

# **MEIN**

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**CEMESO**

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

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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:

ARCON - Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria

CEMESO - Centre for Media and Society

FIJ - Foundation for Investigative Journalism

MEiN - Media and Expression in Nigeria

MRA – Media Rights Agenda

NBC - National Broadcasting Commission

NBMOA - Northern Broadcast Media Owners Association

## 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: Issues in media and expression in Nigeria (November 2024)*

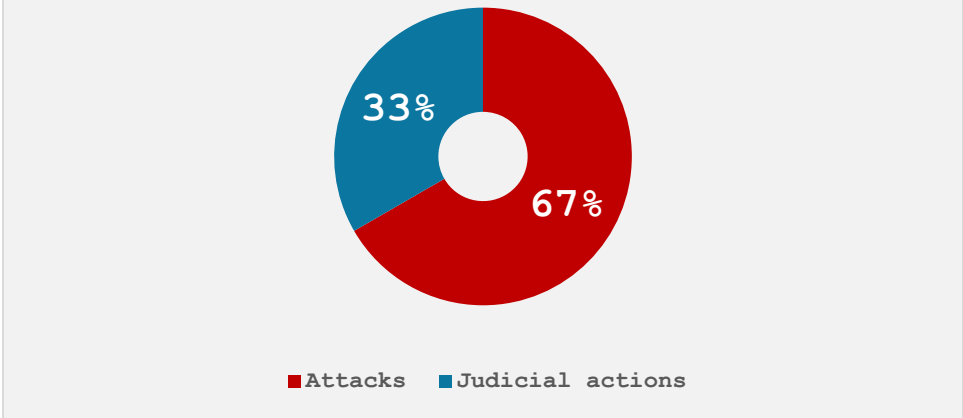


Chart 1a shows that 67% (4 in 6 stories) of the reports analysed in November 2024 involved attacks on the media while 33% (2 stories) of the reports involved judicial actions.

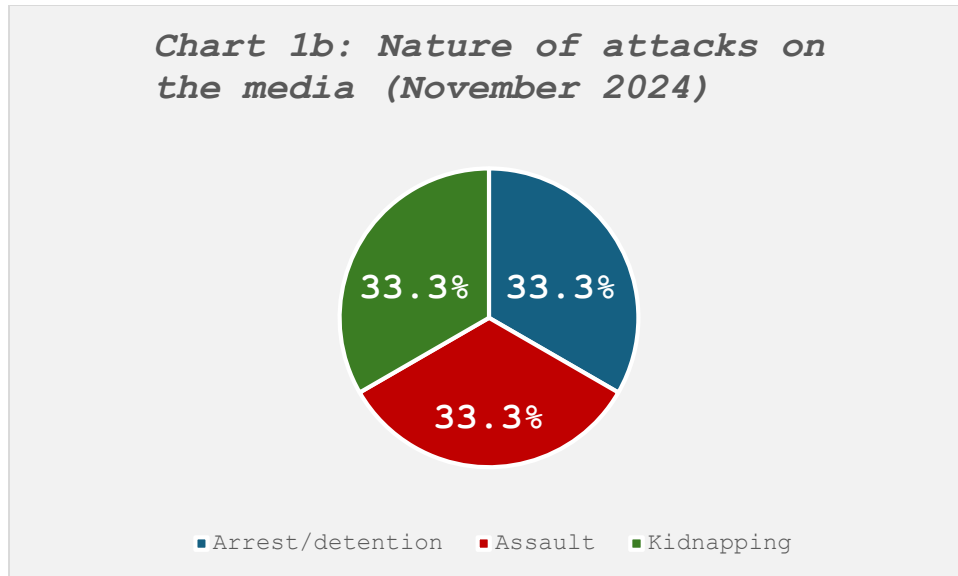
*Table 1: Nature of attacks on the media*

| Nature of attacks on media | Cases    |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Arrest/detention           | 1        |
| Assault                    | 1        |
| Kidnapping                 | 1        |
| <i>Total</i>               | <b>3</b> |

Table 1 indicates that at least three journalists faced attacks during the reviewed period, which included an arrest, an assault and a kidnapping. The assault and kidnapping involved two female journalists. Additionally, there was an incident where several journalists were laid off.

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

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



## SOURCES

- **Stories on attacks on journalists:**

1. **“Ex-commissioner allegedly beat up journalist over land,” [Osun Defender reported](#) on November 2.**

“Alhaji Tajudeen Olamide Arowolo, a former two-time Commissioner in Ekiti State, has been accused of violently assaulting female journalist Elizabeth Bamidele over a land dispute,” the story read.

“The altercation reportedly took place in Ado Ekiti on October 30, 2024, when Arowolo, accompanied by alleged land grabbers, confronted Bamidele about a parcel of land she owns.

“While narrating her ordeal at the Nigeria Union of Journalists Press Centre in Ado Ekiti on Thursday, Bamidele, who reported the incident to the police, stated that Arowolo and his associates attacked her for preventing them from trespassing on her property, where she has lived since completing her house in 2020.”

2. **“Edo: Gov Okpebholo sacks Observer Newspaper’s workers,” [Daily Post reported](#) on November 19.**

“Edo State Governor Monday Okpebholo has sacked staff of the Bendel Newspapers Corporation Limited, BNCL, the publishers of the state-owned Nigerian Observer,” the report read.

"The staff were employed by the immediate past governor of the state Godwin Obaseki while reorganising the state-owned media parastatals for efficient productivity and wide-ranged dissemination of information to members of the public."

**3. "Abuja journalist abducted, freed," [Blueprint reported](#) on November 24.**

"Ojochenemi Onje, a BusinessDay defence correspondent, was on Friday abducted," the report said.

"She was abducted by kidnappers commonly called "one chance operators" on her way from office in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Meanwhile, she has regained her freedom from the kidnappers. The female journalist's freedom was confirmed on Saturday morning by some of her colleagues."

**4. On November 29, [Sahara Reporters published a story](#) titled, "Nigerian Army detains investigative journalist Fisayo Soyombo for three days in Port Harcourt".**

"Investigative journalist, Fisayo Soyombo, has reportedly been arrested and detained by the 6 Division of the Nigerian Army in Port Harcourt, Rivers State," the report said.

"The arrest, which took place three days ago, was confirmed by the Foundation For Investigative Journalism (FIJ) on its official page on Friday morning."

- **[Stories on judicial actions:](#)**

**1. On November 2, [Sahara Reporters published the following story:](#) "Media Rights Agenda Asks Nigerian Government To Comply With Court Order For Journalists' Protection, Justice".**

"The Media Rights Agenda (MRA) has urged the Nigerian government to comply with a landmark judgment from February 16, 2024, issued by the Federal High Court in Abuja, which mandates measures to safeguard journalists," the report read.

"The ruling by Justice Inyang Ekwo requires the government to prevent assaults on journalists, and to investigate, prosecute, and punish those responsible for attacks against media practitioners."

**2. "Abuja Court Set To Commence Suit Against Alleged 'Illegal Operations' Of Arewa 24," [Independent reported](#) on November 24.**

"The Federal High Court Abuja, will this Friday, 29th November, 2024, commence the legal suit instituted against Arewa 24 Ltd, by the Northern Broadcast Media Owners Association (NBMOA), for its alleged illegal operations," the report read.



“Other defendants that were joined in the suit are the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation, Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria, (ARCON), Federal Protection and Consumer Protection Council, MultiChoice Nigeria, StarTimes Nigeria among others.

“The Suit that was recently instituted by NBMOA, against Arewa 24 and the seven others was for what the group said was for alleged ‘unlawful operations, monopolistic practices, and cultural exploitation’.”

## ACTORS

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

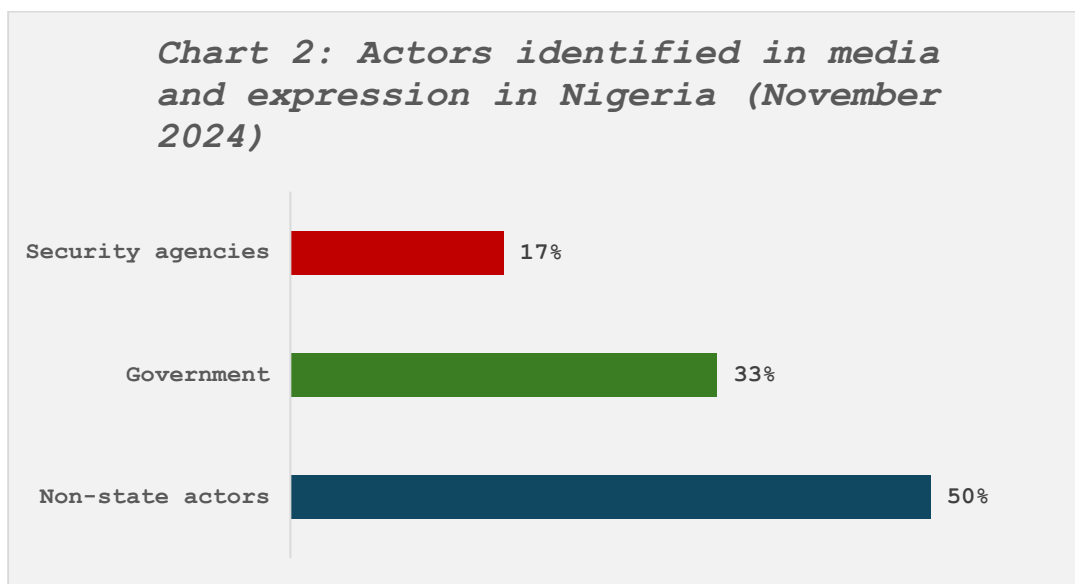


Chart 2 shows that non-state actors were the most featured actors, accounting for half (3 in 6 cases) of the issues analysed during the period in review, with government and security agencies representing 33% (2 cases) and 17% (1 case) of the actors respectively.

*Table 2: Nature of attacks, actors and victims*

| Nature of attacks on media | Cases | Actors          | Victims    | Gender of victim |
|----------------------------|-------|-----------------|------------|------------------|
| Arrest/detention           | 1     | Security agency | Journalist | Male             |
| Assault                    | 1     | Non-state actor | Journalist | Female           |
| Kidnapping                 | 1     | Non-state actor | Journalist | Female           |

Table 2 shows the nature of attacks carried out against journalists and the actors involved in the attacks. It also shows the gender of the victims.

## 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

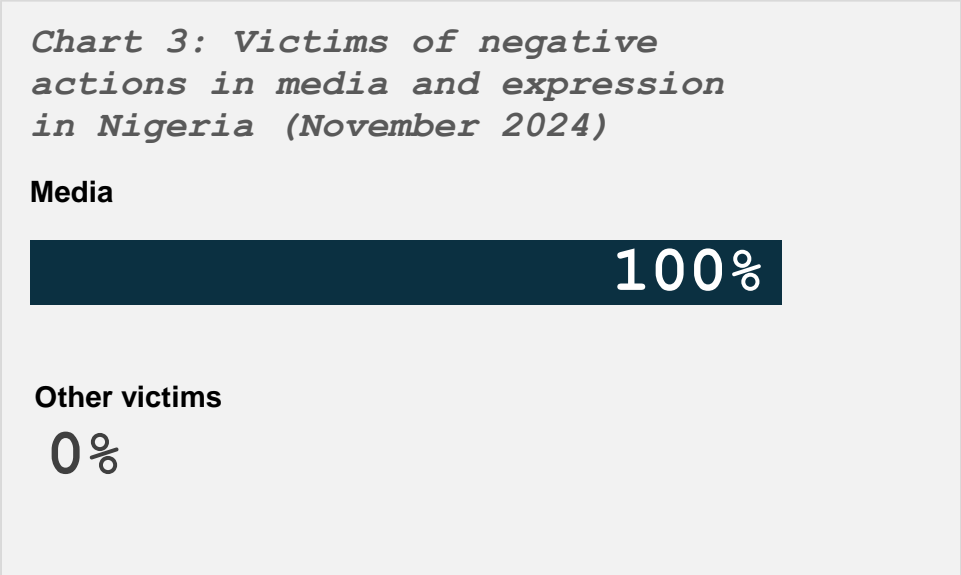


Chart 3 shows that all the victims identified in the reports work in the media.

## CONCLUSION

In November 2024, most (67%) of the analysed stories involved attacks on the media, while 33% focused on judicial actions. Three journalists were victims of these attacks, which included an arrest, an assault and a kidnapping, with two female journalists specifically targeted in the assault and kidnapping incidents. The period also saw layoffs affecting several journalists.

Non-state actors were the most prominent, accounting for 50% of the cases analysed. Government and security agencies were involved in 33% and 17% of the incidents, respectively. All identified victims in the reports were media professionals, underscoring the vulnerability of journalists in the current environment.

**MEiN** is published

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