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MEDIA AND EXPRESSION IN NIGERIA

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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:

CEMESO - Centre for Media and Society

DSS - Department of State Services

FIJ - Foundation for Investigative Journalism

IPC - International Press Centre

MEiN - Media and Expression in Nigeria

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 because of the issues or actions of the actors and could be any of the individuals or groups identified under actors.

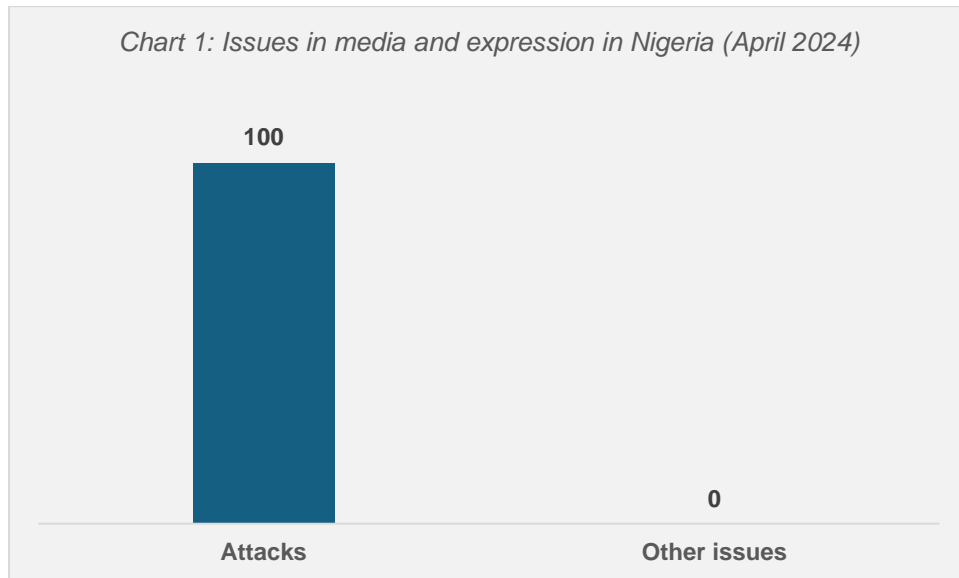
The coding process is done by trained media monitors who follow a coding scheme that defines the categories and sub-categories of each unit of analysis. The coding scheme also specifies the rules and criteria for assigning codes to the data. The coded data is then translated into a spreadsheet for further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



Attacks

According to Chart 1, attacks on the media and other victims constituted 100% of eight applicable stories analysed during the period under review.

The stories are:

1. On April 4, [Sahara Reporters published an article](#) titled, "Armed Robbers Attack Nigerian Journalist, Other Road Users On Lagos Highway, Steal Money, Phones".

"A Lagos-based freelance journalist and former staff member of WAZOBIA FM, Ogunleke Clement along with some other road users was attacked on Wednesday by armed robbers between Berger bus stop and Otedola Bridge on the Lagos- Ibadan Expressway," the article read.

"Videos and pictures made available to SaharaReporters show the bloodied journalist receiving treatment at a medical facility after the attack. The journalist, in an audio clip obtained by SaharaReporters, also added that the robbery was carried out by six young men who were armed with guns, machetes and bottles.

"He, however, berated the absence of security operatives on major roads in the state to avert such incidents.

"Mr Clement said the armed robbers stole his phones and all the money he had on him. He added that the armed men also robbed other passengers on the road."

2. [Sahara Reporters also published a story](#) on April 8. The story was titled, "Two Nigerian Journalists Accuse Delta Police Personnel Of Handcuffing, Torturing And Assaulting Them With Gun Butts For Intervening In Extortion Case".

"No fewer than 10 police personnel attached to the Ughelli 'A' Division of the Nigeria police in Delta state on Friday arrested, tortured and handcuffed two journalists who were in the police station to resolve an issue involving a motorcyclist," the story read.

"SaharaReporters gathered that the two journalists were assaulted while the police personnel led by a female Corporal identified as Ebi, boasted that the Inspector General of Police and the state police commissioner cannot sanction them because of their political connections in Abuja.

"The two journalists, Gabriel Oghenekaro Awodeha, Editor of the Periscope Newspapers and Andrew Unutame, Galaxy Television correspondent, are still recovering from wounds sustained during the assault.

"They disclosed that they were hit with gun butts and other strong objects several times and had so far spent N350,000 on treatment and drugs."

3a. "Gunmen abduct Channels TV reporter in Rivers, 'demand N30m ransom'," [TheCable reported](#) on April 12.

"Gunmen have abducted Joshua Rogers, a reporter with Channels TV, in Rivers state," the report read.

"Rogers was abducted on Thursday night near his residence in Rumuosi, Obio/Akpor LGA. The journalist was said to have covered the inauguration of a healthcare facility in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni LGA, as donated to the state government by Peter Odili, former governor of Rivers. He was returning home when he was abducted."

3b. "NUJ seeks immediate release of Channels TV reporter," [Premium Times reported](#) on April 12, an update to TheCable's report.

"The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) has called for the immediate release of the kidnapped Channels TV reporter, Joshua Rogers," the report read.

"Chris Iziguzo, NUJ President, made the call while speaking with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Friday in Abuja.

"Mr Rogers was abducted from his residence in Rumuosi, Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital, on Thursday night.

"He was seized by gunmen around 9:00 p.m. as he returned from an official assignment at the Government House. The criminals intercepted him and forcefully took him away in a Channels Television-branded vehicle."

4. "Two Years After Removal From Watchlist, Veteran Journalist Lanre Arogundade Still Harassed by DSS," [FIJ reported](#) on April 17.

"The International Press Centre (IPC) has called for a stop to the harassment of Lanre Arogundade, its executive director, by Department of State Services (DSS) officers," the report read.

"FIJ understands that Arogundade's name used to be on the DSS watchlist. His name was put on the list between 1984 and 1985, during his days as the President of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS).

"Although the name was removed in 2022, as reported by Vanguard, Arogundade, who is also a veteran journalist, was harassed last Thursday by DSS officials at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Lagos State.

"The journalist was at the airport to board a late-night flight to Germany to attend some conferences when the incident happened.

"According to a statement issued on Tuesday by the IPC, the security officials claimed that the journalist's name was still on their watchlist. It was also stated that a senior DSS official threatened to bar him from travelling unless he produced his old passports."

5. "Zamfara Bans Political Officers, Civil Servants From Granting Radio, TV Interviews," [Channels Television reported](#) on April 19.

"The Zamfara State government has banned all political office holders, and heads of agencies from conducting any interview, issuing statements, or airing programmes on radio, television and social media without seeking permission from the authority.

"The government also warned media organisations based in the state, to desist from conducting or airing any radio or television programme without the approval of the Ministry of Information.

"In a statement, the commissioner of information, Mannir Haidara, said the information ministry was highly committed to observing and monitoring all radio stations for compliance."

6. "Ondo APC Primary: Commissioner allegedly assaults NAN journalist," [NAN reported](#) on April 20.

"The Ondo State Commissioner for Youths and Sports, Mr Saka Yusuf-Ogunleye, on Saturday allegedly assaulted Mr Tayo Ikujuni, an Assistant Editor-in-Chief, News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)," the report read.

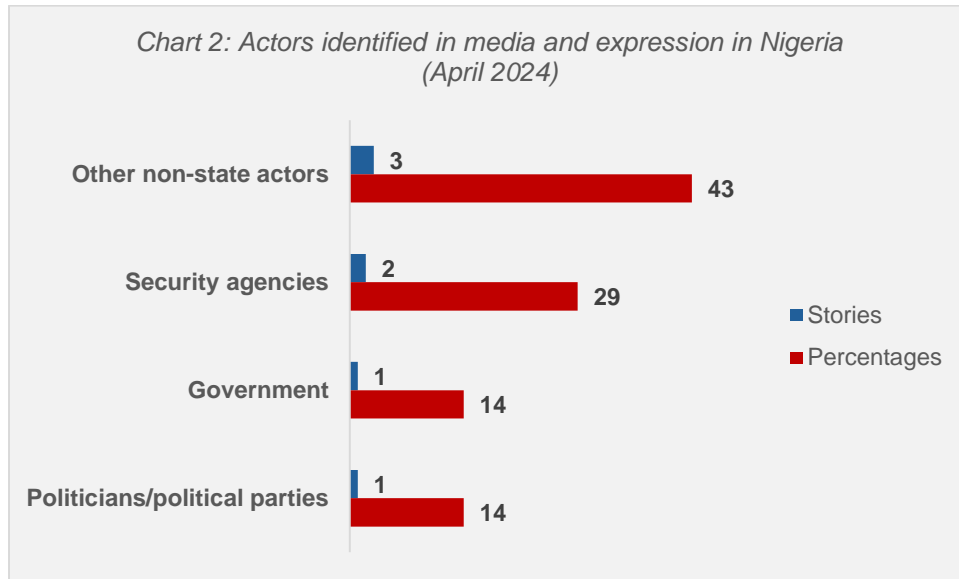
"The assault took place during the conduct of the All Progressives Congress (APC) governorship primary in the state. It happened at Ward 9, Eji-Oba High School, Oba-Ile in Akure North Local Government Area of the state.

“Yusuf-Ogunleye, who confirmed to have harassed Ikujuni and collected his cell phone and threw it away, said ‘the journalist failed to produce his identity card when asked’.

“Recalling the ordeal, Ikujuni said that the commissioner ordered some of his political thugs to seize his Samsung tablet.”

ACTORS

This section concerns the personalities and groups who were prominent in the relevant stories tracked in April 2024.

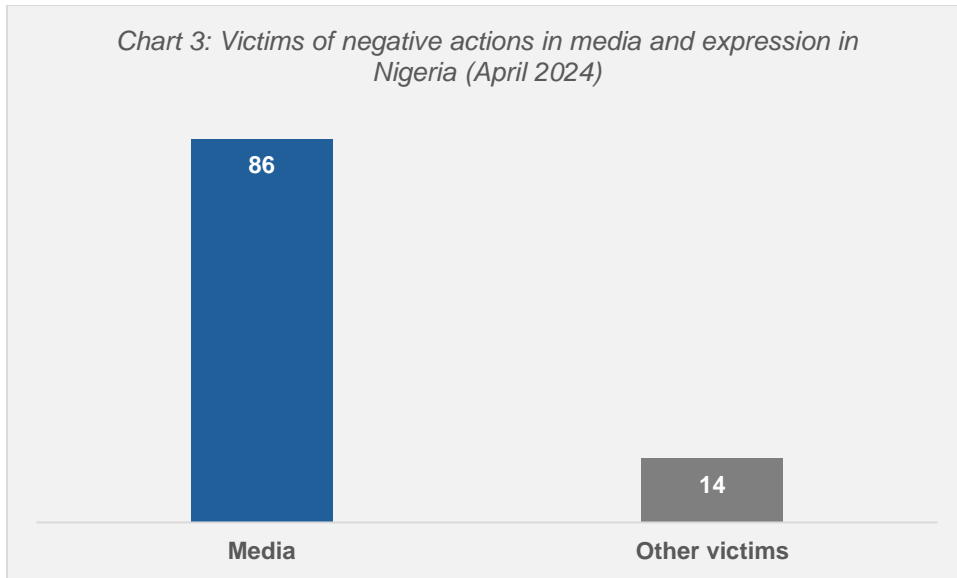


According to Chart 2, non-state actors were featured in three or 43% of seven applicable stories while security agencies were featured in 29% (2 stories) of the reports. Government and politicians/political parties were each featured in one story (14%).

VICTIMS

These were the individuals or groups that suffered harm or loss because 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
- kidnapping/abduction



The media were the biggest victims identified in this section, featuring in, as Chart 3 shows, 86% of seven applicable reports while other victims were featured in one report (14%).

CONCLUSION

MEiN analyses for April 2024 revealed a concerning trend of attacks on the media, with non-state actors emerging as the most frequent perpetrators (43%), followed by security agencies (29%), and government and politicians (each at 14%).

The data showed that the media is the primary victim of these attacks, appearing in 86% of analysed reports, most of which were focused on physical violence. Additionally, the involvement of security agencies and government officials raises concerns about the potential suppression of media freedom.

To end or at least mitigate these threats, the media industry should invest in robust security protocols to protect journalists and infrastructure; collaborate and engage advocacy groups to raise awareness and pressure authorities to investigate attacks and prosecute perpetrators; lobby for stronger legal frameworks to protect journalists and freedoms; and educating the public about the importance of a free press and the dangers of a cowered press.

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