

# MEIN

MEDIA AND EXPRESSION IN NIGERIA

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CEMESO

# **MEDIA AND EXPRESSION IN NIGERIA (MEiN)**

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Centre for Media and Society

*Nigeria*

## **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:

CEMESO - Centre for Media and Society

DSS - Department of State Services

FRSC - Federal Road Service Commission

ICIR - International Centre for Investigative Reporting

MEiN - Media and Expression in Nigeria

NUJ - Nigeria Union of Journalists

VON - Voice of Nigeria

## 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.

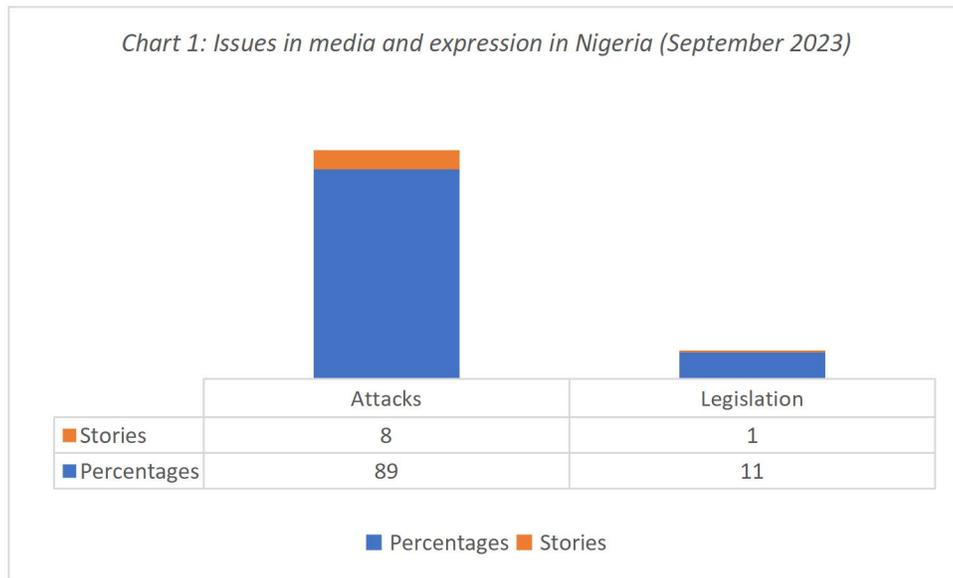
The coding process is done by trained media monitors who follow a coding scheme that defines the categories and sub-categories of each unit of analysis. The coding scheme also specifies the rules and criteria for assigning codes to the data. The coded data is then translated into a spreadsheet for further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



## Attacks

According to Chart 1, attacks on the media and other victims, with eight stories, was the most prominent topic and it represented 89% of nine applicable reports.

Examples:

1. "Journalist Raises Alarm Over Threat To Life," [Leadership newspaper reported](#) on September 2.

"A veteran journalist and political activist, Ikem Okuhu, has raised the alarm over a failed assassination attempt on his life, calling on the police to probe the incident," the report read.

"Briefing newsmen yesterday in Lagos, the public relations consultant and CEO of the Lagos-based BRANDish Media, Okuhu, narrated how at about 5.30 p.m. on Friday, August 25, 2023, two men who introduced themselves as officers of the Nigerian Police, Enugu State Command, accosted him at Umabor, Eha Alumona Nsukka, 'in what I saw as a broad daylight kidnap attempt'."

2. "Workers stranded as Rivers govt demolishes transmission house, mast," [Vanguard reported](#) on September 4.

"Rivers State Government has demolished an analogue mast used by the African Independent Television, AIT, in their operations in Port Harcourt, Rivers State," the report read.

"It was learned that the mast when pulled off had fallen on the transmission building where the media house transmits its news and programmes. Following the development,

AIT has totally gone offline on its terrestrial station within the state and the South-South and South-East states. The state government has been on the move to reclaim parts of its alleged property occupied by the AIT, an area it has already marked Government Reserved Area (GRA) 5.

"As at when the state government was carrying out the operation around 8 am till 1 pm, AIT staff members were seen lurking around their facility stranded."

3. "Adamawa journalist petition DSS over threat by thugs for criticizing Fintiri," [Peoples Daily reported](#) on September 4.

"The Adamawa state Correspondent of the Nigerian Pilot Newspaper, Mr Ibrahim Mista-Ali has lodged a formal complaint against a notorious thug, Hamidu Mukhtari, known as Dogo for assault and threat to life," the report read.

"In a two-page petition addressed to the Director DSS, Adamawa state Command and made privy to this paper indicated that Mista-Ali in the company of his other colleagues were on an official assignment at the Government House Yola on Monday 28th August.2023 when Dogo allegedly approached and assaulted him.

"When contacted on the development, Chief Press Secretary to Governor Fintiri, Mr.Humwashi Wonosikou, declined comment saying it had nothing to do with the government as it was a quarrel between two persons.

"Investigation by this reporter has further revealed that the thug 'Dogo' has organised several attacks against perceived enemies of the Governor including an attack on the residence of the Governorship candidate of the Social Democratic party, SDP. Dr Umar Ardo in which several party members were injured and vehicles vandalized. Dogo also has a pending case with the NDLEA in Yola and has been on administrative bail since 2021 after he was apprehended with a large amount of cannabis in his house."

4. "Akeredolu sacks deputy governor's aides," [The Punch reported](#) on September 12.

"All the media aides attached to the office of the Ondo State Deputy Governor, Lucky Aiyedatiwa, have been relieved of their positions," the report read.

"This was contained in a statement issued by the Chief Press Secretary to Governor Rotimi Akeredolu, Richard Olatunde, on Tuesday.

"According to the statement, the affected aides include the Press Secretary to the Governor, Kenneth Odusola; Special Assistant to Governor (New Media) Okunniga Oladipupo; and Special Assistant to the Governor (Photography) Abayomi Samson Adefolalu."

5. "Kwara gov orders probe into journalist's death," [The Punch reported](#) on September 17.

"The Governor of Kwara State, AbdulRahman AbdulRazaq has charged security agencies to unravel the cause of the death of a 27-year-old journalist, Yusuf Mubaarak, who was allegedly murdered in Ilorin, the state capital," the report read.

"The body of the late journalist was discovered in Ilorin on Saturday.

"The governor, in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Rafiu Ajakaye, which was released to newsmen on Saturday evening described as shocking and saddening the death of Mubaarak under hazy circumstances that he said must be investigated by security agencies.

"Mubaarak, a new media personality who hails from Ilorin according to a statement from the Government House, went missing on Wednesday night but his remains were eventually found around the Unity Road area of the state capital on Saturday."

6. "FRSC officers beat up ICIR journalist in Abuja for doing his work," [ICIR reported](#) on September 19.

"Some Federal Road Service Commission (FRSC) officers on Monday, September 18, attacked Mustapha Usman, a journalist with the International Centre for Investigative Reporting (ICIR), near the Corps' Zone 7 office in Abuja," the report read.

"They beat up and confiscated the reporter's identification card while he was trying to report an incident involving the officers at the Wuye Junction in the nation's capital. The officials had accused a woman of violating traffic laws near the Wuye Bridge, currently under construction.

"The reporter saw the officers forcefully grabbing the steering wheel from the woman after they had stopped her. When they failed to take over the steering from her, they deflated her car tyres, prompting Mustapha to video the incident.

"As soon as the officers sighted the reporter, they ran after him, pounced on him, beat him up and collected his identity card. They alleged the woman was arrested for using her phone to check Google Maps while driving.

"However, the woman, who introduced herself as Esther Oluwatimileyin, claimed she became confused about the direction to take due to the ongoing bridge construction, which had recently led to the blockage of a section of the road and diversion."

7. "NUJ Zamfara, VON Chapel Call For Investigation Into Death Of Journalist, Hamisu Danjibga," [The Sage reported](#) on September 21.

"Zamfara State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists has announced the death of Hamisu Danjibga, a Freelance reporter with Voice of Nigeria (VON) whose body was found in a sock away behind his house three days after being declared missing," the report read.

"The Secretary of the Council, Ibrahim Ahmad, in a statement said the discovery of his corpse was a result of an unpleasant odour observed by Islamiya Children in the evening of Wednesday 20th September, 2023, which drew the attention of their teachers to the corpse."

8. "DSS Releases Detained Kano Journalist," [Leadership newspaper](#) reported on September 29.

"The Department of State Services (DSS), has released the editor-in-chief of Almizan Newspaper, Ibrahim Musa," the report read.

"His release was contained in a statement released yesterday by Abdullahi Usman on behalf of Musa's family. Musa was whisked away at the Aminu Kano International Airport in the early hours of Wednesday while on his way to Saudi Arabia to perform the lesser Hajj.

"The family thanked the general public for their concern and prayer since his arrest."

## **Legislation**

Legislation got one report or 11% of the stories.

*Example:*

1. "Senate not ready for social media regulation, says Akpabio," [The Nation reported](#) on September 19.

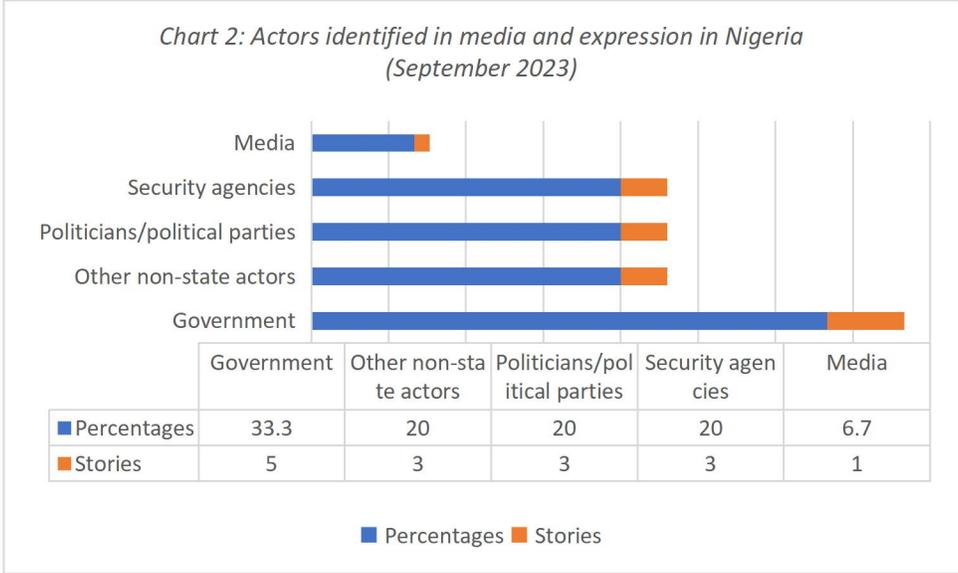
"The Senate president, Godswill Akpabio said on Tuesday, September 19, that the 10th National Assembly might not be eager to regulate social media, saying that existing laws adequately address any violations by users of social media platforms," the report read.

"Akpabio enjoined social media platforms users to use the platforms for positive productive engagements for the development of the country, adding that the country needs to keep pace with the emerging technologies for the benefit of all stakeholders.

"He, however, said African countries need a digital future that is inclusive, secure and innovative, stressing that this should be the focus of all."

## **ACTORS**

This section concerns the personalities and groups who were prominent in the relevant stories tracked in September 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.

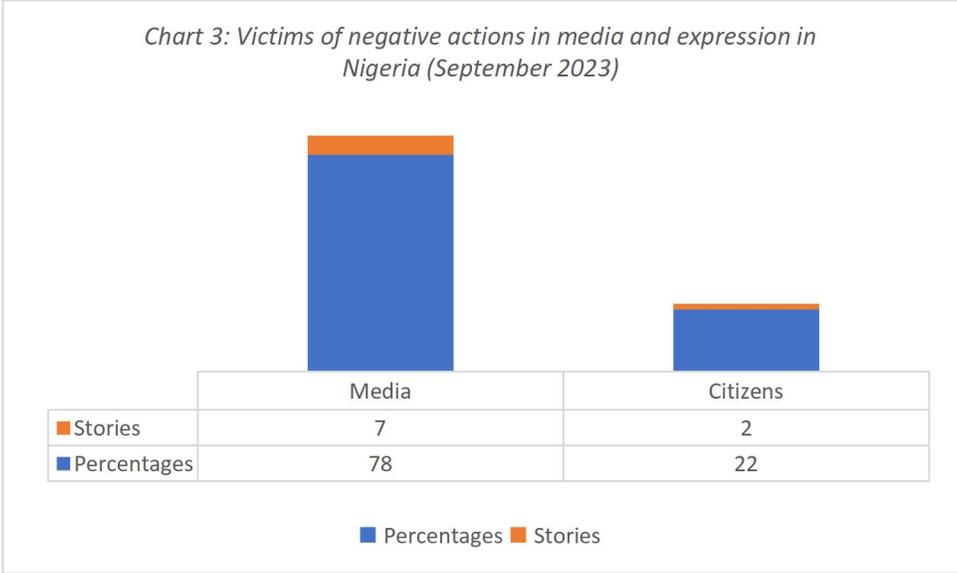


According to Chart 2, the government was the most prominent actor as it was identified in five or 33.3% of 15 applicable reports. Politicians/political parties were identified in three reports or 20% of the total, and the same was true for security agencies and other non-state actors. The media were identified in one report or 6.7% of the total.

**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 (78%; seven in nine applicable reports) were the biggest victims identified in this section, Chart 3 shows. Citizens fell victim to negative actions two times, representing 22% of the stories.

**CONCLUSION**

MEiN analyses for the period under review showed that attacks and legislation were the only topics covered with the former getting 89% of the coverage. The government was the most prominent actor while the media and ordinary citizens were the victims of the negative actions recorded during the period.

**MEiN** is published

*by*

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