



MEiIN

Media and Expression in Nigeria November 2022



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

This section of the report provides a list of the abbreviations used throughout the document. The purpose of this page is to provide clarity and ease of understanding for the reader. Each abbreviation is listed in alphabetical order, followed by its full form.

These are the abbreviations used in this report:

AIG - Assistant Inspector-General of Police

BON - Broadcasting Organisations of Nigeria

FBO - Faith-Based Organisation

FIJ - Foundation for Investigative Journalism

GOCOP - Guild of Corporate Online Publishers

IMS - Institute for Media and Society

INEC - Independent National Electoral Commission

MEIN - Media and Expression in Nigeria

NBC - National Broadcasting Commission

NCC - Nigerian Communications Commission

NGE - Nigerian Guild of Editors

NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation

NPAN - Newspaper Proprietors Association of Nigeria

NUJ - Nigeria Union of Journalists

UN - United Nations

BACKGROUND

Media and Expression in Nigeria (MEiN) is a monthly report by the Institute for Media and Society. The report focuses on the developments that affect freedom of the media and expression in the country. This initiative involves monitoring the editorial content of various media sources and the actions of pertinent stakeholders.

METHODOLOGY

This combines quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis. The data is coded by media monitors using a content analysis method that assigns codes to the units of analysis categorised under the following headings:

- **Issues:** the topics or themes that relate to MEiN during the period in review. The topics include various types of attacks on the media and other victims, regulation of the media space, and other related themes.
- **Actors:** the individuals or groups that are involved in or influence the issues. These actors include the government and its agencies, journalists and the media in general, as well as politicians and political parties.
- **Victims:** the individuals or groups that suffer harm or loss as a result of the issues or actions of the actors, and could be any of the individuals or groups identified under actors.

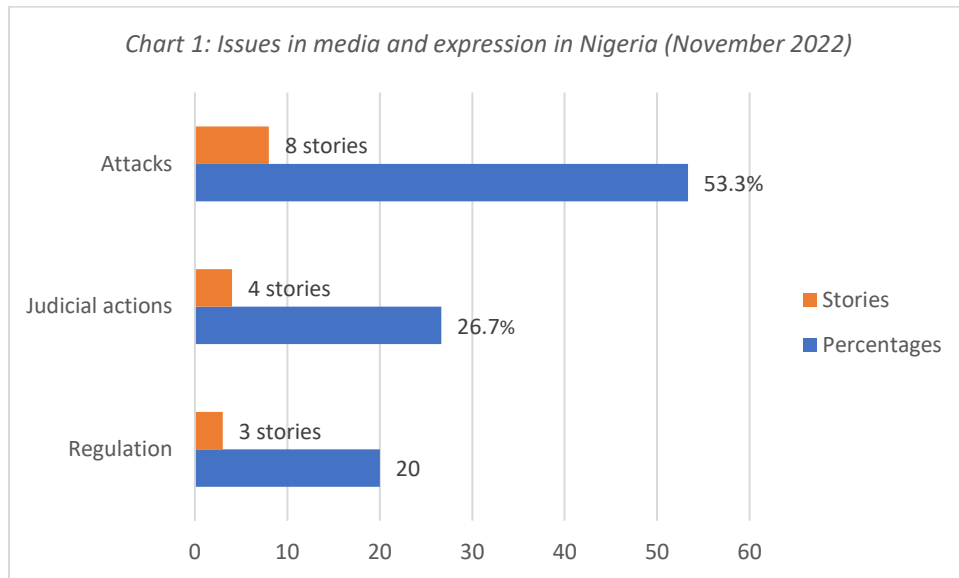
The coding process is done by trained media monitors who follow a coding scheme that defines the categories and sub-categories of each unit of analysis. The coding scheme also specifies the rules and criteria for assigning codes to the data. The coded data is then translated into a spreadsheet for further analysis.

The analysis of the data employs description and visualization techniques such as graphs, charts and tables to present the results clearly and concisely.

The research also employs a qualitative method that complements the quantitative method by highlighting some of the contents driving the data trends.

ISSUES

These were the topics that dominated the contents tracked during the period in review.



Attacks

According to Chart 1, attacks (53.3%; eight out of 15 stories) dominated the discourse around media and expression in Nigeria during the period in focus.

Examples:

1. "Celestial church members mob PUNCHman, police probe attack," The [Punch reported](#) on November 9.

"A security guard, identified simply as Rotimi, alongside worshippers of the Celestial Church of Christ, Sharon Parish, have brutalised a PUNCHman, Deji Lambo, on the church premises on Mobolaji Benson Street, Lowa, Igbooluwo, in the Ikorodu area of Lagos State," the story read.

"Deji had visited the church to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the death of an electrician, Taiwo Akinlotan, who got electrocuted while fixing some electrical appliances in the church on Friday, November 5, 2022."

The story was an instance in which a journalist (and, by extension, the media) came under attack in the context of this report. The nature of the attack was assault.

2. Journalist Ayodele Oloye's Safety "Threatened After Revealing Gov Ishaku's 'Plans to Sell Taraba Liaison Office'," [FII reported](#) on November 28.

"Ayodele Samuel Oloye, the publisher of Taraba Truth and Facts newspaper and CEO of Rock FM 92.3 in Jalingo, Taraba State, has decried threats to be arrested by some

Taraba State “Government agents after a publication that Governor Darius Ishaku had “plans to sell Taraba liaison office”.

“In a press statement sent to FJ, Oloye said there had been plots against him in the government house, supervised by Governor Darius Ishaku’s aides.

“I wish to bring to the notice of the general public threats to my life by agents of the Taraba State Government through the aide-de-camp to Governor Darius Ishaku and some top government officials in the state,” he said.

“On September 8, Taraba Truth and Fact reported that Governor Darius Ishaku had been making moves to sell the Taraba State Liaison Office located at No. 4 Yawuri Garki, Abuja.

“The building,” the report said, “is listed among state-owned properties which ownership would be transferred to private hands in the winding up of Governor Ishaku’s two-term tenure.”

3. “Aisha Buhari fractured her leg beating up university student – Journalist,” [The Herald reported](#) on November 29, providing another story covering how a citizen was allegedly assaulted for their use of social media.

“A journalist, Jaafar Jaafar, has alleged that First Lady Aisha Buhari joined her security detail in beating up a university student, Aminu Muhammad, to a pulp,” the report continued.

“He added that she fractured her leg in the process of kicking the victim.

“Recall that the First Lady has been in the news in recent times for allegedly orchestrating the arrest of Muhammad, who purportedly insulted her in a tweet.

“Muhammad, who is a 500-level student of Federal University, Dutse in Jigawa State, posted a tweet from his Twitter handle @aminullahie on June 8, 2022, which the First Lady supposedly found insulting.

4. “Journalist recounts ordeal after Atiku’s convoy attack,” Punch reported on November 12.

[The story](#) continued: “A journalist who works for Arise TV, Mary Chinda, has narrated how she escaped death by a whisker alongside journalists from other media houses at the Peoples Democratic Party’s presidential rally that took place in Maiduguri on Wednesday.”

“The convoy of the PDP presidential candidate, Atiku Abubakar, reportedly came under attack by suspected thugs, as some party supporters were injured and several vehicles vandalised.

“Chinda, who sustained muscular injuries during the attack, said she almost lost her life.

“According to her, journalists were attacked despite being with the PDP presidential candidate’s convoy.”

5. “Group seeks protection for journalists as Jandor’s aide, Korede assaults Guardian reporter,” [the paper reported](#) on November 16, in another instance detailing how a journalist was allegedly assaulted.

“A Lagos based Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), Women Matters, has urged the government to protect journalists in the course of their duty, saying reporters have been killed, harassed and maimed in the course of their duty,” the report read.

“The call was sequel to the assault and harassment meted to a Lagos-based female journalist, Kehinde Olatunji by one Theophilus Akorede, an aide to the gubernatorial candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party, (PDP) in Lagos, Olajide Adediran, popularly known as Jandor.

“The assault occurred at Jandor’s campaign office in Ikeja at about 8:00 a.m. and was witnessed by another journalist.

“It was learnt that Olatunji had honoured an invitation by Lagos State PDP publicity secretary and Chairman Media and Publicity Committee of JandorFunke 2023 Campaign Council, Hakeem Amode, for Jandor’s meeting with Igbo market leaders in Amuwo Odofin.”

The reporter was allegedly assaulted for sitting in Jandor’s chair.

Judicial action

Judicial action represented 26.7% (four stories) of the issues.

Examples:

1. “Court directs AIG to investigate Alhassan Ado Doguwa over alleged assault of journalist,” [Vanguard reported](#) on November 2.

“The Chief Magistrate Court 24 Gyedi-Gyedi Kano has directed the office of the Assistant Inspector General of Police, Zone One, to conduct a discrete investigation on criminal assault by the House of Representatives Member Representing Doguwa/Tudun Wada Federal Constituency, Alhassan Ado Doguwa,” the report read.

“The directive followed a direct complaint lodged before the court by the Kano state Correspondent of Leadership Newspapers, Abdullahi Yakubu through his counsel, Bashir, Umar & Co. Legal Practitioners and Corporate Consultant.”

The report represented an instance in which judicial action was instituted in the context of this report.

2. "Nnamdi Kanu's Lawyer Threatens To Sue Media Houses Reporting IPOB Leader Jumped Bail," *The Whistler* reported on November 22.

"Barr Alloy Ejimakor, special counsel to the leader of the Indigenous People of Biafra, Nnamdi Kanu, has warned media houses in the country to desist from reporting that his client jumped bail granted to him by the Federal High Court.

"Ejimakor, in a legal notice, floated via his Twitter page, stated that he will have no option but to sue any media house which continues to report that his client jumped bail after the High Court in Umuahia had condemned the military invasion of Kanu's home, which led him to flee the country.

"He maintained that any such publication henceforth would be false, libellous, defamatory, and injurious to Kanu's legal interests," [the report said](#).

3. "Kwara high court judge's demise stalls trial of two journalists," [Metro Daily NG reported](#) on November 23.

"The death of a Kwara State Senior High Court Judge, Justice Titilayo Daibu, stalled the trial of Sobi FM's Senior Editor, Dare Akogun and his brother, Abdulrasheed Akogun, publisher of Fresh Insight online TV in Ilorin on Wednesday.

"At the resumed trial of their case, the Akogun brothers were in court with their counsel but the court clerk disclosed that the proceedings will not hold following the death of the judge who was buried on Monday according to Islamic rite.

"Recall that the brothers were charged to court by the police following a petition written by the Chief Press Secretary to Governor Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq, Rafiu Ajakaye. Rafiu Ajakaye had accused them of defamation and inciting the public against the state government."

Regulation

Regulation was featured 20% of the time, accounting for three of the coded stories.

Examples:

1. "NBC Breaks Multichoice Monopoly, Directs Sublicense Of Channels To Metro-Digital," [Leadership reported](#) on November 7, representing an instance in which regulation was the thematic focus during the period in review.

“The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) has directed Multichoice to sublicense some of its channels to an indigenous digital broadcasting firm, Metro-Digital Limited, thereby putting an end to years of monopoly in the digital broadcasting industry.

“The NBC, in a letter dated October 25, 2022, addressed to the Chief Executive Officer of Multichoice, which was sighted by our correspondent, said the directive was based on the provisions of the NBC Code as amended,” the report read.

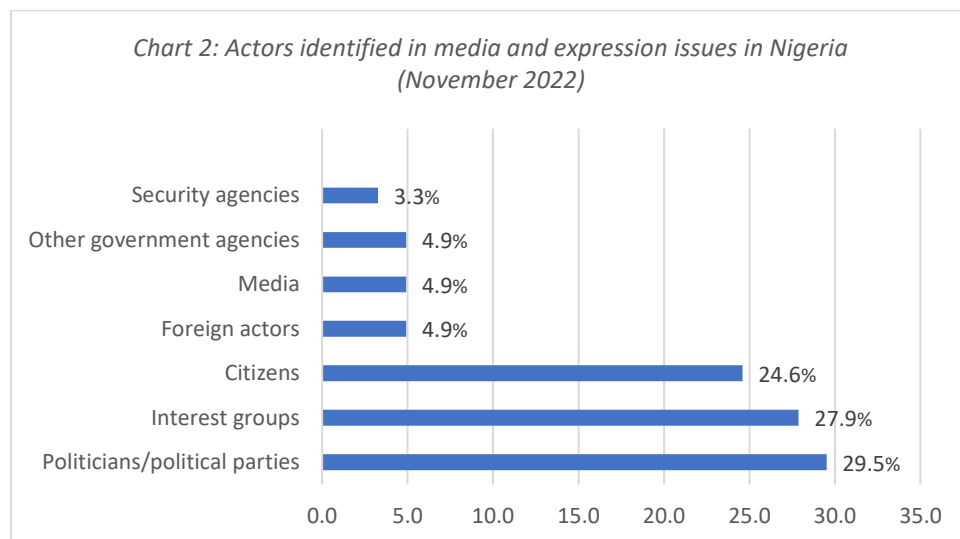
2. “Nigerian media industry adopts new co-regulation, code of ethics,” The [Guardian reported](#) on November 23.

“The Nigerian media industry has adopted new co-regulation and code of ethics to address ethical and professional concerns,” the story read.

“The decision was reached at the end of a media roundtable organised on Monday, November 14, by the Newspaper Proprietors Association of Nigeria (NPAN), in conjunction with the Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE), Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Broadcasting Organisations of Nigeria (BON), and the Guild of Corporate Online Publishers (GOCOP).”

ACTORS

This section concerns the personalities and groups who were prominent in the stories tracked during the period in review. It also identified the actors identified as the major instigators or perpetrators of attacks against the media and (or) citizens’ right to freedom of expression.



Politicians/political parties (29.5%; 18 out of 61 applicable stories) were the most prominent actors identified during the period in review, Chart 2 shows. Interest groups were the identified actors in 17 stories, representing 27.9% of the coded total. Citizens were featured

in 15 stories or 24.6% of the reports. Foreign actors and the media each got 4.9% (three stories) of the coverage. Whereas security agencies got 3.3% (two stories) of the coverage, other government agencies were the actors identified in three stories or 4.9% of the coded total. Faith-based organisations (FBOs) were the actors in 3.3% (two stories) of the reports.

VICTIMS

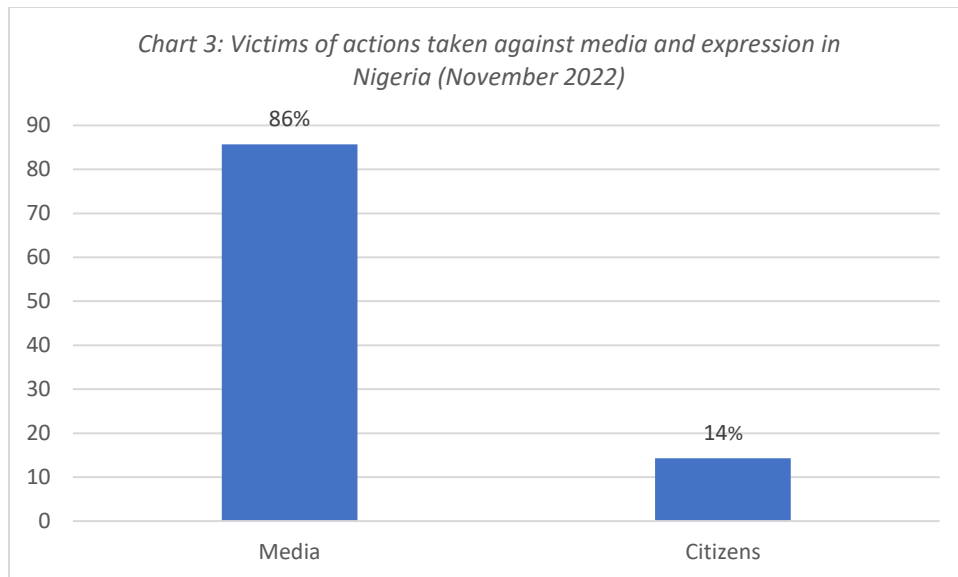


Chart 3 concerns the victims of actions taken against media and expression in Nigeria during the period in review. The stories tracked for this section involved, but are not limited to, the following form of 'negative actions':

- arrests
- threats
- detention
- censorship
- assault

The media (86%; 12 out of 14 stories) were the largest victims of these attacks, the chart shows. Two reports or 14% of the stories focused on attacks on citizens.

CONCLUSION

MEiN analyses for November 2022 show that attacks on the media and other victims were the most prevalent issue. Judicial action and regulation were the other significant issues identified in the analysed reports. Politicians and political parties were the most prominent actors, with citizens and interest groups also frequently covered. The media were the largest victims of attacks, suffering 86% of the incidents. Citizens were the victims in 14% of the attacks.

