National Training Coordinator at Statistics South Africa, South Africa's official statistics agency.

Ishac Diwan

Ishac Diwan is Country Director for Ghana, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, in the Africa Region of the World Bank. Mr. Diwan's top three priorities are to work closely with clients and partners to support their development agenda to scale up growth and promote an equitable distribution of national resources; help the post-conflict economies establish institutional capacity and efficient and effective service delivery; and lead the country teams to focus on results and collaboration with other development partners and civil society. He joined the World Bank in 1987 through the Young Professionals Program as an Economist in the Debt and International Investment Division of the International Economics Department. Previously Diwan served as Country Director for Ethiopia and Sudan and was Head of the Attacking Poverty Program, Manager at the World Bank Institute, Lead Economist in the Middle East Region, Deputy Director in charge of the preparation of the World Development Report 1995, and a Macro-Finance expert in the

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

Miss Lilian Ekeanyanwu has over twenty years experience as an Attorney at Law. In the early years of her career she acquired experience in family law and put this into use in her activity as the Chair of the Volunteer Advocacy Group of the International Federation of Women Lawyers-FIDA NIGERIA. In this activity she coordinated pro-bono legal service for under-privileged women and experienced the debilitating effect of corruption on access to Justice. She has been very active in the campaign against corruption as a member of Transparency International and as a past National coordinator of the Zero-corruption Coalition, a Coalition of CSOS campaigning against corruption. She has done a lot of training and research work on the Global and regional anti-corruption Conventions- United Nations Convention Against Corruption- UNCAC and the African Union Convention for Preventing and Combating Corruption. She has also been engaged in research work on Gender and corruption and has participated and coordinated workshops on the issue at the International Anti Corruption Conference –IACC. She is currently working as the Head of the Technical Unit on Governance and Anti-Corruption Reforms-TUGAR, a government of Nigeria think tank engaged in monitoring, evaluation and data coordination of anti-corruption initiatives in Nigeria.

Luis Esquivel

Luis Esquivel has been a consultant at the World Bank Institute for three years. During this period, as part of the Access to Information Program, he has focused on supporting the adoption and implementation of access to information legislation in developing countries through facilitating knowledge exchanges and the sharing of lessons learned and good practices in order to enhance ATI efforts at the regional and country levels in Latin America, Africa and South Asia. Prior to joining the World Bank, he worked at the Trust for the Americas- NGO affiliated to the OAS- assisting in the coordination of the Regional Alliance for Freedom of Expression and Information, and at the Inter-American Dialogue, at the Freedom of Expression Program, focusing on issues related to the media and its impact in governance, as well as access to information.

Carole Excell

Carole Excell is a Senior Associate at the World Resources Institute working on access to information, public participation and access to justice issues around the world. She is head of the Africa Desk for the Access Initiative, a global network of civil society organizations working to improve environmental governance. Previously she was the Coordinator for the Freedom of Information Unit of the Cayman Islands government, where she developed an implementation plan, created an information manager's network, and developed appropriate IT systems and administrative regulations. She worked with The Carter Center as Field Representative in Jamaica on their Access to Information Project, where she helped to develop materials, conduct research and analysis on legal and policy issues associated with the right to information, and acted as Secretariat to the Volunteer Attorneys Panel. She is an Attorney-at-law with a LLB from the University of the West Indies, a Certificate of Legal Education from the Norman Manley Law School in Mona, and a Masters in Environmental Law from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland. She has seven years working experience with the Government of Jamaica on environmental and planning issues at the Natural Resources Conservation Authority and the National Environment and Planning Agency.

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; and M.A and Ph.D degrees in International Relations from the Graduate School of International Studies, University of Denver.

Carolyn Gomes

Carolyn Gomes is Executive Director of Jamaicans For Justice a non-profit, non-partisan Citizens' Rights Action Group and one of the 2008 United Nations Human Rights Prize awardees. Formed in 1999 JFJ's primary focus is advocacy against State Abuse of Rights and for strengthening existing protections for rights. In 2001 the organization made Access to Information one of its program activities. Carolyn has spearheaded JFJ's activities around access to information since 2001. This has included: lobbying and advocacy around the development of an Access to Information Act; assisting the ATI Unit of the Government with the implementation of the Act; conducting public education activities, media campaigns and community workshops to build knowledge of the law and capacity to use it; developing the capability to monitor

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 and counseling internal clients on a broad range of dispute resolution issues. Prior to joining Symantec, Ms. Goranson was in private practice where she assisted international and domestic clients in conducting internal investigations and responding to investigations by various government and regulatory authorities.

Juan Pablo Guerrero

Juan Pablo Guerrero is a consultant at the International Budget Partnership in charge of the Mentoring Government Capacity for Budget Transparency and Participation program. From 2002-2009, he was a founding commissioner of the Federal Institute for Access to Public Information (IFAI), the independent authority in Mexico responsible for facilitating the public's right to access information. He helped analyze and resolve over 24,000 appeals to the IFAI in which requesters were unsatisfied with the responses of government agencies, and he argued for the disclosure of information in over 500 dissenting votes. As lead commissioner, Guerrero investigated and presented almost 5,000 cases. He was chairman of IFAI's commission to enforce the law and coordinator of the Comunidades Project, dedicated to raising awareness about the right to information in marginalized communities. He was a full-time professor and researcher in the Public Administration Department at the Center for Economic Research and Teaching, where he directed programs to develop and implement a budget transparency index in several Latin American countries and

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 West Africa with a particular emphasis on building inclusive and transparent institutions, providing citizens with the skills and tools to exert effective control on the decisions made by local and central governments.

Moustapha Guirassy

John Hardman

John B. Hardman, M.D. is President and CEO of The Carter Center, where he provides leadership for the Center's program initiatives including election monitoring in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, public health training in Ethiopia, global development strategies and conflict resolution efforts, and agriculture programs aimed at improving food production in Africa and North Korea. Dr. Hardman joined the Center in 1989 as head of the Initiative to Reduce Global Tobacco Use and held several other positions before being named Executive Director in 1992. In March 2007 his title was changed to President and CEO. Dr. Hardman received his M.D. from the Medical College of Georgia, trained in Psychiatry as a resident at the Mayo Clinic and completed a Child Psychiatry Fellowship at Emory University. He taught at Emory University Medical School, was Medical Director of Peachford Hospital and has held positions with many professional and community organizations. Currently, Dr. Hardman serves on the Boards of the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC), the Task Force for Child Survival and Development (TFCSO), and the Blum Center for Developing Economies at the University of California, Berkeley, and is Chairman of the Board of the Ships of the Sea Museum and the Beehive Foundation.

C. R. Hibbs

C.R. Hibbs is Program Officer and Managing Director for Mexico for the Global Development Program at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Ms. Hibbs has overseen the Foundation's Mexico portfolio since 2001. The Global Development Program's Mexico investments focus primarily on transparency and accountability issues. The program also makes targeted investments to strengthen the knowledge base for development, and for improving the enabling environment for civil society and philanthropy in the country. Prior to joining the Foundation, Ms. Hibbs was a Program Officer at the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at the University of California, San Diego, where she worked as a U.S.-Mexico border environment and migration specialist. C.R. holds a B.A. in anthropology and an M.A. in Latin American Studies from the University of California, San Diego. She is based in Mexico City.

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: Uncovering 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 the Administrative Assistant to the offices of the Deputy Minister for Culture and Tourism and worked in this department up until 2004 when he was promoted to Director for Planning and Research where he was sent to the Liberia Institute of Public Administration for four months of training in Project Management. This training prepared him for the coordination of the first media law conference which introduced the Freedom of Information Act as a basis for media freedom in Liberia. As a representative of the government, we collaborated with the Press Union of Liberia to host this successful conference sponsored by UNESCO and other International stakeholders. The Act and other bills are awaiting passage from the lawmakers after having had public hearings. Robust lobbying is required to move the process forward. He is married with 4 children. He is a Christian of the Episcopal church. His hobbies are watching sports and reading.

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 via teleconference. Before working for *fesmedia Africa*, Sophie worked for a cultural audit project. Mrs Mukenge Kabongo holds a Bachelor Degree in Media Studies and French Studies from the University of Namibia and a Master CUM LAUDE in Media Culture from the University of Maastricht, Netherlands. She currently prepares for a PhD on the appropriation of new mobile technologies in marginalized communities in different African countries.

Maxwell Kadiri

Maxwell Kadiri currently works as an Associate Legal Officer with the Africa Program of the Open Society Justice Initiative. Based in the Abuja office, Kadiri is a solicitor and advocate of the Supreme Court of

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 participated in the drafting the National Information Technology Bill that has been enacted into law.

Kenneth Kakuru

Kenneth Kakuru is an Advocate and Director of Greenwatch, an environmental rights advocacy NGO whose mission is to promote public participation in the protection and sustainable management of the environment. He holds a Master's in Law from Makerere University, Kampala, a Diploma in Legal Practice from the Law Development Centre, and is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Educational Policy Planning and Development. He is an associate Professor at the Pentecostal University- Grotius Law School and an external examiner at the Law Development Center in Kampala. He specializes in Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and has handled many Public Interest Litigation cases concerning access to justice, access to information and constitutional rights. Kenneth has worked extensively with indigenous groups and environmental organizations at regional and national level, is a member of several professional organizations and Boards including International Bar Association, Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (E-LAW), East African Law Society and Uganda Law Society among others. He has authored, written and presented several research papers on environmental law. He serves on various committees of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in Uganda and has participated in the drafting of sectoral and framework legislation for environmental management in Uganda and Tanzania.

Ernesto Kambali

Ernesto Kambali joined the Episcopal Justice and Peace Commission (CEJP) of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Angola and São Tomé (CEAST) in May 2007. He started as an economic analyst for the economic justice project of the CEJP. From June 2008, he works as coordinator of the project, the pillars of which include extractive industries research (oil and diamond sectors), budget analysis, social monitoring of public investments and advocacy. He coordinates all related activities with a group of three economic analysts at the national and international levels. He is responsible for the Open Budget Initiative for International Budget Partnership (IBP) 2010, which is the international budget transparency campaign in over ninety countries around the world. He has just finished his law studies at Angolan Catholic University in Luanda, and he is becoming a lawyer. Before he joined the CEJP he worked as a secretary for UNHCR, the UN agency in Angola, in the program unit and as a Portuguese teacher at the Religious Studies Centre in Luanda. He was an SVD religious member in Kenya.

Sampa Kangwa-Wilke

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 (APPAT) 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 Leicester and a Bachelors Degree in Media and Sociology from the University of Namibia. She is also an artist and lives in Windhoek, Namibia.

Amadou Kanoute

Amadou Kanoute works at Article 19 developing the organization's office and work programme on promoting free expression and access to information in West Africa. He has worked in development, human rights, environmental and social concerns and has a knowledge of social networks, NGOs and policy making processes in Africa. In 2007, he joined Greenpeace International as Project leader and then Executive Director to help develop and establish Greenpeace Africa, the organization's first permanent African base. Previously Amadou was the Regional Director of Consumers International's Office for Africa in Zimbabwe and served as Director of the sub-regional office for West and Central Africa in Dakar. Under his leadership, Consumers International's membership grew from 5 consumer organizations in 3 countries in the 1980s to 120 organizations in 46 countries in 2005. He initiated programmes that helped build African consumer organizations' capacities to engage in and influence policy formulation in pro-poor public utility reform processes. He has also worked for ENDA, the development and environment international NGO, as Director of the programme for consumer information, education and protection for West Africa. Amadou holds an MBA in project management and evaluation from le Centre Africain d'Etudes Supérieures en Gestion (CESAG) in Dakar, Senegal. He is fluent in English and French.

Alhaji Ibrahim Ben Kargbo

Hon. Alhaji Ibrahim Ben Kargbo is the Minister of Information and Communication in Sierra Leone. He received a B.A. in Education from the University of Sierra Leone and taught for five years before attending the John New Homes School of Journalism. He worked in various editorial roles at several newspapers while studying for another certificate in journalism in order to open his own media house. In 1982, The "New Citizen Newspaper" was born and Mr. Kargbo became its Managing Editor, a position he kept up to the time he was appointed Minister. In 1984, he became the Director of the National Diamond Mining Company (NDMC) and in the following year was appointed a Member of Parliament representing the Press in Sierra Leone. He was Commissioner of the Independent Media Commission, President of the Njala University College Alumni Association, and a member of several journalists' associations. In 2004, Mr. Kargbo was elected President of the Sierra Leone Association of Journalists, a position he held until was appointed Minister of Information and Communication in September, 2007. As an academic, he has presented several papers and published fifty short stories. He is also the co-Chair of the National ICT Task Force.

Kwame Karikari

Kwame Karikari is the executive director of the Media Foundation for West Africa, a press freedom/freedom of expression advocacy and promotion organisation based in Accra, Ghana. The MFWA covers all 15 countries in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Mauritania. The MFWA engages in media law reform, legal defence of journalists, press freedom monitoring, and in protection for persecuted journalists. He has been for several years a professor in journalism and mass communication at

the School of Communication Studies at the University of Ghana. He has also been involved in training journalists in several countries in Africa over the years. Prior to that and during all those years, he practiced as a journalist, including serving as director general of the public Ghana Broadcasting Corporation in the early 1980s. He has also been an activist pursuing social justice and human rights causes, in Africa, including democratic reforms in Ghana. He serves on the boards of a number of African and international rights organisations and on the editorial boards of academic publications. He was educated at the City College of New York and Columbia University in New York.

Dawit Kebede

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 lost the election. In June 2005 police opened gunfire in Addis Ababa against protesters and massacred at least 36 unarmed opposition supporters; Dawit condemned these actions. In November 2005 authorities arrested him with senior leaders of CUD for alleged involvement in the demonstrations. All were charged with treason, genocide, and attempts to subvert the constitution, and though the court sentenced the prisoners to life in prison they were pardoned and freed in July 2007. Though many of the editors in jail with Dawit have gone into exile, he established a new company in March 2008 and began publishing the *Awramba Times* newspaper, of which he is Managing Editor. Currently *Awramba Times* is the third largest Ethiopian newspaper.

Shemelis Kemal

Shemelis Kemal, a lawyer by profession and media analyst, currently serves as a deputy head of Government Communication Office. As a young political activist he was arrested twice and incarcerated for his dissenting political activities against the oppressive military regime. Shortly after the fall of the military state, Shemelis has served as a federal high court judge for about three years. Resigning from the bench, Shemelis joined one of the leading Amharic weeklies, *The Reporter*, first as a columnist and subsequently as a senior editor. In 1998, he left the *Reporter* to establish his own newspaper, *Nishan*, an Amharic political weekly. In 2001 he was again appointed as Director of the Ethiopian Broadcasting Authority where he played a leading role in drafting the New Mass Media and Access to information Law. Shemelis left his post as media regulator when he was called to serve as an assistant attorney general in the ministry of justice in 2005. After three years of service at this post, he was appointed to his current position.

Stephen King

Stephen King is Director, Investments for Omidyar Network, the philanthropic investment firm established by Pierre Omidyar, founder of eBay and his wife, Pam. Based in London, Stephen focuses on expanding ON's efforts internationally in the Journalism, Media and Government Transparency investment areas. He also makes investments across all areas within the Media, Markets & Transparency initiative. Prior to Omidyar Network, Stephen served as the Chief Executive of the BBC World Service Trust, where he led a period of sustained growth that included building programmes in more than 40 countries in the developing world. Stephen helped establish the Trust's international reputation as one of the largest and most successful organizations using media and communications to improve the lives of the world's poor and promote better governance and transparency worldwide. Prior to the BBC, Stephen was the Executive Director of the

International Council on Social Welfare, an international organization working to promote social development. Stephen has also held positions with nonprofit organizations HelpAge International, Help the Aged, and Voluntary Service Overseas. Stephen is a board member of CARE International and Ushahidi, an ON investee. He holds an MA in Oriental and African Studies from the University of London.

William Kingsmill

William Kingsmill, a British national, was appointed as Senior Governance Advisor to Obialgeli Ezekwesili, VP for the Africa Region, at the World Bank in January 2009. Prior to that he was acting Director for Policy in the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), and head of the Growth and Investment Group. From 2003-05 he was Country Director for DFID in Nigeria, and before that he worked for DFID in London as a Senior Economic Adviser, in the Caribbean (1996-99), and in East Africa (1989-93) based in Kenya. He worked for the European Commission in Brussels on the design and implementation of the new European-Mediterranean Partnership (1994-96). From 1983-85 William worked for the Botswana Government the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Water Affairs. He has a BA in Economics and MA in Public and Industrial Economics from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne in Britain. He was a VSO in Papua New Guinea 1978-79.

Chantal Kisoon

Chantal Kisoon is an attorney and former researcher of the Constitutional Court of South Africa having participated in the certification of the SA's Constitution. She obtained sume cum laude post graduate qualifications in International Human Rights Law in Holland. She was a senior lecturer of law and Deputy Director of the Centre of Human Rights at the University of Pretoria. Working through the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights she was instrumental in bringing together African NGO's and CBO's for the World Conference Against Racism and Xenophobia during 2001. She has written extensively on human rights both nationally and internationally. Ms Kisoon currently manages the Access to Information Program at the South African Human Rights Commission and oversees the mandate of the SAHRC in terms of the legislation which includes promotion and monitoring and protection of the right to access information across multiple levels of government and South African society.

Joshua Klemm

Joshua is the Africa Program Manager for the Bank Information Center (BIC), a Washington-based NGO that advocates for progressive reform at the World Bank, particularly in the areas of transparency and accountability. Joshua works with African civil society organizations to effectively engage the World Bank to reform its policies, and also assists African CSOs to challenge problematic World Bank projects that have harmful impacts on the environment and communities. Prior to joining BIC in April 2006, Joshua worked with the local Transparency International chapter in Freetown, Sierra Leone, the National Accountability Group, and served as a consultant with the Centre for Economic and Social Policy Analysis (CESPA), a Sierra Leonean think tank. Joshua received a B.A. degree from James Madison University, and spent a year at the University of Ghana-Legon. He speaks French and is fluent in Sierra Leone Krio.

Mamadou Kouyate

Emmanuel Kuyole

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 freedom as an essential element of democracy. Also he coordinated efforts to draft the Access to Information Bill, which was presented to the Mozambican Parliament in 2005 but not yet tabled, and the advocacy and implementation of the ASK campaign for adoption of Access to Information Legislation in Mozambique.

Henry Maina

Henry O. Maina is a Social Scientist and currently the Director, Article 19, Eastern Africa based in Nairobi. He is currently leading a team that is developing access to information programmes in Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Sudan, Somalia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Somalia and Uganda and Seychelles. One such ongoing programme is on access to information and health being implemented in Kenya and Nigeria. Article 19, is one of the lead international NGOS that works on promoting and protecting the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of information. He has over 10 years working on human rights and criminal justice issues. He previously worked for the Legal Resources Foundation as the Programmes Coordinator-cum Deputy Executive Director. He holds a Masters Degree in International Development Law and Human Rights from University of Warwick, UK. He specialised in governance and human rights. He is also a trained journalist holding a post-graduate Diploma from School of Journalism, University of Nairobi. He has written both feature article and commentaries for three major dailies in the region, The Daily Nation, The Standard and the Monitor for the last seven years.

Steve Manteaw

Kabakumba Masiko

Hon. Kabakumba Masiko is the Minister of Information & National Guidance, Republic of Uganda. She holds a Masters degree in Public Administration and Management from the Uganda Management Institute and a Bachelor of Science in Economics from Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda. She also holds a post-graduate diploma in Public Administration and Management; a Diploma in Project Planning & Management and, in Legislative Drafting. From 1986 until 1996, she worked as a Mass-mobilizer for the National Resistance Movement Government, aimed at political, social and economic empowerment of the people. In 1996, she ran for the parliamentary seat for Masindi District winning that seat and serving in that position until 2001. In 2001, following re-districting, she ran for the seat of Bujenje County, in Masindi

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 President Rupiah Banda bestowed Dr. Matibini with the title of State Counsel (SC).

Donat M’baya Tshimanga

M’Baya Tshimanga received his university degree in science and information technology at the Institute des Sciences et Techniques de l’Information in Kinshasa. He started his journalism career in 1998 as a chief writer for the Congolese journal “Finance” which was later changed to “Le Soft”. Between 1991 and 1992 he served as editor and director of the weekly newspaper “Le Soleil du Crépuscule”. In 1998 Mr. Tshimanga founded Journaliste en Danger (JED) a Congolese NGO which centers on protecting the freedom of the press and is part of the International Freedom of Expression Exchange in Toronto. Since 2001 he has been a member of Reporters without Borders/French Foundation for worldwide freedom of the press. In 2000 he was a member of the Reporters without Borders mission for investigating kidnapped and murdered journalists in Algeria. He participated in an international conference on freedom of expression in Africa organized in Johannesburg, South Africa by the African Human Rights Commission and Article 19. At this conference he helped elaborate the Declaration on the principles of freedom of expression in Africa that was adopted by the African Union. He has contributed to and participated in a number of conferences, workshops and studies throughout the world focusing on freedom of expression, information management and safety for journalists.

Marcos Mendiburu

Marcos Mendiburu holds a Master’s degree in Public and International Affairs, with a major in Economic and Social Development from GSPIA, University of Pittsburgh. He also pursued graduate studies in International Relations in Argentina, at the *Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales* (FLACSO), where he worked for approximately five years. Marcos joined the World Bank in 1999, managing and supporting several initiatives on access to information, transparency, and social accountability in different regions of the world such as Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, East Asia and South Asia. In implementing the above activities, he forged partnerships with international institutions, local public bodies and NGOs. On July 1, 2006, he joined the Access to Information Program of the World Bank Institute

(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 WBI.

Emmanuel Mensah

Emmanuel Mensah is the new Right to Information Programme Officer at the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), Africa Office. His Background is in Biological Sciences, Development Studies and Communication Studies. From 2000-2004, Emmanuel served as the Executive Director of SALVAGE, a Non-Governmental Organisation with focus on building the capacity of civil society to participate effectively in national development. From 2004-2005 he worked as a consultant to the Labour Department of the Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare, with responsibility for the establishment of a national Child Labour Monitoring System. He worked extensively with the United Nations as a Programme Officer with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Projects Office in Ghana, from 2005-2009, where he led in the setting-up of child labour monitoring systems in 200 communities of twenty districts in all, except one, region of Ghana. He was also a member of the National Monitoring and Evaluation Sector Group, coordinated by the National Development Planning Commission. Currently with CHRI, Emmanuel coordinates the Right to Information Project of the CHRI Africa Office, with responsibility respecting research and analysis of access to information and related issues in Commonwealth Africa, publications on diverse aspects of right to information, and social mobilisation and advocacy for the effective legislation and implementation of right to information in Commonwealth Africa.

Francina Mhundwa

Francina studied law in Botswana from 1990 to 1996, after which she worked in the field of gender, human rights, legal policies and research in Zimbabwe. In 1999 she studied for her Master's in International Human Rights Law at the University of Essex, United Kingdom. She returned to Zimbabwe and joined Save the Children UK as a Child Protection Manager, focusing on children's access to human rights, training in child rights principles and child protection in emergencies. She later joined Lawyers for Human Rights, based in South Africa, where she was the resource person and advisor to a regional network on access to justice and socio-economic rights. She is currently part of the Economic Governance Programme in Idasa as Head of Advocacy. She manages a project called Right to Know, Right to Education, which aims at enhancing accountable economic governance grounded in informed citizen engagement.

Elisabeth Missokia

Elizabeth Missokia has over 11 years of experience in Organizational and Institutional capacity development, program management, basic education issues in Tanzania and other parts of Africa. Her other capacities include participatory monitoring and evaluation, proposal writing, strategy development, community development, budget and policy analysis, child rights and gender. Ms. Missokia has worked with CARE International as Project Manager for the Girls & Basic Education Unit, and has served on their African Education Technical Advisory Committee. She has also worked with USAID as a Gender Advisor and Program Management Specialist. Elizabeth joined HakiElimu in September 2009, serving the organization as the Executive Director. HakiElimu's strategic program is guided by the theme of Quality Education with a vision of to see that every person in Tanzania is able to enjoy her/his right to quality basic education in schools that respect dignity, foster creativity and critical thinking and advance equity, human

rights and democracy. HakiElimu thrive to achieve that by supporting communities to transform schools and influence policy making, by stimulating imaginative public dialogue and organizing for change. HakiElimu provide space and facilitate citizens to be informed, organize themselves to make a difference in education and democracy.

Betty Mould-Iddrisu

Clement Mshana

Clement Mweta Mshana is Director of Information Services and spokesperson of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. The directorate of information services is responsible for newspaper registration, keeping a library of videos and photos of events, including activities of government leaders, and producing a magazine on public activities and development issues. The directorate runs a website for people to send complaints/advice to government leaders via SMS, e-mail, or letters; complaints receive responses within five days. In the 1970s, he joined the state-owned Radio Tanzania. In 2004 the station merged with the National Television (TvT) to form the Tanzania Broadcasting Services. In 1999, as Director of News and Current Affairs at TvT, Mr. Mshana established the current newsroom. He was later appointed Acting General Manager and Director of Projects until April 2009 when Mr. Mshana was appointed Director of Information Services. He holds a Master's in international journalism from Westminster University London, a B.A. in political science and administration from the University of Dar es Salaam, and a Diploma in journalism from the Tanzania School of Journalism. He is interested in the environment, health, and children and women's issues, and was founder of the Journalists Environmental Association, which covers environmental and development issues.

Shamiso Mtisi

Shamiso Mtisi is a lawyer with 10 years experience of working on environmental rights and justice issues which encompass: access to environmental information, public participation and access to justice mainly targeting poor rural and urban people around Zimbabwe. He is registered as a legal practitioner, notary public and conveyancer with the High Court. He is a founding member of the Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA), a public interest law group where he works as an environmental lawyer and the Head of Research and Documentation. Through this position he has gathered significant experience in engaging the media to communicate the research and advocacy activities of ZELA and advancing community rights to access information and participate in decision making processes. In that regard, he has led the Zimbabwe country team in implementing The Access to Information assessment and advocacy project with the support of the World Resources Institute. Additionally, he gathered experience on access rights by working for IUCN, Regional Office for Southern Africa as an assistant legal officer and as a Research Fellow at the Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment in Uganda. He holds a law degree from the University of Zimbabwe.

Akere Muna

Akere T. Muna is founder and former president of Transparency International Cameroon. A lawyer by training, he is President of the Pan African Lawyers Union and former president of the Cameroon Bar Association. In October 2008, Akere Muna was elected President of the African Union's Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC). Mr Muna is a member of several national commissions on legal reform and curbing corruption. He is also member of the International Anti- Corruption Council. Mr Muna is still in active Legal Practice as the Managing Partner of Muna, Muna and Associates, one of oldest law firms in

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 education process and the lobbying of Members of the Indian Parliament for the *Right to Information Act, 2005*. He is a member of the Working Committee of the National Campaign for People's Right to Information in India. He has analysed draft information access legislation developed in Ghana, Bangladesh, Barbados and Pakistan and provided specific recommendations for incorporating international best practice standards. On two occasions he resourced workshops on the Ugandan ATI Act and provided an implementation roadmap to the Ministry of Information. He has designed and conducted training programmes for implementing the RTI Act 2005 for senior and middle level officers of the Central and State governments in India. Till date he has sensitised and trained more than 6700 government officers in various jurisdictions. He also conducts training workshops for civil society organisations and the media. He resourced the East Africa Regional FOI workshop held in Kampala in 2008 and conducted a West Africa Regional FOI workshop in Accra in 2009.

Trevor Ncube

Trevor Ncube is the Executive Deputy Chairman of the *Mail & Guardian Media Group (South Africa)*, which he bought in 2002. He is also the founder, owner and executive chairman of two newspapers in Zimbabwe namely the *Zimbabwe Independent* and *The Standard*. Ncube also owns Munn Marketing, a magazine and newspaper distribution company in Zimbabwe and StrandMultiprint a commercial and newspaper printing company. Ncube started in journalism in 1989 when he was appointed assistant editor of the *Financial Gazette* in Zimbabwe. In 1991 he was promoted to Executive Editor and in 1994 received the Zimbabwean Editor of the Year award. Ncube was the President of Print Media South Africa and Chair of the Newspaper Association of South Africa from 2004 – 2008. He was chair of the board of the Southern African Regional Poverty Network (2004-7) and the Institute for War & Peace Reporting (2004-8). Ncube also served on the international board of the World Association of Newspapers (2004-8) based in Paris. Ncube has a BA honours (first class) in economic history (University of Zimbabwe). He completed the Said Business School, University of Oxford, Advanced Management and Leadership Programme in June/July 2009. He was born in Bulawayo in 1962. Ncube was awarded a Print Media S.A. Fellowship in 2006. He was awarded the International Publishers Association Freedom Prize Award 2007. He has also won the German Africa Award 2008. He has undertaken speaking engagements across the world. Ncube was recently appointed co-chair of the Africa Media Initiative. He is married to Nyaradzo and they have a son

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 graduate diploma in law from the Kenya School of law. Anne is a Programme Officer, Policy and Advocacy Programme at the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ-Kenya). She has experience in managing implementation of projects, donor reporting and policy research. Anne heads the Freedom of Information network, a network of twelve organizations, advocating for the FOI Bill in Kenya. Anne attended a legislative drafting course which has enabled her to formulate policies and draft bills. Anne is a member of Law Society of Kenya.

Laura Neuman

Laura Neuman is Manager of the Carter Center's Access to Information Project and Associate Director of the Americas Program. She directs, develops and implements the Center's transparency projects, including projects in Jamaica, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Mali, Liberia, and China and at the hemispheric level in the Americas. She most recently organized and managed the International Conference on the Right to Public Information for more than 125 participants from 40 countries and the follow-on Americas Conference on the Right of Access to Information. Ms. Neuman edited six widely distributed guidebooks on fostering transparency and preventing corruption, has been published in a number of books and paper series, and has presented at numerous international seminars relating to access to information legislation, implementation and enforcement. Ms. Neuman is a member of the Initiative for Policy Dialogue task force on transparency an International Associate to the Open Democracy Advice Center, South Africa, and has served as a consultant to the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, and a number of governments. Ms. Neuman also has led and participated in international election monitoring missions throughout the Western hemisphere. Prior to joining The Carter Center in August 1999, she was senior staff attorney for Senior Law at Legal Action of Wisconsin. She is a 1993 graduate of the University of Wisconsin law school.

Tavinder Nijhawan

Tavinder Nijhawan is a Program Management Officer based at the headquarters of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) in Ottawa, Canada. IDRC is a Canadian Crown corporation that works in close collaboration with researchers from the developing world in their search for the means to build healthier, more equitable, and more prosperous societies. Originally from Kenya, Tavinder has been with IDRC for over 15 years and has extensive experience in research and program management. Tavinder's current role at IDRC is more program management oriented – developing policies and performance frameworks, organizational processes, managing budgets, preparing strategic documents – but her research interests include the role of information in, as well as the cultural dimensions of, international development. More recently, she has been involved in exploring the contributions that research can make in building democratic societies, and the entry points for applied research in making democracies work for the poor. Tavinder has studied at the University of Ottawa (Bachelors of Social Sciences in political science) and the University of Guelph (graduate studies in international development).

Priscilla Nyokabi

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 in Law (1986) from the University of Ibadan, a Master's degree in Legal and Political Philosophy (1999) from the University College London, and a PhD in Laws (2009) at the same university on the subject *Public Opinion and Direct Accountability between Elections: A Study of the Constitutional Theories of Jeremy Bentham and A.V. Dicey*. Mr. Odugbemi's publications include a novel entitled *The Chief's Grand-daughter* (Spectrum Books, 1986) and two co-edited volumes: *With the Support of Multitudes - Using strategic communication to fight poverty through PRSPs* (2005) and *Governance Reform under Real-World Conditions: Citizens, Stakeholders, and Voice* (2008).

Edetaen Ojo

Edetaen Ojo is Executive Director of Media Rights Agenda (MRA), a non-profit organization based in Lagos, which works to promote media freedom and freedom of expression. As "Convenor", he also heads the International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX), a global network of 88 freedom of expression organizations with headquarters in Toronto, Canada. Mr. Ojo is Vice Chair of the Media Foundation for West Africa, an Accra-based NGO working in the defence of media freedom in West Africa. He holds a Masters degree in International Journalism from City University in London and has 25 years experience as a journalist. A former visiting media fellow at the DeWitt Wallace Center for Communications and Journalism at Duke University in North Carolina, USA, he has worked on Freedom of Information, media freedom and freedom of expression, media development, human rights and democracy issues in Nigeria, regionally and internationally for over 15 years. Mr. Ojo has previously served as a member of the Steering Committee of the Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD); the Task Force of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) coordinated consultations on Strengthening Africa's Media (STREAM); and the Advisory Group of the Africa Media Development Initiative (AMDI).

Lambert Mende Omalanga

Lambert Mende Omalanga was appointed Minister of Hydrocarbons in the Government Gizenga in February 2007 in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In the Muzito government he was appointed Minister of Information. Mende was President of the National Convention of United Congolese (CCU), a native of Lodja in the province of Sankuru. He graduated in law from the Kinshasa University and graduated in criminology at the Free University of Brussels (ULB). Before his appointment, Mr. Mende was elected National MP for the constituency of Lodja. He was the Rapporteur of the Senate during the transition, and has held a number of ministerial positions including Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Transport and Communications.

Jean-Baptiste Otshudi

Jean Baptiste Otshudi was born November 25, 1968 in Kinshasa, DRC. He has a law degree from the University of Kinshasa and is a barrister in Kinshasa/Gombe. He has worked for the Center for Evaluation, Expertise and Certification of precious and semi-precious minerals. He was a government advisor in the Prime Minister's Office, General Secretariat of Government, Minister of Portfolio, and Vice-President of Reconstruction. He is currently President of the Congo-US Friendship (AMICUS), where he brings together former participants in exchange programs sponsored by the U.S. Government, and organizer of the National Seminar on Access to Public Information from which a draft law was produced and will soon be submitted to Parliament. He has experience in public law firms, investment and mining Law (Certification System of the Kimberley Process, coaching artisanal mining and specific issues related to the mining industry), helping organizations redefine their management vision to achieve their program goals and monitoring their implementation, and internal policy of the DRC.

Jean-Jacques Otshudiema

Bolaji Owasanoye

Proff.Owasanoye is a socio-legal human rights advocate. He combines his work as Professor of Law at the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) with Executive Directorship of Human Development Initiatives (HDI) one of the leading rights advocacy NGOs in Nigeria. He consults for state, national and international bodies including UNITAR, UNICEF, ILO/IPEC, DFID, World Bank etc on law/policy reform and women/children rights. He is a Senior Special Fellow of UNITAR with expertise in Law of Public Debt, Legislative Drafting and Development Projects. He is serving on Law Revision Committees at federal and state levels in Nigeria and is Council Member of Nigerian Bar Association Section on Public Interest and Development Law. He is also chairman Governing Council Office of Public Defender (legal aid agency) under Lagos State Ministry of Justice. He has initiated over 30 development projects on women/ children rights, law and policy reform, rule of law etc. and has over 50 publications in local and international journals. He is currently Director of Research at NIALS and a non-stipendiary Clergy at the University community non denominational Chapel. He is married with children.

Nana Oye Lithur

Nana Oye Lithur is the Chief Executive Officer of the Human Rights Advocacy Centre. She is a lawyer by profession and a human rights advocate. She holds an LLB from the Faculty of Law, University of Ghana, and a Masters (LLM) from the University of Pretoria, South Africa. She is formerly the Coordinator of the Africa regional office of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, where she coordinated CHRI programmes on Police Accountability, Freedom of Information and Access to Justice in Ghana and Africa. She is a member of the technical steering committee of the Africa Freedom of Information Centre that coordinates and monitors the activities of African countries with respect to RTI/FOI and coordinates the Freedom of Information Coalition in Ghana which advocates the passage of a Right to Information bill. Nana conducted a survey for OSI and the Open Democracy and Advisory Centre (ODAC), South Africa in 2004, on the filing of requests for information at public institutions in Ghana, and organised the African Regional Conference on the Freedom of Information, Accra, Ghana (2007). In Ghana, she has a panellist and discussant on many TV and Radio programs and has written various articles in the print media on Freedom of Information. She was honoured by the University of Pretoria, South Africa with the Vera Chirwa Award for Human Rights for her outstanding performance in protecting human rights in Africa in 2007. She is an MDG3 Global Torchbearer, one of the 100 selected by the government of Denmark. She is a Commissioner

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

Gary Pienaar

Gary Pienaar obtained the degrees of BA (Hons) LLB from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, later qualifying as an advocate of the High Court of South Africa, and practiced at the Johannesburg Bar. He worked for the Office of the Public Protector (national ombudsman) from 1997-2008, including as Western Cape provincial manager from 2000. During this time, he obtained an MPhil degree in Value and Policy Studies from Stellenbosch University, with a dissertation on human rights prospects under then-South African President Thabo Mbeki's African Renaissance policy. Since March 2008 he has worked as a senior researcher: governance and ethics in Idasa's Economic Governance Programme and its Political Information and Monitoring Service. His work includes issues in global economic governance, with particular emphasis on transparency, accountability and public participation in the operations of international financial institutions, through the Global Transparency Initiative, of which Idasa is a founding member. Idasa is an independent, South Africa-based public interest organisation committed to promoting sustainable democracy based on active citizenship, democratic institutions, and social justice.

Suzanne Piotrowski

Suzanne J. Piotrowski is an Associate Professor of Public Affairs and Administration at Rutgers University-Newark. For the 2009/2010 academic year she holds the position of Faculty Fellow in the Office of the Chancellor. Professor Piotrowski founded and moderates the International Transparency and Secrecy Research Network listserv. She earned a Ph.D. in political science from School of Public Affairs at American University, Washington, D.C. and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Delaware. Dr. Piotrowski's research focuses on nonmission-based values in public administration, including administrative transparency and ethics. Her current research focuses on defining and measuring municipal transparency. She authored the book *Governmental Transparency in the Path of Administrative Reform* from the State University of New York Press (2007). In 2010, Lexington Books will publish Piotrowski's reader *Governmental Transparency and Secrecy: Linking Literature and Contemporary Debate*.

Sanjay Pradhan

Mr. Sanjay Pradhan is the Vice President of the World Bank Institute. He assumed this position in October 2008. Prior to that, Mr. Pradhan was the Director, Public Sector Governance for the World Bank. He was responsible for providing the strategic directions for the World Bank's global work across all member countries on improving public sector governance and combating corruption. Mr. Pradhan earlier served as the World Bank's Sector Manager, Public Sector and Poverty Reduction for the South Asia region, including Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Prior to that, he was responsible for managing the Bank's unit supporting governance and public sector reform in 26 countries across Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, including Russia, Ukraine, Turkey, Hungary, Poland, Kazakhstan, among others. Mr. Pradhan was a Principal Author of the World Development Report 1997, *The State in a Changing World*. He presented the WDR in 20 countries across regions, including press conferences, high-level seminars, and presentations to Heads of State and Parliament, including the British House of Commons. He has authored numerous publications, including articles, books and policy papers. Mr. Pradhan completed his PhD from Harvard University in 1988, and his Bachelor's degree from Harvard College, Harvard University in 1982. The World Bank Institute (WBI) is one of the World Bank Group's main instruments for developing individual, organizational, and institutional capacity through the exchange of knowledge among

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."

Jeannette Quarcoopome

Ms. Jeannette Quarcoopome is currently the Director of Programmes at the Media Foundation for West Africa, a regional media rights and free expression advocacy organization based in Accra, Ghana. She holds a Bachelor of Arts (BA) Hons. in History and English from the University of Ghana, a Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism & Mass Communication and a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) from the Ghana School of Law. She has also participated in the Media Law Advocates Programme at the Oxford University, UK. A lawyer and a journalist by training she has held various appointments at the Ghana News Agency, the Public Affairs Section of US Embassy in Accra and is a member of the Board of Directors of the New Times Corporation, publishers of a national newspaper (Ghanaian Times). She has coordinated several Regional and Sub-Regional Conferences, Seminars and Workshops and participated in a number of sessions of The African Commission On Human And Peoples' Rights and has served as a facilitator, trainer, resource person and speaker on different issues of media freedom, freedom of expression and human rights in workshops, and other events in several countries.

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

Education in Developing Countries (QEDC). He has also been a fellow of Harvard University since 1998, most recently involved in its Joint Learning Initiative on Children and AIDS (JLICA). Rakesh has written and/or edited over 300 papers, popular publications, and op-eds in English and Swahili.

Ngoako Ramathodi

Ayub Rioba

Emmanuel Saffa Abdulai

Mr. Emmanuel Saffa Abdulai is founder and executive director of the Society for Democratic Initiatives, an NGO that focuses on freedom of information advocacy, human rights education, freedom of expression, legal aid, prison monitoring, and anticorruption campaigns in Sierra Leone. A lawyer by profession, he is editor-in-chief of the quarterly *Demo-Rights Magazine* and author of dozens of articles and reports on human rights in the region. A champion of freedom of expression and information, Mr. Abdulai drafted Sierra Leone's Freedom of Information Act in 2005. He is a Steering Committee member of the International Media Lawyers Association, a network of global media lawyers base at the University of Oxford. He is also a member of the West Africa Media Defenders Network, another network of media lawyers in the sub-region providing legal services to journalists and freedom of expression issues. Mr. Abdulai is presently a fellow at the Forum for Democratic Studies, at the National Endowment for Democracy in Washington, DC. He is exploring the relationship between freedom of information and resource curse and how former can help his country managed it abundance of natural resources.

Patrick Schmidt

Patrick Schmidt is an Associate Professor of Political Science and Co-Director of Legal Studies at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. After completing a Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University, he also held posts at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, Oxford, and Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. His works include books on regulatory policymaking in the United States, research methods in the empirical study of law, and the adoption of human rights into domestic legal systems. He has also published numerous articles and chapters on the American Supreme Court, litigation, and the administrative process. His current research focuses on the challenges faced by laws requiring disclosure in a variety of settings, including securities, public freedom of information, and campaign finance in the United States.

Tomas Selemane

Mr Selemane is a Mozambican citizen born in Malawi in 1982. He holds a Degree in Financial Management and a BA in Philosophy. He has worked as columnist and correspondent for 'Vida Nova' magazine, in Nampula-Mozambique (2000-2007) and as Mozambican Social Forum Programme Officer (2006-2008). He joined the Centre for Public Integrity in 2007 as social-economic researcher. Currently he is the Programme Officer of Natural Resources and Extractives. He is also the Publish What You Pay Mozambique Coordinator and Member of the Mozambican Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) National Coordinating Committee representing civil society. Mr Selemane is fluent in Portuguese, English and French.

Gilbert Sendugwa

Gilbert holds a masters degree in management studies and a postgraduate diploma in project planning from the Uganda Management Institute. He obtained a bachelor's degree in social work and social administration from Makerere University in 1998. He has worked with international non governmental organisations in the field of human rights, education, health, HIV/AIDS, good governance, environment, institutional strengthening and capacity building. His experience of working with disadvantaged groups at the downstream community level has shaped and influenced his work at the upstream policy-making levels. He has been involved in research and advocacy activities in Uganda and the region and has designed and implemented programmes to improve lives especially of poor and disadvantaged communities. Gilbert has learnt from his work that information is a powerful tool for empowering local communities not only to empower beneficiary communities but also inform policy processes in confronting challenges such as poverty, corruption, HIV/AIDS and underdevelopment. He has worked with Transparency International Uganda, the International Labour Organisation, Uganda Law Society and Save the Children among others. In February 2010, Gilbert joined AFIC as Executive Director and looks at the conference on the right of access to information as an opportunity to learn and share different experiences in a challenging but exciting field.

Sahr Momodu Sewah

Sahr Momodu Sewah is currently Telecommunications Manager of the National Telecommunications Commission (NATCOM) and Telecommunications adviser to the Minister of Information and Communication in Sierra Leone. From August 2009 to October 2009, he worked for Intergroup Telecom as Base Station Subsystems (BSS) and Core Network Manager. From January 2005 to July 2009, he worked for Comium Sierra Leone Limited in various capacities, namely Acting Technical Director, Operations and maintenance Manager, Network Planning Manager and BSS and Transmission Manager. From April 2003 to January 2005, he was BSS and Transmission Supervisor at Millicom Sierra Leone Limited. Furthermore, from March 2001 to April 2003, he was BSS and Transmission Engineer at Millicom Sierra Leone Limited. Whilst at Millicom, he worked for a sister company at Sentel GSM in Senegal. Also from September 2000 to March 2001, he worked for Securicom Consultants, one of the first ISPs and IT firms in Sierra Leone as Systems Engineer. He was a Technical Tutor in 1992/1993 academic year at Government Trade Center, Kissy Dockyard in Freetown.

Ronnie Shikapwasha

Hon Ronnie Shikapwasha was born on 25th December 1947 in Chibombo District in Zambia. He is currently the Minister of Information and Broadcasting Services and the Chief Government Spokesperson in Zambia. He was appointed to this Ministry in December 2008. As Minister responsible for Information and Broadcasting Services, he oversees policy and implementation of reforms relating to Radio and Television broadcasting, media policy and enhancing freedom of information through the promotion of both public and private electronic and print media. Following his election as Member of Parliament for Keembe Constituency in Chibombo District in 2002, he has been a member of the Zambian Cabinet since February 2003, and has served previously as Cabinet Minister in various portfolios such as the Ministry of Home Affairs twice from 2003-2004 and 2006-2008 and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2004-2006. He possesses a Masters degree in Defense and Military Studies and various Diplomas and is a qualified pilot and flying examiner. During his military career he served in the diplomatic service as Defense Attache and Military Advisor to Tanzania from 1986-1990, with accreditation to Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Pakistan, Mauritius, Madagascar and he also served as Air Commander for the Zambia Air Force between 1991-1997. He is married and has 9 children.

Rick Snell

Rick Snell is a senior lecturer in public law at the Law School, University of Tasmania. His principal area of interest is administrative law but he has published and studied in a wide number of areas (including history, politics and the South Pacific). He is considered an authority on Freedom of Information (FOI). He has been a visiting teacher at Law Schools in New Zealand, Canada and Ireland. In the past 8 years he has been invited to speak on access to information, the reform of administrative law and public law teaching in all Australian states, Canada, New Zealand, Fiji, Indonesia, Mexico, United Kingdom, Ireland, USA, Philippines, Malaysia, Cambodia and South Africa. He has been a government FOI officer, serial applicant, provided advice to media requesters, NGOs and Ombudsman, made numerous submissions on law reform and for 10 years was editor of the FoI Review. He is regarded as a thought provoking and provocative speaker and writer. He is a frequent media commentator on both state and national legal issues especially affecting governance issues. His current research concentrates on the interfaces, conflicts and contradictions between FOI and other statutes and comparative research of Ombudsman and FOI.

Ibrahim Sorie

Hon. Ibrahim Sorie is a Member of Parliament representing Kambia Central Constituency in the Sierra Leone Parliament and also a member of the ECOWAS Parliament in Abuja, Nigeria. The longest-serving Member of Parliament, he has been a ranking member of the Presidential and Defense Committee, Chair on Energy, and member of the executive board of the National Group of the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and convener of its Peace and Democracy Program and Chair of the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons. He is currently Chair of the Parliamentary Committee on Information and Communication, Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank - Sierra Leone Chapter, and Chair Emeritus of the PGA. He was the former Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Minister of State, Trade, Industries and State Enterprise, District Chairman APC Kambia District, taught as Assistant teacher and served as acting Vice Principal thereof, and served as Insurance Manager at the National Insurance Company. He graduated with a BA in Education in History and Politics from the University of Sierra Leone and pursued a post-graduate degree in Financial Studies and Insurance Management at Glasgow College, qualifying as an Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute of London and Diploma in Management Studies Marketing Management Option.

Emil Stalis

Since joining the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)/ Ghana in December 2008, as Democracy and Special Projects Coordinator Emil Stalis manages the democracy and governance portfolio. Currently USAID/ Ghana's strategy focuses on transparency and accountability at the local government level by building the capacity of local government institutions and increasing citizen participation. He also actively participates in the development partner sector groups working in areas of governance, decentralization, civil society and conflict. Prior to joining USAID, Mr. Stalis, while based in Latvia and worked with NGOs in Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, as well as a program in India to improve their organizational governance. During this time he is a contributor to "A Handbook of NGO Governance", a governance operations tool widely used throughout Eastern Europe. He holds an MBA from The American University and a Masters degree in International Affairs from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Kassé Tidiane

Mouhamadou Tidiane Kassé is an editor, media consultant and media trainer with extensive experience working for both Senegalese and international organizations. He has served since 1984 as editor of *Wal Fadjri*, one of Senegal's most respected daily newspapers, and as consulting editor for Pambazuka News, an online news service that is a voice for social activists. He was a founding member of the Sud Communication Press Group in 1986, and worked as editor of *Sud Quotidien*. He also has served at Panos Institute West Africa as Coordinator of the Press Department. A graduate of the School of Journalism at Dakar University in 1982, he has been teaching journalism in different high schools in Dakar since 1996.

Faith Pansy Tlakula

Adv. Pansy Tlakula is the Chief Electoral Officer of the Electoral Commission of South Africa, a position she has held since February 2002. She was member of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) for six years, prior to joining the Electoral Commission. During her period in office the SAHRC, she served as co-convenor of South Africa's first National Conference on Racism, and represented the SAHRC at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. She is the former National Director of the Black Lawyers Association. During the period 1997 to 2003, Adv. Tlakula served as the Chairperson of the Council of the University of the North-West. She is the current Chairperson of the board of the National Credit Regulator of South Africa. She also serves on the Boards of a number of companies including the Bidvest Group Ltd. She was appointed a member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in July 2005, and holds the portfolio of Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa. In addition she is responsible for the following countries: the Gambia, Namibia, Mauritius, Swaziland and Zambia. She is also Chairperson of the Commission's Working Group on Specific Issues. Adv. Tlakula has received a number of awards including the Rapport / City Press 2006 Prestige Woman, and the CEO Magazine's 2007 Most Influential Woman in the category of Government and related institutions. Adv. Tlakula holds a B. Proc degree from the University of the North, an LLB degree from the University of the Witwatersrand and an LLM degree from Harvard University and an honorary doctorate in legal studies from the Vaal University of Technology. She is an admitted advocate of the High Court of South Africa. She is married to Stanley Tlakula and they are blessed with two daughters.

Patrick Tumwebaze

Mr. Patrick Tumwebaze is the Executive Director of the Uganda Debt Network. He is a renowned professional in the civil society family with wide experience in NGO work. He holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration and Bachelor's degree in Commerce and has over ten years' professional experience in development work. Patrick Tumwebaze is a trained and practicing Organizational Development (OD) practitioner. Uganda Debt Network is public policy CSO involved pro-poor advocacy that empowers citizens to monitor public expenditure to ensure value for money in public service delivery and spearheading anti-corruption campaigns to build a culture of transparency and accountability in Uganda.

Peter Veit

Peter Veit is a poverty reduction, social justice and environmental governance expert with more than 25 years of professional development experience. He has worked throughout Africa and parts of Asia, and has lived for extended periods of time in East and West Africa. Veit is currently Senior Fellow and Regional Director for Africa in the Institutions and Governance Program (IGP) at the World Resources Institute

(WRI). He has worked with WRI since 1988 in a variety of capacities. In 1996, Veit co-founded IGP and has periodically served as its Acting Director. IGP supports fundamental democratic principles and strengthens government, civil society and private enterprises to advance social well-being and promote sustainable development. Veit is also an Adjunct Faculty Member in International Development at Johns Hopkins University, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, where he teaches courses on rural development and poverty reduction. In addition, Veit lectures on social welfare and environmental justice matters at the US Foreign Service Institute in Arlington, Virginia, and is a regular consultant to the African Development Bank in Tunis, Tunisia.

Negbalee Warner

T. Negbalee Warner is a prominent member of the Liberian Civil Society, where he presently serves in several leadership positions, including member of the board of directors of the Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL), Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY), and AESEC-Liberia. He formerly served as President of LINSU and as Chairman of the board of directors of the Environmental Lawyers Associations of Liberia (Green Advocates). Mr. Warner also serves the Liberian public sector in a number of managerial positions at the Liberia Telecommunications Corporation (LTC) and the Central Bank of Liberia. He drafted the National Anti-Corruption Strategy of Liberia and the Act establishing the Liberia Anti Corruption Commission, and also participated in drafting the Liberian Whistleblower Bill. He presently serves as Assistant professor of Law at the Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University of Liberia and as the Head of Secretariat of LEITI. Mr. Warner holds a Bsc (Economics) with honors and an LL.B with honors from the University of Liberia, as well as an LL.M from the Cornell Law School. He is a member of the Liberian Supreme Court Bar, the Liberia National Bar, and the New York Bar.

Kwame Yankson

Kwame is Senior Assistant Secretary and Principal Assistant to the Minister of Information and Communication of Sierra Leone. He was a teacher, journalist, and administrator in the Sierra Leone Civil Service before joining the Ministry of Information and Communication. He has worked as Sports Editor at For Di People Independent newspaper, was a freelance Sport Commentator for the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Service, was recruited in 1998 as a Freelance Reporter for the BBC African Service Fast Track programme, and from 2006-2007 was Manager of the UNDP/GOSL funded National Communications Strategy Project. Since 2003 he has been a member of the Strategic Situation Group (SSG) in the Office of National Security representing the Ministry of Information and Communication, and he was recently appointed Secretary to the Sierra Leone Broadcasting Corporation's Transitional Management Team. He is also the Coordinator for Sierra Leone's e-Government Project that commences soon under the Ministry of Information and Communication. Kwame holds a Master of Arts degree in Education from Njala University in Sierra Leone and post graduate Diplomas in "E-government for Development: Policies and Strategies" and "Spectrum Management in the Civil Sector" from the United States Telecommunications Training Institute, Washington, DC, U.S.A.

CARTER CENTER STAFF:

Sarah Dougherty

Sarah Dougherty is the Senior Project Associate for the Access to Information Project at the Carter Center. Prior to joining the Carter Center in 2009, she worked at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta for seven years, focusing on subjects such as public awareness of macroeconomic issues, the Latin American

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Jennie Lewis

Jennie Lewis is the Senior Associate Director of Development for the Carter Center's Peace Programs. She supports Peace Program staff in the design and development of programs as well as oversees donor cultivation, dialogue and grant management of a wide portfolio of projects including Access to Information, Conflict Resolution and Democracy programming. Ms. Lewis works closely with multi-lateral and bi-lateral donors as well as foundations, companies and other funding institutions to identify opportunities for partnership and complementary strategies for intervention globally. Prior to joining the Center Ms. Lewis worked at Counterpart International as the Program Development Manager on the Civil Society Team and worked at InterAction as a Program Associate managing Governance Standards Compliance and Membership Relations. She received both her graduate degree in Public Administration and undergraduate degree in History and French from Louisiana State University.

Kari Mackey

Kari Mackey is the Assistant Project Coordinator for the Access to Information Project of The Carter Center's Americas Program. She provides logistical and administrative support to the project's various country missions and regional initiatives. Prior to joining The Carter Center staff, she interned for The Carter Center's Americas Program in the Spring of 2007, when she completed research on a number of issues related to the right to access public information. Ms. Mackey is currently working on her Master's degree in Political Science with a concentration in International Relations and Comparative Politics at Georgia State University. She graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Georgia State with numerous awards including Best Paper for her presentation of the paper, *Democracy and Human Rights*, at the 2007 Georgia State Political Science Research Conference. Previously she worked for four years as an assistant project manager for Sherwood & Associates, Inc.

Ramiro Martinez

Ramiro M. Martinez has been a Financial Analyst for the Peace Programs of the Carter Center since January 2009. He has given Financial Analyst support for projects in Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, Indonesia, and China, and has worked with elections monitoring, conflict mediation, access to information, and media training in divided societies. He also has eight years of experience as an auditor and spent one year teaching Spanish in Japan. He has an MBA from Mercer University in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, and a BBA from ESPE in Quito, Ecuador.

Meg McDermott

Meg McDermott is the conference assistant for the Carter Center's Access to Information Project, where she has worked in various capacities since August of 2007. In 2009, she completed a Masters in international security studies at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, as a Robert T. Jones Jr. scholar. Meg graduated with highest honors from Emory University in 2008 with a degree in international studies. At Emory, she researched transparency laws in Latin America for her honors thesis and served as managing editor of The Emory Wheel and co-editor in chief of the Emory Political Review. In March, Meg will join Citizens for Global Solutions in Washington D.C. as a Herbert Scoville Jr. Fellow.

Jon Mark Walls

Jon Mark Walls is currently pursuing a Master's degree as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar at the Geneva School of Diplomacy in Geneva, Switzerland. He received his bachelor's degree in political science and French in 2007 from Union University. As a former Carter Center intern Jon Mark researched access to information implementation and helped with logistical support at the 2009 Carter Center Latin American Regional Access to Information Conference in Lima, Peru.

Lee Catherine Booker

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.