

MEIN

MEDIA AND EXPRESSION IN NIGERIA

VOL. 3, No 7
July 2024

CEMESO

MEDIA AND EXPRESSION IN NIGERIA (MEiN)

Vol. 3, No. 7 • July 2024



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

CR-SEMA - Cross River State Emergency Management Agency

FIJ - Foundation for Investigative Journalism

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.

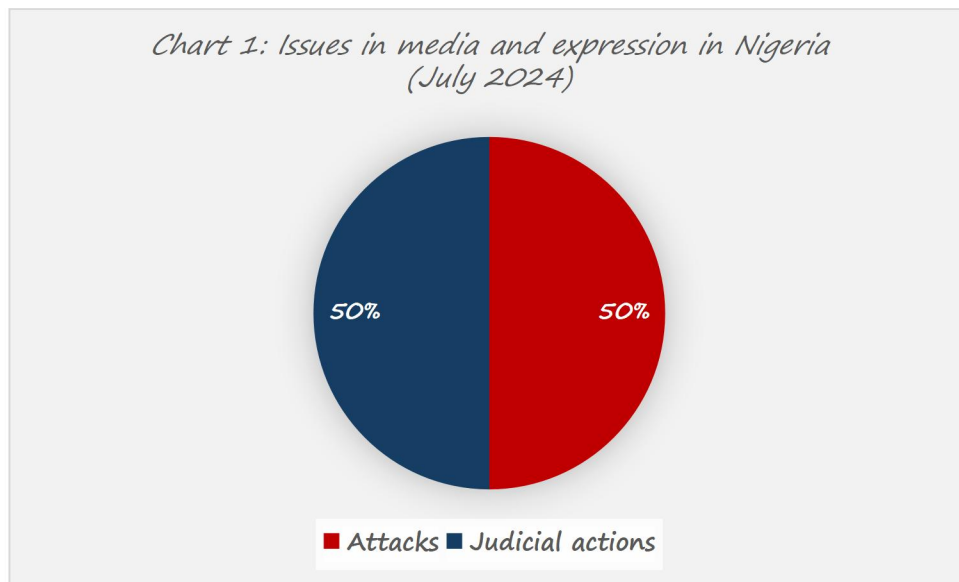
The coding process is done by trained media monitors who follow a coding scheme that defines the categories and sub-categories of each unit of analysis. The coding scheme also specifies the rules and criteria for assigning codes to the data. The coded data is then translated into a spreadsheet for further 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 accounted for two or 50% of the four reports analysed this month.

The stories are:

1. "Just In: Bandits Abduct Two Kaduna Journalists, Their Wives, Children," [ThisDay reported](#) on July 7.

"Two journalists, their wives and two children have been abducted from their homes in Danhonu community in Millennium City area of Kaduna," the report read.

"The bandits said to be in large number were said to have stormed the residences of AbdulGafar Alabelewe of The Nation Newspapers and AbdulRaheem Aodu of Blue Print Newspapers at 10:30pm on Saturday. Taofeeq Olayemi, a relation of Aodu confirmed the incident on Sunday.

"He said Alabelewe who is the Chairman of the Correspondents' Chapel of the Nigeria Union Journalists (NUJ) in Kaduna, was abducted alongside his wife and two children, while Aodu was kidnapped alongside his wife.

"The two journalists are said to be close neighbours. Olayemi said the bandits were shooting sporadically before they abducted the journalists and their families."

2. "Hoodlums attack palliative-laden NUJ bus; journalist, others injured," [Business Day reported](#) on July 30.

"Hoodlums have just attacked a bus, loaded with palliatives, belonging to the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) Cross River State Council," the report read.

"The Pen Professionals, upon receiving information from the Director of Cross River State Emergency Management Agency (CR-SEMA), Rev. James Anam, as beneficiaries of the present phase of distribution, hurriedly moved to the government warehouse and successfully conveyed the food items.

"The palliative-laden vehicle, enroute to the NUJ Secretariat, was attacked, about an hour ago, with hoodlums raining hales of stones on the slowly moving vehicle, carting away food items from the broken windows.

"The bus driver, Joseph Akpaenin, whose phone was stolen and himself left with a battered shoulder from the attack, narrated that their saving grace was when the booth of the bus flung open with several bags of rice and garri dropping off. He said the mob's focus shifted from the bus to the items dropped off, giving enough way for him to scamper to safety."

Judicial actions

Judicial actions were the focus of two stories, representing 50% of the reports.

Here are the stories:

1. On July 8, [Sahara Reporters published an article](#) titled, 'BREAKING: Nigerian Court Discharges, Acquits Journalist Agba Jalingo In Cybercrime Case Filed By Ex-Governor Ayade's In-Law'.

"Justice Joyce Abdulmalik of an Abuja Federal High Court has ruled in favour of Citizen Agba Jalingo, publisher of CrossRiverWatch, dismissing the charges brought against him by Mrs. Elizabeth Alami Ayade," the article read.

"Alami Ayade is the wife of Frank Ayade, the younger brother of a former Governor of Cross River State, Senator Ben Ayade. Mrs. Ayade had filed a petition with the police, leading to Jalingo's arrest and subsequent charges under the Cybercrimes Act.

"The charges stemmed from a Facebook post regarding examination malpractice at the Abuja campus of the Nigerian Law School, which Mrs. Ayade claimed caused her 'ill will' and 'insult'.

2. "Court denies IBD Dende's request to stop Soyombo, FIJ publications about him," [The Punch reported](#) on July 8.

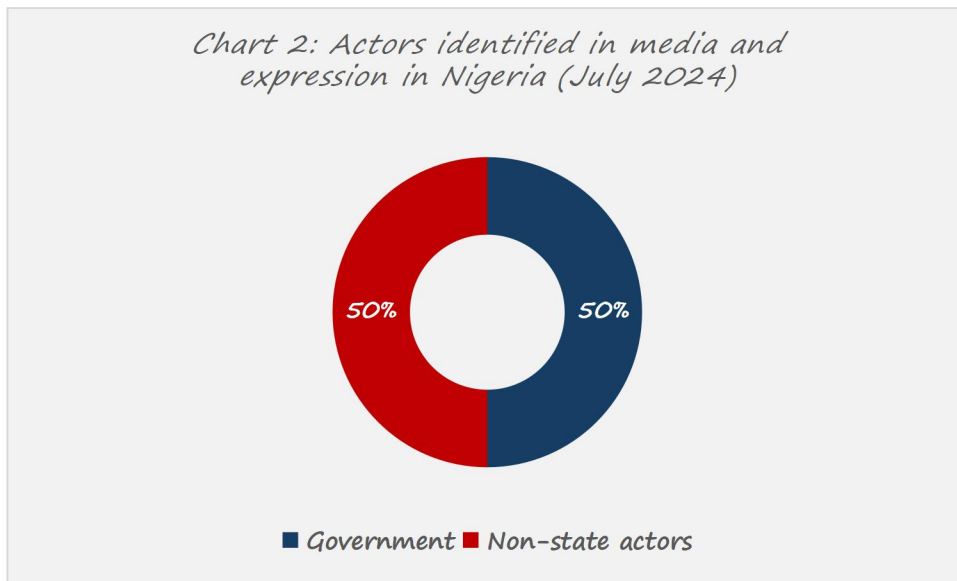
"A Federal High Court sitting in Abuja on Tuesday, denied businessman Ibrahim Dende's request to prevent an investigative journalist, founder of the Foundation for Investigative Journalism, Fisayo Soyombo, from writing further about him," the report read.

"The court declined to hear the application but instead directed the claimant's counsel to put the defendants on notice. Dende filed this request as part of his lawsuit against Soyombo and the FIJ following an undercover investigation that portrayed him as a 'smuggler and gunrunner'.

"A certified true copy of the court's proceedings from May 21 revealed that IBD Dende had previously sought an ex parte order to restrain Soyombo, FIJ and Arise from further defamatory publications before serving court processes on them. The court declined to hear the application and instead instructed the claimant's counsel to notify the defendants."

ACTORS

This section concerns the personalities and groups who were prominent in the relevant stories tracked during the period under review.

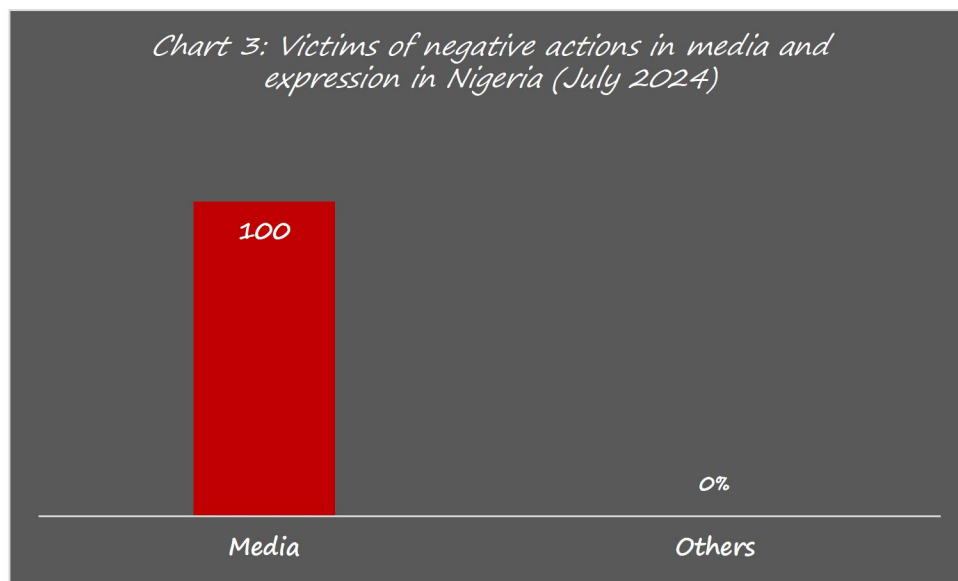


According to Chart 2, Government (50% of 4 stories) and non-state actors (50%) were the actors featured in the analysed reports.

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 victims identified in 100% of two applicable reports.

CONCLUSION

MEiN analyses for July 2024 showed that half of the examined news stories centred on attacks, while the other half focused on judicial proceedings. The four stories featured government and non-state actors, with two incidents involving attacks on the media.

MEiN is published

by

Centre for Media and Society (CEMESO)

3, Emina Crescent, Off Toyin Street,

Ikeja Lagos, Nigeria

Phone: (+234) 913-427-3950

Email: info@cemesong.org; cemeso2004@hotmail.com

Website: www.cemesong.org



CEMESO