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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

OMPAN- Online Media Practitioners Association of Nigeria

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.

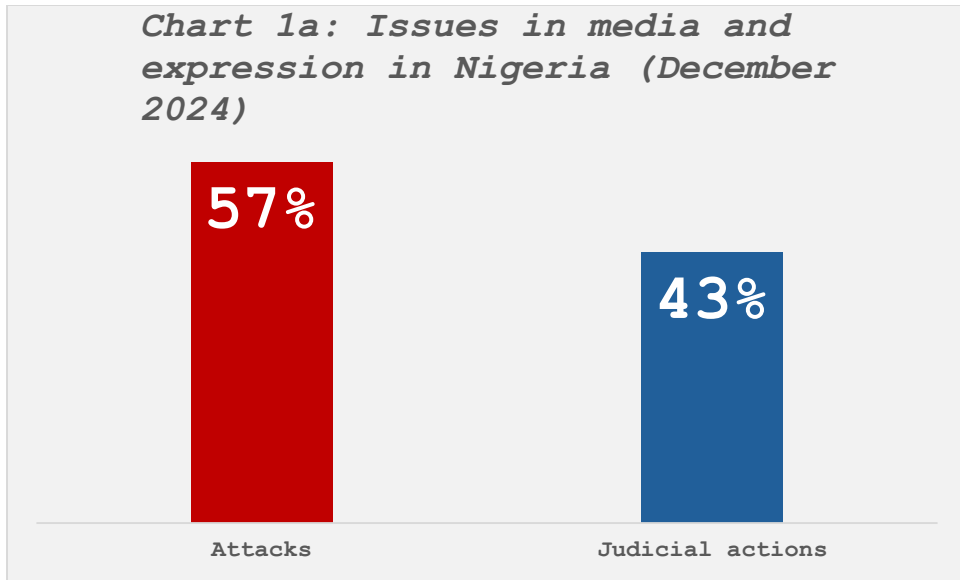
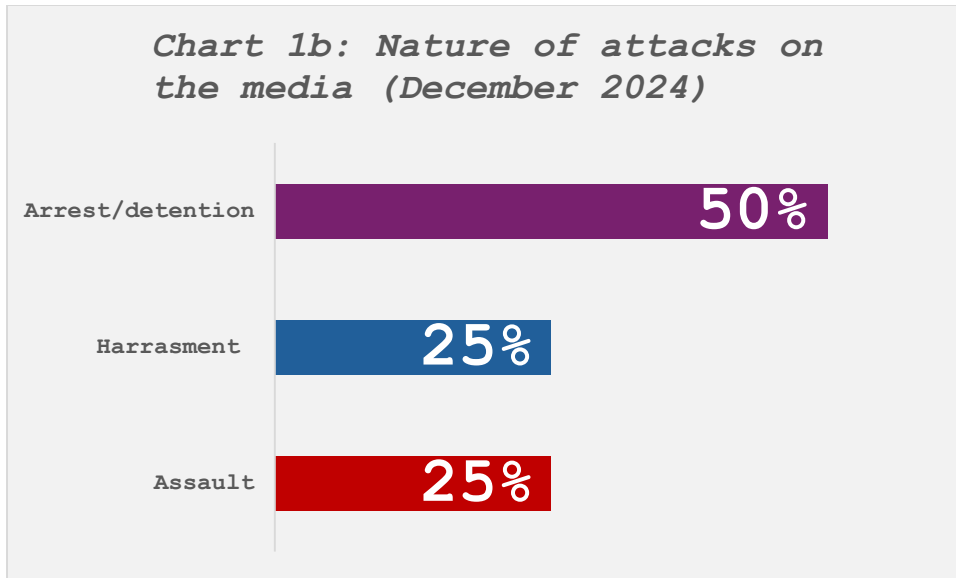


Chart 1a shows that 57% (4 in 7 stories) of the reports analysed in December 2024 involved attacks on the media and other victims while 43% (3 stories) of the reports involved judicial actions.

Table 1: Nature of attacks on the media

Nature of attacks	Cases	Actors	Victims
Arrest/detention	2	Security agency	Activist, journalist
Harassment	1	Security agency	Journalist
Assault	1	Security agency	Journalist

Table 1 shows that at least four cases of attacks against the media and other victims were identified during the period under review. Two (50%) of these cases involved arrest/detention while two (25% each) others involved harassment and assault.



SOURCES

- **Stories on attacks:**

1. **“Police Arrest Dele Farotimi in Lagos Without Notification to State Authorities,” [Arise TV reported on December 4.](#)**

“Renowned activist and lawyer, Dele Farotimi, was on Tuesday arrested in Lagos by operatives of the Ekiti State Police Command without prior notification to the Lagos State Police Command or Zone 2 Command,” the report read.

“Sources revealed that the Ekiti State officers stormed Lagos and picked up Farotimi a ‘gestapo-style,’ leaving both the Lagos State Command and Zone 2 Command in the dark until the incident went public.

“The arrest was carried out without logging or booking the case in Lagos or informing relevant authorities in the state, as required by law. Instead, Farotimi was immediately transported by road to Ekiti State.

Farotimi was, **according to [FIJ](#)**, arrested for publishing allegedly defamatory claims against legal expert Afe Babalola in ‘Nigeria and Its Criminal Justice System’ — a book Farotimi published in July 2024.

2. **“How Bago ordered arrest of journalist who reported bandit attack on governor’s convoy,” [Daily Nigerian reported on December 5.](#)**

“Mustapha Bina, a Niger-based journalist working with People’s Daily Newspaper, has run into trouble, following his report on an alleged bandit attack on the motorcade of

Governor Umaru Bago during his project inspection tour to Mashegu Local Government Area of the state,” the report said.

“After the report was aired on the Minna-based radio station, Prestige FM, where Mr Bina freelances, the operatives of the State Security Service, SSS, arrested and detained the reporter allegedly on the orders of the governor.”

3. “Alleged defamation: Drama in Umuahia as police attempt to whisk journalist to Abuja,” [Daily Post reported on December 10.](#)

“A journalist and former Deputy local government chairman of Bende LGA, Promise Uzoma Okoro has escaped being arrested and taken to Abuja by men of the Nigeria Police Force from the FCID, Abuja,” the report read.

“Okoro, who is the present Chairman of Online Media Practitioners Association of Nigeria (OPMAN), Abia State chapter, was to be arrested weekend and taken to Abuja by the security personnel, on the allegations that he published defamatory material against an individual.

“But speaking on Monday about the failed arrest, Okoro explained that it was the intervention of Commissioner of Police Abia State Command, Danladi Isa and members of Online Media Practitioners Association of Nigeria (OMPAN) that stopped the Abuja policemen from whisking him away.”

4. “Security Agents Attack Channels TV Crew, Damage Vehicle As UniAbuja Professors Protest,” [Channels TV reported on December 24.](#)

“Security agents have attacked Channels Television’s crew during its coverage of a protest by professors at the University of Abuja (UniAbuja),” the report read.

“The professors were protesting the selection process for the vice-chancellor of the university.

“However, on arrival at the school, security operatives attacked Channels Television’s team, damaging its vehicle. The gun-wielding men manhandled members of the crew before detaining them for over an hour.”

- **Stories on judicial actions:**

1. “Defamation: Abuja, Oyo courts bar further sale of Farotimi’s book,” [The Punch reported on December 12.](#)

“A Federal Capital Territory High Court in Abuja, on Wednesday, barred human rights activist and lawyer, Dele Farotimi, from further publishing, selling, circulating, advertising, or distributing the hard or soft copies of his book, ‘Nigeria and Its Criminal Justice System’,” the report read.

"A similar order was issued by an Oyo State High Court, which also granted an interim order restraining Farotimi or any person acting through him from further printing the controversial book. The activist lawyer is currently embroiled in a legal battle over the controversial book.

"The police have arraigned Farotimi before the Federal High Court in Ekiti State as well as an Ekiti State Magistrates' Court, Ado-Ekiti."

2. "Court Restrains ARCON from Demanding N60bn Fine from Facebook," [ThisDay reported](#) on December 12.

"Justice Yellim Bogoro of the Federal High Court in Lagos has granted an interim injunction, restraining the Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria (ARCON) from enforcing a N60 billion fine against Facebook Nigeria for an alleged violation," the report read.

"The ruling followed a motion filed by Facebook through its counsel, Mofesomo Tayo-Oyetibo (SAN), challenging the constitutionality of ARCON's notice of violation."

3. "Ekiti Court Grants Dele Farotimi Bail," [FIJ reported](#) on December 20.

"An Ekiti State Magistrate Court granted Dele Farotimi bail on Friday morning," the report read.

"The bail conditions include a N30 million bond, two sureties, one of whom must be a property owner, a submission of Farotimi's passport and a prohibition of him granting media interviews."

ACTORS

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

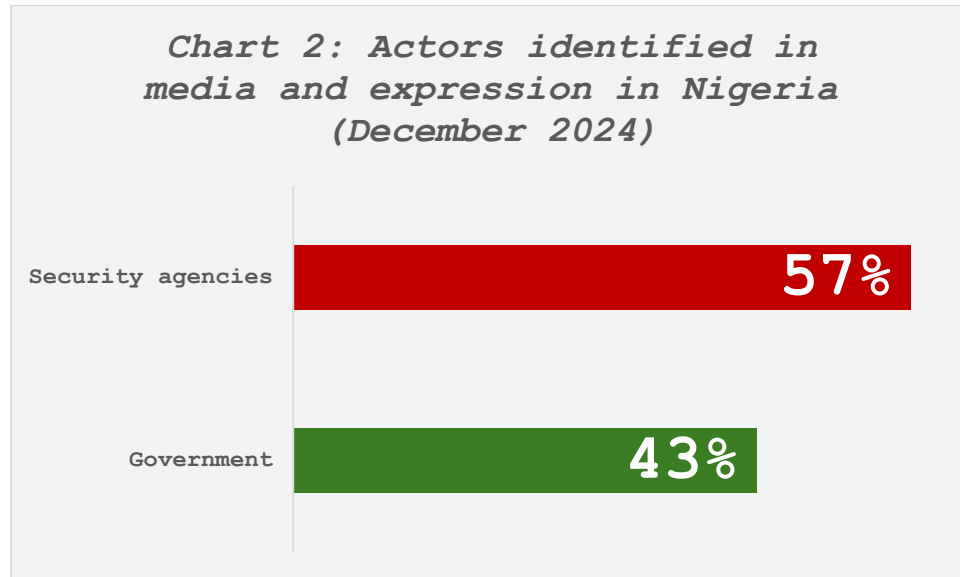


Chart 2 shows that security agencies were the most featured actors, accounting for 57% (4 in 7 stories) of the issues analysed during the period in review, with government representing 43% (3 stories) of the actors. As previously shown in Table 1, security agencies were responsible for 100% (4 cases) of the attacks recorded during the period under review.

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: Victims of negative actions in media and expression in Nigeria (December 2024)

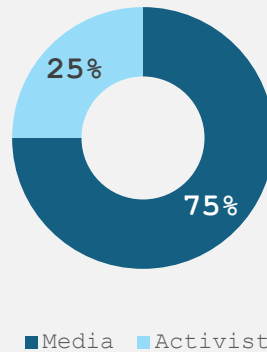


Chart 3 shows that 75% (3 cases) of the victims identified in the reports work in the media, with the smaller chunk (25%; 1 case) involving an activist.

CONCLUSION

The media reports analysed in December 2024 indicate that 57% of the stories (4 out of 7) involved attacks on the media and an activist, while 43% (3 stories) focused on judicial actions. Four cases of attacks were identified, with 50% involving arrests or detentions and the remaining half evenly split between harassment and assault.

Whereas security agencies were the predominant actors in these reports, featured in 57% of the stories, the government accounted for 43% of the issues analysed. Notably, security agencies were responsible for all recorded attacks during this period.

The analysis also show that the media were the victims in 75% (3 cases) of the attacks, with the remaining 25% (1 case) involving activist lawyer Dele Farotimi. These findings underscore the urgent need for attention to the safety of media personnel and the broader implications for freedom of expression.

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