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MEDIA AND EXPRESSION IN NIGERIA

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CEMESO

MEDIA AND EXPRESSION IN NIGERIA (MEiN)

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

This section of the report provides a list of the abbreviations used in this document. Each abbreviation is listed in alphabetical order, followed by its full form.

These are the abbreviations used in this report:

ADVAN - Advertisers Association of Nigeria

ARCON - Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria

CEMESO - Centre for Media and Society

MEiN - Media and Expression in Nigeria

NBC - National Broadcasting Commission

NCC - Nigerian Communication Commission

NUJ - Nigeria Union of Journalists

BACKGROUND

Media and Expression in Nigeria (MEiN) is a monthly report by the Centre 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.

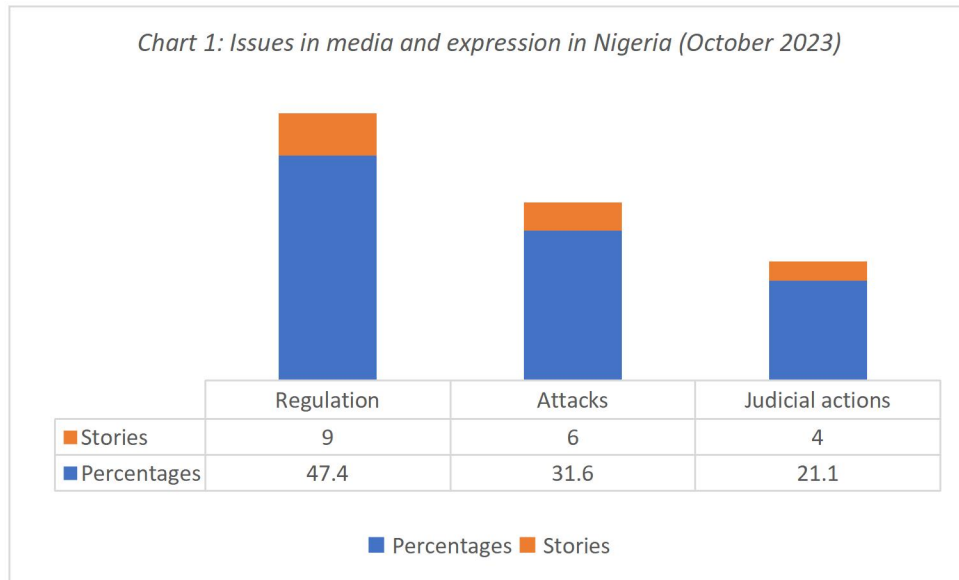
The coding process is done by trained media monitors who follow a coding scheme that defines the categories and sub-categories of each unit of analysis. The coding scheme also specifies the rules and criteria for assigning codes to the data. The coded data is then translated into a spreadsheet for further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



Regulation

According to Chart 1, nine stories were focused on regulation, representing 47.4% of 19 applicable reports.

Examples:

1. On October 6, [Sahara Reporters published a story](#) titled, "Broadcasting Organisations Of Nigeria Writes Information Minister, Says TV Future Bleak If 600MHz Spectrum Is Sold To MTN."

"The Broadcasting Organisations of Nigeria has condemned approval of the sale of 600MHz broadcasting spectrum to MTN, a mobile telecommunication company," the report read.

"In a letter sent to the Minister of Information and National Orientation, Alhaji Mohammed Idris (Malagi), dated September 21, 2023, and signed by the organisation's Executive Secretary, Dr Yemisi Bamgbose, the BON urged the minister to intervene in the matter."

2. "NBC Issues Arise TV Final Warning," [Solacebase reported](#) on October 6.

"The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) has issued a last warning to Arise Television over the use of derogatory and incendiary remarks on its station," the report read.

"The warning was contained in a letter by NBC Director General, Dr Balarabe Shehu Illelah on October 6, 2023. The letter urged the TV station to have a delay mechanism to guard against undesirable contents.

"The letter, which was addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Arise Global Media Limited, also urged the TV station to keep to its responsibility of keeping its guests on check."

3. "NCC Sets Penalties for Sale, Purchase of Pre-Registered MTN, Airtel, Glo, 9mobile SIM Cards," [Legit NG reported](#) on October 6.

"The Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) has urged the public to be wary of pre-registered SIM cards' sale, purchase, and usage," the report read.

"This was the message of Ayanbanji Ojo, the head of the Consumer Policy Development and Monitoring Department at NCC, at the Abuja International Trade Fair on Thursday, 5 October 2023.

"Ojo noted that the commission frowns at buying and selling of pre-registered SIM cards, as such is considered as a criminal offence with fines and jail terms. He also revealed that for telecom companies, each pre-registered SIM card attracts a penalty of N200,000 and, for a user, imprisonment."

4. "'Look beyond sanctions and fines', information minister urges NBC," [Daily Nigerian reported](#) on October 11.

"Information and National Orientation Minister, Mohammed Idris, has urged the National Broadcasting Commission, NBC, to engage stakeholders on its operations to check violation of Broadcasting Code," the report read.

"Mr Idris made the call during a one-day working visit to the commission's Headquarters in Abuja.

"He said there is need to change the erroneous narrative that NBC was synonymous with sanctions and fines."

5. "NBC: We've sent social media regulation bill to n'assembly," [TheCable reported](#) on October 11.

"The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) says it has sent a bill for the regulation of social media to the national assembly. The regulator is seeking to repeal and reenact the NBC act, CAP L11 laws of the federation of Nigeria 2004," the report read.

"Speaking when he hosted Mohammed Idris, minister of information and national orientation, at the commission's headquarters on Tuesday, Balarabe Illelah, NBC director-general, described the ills of social media as a 'monster'.

"Ilelah said the current law does not give the NBC the right to regulate social media."

6. "NBC to investigate DStv, GOtv, others over subscription," [Daily Post reported](#) on October 11.

"The National Broadcasting Commission, NBC, has disclosed plans to investigate MultiChoice Nigeria over DStv, GOtv, and other digital satellite cables over alleged extortion of Nigerians," the report said.

"This was disclosed by NBC Director of Investigation and Enforcement, Uzoamaka Ogbalu, in response to a pre-action notice filed by activist lawyer Madubuachi Idam.

"NBC's response dated 28 September 2023 was tagged 'Cheating, exploitation, and unfair practices demand to meter DStv, GOtv, subscription to read only during viewing within 30 days.'"

7. "'We're Engaging Google, TikTok', NBC Official Lists Efforts To Regulate Social Media," [Daily Trust reported](#) on October 13.

"The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) has spoken more on its plan to regulate social media," the report read.

"In a chat with Trust Radio, Mrs. Francisca Aiyetan, Director, Broadcast Monitoring of the NBC, said without regulation, young people could be misguided.

"'Every country is making efforts to regulate social media, and Nigeria also is making efforts because we know that there are a lot of things to harness from it. But if not regulated, it can also be a platform that will misguide our young people.

"'The level we are now is discussing with stakeholders so to agree that, yes, we need to regulate social media and at that level, there should be legislation; there should be strengthening of the law to factor in all the things that are new on the broadcasting and content sharing space.'"

8. "Produce all commercials locally, ARCON tells advertisers," [The Punch reported](#) on October 24.

"The Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria has banned the production of indigenous advertisements in foreign countries, adding that such would reduce unemployment and improve the national economy," the report read.

"This was contained in a press statement signed by ARCON Director-General, Olalekan Fadolapo, on Monday.

"ARCON noted that advertisers must stop the capital flight and development of other countries' economies by going out of the country to produce adverts meant for the Nigerian market, thereby killing the advertising industry."

Attacks

Attacks on the media and other victims, with six stories, represented 31.6% of the reports.

Examples:

1. "Gunmen attack driver conveying The Guardian newspapers to Enugu," [The Guardian reported](#) on October 9.

"A Haulage driver attached to Ugwu and Sons, Mr. Emeka Paul Ofume, yesterday, escaped death in the hands of gunmen who attacked his distribution van," the report said.

"Ugwu and Sons is one of the haulage companies engaged by The Guardian for distribution of the company's daily newspapers.

"It was gathered that Ofume left Asaba for Enugu on Monday at about 2:00a.m. to deliver copies of The Guardian Newspaper meant for Awka, Nnewi, Enugu and Abakaliki, and was intercepted by gunmen at Dunukofia, in Anambra State, who shot severally at his distribution vehicle.

"He was hit severally on his head by pellets of bullets fired by the gunmen while attempting to escape from the scene, and was later rescued by a team of police officers on patrol duty, who conveyed him to a private hospital, where he is currently being treated.

"Owner of the Haulage Company, Mr. Vincent Ugwu, who confirmed the attack to The Guardian yesterday, said the police in Anambra State informed him about the incident. He said the driver left Asaba enroute Enugu after printing."

2. "Two Nigerian journalists charged with cybercrime over corruption reports," [Premium Times reported](#) on October 4.

"Authorities in Nigeria should swiftly drop all charges against journalists Aiyelabegan AbdulRazaq and Oluwatoyin Bolakale and allow them to work freely, the Committee to Protect Journalists said on Tuesday," the report read.

"On 11 September, police officers detained AbdulRazaq and Bolakale, publishers of the independent news websites Just Event Online and The Satcom Media respectively, over their critical reporting about a local politician, according to the two journalists and their lawyer Taofiq Olateju, all of whom spoke with CPJ.

"According to the charge sheet, reviewed by CPJ, the 9 September articles contained allegations of abuse of office by Jumoke Gafar, the former principal private secretary to north-central Kwara State governor AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq, who is not related to the journalist.

"On 13 September, the two journalists were charged with cyberstalking—punishable by up to three years in jail and a 7 million naira (US\$9,024) fine—and conspiracy—which carries a penalty of up to seven years in jail—under the Cybercrimes Act, according to the two journalists, their lawyer, and the charge sheet."

3. "NUJ condemns alleged assault on NAN Assistant Chief Correspondent by VIO," [Freedom Online reported](#) on October 9.

"The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), has condemned the alleged assault on Mrs Philomina Attah, an Editor/Assistant Chief Correspondent of the agency by an official of the Director of the Directorate of Road Traffic Services, FCT Vehicle Inspection Office (VIO)," the report read.

"This is contained in a letter to the director, of the FCT VIO titled 'PROTEST LETTER AGAINST ASSAULT OF A NAN JOURNALIST, CAUTION YOUR OFFICERS' dated Oct. 5.

"The letter was jointly signed by the Chairman, Collins Yakubu-Hammer and Secretary, Funmilayo Adeyemi respectively and copied to the Minister of FCT and Chairman of NUJ FCT Council."

4. "Police Parade Suspected Killers Of Zamfara Journalist, Two Others," [Channels Television reported](#) on October 10.

"The Zamfara State Police Command has paraded two suspects, Mansur Haruna and Ibrahim Nababa, over the killing of a veteran journalist, Hamisu Danjibga, in the state," the report read.

"While parading the suspects on Tuesday evening at the Police Command Headquarters in Gusau, the Zamfara State capital, the Commissioner of Police, Mohammed Dalijan, said Hamisu, a reporter with Voice of Nigeria (VON) was suspected to have been killed by his nephew, Mansur and his friend, Ibrahim

"He said the suspects were arrested when the police swung into action following the journalist's death.

"According to him, the prime suspect, Mansur, has confessed to the police how they struggled with Hamisu as they wanted to kidnap him."

5. "Ondo NUJ Gives ZLGA Waste Management Ultimatum To Pull Down Social Media Post Against Senior Journalist Ebenezer Adeniyen," [Impact News Point reported](#) on October 11.

"EBENEZER ADENIYAN IS A SENIOR JOURNALIST & PUBLISHER OF TRACE NEWS MAGAZINE: ONDO NUJ DEMANDS APOLOGY OVER SOCIAL MEDIA 'FAKE JOURNALIST POST'," the letter read.

"The Nigeria Union of Journalists, NUJ, Ondo State Council wishes to place on record that one of our Senior members, Prince Ebenezer Adeniyani, is a qualified and well-experienced Senior Journalist and not a FAKE JOURNALIST.

"We hereby give a waste management company, ZLGA 24hours ultimatum to pull down the social media post "FAKE JOURNALIST" against Prince Adeniyani who had served as the State Secretary & National Ex-officio of our union before now.

"We want to caution public or private offices in the state against any form of attacks/blackmail against journalists in the course of doing their professional jobs."

6. "Ebonyi journalist petitions IGP over unlawful arrest, detention," [The Sun reported](#) on October 22.

"Vice Chairman of the Ebonyi State Council of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Comrade Ben Nworie, has petitioned the acting Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, over the alleged embarrassment, unlawful arrest, harassment and detention meted to him by men of the Crack Squad of the State Police Command October 19, 2023 in Abakaliki," the report read.

"Nworie said that the team at about 7:30pm, allegedly stormed an entertainment spot he was waiting for the commencement of a dinner organised by the Ebonyi State Government in honour of members of the State House of Assembly, and arrested everybody there.

"In the petition dated October 20, 2023 and copied the National President of NUJ, Chief Chris Isiguzo, Nworie who is the State Correspondent of Thisday Newspaper, said that he was detained for over 20 hours by the police in their cell."

Judicial actions

Judicial actions got four reports or 21.1% of the stories.

Examples:

1. "Court to hear FG's N30bn suit against Facebook in October," [The Punch reported](#) on October 3.

"The Federal High Court, Abuja Judicial Division, will in October hear the N30bn suit lodged by the Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria against Meta Platforms Incorporated (owners of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp platforms) and its agent AT3 Resources Limited," the report read.

"The Director-General of ARCON, Olalekan Fadolapo, made the disclosure during an exclusive interview with The PUNCH.

"ARCON is seeking a declaration among others that the continued publication and exposure of various advertisements directed at the Nigerian market through Facebook and Instagram platforms by Meta Platforms Incorporated, without ensuring the same is vetted and approved before exposure is illegal, unlawful and a violation of the extant advertising Law in Nigeria.

"According to the apex regulatory body for advertising in the country, Meta Platforms Incorporated's continued exposure of unvetted adverts had led to a loss of revenue to the Federal Government."

2. "Court Discharges Journalist Accused Of Insulting Lai Mohammed," [Tori NG reported](#) on October 19.

"A journalist, Rotimi Jolayemi, also known as Oba Akewi, who was arraigned over allegations bordering on insulting the immediate past minister of information and culture Lai Mohammed, has been discharged by the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja," the report read.

"Justice Emeka Nwite struck out the case on Wednesday for lack of diligent prosecution. The prosecutor, Joseph Offor did not appear in court, prompting the defendant's lawyer Soji Toki to apply that the matter be struck out."

3. "Advertisers drag FG to court over new ARCON Law," [The Punch reported](#) on October 25.

"The Advertisers Association of Nigeria says it has filed a lawsuit to challenge the constitutionality of the amended Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria Law," the report read.

"According to a statement by ADVAN, the disclosure was made by the association's president, Osamede Uwubanmwen, at a press conference which was held in Lagos on Thursday.

"According to the statement, Uwubanmwen said that the move to challenge the new advertising law comes after a thorough and deliberate consideration of the law's implications for the advertising industry and its members.

"He added that ADVAN views the legal action as an essential response to safeguard the interests of its members and the integrity of the marketing profession in Nigeria."

4. "Supreme Court approves live coverage of judgement amidst heavy security," [Freedom Online reported](#) on October 26.

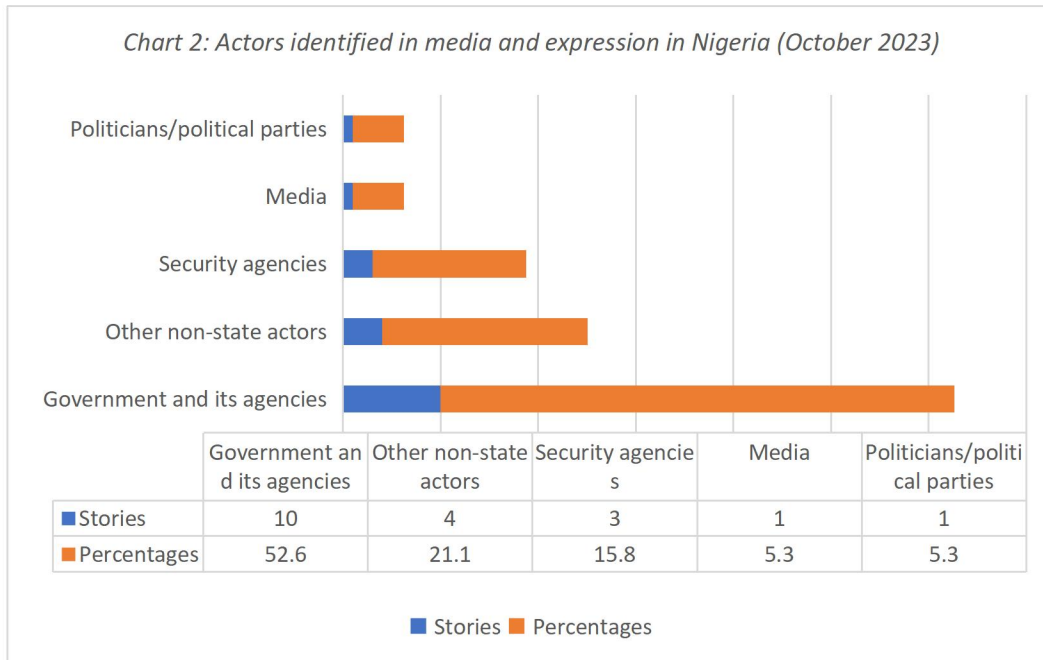
"The Supreme Court has bowed to pressure to allow for live coverage of the judgement of the February 2023 presidential election petitions," the report read.

“There is a presence of heavily-armed security personnel around the vicinity and adjoining roads leading in and out of the Supreme Court, venue of the judgement.

“Earlier, cameramen from Media houses were not allowed access to the premises.”

ACTORS

This section concerns the personalities and groups who were prominent in the relevant stories tracked in October 2023. It also concerns the actors identified as the major instigators or perpetrators of attacks against the media and (or) citizens’ right to freedom of expression.



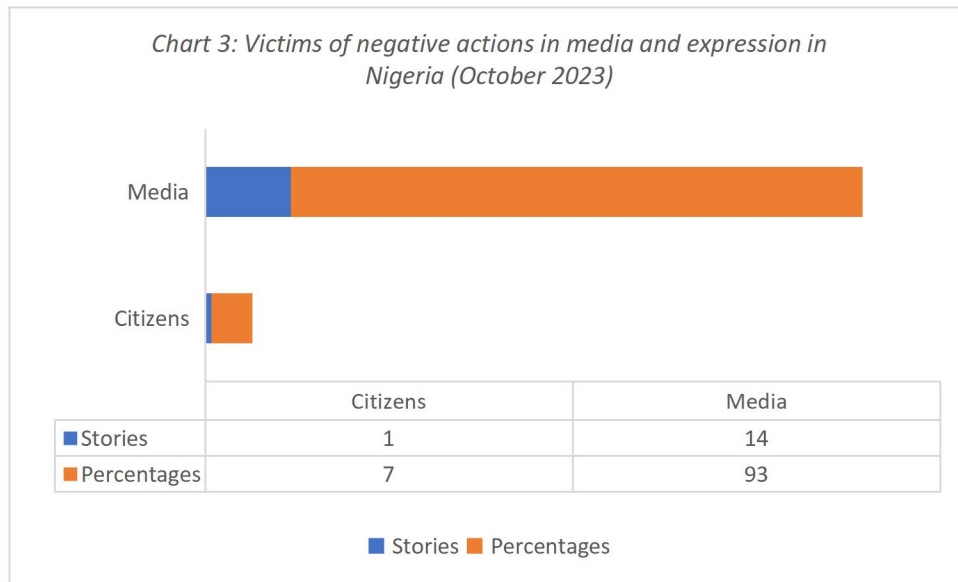
According to Chart 2, government agencies were the most prominent actors as they were identified in 10 or 42.1% of 19 applicable reports. Security agencies were identified in three reports or 15.8% of the reports. The media were identified in one report or 5.3% of the total, and the same was true for politicians/political parties. Other non-state actors were identified in four or 21.1% of the reports.

VICTIMS

These were the individuals or groups that suffered harm or loss as a result of the issues or actions of the actors. 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 (93%; 14 in 15 applicable reports) were the biggest victims identified in this section, Chart 3 shows. Citizens fell victim to negative actions once, representing seven per cent of the stories.

CONCLUSION

MEiN analyses for the period under review showed that regulation was the most covered topic, representing 47.4% of the coverage. The government and its agencies were the most prominent actors while the media and ordinary citizens were the victims of the negative actions recorded during the period.

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