

Print Monitor



**October
2001**

...promoting and protecting press freedom and freedom of expression

The Week, The News, Tell, Newswatch, The Source, Daily Times, Daily Champion, New Nigerian, Post Express, This Day, The Punch, The Guardian, Daily Trust, New Nigerian, Post Express, This Day, The Punch, The Guardian,

PRINT MONITOR

A REPORT ON THE
PRINT MEDIA MONITORING PROJECT

October 2001



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Other Publications by Media Rights Agenda (MRA)

- * *Media Rights Monitor* (Monthly Journal) published since 1995
- * Annual Reports on the State of the Nigerian Media
 - + *Sentenced to Silence*, 1998
 - + *Back from the Brink*, 1999
 - + *A Harvest of Blooms*, 2000
 - + *At A Crossroads*, 2001
- * Other reports and publications
 - + *Unshackling the Nigerian Media: An Agenda for Reform*, July 1997 (In collaboration with ARTICLE 19)
- * *Media Scorecard* (Report of the Print Media Coverage of the Political Transition Programme - six issues, from January - June 1999)
- * *Airwaves Scorecard* (Report of the Broadcast Media Coverage of the Political Transition Programme - six issues, from January - June 1999)
- * *Unlocking Nigeria's Closet of Secrecy*, August 2000 (A Report on the Campaign for a Freedom of Information Act in Nigeria)
- * *Broadcasting In Nigeria: Unlocking the Airwaves*, February 2001 (A Report on the Framework for Broadcasting and Telecommunications in Nigeria - In collaboration with ARTICLE 19)

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This report was written by **Banji Adeyanju**, Project Manager, and **Mrs. Ayo-Lawal Gbenoba**, Coordinator, Lagos Monitoring Centre of the Media Monitoring Project, with comments from **Tive Denedo**, Acting Executive Director of Media Rights Agenda (MRA); and **Osaro Odemwingie**, MRA's Publications Officer.

Desktop publishing and production of the report were done by **Ayode Longe** and **Bunmi Oke**, Data Entry Officers for the Media Monitoring Project, while **Odemwingie** designed the cover.

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FOREWORD

Section 22 of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution provides that “The Press, radio, television and other agencies of the mass media shall at all times be free to uphold the fundamental objectives contained in this Chapter (Chapter Two) and uphold the responsibility and accountability of the Government to the people.”

Naturally, the question arises as to who watches the watchdog to ensure that it performs this duty of holding the government accountable to the people. It is a delicate question for which there is no one correct answer. Governments and societies all over the world have for decades grappled with this problem without being able to reach a consensus solution.

However, the right of citizens to be informed about the political process and to be able to hold and express opinions generally about their governments is one that is now recognized under international human rights law as an essential component of the right to freedom of expression. This right is guaranteed by a number of regional and international human rights instruments.

What this means in real terms is that there is an obligation on governments to create an environment where the media can access and disseminate information for the benefit of the wider society. For the media, it means that beyond narrow commercial interests, there is also a responsibility to act in the larger interest of the society. This responsibility has been internationally recognized as far back as 1960 when the United Nations Economic and Social Council, at its 29th Session, in its Resolution 756 (XXIX) of 21 April 1960 adopted a draft declaration on freedom of information wherein it proposed that the “Media of information should be employed in the service of the people...”

One of the main problems which has inhibited the growth of the print media in Nigeria over the years has been the low literacy level which has severely limited the size of its audience, comparative to the audience in the broadcast sector.

Although precise data are not available, it is estimated that there are over 300 newspaper and magazine titles being published in Nigeria. Estimates put the combined circulation figures of newspapers at less than 500,000 daily. The number is pitiable in a country with over 120 million people. Added to this is the fact that these newspapers and magazines are located mainly in the southern part of the country, especially in the Lagos area, and hardly circulate outside the major towns in the country.

Despite these problems, the print medium remains an important vehicle for mass political education and mobilisation. This is particularly so because of the print media which has less stringent control than broadcast, and the greater private ownership of the print media which also serves to ensure its independence from government control. Besides, despite the reversals in fortune which the print media has suffered with the opening up of more radio and television stations, it still has the advantage of serving as a conveyor of more detailed information that can be stored relatively more easily and more cheaply than information from the broadcast media.

This project is intended to provide some empirical data on how the media covers public issues, especially democracy, politics and human rights and in the process highlight the fairness or otherwise of their programmes to all interest groups as well as monitor how they seek to enhance the political process.

The objective of the project is not to condemn the media’s coverage of these issues or to create a competition among the various media establishments. Its primary purpose is to provide a barometer for media establishments to measure their performance in the reporting of public issues and government activities and undertake voluntary adjustments to bring themselves into conformity with international standards in the coverage of political issues.

Edetaen Ojo

Executive Director, Media Rights Agenda

June 2001

PREFACE

In any democratic society, the media plays the foremost role in the shaping of public opinion. This is why in undemocratic societies, the media is one of the first targets of repression by the government. If a democratic government is sophisticated, it may opt for media control and manipulation as a way of controlling the flow of information and teleguiding public opinion. Where the government is crude, the media, especially the public state-owned media, is simply used as a mouthpiece.

But even in democratic countries, different sections of the society and economy openly try to influence the media. Publishers, editors, correspondents and reporters are cultivated by different interest groups and significant amounts of money are openly spent on advertising and public relations. It has also been known to happen that informal incentives (for brown envelope journalism) influence some journalist. Furthermore, journalists have their individual biases and this sometimes gets in the way of objectively, balanced and factual reporting. In some cases, it may just be lack of adequate training, lure of sensationalism or laziness that gets in the way of good reporting. Whatever the reason for inaccurate, fictional or unbalanced coverage, the results are the same. Distortion of information can have, and has had, catastrophic implications for society.

But the media must strive to overcome all obstacles to fair, accurate and balanced reporting. The strategic position of the media in modern society as regards influencing and shaping public opinion means that the media has an obligation to ensure equitable access for all sections of society. All reports must be truthful, factual and reflect the views of all parties to any issue. Pictures, headlines and reports must not be misleading and no one should receive undue projection over others. Unfortunately, the media does not always live up to these ideals and the consequences to the society are often much higher than we imagine.

Very often, people tend to equate the media with the printed form. But the fact is that the printed form is just one of the several forms of media. In present times, the media also include the broadcast medium, the Internet and traditional forms of information dissemination and entertainment.

The reason most people equate the Print Medium with Media is because besides the traditional form of media, the printed form of the media was the first to be applied to a mass dissemination of information. While the history of the print media in Nigeria dates back to 1859 with the publication of a Yoruba vernacular newspaper, *Iwe Irohin*, the broadcast media started in 1945 with the establishment of the Western Nigeria Television by the then regional government of Chief Obafemi Awolowo.

Despite having suffered a loss in its appeal due to the arrival in the scene of broadcast media such as radio and television, which in addition to being spontaneous have the advantage of audio and images, the printed medium remains clearly indispensable. It still has the advantage of serving as

a conveyor of far more information that can be assessed most conveniently and that can be stored relatively more easily and at less cost, than the broadcast information.

Although Nigeria has a low literacy level, making the readership of the print medium much less than the numbers of people who may tune-in to the broadcast medium, yet the Nigerian print medium remains a most potent means of mass political education and mobilisation.

This is more so because of the huge percentage of private participation in the industry which gives the government-owned print media organisations sufficient opposition in times when official quarters might wish for a hush-up of matters otherwise of public interest. But the question remains, just how efficiently is the media living up to its rating?

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INTRODUCTION

The primary aim of the media monitoring exercise is to assess the role of the media in upholding and promoting democratic culture and practice as well as ensuring transparency, accountability and good governance. It also seeks to assess how the media reports issues relating to human rights.

Some of the questions to be addressed are: How well does the media provide a robust atmosphere for the promotion of political debate, democratic governance and public accountability? How well does the media ensure the fair, accurate and objective coverage of political issues and political interest groups? How well does the media ensure fair, accurate and objective coverage of human rights issues and safeguard the rights of disadvantaged and minority groups?

The project seeks to determine the extent of coverage given to these issues by both the state-owned public media and the private media. It also seeks to identify the significant issues covered and those which were ignored.

The Topics\Variables covered in the monitoring were:

Political Issues

1. Reports on federal, states and local governments and their agencies
2. Reports on political-economic policies and the public's responses to them
3. Reports on emerging political issues

Democracy Issues

1. Reports on separation of power (between the three arms of government)
2. Reports on the legitimate role of the opposition and opposition activities
3. Reports on the registered political parties—AD, APP, PDP.
4. Reports on other political associations and organisations
5. Reports on the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)
6. Reports on other general democracy issues

Human Rights Issues

1. Reports on gender issues
2. Reports on human rights violations
3. Reports on human rights promotion
4. Reports on human rights violations investigations

Reports on Public Accountability

1. Reports on corruption in government
2. Reports promoting transparency in public life.

SECTION 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The overall number of monitored reports fell to 11,664 this month. This is the figure for all 15 publications being evaluated in this project. Compared with 13,773 reports for the June calendar month, 15,217 reports for the July monitoring period and 16,610 reports for August, this is a significant shortfall.

The same trend was reflected in the number of evaluated reports which stood at 1,454 or 12.4% of the overall total of news reports. Similarly, compared with 2,149 (15.6%) for the June calendar month and 1,851 (12.21%) for the July calendar month. the differences is heavy in absolute terms while not very significant in relatives terms. It was not clear what might have caused the drop and the development came at a period when the political temperature of the country increased a notch due to the looming general elections in 2003.

To a significant extent, the same trend was observed in the figures collated for the project's four main topic/ variables. This month there were 679 items categorized for Democracy Issues compared with 1,151 (June) and 938 (July). Political Issues had 443 items in contrast with 675 (June) and 472 (July). Human Rights had 195 items compared with 129 (June) and 271 (July). The last variable, Public Accountability, had 128 reports compared with 218 (June) and 175 (July). Beyond the dry bones of the figures, the print media performance for the month remained as before with one or two new lapses.

Similar to the general observations in previous months' reports, quantitatively, the evaluated publications devoted a lot of attention and space to democratic governance, politics as a whole, individual rights and the accountability of state functionaries to the citizenry.

However, when the cumulative news reports in these categories are compared with the total news output of the publications, it becomes clear that these public interest issues constitute only a small fraction of the overall print media reportorial coverage. The same trend continued this month with reports evaluated by this project constituting only 12.4% of all media news published.

It is recognized that if the national experiment with democratic governance is to succeed, the various publications need to significantly increase their reportage of public interest issues, especially those which fall in the political domain. At a guess, the percentage of evaluated reports vis-a-vis total news reports should be 20 percent or more.

After decades of military rule, the civil populace requires massive doses of enlightenment and education on the nuts and bolts of ruling themselves. The press should be a broad platform for civil debate on the best practices worldwide as well as the best means of resolving conflicts between functionaries and even competing tiers of government. All these need to be done over and above its primary duty of reporting events truthfully and fairly. On all these counts, the September findings indicated that the press could do much better.

For instance, there was a plethora of one-sided reports with several of these showing open bias for an institution or functionary; there were shallow news reports which failed to convey any meaningful information; there were speculative items little better than fairy tales; and there were countless reports which left unanswered questions. There was still excessive focus on government and its functionaries to the detriment of the civil society. In short, the press cannot justifiably claim that it was a strong defender of the civil society and its interests.

It was observed in September that many newspapers devoted a staggering amount of space to the United States/Taliban face-off. While these was commendable, the snag, however, was that even more than a week

after September 11, some editors still downgraded important national news so as to be able to put terrorism news on the front pages. For example, the tragic killings in Jos were routinely downgraded by several publications just because of the US/Taliban war. This was odd and perhaps indicated that there was some juxtaposition of priority on the part of many reporters and especially editors.

This month, the most promoted institutions were the Federal Government and its functionaries, followed by the state governments and their officials. Most of the evaluated news reports were derived from the Federal Capital Territory and Lagos State. Lastly, the geographical scope of most reports was Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Newspaper editors should desist from publishing press statements raw, whether these are from individuals, corporate institutions or government. Such materials require screening, editing and backgrounding before they are published. Also, editors need to make a conscious effort to ensure that significant news reports are derived from more than one news source.

SECTION 2: GENERAL FINDINGS

Period of Report : September 1-29

No of Publications monitored : 15

No of Newspapers monitored : 10 (*Daily Times* and *New Nigerian* both state-owned; *The Comet*, *Post Express*, *Daily Champion*, *Daily Trust*, *National Interest*, *The Punch*, *ThisDay* and *The Guardian* - privately-owned)

No of Newmagazines monitored : 5 (*TELL*, *The News*, *The Week*, *The Source* and *Newswatch* - privately-owned).

No of Total Newspaper Reports : 11,316

Evaluated Newspaper Reports : 1,405

Space covered by Evaluated Newspaper reports : 7,958 square inches

Percentage of evaluated items to total reports : 12.4%

No of Total Newsmagazine Reports : 348

Evaluated Newsmagazine Reports : 49

Space covered by Evaluated Newmagazines reports : 9,413 square inches

Percentage of evaluated items to total reports : 14.1%

No of Total Print Media Reports : 11,664

Evaluated items : 1,454

Percentage of Total : 12.4%

TOPIC/VARIABLES

None of the sectorial figures reached a thousand. As always, the figures for Democracy Issues topped those of other variables. There were altogether 679 reports with a dimension of 19,977 square inches. In contrast, only 443 items were evaluated in the Political Issues variable. These had a dimension of 13,303 square inches. The Human Rights topic/variable got 195 reports with a dimension of 10,139 square inches. The last category, Public Accountability variable, had 128 items with a dimension of 3,952 square inches.

Media Projection

The most heavily promoted institutions during the month of September were the Federal Government, its ministries, departments, agencies and functionaries (616), followed by the state governments and their functionaries (485).

News Derivation

Most of the evaluated news items were sourced from the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (401) followed by Lagos State (118).

Geographical Scope

The scope of the vast majority of reports was Nigeria (655)

PERCENTAGE OF MONITORED ITEMS TO TOTAL REPORTS

(NEWSPAPERS)

Publication	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	%
Daily Times (state-owned)	1,482	130	8.8
New Nigerian (state-owned)	1,155	141	12.2
The Comet	2,077	122	5.9
Post Express	1,668	132	7.9
Daily Champion	2,046	116	5.6
Daily Trust	1,137	115	10.1
National Interest	1,751	124	7.1
The Punch	2,030	239	11.8
ThisDay	2,050	179	8.7
The Guardian	2,017	107	5.3
Newspapers Total	11,316	1,405	12.4

NB: Apart from the Daily Times and New Nigerian, all other publications are privately-owned

MAGAZINES

Publication	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	%
TELL	156	15	9.6
The News	65	8	12.3
The Week	41	5	12.2
The Source	23	7	30.4
Newswatch	63	14	22.2
Magazines Total	348	49	14.1

ALL TITLES: 11,664 1,454 12.4

NB: All the magazines are privately - owned.

COMPARATIVE DATA (No of Evaluated Reports and Dimensions in square inches)

NEWSPAPERS

Publication	Democracy	Political Issues	Human Rights	Public Accountability
Daily Times	51(1,261)	52 (1,209)	16 (592)	11 (253)
New Nigerian	53 (1,453)	59 (1,392)	20 (723)	9 (175)
The Comet	67 (1,776)	27 (914)	11 (668)	15 (388)
Post Express	67 (1,368)	36 (831)	19 (766)	12 (323)
Daily Champion	69 (1,347)	27 (507)	9 (393)	11 (207)
Daily Trust	44 (1,031)	36 (1,264)	14 (501)	11 (312)
National Interest	57 (1,523)	30 (679)	25 (1,029)	11 (230)
The Punch	126 (2,779)	71 (1,929)	32 (1,840)	10(284)
ThisDay	85 (1,964)	58 (1,645)	20 (957)	16 (442)
The Guardian	37 (905)	34 (924)	20 (843)	16 (331)
Newspapers Total	656 (15,407)	430 (11,294)	186 (8,312)	122 (2,945)

NEWMAGAZINES

Publication	Democracy	Political Issues	Human Rights	Public Accountability
TELL	4 (450)	3 (668)	6 (1,345)	3 (426)
The News	3 (125)	4 (387)	1 (107)	-
The Week	4 (568)	1 (71)	-	-
The Source	2 (852)	4 (743)	-	2 (301)
Newswatch	10 (2,575)	1 (140)	2 (375)	1 (280)
Magazines Total:	23 (4,570)	13 (2,009)	9 (1,827)	6,(1,007)

ALL TITLES: 679 (19,977) 443 (13,303) 195 (10,139) 128 (3,952)

SECTION 3: SPECIFIC FINDINGS ON PUBLICATIONS

1. Daily Times (state - owned)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
Sept. 1 - 8	458	38	971	FCT-13 LAGOS-7	NGR-17 ONDO-5	FG-21 SG-17
Sept. 10 - 15	288	24	581	LAGOS-5	NGR	FG-16
Sept. 17 - 22	345	40	967	FCT-9	NGR-16 IND-11	SG-19
Sept. 24 - 29	391	28	795	FCT-16 LAGOS-3	NGR-17 BENUE-2	FG-18 SG-9
Monthly Total Sept. 1-29	1,482	130	3,314	FCT-38 LAGOS-15	NGR-50	FG-55 SG-45

PERCENTAGE OF EVALUATED ITEMS TO TOTAL REPORTS: 8.8%

SPREAD OF TOPIC/VARIABLES: Democracy issues - 51 reports with a dimension of 1,261 square inches; Political issues - 52 reports with a dimension of 1,209 square inches; Human Rights - 16 reports with a dimension of 592 square inches; and Public Accountability - 11 reports with a dimension of 253 square inches.

OBSERVATIONS: During the month, the newspaper improved the quality of its printing and page layout. Reproduction of colour photographs also improved. But occasionally, it slipped as on September 4 when several pages, including the front, turned out very sloppy. That day, the newspaper couldn't reproduce illustrative pictures in colour. On September 20, page 2 was a mess. In editorial terms, Daily Times had a relatively wide news source which comprised most of the 36 states and in addition, the published reports showed a distinctly broad geographical spread. All these are commendable.

The inexperience of the sub-desk showed in the overly lengthy headlines during the month. An example: *Senator threatens opponents of the PDP's computerized membership register*. It also showed in the frequent passing of one-sided reports which virtually begged for follow-ups. What could be referred to as editorial confusion occurred on September 17 on the back page in a report which purported to detail the Ebonyi PDP crisis. It turned out to be a sympathetic review of the party's national activities.

More seriously, some important issues were dismissed in fairly brief stories which failed to do justice to their topics. An example from the last week of the month was the report on possible extension of local government chairmen tenure.

Conclusively, the low proportion of evaluated reports vis-a-vis the total reports indicated that there was plenty of room for improvement in Daily Times coverage of the important national issues which the project monitors. Out of 1,482 news reports this month, a paltry 130 concerned democracy and political issues, human rights and the accountability of public officials to the citizenry. This was quite poor.

2. New Nigerian (state - owned)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
Sept. 1 - 8	314	33	1,297	FCT-12 KADUNA-8	NGR-9	SG-26 FG -14
Sept. 10 - 15	235	29	665	FCT	NGR	FG-14 SG-11
Sept. 17 -22	259	51	936	FCT-8 KADUNA - 6	NGR-14 KADUNA -6	SG-21 FG-07
Sept. 24 - 29	347	28	1,101	FCT-12 KADUNA-8	NGR-14 KADUNA-7	SG-46 FG-12
Monthly Total Sept. 1 - 29	1,155	3,999	1,41	FCT-32 KADUNA-22	NGR-37 KADUNA-13	SG-104 FG-47

PERCENTAGE OF EVALUATED ITEMS TO TOTAL REPORTS: 12.2%

TOPIC/VARIABLES: Democracy Issues - 53 reports with a dimension of 1,453 square inches; Political issues - 59 reports with a dimension of 1,392 square inches; Human Rights - 20 reports with a dimension of 723 square inches; and Public Accountability - 9 reports with a dimension of 175 square inches.

OBSERVATIONS: Just like several other newspapers, the New Nigerian suffered from the handicap of excessive focus on governmental functionaries and institutions during the month of September. In the area of politics, focus was almost exclusively on the registered parties and in particular, PDP and APP. The coverage of government as opposed to civil society was even more obvious in the case of the newspaper because most of the news it published were generated from the geo-political north. In its present state, it would be most difficult for the publication to prove it is a national media organ. It would be equally difficult for the paper to convince anyone that it is an active defender of the civil society and its interests, which include good governance, freedom of association, individual and corporate liberty, guaranteed employment, shelter, food, water, transportation and security. But the paper itself is well-produced and readable. However, many reports were openly partisan while others were sketchy. An example of the former was the report headlined “AD Chieftain defects to PDP” on page 12 of the September 20 edition.

3. The Comet (privately- owned)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
Sept. 1 - 8	645	29	987	FCT-11	NGR-19	FG-17
Sept. 10 - 15	569	31	930	FCT-9	NGR-2	FG-25
Sept. 17 - 22	449	24	615	FCT-6 LAGOS-6	NGR-18	FG-15 SG-07
Sept. 24 - 29	414	38	1,214	FCT-13 LAGOS	NGR-26 LAGOS-3	FG-16 PORG-10
Monthly Total Sept. 1 - 29	2,077	122	3,746	FCT-39 LAGOS-13	NGR -84 LAGOS-3	FG-73 PORG-10

PERCENTAGE OF EVALUATED ITEMS TO TOTAL REPORTS:5.9%

TOPIC/VARIABLES: Democracy issues - 67 reports with a dimension of 776 square inches; Political issues - 27 reports with a dimension of 914 square inches; Human Rights - 11 reports with a dimension of 668 square inches; and Public Accountability - 15 reports with a dimension of 388 square inches.

OBSERVATIONS: On the basis of raw data alone, The Comet would have to be given a below-average score in terms of coverage and the publishing of news reports on important public issues. After all, the percentage of evaluated (project -relevant) reports to the overall news reports is a low 5.9%. But the figure doesn't tell the entire story. Assessed as a package, the newspaper did a fairly good job of informing the citizenry about a wide range of public interest matters. What set its reports apart from those of most other newspapers was that they were usually detailed with good backgrounding; they were timely and originated from various parts of the country.

Apart from the fact that the project monitoring covered only news reports in four broad areas, one of the reasons why the newspaper's percentage score was so low was that a significant proportion of otherwise relevant items were published as full length news features which the project doesn't monitor.

Here is an example of what The Comet did well. On September 5 it published an item headlined "Police probe role of officers in Ebonyi crisis". It appeared on page 3. The remarkable thing about it was that it was the follow-up to reports which had been running in the paper for four weeks. Any Lagos-based newspaper which, can track a report for four weeks in a competent manner deserves commendation, especially when the events occurred in south-eastern Nigeria.

Conversely, there was something that the paper did wrong. A one-sided report was published on September 18 and headlined *Delta council boss suspended for alleged fraud*. Everything in the report reflected the views of the State House of Assembly and there was no evidence that the accused man was contacted. The only thing left to add is that like virtually all the other publications being monitored, The Comet's coverage of human rights - related issues was relatively weak.

4. The Post Express (privately- owned)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
Sept. 1 - 8	483	32	802	FCT-10 EDO-3	NGR-17 LAGOS-3	FG-17 SG-14
Sept. 10 - 15	467	37	755	FCT	NGR	
Sept. 17 - 22	362	36	829	FCT-11 LAGOS-6	NGR-20 FG-6	IND - 8
Sept. 24 - 29	356	27	834	FCT-8 LAGOS-3	NGR-13 FG-10	SG-13
Total Monthly Sept. 1 - 29	1,668	132	3,220	FCT-29 LAGOS-9	NGR-50 LAGOS-3	FG-33 SG-27

PERCENTAGE OF EVALUATED ITEMS TO TOTAL REPORTS: 7.9%

TOPIC/VARIABLES: Democracy Issues - 67 reports with a dimension of 1368 square inches; Political Issues - 36 reports with a dimension of 831 square inches; Human Rights - 19 reports with a dimension of 766 square inches; and Public Accountability - 12 reports with a dimension of 323 square inches.

OBSERVATIONS: The Post Express was marginally better in the coverage of human rights and public accountability issues than some of its competitors. As the figures above show, 31 reports were evaluated in these two variables, which was slightly higher than the norm. But an overall review from the stand-point of the project's aims would have to conclude that the publication's performance was average in the light of the print media's general standards. In short, during the month under review, the newspaper did nothing spectacular and neither did it lag behind unduly. However, the monitoring observed an improvement in the paper's packaging and printing. It was also observable that editorial standards have improved, especially in the areas of accuracy and backgrounding. Nonetheless, the Lagos Insider pull-out (September 18 and 19) was a sort of gray area since the reports on AD (page 32 on Sept. 18) were too laudatory to be investigative reports. If such reports were meant to be reportorial and investigative, then laudatory PR Jobs do not belong there. The monitoring also turned up some cases of report duplication with an example on pages 2 and 3 of the September 19 edition. It was a report on Oputa panel.

5. Daily Champion (privately- owned)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
Sept. 1 - 8	597	21	649	FCT-5	NGR-11	FG-13
Sept.10 - 15	541	32	546	FCT-7	NGR-24	FG-20
Sept. 17 - 22	449	25	456	FCT-8 LAGOS-4	NGR-18	FG-13 SG-6
Sept. 24 - 29	459	38	807	FCT-15 LAGOS-5	NGR-23 LAGOS-4	FG-15 FG-10
Monthly Total Sept. 1 - 29	2,046	116	2,458	FCT-35 LAGOS-9	NGR-76 LAGOS-4	FG-61 SG-11

PERCENTAGE OF EVALUATED ITEMS TO TOTAL REPORTS: 5.6%

TOPIC/VARIABLES: Democracy Issues - 69 reports (1,347 square inches); Political Issues - 27 reports (507 square inches); Human Rights - 9 reports (393 square inches); and Public Accountability - 11 reports (207 square inches).

OBSERVATIONS: The newspaper's coverage of human rights and public accountability matters was not up to scratch. The total of 20 reports in the two categories this month was below average. However, the figures for the other two project variables (96 reports) were fairly representative for the newspaper category. Also, in geographical derivation of news, their scope and the most heavily projected institutions, the newspaper was no different from the others. About the only major difference between it and most of the other newspapers was that there was a higher quotient of reports from the South-East zone.

However, The Champion did suffer from production hiccups every now and then with the result that printing was sometimes faint during the month. (See September 13, Page 28 for an example). When it veered to the other extreme, the page came out dark and equally illegible. (See September 1, page 1 and September 3 page 3 for examples).

More importantly, there were lapses on the editorial side as well. Firstly, many reports lacked essential background information. A case in point was the report "FG probes Kano, Jigawa flood disasters" (September 29, page 4).

Secondly, many reports which originated from the Federal Government were published more or less raw without the necessary critical editing and backgrounding. The danger here is that a newspaper which indulges in this begins to read like a government mouthpiece.

One can also question the decision of the editors to accord the American terrorist attack daily precedence over important national issues. This was for several days between September 17 and 22. One of the important matters which suffered relegation was the September 17 report headlined "States to boycott federation account allocation meeting." Although it should have been on the front page, it was shunted to an inside page.

6. Daily Trust (privately- owned)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
Sept. 1- 8	302	27	818	FCT-4 ZAM-2	NGR-9	SG-20 FG-7
Sept. 10 - 15	266	28	712	FCT	NGR	FG-27
Sept. 17 - 22	289	32	772	FCT-11	NGR-13	SG-9 PDP-8
Sept. 24 - 29	280	28	804	FCT-14 PLATEAU-2	NGR-24 PLATEAU-3	FG-17 SG-13
Monthly Total Sept. 1 - 29	1,137	115	2,906	FCT-29	NGR-37 PLATEAU-3	SG-42 FG-51

PERCENTAGE OF EVALUATED ITEMS TO TOTAL REPORTS: 10.1

TOPIC/VARIABLES: Democracy Issues - 44 reports (1,031 square inches); Political Issues - 36 reports (1,264 square inches); Human Rights - 14 reports (501square inches); and Public Accountability - 11 reports (312 square inches).

OBSERVATIONS: As before, the newspaper distinguished itself from the rest with clean and clear printing and well-planned pages. There was also a plethora of pictures which made reading easy on the eye. But some of the pictures had no relevance to the reports they accompanied. An example was the illustration that went with the report on Abuja chapter of the PDP on September 17, page 28. More importantly, the geographical scope of its reports was still overwhelmingly the far north. The newspaper's other lapses this month included speculative or sketchy reports and others which had gone stale. On September 25, for example, the report headlined *LG Councils may be dissolved December* was speculative and had no substance. Two sketchy reports were "Oputa rules on IBB" (Sept. 25) and "Lagos CJ releases 34 inmates" (Sept. 25). Conversely, the newspaper did a competent job on the report headlined "FG overspends N153 bn". Other newspapers which had the same material rather chose to focus on the crude oil windfall excess revenue but the newspaper took a novel slant which was quite in the public interest.

7. National Interest(privately- owned)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
Sept. 1 - 8	422	22	665	FCT-12	NGR-10	FG-14
Sept. 10 - 15	467	40	1078	FCT-13 LAGOS-6	NGR SG-11	FG-21
Sept. 17 -22	392	37	899	FCT-20 LAGOS-4	NGR-22 LAGOS-03	FGJUD-8 FG-7
Sept. 24 - 29	470	25	831	FCT-12 LAGOS-10	NGR-10 LAGOS-8	SG-56 FG-12
Monthly Total Sept. 1 - 29	1,751	124	3,473	FCT-57 LAGOS-20	NGR-42 LAGOS-11	FG-54 SG-67

PERCENTAGE OF EVALUATED ITEMS TO TOTAL REPORTS: 7.1%

TOPIC/VARIABLES: Democracy Issues - 57 reports (1,523 square inches); Political Issues - 30 reports (679 square inches); Human Rights - 25 reports (1,029 square inches); and Public Accountability - 11 reports (230 square inches).

OBSERVATIONS: The National Interest did not do badly in publishing topical news of public interest. If the figures for the Democracy and Politics variables (a total of 87 reports) were lower than usual, this could be due to the publication's house style of publishing news in newsfeature format. During the month in review, the newspaper published several topical newsfeatures which were detailed and fairly well backgrounded. Two examples were *Abubakar shuns Oputa panel again* (September 18, pp.1 & 2) and *Defence Ministry stinks of corruption - Senate Committee* (September 19, pp. 1&2). On the negative side, the editors too often resorted to the use of undisclosed sources which laid them open to the charge of printing speculative news. Also, some reports were one-sided such as *Council boss suspended in Gombe* (September 14, page 7) in which only the Gombe legislators were interviewed. The embattled chairman got a blackout. The aesthetics of the newspaper was quite good this month. It was also noteworthy that the paper had not less than 25 reports classified under Human Rights - well above the average figure.

8. The Punch (privately- owned)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
Sept. 1-8	470	63	2,142	FCT-20 LAGOS-12	NGR-42 LAGOS-10	SG-45 FG-14
Sept. 10 - 15	509	59	1453	FCT	NGR	FG-20 SG-18
Sept. 17 - 22	446	58	1,398	FCT-12 DELTA-04	NGR-31 DELTA-07	SG-15 FG-11
Sept. 24 - 29	605	59	1,749	FCT-20 LAGOS-12	NGR-27 LAGOS-10	SG-52 FG-12
Monthly Total Sept. 1-29	2,030	239	2,742	FCT-52 LAGOS-24	NGR-100 LAGOS-20	SG-130 FG-57

PERCENTAGE OF EVALUATED ITEMS TO TOTAL REPORTS: 11.8%

TOPIC/VARIABLES: Democracy Issues - 126 reports (2,779 square inches); Political Issues - 71 reports (1,929 square inches); Human Rights - 32 reports (1,840 square inches); and Public Accountability - 10 reports (284 square inches).

OBSERVATIONS: Of all the newspapers monitored this month, The Punch newspaper had the highest figure of evaluated reports (239) and one of the highest total reports - 2,030. And if we are talking about the politics and democracy variables, the recorded total figure of 197 for those two main categories was well above the monthly average. On the basis of these data alone, The Punch had evolved into a robust platform for the dissemination of news and information about democratic and political matters. In relative terms, it did a better job of it than most national newspapers. However, it did appear as if it allowed its blanket coverage of the US/Taliban face-off to reduce the pagination normally devoted to national news. Apart from this, on some days, unnecessary prominence was given the US/Taliba face-off at the expense of national news. Issues which affect the generality of Nigerians should ordinarily take priority over any foreign news. However, two lapses were detected in monitoring news in the newspaper. Firstly, the editors didn't pay enough attention to the diversification of news sources. Many reports went out with just one news source with the result that they often lacked balance. Here are two examples. On Monday September 17, the newspaper published *Only Ebonyi, Anambra can solve crises, says Okadigbo* on page 10 and *Igbo presidency is a must, says Okadigbo* on page 56. Both were sourced from one and the same person.

Beyond these, a clear case of imbalance could be established with these two reports: *Ogboru not a threat to Ibori* (September 13, page 9) and *Ogun LG Chairman suspended* (September 14, page 7). In neither case was the subject of the report contacted.

9. Thisday (privately-owned)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
Sept. 1 - 8	566	55	1,703	FCT-16 LAGOS-10	NGR-24 LAGOS-4	FG-27 SG-24
Sept. 10 -15	451	46	1,343	FCT	NGR	FG-32 IND-24
Sept. 17 - 22	517	50	1,139	FCT-11 LAGOS-8	NGR-23	FG-11 IND-10
Sept. 24 - 29	516	28	820	FCT-14 LAGOS-2	NGR-20 ZAM-2	FG-19 SG-17
Montly Total Sept. 1- 29	2,050	179	5,005	FCT-41 LAGOS-20	NGR-67 LAGOS-4	FG-89 SG-41

PERCENTAGE OF EVALUATED ITEMS TO TOTAL REPORTS: 8.7%

TOPIC/VARIABLES: Democracy issues - 85 reports (1,964 square inches); Political issues - 58 reports (1,645 square inches); Human Rights - 20 reports (957 square inches); and Public Accountability - 16 reports (442 square inches).

OBSERVATIONS: This month, ThisDay had the second highest figure recorded for total reports in the print media - 2,050, less than 30 short of the highest figure. In relative terms, this indicated that the newspaper did quite well in informing the public about a wide range of issues. However, with especial reference to the concerns of this project, it did less well. Only about 9 per cent of all reports monitored fell into the four main project variables. Nonetheless, out of the 179 evaluated reports, not less than 143 were classified as democracy or politics news, which was quite good. This could be due to the socio-political crises witnessed in the recent past as well as the feverish preparations of politicians for elections in 2002 and 2003. If anything, coverage of politics should even increase as the dates inch nearer. The monitoring of ThisDay this month indicated that it competently treated a large percentage of the evaluated reports which were found to be well-researched and exhaustively treated. Notwithstanding its clear preoccupation with politics generally, it also found space for reportage of the Oputa Panel sittings. One well treated report from Oputa was the testimony of General Danjuma (rtd) published on September 17 (page).

However, two lapses were observed during the month. The first was that some government claims were published without verification or independent corroboration. Secondly, quite serious charges were made against public functionaries in a rather careless manner. An example of the first was *86 towns get electricity* published on September 3. There was no evidence that the newspaper verified this claim by government before going to press.

On the other lapse, it published *PDP chairman faces panel over contract* on September 20 (page 7). However, the body of the report indicated that the supposed fraud was perpetrated during a military regime. The probable connection of the accused man with a crime committed years ago was not stated. Unfortunately, the headline did give the impression that the hapless chairman committed some crime.

On the whole, the newspaper did fairly well this month to advance the cause of democratic governance in the country. But it did less well in defending the basic right of citizens and holding government accountable to the citizenry.

10. The Guardian (privately- owned)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
Sept. 1-8	584	27	904	FCT-13	NGR-21	FG-21
Sept. 10 - 15	517	25	581	FCT-7	NGR-22	FG-21
Sept. 17 - 22	506	33	818	FCT-11	NGR-28	FG-27
Sept. 24-29	410	22	670	FCT-10 LAGOS-4	NGR-15 LAGOS-2	FG-10
Monthly Total Sept. 1-29	2,017	1,07	2,973	FCT-41 LAGOS-4	NGR-86 LAGOS-2	FG-79

PERCENTAGE OF EVALUATED ITEMS TO TOTAL REPORTS: 5.3%

TOPIC/VARIABLES: Democracy Issues - 37 reports (905 square inches); Political issues - 34 reports (924 square inches); Human Rights - 20 reports (843 square inches); and Public Accountability - 16 reports (331 square inches).

OBSERVATIONS: Of all the newspapers monitored this month, The Guardian's 5.3 percentage of evaluated items to total monitored reports was the lowest. The newspaper's recorded total of 71 reports for Politics and Democracy was also low. This latter fact was surprising considering that the general trend during the month was increased reportage in the two areas. As for the low proportion of evaluated items, it probably meant that the editors appropriated more space for other issues which have no relevance to the project. It is also possible that its massive coverage of the unfolding terrorist crises in the United States significantly reduced the space available for national news. For example, on September 28, more than two weeks after the terrorist strike, the newspaper devoted the front page lead and two inside pages to the subject. In fact on that day, three of the five front page reports concerned the US and terrorism. It is difficult to believe that there were no national issues of sufficient importance to displace them. Having said that, it is nonetheless true that the newspaper published several detailed and objective reports on issues of public interest. An example was *INEC clarifies stand on usage of ID card* which was published on September 17.

1. TELL (privately- owned)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
Sept. 1-8	33	3	770	LAGOS-1 ZAM-1	NGR	SG-4 FG-3
Sept. 10-15	39	5	821	BENUE-2	NGR-3	FG-5 SG-5
Sept. 17-22	45	3	450	FCT-2	NGR-3	ARMY-2
Sept. 24 - 29	39	4	848	FCT	NGR-3	MASSES-3 FG-2
Monthly Total Sept. 1-29	156	15	2,889	FCT-2 BENUE-2	NGR-9	SG-9 FG-10

PERCENTAGE OF EVALUATED ITEMS TO TOTAL REPORTS: 9%

TOPIC/VARIABLES: Human Rights - 6 reports (1,345 square inches); Political issues - 3 reports (668 square inches); Democracy issues - 4 reports (450 square inches); and Public Accountability - 3 reports (426 square inches).

OBSERVATIONS: There was an informative report on the Jos killings in the September 24 edition. Complemented with useful black and white pictures, it was obvious that the state correspondent did some useful digging before dispatching the piece. Also useful was a side-bar on communal clashes since May 1999. The headline of the package was *Bloodbath on the Plateau*. In terms of geographical spread, the stories monitored in the month came from all the geo-political zones of the country. A surprise this month was that the six human rights - related reports (of 1,345 square inches) constituted the biggest block of evaluated items. Usually, politics or democracy reports take this slot even in other monitored publications. There was astute use of editorial cartooning in the Sept. 10 edition. (It concerned Kogi's Abubakar Audu).

2. The News (privately- owned)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
Sept. 1 - 8	18	3	212	BAUCHI-1 EBONYI-1	BAUCHI-1 EBONYI-1	SG-3 FG-2
Sept. 10-15	19	2	283	FCT	NGR-2	FG
Sept. 17 - 22	NOT MONITORED		-	-	-	-
Sept. 24 - 29	28	3	124	FCT-3	NGR-2 NORTH-1	PDP-2 IND-2
Monthly Total Sept.1 - 29	65	8	619	FCT-3	NGR-4	FG-2 SG-3

PERCENTAGE OF EVALUATED ITEMS TO TOTAL REPORTS: 12%

TOPIC/VARIABLES: Political Issues - 4reports (387 square inches); Democracy Issues - 3 reports (125 square inches); Human Rights - 1 report (107 square inches). No evaluated report on Public Accountability.

OBSERVATIONS: The September 10 edition carried a report headlined *Carnage in Ebonyi* which was one-sided. The newsmagazine did not attempt to reflect the views of one of the warring camps - that of the Senate President, Chief Anyim. This lapse marred the item. Conversely, the October 1 edition (published in September) had an investigative news report *A General and his past* which was handled in a competent manner. One of the things which the editors did right was to contact not just General Oluleye (rtd) but the subject of the report, General Abdulsalami Abubakar (rtd) himself. Other news sources who could authenticate the allegations against the former head of state were also contacted. These efforts helped make the report fairly objective. On the whole, the report was a good instance of how a sensitive newsfeature should be handled.

3. The Week (privately- owned)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
Sept. 1 - 8 19	2	284		EBONYI-1	NGR-1 EBONYI-1	FG-3
Sept. 10 - 15	22	3	355	PLATEAU-1	NGR	PORG-2
Sept. 17 - 22	NOT	MONITORED		-	-	-
Sept. 24 - 29	NOT	MONITORED		-	-	-
Monthly Total Sept. 1 - 29	41	5	639	EBONYI-1 PLATEAU-1	NGR-1 EBONYI-1	FG-3 PORG-2

PERCENTAGE OF EVALUATED ITEMS TO TOTAL REPORTS: 12%

TOPIC/VARIABLES: Democracy Issues - 4 reports (568 square inches); Political Issues - 1 report (71 square inches); No evaluated reports for Human Rights and Public Accountability variables.

OBSERVATIONS: The September 10 edition had a report headlined “Afenifere attends Arewa function” which was reasonably detailed and factual. Unfortunately, the newsmagazine tended to run headlines which were affirmative and categorical whereas the claims could not stand on the basis of the appropriate reports. An example was a news item titled: *Operation move the nation forward*, which, detailed how the United States government killed Chief M.K.O. Abiola in 1998. The cover story ran from page 14 to 18. According to the publication, the US government murdered Chief Abiola and General Abacha in order to smoothen the path to the top for former head of state, General Abubakar (rtd). Unfortunately, the report was quite weak and the wild claims of the headlines were based on nothing stronger than hearsay and rumours. This particular cover story was nothing more than speculative journalism. Considering the fragile nature of the polity, it was unwise for the newsmagazine to throw caution to the winds and run sensational reports which did not seem to have any foundation in reality.

4. The Source (privately- owned)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
Sept. 1-8	NOT	MONITORED		-	-	-
Sept. 10-15	NOT	MONITORED		-	-	-
Sept. 17 - 22	10	2	374	IMO-1 TARABA-1	NGR-2	SG-2 LG-1
Sept. 24 - 29	13	5	1,335	BAYELSA-2 KADUNA-1	NGR-3 LAGOS-1	SG-4 FG-2
Monthly Total Sept 1-29	23	7	1,709	BAYELSA-2	NGR-5 LAGOS-1	SG-6 FG-2

PERCENTAGE OF EVALUATED ITEMS TO TOTAL REPORTS: 30%

TOPIC/VARIABLES: Democracy Issues - 2 reports (852 square inches); Political Issues - 4 reports (743 square inches); Public Accountability -2 reports (301 square inches); No reports were evaluated for the Human Rights variable.

OBSERVATIONS: During the month, the newsmagazine made greater efforts to substantiate allegations and statements in its news reports. The best example of this was the report headlined *Inside Nyame's empire* contained in the September 24 edition. Quite critical of the Taraba governor's administration, it nonetheless gave substantiating details and backgrounding. Better still, it strove for objectivity by mentioning some positive aspects of Revd Nyame's government. About the only major defect of the Taraba report was that it had no photographs of any of the controversial projects. The report occupied pages 29 & 30. On pages 25 & 26 was a story titled: *Legislators at war*. The story was not as good as the Nyame newsfeature but reasonably fair nonetheless. The monitoring also turned up noticeable improvements in the newsmagazine's design and printing. However, it was unfortunate that not one report was found relevant to the Human Rights topic/variable. But the fact that six out of the eight evaluated reports were politically related underlined the increased coverage of politics which was also noticed in most of the newspapers monitored during the month of September.

No.5 Newswatch (privately- owned)

Period	Total Reports	Evaluated Reports	(Sq. Inches) Dimension	News Origination	Scope	Mentions
Sept. 1 - 8	19	4	900	LAGOS-1 SOKOTO-1	NGR-2	FG-5 IND-8
Sept. 10 - 15	22	3	420	-	NGR	-
Sept. 17 - 22	13	2	467	LAGOS-1 IMO-1	NGR-1 IMO-1	IND-2 INEC-1
Sept. 24 - 29	10	5	1,583	FCT-3 LAGOS-2	NGR-4 TARABA-4	IND-25 PORG-10
Monthly Total Sept.1 - 29	64	14	3,379	LAGOS-4 FCT-3	NGR-7 TARABA-4	IND-35 PORG-10

PERCENTAGE OF EVALUATED ITEMS TO TOTAL REPORTS: 21%

TOPIC/VARIABLES: Democracy Issues - 10 reports (2,575 square inches); Human Rights - 2 reports (375 square inches); Public Accountability -1 report (280 square inches); and Political Issues - 1 report (140 square inches).

OBSERVATIONS: It had been said elsewhere that compared with the previous month, the print media's coverage of politics and democratic governance during the months of September increased. Newswatch was part of that trend. Out of the 14 evaluated news reports, eleven had to do with politics and governance. It is commendable that the newsmagazine made efforts to generate news from all the geopolitical zones. For instance, two of the reports monitored this month were sourced from Sokoto and Imo states. There were others from Taraba State. Another thing that improved was the quality of colour photograph reproduction. The September 24 edition contained two reports which were well handled: *Road to true democracy* (pp 16 & 17) and *Pocket the fund enterprise* (pp 19-21). They were not only detailed and fair but were generated from several disparate sources.

SECTION 4: STATISTICAL DATA

Frequency of Topics By Publication (%)

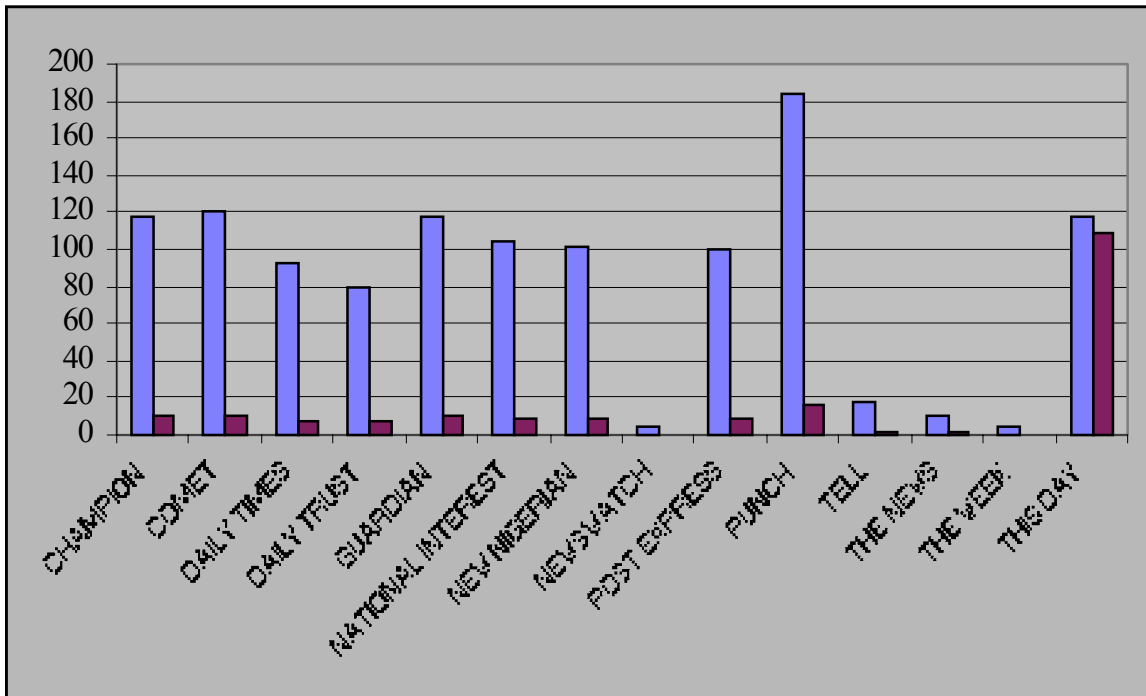
Newspapers & Magazines Variables	Guardian	ThisDay	Post Express	Daily Trust	Champion	Daily Times	New Nigerian	National Interest	Punch	Comet	TELL	Newswatch	The News	The Source	The Week
Separation of Powers	4 (0.34)	2 (0.17)	1 (0.08)	- (-)	3 (0.25)	- (-)	2 (0.17)	5 (0.42)	15 (1.27)	1 (0.08)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Recognition of Opposition	2 (0.17)	5 (0.42)	7 (0.59)	5 (0.42)	4 (0.34)	8 (0.68)	1 (0.08)	10 (0.85)	16 (1.35)	4 (0.34)	1 (0.08)	1 (0.08)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Registered Political Parties	18 (1.52)	21 (1.78)	19 (1.61)	10 (0.85)	27 (2.28)	13 (1.10)	13 (1.10)	12 (1.02)	31 (2.62)	24 (2.03)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	1 (0.08)
Other Political Associations	5 (0.42)	10 (0.85)	8 (0.68)	2 (0.17)	10 (0.85)	3 (0.25)	2 (0.17)	8 (0.68)	11 (0.93)	6 (0.51)	2 (0.17)	1 (0.08)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Reports on INEC	4 (0.34)	4 (0.34)	1 (0.08)	4 (0.34)	5 (0.42)	2 (0.17)	2 (0.17)	3 (0.25)	3 (0.25)	9 (0.76)	- (-)	1 (0.08)	1 (0.08)	- (-)	- (-)
Other Democracy Issues	10 (0.85)	20 (1.69)	14 (1.18)	8 (0.68)	19 (0.61)	12 (1.02)	8 (0.68)	12 (1.02)	19 (1.61)	22 (1.86)	4 (0.34)	- (-)	5 (0.42)	- (-)	3 (0.25)
Gender Rights	1 (0.08)	2 (0.17)	3 (0.25)	- (-)	1 (0.08)	3 (0.25)	- (-)	- (-)	3 (0.25)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Human Rights Violations	1 (0.08)	3 (0.25)	1 (0.08)	3 (0.25)	- (-)	1 (0.08)	- (-)	- (-)	1 (0.08)	- (-)	1 (0.08)	- (-)	2 (0.17)	- (-)	- (-)
Human Rights Promotion	2 (0.17)	2 (0.17)	- (-)	1 (0.08)	4 (0.34)	- (-)	1 (0.08)	1 (0.08)	- (-)	1 (0.08)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Human Rights Investigation	19 (1.61)	7 (0.59)	10 (0.85)	6 (0.51)	10 (0.85)	8 (0.68)	11 (0.93)	20 (1.69)	21 (1.78)	10 (0.85)	4 (0.34)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Corruption	7 (0.59)	6 (0.51)	2 (0.17)	3 (0.25)	6 (0.51)	5 (0.42)	4 (0.34)	5 (0.42)	1 (0.08)	10 (0.85)	1 (0.08)	1 (0.08)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Promoting Transparency	10 (0.85)	7 (0.59)	8 (0.68)	6 (0.51)	5 (0.42)	4 (0.34)	3 (0.25)	4 (0.34)	5 (0.42)	6 (0.51)	1 (0.08)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Political Issues	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Governments and Agencies	12 (1.02)	11 (0.93)	13 (1.10)	18 (1.52)	11 (0.93)	19 (1.61)	37 (3.13)	13 (1.10)	36 (3.05)	6 (0.51)	- (-)	1 (0.08)	2 (0.17)	- (-)	- (-)
Economic Policies	19 (1.61)	10 (0.85)	7 (0.59)	6 (0.51)	11 (0.93)	8 (0.68)	6 (0.51)	7 (0.59)	9 (0.76)	17 (1.44)	1 (0.08)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Emerging Political Issues	4 (0.34)	18 (1.52)	6 (0.51)	7 (0.59)	5 (0.42)	7 (0.59)	11 (0.93)	4 (0.34)	13 (1.10)	5 (0.42)	2 (0.17)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	1 (0.08)
Omitted Political Issues	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)

Print Media: Frequency of Areas of Origin, Coverage Scope (%)

AREAS OF ORIGIN(%)			COVERAGE SCOPE(%)		
AreaName	Frequency	Percentage (%)	ScopeName	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Abia	11	0.93	Abia	7	0.59
Adamawa	5	0.42	Adamawa	5	0.42
Akwa Ibom	11	0.93	Africa	1	0.08
Anambra	30	2.54	Akwa Ibom	11	0.93
Bauchi	4	0.34	Anambra	23	1.95
Benue	15	1.27	Bauchi	1	0.08
Borno	8	0.68	Benue	12	1.02
Bayelsa	17	1.44	Borno	8	0.68
Cross River	7	0.59	Bayelsa	10	0.85
Delta	26	2.20	Cross River	4	0.34
Ebonyi	19	1.61	Delta	18	1.52
Edo	20	1.69	Ebonyi	40	3.38
Ekiti	16	1.35	Edo	8	0.68
Enugu	18	1.52	Ekiti	10	0.85
Abuja	366	30.96	Enugu	7	0.59
Gombe	9	0.76	Abuja	23	1.95
Imo	15	1.27	Gombe	9	0.76
International	4	0.34	Imo	14	1.18
Jigawa	8	0.68	International	1	0.08
Kebbi	4	0.34	Jigawa	8	0.68
Kaduna	27	2.28	Kebbi	5	0.42
Kogi	5	0.42	Kaduna	18	1.52
Kano	14	1.18	Kogi	4	0.34
Katsina	12	1.02	Kano	12	1.02
Kwara	27	2.28	Katsina	9	0.76
Lagos	111	9.39	Kwara	15	1.27
Nasarawa	4	0.34	Lagos	55	4.65
Niger	9	0.76	Nasarawa	1	0.08
Nigeria	13	1.10	Niger Delta	9	0.76
Nil	166	14.04	North East	3	0.25
Ondo	30	2.54	Niger	6	0.51
Ogun	25	2.12	Nigeria	681	57.61
Osun	17	1.44	Nil	2	0.17
Oyo	52	4.40	Ondo	21	1.78
Plateau	12	1.02	Ogun	14	1.18
Rivers	11	0.93	Osun	15	1.27
Sokoto	8	0.68	Oyo	10	0.85
Taraba	11	0.93	Plateau	14	1.18
Zamfara	15	1.27	Rivers	6	0.51
Total:	1182	100.00	South East	6	0.51
			Sokoto	7	0.59
			South South	3	0.25
			South West	13	1.10
			Taraba	13	1.10
			South	4	0.34
			North	5	0.42
			Zamfara	11	0.93
			Total:	1182	100.00

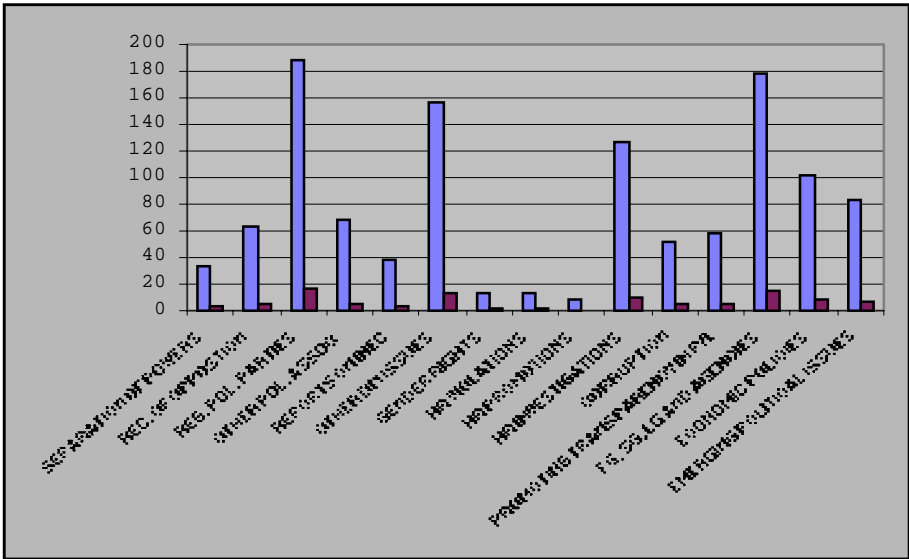
Print Media: Frequency of Publications (%)

Publication	Frequency	Percentage (%)
CHAMPION	117	9.90
COMET	121	10.24
DAILY TIMES	93	7.87
DAILY TRUST	79	6.68
GUARDIAN	118	9.98
NATIONAL INTEREST	104	8.80
NEW NIGERIAN	101	8.54
NEWSWATCH	5	0.42
POST EXPRESS	100	8.46
PUNCH	184	15.57
TELL	17	1.44
THE NEWS	10	0.85
THE WEEK	5	0.42
THIS DAY	128	10.83
Total:	1,182	100.00



Print Media: Frequency of Topics (%)

TopicName	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Separation of Powers	33	2.79
Recognition of Oppostion	64	5.41
Registered Political Parties	189	15.99
Other Political Association	68	5.75
Reports on INEC	39	3.30
Other Democracy Issues	156	13.20
Gender Rights	13	1.10
Human Rights Violations	13	1.10
Human Rights Promotions	8	0.68
Human Rights Investigations	126	10.66
Corruption	51	4.31
Promoting Transparency	59	4.99
Government Agencies	179	15.14
Economic Policies	101	8.54
Emerging Political Issues	83	7.02
Total:	1182	100.00



SECTION 5: NOTES, GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND KEYS TO ABBREVIATIONS

NOTES

The news reports which were monitored but not evaluated can be categorised into many departments. They included sports, business and finance, overland and maritime transport, aviation, law and adjudication, violence and crime, communication, agriculture, religious matters, the environment, the arts and entertainment, housing, education and the traditional institution.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

1. **Monitoring:** Assessing the programmes or publications of a news medium in terms of journalistic standards and production characteristics.
2. **Square Inches:** This refers to the length and breadth of the news item being monitored.
3. **Topic:** This concerns the variables being monitored in a particular publication or station.
4. **Subject:** This concerns the precise issue being monitored under a particular topic. For example, the annual convention of a political party is a subject under democracy (DM).
5. **Source:** This applies to the person, group or authority from whom or which the information was elicited for the news report being monitored.
6. **Mention:** This concerns the person, group or institution being promoted in the report being monitored. Note that the promotion could be positive or negative.
7. **Area:** The term refers to the city, state or region where the report was sourced. For example, Abuja federal capital territory
8. **Station:** This means the electronic broadcast medium being monitored. For instance, Channels Television.
9. **Bulletin:** An item of news in a programme.
10. **Duration:** This refers to the length of time that a news item being monitored was aired. For instance, 20 seconds.
11. **Actuality:** The screening of the event being reported in a broadcast.
12. **Still:** A library picture used to illustrate a news report
13. **Sound-bite:** This refers to the actual voice of the person being reported in the news broadcast. It means hearing the news subject speak on radio or television.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

FCT	-	Federal Capital Territory, Abuja
NGR	-	Nigeria
FG	-	Federal Govt and Agencies
SG	-	State Governments
PORG	-	Political Organisations
IND	-	Individuals
INEC	-	Independent National Electoral Commission
LG	-	Local Governments
PDP	-	Peoples Democratic Party
AD	-	Alliance for Democracy
APP	-	All Peoples Party
FGJUD	-	Federal Judiciary
FGAS	-	National Assembly



Media Rights Agenda (MRA) is an independent, non-governmental organisation established in August 1993 for the purpose of promoting and protecting press freedom and freedom of expression in Nigeria. MRA is registered in Nigeria, and has Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in Banjul, The Gambia.

The Aims and Objectives of Media Rights Agenda are:

- to promote respect and recognition for press freedom and freedom of expression in Nigeria;
- to provide protection and support for journalists and writers engaged in the lawful pursuit of their professional duties;
- to promote the highest standards of professional ethics, integrity, training and conduct in the journalism profession; and
- to bring about a conducive social and legal atmosphere for the practice of journalism, and ensure the protection of the journalist's right not to be compelled to work against his or her conviction or disclose confidential sources of information.

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Head Office

Media Rights Agenda, 44, Alhaja Kofoworola Crescent, Off Obafemi Awolowo Way, Ikeja,
P. O. Box 52113, Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria
Tel: 234-1-4936033-4, Fax: 234-1-4930831.; E-mail: pubs@mediarightsagenda.org; Web site: www.internews.org/mra

Regional Offices

Abuja
Suite 52, Corner Shop
Zone 2, Wuse,
Abuja

Kaduna
AK. 7, Yoruba Road
Kaduna
Tel. & Fax: 062-240083