

When Protectors Become Predators

The State Against Freedom of Expression in Nigeria, 2025



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PREFACE

In a democracy, the media serve as both a mirror and a conscience of society, shining the light on public affairs, exposing wrongdoing, and giving citizens the information they need to make informed choices. For this reason, journalists are often described as watchdogs of democracy.

In the Nigerian context, the media are specifically tasked by Section 22 of the 1999 Constitution, as amended, with upholding the “responsibility and accountability of the Government to the people.”

Yet, those who perform this essential public service are increasingly under siege, not just from criminals, insurgents, hoodlums or other non-state actors alone, but from the very state institutions that are mandated to protect them.

This report documents a disturbing pattern of intimidation, arbitrary arrests, unlawful detentions, harassment, physical violence and other forms of attacks against journalists and media workers by security and law enforcement agencies, intelligence operatives, and other government officials.

It highlights how those entrusted with maintaining law and order have instead become instruments of repression, targeting journalists for doing their legitimate work of informing the public and holding power to account.

By focusing on violations perpetrated by state agents, this report underscores one of the most troubling contradictions in Nigeria’s governance: the failure of public institutions and

officials to respect and protect the rights they are sworn to uphold.

The Constitution guarantees freedom of expression while Nigeria also has international obligations under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and other instruments, which impose a clear duty on the State to ensure the safety of journalists and to prevent impunity for attacks against them.

Yet, these commitments have too often remained on paper. Journalists are routinely assaulted while covering protests and other events, detained for publishing critical stories, or subjected to digital surveillance by state security and law enforcement agencies. In most cases, the perpetrators are neither identified nor held accountable.

This pervasive impunity not only erodes public trust in government institutions but also fuels further abuses, creating an environment of fear and self-censorship that weakens democratic governance.

The purpose of this report is not merely to record these violations but to call for change. It seeks to draw the attention of policymakers, oversight bodies, and the public to the urgent need for reform.

It is expected to contribute to the ongoing efforts by Media Rights Agenda and other groups to end the misuse of power by law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies; strengthen accountability mechanisms, and establish effective safeguards to protect journalists and uphold the public's right to know.

Media Rights Agenda hopes that this publication will serve as a tool for advocacy, policy dialogue, and institutional reform, and as a reminder that the safety of journalists is not a privilege but a legal and moral obligation of the State. Protecting journalists is, in essence, protecting the rights of all Nigerians to access information, participate in governance, and hold leaders accountable.

Edetaen Ojo

Executive Director

Media Rights Agenda

October 2025

Chapter One

1.0 The Duty of Government to Protect Journalists and Other Media Workers

The Nigerian Government, like other governments around the world, is under a legal obligation to ensure the safety of its citizens, including journalists, and protect their human rights.

Indeed, Section 14 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria, as amended, provides that “Nigeria shall be a State based on the principles of democracy and social justice” and goes on to declare that “the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government.”

Ironically, however, despite the aspiration to democratic principles and social justice, the same government that is supposed to ensure the safety and security of journalists remains the greatest threat to and, by far, the foremost violator of the rights of journalists in Nigeria, in clear breach of the constitutional guarantees of human rights and Nigeria’s obligations under various international instruments.

This is also in complete disregard of the provisions of Section 13 of the Constitution, which imposes a positive obligation on all arms, organs, agencies and officials of government to uphold and respect the provisions of the Constitution, including those provisions that guarantee and protect human rights.

Section 13 of the Constitution stipulates that “It shall be the duty and responsibility of all organs of government, and of all

authorities and persons, exercising legislative, executive or judicial powers, to conform to, observe and apply the provisions of this Chapter (Chapter Two) of this Constitution.”

The duty of the State to protect journalists is a cornerstone of any functional democracy and a fundamental requirement under the relevant international human rights instruments.

Journalists are not mere observers; they are an essential element in the concept of an informed public, acting as watchdogs who hold power accountable. In addition to being a globally-accepted principle of democratic governance, this is also part of the “Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy” specifically recognised by the Nigerian Constitution.

Section 22 of the 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.”

Therefore, ensuring their safety and the freedom to perform their work without fear of violence, intimidation, or arbitrary detention is a non-negotiable obligation of the Nigerian State, both in accordance with international human rights Law and under the Constitution.

The right to freedom of expression, enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Article 9 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, and Section 39 of the 1999 Constitution, among other instruments, necessitates the protection of those who exercise the right

professionally. Without such protection, the right is effectively curtailed.

Journalists often investigate corruption, human rights abuses, and misuse of power, among other issues. This is a responsibility specifically imposed on the media by Section 22 of the Constitution, referred to earlier. The State must, therefore, protect journalists and other media workers from those who would use violence or coercion to prevent them from performing this constitutional function and social duty, thereby protecting the principle of accountability.

Attacks on journalists, whether physical, legal, or digital, create a "chilling effect" as they tend to discourage other journalists from pursuing sensitive stories or engaging in critical reporting, leading to self-censorship and consequently a less informed, less engaged, and participatory citizenry.

The Government's obligation to safeguard individuals in general and journalists, more particularly, from human rights abuses and other attacks, as outlined in a variety of regional and international human rights instruments, may be performed through the adoption of appropriate regulations, laws and policies, or by undertaking necessary investigations and enforcement actions.

These various actions enable the State to fulfill its obligation as outlined in Principle 1(2) of the 2019 Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa, which states, as a general rule, that "States Parties to the African Charter shall create an enabling environment for the exercise of freedom of expression and access to information, including by ensuring protection against acts or omissions of non-State actors

that curtail the enjoyment of freedom of expression and access to information.”

The Declaration was adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights in November 2019 pursuant to Article 45(1) of the African Charter, which requires the Commission to promote human and peoples’ rights, among others, by formulating and laying down principles and rules to solve legal problems relating to human and peoples’ rights and fundamental freedoms upon which African States could base their domestic laws. The Declaration forms part of the soft-law corpus of Article 9 of the African Charter norms developed by the African Commission.

The United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, adopted in 2012, provides a global blueprint for protecting journalists, based on the recognition that a safe and enabling environment for journalists is vital to freedom of expression, democracy and sustainable development.

The duty of the State to protect journalists has three distinct obligations, namely the duty to prevent attacks against journalists, the duty to protect journalists under attack, and the duty to investigate attacks, prosecute, and punish perpetrators.

In fulfillment of its duty to prevent attacks, the State must create an environment where journalism can thrive freely. This includes repealing or amending laws which unduly restrict journalism practice or freedom of expression, such as criminal defamation and sedition that are often used to harass or imprison journalists.

In the Nigerian context, this should also include the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act, which has created a raft of offences that enables the Act to be frequently misused by security and law enforcement agencies to silence or punish journalists and critics of government.

Creating an environment where journalism can thrive freely will naturally also necessitate the adoption of laws, regulations, and policies that recognise the professional role of journalists, ensure freedom of expression and a safe environment for media practice, including acknowledging that journalists should be able to carry out their professional duties without undue hindrance or interference.

Principle 19(1) of the Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa is unequivocal in stating that “The right to express oneself through the media by practising journalism shall not be subject to undue legal restrictions” while Principle 20(1) imposes an obligation on States to “guarantee the safety of journalists and other media practitioners.”

Furthermore, Principle 20(2) stipulates that “States shall take measures to prevent attacks on journalists and other media practitioners, including murder, extra-judicial killing, torture and other forms of ill-treatment, arbitrary arrest and detention, enforced disappearance, kidnapping, intimidation, threats, and unlawful surveillance undertaken by State and non-State actors.”

All of these, taken together, present a clear picture of the range of actions required of the Government, across different organs and agencies, to enable it fulfill its obligation to protect journalists.

In addition, high-ranking State officials are expected to publicly and unequivocally condemn all forms of violence against the media and refrain from using language that could incite hostility toward journalists.

Furthermore, Government is required to educate and sensitise law enforcement officers and military personnel on the importance of media freedom and the State's obligations to protect journalists, as well as the State's international human rights and international humanitarian law obligations and commitments relating to the safety of journalists

Specifically, Principle 20(3) of the Declaration of Principles requires States to take measures to raise awareness and build the capacities of journalists and other media practitioners, policy makers, and other stakeholders on laws and standards for ensuring the safety of journalists and other media practitioners.

With respect to the duty to protect, this requires States to ensure that journalists and media workers are safe from violence, threats, intimidation, arbitrary arrest or detention, and unlawful surveillance, among others. Thus, when specific threats arise, the Government has an obligation to act with due diligence, which includes providing immediate, effective, and appropriate protection measures to journalists facing threats, which may include, for instance, providing police escorts or temporary relocation.

The Government is also expected to establish protection mechanisms such as creating specialised, independent, and easily accessible national protection mechanisms. This could be rapid response units or secure communication channels that are specifically for journalists.

But perhaps the most critical failure of the Government with respect to its duty to ensure the safety of journalists is its inability or unwillingness to prosecute the attackers of journalists, which creates an environment and culture of impunity.

The UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity underscores the fact that the failure to prosecute perpetrators of attacks against journalists, which emboldens criminals and other potential attackers, is one of the greatest threats to media freedom.

Principle 20(4) of the Declaration of Principles sets out the obligations of Governments thus: “States shall take effective legal and other measures to investigate, prosecute, and punish perpetrators of attacks against journalists and other media practitioners, and ensure that victims have access to effective remedies.”

Principle 20(5) of the Declaration, on the other hand, makes clear that “States shall be liable for the conduct of law enforcement, security, intelligence, military, and other personnel which threatens, undermines, or violates the safety of journalists and other media practitioners.”

The Government must therefore live up to its responsibility to conduct prompt, thorough, independent, and impartial investigations into all cases of attacks, threats, or murders of journalists, regardless of the alleged perpetrator's identity or status, and ensure that they are brought to justice and suitably punished.

The Government should ensure that not only the direct attackers but also the masterminds and those who ordered or directed the attacks are prosecuted and appropriately punished under the law.

Chapter Two

2.0 Analysis of Incidents of Attacks on FoE 2025

Between January 1, 2025 and October 31, 2025, Media Rights Agenda (MRA) recorded a total of 69 incidents of various types of attack against freedom of expression and the press. MRA acknowledged the fact that there are several incidents of attacks on freedom of expression that it missed and did not have the opportunity to record or analyse. Media houses, media workers and citizens suffered assault and battery, arrest and detention, threat to life, abduction/kidnapping, prevention from duty, invasion/raid, and harassment. Other forms of attacks that they suffered were killing, shutdown of media houses or their operations, court or police summons, and others. The victims suffered these attacks either because of who they are [media workers] or as a result of what they published/broadcast [media workers and citizens].

A mix of different categories and sectors of the Nigerian society constituted perpetrators of these attacks. Unfortunately, incidents collated and analysed by MRA show that state actors or government officials, either elected, appointed, or employed constituted the major perpetrators accounting for these attacks in 51 incidents that constitute 73.91% or nearly three quarters of the attacks, while non-state actors were responsible for the attacks in 18 cases or 26.08%, minimally above a quarter of the attacks, of the total recorded incidents.

The various categories of government officials who perpetrated included law enforcement agencies (the Nigeria Police Force); intelligence agencies (Department of State Services DSS); the military (Army, Airforce, and Navy); paramilitary agencies (Nigerian Customs, Nigerian Immigration Service, and Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps NSCDC); elected and appointed public officials; civil servants and judges; and states enforcement corps.

Non-state actors identified as perpetrators of attacks on press freedom and freedom of expression included political thugs from the ruling All Progress Congress (APC) and the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP); individuals including legislative aides; organized groups including the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), the Radio, Television, Theatre and Arts Workers' Union of Nigeria (RATTAWU), and the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ); mobs, religious groups, a monarch, and unknown armed men.

2.1 Analysis of Government Attacks on Freedom of Expression

Analysis of the data available to MRA shows that the law enforcement agency, the Nigeria Police Force, was by far the worst perpetrator of attacks on freedom of expression. Operatives of the Nigeria Police Force were perpetrators in 31 instances of the collated cases of attacks on freedom of expression. This means that they perpetrated 44.92% of all the incidents of attacks on freedom of expression collated by MRA, and 60.78% of the recorded incidents of attacks perpetrated by government officials.

Elected and appointed political public officials, including governors, ministers and commissioners, were responsible for seven (7) recorded incidents of attacks. This figure translates to 10.14% of the total recorded incidents of attacks on freedom of expression by both state and non-state actors; and 13.72% of the total recorded incidents of attacks by public officials.

Operatives of Nigeria's local intelligence agency, the Department of State Services (DSS), were responsible for four (4) of the recorded incidents of attacks on freedom of expression during the period. This number accounts for 5.79% of the total recorded incidents of attacks on freedom of expression by both state and non-state actors; and 7.84% of the total recorded incidents of attacks by public officials.

Judges, especially magistrates, were perpetrators of attacks on freedom of expression in three (3) incidents. States enforcement corps, including the Sharia moral Hisba corps in Northern Nigeria, and environmental codes enforcement corps in Southern Nigeria, were each responsible for a combined three (3) incidents of attacks apiece. Judges and states enforcement corps were therefore perpetrators of attacks on freedom of expression in 4.34% apiece, of all recorded incidents and 5.88% apiece, of the total incidents in which government officials were perpetrators.

The Nigerian Armed Forces, comprising the Army, Air Force, and Navy; paramilitary agencies including Nigerian Customs, Nigerian Immigration Service, and Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps NSCDC; and civil servants were each perpetrators in one (1) incident apiece. This means they were each perpetrator in 1.44% of the total recorded incidents of attacks and 1.96% apiece of the incidents of attacks by government officials.

The table below shows the number and percentage of times state and non-state actors were perpetrators of attacks on freedom of expression during the period reviewed

S/N	Perpetrators	Frequency	Percentage
1.	State Actors	51	73.92%
2.	Non-State Actors	18	26.08%
Total		69	100%

Chart showing the number of times state and non-state actors were perpetrators of attacks on freedom of expression

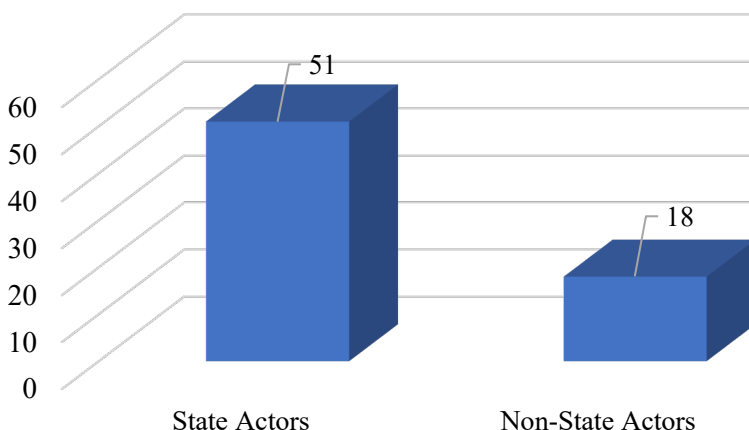
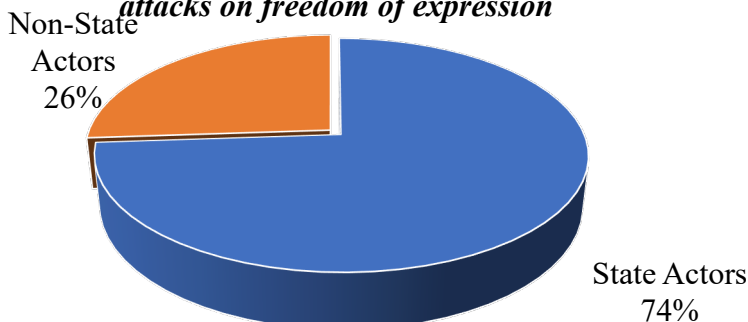


Chart showing the percentage number of times state and non-state actors were perpetrators of attacks on freedom of expression



The table below shows the number and percentage of times the different state actors alone were perpetrators of attacks on freedom of expression during the period reviewed

S/N	Perpetrators	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Nigeria Police Force	31	60.78%
2.	Political Public Officials	7	13.72%
3.	Department of State Services	4	7.84%
4.	Judges	3	5.88%
5.	States Enforcement Corps	3	3.88%
6.	Nigerian Armed Forces	1	1.96%
7.	Paramilitary Agencies	1	1.96%
8.	Civil Servants	1	1.96%
Total		51	100%

Chart showing the number of times the different state actors alone were perpetrators of attacks on freedom of expression

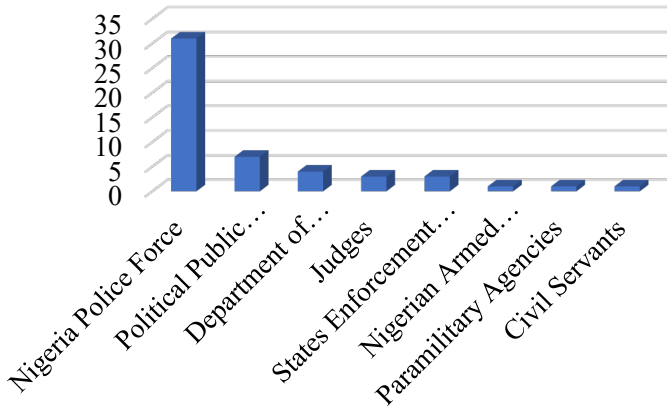
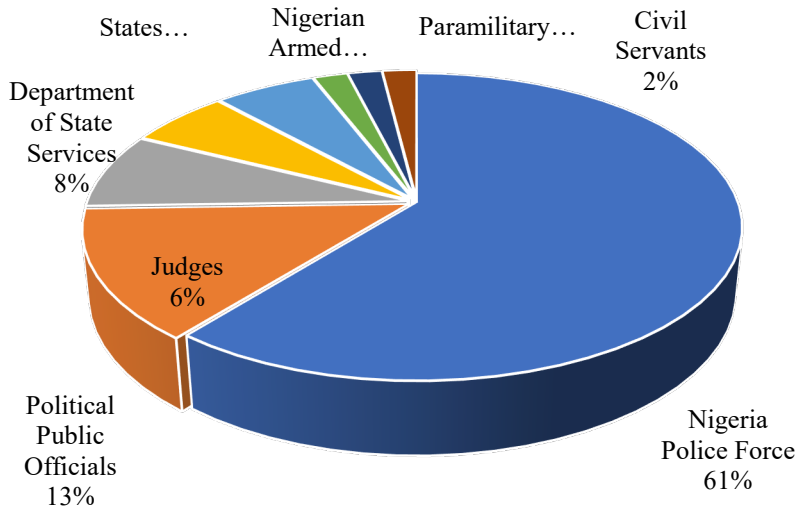


Chart showing the percentage number of times the different state actors alone were perpetrators of attacks on freedom of expression



Chapter Three

3.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

Freedom of expression is a universally recognised inalienable right that is guaranteed as a fundamental human right by Section 39 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As Amended). It has also been acknowledged as the foundation of all other human rights and the first condition of liberty. It therefore means that a citizen that cannot enjoy the right to freedom of expression is not a free society. The magnitude of attacks on freedom of expression during the period under review, the number of government officials who are perpetrators of these attacks and the impunity with which the perpetrators carry out these attacks are concerning and call for concerted efforts to eliminate them or at least hold perpetrators accountable to stem the tide.

Section 22 of the same constitution mandates the media to hold government accountable to the people. Without a free press, the citizenry will not have access to accurate, timely and life-saving information.

The following are the recommendations for the various stakeholders.

1. Federal Government of Nigeria

Strengthen accountability mechanisms for government officials, given that nearly 74% of attacks on freedom of expression were perpetrated by government officials, especially by the Nigeria Police Force (44.92%). It is crucial to enforce stringent accountability measures, including transparent investigations

and prosecutions of officials involved in attacks against journalists and media workers. Officers found responsible for unlawful arrests, assaults, or detentions of journalists should face disciplinary and criminal sanctions.

Reform and retrain law enforcement, security and intelligence agencies (Police, DSS, Military, NSCDC, etc.) on respecting media freedom, human rights, and democratic accountability.

Enhance protection policies for journalists by developing and enforcing laws and policies that specifically safeguard journalists and media workers from assaults, threats, unlawful detention, and other forms of harassment, ensuring a safe working environment for free expression.

State governors, commissioners, and other political appointees should be held accountable for their involvement in attacks on journalists, which accounted for 10.14% of the total incidents.

Engage with media and civil society to create a safe environment for local journalists, including establishing “Media–Government Dialogue Platforms” to address grievances and prevent violence.

2. Enforcement and Security Agencies

It is recommended that internal disciplinary frameworks be reviewed to ensure transparent handling of cases involving officers who attack or intimidate journalists.

Freedom of expression, media rights and the full gamut of human rights modules should be integrated into the curriculum of police and security agencies' training institutions to ground them on respecting media freedom, human rights, and democratic accountability.

3. The Judiciary

The National Judicial Council should implement judicial oversight mechanisms to monitor and prevent magistrates and other judicial officers from issuing frivolous orders that violate journalists' and other citizens' rights to freedom of expression.

Ensure prompt and fair adjudication of cases involving journalists' rights violations and violations of freedom of expression.

4. National Assembly

Amend existing laws and enact new ones that clearly and specifically criminalise attacks on journalists and guarantee their safety.

Provide legislative oversight on law enforcement agencies' compliance with human rights and press freedom standards.

Amend all laws that criminalise expression and make them civil matters in conformity with international standards and norms that treat expression offences as civil matters

5. Media Organizations and Journalists Unions

Media organizations and journalists' unions should conduct regular training on digital and physical safety for journalists, especially in light of the increasing involvement of security forces in attacks.

Collate, document, analyse, and report all violations promptly to media freedom organisations like MRA and the National Human Rights Commission to strengthen data collection and advocacy.

Develop collective safety protocols and create emergency support systems for journalists under threat.

6. Civil Society and Human Rights Organizations

Sustain advocacy for justice and accountability in cases of attacks on journalists.

Provide legal and psychosocial support to victims of harassment and unlawful detention.

Build coalitions and public campaigns to demand an end to impunity and pressure the government to uphold its obligations under international human rights instruments.

7. International and Regional Bodies

Urge the Nigerian government to domesticate and implement international commitments, including UN Resolution 68/163 on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

Support local organizations through funding and technical assistance to monitor, report, and escalate reporting on attacks on journalists and freedom of expression.

Encourage peer review mechanisms within ECOWAS and the African Union to promote accountability for crimes against journalists across member states.

Chapter Four

4.0 Categories of attacks

4.1 Assault and Battery

Police Teargas BusinessDay Crew Covering #FreeNnamdiKanuNow Protest

Policemen on October 20, 2025, fired teargas canisters at a BusinessDay TV media crew comprising Tony Ailemen, Tunde Adeniyi, Ladi Patrick-Okwoli, and Michael Godwin covering the #FreeNnamdiKanuNow protests at the Central Business District by Ministry of Finance in Abuja, shattering the windshield of their vehicle.

According to media reports, the BusinessDay media crew members were conducting a voice pop on the protest when the police fired teargas in their direction. The canister shattered the back windscreen of their vehicle, injuring the camera man, Tunde Adeniyi.

Witnesses said the journalists inside the vehicle would have suffocated if not for the quick intervention of commuters.

Meanwhile, one of BusinessDay's journalists said they identified themselves as journalists, but the police still fired teargas in their direction, targeting their car, and they had to flee the scene.

Journalist Assaulted by Imo State Environmental Compliance Corps

On October 13, 2025, Mr Uchechukwu Olebara, a senior editorial staff member of Radio Maria 106.7 FM, Owerri, was assaulted by operatives of the Imo State Environmental Monitoring and Compliance Unit of the Shared Prosperity administration for allegedly recording them while they were demolishing illegal structures and shanties in the New Owerri Roundabout.

The windscreens of his Toyota Corolla, side mirrors and the car headlamps were smashed while the body of the car was badly damaged by members of the group.

The operatives of the Environmental Corps attacked Mr Olebara with machetes, as well as hauled stones and big sticks with which they smashed his car. Mr Olebara, popularly known as Cool DJ Blaze, had to run for his life and was able to barely escape death.

Meanwhile, the Journalist lamented that when he reported the incident at the New Owerri police station, rather than investigate the assault, he was simply asked to “call the SA and settle with him.”

NSCDC Operatives Assault Channels TV Cameraman Covering Turbaning Ceremony

On October 11, 2025, operatives of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Kaduna State Command, assaulted and rough-handled a Channels TV Cameraman, Mr Ogbonna Chukwu, while attempting to access the venue of the turbaning ceremony of former Vice-President, Mr Namadi

Sambo, by the Emir of Zazzau, Amb. Ahmed Bamalli, in Zaria, Kaduna State.

The incident sparked widespread condemnation after circulating on social media.

Meanwhile, the Corps' Kaduna State Commandant, Mr Panam Musa, on October 13, tendered an unreserved apology to Channels Television over the assault.

Mr Musa described the conduct of the officers as “unfortunate and unacceptable”, noting that it does not reflect the values of the Corps. While appreciating the media for its longstanding support to the NSCDC, he tendered the apology of the Corps to Channels Television for the incident.

He said, “It was an act of overzealousness by some of our personnel, which we do not condone. On behalf of the Corps, I sincerely say we are sorry.” He assured that appropriate disciplinary measures were being taken to address the misconduct and prevent a recurrence.

Operatives of Lagos State Building Control Agency Brutalise, Detain Blueprint Photojournalist

On September 20, 2025, operatives of the Lagos State Environmental and Enforcement Unit and the Building Control Agency (LASBCA) attacked, brutalised, and detained Mr Sunday Essiet, a photojournalist with Blueprint newspaper, for 10 hours while he was covering a demolition exercise at the Jakande Estate in the Isolo area of Lagos State.

Although Mr Essiet had obtained permission from a senior police officer to cover the event, when other police operatives and some louts saw him with a camera, they pounced on him, beat him, tore his clothes, threw away his official identification card, and seized his camera.

The photojournalist said after being brutalised, he was dragged and locked in a black maria van from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. without food.

Meanwhile, CP Olohundare Jimoh, the Lagos State Commissioner of Police, was contacted, and he made a call to the chairman of LASBCA, CSP Adetayo Akerele, who then ordered Mr Essiet's release. However, his camera and other gadgets were not returned to him.

Political Thugs Attack Journalists Covering Edo State Local Council By-Election

On September 20, 2025, journalists covering the conduct of local government by-elections at Asoro Primary School in Oredo Ward 9, Edo State, were attacked by alleged political thugs.

According to media reports, the reporters were conducting interviews and taking photographs when a man who claimed to be an agent of the ruling political party, the All Progressives Congress (APC), accused them of working for the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

He mobilised other thugs to attack and assault the journalists; they seized their phones and jotters, deleted recordings, images, and videos from the journalists' devices, and subjected them to

prolonged harassment and intimidation before returning their belongings.

Defendant Attacks The Guardian Photojournalist in Court

On May 19, 2025, Mr Adebayo Akeju, a partner in the firm of Adon Partners and a defendant undergoing trial on charges of conspiracy to commit forgery, forgery, and willful destruction of property, attacked Mr Ayodele Adeniran, a photojournalist with The Guardian newspaper, for attempting to take his photograph at the Lagos State High Court in Tafawa Balewa Square (TBS), Lagos.

Mr Akeju physically dragged Mr Adeniran and only released him after he showed him his camera to prove that he had not taken any photographs.

Journalist Brutalised in Ogun State, NUJ Imposes Blackout on NANS Activities

On May 1, 2025, Mr Olajide Osoba, publisher of Newsangleonline, was assaulted by members of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) at the June 12 Cultural Centre in Kuto, Abeokuta, Ogun State. The attack allegedly occurred on the orders of Mr Azeez Adeyemi, the Senior Special Assistant to the Ogun State Governor on Student Matters.

Mr Osoba, who was at the venue to cover the 2025 Workers' Day celebration, sustained visible injuries during the attack, including bloodied clothing and facial wounds. Speaking after

the incident, he maintained that he had done nothing to warrant the assault.

Meanwhile, the Ogun State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) has condemned the attack in strong terms. In a statement signed by its Secretary, Bunmi Adigun, the Union described the incident as a gross violation of press freedom and an attack on the safety of journalists.

Consequently, the NUJ temporarily suspended the media coverage of all NANS-related activities in the state, pending the outcome of investigations by both the Union and the police.

“We have taken a firm stance following the alleged assault on a journalist and a member of the Union, Olajide Osoba, by supposed students and members of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS), Ogun State,” the statement read. “The leadership of Ogun NUJ has ordered a temporary blacklist on all coverage of activities by the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) until a thorough investigation is conducted,” the statement added.

Journalist Assaulted by Senator Akobundu’s Aides in Abia State

Mr Tony Icheku, a journalist based in Abia State, was assaulted by bouncers who physically lifted him and threw him out of a canopy at a public event on April 17, 2025, on the orders of Senator Austin Akobundu, who represents Abia Central Senatorial District.

The incident occurred during a funeral ceremony in Ikwuano Local Government Area, where Mr Icheku was taking

photographs of the senator. According to eyewitnesses, Senator Akobundu instructed his aides to “deal seriously” with the journalist, prompting them to physically eject and assault him.

According to reports, a former Councilor of Ikwuano LGA, Mr Friday Uko, who was seen speaking with the Senator at the time, allegedly reinforced the instruction to the bouncers, telling them to “deal ruthlessly” with Mr Icheku and declaring that “the heavens would not fall.”

Speaking on the possible reason for the attack, Mr Icheku revealed that he had previously questioned Senator Akobundu on his stance regarding the Senate controversy involving Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan. “Senator Akobundu refused to respond but sent strong signals for me to stop my inquiries,” he said. “I refused, because his silence contradicts my professional commitment to the constitutional mandate for the media to hold public officials accountable.”

Mr Icheku referenced Chapter 2, Section 22 of the Nigerian Constitution, which guarantees the press the responsibility to uphold accountability and transparency in governance.

Daily Trust Photojournalist Brutally Attacked by Traders in Lagos Market

Mr Benedict Uwalaka, a photojournalist with Daily Trust newspaper, was violently attacked on April 13, 2025, by a group of traders at the Kontagora Market on Anifowose Street in the Abule-Egba area of Lagos. The assault occurred while he was photographing wheelbarrow pushers as part of his reporting assignment.

According to Mr Uwalaka, three men initially approached him and accused him of being a government informant. They raised an alarm that quickly drew a crowd of about 15 traders, who seized his camera, tied his hands and legs, and began beating him. He sustained a head injury during the ordeal.

“They tied my legs and hands behind me and kept beating me,” Mr Uwalaka said from a private hospital where he was treated. “They said I was an informant and threatened to kill me while calling others to join in the attack.”

He said he reported the incident at the Oke-Odo Police Station in Ile-Epo, and they have arrested one suspect, while others are on the run.

Journalists Covering Protest in Port Harcourt Brutalised, Arrested

Five journalists – Charles Opurum, the Rivers State correspondent of Channels Television; Allwell Ene of Naija FM; Soibelemari Oruwari of Nigeria/Info; Ikezam Godswill of AIT, and Femi Ogunkhilede of Super FM – who went to cover the protest by the Coalition of Rivers Civil Society Organisations and members of the Take-it-back movement calling for the repeal of the Cybercrime Act and an end to the emergency rule in River State, were on April 7, 2025, brutalised, arrested and detained by armed policemen who were deployed to quell the peaceful protest.

The civil society coalition had gathered at Isaac Boro Park in Port Harcourt, where its leadership addressed the media. The protesters then proceeded towards the Federal Secretariat when

they were accosted around the CFC flyover by a convoy of policemen who fired tear gas canisters into their midst.

Mr Opurum was tear-gassed, arrested, and brutally beaten up by a policeman before being bundled into a waiting van. According to him, while the police were firing tear gas, he tried to film what was happening, and from nowhere, an overzealous policeman attacked him. He said the policeman grabbed him by the shirt and trousers and asked who he was. He said he identified himself and showed his identity card, but the officer said even if he is a journalist he was not supposed to join the protest, that he should have listened to the police instruction. The correspondent said he informed the policeman that he was not protesting but was there to report what was happening.

Mr Opurum said: “He kept slapping, beating me, and dragging me, and tried to force me into a bus. I looked at the bus and said to him ‘no, I can’t enter this bus because this is not a police van.’ I told him, ‘put me in a police van, let me know when I am in the custody of the police’, so he dragged me to the second van and pushed me inside. He tried to seize my phone, but I resisted. I held my phone back and said I’m not releasing my phone to you, so when I entered the van, they closed it.” He was eventually released by members of the Commissioner of Police Monitoring Unit who recognised him.

The AIT cameraman had his camera seized and footage of the confrontation deleted by the police before it was returned to him.

Security Agents Assault Journalists, Deny Them Access to National Assembly

On March 26, 2025, law enforcement and security agents deployed to the National Assembly in Abuja assaulted some journalists and denied them access to the premises to cover the day's proceedings despite pleas by the journalists to be allowed to perform their professional duties.

The Sergeant-at-Arms and police officers on duty claimed they were acting on "orders from above" to prevent persons without official permanent identity cards from entering the White House complex of the National Assembly.

Pleas from the journalists, who explained that the National Assembly's Information Department had not yet issued them their permanent identity cards fell on deaf ears.

The situation escalated and the security personnel resorted to verbal abuse and then physically attacked some journalists. In the process, Mr Mudashiru Atanda, a photojournalist with The Sun, sustained some injuries, while Mr Nicolas Kalu of The Nation newspaper and Ms Gloria Essien of the Voice of Nigeria, who attempted to intervene, were pushed aside during the altercation. A smartphone belonging to Ms Tolu Akinyemi, an accredited journalist with SuperScreen Television, was confiscated by one of the security personnel who also threatened to ensure she never saw it again.

Journalist Beaten, Locked up After Raising Alarm Over Church Fire in Port Harcourt

On March 15, 2025, Mr. Precious Amadi, a broadcast journalist, was brutally beaten up, his two phones damaged, and locked up

in a garage for hours by overzealous members of Salvation Ministries for sending an SOS message on Facebook to the Rivers State Fire Service to come contain a fire outbreak in the Church premises at 17 Birabi Street, GRA, Port Harcourt in Rivers State.

Recounting his ordeal, Precious said that he noticed flames within the Church premises while returning from work and he immediately took action; evacuating chairs, fetching water to contain the fire, and making several unanswered calls to the Rivers State Fire Service.

He said despite his efforts, some church members allegedly turned on him, accusing him of being a spy and falsely claiming he was sent to attack Pastor David Ibiyeomie. The situation escalated as they reportedly beat him, destroyed his two phones, and inflicted multiple injuries on him.

In a bid to seek help, Amadi posted an SOS message on Facebook. However, this provoked further aggression as he was subjected to more assault under the supervision of junior pastors in the Church. The members accused Mr Precious of starting the fire, and locked him in a garage for hours.

He was eventually released around 1 AM the next day, but not before church members had deleted his social media posts and erased data from his phone to remove evidence.

Precious said, “I had no ulterior motives. I am a journalist based in Port Harcourt, and I acted purely out of concern. Despite my efforts to help, I was brutally beaten, accused of being an enemy of the Church, and locked up. I was warned not to speak up, but I refuse to remain silent. I demand justice.”

UI Security Assault Campus Journalists Who Recorded Them Manhandling Student

On March 7, 2025, during the inauguration and swearing-in of elected executive members of the University of Ibadan Students Representative Council (UISRC), two campus journalists, Mr. Olanshile Ogunrinu and Mr. Oluwasegun Akanni, were assaulted, and had their phones seized for recording the manhandling of Ms Nice Linus, an elected member of the Council, by the university's security personnel.

Messrs. Ogunrinu and Akanni were assaulted by three members of the University of Ibadan (UI) security outfit codenamed 'Abefe'. They pinned Ogunrinu to the wall, slapped and dragged him out of the hall, and took him to the Abefe office. They also seized his phone.

The institution's security officers had forcefully dragged Ms Nice Linus out of the Trenchard Hall because Mr. T. I Musa, the institution's Deputy Registrar, revoked her election as a member of the UISRC due to her pending SDC case on the role she played in the 2024 protests against fees hike. Witnessing the incidents, the journalists decided to capture it with their phones when the Deputy Registrar shouted: "He is recording", following which three security men rushed at him and his colleague, pinned them to the wall, and forcefully confiscated Mr. Ogunrinu's phone.

He was later released while writing a statement at the office of the Abefe security outfit.

Nigerian Air Force Officers Assault Journalists

On March 6, 2025, at about 7.40 AM, armed personnel from the Nigerian Air Force Base in Ikeja, Lagos assaulted three

journalists, including Mr. Dare Olawin, a correspondent of Punch Newspapers, who had gone to the headquarters of the Ikeja Electricity Distribution Company (IKEDC) Alausa, Ikeja, Lagos from where he was to proceed with other journalists to cover an event.

The armed Air Force officers were at IKEDC headquarters to vent their anger over the disconnection of their military base from the public electricity grid. However, when they sighted Mr. Olawin; a TVC cameraman, and one other reporter in a coaster bus, the AirForce officers dragged the media men out, beat them severely and made them to sit on the floor. Mr. Olawin sustained an injury in his left eye as a result.

They confiscated Mr. Olawin's Android phone, a small Itel phone, and a white power bank, and they also threatened to shoot him if he tried to say anything. A tripod belonging to the TVC cameraman and a memory card were also taken away by the men.

Political Aide Assaults Journalist, Damages Phone

On January 6, 2025, Mr. Emmanuel Okoronkwo, a personal aide to Senator Samuel Anyanwu of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), assaulted Mr. Ndubuisi Orji, The Sun newspaper correspondent, who was covering the activities of the party at Wadata Plaza, the party secretariat in Abuja. Mr. Okorokwo damaged Mr. Oji's phone during the attack.

Mr. Orji was at the PDP secretariat to assess the situation following a Court of Appeal judgment on December 20, 2024, which upheld the judgment of an Enugu High Court that affirmed Mr. Udo-Okoye as Anyanwu's replacement. He sought

to enter the Wadata Plaza but was turned back by the security personnel at the gate, who said they had directives not to allow journalists into the secretariat.

They requested The Sun Correspondent to call Senator Anyanwu or the Chief Security Officer (CSO), saying that it is only the duo that can authorise his access into the party secretariat. However, as Mr. Orji was walking towards his car Mr. Okoronkwo approached him and started assaulting him; he dealt the journalist several slaps and damaged his mobile phone in the process. It took the intervention of the security personnel at the gate to restrain Anyanwu's aide.

While Mr. Okoronkwo was being led away, he threatened to "deal" with The Sun correspondent and any other journalist whom he finds close to the PDP secretariat. He also boasted that nothing would happen because he was acting on the instructions of his principal who gave specific instructions that journalists should be barred from entering the building by any means possible including the use of physical force.

The PDP Press Corps in a statement by its chairman, Samuel Ogidan, condemned the assault and charged the police to bring Okoronkwo to justice. The Press Corps also called on the PDP leadership to address the serious incident and take drastic action against Mr. Okoronkwo to serve as a deterrent to others.

On January 7, the PDP through its National Publicity Secretary, Debo Ologunagba, condemned the assault and apologised for the incident. He also assured that an investigation would be carried out on the matter, and reaffirmed the party's commitment to press freedom and democratic values.

4.2 Arrest and Detention

Lagos Journalist Lured, Arrested for Publication

Mr Zaccheaus Ukhueleigbe, a Lagos-based journalist, was, sometime in October 2025, lured into a trap under the guise of a scheduled interview with Hon. Benjamin Olabinjo, the member representing Ifako-Ijaiye Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, and arrested by policemen after he published an investigative report that alleged the House member collected over N350 million for constituency projects that were never executed.

Mr Ukhueleigbe, in the publication, claimed that Hon. Olabinjo allegedly received over N350 million for constituency projects that were never executed. He also claimed that some projects were awarded to companies linked to the lawmaker. The journalist claimed that repeated attempts to reach Hon. Olabinjo for comment were reportedly unsuccessful, as his media aide, identified as Mr Yekini, refused to provide any clarification.

Mr Ukhueleigbe report published on <https://thependulumnews.com/> and titled “Revealed: How Ifako-Ijaiye Residents Suffer Despite Millions of Naira Received For Constituency Projects,” cited several government-funded projects under Olabinjo’s allocations, which he said, were either abandoned, incomplete, or non-existent despite full budgetary releases. The page has since been taken down.

The meeting, arranged by Hon. Olabinjo’s aide, turned out to be an ambush as, upon arrival, Mr Ukhueleigbe was reportedly picked up and taken to Oko Oba Police Station in Lagos, where he was detained.

Police Arrest, Detain AFP Journalist Covering Protest in Abuja

On October 20, 2025, officers of the Nigeria Police Force arrested Mr John Okunyomih, an AFP video journalist, while covering the #FreeNnamdiKanu protests outside the Transcorp Hilton Hotel in Abuja and took him to the Force Headquarters in Garki where he was detained.

Media reports state that Mr Okunyomih was with other journalists monitoring the protests when police fired teargas toward them. Thereafter, the police swooped in and arrested Mr Okunyomih. They manhandled him and pulled his camera as they forced him into their vehicle and, in the process, his camera was slightly damaged.

He was released about an hour later without charge.

Police Arrest Journalist Following Petition by Kano State Official Accused of Corruption

On October 18, 2025, Mr Ibrahim Abubakar Ishaq, a journalist with an online platform, Dan'uwa Rano TV, was arrested by the Zone 1 Headquarters of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) in Kano State following a petition of allegations of defamation of character made by Mr Abdullahi Rogo, the Director-General of Protocol to Governor Abba Yusuf of Kano State, against him.

Reports have it that the police officers stormed Mr Ishaq's office in Kano and, without presenting any arrest warrant, whisked him away.

It was gathered that the journalist was questioned over his alleged defamation of Mr Rogo and for operating an online

television station without obtaining a licence from the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC). He reportedly clarified that online media platforms are not required by law to obtain an NBC licence. Despite this clarification, however, he was detained in a cell, allegedly on the orders of the embattled Mr Rogo.

In a programme titled “Imalu” aired on his YouTube channel, Dan’uwa TV on September 1, 2025, Mr Ishaq had commented on the corruption case against Mr Rogo, who is standing trial for an alleged N6.5 billion fraud. Mr Rogo is being tried by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for alleged diversion and laundering of N6.5 billion belonging to the Kano State government.

Mr Ishaq is alleged to have said during the programme that allegations of corruption by protocol officers are not new, adding that the officers always demanded bribes from contractors and people who wanted to see the governor. He added that some governors may be unaware of the development, but others may be due to their involvement in fraudulent activities.

The satirical programme reportedly made innuendo-laden references to a “certain DG protocol” accused of collecting bribes in exchange for granting visitors access to the governor. Although the programme did not mention names, Mr Rogo, however, petitioned the police, claiming the content targeted him.

The journalist was released on October 19, following mounting pressure and public outcry.

Naija News Today Publisher Arrested in Lagos for Publications, Taken to Abuja

Mr Friday Alefia, publisher of Naija News Today, was reportedly arrested sometime in October 2025 in Lagos by operatives of the Intelligence Response Team (IRT) of the Nigerian Police and transferred to Abuja, where he is being held at the detention facility of the defunct SARS over alleged cybercrime relating to a report he published about Hon. Chinedu Ogah, who represents Ezza South/Ikwo Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives.

Mr Alefia was allegedly arrested following a petition by Hon. Ogah, who accused him of defamation, cyberbullying, and character assassination over a report published on December 20, 2024, titled [“Ogah’s Political Future Uncertain Amid Senate Rumours.”](#) The platform also published a second article on May 15, 2025, titled [“2027 — The Year Chinedu Ogah Might Finally Fade Into Political Irrelevance.”](#) The House member found these articles critical of his political performance and, as a result, filed a petition against the journalist.

Speaking with the media on October 12, 2025, the publisher’s elder brother, Uchenna Nwanchor, stated that the family did not know the exact date of his arrest but said that he had been in custody for more than two weeks. He added that a relative, who had been taking food to Mr Alefia in detention, informed the family that his health was deteriorating daily.

Several people have pleaded with Hon. Ogah to release the journalist, but he said the matter was already before a court.

The House member described Mr Alefia's publications as attempts to tarnish his reputation, claiming the detained publisher had written "about 36 stories" against him.

DSS Arrests Two Radio Reporters Covering President Tinubu's Visit to Plateau State

On October 4, 2025, two reporters with Jay 101.9 FM, Jos, the Plateau State capital, Ms Ruth Marcus and Ms Keshia Jang, were arrested by operatives of the Department of State services (DSS) during a visit by President Bola Tinubu, for the burial of the mother of Prof. Nentawe Yilwadta Goshwe, the All Progressives Congress (APC) National Chairman.

According to media reports, they were arrested after posting a video on social media showing a confrontation between a cleric and security operatives during the funeral event. Security agents deployed to the venue had initially denied journalists and others access to the church for the service.

However, Mr Oluwatosin Ajayi, the DSS Director-General, ordered their immediate release after he learned of their arrest. He also directed that an apology be tendered to the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ).

Meanwhile, the management of Jay FM said in a statement signed by its Managing Director, Comrade Clinton Garuba, that the journalists had gone missing during coverage of the funeral service before it was later confirmed that they were in DSS custody. The statement added that "Upon confirming that the DSS was holding them, frantic efforts were made to secure their release. Although our efforts were initially rebuffed, they were eventually released,".

Magistrate Remands Lawyer in Custody for Alleged Defamation, Cybercrime

On September 25, 2025, Magistrate Obinna Njemanze ordered the remand of Mr Chinedu Agu, a lawyer, at the Owerri Correctional Centre for alleged defamation of character, cybercrime, and writing inciting comments on his Facebook page.

Magistrate Njemanze ordered the remand of Mr Agu even after he acknowledged that his court lacked jurisdiction to try the lawyer in the matter.

Mr Agu was arrested on September 23 based on a petition by a group called Imo Democratic Alliance, and signed by Umukoro Marvis Udochukwu.

At the September 25 hearing, the magistrate adjourned the case to October 29, 2025 and ordered that the case file be forwarded to the Imo State Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) to assign the case to a court with jurisdiction.

The police accused Mr Agu of allegedly committing the offences contrary to and punishable under section 24(1)(b) of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Amendment Act, 2024 because of his opinion articles that criticised the administration of Governor Hope Uzodimma, which he shared on his Facebook page.

According to the Imo State Commissioner for Police, the lawyer had, on August 30, 2025, shared an article where he wrote “the courts are closed and justice has been kidnapped not by bandits in the bush, but by bandit in government” and “this, is not government, this is tyranny trapped in sinking bureaucracy”.

The Police Commissioner said Mr Agu knew that his posts were false and could incite the people against Governor Uzodimma and his cabinet, and cause a breakdown of law and order in the state, and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 24(1)(b) of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention etc.) Amendment Act, 2024.

Mr Agu, a critic of Uzodimma's administration, had engaged with the Imo State Commissioner for Information, Mr Declan Emelumba, in a series of public exchanges. His articles, including "Tears from Enugu: A Lawyer's Heartbreaking Diary from a State that Works to a State in Ruins" and "Imo State – Where Justice Is on Vacation During Court Vacation," drew sharp rebuttals from Emelumba, who described them as "satanic verses."

On September 25, Agu's legal team filed a fundamental rights application before Justice Chituru Wigwe-Oreh of the Federal High Court which granted him bail, but he was not released as the order was said to apply only to the police and did not cover the custodial authority of the Nigerian Correctional Services (NCoS), for which reason he remained in detention. The Federal High Court subsequently instructed Agu's lawyers to file a fresh application addressing the NCoS.

On October 9, the court asked Mr Agu's legal team to file a written address on the competence of the bail application, given that no formal charge had been filed against him. The judge noted that the opposing side would be allowed to respond before a final ruling date is fixed. The Court, therefore, adjourned his bail application to October 14, 2025.

However, on October 16, when the court sat, Justice Wigwe-Oreh refused to grant the lawyer bail, citing the absence of any

formal charge against Mr Agu as the basis for denying the bail application.

Publisher of Secret Reporters Online Arrested in Abuja, Flown to Delta State

Mr Tega Oghenedoro, popularly known as Fejiro Oliver, a journalist and publisher of Secret Reporters, an online platform for investigative journalism, was on September 19, 2025, arrested at his office in Garki, Abuja, by operatives of the Nigeria Police Force Intelligence Department (FID), who took him to their office. They, thereafter, drove him to the airport in Abuja and flew him to Asaba, the Delta State capital, where he is being detained.

Reports stated that he is being detained at the Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID), Asaba, and has been denied access to his lawyers. He has neither been released nor charged to court.

However, neither the Delta State government nor the Delta State police command has made any statement on the arrest of Mr Oghenedoro.

Meanwhile, human rights advocates, Mr Omes Ogedegbe and Comrade Efemina Umukoro Akima, have raised alarm concerning the safety of the journalist and petitioned the Delta State Police Command, demanding the immediate disclosure of the whereabouts and release of the journalist, noting that they visited the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) in Asaba, and that officers at the Human Rights Section told them that Mr Oghenedoro has been moved to the Anti-Kidnapping Section.

However, they said when they visited the Anti-Kidnapping Section, they denied that he was being detained in their facility.

Leadership Online Editor Arrested, Remanded Over Report of Fraud by Councilor

Mr Zuhair Ali Ibrahim, editor of Leadership Online newspaper, was on September 18, 2025, remanded in prison custody on the order of Magistrate Court II sitting in Katsina on the request of the police to keep him in custody pending investigations into a petition filed by Mr Abubakar Nuhu, the Councilor of Doro Ward in the Bindawa Local Government Area of the State.

According to media reports, Mr Nuhu petitioned the police over a report published by Leadership Hausa Online on September 7, 2025, in which a certain Alhaji Ibrahim Sa'adu accused the Councilor of defrauding him of ₦30 million. The editor reportedly contacted the Councilor for his side of the story without success before going to press.

Following the publication, the Councilor petitioned the police, who arrested the editor in Zaria, Kaduna State, on September 15. He was interrogated and he explained how he got the story, as well as detailed the efforts he made to obtain the Councilor's side of the matter.

APC Social Media Chief Denied Bail, Remanded for Alleged Cyberstalking

On September 16, 2025, Magistrate Stanley Ekeru, a Senior Magistrate in the Bayelsa State Judiciary sitting in Yenagoa, rejected a bail application filed on behalf of Mr Aye O.S. Egberi, the Head of the social media team of the State chapter of the All

Progressives Congress (APC), who was arraigned for alleged defamation and cybercrime. The magistrate ordered that he should be remanded in custody pending the determination of the charges against him.

Recall that the Magistrate had on September 10 ordered Mr Egberi to be remanded for 30 days at the Okaka Medium Correctional Facility for his alleged involvement in cyberstalking the Bayelsa State Governor, Senator Douye Diri and the State Commissioner of Police, Mr Francis Idu.

Mr Egberi was arrested by the Operation Puff Adder, led by CSP Chris Uwaogbo, over a write-up that accused the State Governor and Police Commissioner of reportedly masterminding the July 2025 abduction of a State High Court Judge, Justice Ebiyerim Umokoro, and charged to court. The police argued that Mr Egberi's publications were a deliberate attempt to undermine security efforts and sabotage the coordinated rescue operation for the abducted judge.

Meanwhile, during the September 16 proceedings, Chief Benjamin S. Ogbara, counsel to Mr Egberi, filed a bail application asking the court to vacate the September 10 remand and admit him to bail pending legal advice from the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP). He supported his application with a medical report from Dr Nathan Abule, a Medical Consultant at the Federal Medical Centre, which showed that Mr Egberi has chronic health conditions, including bronchial asthma and peptic ulcer disease, that are managed through outpatient care.

The police prosecution, represented by Japhet O. Japhet, however, opposed the bail application, arguing that the "prosecution would be ready to proceed once the 30-day period elapses" and therefore the remand should stand.

Following the arguments from both sides, Magistrate Ekeru rejected the bail application and advised Chief Ogbara to approach the Federal High Court for relief regarding bail.

Journalist Arrested While Covering Shiite Maulid Procession in Abuja

On September 9, 2025, operatives of the Nigeria Police arrested Mr Nasir Hassan Yelwa, a reporter for Iran Press News Agency and a member of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), while covering a public Maulid procession in Abuja by members of the Islamic Movement in Nigeria (IMN), popularly called Shiites.

Mr Yelwa was reportedly picked up by policemen in the Apo area of Abuja at about 2 PM and taken to the Abattoir facility, the former SARS office, where he was detained. Eyewitnesses say he showed his press identity card; nonetheless, the police seized his camera and arrested him.

Recounting the incident that led to his arrest, he said that after the Shiites had ended their procession and prayers and people were dispersing, a convoy of heavily armed police officers stormed the area and started firing teargas and beating people, and in the melee that ensued, many people, including bystanders, got caught in the chaos and were injured.

The reporter said he took refuge somewhere and was recording how people were being beaten with brutal force. Shortly after, he said he wanted to board a taxi to return to his residence, when the police quickly approached him menacingly even as he was holding on to his equipment as well as his press identity card.

He said an officer shouted at him, asking, “Who are you? He said he told them he was a journalist, and they requested to see his identity card, which he said he promptly showed them. He said they asked him to enter their vehicle.

Mr Yelwa said that when he tried reaching out to his colleague, Ochiaka, the former Secretary of Abuja NUJ, police officers overpowered and wrestled the phone from his hand while speaking with Ochiaka.

He said the police took him and 12 other people to Area Command, where they were inhumanely paraded as suspected criminals. He said the police took them to the abattoir, a former Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), where they were locked up for two days. On September 12, police took them to the Magistrate Court at Wuse Zone 6, and unfortunately, the judge was absent, which meant that they had to be taken back and locked up until September 15.

On September 15, they were again taken to court and charged with unlawful assembly and violence. They pleaded not guilty. He said the police prosecutor singled out seven of the detainees for discharge, saying that their investigation revealed that they were not involved in the unlawful assembly, leaving six of them behind. The judge adjourned the case to 30th September, 2025. It was then that his lawyer asked for his bail, which the judge granted.

Kano Journalist Lured by Police, Detained for Facebook Post

Mr Abdulaziz Aliyu, a journalist based in Kano, who works with the online broadcast media outlet, Waraka TV, was on September 9, 2025, lured to the Area Command of the Kano

State Police on Court Road on the pretext of a stolen phone investigation and, thereafter, detained for about two hours.

Mr Aliyu said, “A police officer who identified himself as CSP Sabo called me, claiming I was linked to a stolen phone investigation and needed to report for clarification. But when I got there, it turned out to be about a Facebook publication I made.” He was released on bail around 10 pm with instructions to return the following day.

The journalist was interrogated about a Hausa historical programme aired on Karama Radio about Sarkin Zazzau Malam Jafaru Dan Isiyaku, who ruled Zazzau from 1937 to 1959. The broadcast was shared on Waraka Online TV.

Following the incident, the Association of Kano Online Journalists (ASKOJ), in a statement signed by its chairman, Yakubu Salisu, condemned the detention.

The Group said: “The increasing cases of police invitations and detentions of journalists across the country are deeply worrying and must be condemned. Journalism is a constitutionally recognised profession, yet some individuals intoxicated by power view it as a threat and use state resources to harass, intimidate, arrest, and, in some cases, endanger the lives of journalists.

“The police deceived our colleague, Abdulaziz Aliyu. It was not about a stolen phone as claimed, but an article that allegedly offended some individuals. While ASKOJ does not condone unprofessional conduct, we insist that journalists’ safety and press freedom must be protected.”

In response, the Kano State police spokesperson, SP Abdullahi Haruna Kiyawa, accused Salisu of misinformation and threatened legal action. He claimed that Mr Aliyu was not detained but rather invited as part of a routine investigative process following a written complaint lodged against him and that he was released on bail to return on September 10 to assist in the ongoing investigations.

However, SP Kiyawa attempted to discredit and threaten both Aliyu and Salisu, claiming they were not registered members of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ).

According to him, “Inquiries conducted with the leadership of the NUJ, Kano State Chapter, revealed that neither Abdulaziz Aliyu nor Yakubu Salisu are registered members of the union. The statement by Salisu is a deliberate attempt to misinform the public and tarnish the reputation of the Police in Kano State. Appropriate action will be taken in accordance with the law.”

Ekiti Police Detain FIJ’s Senior Reporter Who Honoured Invitation

On September 4, 2025, the Ekiti State Police Command arrested Mr Sodiq Atanda, a Senior Reporter with the Foundation for Investigative Journalism (FIJ), at their headquarters in Ado-Ekiti after he honoured their invitation to report at the station for an investigations.

According to reports, the police invitation asked Mr Atanda to report to the Commissioner of Police through the Assistant Commissioner of Police in charge of the State Intelligence Department (SID), Police Headquarters, Ado-Ekiti. It stated that the office was investigating a complaint via a petition from T. S

Adegboyega & CO. (Solicitors, Advocates and Notary Public) on behalf of their client, Prof. Abayomi Sunday Fasina, the Vice-Chancellor of Federal University, Oye-Ekiti (FUOYE).

FIJ has published a series of stories on how Prof. Fasina sexually harassed Mrs Folasade Adebayo, a director at the school, and how he resorted to humiliating her after she repeatedly turned down his sexual advances, among other stories.

During the visit, Mr Atanda was allegedly interrogated by Dayo Adekale, the Investigation Police Officer (IPO) and detained for 11 hours, on the orders of the Ekiti State Commissioner of Police, Joseph Eribo.

Meanwhile, the FIJ senior reporter said that most of Adekale's questions were about knowing the identity of his sources for the reports; the IPO also said he was ready to go to any length to get him to name the sources. When Atanda refused to disclose his source, saying it was against his professional ethics to reveal his sources, Adekale also told him he would also not bend his rules.

According to the journalist, "In the middle of the conversation, he asked who my sources were. He was particular that there must be an origin of whatever information I had published. I told him I was not obligated to disclose my source."

"He asked if that was the rule of my profession, and I affirmed it. But he then told me, "You have your own rules, I also have my own rules. If you don't bend your own rules, I'm not going to bend mine. When we get to that point, you have to disclose your sources. Otherwise, we are not going to get anywhere."

Mr Atanda said the IPO also attempted to control what he wrote in his statement to show that he did not reach out to the Pro-Chancellor even though he did.

When he was taken to the office of Musa Hadi, the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) of the SID, the IPO listed his bail conditions, which included two sureties, with one owning a landed property worth N2 million within their jurisdiction or the N2 million cash deposit. The second surety must be a level 10 civil servant at the state or federal commission, also within the state, alongside an affidavit sworn to both of them.

During the interrogation, the FUOYE representative present at the police station said they would not allow Mr Atanda to leave detention until Mr Fisayo Soyombo, FIJ's founder and Editor-in-Chief, shows up.

They expressly told the police that they wanted the reporter to be locked up for at least one week until Soyombo shows up for his release. Mr Adekale, the IPO told the journalist that constantly reporting Fasina's sexual misconduct was a crime deserving prolonged detention, just like attempted murder.

When Atanda was taken to Eribo, the State Police Commissioner, he said "his people were already making noise" and claimed he didn't know that Mr Atanda was a journalist. He then asked the journalist to be released and asked him to tell his people to "stop making noise".

He was released in the evening of the same day and left the station at 7:40 PM.

Police Invite, Detain Osun Defender Editor Over Source of News Report

Mr Yusuf Oketola, the Assistant News Editor of Osun Defender newspaper, was detained on September 3, 2025, after honouring an invitation by the Zone XI Command of the Nigeria Police Force in Osogbo, the Osun State capital, to report at the station over alleged defamation of character for a report he wrote in the newspaper over which the command was petitioned.

Although the police did not disclose the details of the petitioner or the story, the invitation letter, signed by Assistant Commissioner of Police Akinloye Joseph, claimed that the editor was being invited for fact-finding purposes.

The letter, dated August 25, 2025, reads in part, “This office is investigating the above captioned subject matter reported through a petition written to the office of the Assistant Inspector General of Police, Zone XI Command Headquarters, Osogbo, against Yusuf Oketola, who is one of your reporters.”

At the police station, Mr Oketola was interrogated and asked to reveal his source, which he declined to give. The editor was invited based on a March 28, 2025, report with the title, “Three Bankers Drag Osun Magistrate To Chief Judge Over Kano Transaction.” He was, thereafter, detained for several hours while his lawyers applied for bail.

Reports have it that a plain-clothed police man, who introduced himself as ‘Inspector Sola’, demanded the sum of N500,000 for the editor’s bail,’ which the Osun Defender newspaper management declined to pay.

However, Mr Oketola's family members raised the sum of N50,000, which they paid to the police to secure his release, even though, officially, the Nigeria Police maintain a 'bail is free' policy.

Content Creator Arrested on Governor's Order for Sharing Video Exposing Hospital Decay

Mr Hassan Mai-Waya Kangiwa, a content creator based in Kebbi State, Northwestern Nigeria, was arrested and detained in September 2025 on the orders of the State Governor, Mr Nasir Idris, for releasing a video showing the deplorable conditions at the Kangiwa General Hospital.

Reports stated that security operatives raided his home at night, seized his equipment, arrested him, and cut him off from legal access.

The 'offending' clip, which showed an elderly patient lying on a bare metal bed frame without a mattress, spread quickly across social media, drawing strong reactions and condemnations from netizens.

Following the arrest, the hashtag #FreeHassanKangiwaNow trended on social media as users reshared the video and criticised the Governor.

However, the Kebbi State government later released and paid ₦200,000 to him in compensation for his unlawful detention.

Newspaper Publisher Detained for a Month, Granted Bail on Strict Conditions

Mr Ejike Ogbonna, an Imo State-based journalist and publisher of First Citizen newspaper, was granted bail in September 2025, by a Magistrate Court sitting in Owerri, the state capital, in the sum of N2 million, after he was detained for 30 days at the Tiger Base police unit for alleged cybercrime against a government official.

Other bail conditions given to the publisher include the provision of a surety who must show proof of ownership of a landed property within the jurisdiction of the court, and a traditional ruler to endorse the bail bond.

Mr Ogbonna, who was brought to court in handcuffs, is standing trial on a four-count charge. He was accused of cyberbullying and defaming the character of the Special Adviser to the State Governor on Compliance, Mr Chinasa Nwaneri, through a voice note allegedly circulated via social media.

The case was thereafter adjourned to October 3, 2025, for hearing.

Police Harass, Detain Media Room Hub Publisher over Coverage of Land Dispute

Ms Azuka Ogujiuba, Chief Executive of an online entertainment news website, Media Room Hub, and a former writer for This Day Style magazine, was in September 2025, harassed, arrested and detained for days by officers at the Special Investigation Unit of the Nigeria Police Force at the Asokoro Division in Abuja over her coverage of a land dispute.

According to reports, Ms Ogujiuba was arrested and detained twice, while the police continue to summon her to Abuja despite living and working in Lagos.

Speaking at a press conference in Lagos on September 16, 2025, she accused the Nigeria Police Force of harassment, assault, and unlawful detention over allegations of cyberbullying and defamation of character. She added that her health had deteriorated since she was detained in a cell in Abuja for three days without food.

Narrating her ordeal, she said, “The Nigeria Police Force forced me to write an apology letter. They forced me to write that what I published was not true.

“They were telling me what to write. One of the officers made me do an undertaking that the letter was not done under duress. I had no options when I saw a gun facing me while under their custody.”

She explained that she honoured a police invitation in Abuja on August 6, 2025, despite living and working in Lagos, only to be confronted with a petition accusing her of cyberbullying and defamation.

She said she was surprised by the accusation because the court injunction she posted, for which she was being accused, had been published by several other media outlets. She said she told the police that the court injunction was a public document and not intended to bully or defame anyone.

She disclosed that she was initially granted bail and asked to return after two weeks, but was later ambushed in Abuja by

some policemen in mufti, in a gangster manner, while attending a paid event.

“I was at a scheduled interview when I started receiving calls from the officer, insisting that the petitioner wanted to see me. I reminded him that I had bail and promised to come after work.

“But while leaving the office, we suddenly heard commotion outside, and since they were not in uniform, we thought they were kidnappers. They targeted my phone, pounced on me, and manhandled me,” she narrated.

She said she was taken back to the police office, where she was humiliated and intimidated by some police officers and at the police station, followed around the office with a gun, like she was a terrorist.

Continuing, she said, “They were unnecessarily hostile. I asked to see their boss, but they refused. When I tried to call my lawyer and family, they came aggressively at me and snatched my phone.”

She said she was eventually locked up in a cell which, according to her, was “smelling” and left there for three days without food. She described her detention as harrowing.

Blogger Arrested, Arraigned for Allegedly Publishing Fake News on Facebook

On August 5, 2025, Ms Akanji Kofoworola, a 37-year-old blogger, was arraigned before Magistrate Wahab Balogun of the Lagos Island Magistrate Court by the Lagos State Police Command on a three-count charge of conspiracy, publishing

fake news, and defamatory content against Nollywood actress and businesswoman, Ms Lizzy Anjorin.

Ms Kofoworola, who was arrested by the operatives of the Zonal Police Command in Onikan, was arraigned for allegedly using her Facebook account to publish, distribute, or project articles and obscene content against the Nollywood actress.

The Police prosecutor, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Salihu Kadiri, told the court that the blogger and others, currently at large, committed the offences in Lagos from 2023 to date. ASP Salihu accused the blogger of unlawfully publishing statements and rumours about the actress on Facebook, which she knew or had reason to believe were false.

The charges against Ms Anjorin read: “That you Akanji Kofoworola ‘F’ and other Bloggers at large, from 2023 till date, somewhere in Lagos State in the Lagos State magisterial district did unlawfully publish, Statements, rumor about one Chief Mrs. Lizzy Anjorin on Face Book, a platform on social media, knowing, or having reason to believe that such Statements, rumour and report are false thereby committed an offence punishable under section 39 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State 2015.

“That you Akanji Kofoworola ‘F’, and other Bloggers at large, same time and place, in the Lagos State magisterial district did unlawfully display to the public pictorial representation of one Chief Mrs. Lizzy Anjorin on Face Book, a platform on social media, using the said public space to present her in a manner likely provoke or bring into disaffection any section of the community, thereby committing an offence punishable under Section 57 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State 2015.

“That you Akanji Kofoworola ‘F’, and other Bloggers at large, same time and place, in the Lagos State magisterial district, did for gain of social media likes and remuneration distribute or project articles and content deemed to be obscene and likely to corrupt the minds of viewers towards the personality of Chief Mrs. Lizzy Anjorin, thereby committing an offence punishable under section 150 of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State 2015.”

The blogger pleaded not guilty to the charges and her counsel moved an oral bail application on her behalf, arguing that the offences are bailable.,

However, the prosecutor urged the court to remand her in the custody of the Nigerian Correctional Services pending the conclusion of the trial.

Magistrate Balogun granted her bail in the sum of N100,000 with two sureties in like sum, after listening to both parties and adjourned the case to August 21 for trial.

Journalist, Activist Arrested, Charged with Cybercrime

An investigative journalist, Mr Buhari Olanrewaju Ahmed, and a rights activist, Mr Musa Saidu Tsaragi, were on July 22, 2025, arrested and detained at the State Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Kwara State Police Command Headquarters in Ilorin for alleged defamation and cybercrime.

They were detained after honouring a police invitation following charges filed against them by the Special Adviser to the Kwara State Governor on Social Investment, Sadiq Buhari, who accused them of defamation and cybercrime.

It was gathered that, although the Kwara Magistrate Court did not sit on the matter, the police, however, bypassed judicial processes to secure a remand order directly from the court registrar to keep them in detention.

They were charged with criminal conspiracy, defamation of character, and cyberstalking in court on July 25, but were released on bail to their respective sureties. The case was adjourned to August 15, 2025, for further mention.

Social Critic Lured, Arrested over TikTok Post

On July 17, 2025, a musician and self-styled social critic, Saheed Osama, popularly called Shamsodium, was arrested and detained by operatives of the Lagos State Police Command, for allegedly making defamatory statements about Mrs. Omowunmi Aloba, the widow of Ilerioluwa Aloba, popularly known as Mohbad, in a TikTok video post suggesting that she was responsible for his death.

According to reports, Osama was lured to a fake photoshoot location in Lagos on Thursday before being apprehended and may have been transferred to police custody in Abuja.

Reports also suggest that Osama's arrest may be linked to his online activism and criticism of authorities through his TikTok posts. His disappearance since last Thursday had initially raised concerns among associates before it was confirmed that he was in police custody.

In a statement signed by its organising committee members, Hassan Taiwo and Adegboyega Adeniji, the Rights Advocacy Group, #EndBadGovernance, condemned the incident,

stressing that public criticism is not a crime but an essential part of democracy. The Group also accused the Nigeria Police Force of being used as a tool to harass individuals exercising their right to freedom of expression.

The Group further cautioned against the misuse of police officers for arbitrary arrests, warning that such practices could erode public trust in security agencies. It urged the authorities to uphold the rule of law and ensure that citizens' constitutional rights to free speech and expression are fully protected.

The incident has sparked growing debate over the shrinking space for free speech in Nigeria, with many observers urging the government to prioritise democratic values and protect citizens' rights to express dissenting opinions without fear of harassment or unlawful arrest.

Lagos Activist Arrested, Arraigned under Cybercrime Act over Instagram Posts

On July 16, 2025, Mr Scott Iguma, an activist, was arrested by officers of the Lagos State Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Panti, and arraigned at a Federal High Court in Lagos the next day, on four counts of defamation, cyberbullying, and cyberstalking under the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act, No. 17 of 2015.

According to reports, the police are prosecuting Mr Iguma for allegedly posting videos on his Instagram handle accusing PWAN, a real estate company, as fraudulent, adding that several investors have accused it of failing to allocate lands despite collecting payments for them.

When Mr Iguma was arraigned, Mr Augustine Nwabuisi, the police prosecution counsel, told the court that he allegedly committed the offences between May 27 and 28, 2025, at the Lekki Gardens in Sangotedo, Lagos. The police prosecution counsel informed the court that the activist used his social media platform to post unverified and defamatory statements against Dr Augustine Onwumere, the founder of a real estate company, PWAN Group, and that he allegedly described Dr Onwumere as a “criminal” operating a “fraudulent business,” and warned the public against dealing with PWAN.

Mr Nwabuisi said that the activist allegedly used his Instagram account to disseminate false information with the intent to threaten, defame, and incite the public against Onwumere and his company.

The police prosecutor also said that Mr Iguma circulated Dr Onwumere’s photographs across multiple social media platforms in a manner intended to damage his reputation and incite hatred or lawlessness.

One of the charges filed against Mr Iguma reads, “That you, Scott Iguma ‘M’, on or before the 27th day of May, 2025, at Lekki Gardens, Sangotedo, Lagos, within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, did knowingly and intentionally send a message via a computer system through your Instagram account, which has over one million followers/viewers, stating: ‘If anything happens to me, PWAN should be the number one suspect. If anything happens to my family, nuclear and extended, PWAN should be held responsible. Even if I fall sick, hold PWAN responsible,’ knowing the same to be false, for the purpose of causing breakdown of law and order, hatred, posing a threat to life or causing such messages to be sent.”

The police prosecutor said the offences for which Mr Iguma was being tried contravened Section 24(1)(b) and are punishable under Section 24(2)(ii) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act (As Amended) 2024.

The activist pleaded not guilty, but Friday Oghazi ordered that he should be remanded in the custody of the correctional centre pending the hearing and determination of his bail application scheduled for July 21, 2025.

PWAN has, however, distanced itself from the activist's ordeal. In a statement signed by the head of its media team, Mr Leslie Ejiro, the company denied orchestrating Mr Iguma's arrest, detention, and prosecution.

On July 21, Justice Oghazi granted bail to Mr Iguma in the sum of N10 million, with one surety in like sum. The Court said the surety must present documents proving ownership of property within the court's jurisdiction. Alternatively, the Court said the surety may be a civil servant with either the Federal or Lagos State Government, not below Grade Level 12 and must provide evidence of tax payment.

Justice Oghazi further ordered both the nominal complainant and the defendant to refrain from making public comments about the ongoing case either online or through media platforms, noting that the matter is now before the court.

Female Islamic Scholar Remanded for Alleged Defamation of Cleric

On June 30, 2025, an Upper Area Court in Ganmo, Kwara State, ordered the remand of a female Islamic scholar, Alhaja Kafilat

Kaola, at the Oke Kura Correctional Facility in Ilorin, the State capital, over a case of alleged defamation brought against her by an Islamic preacher, Alfa Taofeek Akeugbagold.

According to reports, Alfa Akeugbagold dragged Alhaja Kaola, who is also the proprietor of a school, before the court, accusing her of defamation.

During proceedings, the legal counsel to Alhaja Kaola pleaded with the court to grant her bail on self-recognition and on account of her public status, assuring the court that she would not abscond.

However, counsel to Alfa Akeugbagold, Mr Ajasa Ademola, opposed the bail application, arguing that Alhaja Kaola was not entitled to such privilege under the law, citing her involvement in a similar matter.

When Mr Ademola was asked to provide evidence in support of his objection, he presented a video in which Alhaja Kaola was seen disparaging a judge and a lawyer over a previous legal case.

The lawyer cited relevant legal provisions, maintaining that an individual who publicly ridicules judicial officers should not be granted bail under such circumstances, insisting that she be remanded.

The Judge thereafter ordered that Alhaja Kaola be remanded at the Oke Kura Correctional Facility in Ilorin until the next adjourned date, July 17, 2025.

Content Creator Arrested, Detained, Secretly Tried for Alleged Defamation

An Anambra State-based content creator, Evangelist Ebube Joseph, was arrested by the Department of State Services (DSS) allegedly on the orders of the Enugu State Governor, Mr. Peter Mbah, over comments he made on social media on the activities of killer herdsmen in the state. Reports said the DSS operatives who arrested him stormed his residence, arrested, handcuffed, and blindfolded him before driving away with him. He was initially detained in an underground facility for 10 days, despite his health condition, before he was released on bail. He was subsequently re-arrested and secretly arraigned in court.

Evangelist Joseph was arrested and detained by the Department of State Services (DSS) in connection with his commentary on incessant killings across Enugu State by persons suspected to be Fulani herdsmen. His arrest and detention were allegedly on the instructions of Governor Peter Mbah of Enugu State.

He was later invited to come to Enugu State, where he was again detained, this time incommunicado, and secretly charged to court without legal representation.

Another content creator called David (MC Dave), on June 20, 2025, broke the news of Joseph's incarceration and disclosed that Evangelist Joseph was charged to court on the grounds that he defamed the governor.

In a video he posted on Facebook narrating his ordeal in the hands of the DSS operatives, Evangelist Joseph said that for the 10 days that he was incarcerated, he felt he would not come out alive. He said, "The day I was arrested, about 2 am, many people, even in the village where I live, everybody knows that I

was arrested. DSS came with four vehicles to the house I am living in as a tenant, they carried me, covered my eyes, and handcuffed my hands behind my back for committing no crime, only that I spoke about the killings by Fulani herdsmen across Nigeria and in particular Enugu State.”

Journalist Arrested Over Allegation of Defamation, Cyberbullying

Mr Nurudeen Adegbenro, a journalist with Mainland 98.3 FM in Lagos, was on June 3, 2025, arrested from his home in Agege by operatives of the Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID) of the Nigeria Police Force in Alagbon, Lagos State, over a petition by Chief Ganiu Kola Egunjobi, the Chairman of Agege Local Government, accusing him of defamation and cyberbullying.

According to Adenekan’s wife, the police operatives, who claimed to be from the FCID, Alagbon, stormed his Agege residence at night, broke into the home, and whisked him off without giving any reason for the journalist’s midnight arrest. She said her husband was being detained at the FCID, Alagbon.

Meanwhile, the FCID said, “A detailed written petition was submitted to the AIG, FCID Annex, on the 2nd of June 2025 by T.C. Eze Chambers, acting on behalf of Chief Ganiu Kola Egunjobi. It said the petition alleged cyberstalking, bullying, scandalous publications, threats to life, incitement of the public, and conduct likely to cause a breakdown of law and order.

According to the police, “The allegations are made against Mr Adegbenro Nurudeen and other unidentified individuals, who are said to be using various Facebook and Instagram accounts,

as well as those operated by their proxies, to malign, scandalise, threaten, and bully Chief Egunjobi.”

The police further claimed that the cyberstalking began after Mr Adegbenro allegedly approached Chief Egunjobi, seeking an appointment as his media assistant, which the Chief declined.

Police Arrest Journalist after Exposing Alleged Akpabio-Linked Smear Campaign

On May 22, 2025, at about 3 AM, Maazi Obinna Oparaku Akuwudike, a Nigerian journalist and media activist, was arrested in Owerri, the Imo State capital, by policemen, reportedly on the orders of Mr Kayode Egbetokun, the Inspector General of Police.

According to reports, Maazi Akuwudike’s detention is linked to an interview on Adeola Fayehun’s YouTube talk show, *Keeping It Real*, where he claimed that Sandra Duru (alias “Prof Mgbeke”) paid him ₦2.5 million to produce defamatory content targeting suspended Kogi Central Senator, Mrs Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan.

In the interview, he said: “I received money for producing videos, but I grew concerned after noticing inconsistencies in Duru’s public statements.” He added that after hearing certain controversial remarks made by Duru during a livestream, he decided to withdraw from the assignment and publicly expose what he described as “fabricated lies” targeting Senator Natasha.

The journalist also alleged that Senate President Godswill Akpabio was the political and financial sponsor behind Duru’s

smear campaign. This revelation has led to growing suspicions that his arrest was politically motivated and potentially orchestrated to silence a key witness in the Akpabio-Natasha imbroglio. Recall that Senator Akpoti-Uduaghan has previously accused Senate President Akpabio of sexual harassment.

The incident has triggered outrage among media rights groups and civil society actors, who warn that the arrest sets a dangerous precedent for freedom of expression and whistleblower protection in Nigeria. Many view it as a stark example of the use of law enforcement to intimidate and suppress voices that challenge political elites.

“This is more than just an arrest—it’s an attack on the right of journalists to expose the truth and hold power to account,” said one media advocate, calling for Obinna’s immediate release and an independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding his detention.

Borno-Based Social Media Activist Arrested Over Criticism of Government Official

Mr Sultan Usman, a well-known social media activist in Borno State, was arrested on April 14, 2025, by operatives of the Police Crack Squad following a post he made on X (formerly Twitter) criticising a senior government official over the handling of flood prevention efforts.

Mr Usman’s arrest came after he publicly challenged remarks made by Mr Adam Bababe, the Executive Secretary of the Borno State Geographical Information Service. In the wake of severe flooding that affected several parts of Maiduguri and its

environs, Mr Bababe suggested that resistance from certain communities hindered the agency's preventive measures.

In the post, Mr Bababe wrote: "Emergency Lovers of Borno, kindly note that the government faced strong resistance from the public to enforce prevention... Go through our activities and go around all flood-prone areas to ask them if we hadn't warned them or marked their houses since 2020. They know what they bought."

In response, Mr Usman criticised the statement as dismissive and deflective. "This statement is like adding insult to injury. It is but an open admission that the government has failed in its responsibility," he wrote. "If the government failed to implement laws simply because of resistance from the people, then that government must be held responsible."

He further questioned whether preventive warnings were ever issued to other affected areas, such as Gwange, Gidan Dambe, Dikwa Low-Cost, and other communities in Maiduguri, saying, "You can do better; it is not a blame game." Despite deleting the post shortly after it was published, Mr Bababe reportedly filed a complaint with the police, resulting in Mr Usman's arrest.

University Graduate Arrested for Supporting Protest Against Fees Policy

Mr Martins Eyam, a Mechanical Engineering graduate from the University of Cross River State (UNICROSS), Calabar, was arrested on April 7, 2025, for expressing support for a student protest against the University's "No Fees, No Exams" policy.

His arrest followed the circulation of a WhatsApp voice note in which he voiced solidarity for a protest by the students. Mr Eyam was invited to the University's administrative complex, where the Acting Vice Chancellor, Professor Francisca Bassey, reportedly identified him in the presence of the Principal Account Officer, Chief Security Officer, and other staff members as the person inciting students to protest. He was immediately arrested by operatives of Operation Okwok, the Cross River State's joint security task force.

While in custody, security operatives allegedly mocked and intimidated him, accusing him of aspiring to become like renowned human rights lawyer, Femi Falana, and outspoken social critic Vincent Martins Otse, popularly known as Very Dark Man.

Mr Eyam was subsequently transferred to the Medium Security Custodial Centre in Afokang after the task force obtained a remand order from a Magistrate Court. He was scheduled to be arraigned on April 25, 2025.

However, he was released a day earlier, on April 24, and all charges against him were dropped.

Police Arrest, Detain Journalists on Orders of Niger State Governor's Print Media Aide

Two journalists, Mr Yakubu Mustapha Bina, the "People's Daily" Correspondent and Chairman of the Correspondents' Chapel of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) in Niger State, and Mr Fodio Ahmed, a freelance journalist, were on April 2, 2025, summoned to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) in Minna for allegedly defaming Ms Aisha

Wakaso, Special Adviser on Print Media to Governor Umaru Mohammed Bago of Niger State.

They were interrogated by the Investigative Police Officer (IPO) until 6 PM before Mr Bina was released; his mobile phone was confiscated, and he was asked to return for further questioning on April 3, 2025, at 11 am. He also reportedly refused to write a statement admitting he shared defamatory comments about the governor's aide. Mr Ahmed, who authored the offending article titled: "[Bidding Farewell to Freelancing: Hello Nexter! An Open Letter to Aisha Wakaso,](#)" on the other hand, was remanded in detention.

A source privy to the case said the IPO admitted that he received orders from above to detain Mr Bina, but added that it was only through the intervention of a high-ranking police officer and other prominent individuals that he was released.

Their detention was sequel to a complaint by Ms Aisha Wakaso, Special Adviser on Print Media to Governor Umaru Mohammed Bago of Niger State, that she had been defamed. She had filed a defamation lawsuit against Messers Bina and Ahmed following Ahmed's article, published on 7 March 2025, which accused Wakaso of creating divisions within the media and undermining Governor Bago's interests.

Ms Wakaso, in her lawsuit, argued that the article contained malicious statements intended to damage her reputation. She also accused Mr Bina of circulating the defamatory article in over 10 WhatsApp groups, including those involving professionals and in government circles. She demanded a public apology and retraction of the article.

Police Summon, Detain Two Journalists in Kano on Orders of the Information Commissioner

Two journalists in Kano State, Mr Buhari Abba Rano, the online editor of Kano Times, and Mr Ismail Auwal, a freelancer, were summoned and detained by the State's Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department (CIID) in March 2025 on the orders of the Commissioner for Information, Comrade Ibrahim Abdullahi Waiya, over a critical opinion article published on multiple media platforms, including the Kano Times website on February 24, 2025.

Following a petition to the Kano State CIID of the Kano Police Command, the two journalists were invited for questioning through a letter dated March 22.

When Mr Rano honoured the invitation on March 24, his phone was seized and he was questioned for three hours before being released on bail.

Mr Auwal, on the other hand, was asked to report for questioning on March 25, and when he honoured the invitation, he was detained and questioned from 1 PM till 5 PM when he was released on bail. He authored the said defamatory opinion article titled [Dear Gov. Yusuf, Beware of Kano Information Commissioner Ibrahim Waiya by Ismail Auwal.](#)

They were asked to return on March 28 but because of the wide media attention that the matter generated, the governor intervened and the Commissioner withdrew his complaint.

DSS Detains, Questions Daily Trust Reporters for Writing Story on Peaceful Protest

On March 4, 2025, Nigeria's domestic intelligence agency, the Department of State Services (DSS), detained and questioned two reporters with Daily Trust newspaper, Mr. Ado Abubakar Musa and Mr. Dickson Adama, over reports of a peaceful protest by truck drivers in Jos, Plateau State, on March 2.

Daily Trust had reported that trucks' drivers and owners protested in Jos, the Plateau State capital, lamenting that many of their members had been killed and their vehicles burnt in attacks on them in the South-Eastern states of Nigeria.

The duo, who honoured the DSS invitation, were reportedly kept for hours before being allowed to return home.

Mr. Musa was allegedly questioned on why he wrote the news report on the protest.

Monarch Orders Arrest, Detention of Newspaper Correspondent, Demands Compensation

On February 25, 2025, Oba Fatai Akamo, the Olu of Itori, in Ewekoro Local Government Area of Ogun State ordered the police to arrest and detain Mr. Bankole Taiwo, the Ogun State correspondent for The Punch newspaper, for asking questions about a trending video where one Mr. Sanni Babatunde Akeem, a person living with disability, levelled allegation of land-grabbing against the monarch and Oba Kayode Sodimu, another monarch.

Mr. Taiwo had honoured an invitation from the monarch to cover a press conference to herald his 21st coronation anniversary in his palace during which the journalist seized the opportunity to ask Oba Akamo for his side of the story concerning the viral video. He had started to narrate his side of the matter but became angry when the journalist asked him about the other royal father mentioned in the video.

The journalist said Oba Akamo began shouting: “What do you mean? This boy was sent here. Police arrest him and take him to your station.”

In spite of pleas from other journalists, Mr. Taiwo was arrested and taken away by the police on the insistence of the monarch.

About four minutes after getting to the police station, the police got another call from the palace and they took him back to the palace, returned his seized phone to him, and ordered him to delete all that he had recorded at the palace.

Following the publication of the attack by The Punch Newspapers, Oba Akamo, through his legal counsel, Mr. A.M Kotoye, (Senior Advocate of Nigeria, SAN), wrote a letter addressed to Mr. Adeleye Joseph, the Managing Director/Acting Editor of The Punch, demanding a retraction of the said publication and a written apology from the media organisation addressed to the monarch, saying the monarch has been “greatly injured and affected, by the ... wrong and false reportage”.

In addition, the monarch demanded that both the retraction and the written apology be published in The Punch Newspaper and one other national newspaper within seven days of the receipt of the letter. The lawyer also demanded the sum of N500,000,000 (Five hundred Million Naira) as compensation

for the injury to the monarch, which the lawyer said is a direct consequences of newspaper's "wrongful conduct".

Police Detain Reporter for Alleged Criminal Conspiracy, Cyberbullying

On January 15, 2025, the Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID) annex of the Nigeria Police in Alagbon, Lagos State, detained a Foundation for Investigative Journalism (FIJ) reporter, Mr. Emmanuel Uti, accusing him of criminal conspiracy and cyberbullying over a story he wrote, which was published by FIJ on November 28, 2024, titled "[Lagos Man Paid Expedia Consult's Beverly Basil N4m for Canada Admission in 2023. She Disappeared With the Money](#)".

The police had invited the reporter through a letter dated December 16, 2024, signed by DCP Ibrahim Jibrin, Deputy Commissioner of Police (administration) for the Assistant Inspector General of FCID Annex, Alagbon.

Mr. Uti honoured the police invitation to meet with SP Magaji Ibrahim for what they described as a "fact-finding" activity, in the company of one of FIJ's lawyers. He had written the story which detailed a failed admission transaction between Beverly Basil of Expedia Consult and Muiyiwa Taiwo, a Lagos resident.

He was questioned, but however, held incommunicado, and denied access to receive or make calls for over six hours.

Mr. Uti was later released the same day in the evening and instructed to return to the FCID on January 21.

4.3 Threat to Life

Policeman Threatens Citizen Journalist's Life for Exposing Extortion

On September 2, 2025, Mr Oluwatosin Ojulewa, a policeman nicknamed 'World Best', attached to the Akinpelu police station in the Oshodi area of Lagos, threatened to take the life of Mr Samuel Olumoran, a citizen journalist in Lagos State, if he lost his job after the journalist confronted the policemen with allegations of extorting money from residents in the area.

According to media reports, Mr Olumoran had confronted the policeman about his illegal duties, including arbitrarily arresting and extorting various sums from traders. He demanded a refund of N10,000 that the policeman had forcefully extorted from a trader he had illegally arrested the previous day.

However, Mr Ojulewa threatened: "You are ruining our work by stopping us from raiding and asking us who we collected money from. If you or anyone makes me lose my job, I will make sure that person loses their life."

The policeman was initially reluctant to refund the money he had extorted, but after some verbal exchanges, he returned the cash to the victim and reportedly threatened to maim Mr Olumoran for interfering.

Thereafter, he began receiving unsolicited calls from unknown persons who described themselves as friends of the Akinpelu Police Station.

Mr Olumoran said, “I don’t know how they got my number, but when I picked up one of the calls, the person said he was friends with the DPO, and he knew the Akinpelu policemen.”

He said the caller asked why he went public with his story of Akinpelu police station’s officer’s extortion activities and asked him to delete the stories documenting the extortions. The journalist said he informed the caller that he was not going to delete the story.

Again, a man identified as Yusuf Muhammed by Truecaller, who claimed to be a crime editor of PM News and The News Magazine, sent Mr Olumoran a WhatsApp message asking him to call, saying when he tried to reach Mr Olumoran, his phone was switched off. When Mr Olumoran returned his call, Muhammed claimed he was going to write a report against him.

On September 9, he called back to say he was no longer going to come for the journalist, and later, at about 12:42 pm, he sent a WhatsApp message warning Olumoran to “tread softly”. His message reads, “Samuel, I am not a baby journalist. I have been in this noble profession for close to 30 years, and please, for crying out loud, tread softly. Your family needs you, please, my brother. Life na jeje.”

When Mr Olumoran challenged him about the threats, Muhammed denied saying his ‘brother’ told him to discontinue the story against him.

Policemen Assault FIJ Journalist for Making Inquiries, Threaten to Behead Him

On August 30, 2025, Mr Daniel Ojukwu, a journalist with the Foundation for Investigative Journalism (FIJ), was assaulted by police officers at the Ikeja Police Command in Lagos, when he went to meet with the Complaints Response Unit (CRU) over a report that some policemen had extorted money from detainees.

According to Mr Ojukwu, three policemen assaulted him when he approached the Squad 1 office to ask to see the accused officers. They seized his phone and began going through it. As they scrolled through his phone, Mr Ojukwu informed them that their action was a breach of his privacy, but they refused to yield; instead, they continued to scroll through his phone. One of the officers, in mufti, shoved him out of the office.

However, the journalist managed to snatch his phone from one of the officers but he was violently beaten. One of them grabbed Mr Ojukwu by the head, forced it down and drove his knee into Ojukwu's face, shattering his glasses and leaving him disoriented.

About six other policemen descended on and clawed at him to wrestle the phone from his hand. In the fracas, he was injured in his left arm, his wristwatch was ripped off, and a SIM card slipped from his phone pouch.

When they finally repossessed the locked phone, they dragged him into another office where a policeman pulled out a machete and threatened to hack him.

The machete-wielding policeman allegedly threatened, "I will cut off your neck now. You think here is child's play?"

The journalist was later moved to the second-in-command's office, and while he waited outside, he complained of shortness of breath. But in response, one of the officers told him: "You will die here, and the autopsy will show asthma killed you, not police brutality".

Another asked him: "Do you think here is child's play?"

When Mr Benjamin Hundeyin, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), arrived at the office, the policemen admitted to dragging Ojukwu's phone off him and assaulting him, but claimed he had broken the law by taking a picture on the premises.

Meanwhile, Ojukwu turned down the offer from Mr Hundeyin to replace his damaged property and pay him compensation, but demanded the opportunity to file an official complaint against the men who attacked him.

Hotelier Threatens Journalist for Reporting Security Raid on Hotels

On June 26, 2025, a hotelier named Mr Victor Balogun made a phone call to Mr Idibia Achadu Gabriel, a journalist based in Kaduna, North-west Nigeria, and threatened him for publishing a story of a raid carried out in his hotel by security operatives attached to the Kaduna State Special Task Force.

Mr Gabriel reported the invasion of the hotel known as De Jays Guest Inn, located in Ungwan Boro community, in a news story titled: "[Kaduna: Security Operatives Raid Hotels, Arrest Dozens of Suspects](#)," which was widely republished in other news

outlets. The story reported the coordinated raids on hotels in Kaduna State by security operatives who arrested dozens of crime suspects.

The journalist said Mr Balogun called him, threatening him with severe consequences if he did not retract the story. He said the hotelier also informed him that he had gone to the office of the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) Kaduna State Council to vent his anger and threatened that he “can be very dangerous and can do anything if the said story is not taken down,” even after he was told the journalist witnessed the raid and could not reach him immediately for his comments.

The hotelier reportedly told the journalist, “Mr Idibia, thank you, I saw the news report you did in Opera news online, you mention my hotel only. I was there, I heard you talk to one of the police security. You’ve to do the other positive side if you can’t retract it, or I’ll deal with you. You know I can be dangerous.”

Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State Threatens to Sanction Radio Stations

The Osun State Governor, Mr Ademola Adeleke, has threatened to sanction radio stations in the state that constantly breach the Nigerian Broadcasting Codes by airing content that, according to him, incite violence.

The warning was contained in a statement issued on June 15, 2025, by his spokesperson, Mr Olawale Rasheed, where Gov. Adeleke expressed displeasure at the activities of some radio stations, which he claimed allowed guests to incite the public to

violence and also manifest disdain for fair hearing to stakeholders.

Condemning the stations involved for their alleged refusal to caution guests who reportedly made libellous allegations bordering on sedition against public officials, the governor also alleged that these stations blocked the right to a fair hearing for the affected people.

The governor subsequently directed the Commissioner for Information to summon the General Managers of all affected stations for a briefing before further action would be taken. He said observance of broadcasting codes is key to responsible broadcast journalism, and vowed to impose sanctions on any station that refuses to obey broadcast rules and codes.

Political Thug Threatens to ‘Deal’ with Adamawa Journalist

On May 30, 2025, Comrade Ishaka Donald Dedan, Chairman of Adamawa State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), was harassed by one Hamidu Muktari (alias Dogo), who also threatened to “deal” with him. The incident happened during the Bwatiye International Cultural Festival, which took place in Yola, the state capital.

Comrade Dedan had, in a petition to the Nigerian Police, revealed that this was not the first time Muktari, the Adamawa State PDP Director of Youth Mobilisation, had harassed or threatened members of the journalism profession.

The NUJ Chairman recounted that on that day, he served as one of the official Masters of Ceremony at the event, where he had

the privilege of ushering in Governor Fintiri. He said further that as the Governor delivered his address however, he noticed aggressive ranting nearby and upon turning to request the individual to lower his voice out of respect to the governor who was making a speech, he was surprised to identify Mukhari as the source of the disturbance.

Comrade Dedan said: “To my shock and that of many distinguished guests, Hamidu Mukhari was pointing at me, making unprintable and defamatory statements. He vowed to ‘deal with me’ once the Governor left the stage and claimed he would show me who he truly is.”

Meanwhile, the NUJ Zone E, in a statement issued by its secretary, Mr Abubakar Musa Waziri, in Bauchi, condemned the intimidation and threat to the life of Comrade Dedan, describing it as a brazen attack on press freedom and democratic accountability.

The NUJ also demanded that the Adamawa State Police Command and the DSS provide urgent security protection for Comrade Dedan and his family.

4.4 Abduction/Kidnapping

Journalist Abducted by Unknown Persons During Fellowship Programme Trip

Mr Salis Manaja, a multimedia journalist with Image Merchants Promotion Limited, publishers of PRNigeria and Economic Confidential, was kidnapped on October 11, 2025, while

travelling from Ebonyi State in the South-east to Kwara State in North-central Nigeria for the company's annual Young Communication Fellowship programme.

According to reports, Mr Manaja's colleagues raised the alarm on social media about his whereabouts when they did not see him and could not reach him as repeated calls to his phone went unanswered.

A source close to the family later disclosed that his abductors made contact with the family, demanding a ransom for his release. Details regarding the exact location where the kidnapping took place remain unconfirmed, according to the source, who also did not disclose how much the abductors were asking for as ransom.

4.5 Prevention from Duty

Legacy 95.1 FM General Manager Suspended for Criticising Governor

On August 9, 2025, the management of Legacy 95.1 FM, a private radio station based in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, suspended Mr Godfrey Chikwere as acting General Manager, following his criticism of Mr Francis Nwifuru, the Governor of the State, during radio broadcasts and on social media.

Mr Chikwere's suspension was announced on the radio station by Legacy FM's management, which accused him of flouting the station's code of conduct.

According to the announcement, "The management of Legacy FM 95.1, The Sound of Now, hereby suspends the acting general

manager, Godfrey Chikwere, with immediate effect, till further notice.

“This is due to unruly behaviour and disobedience to the code of conduct guiding the Legacy FM,” the station’s management said in the announcement.

He was directed to hand over all company property in his possession to the next senior officer.

In one of his Facebook posts on August 8, the journalist urged the governor to take decisive action to protect his image and that of Ebonyi State, saying that the public perception of the governor’s administration was deteriorating. He criticised the administration for what he described as poor communication, underperformance by appointees, and unfulfilled pronouncements. Mr Chikwere warned that the governor’s goodwill was dwindling and advised him to “step on toes” to achieve results.

Governor Nwifuru’s spokesperson, Monday Uzor, and the Ebonyi State Commissioner for Information, Mr Ikeuwa Omebeh, condemned Mr Chikwere’s criticisms of the administration.

Mr Uzor described the journalist’s criticisms as unfounded and accused him of ungratefulness for using his platforms to attack the governor, despite that the radio station was benefitting from government support.

On his part, Mr Omebeh described Mr Chikwere’s criticisms of Governor Nwifuru as “derogatory and inciting,” saying such remarks were unacceptable as they were an affront to the collective identity of the Ebonyi people.

While noting that the government welcomes constructive criticism, the Commissioner warned against attempts to incite citizens against their leaders.

Mr Chikwere was however, later directed to resume work on August 12, 2025.

Journalists Locked Out of Covering President Tinubu's Joint National Assembly Address

On June 12, 2025, journalists accredited to cover the National Assembly were barred from entering the legislative chamber where President Bola Ahmed Tinubu was scheduled to address a joint session of the Senate and House of Representatives as part of the June 12 Democracy Day celebrations.

The President was expected to deliver his Democracy Day speech at 12 noon, as part of activities marking the June 12 commemoration, before the joint sitting of the two chambers of the National Assembly.

However, stern-looking personnel of the Department of State Services (DSS), the Sergeant-at-Arms, and other security operatives stood sentry at the gate and insisted that only those with “special accreditation” would be allowed to cover the session. Despite possessing valid accreditation tags, reporters from several major news organisations were denied entry by security personnel stationed at the entrance to the Galaxy, the designated press gallery of the National Assembly.

Journalists from *The Guardian*, *Vanguard*, *TVC News*, *Punch*, *The Nigerian Tribune*, *News Central*, *The Nation*, and *ITV*,

among others, were prevented from entering the gallery to cover the President's address.

Instead, the National Assembly security personnel asked the journalists to follow the proceedings from the television screens at the National Assembly's media centre.

Security Personnel Prevent Journalists from Covering Governor Oborevori's State Address at Delta State House of Assembly

On May 27, 2025, police personnel prevented over 20 journalists from different media organizations from entering the Delta State House of Assembly complex to cover Governor Sheriff Oborevori's state address, even after they showed the identity cards of their media houses. The journalists were told that the directive that they should not be allowed in was from higher authorities.

Media outlets prevented from accessing the Assembly complex include The Punch, The Guardian, Nigerian Tribune, This Day, The Nation, Champion, Daily Telegraph, Leadership, Blueprint, Business Day, Nigerian Pilot, Business News, The Story, and Emerald online, among others.

The head of the security personnel, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), Saviour David, told the journalists: "The order is from the speaker and the authority. If you like call anybody, nobody will answer you," adding, "you can quote me."

ASP David however, allowed three female journalists who are core government house crew access to the complex, and disclosed that the governor had placed some media outfits on a watch list for "bad reportage" of his two-year administration.

Akwa Ibom Government Expels Channels TV Crew Over Governor's Defection Report

On May 24, 2025, the Akwa Ibom State Government expelled Channels Television's correspondent, Chris Moffat, and cameraman, Kufre Ikpe, from the Government House press centre in Uyo, following the station's broadcast of a video in which Governor Umo Eno confirmed rumours of his planned defection from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

On May 22, Governor Eno held a cabinet meeting to review the status of the administration's projects, and used the opportunity to confirm his rumoured plan to defect from the PDP to APC. He told his cabinet members to either defect with him or prepare their resignation letters if they were unwilling to defect with him to the APC.

Reports have it that immediately after the event, Governor Eno's spokesperson, Ekerete Udoh, gathered the Government House Press Corps, including Channels TV crew, and warned them not to air or publish the governor's remarks. However, on May 23, Channels Television broadcast clips of the governor's announcement as part of its news reports, which reportedly embarrassed and angered the governor.

As a result, Mr. Udoh contacted the Channels TV team and informed them that it has been barred from accessing the press centre on the governor's orders.

The International Press Institute (IPI) condemned the expulsion, describing it as a "blatant attack on press freedom" and a

violation of Nigeria's 1999 Constitution. In a statement signed by IPI Legal Adviser and Advocacy Committee Chair, Tobi Soniyi, and Committee Secretary, Ochiaka Ugwu, the Institute demanded the immediate recall of the expelled journalists.

Kano State Bans Airing of Live Political Programmes, Issues Interview Guidelines for Media

The Kano State Government has banned live broadcasts of political programmes by media outlets and issued guidelines for conducting interviews by broadcast houses in the state following a meeting with media executives, chaired by the State Commissioner for Information and Internal Affairs, Comrade Ibrahim Waiya. The state also banned journalists from asking "provocative questions" during interviews.

Mr Sani Yola, the Director of Special Duties in the Kano State Ministry of Information and Internal Affairs, disclosed this in a statement on May 7, 2025.

The statement said, "Anyone appearing on media platforms for interviews must sign an undertaking to refrain from making abusive, defamatory, or culturally offensive remarks.

"A ban has been placed on live political programmes across media outlets to prevent the spread of inflammatory content."

"Presenters are also "banned from asking provocative questions or making suggestive gestures that could lead to statements capable of defaming individuals or damaging the image of Kano State."

According to the government, the directives are meant “to promote responsible journalism, mutual respect, and the protection of Kano State’s cultural and religious heritage.”

Mr Yola said the quarterly meeting convened by the Ministry of Information was aimed at strengthening understanding and cooperation between media organisations and the government, adding that the effort was also “to ensure effective information dissemination that upholds the dignity and image of Kano State”.

He said the media executives at the meeting pledged their continued cooperation with the government and also offered valuable suggestions on improving broadcast standards and sanitising language during interviews.

The statement said the move was part of the government’s commitment to preserving the state’s moral standards, and disclosed that sensitisation programmes have been organised for political programme presenters, media commentators, and the Council of Friday Imams. These efforts, he said, are designed to encourage responsible communication that conveys messages to the public without defamation or any act that could undermine the state’s reputation.

Advertisement

Comrade Waiya said that the government’s stance is not to suppress political opposition but rather to safeguard the sanctity of Kano’s cultural and religious values.

Key resolutions reached during the meeting with media managers include the following:

- Anyone appearing on media platforms for interviews must sign an undertaking to refrain from making abusive, defamatory, or culturally offensive remarks.

- A ban has been placed on live political programmes across media outlets to prevent the spread of inflammatory content.
- Presenters are also banned from asking provocative questions or making suggestive gestures that could lead to statements capable of defaming individuals or damaging the image of Kano State.

However, the move has drawn widespread condemnation from journalists, opposition politicians, and civil society organisations who argue that the Kano State government's action infringes on press freedom.

4.6 Invasion/Raid

Kogi Radio Station Invaded, Equipment Worth Millions Stolen

On July 26, 2025, persons believed to be armed robbers invaded the premises of Radio Nigeria Prime 101.5FM at Jimbe in Ajaokuta Local Government Area of Kogi State, and took away broadcasting and transmission equipment worth millions of Naira.

The armed robbers reportedly operated for more than three hours without any challenge from security agencies.

Reacting to the incident, the General Manager of the Station, Mr. Momoh Jimoh Adeiza, explained that they woke up to see that the station had been attacked by armed criminals who stole some of their equipment.

“This is a major attack on the station. We are currently off air right now because our equipment have been stolen by these armed criminals. When they came, they tied up our security man on duty to carry out their nefarious activities. Where do we go from here now?” Mr. Adeiza said.

He urged security agencies to intensify their efforts in apprehending the criminals, noting that the incident has been reported to the Zonal Director. Mr. Adeiza also appealed to the relevant authorities for assistance to help the station resume broadcasting.

Narrating his ordeals with the suspected criminals, the security man on duty, identified as Mr. Daniel Haruna, said the hoodlums were armed with dangerous weapons such as guns and cutlasses.

Mr. Haruna said that the robbers stole the copper part of the feeder lines, 22 pieces of modules, armoured cables, generator batteries, and other items during the attack.

“They were more than 10 armed criminals that attacked our station. They came around 1am this Saturday morning with guns and cutlasses. When they pointed touch light on me, they immediately grabbed me, tied me to a tree and blindfolded my eyes,” he stated.

Aside from the theft of equipment, the robbers destroyed some parts of the station during the invasion.

Armed Men Invade Private Radio Station in Bayelsa State

Some men armed with guns on two separate days, Saturday, May 17, 2025, at about 2:10 pm and on Sunday, May 18, 2025,

at 4:40 pm, invaded a private radio station, Rhythm 94.7 FM in Swali, a suburb of Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital, and carted away valuables, including mobile phones, recorders, and operational gadgets belonging to staff on duty, leaving the staff traumatised.

Condemning the attack, the Bayelsa State Council of the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) in a statement signed by the State Council Chairman, Tonye Yemoleigha, and the Secretary, Stanley Imgbi, described it as an attack on press freedom. The NUJ called on security operatives to apprehend the perpetrators of the attack, asking the state's Commissioner of Police to lead the operation. The Union also urged the Commissioner to station a patrol van around the radio station to prevent a recurrence.

4.7 Harassment

NRC Managing Director Threatens, Assaults Female Journalists

On August 27, 2025, Mr Kayode Opeifa, the Managing Director of the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC), harassed, intimidated, and assaulted Ms Ladi Bala, the Transport Correspondent of Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), while covering the aftermath of a derailed train along the Abuja-Kaduna rail corridor. He also insulted Ms Grace Ike, chairperson of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Council, who tried to intervene.

Ms Bala, who is the immediate past President of the Nigerian Association of Women Journalists (NUJ FCT Council), was

subjected to unprovoked verbal attacks when the NRC boss questioned her presence, disrupted her live reporting and ordered security operatives to bundle her from the scene.

Mr Opeifa allegedly disrupted Ms Bala's live report, calling her "stupid," "foolish," and "useless", while questioning her appearance and professionalism. The NRC boss further reportedly threatened to report her to security agencies, the Presidency, and NTA management to ensure that she is dismissed. He thereafter ordered security operatives to forcibly take her out of the venue.

He also threatened and insulted the Abuja Council NUJ Chairman, Ms Grace Ike, who inquired, trying to hear his own side of the story and to resolve the situation.

The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Council, condemned Mr Opeifa's action, describing it as dehumanising and a gross violation of press freedom.

The NUJ FCT Council, through its secretary, Comrade Jide Oyekunle, demanded an immediate and public apology from Opeifa and urged the NRC to take decisive action to prevent a recurrence.

Mr Opeifa later apologised, saying, "The NUJ demanded an apology from me, and as a friend of the house, I apologise for what happened and take full responsibility". He described his remarks against the journalist as "regrettable", saying he was under pressure while managing the situation.

He said: “Acting under pressure and in the heat of the moment while trying to ensure safety, I uttered some unkind words for which I take full responsibility.

“To her, I offer my fullest apology. I also extend the same to the NTA, NAWOJ, and the wider journalism community. I have fought alongside journalists before; I am not their enemy.

“The media remain our partners, not adversaries. We will deepen collaboration with the NUJ, NAWOJ, and civil society to promote transparency and public trust.”

Governor’s Security Aide Harasses Journalists at Lagos Empowerment Event

On August 23, Mr Kunle Fagbemi, the Chief Security Officer (CSO) to Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, harassed members of the governor’s press crew during an empowerment programme organised by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals, in collaboration with the Renewed Hope Initiative, a project of the wife of the President, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, at Lagos House in Ikeja.

Eyewitnesses said the CSO stopped the bus conveying the governor’s press crew. He confronted the journalists, and accused them of being “disruptive” and “unprofessional,” creating tension at the venue before guests and dignitaries.

Although no physical altercation was reported, the journalists expressed concerns about their safety and the recurring trend of intimidation faced in the hands of the CSO while covering government events.

DSS Operatives Harass Journalists Covering Edo State Election Tribunal

On January 20, 2025, some operatives of the Department of State Services (DSS) harassed journalists who converged at the High Court in Benin to cover the Edo State election tribunal and prevented the journalists from covering the tribunal sitting.

The Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Edo State Council in a statement issued by Festus Alenkhe and Andy Egbon, the chairman and secretary respectively condemned the attack saying the attempt to bar journalists from performing their constitutional duties is a blatant assault on press freedom and the fundamental right of citizens to information and free speech. They called on the Director-General of the DSS and the Edo State Director of the service to take immediate steps to caution their personnel and prevent future occurrences.

On January 21, the state governor, Monday Okpebholo ordered an investigation into the incident directing the security agency to investigate the claims.

They Edo State NUJ praised the governor for his immediate response to the reported incident and commended his commitment to safeguarding the rights and safety of media practitioners in the state.

4.8 Killed

Mob Burns Woman to Death in Niger State for Alleged Blasphemy

On August 30, 2025, a mob in Kasuwan-Garba town in Mariga Local Government Area (LGA) of Niger State, North-central Nigeria, set a woman, identified as Amaye, ablaze for alleged blasphemy against Islam's holy Prophet Muhammad.

The woman, a food vendor, was said to have made the alleged blasphemous remarks at her restaurant after a customer jokingly expressed interest in marrying her to "fulfil the Sunnah", the tradition of the Prophet.

Reports say that the woman was first taken to the palace of the District Head of Kasuwan-Garba, interrogated, and then handed over to security operatives for investigation. A mob allegedly overwhelmed the security operatives, lynched, and set her ablaze.

Confirming the incident, Mr Wasiu Abiodun, a Superintendent of Police and the Spokesperson for the Niger State Police Command, said: "On 30/8/2025 at about 2 pm, a report received indicated that one Amaye, a female of Kasuwan-Garba, Mariga LGA, made some comments against the Islamic prophet.

Unfortunately, it led to a mob attack, and she was set ablaze before the reinforcement of the security teams. Meanwhile, efforts are being made to ensure that arrests are effected, investigated and prosecuted".

Photojournalist Murdered in Kogi State

On July 22, 2025, a photojournalist with Inside Story, an online news outlet based in Lokoja, Kogi State, identified as Mr Ayo Aiyepekun, was murdered, allegedly by a neighbour, Mr Adebayo Pelumi, who reportedly resides in the same compound housing the Inside Story office.

A colleague of the photojournalist who witnessed the killing said he was in the office with Mr Aiyepekun doing some video and photo editing when the suspect called him to help him out on his poultry farm, which is also inside the same compound.

According to Mr Aiyepekun's colleague, "It was around 7:30 pm when the suspect called him, but he didn't know that Ayo was not the only person in the office. Immediately, Ayo gets out, Adebayo hits him with an iron repeatedly and kills him there."

The eyewitness said he saw Mr Pelumi lifting the body into a deep freezer before moving the body into his Hilux Van, prompting him to raise alarm, adding "I called some people on the phone who mobilised the vigilante in the area, but before they came, Adebayo had made away with the dead body.

The witness further disclosed that along with the vigilante, they searched the area but could only see blood stains in the freezer and around the poultry stall.

He said while he was still with the vigilantes, Mr Pelumi drove into the compound with his van, and when he saw them, he refused to stop but reversed and drove away. The vigilantes chased him, and while trying to escape, his car had an accident during the chase, which made him jump out of the vehicle and run away.

The case was reported on July 23 at the State Police Headquarters in Lokoja.

Mr Pelumi was later found dead in a hotel in an apparent suicide which raise suspicion.

4.9 Shut Down

Labour Unions Forcefully Shut Down Lagos Media Stations Over Pay Dispute

Labour unions, including the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC), the Radio, Television, Theatre and Arts Workers' Union of Nigeria (RATTAWU), and the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), on January 13, 2025, embarked on a strike and shut down Lagos State-owned broadcast stations, including the Lagos Television, Radio Lagos/Eko FM, and Lagos Traffic Radio, in protest over unresolved payroll issues.

The unionists took this action to back up their demand that about 245 workers be added to the government's payroll. They are protesting their non-inclusion in the state's Oracle database for salary payments and the non-payment of the minimum wage. The striking media workers specifically demanded for: payment of the newly-implemented minimum wage; remittance of their pension contributions; adequate training and capacity-building programmes for staff; and integration into the Oracle database for efficient payment and performance-based management. The stations were forced off-air for 48 hours by workers who switched off transmitters and severed cables and forced other workers to join the strike.

The protesting workers carried placards bearing various inscriptions to press home their demands. Some inscriptions on the placards read: “Give us Oracle and take the revenue generated”, “Palliatives and subventions are not working”, “Oracle is the answer”, and “All we need is Oracle! Save our today and secure our future”.

The other inscriptions read: “Non-implementation of new minimum wage is anti-labour”, “Minimum wage, a must! Our sweat is drying up”, “Save us from career stagnation”, and “LTV, Radio Lagos, Traffic Radio are not liability, we are asset to the government”.

Mr Adeleye Ajayi, the Chairman of the Lagos State Council of the NUJ while addressing newsmen said that the media workers were demanding fair treatment and wages for being at the centre of promoting government policies.

He disclosed that both the NUJ and RATTAWU had given different ultimatums and exercised enough patience for the government to meet their demands.

Mr. Ajayi said: “Both NUJ and RATTAWU are quite aware of this. We have given different ultimatums: a 10-day ultimatum, a 21-day ultimatum, and the last and final one was a seven-day ultimatum.”

He said these ultimatums were enough for the state government to accede to the requests of its members.

The NUJ Council Chairman insisted: “Our members should be integrated to the Oracle database. Oracle database is like the IPPIS system in the Federal Civil Service that creates a seamless way of paying workers’ salaries and other benefits.”

He urged the government to look into the issue of minimum wage which is being enjoyed by other state workers, adding that: “Our workers here are not benefiting from the minimum wage like other state workers. Workers of the state broadcast corporations should benefit from the minimum wage.”

4.10 Summons

Police Summon Punch Correspondent Over Unpublished Story

The Nigeria Police Force, Force Criminal Investigation Department (FCID) Annex in Enugu, on June 23, 2025, summoned Mr Raphael Ede, the Enugu State correspondent of The Punch newspaper, over an unpublished story.

Mr Ede disclosed in a press statement that the police invitation was sent to him via a WhatsApp message, asking him to appear at the FCID Annex in Enugu on June 24, 2025. The police invitation sent to Mr Ede reads in part, “My name is Detective Orji Godson. I am a police officer serving at FCID Annex Enugu. My formation is investigating a case of conspiracy, cyberbullying, cyberstalking, and conduct likely to cause a breach of peace in which you featured prominently. In view of this, you are kindly requested to interview the AIG FCID Annex Enugu via AIG team leader on 24/06/2025 to throw more light on the allegations.”

The police officer who invited the reporter informed him that the invitation was centred on an investigative report Mr Ede is currently working on involving officials of the Enugu State Government and some parties.

The journalist said he responded to the invitation, asking the police officer to officially write his employer on the subject matter. Meanwhile, Mr Ede said he has reported the matter to two human rights organisations, the Civil Rights Realisation and Advancement Network and the Rule of Law and Accountability Advocacy Centre. Meanwhile, the human rights groups, in turn, have also written petitions to the Inspector General of Police, the Police Service Commission, and the Assistant Inspector General of Police at the Force Headquarters in Abuja, asking them to look into the matter.

Police Summon Lagos Journalist for Alleging Corruption, WAEC Certificate Forgery Against Epe LG Chairperson

The Police in Lagos have summoned journalist Mr Yomi Agbaje, popularly known as Aagba Akin, over allegations of corruption and forgery of West African Educational Council (WAEC) certificates he made against the Epe Local Government Chairperson, Princess Surah Animashaun.

Mr Agbaje, who has been vocal in his allegations of corruption and mismanagement within the local government, shared the letter of summon from the police on his Facebook page and called on Nigerians to come to his aid as he fears for his life.

Mr Agbaje wrote on his Facebook page: “I have been joining my voice to speak out against the alleged oppressions, sale of government properties, forced land grabbing, and certificate forgery by the Chairman of Epe Local Government. As a fundamental human right, I am exercising my freedom of speech to hold our leaders accountable.”

According to the journalist, the police summons cites allegations of cyberbullying and conspiracy, and he says it is an attempt to silence his reporting, vowing that he remains steadfast in his mission for justice.

“Silencing dissenting voices won’t solve the problems plaguing our community. We must stand together to fight for our rights and resources. The struggle for justice and equality continues, and we won’t back down,” he added.

Journalist Summoned by INTERPOL over Alleged Cyberstalking and Criminal Defamation

Mr. Peter Olasupo, an Ibadan-based journalist with 32 FM 94.9 radio station in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, said on January 5, 2025 that the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) had summoned him to report to the Force Headquarters in Abuja at 11:00 AM in furtherance of the investigation into allegations of cyberstalking and criminal defamation.

Mr. Olasupo said he was asked to report in Abuja on December 30, 2024, but that he missed the date and his legal counsel, Barr. Yomi Ogunlola responded on his behalf and rescheduled his appearance to January 13, 2025. He also added that the letter of invitation left out the specific details of the allegations.

He expressed concern over the high cost of flights and safety issues attributed to road travel, and how he would transport himself to Abuja from Ibadan, where he lives.

In a Facebook post, he said: “INTERPOL, if you truly want to facilitate this process, shouldn’t you at least provide travel

allowances? Or will you use police helicopter to carry me? Traveling by air is costly these days, and traveling by road has its risks. Yet, here I am, being summoned to Abuja. Nonetheless, I will do what is required.”

The Nigerian Police have often been accused of misusing criminal defamation laws and provisions of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act, 2015 to target journalists, activists, and ordinary citizens, undermining freedom of expression and the civic space.

4.11 Others

Kano State Censorship Board Suspends 22 Hausa Films for Alleged Breach of Regulatory Protocols

On May 19, 2025, the Kano State Censorship Board announced the suspension of 22 Hausa film series for allegedly breaching regulatory protocols that mandate prior censorship approval before public distribution.

Mr Abba El-Mustapha, the Executive Secretary of the Board, disclosed the suspension following a management meeting and internal consultations, saying the titles were suspended because they were not submitted for the mandatory censorship process before production, marketing, streaming, or broadcast.

Mr Abdullahi Sani Sulaiman, the Board’s Information Officer, listed the affected series as: Dakin Amarya, Mashahuri, Gidan Sarauta, Wasiyya, Tawakkaltu, Mijina, Wani Zamani, Labarina, Mallaka, and Kudin Ruwa.

The rest are: Boka Ko Malam, Wayasan Gobe, Rana Dubu, Manyan Mata, Fatake, Garwashi, Jamilun Jiddan, Shahadar Nabila, Dadin Kowa, Tabarmar Kishiyata, and Rigar Aro.

The Board said all producers and stakeholders must comply with censorship laws regulating production, marketing, streaming, and broadcasting in Kano State, warning that: “Non-compliance could result in legal consequences.”

Producers of the affected films were instructed to halt all forms of broadcast or streaming of the titles immediately and submit their content for censorship approval within a one-week window from May 19, 2025.

The statement said: “All producers and owners of these films must stop airing or streaming their content immediately and are required to submit their productions to the Board for censorship between Monday, May 19, and Sunday, May 25, 2025.”

The Board also called on TV stations and the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) to assist in enforcing these regulations, aligning with efforts to promote professionalism and growth in the Kannywood industry.

APPENDIX

Table Showing Incidents of Attacks on Freedom of Expression 2025

	Assault and Battery			
S/ N	Date	Attack	Victim	Perpetrator
	October 20, 2025	Police Teargas BussinessDay Crew Covering #FreeNnamdiKanuNow Protest	BusinessDay TV media crew comprising Tony Ailemen, Tunde Adeniyi, Ladi Patrick-Okwoli, and Michael Godwin	Nigeria Police
	October 13, 2025	Journalist Assaulted by Imo State Environmental Compliance Corps	Mr Uchechukwu Olebara, a senior editorial staff member of Radio Maria 106.7 FM, Owerri	Imo State Environmental Compliance Corps

	October 11, 2025	NSCDC Operatives Assault Channels TV Cameraman Covering Turbaning Ceremony	Mr Ogbonna Chukwu, Channels TV Cameraman	Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Kaduna State Command
	September 20, 2025	Operatives of Lagos State Building Control Agency Brutalise, Detain Blueprint Photojournalist	Mr Sunday Essiet, a photojournalist with Blueprint newspaper	Operatives of the Lagos State Environmental and Enforcement Unit and the Building Control Agency (LASBCA)
	September 20, 2025	Political Thugs Attack Journalists Covering Edo State Local Council By-Election	Journalists covering the conduct of local government by-elections at Asoro Primary School in Oredo Ward 9, Edo State	Political Thugs
	May 19, 2025	Defendant Attacks The Guardian Photojournalist in Court	Mr Ayodele Adeniran, a photojournalist with The	Mr Adebayo Akeju, a partner in the firm of Adon

			Guardian newspaper	Partners and a defendant undergoing trial on charges of conspiracy to commit forgery, forgery, and willful destruction of property
	May 1, 2025	Journalist Brutalised in Ogun State, NUJ Imposes Blackout on NANS Activities	Mr Olajide Osoba, publisher of Newsangleo nline	Members of the National Association of Nigerian Students
	April 17, 2025	Journalist Assaulted by Senator Akobundu's Aides in Abia State	Mr Tony Icheku, a journalist based in Abia State	Senator Akobundu's Aides
	April 13, 2025	Daily Trust Photojournalist Brutally Attacked by Traders in Lagos Market	Mr Benedict Uwalaka, a photojournalist with the Daily Trust newspaper	Traders
	April 7, 2025	Journalists Covering Protest in Port Harcourt Brutalised, Arrested	Charles Oporum, the Rivers State correspondent of	Nigeria Police

			Channels Television; Allwell Ene of Naija FM; Soibelemari Oruwari of Nigeria/Info ; Ikezam Godswill of AIT, and Femi Ogunkhiled e of Super FM	
	March 26, 2025	Security Agents Assault Journalists, Deny Them Access to National Assembly	Mr Mudashiru Atanda, a photojournalist with The Sun, Mr Nicolas Kalu of The Nation newspaper, Ms Gloria Essien of the Voice of Nigeria, and Ms Tolu Akinyemi, an accredited journalist	Law enforcement and security agents deployed to the National Assembly, Abuja

			with SuperScreen Television	
	March 15, 2025	Journalist Beaten, Locked up After Raising Alarm Over Church Fire in Port Harcourt	Mr. Precious Amadi, a broadcast journalist	Members of Salvation Ministries
	March 7, 2025	UI Security Assault Campus Journalists Who Recorded Them Manhandling Student	Mr. Olanshile Ogunrinu and Mr. Oluwasegun Akanni	University of Ibadan security outfit (Abefeale)
	March 6, 2025	Nigeria AirForce Officers Assault Journalists	Mr. Dare Olawin, a correspondent of Punch Newspapers , a TVC cameraman, and one other reporter	Nigeria AirForce Officers
	January 6, 2025	Political Aide Assaults Journalist, Damages Phone	Mr. Ndubuisi Orji, The Sun newspaper correspondent	Mr. Emmanuel Okoronkwo, a personal aide to Senator Samuel Anyanwu of the Peoples

				Democratic Party (PDP)
Arrest and Detention				
	October 2025	Lagos Journalist Lured, Arrested for Publication	Mr Zaccheaus Ukhueleigb e, a Lagos-based journalist	Nigeria Police
	October 20, 2025	Police Arrest, Detain AFP Journalist Covering Protest in Abuja	Mr John Okunyomih, an AFP video journalist	Nigeria Police
	October 18, 2025	Police Arrest Journalist Following Petition by Kano State Official Accused of Corruption	Mr Ibrahim Abubakar Ishaq, a journalist with an online platform, Dan'uwa Rano TV	Nigeria Police
	October 2025	Naija News Today Publisher Arrested in Lagos for Publications, Taken to Abuja	Mr Friday Alefia, publisher of Naija News Today	Nigeria Police
	October 4, 2025	DSS Arrests Two Radio Reporters Covering President Tinubu's	Mr. Abdulgafar Alabelewe of The	DSS

		Visit to Plateau State	Nation newspapers and Mr. AbdulRaheem Abdu of Blueprint newspapers	
	September 25, 2025	Magistrate Remands Lawyer in Custody for Alleged Defamation, Cybercrime	Mr. Oluwatosin Oshibanjo, freelance journalist	Magistrate
	September 19, 2025	Publisher of Secret Reporters Online Arrested in Abuja, Flown to Delta State	Fejiro Oliver, a journalist and publisher of Secret Reporters	Nigeria Police
	September 18, 2025,	Leadership Online Editor Arrested, Remanded Over Report of Fraud by Councilor	Mr Zuhair Ali Ibrahim, editor of Leadership Online newspaper	Magistrate
	September 16, 2025	APC Social Media Chief Denied Bail, Remanded for Alleged Cyberstalking	Mr Aye O.S. Egberi	Magistrate
	September 9, 2025	Journalist Arrested While Covering Shiite	Mr Nasir Hassan Yelwa, a	Nigeria Police

		Maulid Procession in Abuja	reporter for Iran Press News Agency	
	September 9, 2025	Kano Journalist Lured by Police, Detained for Facebook Post	Mr Abdulaziz Aliyu, a journalist based in Kano	Nigeria Police
	September 4, 2025	Ekiti Police Detain FIJ's Senior Reporter Who Honoured Invitation	Mr Sodiq Atanda, a Senior Reporter with the Foundation for Investigative Journalism	Nigeria Police
	September 3, 2025	Police Invite, Detain Osun Defender Editor Over Source of News Report	Mr Yusuf Oketola, the Assistant News Editor of Osun Defender newspaper	Nigeria Police
	September 2025	Content Creator Arrested on Governor's Order for Sharing Video Exposing Hospital Decay	Mr Hassan Mai-Waya Kangiwa, a content creator based in Kebbi State	Nigeria Police

	September 2025	Newspaper Publisher Detained for a Month, Granted Bail on Strict Conditions	Mr Ejike Ogbonna, an Imo State-based journalist and publisher of First Citizen newspaper	Nigeria Police
	September 2025	Police Harass, Detain Media Room Hub Publisher over Coverage of Land Dispute	Ms Azuka Ogujiuba, Chief Executive of an online entertainment news website, Media Room Hub	Nigeria Police
	August 5, 2025	Blogger Arrested, Arraigned for Allegedly Publishing Fake News on Facebook	Ms Akanji Kofoworola , a 37-year-old blogger	Nigeria Police
	July 22, 2025	Journalist, Activist Arrested, Charged with Cybercrime	Mr Buhari Olanrewaju Ahmed, an investigative journalist, and a rights activist, Mr Musa Saidu Tsaragi	Nigeria Police

	July 17, 2025	Social Critic Lured, Arrested over TikTok Post	Saheed Osama, a musician and self-styled social critic	Nigeria Police
	July 16, 2025	Lagos Activist Arrested, Arraigned under Cybercrime Act over Instagram Posts	Mr Scott Iguma, an activist,	Nigeria Police
	June 30, 2025	Female Islamic Scholar Remanded for Alleged Defamation of Cleric	Alhaja Kafilat Kaola, female Islamic Scholar	Upper Area Court
		Content Creator Arrested, Detained, Secretly Tried for Alleged Defamation	Evangelist Ebube Joseph, content creator	DSS
	on June 3, 2025	Journalist Arrested Over Allegation of Defamation, Cyberbullying	Mr Nurudeen Adegbenro, a journalist with Mainland 98.3 FM	Nigeria Police
	May 22, 2025	Police Arrest Journalist after Exposing Alleged	Maazi Obinna Oparaku Akuwudike,	Nigeria Police

		Akpabio-Linked Smear Campaign	a Nigerian journalist and media activist	
	April 14, 2025	Borno-Based Social Media Activist Arrested Over Criticism of Government Official	Mr Sultan Usman, a well-known social media activist in Borno State	Nigeria Police
	April 7, 2025	University Graduate Arrested for Supporting Protest Against Fees Policy	Mr Martins Eyam, a Mechanical Engineering graduate from the University of Cross River State	Operation Okwok, the Cross River State's joint security task force
	April 2, 2025	Police Arrest, Detain Journalists on Orders of Niger State Governor's Print Media Aide	Mr Yakubu Mustapha Bina, the "People's Daily" Correspondent and Chairman of the Correspondents' Chapel of the Nigeria Union of	Nigeria Police

			Journalists (NUJ) in Niger State, and Mr Fodio Ahmed, a freelance journalist	
	March 2025	Police Summon, Detain Two Journalists in Kano on Orders of the Information Commissioner	Mr Buhari Abba Rano, the online editor of Kano Times, and Mr Ismail Auwal, a freelancer	Nigeria Police
	March 4, 2025	DSS Detains, Questions Daily Trust Reporters for Writing Story on Peaceful Protest	Mr. Ado Abubakar Musa and Mr. Dickson Adama	DSS
	February 25, 2025	Monarch Orders Arrest, Detention of Newspaper Correspondent, Demands Compensation	Mr. Bankole Taiwo, the Ogun State correspondent for The Punch newspaper	Oba Fatai Akamo, the Olu of Itori, in Ewekoro Local Government Area of Ogun State / Nigeria Police

4	January 15, 2025	Police Detain Reporter for Alleged Criminal Conspiracy, Cyberbullying	Mr. Emmanuel Uti, Foundation for Investigative Journalism (FIJ) reporter	Nigeria Police
Threat to Life				
4	September 2, 2025	Policeman Threatens Citizen Journalist's Life for Exposing Extortion	Mr Samuel Olumoran, a citizen journalist	Mr Oluwatosin Ojulewa (Policeman)
4	August 30, 2025	Policemen Assault FIJ Journalist for Making Inquiries, Threaten to Behead Him	Mr Daniel Ojukwu, a journalist with the Foundation for Investigative Journalism (FIJ)	Nigeria Police
4	June 26, 2025	Hotelier Threatens Journalist for Reporting Security Raid on Hotels	Mr Idibia Achadu Gabriel, a journalist based in Kaduna	Mr Victor Balogun, hotelier
3		Governor Ademola Adeleke of Osun State	Radio Stations	Mr Ademola Adeleke,

		Threatens to Sanction Radio Stations		Osun State Governor
	May 30, 2025	Political Thug Threatens to 'Deal' with Adamawa Journalist	Comrade Ishaka Donald Dedan, Chairman of Adamawa State Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ)	Hamidu Muktari (alias Dogo)
Abduction/Kidnapping				
	October 11, 2025	Journalist Abducted by Unknown Persons During Fellowship Programme Trip	Mr Salis Manaja, a multimedia journalist with Image Merchants Promotion Limited, publishers of PRNigeria and Economic Confidential	Unknown Persons

Prevention from Duty				
	August 9, 2025	Legacy 95.1 FM General Manager Suspended for Criticising Governor	Mr Godfrey Chikwere, acting General Manager, Legacy 95.1 FM	Management of Legacy 95.1 FM
	June 12, 2025	Journalists Locked Out of Covering President Tinubu's Joint National Assembly Address	Journalists accredited to cover the National Assembly	DSS
	May 27, 2025	Security Personnel Prevent Journalists from Covering Governor Oborevwori's State Address at Delta State House of Assembly	Journalists	Nigeria Police
	May 24, 2025	Akwa Ibom Government Expels Channels TV Crew Over Governor's Defection Report	Chris Moffat, Channels Television's correspondent and Kufre Ikpe, cameraman	Akwa Ibom State Government
	May 7, 2025	Kano State Bans Airing of Live Political	Live broadcasts	Kano State Government

		Programmes, Issues Interview Guidelines for Media	of political programmes	
Invasion/Raid				
	July 26, 2025	Kogi Radio Station Invaded, Equipment Worth Millions Stolen	Radio Nigeria Prime 101.5FM	Armed robbers
	May 17, 2025	Armed Men Invade Private Radio Station in Bayelsa State	Rhythm 94.7 FM	Armed Men
Harassment				
	August 27, 2025	NRC Managing Director Threatens, Assaults Female Journalists	Ms Ladi Bala, the Transport Correspondent of Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), and Ms Grace Ike, chairperson of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Federal	Mr Kayode Opeifa, Managing Director of the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC)

			Capital Territory (FCT) Council	
	August 23, 2025	Governor's Security Aide Harasses Journalists at Lagos Empowerment Event	Members of the governor's press crew	Mr Kunle Fagbemi, the Chief Security Officer (CSO) to Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu
	January 20, 2025	DSS Operatives Harass Journalists Covering Edo State Election Tribunal	Journalists	DSS
Killed				
	August 30, 2025	Mob Burns Woman to Death in Niger State for Alleged Blasphemy	Amaye	Mob
	August 22, 2024	Photojournalist Murdered in Kogi State	Mr Ayo Aiyepekun, a photojournalist with Inside Story	Mr Adebayo Pelumi

	Shut Down			
	January 13, 2025	Labour Unions Forcefully Shut Down Lagos Media Stations Over Pay Dispute	Lagos Television, Radio Lagos/Eko FM, and Lagos Traffic Radio	Labour Unions
Summons				
	June 23, 2025	Police Summon Punch Correspondent Over Unpublished Story	Mr Raphael Ede, the Enugu State correspondent of The Punch newspaper	Nigeria Police
		Police Summon Lagos Journalist for Alleging Corruption, WAEC Certificate Forgery Against Epe LG Chairperson	Mr Yomi Agbaje, popularly known as Aagba Akin	Nigeria Police
	January 5, 2025	Journalist Summoned by INTERPOL over Alleged Cyberstalking and Criminal Defamation	Mr. Peter Olasupo, an Ibadan-based journalist with 32 FM 94.9	International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)

Others				
	May 19, 2025,	Kano State Censorship Board Suspends 22 Hausa Films for Alleged Breach of Regulatory Protocols	22 Hausa film series	Kano State Censorship Board

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