



Forum for African Investigative Reporters  
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## NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2013

Dear members of the FAIR network,

**On behalf of the management committee, we wish you all the best for 2013. FAIR would like to thank its partners, members, donors and advisors for their support during 2012. This newsletter is filled with news, opportunities and other updates.**

### [OPPORTUNITIES]

#### **African Investigative Journalism Grants Fund**



During 2013-2015, FAIR will launch the 'African Investigative Journalism Grants Fund' with support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). The objective is to strengthen media environments in Africa to act as a watchdog over actions of governments and vested-interested groups; ensuring citizen empowerment, more quality, diversity and freedom in media; and civilian empowerment through relevant information about human rights and social justice. The SIDA funds will enable FAIR to disburse about 40 small grants to investigative journalists in Africa. The official call for applications will follow soon, and more details will become available on the FAIR website, <http://fairreporters.org/>

#### **Introduction to Illicit Finance, Financial Secrecy and Asset Recovery**

The Tax Justice Network and the Centre of Investigative Journalism at City University, London are offering journalists primarily from

the developing world training in illicit finance, financial secrecy and asset recovery. Travel and accommodation costs in some cases will be significantly subsidised. Class instructions will take place in English. Apply before 11 January 2013. Click here for more details: <http://www.tcij.org/courses/course-calendar/introduction-illicit-finance-financial-secrecy-and-asset-recovery>

#### **Data Journalism Awards 2013**

The Data Journalism Awards are given for outstanding work in the field of data journalism in any media worldwide. They reward outstanding examples of data driven investigations, data driven applications and storytelling with data visualisation, which cover matters relevant to society and aim to have results or an impact at a societal level. Media companies, non-profit organisations and freelancers or individuals are all eligible for the Data Journalism Awards. Apply online here: <http://www.globaleditorsnetwork.org/dja/>

### [NEWS]

#### **[GHANA] Catch Anas' investigation on Aljazeera: 'People & Power: Spirit Child'**



Investigating the ritual murder of disabled children in Ghana and Burkina Faso – innocent victims of a belief that they are possessed by evil spirits. Ace investigative reporter Anas Aremeyaw Anas dives deeper and deeper, and the results are mind boggling. TIMES: 9th January 22:30 GMT, 10th January, 09:30 GMT, 11th January, 03:30 GMT 12th January , 16:30 GMT 13th January, 22:30 GMT 14th January, 09:30 GMT on Al-Jazeera English. Read more: <http://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/peopleandpower/2013/01/201319121124284358.html>

### **[KENYA] How lack of international treaty fuels arms smuggling trade**

Star correspondent KASSIM MOHAMED shows how lack of international arms trade treaty is hampering the war against illicit weapons. Some community members in the area told the Star people who own weapons are important when insecurity rears its ugly head again. One old woman said, "It is a deep secret thing for us to own guns but it works. Read more: <http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/article-102107/how-lack-international-treaty-fuels-arms-smuggling-trade/>

### **[NIGERIA] Wole Soyinka Centre marks World Anti-Corruption Day, Honours Seventeen Journalists**



Continuing its tradition of honouring works that reflect best standards in investigative journalism on the world anti-corruption day – December 9 – the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ) celebrated 17 journalists. . In the Online category, Idris Akinbajo, the Investigations Editor at Premium Times and FAIR member won the prize with his 3-part serial, The Massive MGD Fraud, while Inikott, political editor of the same media is the runner-up with his 6-part story, How

public officials squander public funds on lavish lifestyles. Read more: <http://www.wscij.org/wole-soyinka-centre-marks-world-anti-corruption-day-honours-seventeen-journalists.php>

### **[DRC] Lunch with M23 rebels: 180 minutes inside Congo's war zone**



By Richard Mgamba, recently in Goma. Published by The Guardian on Sunday on December 30, 2012. "It was seven days before Christmas eve, the period in which Christians all over the world are busy with shopping and planning for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, but to me it was a scary and memorable day – the day I chatted and lunched with M23 rebels' top commander, General Sultan Emanuel Makenga, a 39-year-old soldier, who has fought three different wars in three different countries of Uganda, Rwanda and Congo, but still willing to fight till his last blood." Read more: <http://fairreporters.net/2013/01/03/lunch-with-m23-rebels-180-minutes-inside-congos-war-zone/>

### **[USEFUL TIPS]**

#### **NEVER FORGET YOU HAVE ONLY ONE BOSS: THE TRUTH**

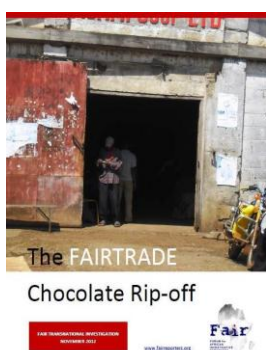
Find subjects where you can break new ground. Record key interviews on video or audio. And remember that a lot of your own faults can be overcome by sheer reporting effort. Stellar tips for investigative reporting from award-winning author and journalist **Thomas Maier**. They include: "Find out where you'd like to work and keep nudging them to hire you until it happens; Avoid editors who never write or seem strangely removed from reading -- the essential pleasure of their product; Remember that a lot of your own faults, including ignorance or stupidity, can be overcome by sheer reporting effort." Read more: <http://www.icij.org/resources/never-forget-you-have-only-one-boss-truth>

#### **Four keys to building successful data-journalism teams**

Now that outstanding journalism is as likely to appear in an interactive map as on the front page, many newsrooms are rethinking how journalists and coders can best work together. A new report from the **International Center for Journalists** takes a behind-the-scenes look at seven data-journalism teams, finding some key characteristics that have allowed those teams to produce high-quality, data-driven reporting. Read the full report here: <http://www.icfj.org/resources/integrating-data-journalism-newsrooms>

[UPDATE FROM 2012]

### The FAIRTRADE Chocolate Rip-off



In a six-month transnational project led by the Forum for African Investigative Reporters (FAIR), journalists hailing from Ivory Coast, Ghana, Cameroon, Nigeria and the Netherlands investigated the alleged benefits received by cocoa farmers in West Africa via the FAIRTRADE label. The full dossier is titled 'The FAIRTRADE chocolate rip-off', and was partly funded by the Programme for African Investigative Reporters (PAIR). Download a copy of the Transnational Investigation (pdf) or read the full text of the investigation here: <http://fairreporters.net/2012/11/14/the-fairtrade-rip-off/>

### AIJC - Power Reporting 2012

The 'Power Reporting – African Investigative Journalism Conference' held during 29-31 October 2012 was a great success. Participants were able to learn new skills and discuss stories with journalists from across the continent and speakers from around the world. Speakers' notes and links can be found on the WITS Journalism and FAIR websites. The Carlos Cardoso lecture scripts can be found there too, with audio recordings. Watch video interviews with Gabriel Tabatcheik, Ying Chan and Bruce Whitfield. Please visit [www.journalism.co.za](http://www.journalism.co.za), or <http://fairreporters.net/2012/12/03/update-from-power-reporting-2012/>



### AGM 2012 Resolutions



1. Improve and increase use of social media by FAIR members (Misbahu Bashir, Nigeria)
2. Future Awards categories should include additional prizes for best radio, television and online stories, as well as an overall winner. (Benjamin Tetteh, Ghana)
3. Funded investigations must not reflect donor agendas, retain editorial independence. (Stephan Hofstatter, South Africa)
4. Stronger Board/Exco/Staff relations and implementation of strategy (Evelyn Groenink, Netherlands)
5. Additional category for 'new media' entries should be added to FAIR Awards (John Grobler, Namibia)
6. FAIR administration to communicate with Board and director about membership control mechanisms (Eric Mwamba, DRC)
7. Provide support to members developing digital toolkits which will benefit other journalists (John Grobler, Namibia)
8. Arrange specialized training for members on digital media and skills sessions on new technology tools, for all levels of journalists, with ongoing training plan for small groups. (Hary Razafinaiasa, Madagascar)
9. Explore ways of supporting the establishment of FAIR country chapters or regional representatives in Africa (Andualem Sisay, Ethiopia)
10. Reach out to countries low on IJ stories (John-Allan Namu, Kenya)
11. Relocate the FAIR office to Kenya (Ken Opala, Kenya)
12. Members should consider themselves as FAIR 'chapters' (Zack Tawiah, Ghana)

13. Increase and balance the geographical representation of FAIR members in Africa. (Benjamin Tetteh, Ghana)

14. Build up membership by committing to recruit a new person each month. (Charles Rukuni, Zimbabwe / John Grobler, Namibia)

15. Ensure speedy and efficient processing of new memberships. (Benjamin Tetteh, Ghana)

16. North Africa members should be recruited and welcomed, to enable investigations in Libya and Mali that explain the weapons in Africa. (Wanjohi Kabukuru, Kenya)

17. Definition of Africa must be clear in FAIR's work. (Badmus Deji, Nigeria)

18. Syndicates and secrecy issues must be exposed, especially shell companies. Create tools for journalists to access data. (Khadija Sharife, South Africa)

19. Explore 'illicit activities in licit systems'. (Khadija Sharife, South Africa)

20. FAIR board subcommittees to be more active and strengthen the Secretariat. (Eric Mwamba, DRC)

21. Consider ways to build an 'African news agency' that gives support to aspiring IJ's with funds to contributors, based around a business model similar to other successful media. (Eric Mwamba, DRC)

22. Make grants funding accessible to small media houses that conduct investigative journalism, in addition to support for individuals. (Chief Bisong Etahoben, Cameroon)

23. Strengthen investigative media capacity in Africa through regional partnerships (Milton Machel, Mozambique)

24. Consider increasing the small grants amount to 1,000 USD. (Peter Nkanga, Nigeria)

25. Increase funding sources and revenue flow to accommodate growth of FAIR. (Peter Nkanga, Nigeria)

26. Seek legal expertise to modify certain constitutional clauses that are ambiguous. (Gerard Guedegbe, Benin)

27. Identify buyers for content produced by FAIR members. (Evelyn Groenink, Netherlands)

28. Board must be selected on strength, consistency and must include an Executive Committee (Exco) that consults the Secretariat regularly. (Gerard Guedegbe, Benin)

29. Vetting of FAIR members must be strict, to include real investigative journalists and to avoid spies from accessing the members' confidential work (Richard Mgamba, Tanzania)

30. Strengthen the memberships committee that oversees new admissions. (Benjamin Thompson, Tanzania)

31. Find additional support that will enable more FAIR members to attend the AGM and AIJC in future (Bisong Etahoben, Cameroon)

32. Strengthen the FAIR Secretariat, identify staff skills and competency gaps, develop a strategic workplan (Wanjohi Kabukuru, Kenya)

33. Forge new relations with international media houses (Richard Mgamba, Tanzania)



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