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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:

CEMESO - Centre for Media and Society

DSS - Department of State Service

FIJ - Foundation for Investigative Journalism

MEiN - Media and Expression in Nigeria

NLC - Nigeria Labour Congress

NSA - National Security Adviser

NUJ - Nigeria Union of Journalists

RATTAWU - Radio, Television, Theatre and Arts Workers Union of Nigeria

VSIN - Victims Support Initiative 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.

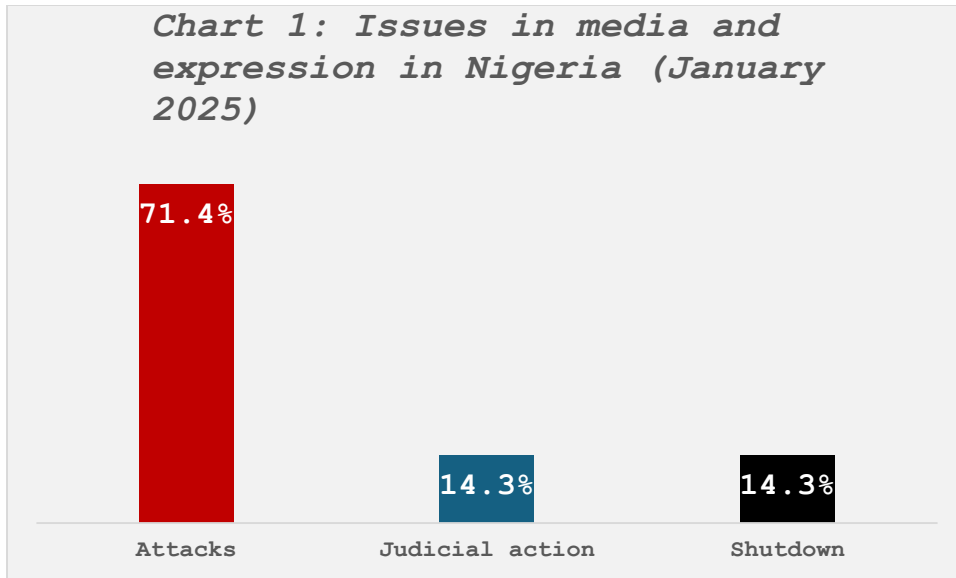


Chart 1 shows that 71.4% (5 in 7 stories) of the reports analysed in January 2025 involved attacks on the media and other victims. Also, 14.3% (1 story) of the reports involved a judicial action, the same also holding true for media shutdown.

Table 1: Nature of attacks on the media

Nature of attack	Cases	Alleged perpetrators	Victims
Assault	2	Politician, security agency	Journalists
Detention	1	Security agency	Journalist
Assassination	1	Non-state actors	Whistleblower
Harassment	1	Security agency	Journalists

Table 1 indicates that a minimum of five incidents of attacks on the media and other victims were recorded during the review period. Among these, two cases involved physical assaults, while there was one case each of detention, assassination and harassment.

SOURCES

- **Stories on attacks:**

1. "PDP official 'assaults' journalist at party secretariat," [TheCable reported on January 7.](#)

“Emmanuel Okoronkwo, a protocol officer of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), on Monday reportedly assaulted Ndubuisi Orji, a journalist with The Sun newspaper,” the report read.

“Okoronkwo, who is said to be an aide to Samuel Anyanwu, embattled national secretary of the PDP, attacked Orji who was attempting to enter the party’s headquarters in Abuja.

“In a statement, Samuel Ogidan, chairman of the PDP press corps, described the incident as a ‘grave violation of press freedom and a direct assault on the rights of journalists’.

“As essential members of a functional democracy, journalists owe the society an obligation to carry out their duties without fear of violence or any form of intimidation,’ the statement reads.”

2. “Why the Police at Alagbon Are Detaining FJ Reporter Emmanuel Uti,” [FJ reported on January 14.](#)

“The Federal Criminal Investigation Department (FCID) of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF), Alagbon, Lagos State, is detaining FJ reporter Emmanuel Uti,” the report read.

“The policemen are detaining Uti for a report published in November 2024, detailing how Beverly Basil, a former staff of Expedia Consult, an educational consulting firm in Ikeja, became incommunicado after receiving N4 million to help facilitate a Lagos resident’s Canada admission.”

3. “Yomi Adetula, Key Witness for FJ in IBD Dende’s Libel Lawsuit, Murdered by ‘Assassins’,” [FJ reported on January 19.](#)

“Yomi Adetula, the Director, Anti-Arms Smuggling of the Social Orientation and Safety (So-Safe) Corps in Ogun State, has been murdered by suspected assassins in Idi-Iroko, Ipokia Local Government Area of the state,” the report read.

“According to multiple residents of Idi-Iroko, Adetula was in his church, located off Old Baggage Road, Idi-Iroko, when gunmen who were also bearing other dangerous weapons invaded his church minutes after 10am on Sunday, attacking him.

“Adetula is one of the witnesses listed by FJ in its defence of the libel lawsuit filed by IBD Dende in response to FJ’s undercover investigation and subsequent documentary on smuggling, and the ‘Good Morning Nigeria Customs’ tweets by its founder ‘Fisayo Soyombo.”

4. “Edo election tribunal: Journalists allege attack by DSS personnel,” [The Guardian reported on January 21.](#)

“The Edo State Council of the Nigeria Union Of Journalists (NUJ) has condemned the attack by the personnel of the Department of State Service (DSS) on journalists covering the Edo State Election Tribunal on Monday,” the report read.

“The council’s chairman, Festus Alenkhe, and Secretary, Andy Egbon, in a statement, said the attempt to bar journalists from performing their constitutional duties was a blatant assault on press freedom and the fundamental right of citizens to information and free speech.”

5. “Security agents crack down on journalists in Kano over police brutality reports,” [Politics Nigeria reported](#) on January 22.

“Security personnel in Kano State have intensified their crackdown on media outlets, targeting journalists who reported on a press conference held by families of victims of police brutality during the #EndBadGovernance protests,” the report read.

“The protests, which took place in August 2024, brought to the fore the issues of poor governance, economic hardship, and systemic challenges in Nigeria.

“Families of those killed during the demonstrations used the press conference, organized by the Victims Support Initiative Nigeria (VSIN), to demand justice and compensation from the government for the lives lost.

“According to Sahara Reporters, operatives of the Department of State Services (DSS), also known as the State Security Service (SSS), are now pursuing information about the event organizers and the families who spoke. One journalist revealed that security personnel visited their station after it covered the grievances aired by bereaved parents.”

- **[Story on judicial action:](#)**

1. “Court remands Shehu Mahdi over false claim of French military deployment in Nigeria,” [TheCable reported](#) on January 1.

“A chief magistrate court in Kaduna has ordered the remand of Shehu Mahdi, a public affairs and political commentator, in a correctional facility,” the report read.

“Operatives of the Department of State Services (DSS) arrested Madhi in Kaduna over the weekend after he posted inciting content, including a video online claiming that President Bola Tinubu granted France the approval to set up a military base in northern Nigeria.

“The now-deleted post was uploaded on December 14 and accompanied by a video of a Nigerian Army officer speaking Hausa while the background showed a foreign soldier.

“Nuhu Ribadu, the national security adviser (NSA), and Mohammed Idris, minister of information and national orientation, have since debunked the claims as baseless.”

- **Story on media shutdown:**

1. “Lagos NLC shuts TV, radio stations over N85,000 minimum wage,” [The Vanguard reported on January 13.](#)

“Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC, Lagos State chapter, on Monday, shut down normal operations of Lagos Television, Eko FM/Radio Lagos and Lagos Traffic Radio to protest the non-implementation of the N85,000 minimum wage,” the report read.

“NLC, in collaboration with workers of the three broadcast stations under the aegis of Radio, Television, Theatre and Arts Workers Union of Nigeria, RATTAWU, picketed the station, also demanded to be placed on Oracle System.

“The workers, few weeks ago, notified the management of the three stations of their readiness to down tools once the stations failed to implement the minimum wage being implemented by the Lagos State Government.”

ACTORS

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

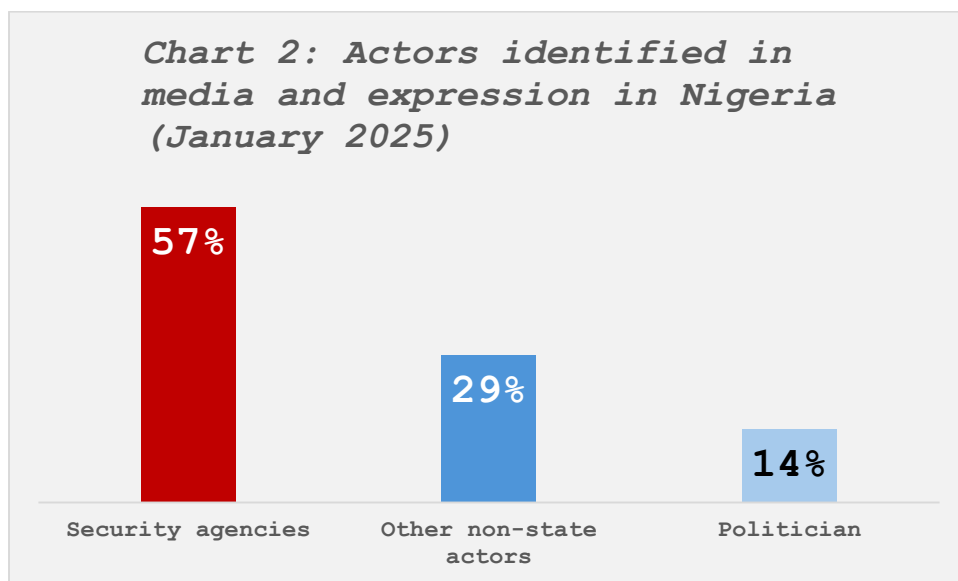


Chart 2 shows that security agencies were the most featured actors, accounting for 57% (4 in 7 stories) of the issues analysed during the period in review, with politicians and other non-state actors representing 14% (2 stories) and 29% (1 story) of the actors respectively.

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

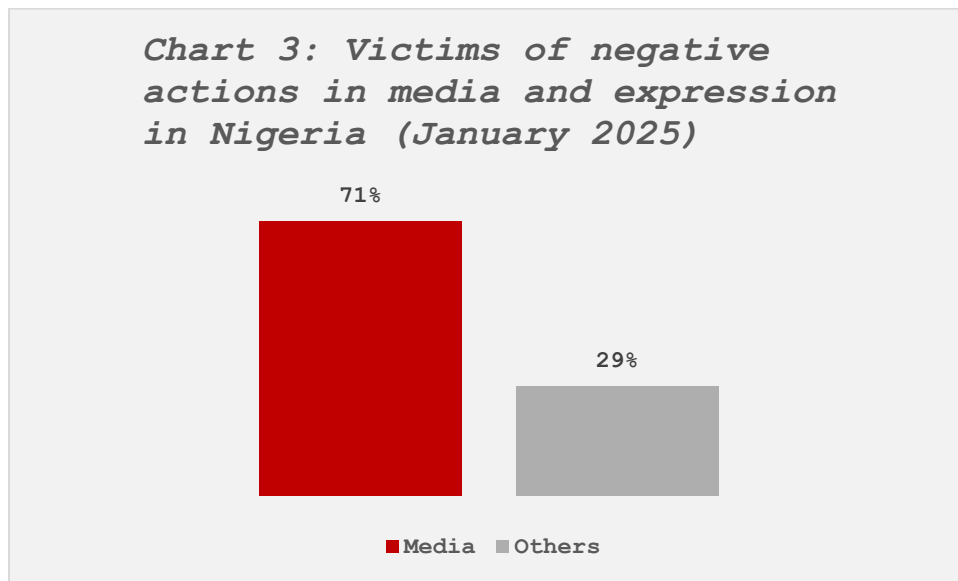


Chart 3 shows that 71% of the victims identified in the reports worked in the media while the smaller chunk (29%) did not.

CONCLUSION

In January 2025, an analysis of media reports revealed significant concerns regarding attacks on the media and other victims. Notably, 71.4% of the analysed stories (5 out of 7) documented such attacks, while 14.3% (1 story) reported on judicial actions and a similar figure on media shutdowns.

During the review period, at least five incidents of attacks were recorded, including two physical assaults, one case of detention, one assassination and one instance of harassment, with security agencies emerging as the predominant actors in these incidents.

Victim analysis indicated that 71% of those affected were media professionals, with the remaining 29% comprising individuals from other sectors. This data underscores the urgent need for addressing the safety and rights of media personnel in the current environment.

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