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Nigeria

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Recent Developments

In a major victory for the freedom to receive and impart information, the Supreme Court ruled in April 2025 that the Freedom of Information (FoI) Act is applicable and enforceable in all 36 states. Prior to this ruling, although few state governments had enacted state versions of the FoI Act, many had refused to honor FoI requests. It should be noted, however, that many government ministries, departments and agencies still refuse to acknowledge or act upon FoI requests themselves and restrictions on the media and influencers persist. For additional details, please see the Barriers to Expression and News Items sections below in this report.

While we aim to maintain information that is as current as possible, we realize that situations can rapidly change. If you are aware of any additional information or inaccuracies on this page, please keep us informed; write to ICNL at ngomonitor@icnl.org (<mailto:ngomonitor@icnl.org>).

Introduction

Nigeria is a federal republic of 36 states and a Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, whose basic law is the 1999 Constitution (as amended). As a former British colony, the legal system of Nigeria follows the common law tradition, but there is also a provision for the application of traditional or indigenous customary laws and Shari'a (i.e. Islamic-based) law. Customary and Shari'a law were previously limited to civil matters where all the parties consented, but after 1999 some states in the northern part of Nigeria extended Shari'a law to criminal matters and social interaction. The country is also home to a wide variety of civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Some of them came into existence even before the country was formed in 1914 and others in the period before independence in October 1960. Many others have formed since then.

The main laws that relate to CSOs are found in federal legislation. Because the Constitution guarantees freedom of association, there is no restriction on those who wish to join together for any kind of purpose, provided that the purposes for which the group is formed, or the methods that it uses, are not themselves illegal. The range of CSOs is as wide and diverse as the country itself, including local "elites" clubs, traditional age class associations, unions in villages and small towns, and national organizations with thousands of members. While not every group or association must register, those that wish to enjoy the benefits of legal personality or the limited tax advantages that may be available must be registered or incorporated under the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA), Cap. C20, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004.

Civil society and especially humanitarian groups, remain concerned about security issues relating to terrorism, insurgency, banditry, and mass kidnapping. Life also remains insecure for many, particularly in the northern part of the country, where the population is subject to attacks, robbery, or extortion whereby farmers are forced to deliver part of their yield to the insurgents or risk losing the entire crop. Meanwhile, perceptions of law enforcement bias exist throughout the country.

Civic Freedoms at a Glance

Organizational Forms	Civil society organizations (CSOs)
Registration Body	Corporate Affairs Commission

Approximate Number	Digitization has improved record-keeping, while decentralization has improved access for those searching for information on individual companies.
Barriers to Formation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minors, persons of unsound mind, undischarged bankrupts, and those convicted within the previous 5 years of an offence involving dishonesty cannot be registered as trustees or directors. 2. The President may issue an order to prohibit a CSO that is “dangerous to the good government of Nigeria or of any part thereof.” The Corporate Affairs Commission has stated that henceforth, registration by socio-cultural groups and organisations would not be granted without a certificate of security screening and clearance of their Board of Trustees members. 3. Both Nigerian and foreign CSOs seeking incorporation may face hurdles in the form of various requirements. 4. Ban on the registration of gay clubs, societies or organizations.
Barriers to Operations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If a CSO wishes to engage in activity that involves a government Ministry, Department, or Agency (MDA), it may need to satisfy the criteria of that MDA. 2. Some GONGOs are perceived as undermining independent CSOs. 3. Certain state governments have been sought to pressure and even subvert CSOs. 4. Ban on the registration of gay clubs, societies or organizations. 5. President has the power to prohibit groups even if they are unregistered.
Barriers to Resources	None

Barriers to Expression

The Same Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act of 2014 not only makes same sex marriage illegal, but it also provides that: “Any person or group of persons that ... supports the registration, operation, and sustenance of gay clubs, societies, organizations, processions or meetings in Nigeria commits an offence ...”

Bloggers and journalists who are critical of the country’s leaders, particularly at the State level, face increasing pressure, arrest, beatings, and threats to stop reporting, while the government has also resorted to treason-related charges where demonstrators call for the removal or resignation of elected leaders.

Barriers to Assembly

Failure to provide protection for and excessive use of force on protests that oppose government policies and excessive government control over the route and time of protests.

Legal Overview

This section provides a brief overview of Nigeria’s legal framework for the promotion and protection of civic freedoms. Click a subheading for more, or [collapse all subheadings](#).

- RATIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

Key International Agreements	Ratification*	Year
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)	Yes	1993
Optional Protocol to ICCPR (ICCPR-OP1)	No	—
International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)	Yes	1993
Optional Protocol to ICESCR (Op-ICESCR)	No	—
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)	Yes	1967

Key International Agreements	Ratification*	Year
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	Yes	1984
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women	Yes	2004
Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)	Yes	1991
International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW)	No	—
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)	Yes	2010
Regional Treaties		
Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	Yes	1975

* Category includes ratification, accession, or succession to the treaty

- **CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK**

The current Constitution of Nigeria came into force on May 29, 1999 and has been amended (altered) four times as follows:

1. May 2010: First Constitution Alteration Act
(<https://www.wipo.int/edocs/lexdocs/laws/en/ng/ng040en.pdf>) (mostly election-related changes)
2. May 2010: Second Constitution Alteration Act
(<https://www.wipo.int/edocs/lexdocs/laws/en/ng/ng041en.pdf>) (further election-related changes)

3. February 2011 (National Industrial Court of Nigeria
(<https://www.wipo.int/edocs/lexdocs/laws/en/ng/ng042en.pdf>))
4. May 2018: Fourth Constitution Alteration Act (several changes, including reduction in age limits for standing for election, time limits for election petitions, term limits for Vice President/Deputy Governor who completes a principal's term, and financial autonomy for state legislatures and state judiciary)

The 5th Constitution Alteration Act was signed into law on April 14, 2023. No changes relevant to NGOs, civil society or the freedom of assembly and freedom of speech were made to the Constitution at that time.

Chapter IV of the Constitution enshrines fundamental rights, including the freedoms of association and assembly. Section 39 guarantees the right to receive and impart information. Section 40 guarantees the right to peaceful assembly and association. Section 45 permits these rights to be restricted in the interests of defence, public safety, public order, public morality or public health, or to protect the rights or freedoms of others.

Sections 39 and 40 provide as follows:

Section 39:

1. Every person shall be entitled to freedom of expression, including freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference.
2. Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) of this section, every person shall be entitled to own, establish and operate any medium for the dissemination of information, ideas and opinions;
Provided that no person, other than the Government of the Federation or of a State or any other person or body authorised by the President on the fulfilment of conditions laid down by an Act of the National Assembly, shall own, establish or operate a television or wireless broadcasting station for, any purpose whatsoever.
3. Nothing in this section shall invalidate any law that is reasonably justifiable in a democratic society:
 - (a) for the purpose of preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, maintaining the authority and independence of courts or regulating telephony, wireless broadcasting, television or the exhibition of cinematograph films; or
 - (b) imposing restrictions upon persons holding office under the Government of the Federation or of a State, members of the armed forces of the Federation or members of

the Nigeria Police Force or other Government security services or agencies established by law.

Section 40:

Every person shall be entitled to assemble freely and associate with other persons, and in particular he may form or belong to any political party, trade union or any other association for the protection of his interests:

Provided that the provisions of this section shall not derogate from the powers conferred by this Constitution on the Independent National Electoral Commission with respect to political parties to which that Commission does not accord recognition.

- NATIONAL LAWS, POLICIES, AND REGULATIONS

Nigeria is a federal republic and the main laws that govern civil society are derived from federal legislation, including the following:

- Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020 (<https://www.barristerng.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CAMA-2019.pdf>);
- Companies Income Tax Act (CITA) 2006 (https://www.icnl.org/wp-content/uploads/Nigeria_companies.pdf);
- Taxes and Levies (Approved List for Collection) Act 1998;
- Value Added Tax Act 1993 (https://www.icnl.org/wp-content/uploads/Nigeria_vat.pdf);
- VAT Amendment Act 2007 (https://www.icnl.org/wp-content/uploads/Nigeria_10_NigeriaVAT2007.pdf);
- Federal Inland Revenue Service (Establishment) Act 2007 (https://www.icnl.org/wp-content/uploads/Nigeria_4_NigeriaFIRS2007.pdf);
- National Planning Commission Act 2013 (https://www.icnl.org/wp-content/uploads/Nigeria_6_NigeriaNPCA1993.pdf);
- The Money Laundering Prohibition Act 2011 (as amended) (https://www.icnl.org/wp-content/uploads/Nigeria_5_NigeriaMLPA2011.pdf);
- Terrorism (Prevention) Act 2011 (https://www.icnl.org/wp-content/uploads/Nigeria_tpa2011.pdf);

- [Data Protection Act 2023 \(https://www.icnl.org/resources/library/nigeria-data-protection-act\)](https://www.icnl.org/resources/library/nigeria-data-protection-act).

While criminal offences may be created by federal legislation, most criminal laws are state laws which derive from the Penal Code (originally applicable in 19 northern states and the Federal Capital Territory) and the Criminal Code (originally applicable in 17 southern states).

- PENDING REGULATORY INITIATIVES

The Muhammad Buhari administration (2015-2023) abandoned all bills on social media and hate speech that were pending as at the end of the 9th National Assembly and neither of them has been reintroduced in the 10th National Assembly.

The following bills, however, are pending:

- [National Information Technology Development Agency's Practice Code \(https://guardian.ng/features/online-publishers-express-concern-over-nitdas-practice-code/\)](https://guardian.ng/features/online-publishers-express-concern-over-nitdas-practice-code/)
- [Nigerian Press Council Act Amendment Bill \(https://placng.org/i/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Nigerian-Press-Council-Bill.pdf\)](https://placng.org/i/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Nigerian-Press-Council-Bill.pdf) (the ECOWAS Court has [ordered \(https://dailytrust.com/ecowas-court-orders-amendment-of-nigeria-press-council-act/\)](https://dailytrust.com/ecowas-court-orders-amendment-of-nigeria-press-council-act/) that the Nigerian Press Council Act of 1992 to be amended)
- National Broadcasting Commission Act Amendment bill

Legal Analysis

This section provides an in-depth assessment of Nigeria's legal environment for civic freedoms, including the barriers to the exercise of the freedoms of association (formation, operations, resources), expression, and peaceful assembly. Click a subheading for more, or [click here to expand all subheadings](#).

- ORGANIZATIONAL FORMS

A wide range of CSOs may be formed in Nigeria simply by individuals coming together for whatever collective purposes upon which they have agreed, provided those purposes are lawful. They include companies limited by guarantee, associations with incorporated

trustees, unincorporated associations, co-operatives, and traditional organizations akin to friendship societies, such as town unions and other mutual benefit organizations.

For CSOs seeking legal entity status, the two most frequent options are associations with incorporated trustees and incorporation as a company limited by guarantee. Both of these forms of registration are governed by the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA) and are handled by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).

A **company limited by guarantee** is formed for the promotion of commerce, art, science, religion, sports, culture, education, research, charity, or other similar purposes. The income and property of the company are applied solely towards the promotion of its purposes.

An **association with incorporated trustees** is an association of persons that appoints one or more trustees and pursues registration under Part C of the CAMA. There are two types of associations with incorporated trustees. The first type occurs where trustees are appointed by a community of persons bound together by customs, religion, kinship or nationality; the second type arises where trustees are appointed by a body or association of persons established for any religious, educational, literary, scientific, social, development, cultural, sporting, or charitable purpose.

- **PUBLIC BENEFIT STATUS**

Under the Companies Income Tax Act (CITA), the profits of a company engaged in ecclesiastical, charitable, or educational activities of a public character, or promoting sporting activities are exempt from income tax. Not-for-profit companies engaged in other activities may apply to the President of Nigeria for an order to exempt them from taxation on their income or profits, no matter what the source.

In addition, incorporated Nigerian companies donating to Nigerian CSOs engaged in ecclesiastical, charitable, or educational activities of a public character, or to any of the bodies listed in the Fifth Schedule to the CITA, may claim tax relief for donations of up to 10 percent of their profits. Individuals, however, do not receive any tax relief for donations to Nigerian CSOs.

- **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Constitution provides that the National Assembly may establish committees (standing, *ad hoc*, joint, or 'of the whole house', etc.), which make rules that allow for public hearings on legislation that has passed a second reading. The Environmental Impact Assessment Act of 1992 requires review panels so that public hearings can be held on projects.

In practice, however, the National Assembly makes little effort to involve the public because it is concerned that CSOs may influence the public and criticize the legislature. State legislatures have similar powers as the National Assembly, but the lack of civil society scrutiny at state level (apart from perhaps three or four prominent states) means provisions for consultation with the public are rarely activated.

The Constitution prohibits discrimination on the grounds of being “a member of a particular community, ethnic group, place of origin, sex, religion or political opinion,” but the meaning of ‘sex’ has not been interpreted to include trans or other genders. Moreover, Nigeria’s anti-LGBTIQ law bans LGBTIQ rights advocacy and civil society organizations. Legislation has been enacted to protect the rights of persons living with disabilities at the federal level and in some states, while the ‘federal character’ provisions of the Constitution are designed to ensure that no group monopolizes power or access to public goods. There are no specific laws on age discrimination and the Constitution has been amended to lower the age at which Nigerians may stand for election.

Public advocacy on climate and environmental matters is taking place, but often unsuccessfully. Communities directly affected by environmental matters, such oil exploration, have been involved in decades of advocacy on the resulting pollution problem, for example; it has taken many years, however, for such efforts to lead to measurable results or even a response from the government.

The biggest barrier to public participation relates to low levels of literacy and education. Some communities in the oil producing areas in the south of the country have been able to articulate their environmental concerns. By contrast, those affected by similar concerns, such as the use of cyanide to extract gold in the northern parts of the country, often lack the capacity for advocacy or civic participation.

- **BARRIERS TO FORMATION**

There are several potential barriers to the formation of CSOs in Nigeria:

Potential Founders, Trustees, Directors. At least two persons over 18 are required to form a company, although minors may join in formation. Minors, persons of unsound mind, undischarged bankrupts, and those convicted within the previous five years of an offence involving dishonesty cannot be registered as trustees or directors.

Presidential power to prohibit organizations. While Nigerian law does not prohibit the formation or operation of unregistered groups, the President may issue an order to make unlawful a CSO that is “dangerous to the good government of Nigeria or of any part

thereof.” Although there are few examples of organizations that have been refused registration because of such an order, this power has been used against unregistered organizations. For example, the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) was proscribed by the Obasanjo administration; the group is non-violent but seeks secession or the break-up of Nigeria. The radical Islamic sect Boko Haram has also been proscribed: while this was clearly a reaction to the violent methods of the Boko Haram group itself, other peaceful Islamist groups have found themselves the target of police raids and arrests after being wrongly tagged “Boko Haram” members.

Registration Procedures. Both Nigerian and foreign CSOs seeking incorporation under the CAMA may face hurdles in the form of various requirements. For example:

- A CSO that wishes to incorporate as a company limited by guarantee needs to have its structure approved by the Federal Government. There is no specific procedure for securing such approval, but applications are handled by the Attorney-General of the Federation. CSOs adopting this procedure may be required to make adjustments; for example, a CSO with educational objects may be required to have a director with a background in education on its board. Generally, however, difficulties that CSOs experience are more likely to be due to administrative bottlenecks or inefficiency than to attempts at political control.
- A CSO can challenge any refusal to make a decision on its application for registration by applying for an order of *mandamus* to compel the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) to take a decision. However, there is no fixed time for deciding on an application.
- For associations with incorporated trustees, each change to its trustees or its registered constitution must be published in newspapers with an unspecified waiting period before any changes can take effect. Any member of the public can object to the proposed change or to the CSO’s original incorporation. While the affected CSO may challenge any objection, the process causes delays.
- The proposed trustees of CSOs may be required by CAMA to undergo a police background check, although these powers are rarely exercised in the case of incorporated trustees.
- Registration fees must be paid as stipulated in subsidiary regulations under the CAMA. The fees range from N21,000 (US\$150) for the registration of Incorporated Trustees to N10,000 (US\$75) for a company whose nominal share capital does not exceed one million naira (US\$7,500). While these fees are relatively modest, not-for-profit

organisations do not enjoy any waivers or reduced fees. They must also pay stamp duty on their registration or incorporation documents.

Foreign Organizations. Foreign CSOs may be incorporated just as local CSOs under CAMA. However, they must comply with the same rules as local organizations. This means they are prohibited from having a name that may be acceptable in their home countries but which could be interpreted in Nigeria to be the name of a government body (thus “National” in the name of a foreign CSO could be considered problematic).

A foreign CSO that is not able to incorporate under CAMA may still operate in Nigeria if it is registered with the National Planning Commission. This status is achieved when the Ministry grants the foreign CSO’s request for a bilateral agreement. Once the agreement is completed, the foreign CSO has a legal personality in Nigeria. However, that status comes at the price of fairly extensive control by the Ministry, which acquires powers over the operation of the foreign CSO. The Ministry may appoint members to its Board, approve the hiring of its key personnel, and approve its budget because the essence of the bilateral agreement is that the foreign CSO becomes a quasi-consultant to the Ministry.

LGBTQ Organizations. The registration of LGBTQ clubs, societies and organizations are prohibited under Same Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act, which President Jonathan signed into law in January 2014. It should be noted, however, that no society or organization that is formed for unlawful purposes can be registered in any event, but the Act specifically bars the registration of LGBTQ organizations.

- **BARRIERS TO OPERATIONS**

Additional registration or certification requirements. If a CSO wishes to engage in some activity that involves a government Ministry, Department, or Agency (MDA), it may need to satisfy the criteria of that MDA. For example, a CSO that wishes to engage in election observation may need to seek registration with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). Refusal by the INEC to register the CSO would not mean that the CSO would cease to exist or prevent the members of that CSO from engaging in election observation (provided that its members could do so within the rules generally applicable to election observation). However, members of a CSO that is registered with INEC would probably be issued some kind of identification that would enable its members to move freely and enter certain locations, such as collation centres, that otherwise would be closed off to the general public.

A CSO that is providing developmental support – e.g., digging boreholes for water or providing some educational support – might seek to be registered with the relevant state or federal MDA, at least for the purpose of facilitating communication. Many CSOs, however, carry out such activities without seeking to be placed on any such “approved list.” Registration with an MDA is not to be confused with incorporation by the CAC, as it is the latter that confers legal personality. In some cases, depending on the objects for which an organization is formed, the CAC requires a prospective association to secure prior certification by a particular ministry or department.

Reporting requirements. Following an amendment to the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act 2022 and the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act 2022, not-for-profit organizations are no longer listed among Designated Non-financial Institutions and are thus freed from the onerous paperwork and reporting obligations designed to prevent money laundering.

GONGOS. The government has established government NGOs or “GONGOs.” For example, during the 2007 elections, election-observation organizations sprang up and were recognized and accredited by the INEC. This was perceived as an attempt to undermine and overshadow the statements that were issued by independent CSOs that were critical of the conduct of the elections. There appears (<https://carnegieendowment.org/2021/07/28/fake-civil-society-rise-of-pro-government-ngos-in-nigeria-pub-85041>) to have been a significant increase in the number of pro-Government NGOs since 2015, when the Buhari administration came to power.

Harassment. While CSOs have not been subject to harassment by the Federal Government, certain state governments have been known to attempt to pressure and even subvert CSOs and to single out certain CSOs for special adverse treatment. In such cases, however, CSOs have the right to challenge the government in court.

From time to time, the police attempt to claim that they have the power to restrict the rights of Nigerians to hold public meetings based on colonial-era legislation, but in view of the constitutional guarantees on freedom of association and assembly, such powers are often successfully challenged in the courts.

Prohibition on LGBTQ clubs, societies, and meetings. In January 2014, President Goodluck Jonathan signed the Same Sex Marriage Prohibition Act, which bans same-sex marriages and civil unions and prohibits the registration of LGBTQ clubs, societies or meetings in Nigeria. It also prohibits their “sustenance, processions and meetings.” It is not required that any group of people register, but the President has the power to prohibit

groups or organisations even if they are unregistered. The Act appears to prohibit LGBTQ clubs and organisations even without the need for presidential intervention; however, the constitutionality of this provision against freedom of assembly and association guarantees has not yet been tested.

Foreign Organizations. Foreign CSOs may be incorporated just as local CSOs under CAMA, but must comply with the same rules as local organizations with regard to names which are acceptable in their home countries, but which are deemed to be capable of being interpreted as the names of government bodies.“

Case of Borno State and Boko Haram. This military effort has put Boko Haram on the back foot since 2015, with reports that some of its members are attempting to blend into the local population in Borno State, which is the locus of the insurgency. There are concerns about Boko Haram retreating to local villages or even IDP camps and the government has been embarrassed over reports of starvation in northeastern Nigeria. There have also been reports of the government appropriation of aid intended for IDPs and other abuses of IDPs. Governor Shettima of Borno State also condemned the UN and other international CSOs for profiting from the crisis and spending more on themselves and armored vehicles than on IDPs or the population. When this attracted blowback from the UN and the international community, the Governor said that he had been referring to local CSOs. Although no local CSOs working in Borno State have funds for armored vehicles, the Borno State Government now requires all local CSOs to register and gain accreditation. The process does not appear to be settled and is thus considered to be haphazard, but all CSOs are affected and not only CSOs working with IDPs.

In terms of operations in Borno State, CSOs have been required to go to the Borno State Government House to collect a 15-page registration form, which required nearly 70 supporting documents. These requirements have been modified but the process is still unsettled. At first the Borno State Government said that CSOs that had not been registered or accredited would not be permitted to enter IDP camps or to hold workshops. This has also been modified, but the Department of State Security (DSS) has attended a number of CSO workshops and attempted to stop them on the grounds that they have not been authorized. There are also increasingly frequent checks by the Nigerian Immigration Service on the immigration status of CSO members.

– **BARRIERS TO RESOURCES**

There are no major legal barriers to resources under Nigerian law. A CSO may conduct business activities directly, but where incorporated with trustees or limited by guarantee they must apply the proceeds of such economic activity to the purposes of such

organization. Registered CSOs are free to compete for government funds if this accords with the purposes for which they were established.

While there is no restriction barring CSOs from receiving foreign funding, it would strengthen civil society if there were some incentive for Nigerian citizens to contribute to or fund CSOs and obtain tax relief for doing so. However, there is some indication that even though the Nigerian government itself receives foreign funding support, it finds it convenient to berate or criticize civil society as being “sponsored” by foreign interests, with the underlying suggestion that such organizations are unpatriotic and – by criticizing government – are being paid to act contrary to Nigeria’s interests.

In October 2011, the House of Representatives’ Committee on Civil Society and Donor Agencies, stated that its duties included the formulation of policies and guidelines for the coordination and regulation of the activities of external donor agencies in Nigeria and expressed concern at the lack of coordination of foreign development assistance and the possibility of duplication. It also stated its intention to track and monitor foreign assistance.

- **BARRIERS TO EXPRESSION**

Companies registered under CAMA are prohibited from making any donation or gift to a political party, or from making any gift or donation “for any political purpose” (Section 43(2) of CAMA). Any breach of this prohibition could result in the officers and any member of the company that voted for such a donation being liable to refund the amount or value of the gift to the company and could also result in conviction and fines in an amount equal to the value of the gift. Human rights and pro-democracy CSOs have not been affected by these provisions, which have been interpreted as applying to partisan politics, registered political parties, and candidates for elective offices.

The Same Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act 2014 does not prohibit any advocacy for a change in the law on homosexuality, but makes it an offence to “support the registration, operation, and sustenance of LGBTQ clubs, societies, organizations, processions or meetings in Nigeria ...” After an initial wave of activity, there appears to be little effort on behalf of the government to enforce the provisions of the Same Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act. However, a challenge to the Act failed when the Federal High Court in Abuja struck the case for lack of standing.

Bloggers have come under increasing pressure in Nigeria since 2016, especially when they have challenged the ruling party. For example, Abubakar Usman, who is known for his strong pro-APC views (APC is the ruling party), was arrested by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for alleged cyberstalking in August 2016. The EFCC said Mr. Usman’s

activities contradicted sections of the Cybercrime Act. Usman was released after spending more than 36 hours in custody but was placed on administrative bail with conditions that he must make himself available to the EFCC whenever he receives an “invitation” from the EFCC.

The trends did not improve in 2017, with reports of the Kaduna State Government arresting those whom it accused of making false reports on the Internet. In addition, the Nasarawa State Urban Development Board demolished Breeze FM, a privately owned station that was licensed by the National Broadcasting Commission. Furthermore, two journalists were beaten and later told to never write anything against the Ebonyi State government (*see the News Items section below in this report for more details*).

Similar trends continued in 2019. For example, a journalist, Agba Jalingo, was kept in police detention for over a week over a report about an alleged diversion of N500 million by the Cross River governor. Jalingo, who is the publisher of CrossRiverWatch, a Cross River State-based newspaper, was charged with treason. The SSS also took Omoyele Sowore into custody because Sowore, a social critic and publisher of Sahara Reporters, called for a revolution in Nigeria. The SSS spokesperson, Peter Afunanya, told reporters, however, he was unable to say whether or not the SSS had any credible intelligence that confirmed Sowore had the capacity to execute a takeover of government in Nigeria.

In 2024, restrictions on journalists remained in sharp focus during the Dele Farotimi-Afe Babalola dispute. Babalola, a senior legal practitioner, complained that he had been defamed in Farotimi’s book, *Nigeria and its Criminal Justice System*. Police officers travelled from Ekiti to Lagos to arrest Farotimi and to take him to Ekiti where he was arraigned before a magistrate’s court on charges of criminal libel and remanded in prison when the magistrate refused to make a summary ruling on his application for bail. When it became clear that criminal libel was no longer a crime in either Lagos or Ekiti, the police brought charges against Farotimi under the Cybercrimes (Prohibition/Prevention, etc.) Act.

In addition, a five-day disruption in internet services in August 2024 coincided with the #EndBadGovernance protests in Nigeria. Civil society groups alleged that the disruption was intentional. Spokespersons of the Federal Government likewise sought to silence or shut down any criticism about the fallout of its economic policies, which have brought hardship to numerous Nigerians. *The Guardian* newspaper, for example, was accused of seeking to foment regime change or a military coup because of its criticism of the government’s economic policies, although the newspaper vigorously defended its position.

Restrictions on expression in 2025 persisted. For example,

- The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) directed Nigerian radio and television stations not to air the protest song ‘Tell Your Papa’ by Nigerian rapper Eedris Abdulkareem because it was considered “objectionable”.
- The Federal High Court (FHC) in Abuja restrained Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan from granting media interviews while a suit she filed to prevent an investigation into her activities was still pending before the FHC.
- The Chief Magistrate Court, Wuse Zone 6, Abuja, issued a bench warrant for the arrest of blogger Martins Vincent Otse, popularly known as “VeryDarkMan”, for “criminal defamation” of the reputation of gospel singer, Mercy Chinwo.
- The blogger, Ismail Awuali, was detained in Kano State for “defaming” the state commissioner.
- A teenager, Hamdiyya Sharif, who criticized the Sokoto State Government for failing to protect citizens against bandits, was subjected to harassment and disappeared, although she was later found in neighbouring Zamfara State.
- Meta, which runs Facebook, was fined by the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission, the Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria (ARCON), and the Nigerian Data Protection Commission, which resulted in Meta threatening to shut down operations in Nigeria while still also appealing the decision.
- The Kano State Government banned live political interviews and prohibited journalists from asking “provocative” questions during media interviews.

- **BARRIERS TO ASSEMBLY**

The Nigerian Constitution, in Section 40, protects the freedom of assembly: “Every person shall be entitled to assemble freely ...” The Public Order Act regulates assemblies. Since coming into force in 1990, the Public Order Act has been the subject of litigation. In 2007, the Court of Appeal quashed several sections of the Public Order Act; the Court’s decision, however, has not yet been reflected in legislative changes.

Notification

Previously notification was required, but this is no longer the case. Now if event organizers notify the police, it is for the purpose of arranging police protection. In 2007 the Court of Appeal quashed several sections of the Public Order Act, including one section relating to advance notification in *All Nigeria Peoples Party v. Inspector-General of Police*. In the lead judgment, Adekeye JCA held:

“The Public Order Act should be promulgated to compliment sections 39 and 40 of the Constitution in context and not to stifle or cripple it. A rally or placard carrying demonstration has become a form of expression of views on current issues affecting government and the governed in a sovereign state. It is a trend recognized and deeply entrenched in the system of governance in civilized countries – *it will not only be primitive but also retrogressive if Nigeria continues to require a pass to hold a rally.* We must borrow a leaf from those who have trekked the rugged path of democracy and are now reaping the dividend of their experience (*italics added for emphasis*).”

In his contribution Mohammed JCA said:

“In present day Nigeria, clearly a *Police Permit has outlived its usefulness. Certainly in a democracy, it is the right of citizens to conduct peaceful processions, rallies or demonstrations without seeking and obtaining permission from anybody.* It is a right guaranteed by the 1999 Constitution and any law that attempts to curtail such right is null and void and of no consequence (*italics added for emphasis*).”

Time, Place and Manner Restrictions

The surviving portion of Section 1 of the Public Order Act empowers a State Governor to prescribe the route by which and the times at which any procession may pass. In addition, while the use of uniforms in general is not prohibited, and indeed, is specifically permitted by section 7 of the Public Order Act, section 7 does prohibit the wearing of any uniform if the Commissioner of Police in the state is of the opinion that wearing it is offensive or is likely to provoke a breach of the peace.

Enforcement

In practice the State sometimes uses force to break up assemblies even where these are peaceful. The basis for allowing some assemblies to go ahead while preventing others appears arbitrary, but can usually be traced to the political interests of the government in power, since the Nigeria Police Force – although ostensibly a service for the entire Federation – is answerable to the President, and thus more likely to do his bidding, either express or anticipated.

Where political issues are at stake, the police response may be dictated by the political interests of those in power. In January 2010, when then-President Umaru Yar'Adua was absent without explanation, demonstrations calling for a proper resolution of the crisis and formal handover of power to then Vice-President Goodluck Jonathan were well policed in major cities. But in January 2012, when Nigerians demonstrated against a fuel price

increase under the rubric #OccupyNigeria, the police initially provided protection but then changed strategy toward the continuing demonstrations, which were broken up or prevented by a show of force from the police and the armed forces. The reason given for the *volte face* was said to be intelligence reports that Boko Haram was planning to take advantage of the demonstrations and protests to foment trouble in Nigeria. The excuse about the fear that protests are going to be hijacked is frequently resorted to by Nigerian authorities.

Problems with enforcement and prohibitions on freedom of assembly resurfaced in 2015. In the northern part of the country, following clashes between the Nigerian Army and a Shiite group (Islamic Movement in Nigeria-IMN), which led to as many as 700 civilian deaths, several governors banned protests. In 2019, at least six IMN protesters were also killed in clashes with Nigerian police in Abuja.

In 2015, in Rivers State in the south of the country, pro-Biafra marches were banned by the state governor. In the run-up to gubernatorial elections in Bayelsa State, also in the south, protests were similarly banned by the Nigeria Police. In January 2017, the police also broke up a protest in favor of US President Donald Trump by the Independent Peoples of Biafra (IPOB), which led to the death of a protestor.

#BringBackOurGirls Protests

Two weeks after the abduction by Boko Haram of more than 250 schoolgirls from the Federal Government Girls College at Chibok in Borno State on the night of April 14, 2014, some concerned citizens began to gather daily at 3 pm at the Unity Fountain in Abuja to express their concern at the apparent indifference of the authorities to the fate of the girls and to demand action by the government.

Under the general appellation 'Women for Peace and Justice' and the twitter slogan/hashtag #BringBackOurGirls, the campaign spread across Nigeria with marches and demonstrations in several major Nigerian cities, but with a particular focus at the Unity Fountain. Despite complaints from the Presidency that the protests were sponsored by the opposition APC party in a plot to bring down the Jonathan administration, the National Police Force (NPF) generally facilitated the operations of the #BringBackOurGirls marchers. Organizers informed the authorities of their intentions to hold rallies, and the NPF provided logistical support, including diverting traffic where required.

Nonetheless, on May 28, 2014 “thugs” who were rumored to be sponsored by the then PDP-led government attacked protesters, smashing their chairs and snatching their bags and mobile phone handsets. There was not appropriate police intervention to restrain or arrest the attackers. The rumors were that the attackers received 3,000 naira (approximately \$18.50) each and arrived in government buses, which, in addition to the lack of police response to their aggression and the wife of the President’s orders to arrest leading protesters, is why the attackers are seen as being government-sponsored. The attackers operated under a separate hashtag #ReleaseOurGirls, a name intended to be directed at Boko Haram, who kidnapped the schoolgirls, rather than the government for its perceived inaction. Some of the attackers later admitted to having been paid 3,000 naira after meeting a team of Ministers and Special Advisers to the President and said that they were transported to the Unity Foundation to replace the #BringBackOurGirls protesters.

Since the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory’s July 2014 ruling that the Nigeria Police Force had no power to ban rallies and protests, #BringBackOurGirls have continued to meet daily in Abuja, and weekly in Lagos. However, attempts by the group to stage marches and protests outside their daily meeting venue are often met with resistance by the police. For example, in November 2018 members of the group were stopped from a protest march to Aso Rock over the continued failure to rescue the Chibok Girls and other hostages of the insurgents. Nonetheless, in Lagos #BringBackOurGirls was able to stage marches and rallies, while in Abuja the group also held events to mark the fifth anniversary of the girls’ abduction in April 2019.

#EndBadGovernance Protests

The accession of the Bola Tinubu administration in 2024 heralded an era of even greater economic hardship for Nigerians, including because of the already-scheduled ending of the fuel subsidy, which had kept the price of petrol down, and the collapse in the value of the Nigerian currency (the naira) from N460 to US\$1 in May 2023 to N1,500 to US\$1 as of February 2025. Despite patchy government programs to alleviate the hardship caused by economic reforms, the impact has been felt severely by the general population. Nigerian CSOs called for #EndBadGovernance protests, which were also tagged ‘Days of Rage’ and ‘Hunger Protests’, to last from August 1 to August 10, 2024. The protesters demanded that prices be reduced and that President Tinubu should resign.

These protests were widespread and for the most part began peacefully. However, efforts by the army and the police to contain or disperse the protesters, attempts by some protesters to block major roads, and the looting and destruction of both government and private property all contributed to an escalation of violence, with as many as 21 protesters

killed and over 1,000 protesters arrested across the country on just the first day of the protests. Curfews were also imposed in several states. Some of the protesters in Kano and Katsina States were also arrested for waving Russian flags during the protests, and they were later charged with treason on the basis that since three Sahelian States (Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger Republic) had experienced military coups, the waving of Russian flags was a coded call for a military coup in Nigeria.

Additional Resources

This section contains links to external reports and news reports relevant to civic freedoms. Click a subheading for more, or [click here to expand all subheadings](#).

- GLOBAL INDEX RANKINGS

Ranking Body	Rank	Ranking Scale (best – worst possible)
UN Human Development Index (https://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/NGA)	163 (2022)	1 – 191
World Justice Project Rule of Law Index (https://worldjusticeproject.org/rule-of-law-index/country/Nigeria)	120 (2024)	1 – 142
Fund for Peace: Fragile States Index (https://fragilestatesindex.org/)	15 (2024)	179 – 1
Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index (https://www.transparency.org/en/countries/nigeria)	140 (2024)	1 – 180

Ranking

Scale

(best – worst possible)

Ranking Body

Rank

Status:

Partly Free

Political

Rights: 20

Civil

Liberties:

24 (2025)

Free/Partly

Free/Not

Free

1 – 40

1 – 60

Freedom House: Freedom in the World
(<https://freedomhouse.org/country/nigeria>)

- REPORTS

UN Universal
Periodic
Review
Reports

Universal Periodic Review: Nigeria (2009)
(<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/NGindex.aspx>)

Reports of
UN Special
Rapporteurs

- Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders (2006)
(<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc4733add2-visit-nigeria-report-special-rapporteur-extrajudicial>)
- Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (2007)
(<https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/country-reports/ahrc4733add2-visit-nigeria-report-special-rapporteur-extrajudicial>)

UNCA Civil
Society
Coalition

Civil Society Report on the Implementation of chapter II & Chapter V of the CNUCC in Nigeria (2024) (<https://uncaccoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/Updated-Civil-Society-Parallel-Report-on-UNCAC-implementation-in-Nigeria-CeFTPI-UNCAC-Coalition-20-December-2024.pdf>)

2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Nigeria

U.S. State Department	<u>(https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/528267_NIGERIA-2023-HUMAN-RIGHTS-REPORT.pdf)</u>
Fragile States Index Reports	<u>Foreign Policy: Fragile States Index</u> <u>(https://www.foreignpolicy.com/failedstates2012)</u>
Human Rights Watch	<u>2023 Report</u> (<u>https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2023/country-chapters/nigeria</u>)
IMF Country Reports	<u>Nigeria and the IMF</u> <u>(https://www.imf.org/external/country/nga/index.htm)</u>
International Journal of Advanced Research in Public Policy	<u>Civil Society and Federalism in Nigeria (2017)</u> <u>(https://internationalpolicybrief.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/ARTICLE-13.pdf)</u>
ICNL Online Library	<u>Nigeria</u> (<u>https://www.icnl.org/research/library/</u>)

- NEWS

Sowore lambasts police after release from custody (<https://punchng.com/sowore-lambasts-police-after-release-from-custody/>) (August 2025)

Human rights activist and 2023 presidential candidate of the African Action Congress, Omoyele Sowore, was released by the police after spending over 48 hours in detention at the Force Headquarters in Abuja. Sowore was detained after honouring an invitation by the Inspector-General of Police Monitoring Unit at the Force Headquarters in Abuja. The police had said they were investigating the activist based on two petitions bordering on alleged forgery of police documents and cyber bullying.

Adeleke's CSO Did Not Arrest Facebook User (<https://newsdiaryonline.com/adelekes-cso-did-not-arrest-facebook-user-ifedolapo-osun-govt/>) (August 2025)

The Osun State Government has denied an allegation from the All Progressives Congress (APC) that the Chief Security Officer (CSO) to Governor Ademola Adeleke was responsible for the arrest of a Facebook user who directly threatened the life of the state governor.

Oluomo Kolapo Alimi, Commissioner for Information and Public Enlightenment, therefore, urged the public and the police authorities to know that the issue is not about politics but about the life of a state governor, saying “No threat to life should be taken lightly.”

Edo govt demands apology over alleged defamation

(https://guardian.ng/news/nigeria/metro/edo-govt-demands-apology-over-alleged-defamation/#google_vignette) (June 2025)

The Edo government has issued Mr Ogbeide Ifaluyi-Isibor a 24-hour ultimatum to retract and apologize for an allegedly defamatory social media post. Failure to comply, the government warned, will lead to both civil and criminal legal proceedings against him. The government condemned the viral post, which accused the administration of irregularities and incompetence.

NBC bans Eedris Abdulkareem’s ‘Tell Your Papa’ song

(<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/entertainment/music/787045-nbc-bans-eedris-abdulkareems-tell-your-papa-song.html>) (April 2025)

The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) has directed Nigerian radio and television stations not to air the protest song ‘Tell Your Papa’ by Nigerian rapper Eedris Abdulkareem. However, in a statement issued by the Coordinating Director of Broadcast Monitoring, Susan Obi, NBC stated that the song is inappropriate for broadcast. The statement titled ‘Restriction on broadcasting ‘Tell Your Papa’ by Eedris Abdulkareem’ read: “The National Broadcasting Commission has identified the song ‘Tell Your Papa’ by Eedris Abdulkareem, currently trending on social media, as content deemed inappropriate for broadcast due to its objectionable nature.

Court restrains Akpoti-Uduaghan from media interviews in pending case

(https://www.pulse.ng/articles/news/court-restrains-akpoti-uduaghan-akpabio-from-media-interviews-in-pending-case-2025040411475994017?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily&utm_content=2025-04-04#google_vignette) (April 2025)

The Federal High Court (FHC) in Abuja restrained Senator Natasha Akpoti-Uduaghan and others from granting media interviews while the suit filed by Natasha is still pending before the court. The new judge, Justice Binta Nyako, gave the order during the hearing of the suit filed by the suspended senator to stop the Senate from investigating her. Justice Nyako ordered that no party or counsel in the suit should grant media interviews pending the hearing and determination of the case.

Court orders VeryDarkMan's arrest over defamation of Mercy Chinwo

(<https://punchng.com/court-orders-verydarkmans-arrest-over-defamation-of-mercy-chinwo/>) (March 2025)

The Chief Magistrate Court, Wuse Zone 6, Abuja, has issued a bench warrant for the arrest of blogger Martins Vincent Otse, popularly known as VeryDarkMan, for “criminal defamation” of the reputation of gospel singer, Mercy Chinwo. The magistrate ordered the Nigeria Police Force together with other law enforcement agencies to arrest VeryDarkMan and produce him in court to answer to the criminal allegations levelled against him. Though VeryDarkMan’s lawyer, Deji Adeyanju, appealed to the magistrate to rethink the bench warrant and that he would personally produce his client in court, the magistrate rejected the appeal and insisted that VeryDarkMan be produced in court by security agencies.

Police Files 12 New Charges Against Farotimi

(<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2024/12/10/police-files-12-new-charges-against-farotimi/>) (December 2024)

Dele Farotimi’s trouble days are far from over, as the Nigerian Police have filed fresh charges against the human rights lawyer before the Federal High Court in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State over allegations of cybercrime. Farotimi had appeared before the court following charges brought against him by Afe Babalola under the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc.) Act, 2015. The police filed 12 fresh counts against Farotimi, according to court documents.

Hamdiyya Sidi apologises to Sokoto govt over inciting comments

(<https://dailytrust.com/hamdiyya-sidi-apologises-to-sokoto-govt-over-inciting-comments/>) (November 2024)

A resident of Sokoto, Hamdiyya Sidi, who is being prosecuted by the police over alleged inciting statements, has apologized to the Sokoto State Governor, Dr Ahmed Aliyu. Her arrest and subsequent prosecution had generated criticisms from Amnesty International and some women groups, even as some of the internally displaced persons have accused her of alleged deceit.

Rights group calls for release of minors charged over Nigeria protests

(<http://aljazeera.com/news/2024/11/3/rights-group-calls-for-release-of-minors-charged-over-protests>) (November 2024)

The Nigerian government is facing increasing pressure to drop charges against dozens of minors amid an uproar over detention conditions since they were arrested over their alleged participation in protests against the high cost of living. A total of 76 people, including

30 children, were arraigned and charged with 10 felony counts, including treason, destruction of property, public disturbance and mutiny. The minors ranged in age from 14 to 17 years old.

DSS invites convener of Lagos group for suing state government

(<https://saharareporters.com/2024/09/13/breaking-nigerias-secret-police-dss-invites-convener-lagos-group-suing-state-govt-others>) (September 2024)

The Department of State Services (DSS) invited one of the conveners of Ibeju-Lekki Peoples Forum, Comrade Jamiu Olayinka, for questioning over a suit asking the Lagos State government to account for the \$100 million reportedly paid by Aliko Dangote to acquire land for his refinery. The Lagos natives' leader, who was at work, was asked to honour the impromptu invitation of the secret police, according to a statement signed by the Media Officer of De Renaissance Patriots Foundation in Lagos State.

At least 21 killed in youth protests against cost of living in Nigeria

(<https://efe.com/en/latest-news/2024-08-02/at-least-21-killed-in-youth-protests-against-cost-of-living-in-nigeria/>) (August 2024)

At least 21 people were killed during the first day of protests by young people against the high cost of living in several Nigerian cities. The protests were met by a tough crackdown by security forces, with the United Front for United Action of Civil Society (UFCS), one of the groups leading the protests, blaming the deaths of "poor management" and "operational failures" by police.

Nigerians protest economic hardship (<http://france24.com/en/video/20240220-this-hunger-is-too-much-nigerians-protest-economic-hardship>) (March 2024)

Hundreds of Nigerians demonstrated against the soaring cost of living in the south of the country after huge protests in the north earlier this month. Nigeria is suffering an economic crisis and soaring prices have left many people struggling to afford food.

Nigeria imposes annual levy on expatriate workers (http://bbc.com/news/world-africa-68421359?at_campaign=Social_Flow&at_link_id=2A70DE0C-D636-11EE-9688-DCE654826ABF&at_ptr_name=twitter&at_medium=social&at_link_origin=BBCAfrica&at_bbc_team=editorial&at_link_type=web_link&at_campaign_type=owned&at_format=ink) (February 2024)

Nigeria has imposed a mandatory annual levy for organizations employing expatriate workers, requiring them to pay \$15,000 for a director and \$10,000 for other employees. The move is meant to encourage foreign companies to employ more Nigerian workers. Staff of diplomatic missions and government officials are exempt. President Bola Tinubu has warned that the levy should not be used to frustrate potential investors.

Nigeria Civil Society Coalition Demands Accountability Over Insecurity

(<http://voanews.com/a/nigeria-civil-society-coalition-demands-accountability-over-insecurity/7465245.html>) (January 2024)

A coalition of more than 40 civil society groups has petitioned Nigerian President Bola Tinubu, calling on him to address chronic insecurity that has only gotten worse since he assumed office last May. The petition follows a series of kidnappings in the capital, Abuja, and southwestern Ekiti state. According to a report this week by the civil society coalition, at least 2,400 people have been killed and close to 1,900 others kidnapped since May last year when Tinubu assumed office.

'Emerging Judicial Corruption' Undermining Nigeria's Democratic Process

(<https://gazettengr.com/emerging-judicial-corruption-undermining-nigerias-democratic-process-civil-society-warns/>) (December 2023)

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Center (CISLAC) says there is a need for free, fair, and credible elections to ensure patriotic, transparent and accountable leaders who will work and ensure good governance in Nigeria. CISLAC director Auwal Rafsanjani said while democracy had hitherto been threatened by a series of systemic challenges since 1999, we had anticipated to make appreciable progress than we currently have.

- ARCHIVED NEWS

New SIM Card Registrations with Biometric ID Number Resume in Nigeria

(<https://www.biometricupdate.com/202104/new-sim-card-registrations-with-biometric-id-number-resume-in-nigeria>) (April 2021)

Court Dismisses Case Against EndSARS Protesters (<https://thewillnigeria.com/news/court-dismisses-case-against-endsars-protesters/>). (January 2021)

Sowore Arrested for Organising Crossover Night Protest

(<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2021/01/01/sowore-arrested-for-organising-crossover-night-protest/>) (January 2021)

Kano Govt Sets Up Committee to Check 'Media Excesses'

(<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/nwest/372202-kano-govt-sets-up-committee-to-check-media-excesses.html>) (January 2020)

We Released Sowore, Dasuki On Compassionate Grounds

(<https://www.channelstv.com/2019/12/27/we-released-sowore-dasuki-on-compassionate-grounds-says-malami/>) (November 2019)

Hate Speech Bill's Sponsor Buckles, Proposes Removal of Death Penalty

(<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2019/11/25/hate-speech-bills-sponsor-buckles-proposes-removal-of-death-penalty/>) (November 2019)

Detained Nigerian journalist charged with treason

(<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/349827-detained-nigerian-journalist-charged-with-treason-for-criticising-governor.html>) (September 2019)

Why we shut down Bobrisky's birthday party venue

(<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/entertainment/naija-fashion/349818-why-we-shut-down-bobriskys-birthday-party-venue-police.html>) (August 2019)

SSS confirms arresting Sowore, Gives Reasons

(<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/344723-just-in-sss-confirms-arresting-sowore-gives-reasons.html>) (August 2019)

Six Shiite protesters dead in clashes with Nigerian police

(<https://www.france24.com/en/20190722-six-shiite-protesters-dead-clashes-with-nigerian-police-witnesses>) (July 2019)

Channels TV reporter dies from injuries (<https://cpj.org/2019/07/nigeria-channels-tv-protest-shot-precious-owolabi.php>) (July 2019)

NBC shuts AIT, Raypower indefinitely (<https://www.thecable.ng/breaking-nbc-shuts-ait-raypower-indefinitely>) (June 2019)

Facebook bans Israeli-based fake accounts for interfering in Nigerian elections

(<https://www.timesofisrael.com/facebook-takes-down-network-of-fake-accounts-pages-linked-to-israeli-firm/>) (May 2019)

National Assembly management issues new guidelines for journalists

(<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/330843-full-statement-national-assembly-management-issues-new-guidelines-for-journalists.html>) (May 2019)

Abuja residents, activists march, demand end to arrest of women

(<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/regional/north-central/329428-abuja-residents-activists-march-demand-end-to-arrest-of-women.html>) (May 2019)

Attacks on media, observers, INEC mar polls

(<https://www.pulse.ng/news/politics/supplementary-election-attacks-on-media-observers-inec-mar-polls-cdd/yhx023z>) (March 2019)

Twitter tells us why it suspended influencers' accounts ahead of elections

(https://www.pulse.ng/bi/tech/exclusive-twitter-tells-us-why-it-suspended-some-influencers-accounts-ahead-of/tkx563l?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&utm_campaign=daily-2019-02-16) (February 2019)

Military speaks on invasion of Daily Trust offices (<https://www.thecable.ng/their-action-put-the-military-in-danger-dhq-explains-invasion-of-daily-trust-offices>) (January 2019)

Army launches operation python dance nationwide (<https://www.blueprint.ng/2019-army-launches-operation-python-dance-iii-across-nigeria/>) (December 2018)

Nigerian army lifts ban of UNICEF after spy accusations (<https://www.dw.com/en/nigerian-army-lifts-ban-of-unicef-after-spy-accusations/a-46752701>) (December 2018)

Get out of Nigeria, Army warns Amnesty International

(<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2018/12/breaking-get-out-of-nigeria-army-warns-amnesty-international/>) (December 2018)

Activist Deji Adeyanju faces 10-year imprisonment (<https://thenationonlineng.net/icymi-activist-deji-adeyanju-faces-10-year-imprisonment/>) (December 2018)

Group Protests Plateau Killings (<https://www.channelstv.com/2018/06/28/photos-group-protests-plateau-killings-invades-govt-house/>) (June 2018)

Mourning for Victims of Killings (<https://www.thecable.ng/photos-2baba-ezekwesili-odinkalu-mourn-victims-killings>) (May 2018)

Elombah Brothers Plead Not Guilty (<https://thewillnigeria.com/news/igs-defamation-suit-elombah-brothers-plead-not-guilty/>) (April 2018)

Police Lock Down Unity Fountain, Prevent Shiites, BBOG from Meeting

(<https://punchng.com/police-lock-down-unity-fountain-prevent-shiites-bbog-from-meeting/>) (April 2018)

Why we Arrested 115 Shiite Protesters in Abuja

(<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/265154-why-we-arrested-115-shiite-protesters-in-abuja-police.html>) (April 2018)

MRA calls for Speedy Presidential Assent to Digital Rights and Freedom Bill

(<https://www.ifex.org/nigeria/2018/03/16/digital-rights-freedom/>) (March 2018)

DSS Demands Source of Story to Free Detained Journalist (<https://www.thecable.ng/dss-wants-daily-independent-journalist-disclose-sources-release>) (March 2018)

Oby Ezekwesili leads fresh BBOG protest to Aso Rock (<https://www.legit.ng/1148126-oby-ezekwesili-leads-bbog-protest-aso-rock.html>) (January 2018)

Court Adjourns Trial of Senator Accused of Injurious Falsehood

(<https://mediarightsagenda.net/web/court-adjourns-trial-of-senator-accused-of-injurious-falsehood/>) (January 2018)

Nigeria Police to hold journalist for days over publication on IG

(<https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/254274-nigeria-police-hold-journalist-days-publication-ig.html>) (January 2018)

- **KEY EVENTS**

Following the declaration of Bola Tinubu of the ruling APC as winner of the presidential election in 2023, the first runner up, Atiku Abubakar of the PDP, led a protest (<https://thewillnews.com/presidential-poll-atiku-leads-pdp-protest-march-to-inec-headquarters/>) to the offices of the Independent National Electoral Commission. In general, complaints about the conduct of the elections were amplified, while those who expressed satisfaction with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)'s performance were subjected to social media attacks (<https://thewillnews.com/outrage-greet-kiddwayas-comment-over-inecs-conduct-of-election/>).

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