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CEMESO

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS 1**

- BACKGROUND..... 1**

- METHODOLOGY 1**

- ISSUES..... 2**

- SOURCES 2**

- **STORIES ON ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS: 2**
 - **STORIES ON JUDICIAL ACTIONS: 4**
 - **STORY ON REGULATION: 6**

- ACTORS..... 6**

- VICTIMS 7**

- CONCLUSION..... 7**

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:

ARCON - Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria

CEMESO - Centre for Media and Society

DSO – Digital Switch Over

FCT - Federal Capital Territory

FIJ - Foundation for Investigative Journalism

FRCN - Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria

MAN - Manufacturers Association of Nigeria

MEiN - Media and Expression in Nigeria

NBC - Nigeria Broadcasting 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:** these are the topics or themes that relate to MEiN during the period in review. The topics include media-related attacks, regulation, legislation, judicial action and other related subjects.
- **Actors:** these are the individuals or groups who are involved in or influence the issues. These actors include the government and its agencies, journalists, and the media in general, political entities and other non-state actors.
- **Victims:** these refer to the individuals or groups who suffer harm or loss because of the issues or actions of the 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 optimised 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 referencing the data sources.

ISSUES

These were the topics that dominated the stories tracked during the period under review.

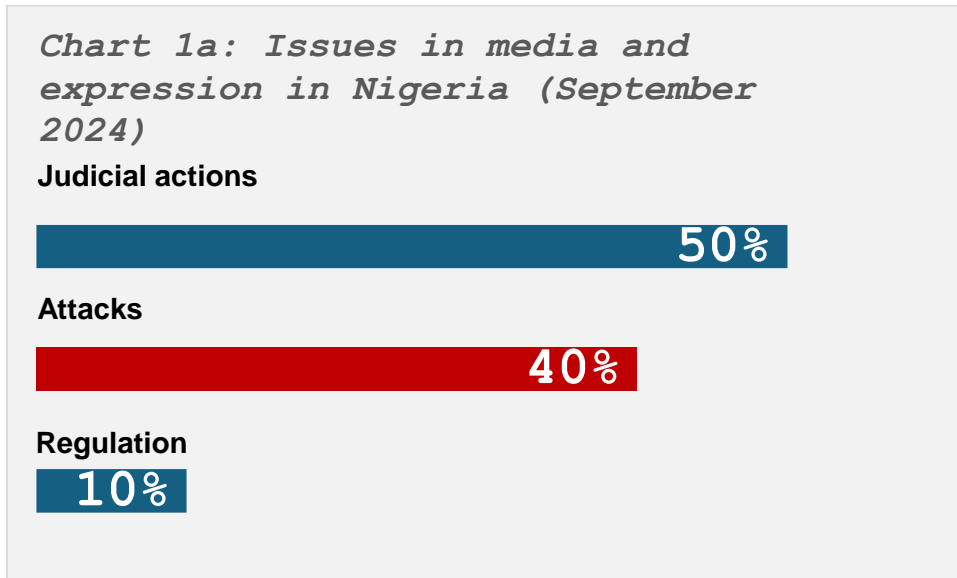


Chart 1a shows that attacks on the media accounted for four or 40% of the 10 reports analysed in September 2024. The chart also shows that half (50%; 5 reports) of the stories were focused on judicial actions while 10% (1 report) were focused on regulation.

SOURCES

- [Stories on attacks on journalists:](#)

1. **“Police declare investigative journalist David Hundeyin wanted,”** [Politics Nigeria reported on September 3.](#)

“The Nigerian Police Force has declared David Hundeyin, the Editor-in-Chief of West Africa Weekly, wanted in connection with the ongoing prosecution of Isaac Bristol, who is accused of operating the prominent anonymous whistleblower account PIDOM Nigeria,” the report read.

“The announcement, made on Tuesday by Force Public Relations Officer ACP Olumuyiwa Adejobi, comes as Bristol faces charges of money laundering, cybercrime, and unlawfully disseminating classified documents.

“Bristol, arraigned at the Federal High Court in Abuja, has been remanded at Kuje Correctional Centre. The police have now named Hundeyin and Michael Temidayo Alade as alleged accomplices in the case.

"Hundeyin, known for his award-winning investigative journalism exposing corruption and human rights abuses, is currently in exile to avoid persecution by Nigerian authorities."

2. "Alleged Incompetence: Osun Lawmaker Drags Journalist, Critics To Police," [Osun Defender reported](#) on September 5.

"The lawmaker representing Oriade State Constituency in the Osun State House of Assembly, Hon. Kanmi Ajibola, has petitioned the police, accusing three individuals of criminal defamation," the report said.

"Osun Defender gathered that the lawmaker Ajibola on September 5, 2024, filed a complaint against a journalist, Sodiq Lawal and two other – Tunde Omole, and Ogunsanya Olasunkanmi.

"Reacting to the petition, Lawal, who is an online editor at Within Nigeria, noted that Ajibola's action was as a result of the criticism of the lawmaker by a group known as Oris Solidarity Forum from Oriade Local Government, over his alleged underperformance."

3. "NUJ condemns Ogun journalist's arrest, demands his immediate release," [The Punch reported](#) on September 26.

"The Ogun State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists has condemned the arrest of one of its members, Seun Odunlami, by operatives of the Nigeria Police from Lagos state police command," the report said.

"The union disclosed this in a statement signed by its Secretary, Bunmi Adigun and made available to journalists on Thursday describing the arrest as 'shocking and unlawful'."

"The NUJ said that the Gestapo manner in which Odunlami was picked up on Wednesday by plain-clothed officers very close to the Secretariat of the union is sadly reminiscent of the better-forgotten-military era when journalists were hounded into detention at any slight provocation albeit unfounded allegations. Odunlami said to be the publisher of Newsjaunts Online was reportedly arrested on Wednesday by operatives of the Lagos State Police Command."

4. "NUJ fumes over police abduction of journalist Rowland Olonishuwa from Kwara to Lagos," [PM News reported](#) on September 26.

"The Kwara Council of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) has condemned the mode of arrest of one of its members, Mr Rowland Olonishuwa by detectives of the Police Special Fraud Unit from Lagos," the report read.

“Olonishuwa was allegedly arrested over a recent story published by some online news platforms.”

- **Stories on judicial actions:**

1. **“Court grants bail to journalist who shared content critical of Kano governor, emir,” [Premium Times reported on September 3.](#)**

“A journalist remanded in prison for sharing media content deemed critical of Kano State Governor Abba Yusuf and the reinstated emir, Lamido Sanusi, has been released on bail,” the report read.

“Muktar Dahiru, a staffer of Radio Nigeria, Pyramid FM Kano, was arrested by the police and remanded in a correctional facility on Thursday.

“Mr Dahiru was secretly charged before Magistrate Court 24 at Gyadi Gyadi, Court Road, with criminal conspiracy, defamation of character, and intentional insult. The government said the alleged offences contravene sections 97,391 and 115 of the Penal Code Law.

“The magistrate, Ummah Kurawa, on Tuesday granted Mr Dahiru a N1 million bail and banned him from posting content on social media that may be deemed offensive to the officials of the state government. Other bail conditions include the provision of three sureties, one of whom must be the chairperson of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Mr Dahiru’s wife, and a reputable individual endorsed by the Kano Hisbah Board.

“The court adjourned the sitting to 2 October.”

2. **“Court Orders Kano Journalist’s Rearrest for ‘Breaching Bail Condition’,” [FJI reported on September 23.](#)**

“Muktar Dahiru, a broadcast journalist with Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN)’s Pyramid FM, Kano State, has been detained again for failing to fulfil his bail condition,” the report read.

“The insider who spoke with FJI on September 3 said that Umma Kurawa, the magistrate who presided over the case, ordered Dahiru’s re-arrest and remand at a correctional centre within the state. He added that Dahiru had breached one of his bail conditions by posting content related to the case on his Facebook page after being instructed not to do so.”

3. **“Bauchi Court Issues Bench Warrant Against WikkiTimes’ Publisher,” [WikkiTimes reported on September 4.](#)**

"A Magistrate Court in Bauchi has issued a bench warrant against WikkiTimes' publisher, Haruna Mohammed Salisu," the report read.

"WikkiTimes has, in an investigative report, exposed how Mansur Manu Soro, a member representing Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency in the Green Chamber, diverted hundreds of millions in what appears to be fraudulently contracts through his associate in Bauchi State.

"Mr Soro who initially vowed not to take any legal action against the publication backtracked. He uses his ally, Abubakar Abdullahi who is a director of Sahel Global Desert Energy Limited, to sue WikkiTimes over the publication.

"Joined in the lawsuit are Yawale Adamu (the reporter), and Haruna Salisu Mohammed, the publisher. The court issued the warrant due to Salisu's inability to personally appear before it."

4. "DSO: Court Bars NBC From Interfering On Nigeria's Transition From Analogue To Digital," [The Independent reported](#) on September 11.

"A High Court of the Federal Capital Territory presided over by Honourable Justice Mustapha Adamu, has barred all parties from interfering with Nigeria's transition from analogue to digital television," the report read.

"The court ruled on the Motion Ex Parte in suit NO FCT/HC/CV/442/2024 between the Nigeria Broadcasting Commission (NBC), 1OR, and the Set-Top Box Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN)."

"This ruling on the motion for an interim injunction prohibits the Nigeria Broadcasting Commission (NBC) from interfering with or terminating the contract relating to Nigeria's transition from analogue to digital terrestrial television while the court hears a motion on notice."

5. "Court Grants Whistleblower PIDOM N5m Bail," [ThisAge reported](#) on September 27.

"The Federal High Court, Abuja, has granted a N5 million bail to Whistleblower, Isaac Bristol Tamunobifiri, also known as PIDOM," the report read.

"Justice Emeka Nwite had on 3rd September, remanded PIDOM in the Kuje Correctional Centre after he pleaded not guilty to a nine-count charge brought against him by the Inspector General of Police.

"The court had on Monday, September 23, adjourned until Friday, ruling on his bail application filed by his counsel, Deji Adeyanju.

“Ruling on the bail application on Friday, Justice Nwite admitted PIDOM to a N5 million bail with one surety in like sum, who must be resident in Abuja and depose an affidavit of means. The surety must also provide evidence of three years of tax clearance with two passport photographs. In addition, PIDOM must deposit his International Passport with the court.”

- **Story on regulation:**

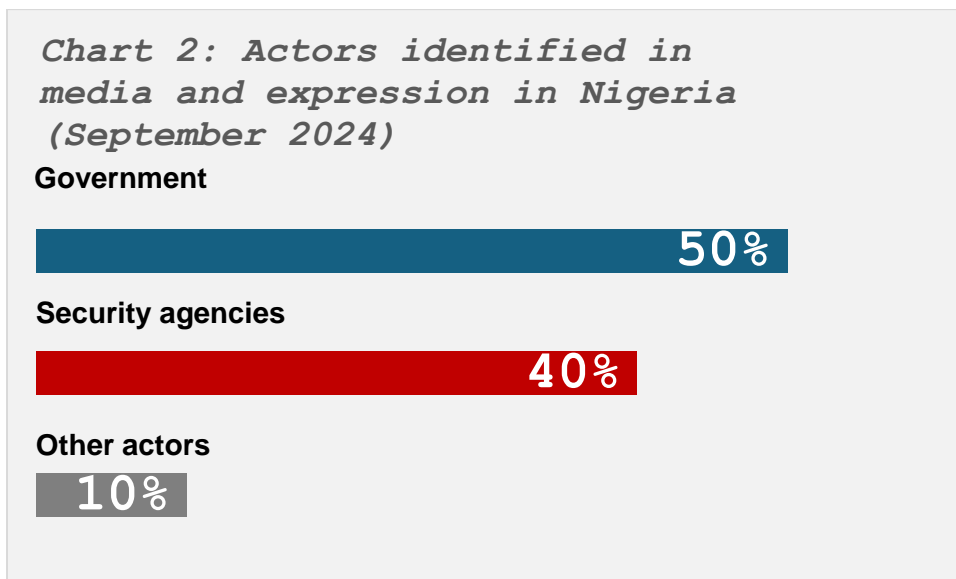
1. **“Govt Regulator Blocks Advert From Airing Because It Contains the Phrase ‘Holding Govt Accountable’,” [FIJ reported](#) on September 2.**

“The Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria (ARCON) refused to grant Tracka, a civil society organisation that tracks government projects, approval to air its jingle on radio stations because it included the phrase, ‘holding the government accountable’,” the report read.

“According to ARCON, the phrase contravened Article 22 of the Nigerian Code of Advertising.”

ACTORS

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

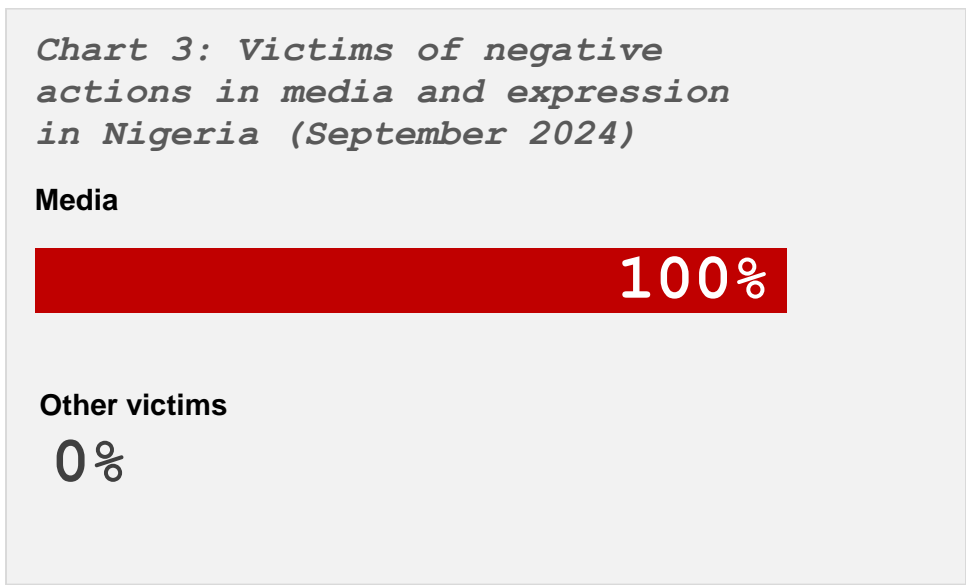


According to Chart 2, the government were the most featured actors, appearing in five or 50% of 10 reports. Security agencies were featured in 40% (4 stories) of the reports while other actors were featured in one (10%).

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 forms of ‘negative actions’:

- arrests
- threats
- detention
- censorship
- assault
- kidnapping/abduction



The media, Chart 3 shows, were the victims identified in 100% of four applicable reports.

CONCLUSION

An analysis of the reports tracked during the period under review indicated that attacks on the media constituted 40% of the stories, highlighting a concerning trend in media safety and freedom. Additionally, judicial actions were the primary focus of half of the reports, while regulatory issues were addressed in one.

The government and its agencies were the most prominent actors, appearing in half of the stories. Security agencies were also notably featured, present in 40% of the reports, with their involvement responsible for the attacks recorded against the media who were the only victims identified in the stories.

The data underscores the critical need for protective measures and policies to safeguard media personnel and uphold journalistic integrity in the face of increasing threats.

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