

# The David Astor Journalism Awards Trust

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Outstanding Kenyan and Ugandan Journalists Selected for the 2016 David Astor Awards

Two exceptionally talented, high-potential young journalists from Kenya and Uganda have been selected for the 2016 David Astor Journalism Awards programme, which promotes and supports up-and-coming journalists in East Africa.

Frankline Sunday, 29, a business reporter with *The Standard* in Nairobi, and Caroline Ariba, 27, a features writer with *The New Vision* in Kampala, emerged the winners last week, following a rigorous six-month review and assessment of 30 locally nominated candidates.

Three judges from the UK, Tanzania and South Africa independently selected them for their outstanding potential, integrity, determination and long-term commitment to African journalism, and having the requisite qualities to excel in the profession.

They now join 18 previous Kenyan, Ugandan and Tanzanian award winners as career-long members of an expanding professional network representing the next generation of leading journalists in the region, supported by The David Astor Journalism Awards Trust, a UK-based charity.

“Caroline and Frankline clearly have what it takes to become truly great African journalists,” said Jim Meyer, the Trust’s Executive Director. “We are delighted to have the chance now to invest in and support their continuing professional growth and development.”

Later this year, they will undertake work experience attachments with newspapers in the UK and South Africa for a total of three months, offering them exposure to different news reporting environments and unique opportunities to expand their professional capabilities. They also each received a nominal cash award of \$500 from the Joffe Charitable Trust.

They will join the other members of the David Astor Award Winners’ Network for the group’s annual three-day meeting in Nairobi at the end of this month.

The judges were Michael Holman, former Africa Editor of the *Financial Times*; Tanzanian freelance journalist Erick Kabendera, a 2009 David Astor award winner; and Ruth Maclean, Africa correspondent for *The Times*. They individually interviewed three finalists in Nairobi on 24th January and two finalists in Kampala on 26th January to choose the winners.

The runners-up in Kenya were Yvonne Kawira, a correspondent for *The Standard*, and Doreen Wainainah, a reporter with *Business Daily*. In Uganda, Jane Justine Mirembe, a reporter with *The Observer*, was the runner-up. They each received \$250.

The candidate-selection process began in May 2015 when local media houses, journalism trainers, other media and civil society organisations, and David Astor Network members were invited to nominate one candidate each.

After reviewing written applications from the nominees and examples of their work, 11 short-listed candidates each from Kenya and Uganda were interviewed in September. Second-opinion interviews were then conducted with the candidates' nominators, employers, and other local sources before choosing the finalists.

The David Astor Journalism Awards Trust was founded in 2006 to promote, strengthen and support independent journalism in Africa. It honours the late, distinguished editor of *The Observer* newspaper in London from 1948 to 1975, who was a lifelong champion of African development, human rights, and other social justice causes. Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu is Patron of the Trust.

Tullow Oil plc is principal sponsor of the programme this year.

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