



Africans Rising!
Stories from the Movement
2023

Africans Rising is a Pan-African movement of people and organisations, working for unity, justice, peace and dignity.

One Afro For One Million Campaign

Join the campaign today and donate US\$1 per month. Details on how to give can be found here:

<https://www.africansrising.org/donate>

Contact Us

Socials : FB & Twitter: @AfricansRising
Instagram: @Africans_Rising

Email : media@africans-rising.org

Address : Banjul, The Gambia, P.O 1570

Africans Rising
For Unity, Justice, Peace & Dignity

© 2023 AfricansRising

Africans Rising

For Unity, Justice, Peace & Dignity



Africans Rising!

Stories from the Movement

Africans Rising Activism Awards

December 2023

www.africansrising.org

INTRODUCTION

In this fourth edition, we have exciting stories to share. In 2019, Africans Rising initiated the Africans Rising Activism Awards to recognize, support and connect African grassroots activists and movements in a global network of Africans engaging in non-violent actions to promote positive social change in African communities. It has been a journey and the award initiative has received popular support and has continued to expand. In 2020, the awards initiative recognized both individual and collective activism and during its third year in 2021, a new category known as "Artist Activist of the Year" was introduced to provide a platform for showcasing the creative talents of African artists.

Africans Rising Activism Awards presents these awards in three categories: Activist of the Year, Movement of the Year and Artist Activist of the Year. For each category, two final nominees are chosen per category to represent each of the six regions on the African continent and in diaspora making it to a total of 36 nominees.

In the fifth edition of the Africans Rising Awards initiative, we spoke to the past winners to ascertain the impacts of the award on their work and this is what they had to say.

Share your successes with our global network

Africans Rising has completed the 4th edition of the success stories booklet for the last quarter of 2023. If you or your organization has held an event, or achieved success in your activism work, let us know! We want to showcase all the ways our members are working to improve their communities and bring unity, justice, peace and dignity to the lives of Africans wherever they live

If you would like us to feature you or your movement, please send an email to media@africans-rising.org.

**AFRICANS RISING
ACTIVISM AWARDS**

TABLE OF Stories

2022 Activist of the Year

Kenya : Editar Ochieng

P. 04-05

2022 1st Runner Up, Activist of the Year

Sudan : Afra Saad

P. 06-07

2022 2nd Runner Up, Activist of the Year

Algeria: Fatma Messaoud

P. 08

2022 Artist Activist of the Year

Sudan: Mohamed Ali aka Wad Alzain

P. 09

2022 1st Runner Up, Artist Activist of the Year

Democratic Republic of Congo: Etienne Kasereka

P. 10-11

2022 2nd Runner Up, Movement of the year

Tanzania: Education in Crisis (EIC)

P. 12-13

2021 Artist Activist of the Year

Angola: Joice Zau

P. 14

2021 1st Runner Up, Artistic Activist of the Year

Sierra Leone: Odelia Koroma

P. 15

2021 2nd Runner Up, Artistic Activist of the Year

Senegal: Sister LB

P. 16

2020 Activist of the Year

Kenya: Asha Jaffar

P. 17

2020 Movement of the Year

Africa: Tournons La Page (TLP)

P. 18

2019 Activist of the Year

DRC Congo: Jean Marie Kalonji

P. 19

2022 Activist of the Year

Kenya: Editar Ochieng



Editar

Adhiambo Ochieng

Editar Ochieng takes this opportunity to appreciate Africans Rising and thank all those who voted for her as the 2022 Africans Rising Activist of the year.

According to her, the award was amazing, and she had a very good feeling about it as it connected well with her work. The award helped her especially at the grassroots level, where she works with women and convened a movement at the same time that promotes social justice and that uses intersectionality to create change in her community.

For the past one year, she has been engaged in two major things that makes their work visible and ensures they are connecting to other networks so that they can continue with their activism at the grassroots level despite the challenges they are facing.

The award has been utilitarian in the work that she does with the women in Kibra constituency in Nairobi, Kenya. For example, she organised a convening with women who are in sports. They have been sharing their motivations and challenges they encounter on a daily basis. In addition, she uses her network to see that women and girls who suffer sexual harassment are provided with necessary support following many reported cases of sexual harassment of women in the sports industry by men who often take advantage of women. The award has also helped them to start thinking about establishing their organisation since they didn't have a good structure. Further she has deployed funds from the awards into assisting her colleagues who had hospital challenges and needed capital for their businesses.

“The award has been quite impactful. Thanks to the award, I have gone global and people now know and are celebrating me. It has opened up spaces for me automatically. People want to associate with me, ask questions, I get congratulated and it makes me feel good with the work that I do. The award has increased my self esteem. Another thing is that the award has motivated other grassroots women and they are saying that if Editar won this award then it means the work we are doing is appreciated by the society at large” She commented.



To other aspirants of the awards, Editar is sharing her love with them and congratulating the 2024 nominees because anybody who voted for them, believes in their leadership as they work in the community and they are making tangible changes in their communities.”As we know, it is really difficult but one of the ways to fight neo imperialism and capitalism is for us young people in Africa to come together, think together and fight back without compromising. I know it has been a difficult journey for them but reaching this stage, it is Africa that is winning. Everyone deserves to be celebrated for every milestone achieved in their work at the grassroots level, She asserts.

Editar Ochieng

2022 First Runner Up, Activist of the Year Sudan: Afraa Saad

Afraa Saad is a photographer and filmmaker who is working to convey the voices of Sudanese women in all scientific and practical fields and introduce them through pictures and video. She is working on producing her own film titled, "Their struggle is incomplete" which reflects the stories of the struggle of some Sudanese women and their suffering in gaining the respect and appreciation they deserve. She also works to convey the voices of less fortunate communities in the media within the project team of the Democratic Center for Media and Arts and the media office of Waey Organization.

She has visited areas in Darfur state (El Geneina - Nyala - Zalingei) to document the daily lives of the less fortunate, spread the spirit of peace and co-existence, and convey the experiences of these areas in moments of peace and hope after these areas suffered the scourge of war from the year 2003 until the December 2019 revolution.

She works as one of the Al-Dul program's team members which is broadcast on the Way Organization platforms on social media to introduce different customs, co-existence, and introduce Sudanese society. She documents womens' roles in workshops, discussion groups, protests, and public demonstrations through the hashtag #TheirStruggle-Detracted.

After she won and received the award in 2022 as first runner up under the Artistic Activist of the year category, her commitment to her work has increased. The Sudanese women, the women in her area, her colleagues at work, her friends, as well as the women she meets in the streets during the demonstrations, specifically did a wonderful job in helping her win the award.



"This was a great show of love from them," she stated. This has given her strength to work harder to address issues affecting Sudanese women and document their struggles.



For her people, she believes that the award helped them to learn more about Africa. "Many said they now feel a sense of belonging to Africa," She asserted. In addition, the award has made her a leader and a respected voice in her community plagued with the ugliness and darkness of war and hate speech.

To the aspirants of the award, she said it's not all about obtaining the awards but a source of strength and encouragement to continue fighting for justice and sustainable security for all African people. She concludes by urging all to pray for the war in Sudan to end.

Afraa Saad

2022 Second Runner Up, Activist of the Year

Algeria: Fatma Messaoud



Fatma Messaoud is an Algerian, who was a human rights advisor at Burkina Faso in 2018. In 2020, she became a judge at the International Court (commercial arbitration), and in 2021, she served as a diplomatic mediator at the African Union.. Beyond the foregoing, she has represented African women in several international and continental fora. As a researcher in the field of refugees, she works more in the area of rejecting violence and war, and with the aim of spreading peace and security in Africa and around the world. She also encourages young people and empowers them to make political decisions.

Further, as part of her efforts and activities, she organised a continental meeting on the need to end violence in Africa's last colonial country, an event which resonated with the Algerian politics and media. Being a recipient of the first runner up of the Africans Rising Activist of the year 2022, it touched her as a person, because it showed the encouragement and the trust placed on her, and her work. In turn, she encourages Africans Rising in their work and has been a good ambassador of the awards.. She considers the award as an appreciation for the work she is doing in the service of the security and peace of the African community.

Fatma encourages young people and activists to join the Africans Rising Movement, because it is a very active organisation and deserves all the encouragement at the African Union level.

She also encourages future candidates of the award and promises to present their activities at the African and international levels, as an ambassador of the awards.

Fatma Messaoud

2022 Artist Activist of the Year

Sudan: Mohamed Ali aka Wad Alzain

Mohamed Ali aka Wad Alzain is a Sudanese reggae artist, singer and musician who won the Africans Rising Artistic Activist of the Year in 2021. He is currently working on a new album on justice and peace. He also works on small projects that can help people of Sudan to cope with the hard times and all that is happening in the country. The award has had a great positive impact on his brand name and company. It has also opened new connections and doors of opportunities for him.

"Thanks to the award, I have gained more credibility and a voice that matters in my community," He stated.

To future candidates of the awards, he says they are a voice of change and so they should keep their voices loud and move up.



Mohamed Ali aka Wad Alzain

2022 First Runner Up, Artist Activist of the Year DRC: Etienne Kasereka

Etienne Kasereka, is a young artist, activist and musician committed to bringing about positive change in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). He started his career at a very young age because he had to contribute to peace-building and the development of grassroot communities in his region and throughout his country who were suffering from widespread political and socio-economic crises including wars, hunger, epidemics, drought, and youth unemployment. Etienne started by training himself in a number of areas of everyday life to better understand the context and know how to act accordingly using his artistic talent.

First, as a result of the political crisis in the DRC, which has led to massive population displacement, inter-ethnic conflict and poverty, Etienne organises musical art sessions with young people to reduce community violence. He sings with and for children living in IDP camps in Kiwanja, where he also grew up as an internally displaced person. He equally worked as a volunteer in an awareness campaign for the non-exploitation of fuel in Virunga National Park.



According to Etienne, being the first runner up of the Africans Rising Activism Awards for 2022, has given more meaning to his artistic commitment. Moreover, being part of a large network of African activists has given him more confidence and motivation to further execute his ambitions as an activist, as part of which he acquired a guitar that has enabled him to do his job better as a committed artist.

Furthermore, the award spurred his relevance in his community and beyond, making his community more appreciative of his activities and efforts to peace building, fight against social injustice and community development. As part of the positive externalities of the award, many youth in his community and beyond have also been stimulated to follow his path and take action for community interest.

As a word of encouragement to future candidates of the awards, Etienne says it's not the prize that counts but rather their commitment to keep fighting injustices. To this, he said, he auditioned for the 2021 edition but was nominated for the 2022 edition. Missing out in 2021 did not stop him from continuing with his activities. He encourages future candidates that the activism across the continent is the same, and that they must continue to fight until their last breath.



Etienne Kasereka

2022 Second Runner Up, Movement of the year Tanzania: Education in Crisis (EIC)



Founded in August 2019, Education in Crisis (EIC) is a Non-Governmental Organization with head office located in Arusha, Tanzania. The youth-led organisation works strategically to invest in quality education by bringing together monthly resources to support the African child and youth impacted by poverty, conflicts, illiteracy etc. by empowering them with education as a sustainable tool. They work on providing access to quality education, gender equality, climate education, mental health, psychosocial support, and teacher development.

EIC has been able to open its first higher education institute in the Nuba Mountains in Sudan where they operate. Sudan is among the five African countries EIC delivers quality education to children and youth, but the country's political crises continue to disrupt learning and economically affect the right to education. They also launched a campaign to reach out to One Million Africans in 10 African countries committing to support with \$1 so that by 2025, they can offer up to 10,000 scholarships to children and youth in secondary and university for them to complete their education and reach their full potential.

EIC believes that for every child who cannot access education, have barriers to learning, and for teachers relentlessly delivering lifesaving learning yet without any form of motivation, training, recognition, quality teaching cannot happen which is why, education in crisis through the schools they partner with, has been able to train 193 teachers on trauma related cases that directly affect children's smooth learning, distributed 950 sanitary towels to school girls to keep them in school, distributed under I4APen project, 10,000 pens and books to 750 students in countries their countries of operation. For children in conflict areas like Sudan, they offered 8 scholarships for the children out of their country and they now study in Uganda. They do this by mobilising resources from local people to solve local problems.



They work with the local grassroots communities, activists, and supporters of the right to education including teachers, professionals, students, community leaders, civil society organisations, policy makers, educationists, schools, institutions, private sector and businesses, with an aim to enhance free and quality education for all groups including those with disabilities and girls.

In terms of how the awards has impacted the organisation's work on social justice, the organisation commented as follows:

"Being named the second runner up movement of the year in the 2022 Africans Rising Activism Awards means a recognition of our work in the communities where we operate. We operate in five African countries and a new partnership with Africans Rising as such, it is an important achievement. It has given us credibility and encouragement to keep mobilising and doing more to transform the lives of millions on the continent whose education is in crisis by promoting inclusive, equitable, quality education for all."

To those aspiring for the awards, the organisation asserts that, **"Being awarded for your work that is promoting unity, justice, peace and dignity, is not just about the awards but also a recognition of your credibility and transformation of Africans. It is important to ensure that your work reflects the values of an African continent we all desire such that the members of Africans Rising amplify your voice."**



Education In Crisis (EIC)

2021 Artist Activist of the Year Angola: Joice Zau



Joice Zau is a 26-year old Angolan, slammer, spoken word performer, artist, activist and poet. She works in human rights training, political education for women in rural areas and in education through arts or poetry.

In the past one-year, she has been involved in giving spoken word training in schools of Angola, especially in communities in Luanda.

She believes that slam may educate the students to use their voices, to protest, to raise their rights, and to keep their abilities. As such, she implements slam championship in schools as a tool of education and politics.

She was the winner of the 2021 Africans Rising Artistic Activist of the year. According to her, the impact is so positive because being the winner gave her more responsibility to do her work which is so important for her country.

She used a part of the funds of the awards to secure some instruments such as microphones, projector, to pay cultural centres and volunteers who assist her with the slam championship.

For those currently aspiring for the awards, she encourages them to continue inspiring the people around their countries and show their work, ideas etc.

Joice Zau



2021 First Runner Up, Artist Activist of the Year Sierra Leone: Odelia Koroma

Odelia Koroma is an artistic activist born and based in Sierra Leone. As an artist, her work is not limited as there are lots of issues that need to be addressed. Her focus however is on issues pertaining to women and girls especially on gender equality, education, menstrual health etc.

She has worked and supported grassroots organisations in terms of organising and mobilising different activities in rural communities and urban areas. She works with a female correctional centre in her community to improve the centre's facilities so that inmates can serve their terms in a better environment. She also helps inmates to secure, while supporting youth groups in different areas as the case may be.

Being in the first runner up position for the artistic activist of the year in 2020, the award has broadened her perspective and understanding about who she is as a person and the issues she is fighting for. The award made her realise the need to fight for what is right and work hard to achieve her objective.

As she stated, winning the award has paved the way for her as she has become an ambassador for many women and girls' groups in her community where she now has the opportunity to pass on her messages to reach the right target.

To those aspiring for the awards, Odelia says,

"it is not just about winning the award but it should be a source of motivation to be more engaged in their work".

Odelia Koroma



2021 2nd Runner Up, Artist Activist of the Year Senegal: Selbe Diouf



Selbe Diouf, better known as Sister Lb, is an artist, rapper, feminist singer, committed to the rights of women and active girls, as well as social justice.

She has participated in several feminist activities to raise awareness against gender based violence (GBV). She has also led several anti-corruption campaigns to fight in collaboration with the civil forum. She says winning the awards was very encouraging and motivating because each individual needs recognition in their fields of endeavour.

“It is not always easy to fight but the way people voted for me made me proud and allowed me to move forward, because I know that I am making an impact”.

She encourages other committed artists to believe in the fight and to keep the steam running, because in life nothing is easy, and one has to believe in their commitment and persevere for a final victory.

Sister LB



2020 Activist of the Year Kenya: Asha Jaffar

Asha Jaffar is a human rights activist and journalist who is passionate about food security in the global south. Her work involves mobilising for food and sustenance for her community, and ensuring that all are fed and have means of sustaining themselves and their families.

She won the Africans Rising Activist of the Year in the year 2020 and for her, the awards has broadened her horizons in terms of networking and areas of impact.

Her advice for those aspiring for the awards reads as follows: “Don’t fret, try it out and you might become the next winner! Believe in yourself.”



2020 Movement of the Year

Africa: Tournons La Page (TLP)

Tournons La Page (TLP) headed by Mathieu Pourchier is an international citizens' movement bringing together nearly 250 organisations in fourteen countries (Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Uganda, DRC, Togo). It promotes peaceful, non-partisan actions to promote democratic alternation.

They organised many sensitization actions to promote democracy, especially through their campaign on term limits where they advocate for presidents to accept a two-term mandate of office. They also follow the worrying situation of coups and the global shrinking of civic spaces, particularly in countries where elections are due to be held in the near future.

As the winner of the 2020 Africans Rising Activism Awards Movement of the Year category, the award has strengthened the movement's credibility by raising awareness of its missions and actions and has helped protect Tournons La Page members, who are now better known.

The award has helped raise the credibility of the organisation and has impacted the efficiency of the movement, especially in advocacy where they can now meet high ranking officials and negotiate with them.

Tournons La Page is congratulating all nominees of 2023 for the great work they are doing and encourages them to know that they are not alone but that there is a whole network supporting their fight.



Tournons La Page

2020 Movement of the Year

DR Congo: Jean Marie Kalonji



Jean Marie works on defence and raising awareness among people, he very often assists poor people. To accentuate the impact of his struggle, he happens to be present and have a point of view on the progress of the country.

His movement has already succeeded in uniting around them many other major Congolese movements at home and in the diaspora to fight against the occupation and assist poor people such as orphans, old people, people living with disabilities, etc.

Winning the award allowed him to self-evaluate despite the fact that the majority of their population does not have access to the Internet. The award has attracted curiosity about his movement and people want to know what he does in the field. Due to the award he feels a sense of esteem and difference.

As a word to future aspirants of the awards, Jean Marie says, ***the award plays several roles as it allows for self-assessment and brings Africans together and pushes them to know what is happening in different African countries.***



Jean Marie Kalonji

Stories From our Movement Podcast Series



You can listen to the podcast on



soundcloud.com/africans_rising



anchor.fm/africans-rising



podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/stories-from-our-movement

If you have a story you would like to share, please email us at media@africans-rising.org.

© 2023 AfricansRising