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CEMESO

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS 1

BACKGROUND..... 1

METHODOLOGY 1

ISSUES..... 2

SOURCES 4

- **STORIES ON ATTACKS ON JOURNALISTS: 4**
- **STORY ON JUDICIAL ACTION: 7**

ACTORS..... 7

VICTIMS 8

CONCLUSION..... 8

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:

AIT - Africa Independent Television

CEMESO - Centre for Media and Society

DSS - Department of State Services

EFCC- Economic and Financial Crimes Commission

FIJ - Foundation for Investigative Journalism

IPI - International Press Institute

MEiN - Media and Expression in Nigeria

NASS - National Assembly

NTA - Nigerian Television Authority

PSFU - Police Special Fraud Unit

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.

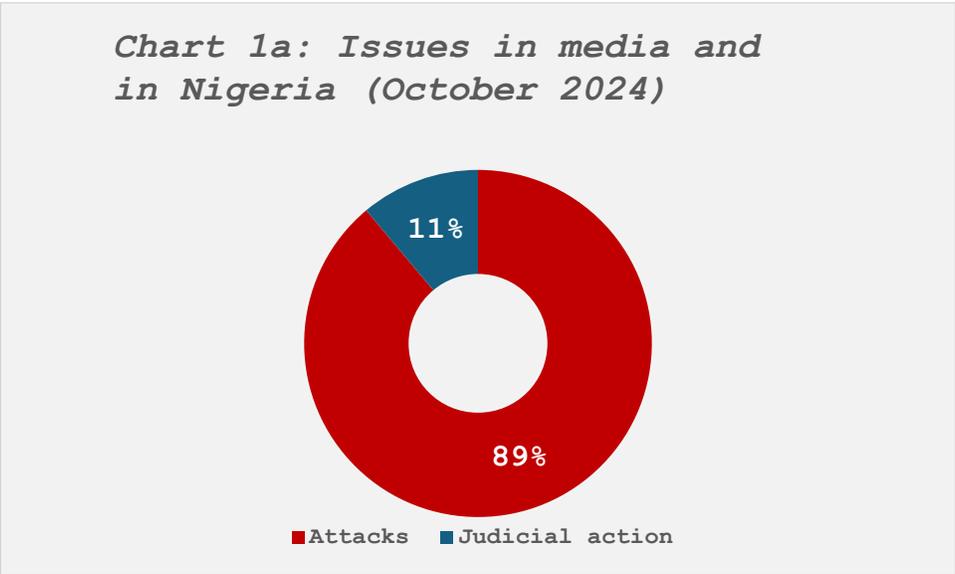


Chart 1a shows that attacks on the media accounted for eight or 89% of the nine reports analysed in October 2024. The chart also shows that 11% (1 story) of the reports were focused on judicial action.

Table 1: Nature of attacks on the media

| Nature of attacks on media | Cases |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Arrest | 5 |
| Assault | 6 |
| Denial of access | 14 |
| <i>Total</i> | 25 |

Table 1 shows that no less than 25 journalists were attacked during the period in review. Five (20%) of these attacks involved arrests while six (24%) of the attacks were physical, with at least one resulting in a death. Fourteen (56%) of the attacks involved the denial of access.

Chart 1b below illustrates the percentage distribution of the attacks.

Chart 1b: Nature of attacks on the media (October 2024)

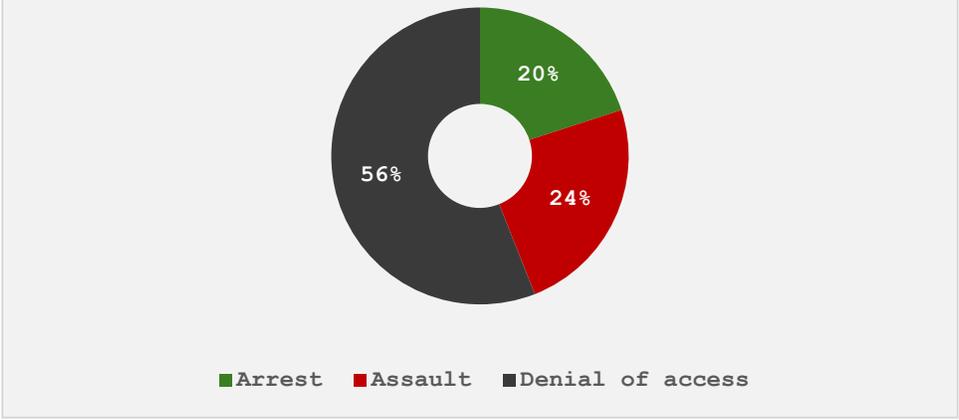


Figure 1 shows the geographical distribution of the MEiN issues analysed during the period under review. Attacks on the media were reported in Abuja, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Enugu, Kano, Lagos, Ogun and Rivers while judicial action was reported in Imo state.

SOURCES

- **Stories on attacks on journalists:**

1. “Thugs take over #FearlessInOctober protest in Port Harcourt, beat up journalists,” [Ripples Nigeria](#) reported on October 1.

“Thugs and hoodlums have reportedly taken over the #FearlessInOctober protest in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, attacking and beating up journalists for daring to film them,” the report read.

“The thugs, wielding canes and other weapons, took over the protest ground in front of the Federal Secretariat and forcefully chased away the protesters. They also reportedly beat up some journalists who had the effrontery to film their attack.”

2. “Police Fraud Unit arrests four journalists over alleged cyberstalking, attempted extortion of GTB,” [The Eagle Online](#) reported on October 2.

The police, according to the report, said that “the arrest of the bloggers followed a discrete investigation into a petition addressed to the Commissioner of Police, Police Special Fraud Unit (PSFU) by Country Hill Attorneys and Solicitors, representing Guaranty Trust Bank Plc (GTBank).”

3. “Nigerian journalist feared dead, others abducted ahead of AFCON Qualifier,” [Premium Times](#) reported on October 10.

“A Nigerian journalist has reportedly been killed, and several others abducted while travelling to cover the highly anticipated Africa Cup of Nations qualifying match between Nigeria’s Super Eagles and Libya’s Mediterranean Knights,” the report read.

“According to respected football journalist and former Super Eagles Media Officer, Colin Udoh, who broke the news on his X page, the slain journalist was a former SuperSport colleague and part of the production crew for the match.

“The crew was kidnapped on Wednesday while en route to Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, where the match is scheduled to take place. Mr Udoh revealed that the team had taken a shortcut through a notorious hotspot to save fuel, unfortunately falling prey to kidnappers. Some crew members have been freed, but at least two remain unaccounted for.”

4. On October 13, [Sahara Reporters](#) published the following report, “Hoodlums Attack, Injure Journalists In Bayelsa”.

“Some journalists in Bayelsa State on Sunday sustained injuries as some hired thugs attacked the venue of a press briefing organised by the Sagbama Local Government

chapter of the All Progressives Congress in Yenagoa, the state capital," the report read.

"Chairman of the Federated Correspondents' Chapel of the Nigerian Union of Journalists, Bayelsa State Council, Mr Tife Owolabi, was among the journalists injured as the thugs destroyed chairs and hit those present with rods. Owolabi sustained injuries on his forehead and left hand while Jacobson Park of People's FM 93.1 left with a swollen hand after he was hit with a flagpole."

"Everyone scampered in search of safety and the press briefing was temporarily halted until some security personnel including Operation Doo Akpo, the state security outfit, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and the Nigerian police, arrived at Da Crib Hotel, venue of the event."

5. [Sahara Reporters published another story on October 15](#), titled, "Anti-Graft Agency EFCC Confirms Raid On Enugu Radio Station, Says It Arrested Staff Involved In Ponzi Fraud".

"The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has clarified the raid on Urban 94.5FM, a popular radio station in Enugu State," the story read.

"The anti-graft agency invaded the station on Monday evening during a live broadcast, allegedly seized some equipment worth millions of naira and arrested some staff including a presenter."

"According to Oyewale, the EFCC's Enugu Zonal Command only went to the station to arrest a journalist involved in a Ponzi fraud scheme after refusing to honour an invitation by the commission."

6. "Family panics as kidnappers abduct Ogun journalist," [The Punch reported on October 17](#).

"The family of a journalist and human rights activist, Oluwatosin Oshibanjo, is in a panic mood after some yet-to-be-identified persons reportedly kidnapped him in his Ijebu-Ode home in Ogun State on Tuesday," the report read.

"PUNCH Metro gathered from the mother of Oluwatosin, Tokunbo Bakre, on Wednesday, that the abduction came after Tosin had intervened in a human rights violation case involving a lady and a pastor.

"Bakre told our correspondent in a telephone conversation on Wednesday that the said lady had accused the pastor of allegedly impregnating her and forcing her to carry out abortion several times and she had refused the last attempt to coerce her into it.

“The lady was said to have delivered a baby which she claimed the pastor was responsible for but the pastor reportedly denied responsibility. Bakre narrated further that Tosin had published the alleged dispute between the lady and the said pastor and made efforts to get the pastor to react to the issue.”

7. “DSS Abduct OrderPaper Staff Edna Ulaeto After Senate Invasion Report,” [FIJ reported](#) on October 19.

“The Department of State Services (DSS) has abducted Edna Ulaeto, a staff member of OrderPaper, a platform dedicated to writing reports about Nigeria’s legislative chambers,” the report read.

“Via a statement issued on Friday night, OrderPaper said Ulaeto was in her nightwear when operatives of the secret police stormed her house, ‘manhandled and whisked [her] away’. They said they suspected the action was connected to an erroneous Wednesday report titled ‘DSS takes over NASS amid impeachment speculations’.

[Premium Times also reported](#) the female journalist was detained even after her organisation retracted the story and issued a public apology. She was, however, released following an intervention by the International Press Institute (IPI).

8. “Kano bans AIT, NTA, other journalists from covering activities,” [The Punch reported](#) on October 22.

“Kano State Government on Tuesday announced the withdrawal of accreditation to 14 journalists assigned to cover its activities from their organisations,” the report read.

“In a message forwarded to the affected reporters on Monday, Sanusi Bature Dawakin-Tofa, the spokesperson for Governor Abba Yusuf, directed the journalists to return to their respective organisations for replacements.

“Although no official reason was provided for the decision, Dawakin-Tofa’s message on the Government House press crew’s WhatsApp group referenced recent developments.

“He wrote, ‘Gentlemen of the press. Permit me to thank all of you for a job well done in the last one year and a few months. Unfortunately, while I was away in the Republic of Serbia last week, some undisclosed issues happened, and the leadership needed to take a decision at this critical time.’”

- **Story on judicial action:**

On October 23, [Sahara Reporters published a story](#) titled, “Nigerian Magistrates’ Court Remands Journalist NonsoNkwa In Imo Prison Over Cyberstalking, Incitement Allegations”.

“The Magistrates’ Court in Owerri, the Imo state capital, on Wednesday, denied a popular broadcast journalist, Chinonso Uba, popularly known as NonsoNkwa, bail and remanded him at the Owerri Correctional Centre,” the report read.

“Uba was arraigned before the Chief Magistrate, His Worship Adikaibe, on five counts preferred against him by N.S. Onwochie, Legal Prosecution Officer, Owerri, Imo State on behalf of the state police commissioner. The five counts include conspiracy, treason and arson.”

ACTORS

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

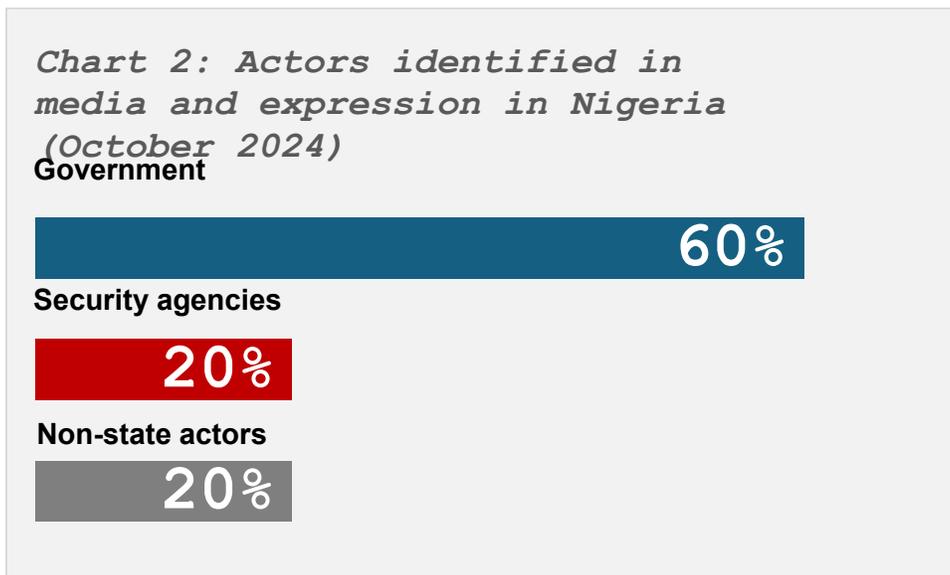


Chart 2 shows that government were the most featured actors, accounting for 60% (15 in 25 cases) of the issues. Security agencies and non-state actors each comprised 20% (5 cases) of the actors.

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



Chart 3 shows that all the victims identified in the reports work in the media.

CONCLUSION

In October 2024, attacks on the media accounted for 89% of the nine reports analysed, with just one report (11%) addressing judicial actions. At least 25 journalists were targeted in these incidents. Among these attacks, five (20%) resulted in arrests, while six (24%) were physical assaults, at least one of which led to a fatality. Additionally, 14 (56%) of the attacks involved the revocation of media access.

Media attacks occurred in Nigeria’s capital Abuja, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Enugu, Kano, Lagos, Ogun and Rivers while judicial action was reported in Imo state. Government (60%) were the most common perpetrators of the attacks and were followed by security agencies and non-state actors at 20% each. All identified victims were media professionals.

The high percentage of attacks on the media indicates a concerning trend regarding press freedom and the safety of journalists in the country, highlighting a high involvement of state actors in the attacks. The safety of journalists, particularly in regions with high levels of violence against media personnel, must be prioritised to ensure that they can perform their duties without fear.

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