

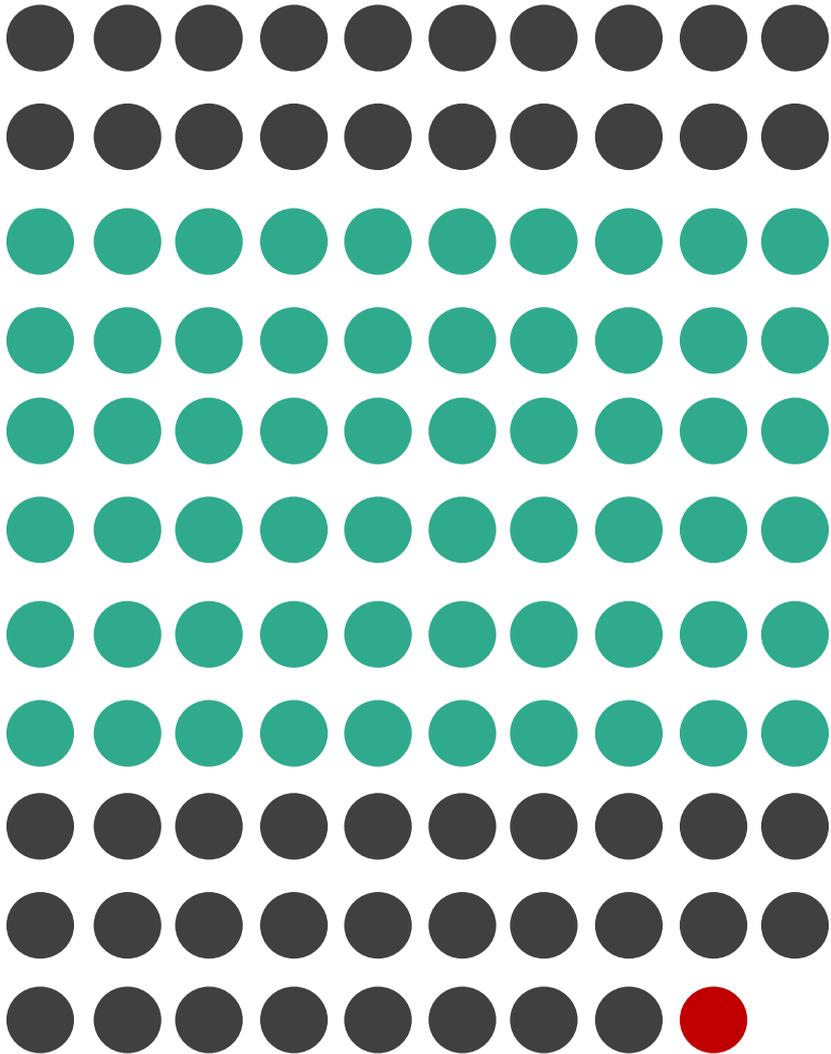
“A Downward Spiral”:

How Federal & State
Authorities are
Tightening the Screws on
Media Freedom in
Nigeria





SUMMARY OF ATTACKS ON FREEDOM
OF EXPRESSION BETWEEN 2010
AND 2015



109

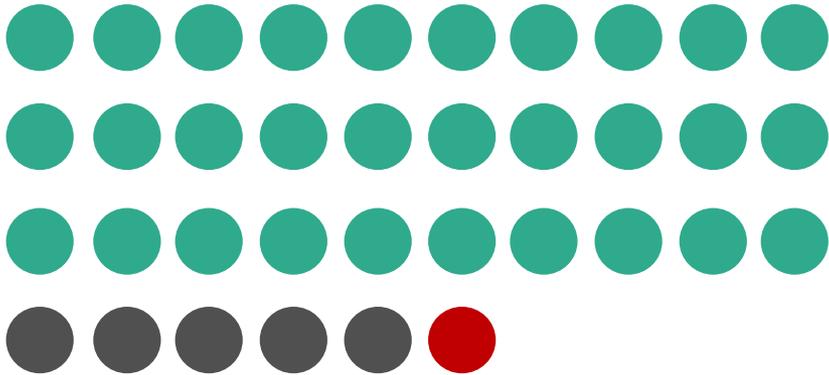
Journalists encountered attacks which included harassment, intimidation, arbitrary arrests and detention, and death between 2010 and 2015

60

journalists were prevented from recovering their equipment when the 30 year old press center at the Int'l airport was shut down

The Bayelsa Government House photographer, Reginald Dei, was **shot dead** in his house on February 23 by gunmen in military uniform while waiting for the Presidential and National Assembly election results.

PRESS ATTACKS IN NIGERIA IN 6 MONTHS



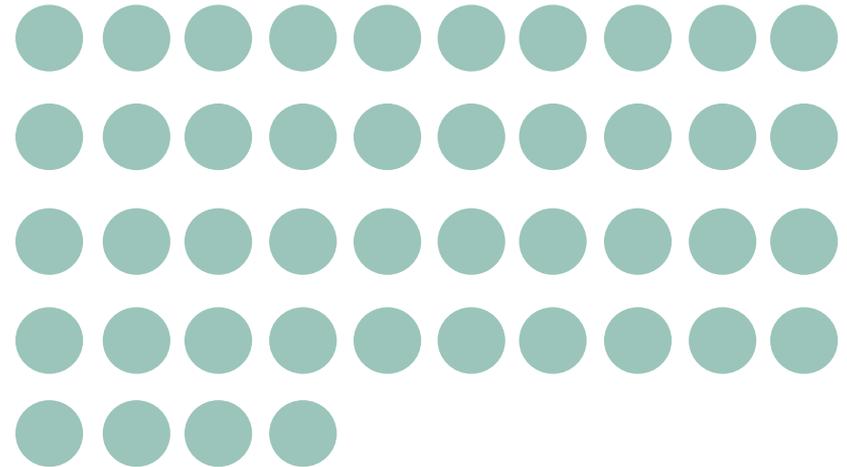
36 journalists were attacked between January and July 2019.

30 of the attacks recorded during the 2019 general elections.

The attacks on the press during the elections included: **illegal arrests and detention; harassment; physical attacks; denial of access; death** of a journalist covering the elections in Delta State.

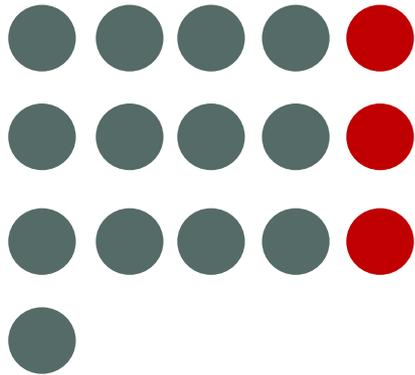
44

broadcast stations were sanctioned



PRESS ATTACKS 2017 / 2018 / 2019

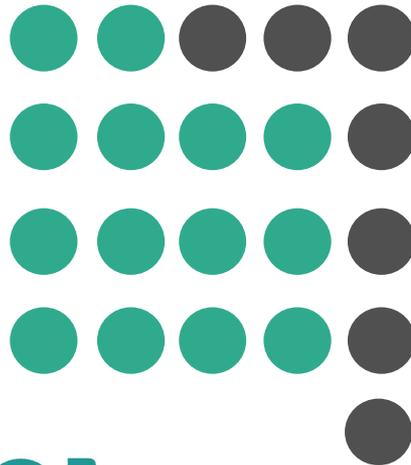
2017



16 attacks

3 deaths

2018



21 attacks

7 Unlawful arrests

2019

45

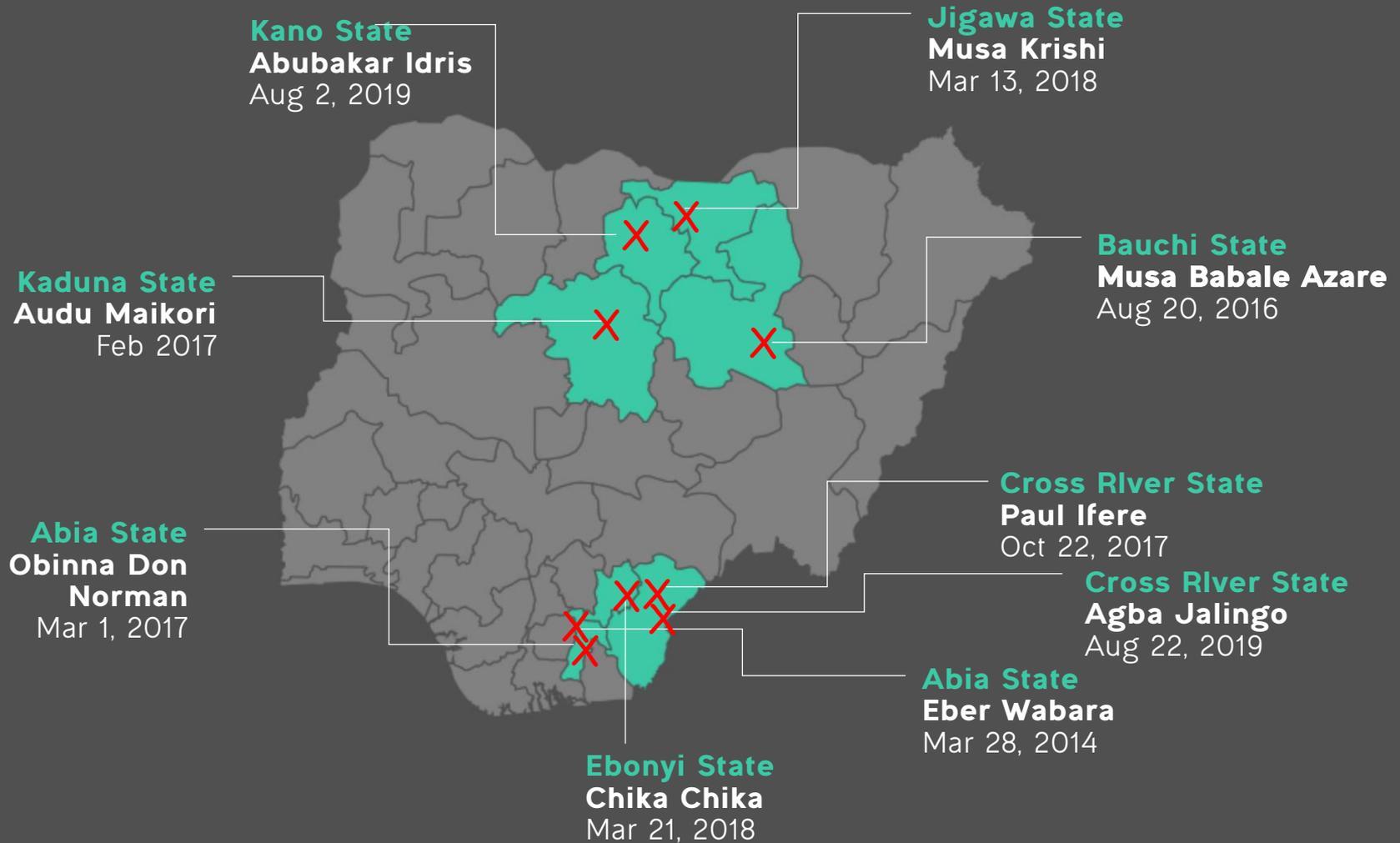
Stations
sanctioned

2 attacks



STATE GOVERNORS AND ATTACKS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Some states whose governors have attacked freedom of expression, names of journalists attacked, and dates





There was also the case of Abubakar Sidiq Usman, who, on August 8, 2018, was arrested by the operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for allegedly posting on the social media, materials critical of the Chairman of the Commission and to which the Commission found offensive.



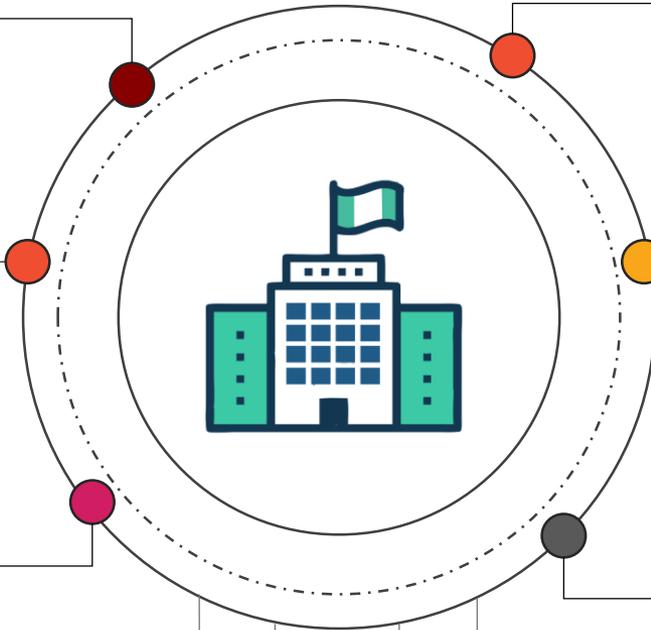
RECOMMENDATIONS

To the President of Nigeria

Publicly condemn all attacks on journalists and media organizations

Issue a clear and public statement to all government and security force officials prohibiting attacks on journalists and media

Publicly condemn all harassment, intimidation, and attacks on journalists, bloggers and media organizations by state governors



Push for the immediate amendment of the Cybercrimes Act and other legislation and bring those laws in line with the Constitution

Publicly support the right to freedom of expression and the media, including public reporting of sensitive political and other issues

Ensure that security agencies and the Nigeria Police Force fully respect the rights to freedom of expression, association and the rights of journalists and media workers

Ensure that anyone found to be complicit in abuses against journalists or fails to adequately investigate alleged threats or violence against journalists is brought to justice

Ensure that security agencies and other authorities drop all charges against journalists, bloggers and other media workers

Ensure that security forces engaged in law enforcement activities are appropriately trained on issues regarding media freedom

Ensure adequate compensation and reparation for victims including restitution, satisfaction, and guarantee of non-repetition

Ensure that security agencies cease further arbitrary closures of radio stations and television stations without a court order

Ensure that the Nigeria Police Force and National Human Rights Commission promptly and impartially investigate credible allegations of threats or violence against journalists and media outlets

State House



To the National Assembly

1



Promptly and comprehensively review the Cybercrimes Act and other restrictive legislation, and revise them as necessary to bring them into line with Nigeria's international obligations regarding the right to freedom of expression and the media;

Ensure that any restrictions on media freedom in the law are necessary, proportionate and least restrictive.

2



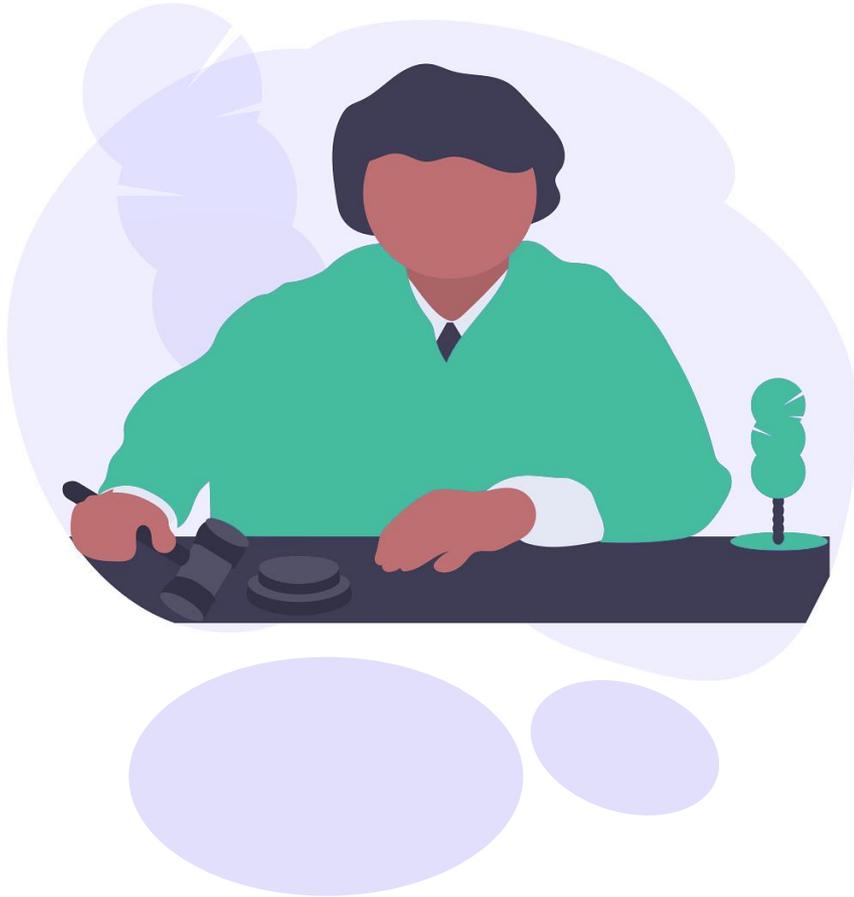
Drop any initiative to revisit the repressive NGO bill, which is entirely inconsistent with the free exercise of people's rights to freedom of expression and association.

3



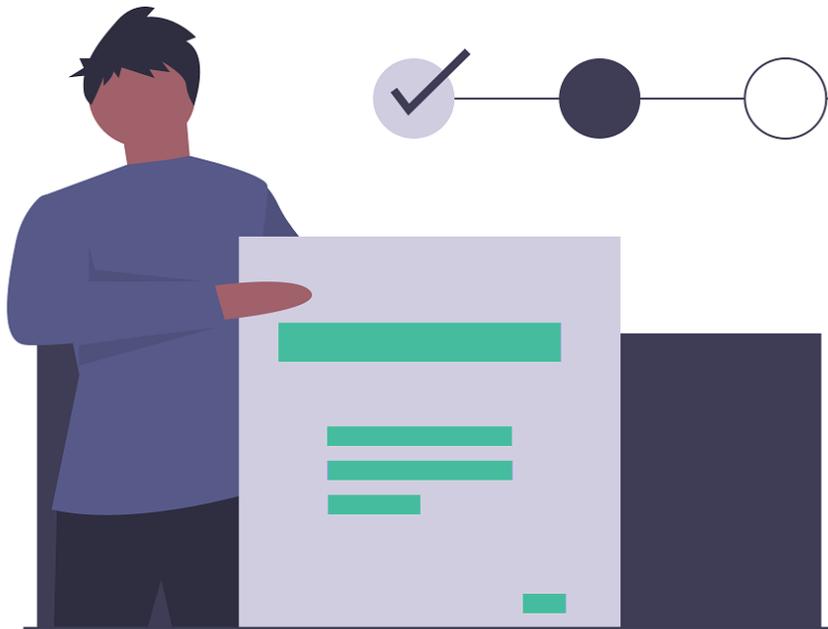
Pass a resolution condemning all harassment, intimidation, and attacks on journalists, bloggers and media organizations by state governors and the federal government

To the Minister of Justice



Push for the immediate amendment of the Cybercrimes Act and other legislation and bring those laws in line with the Nigerian Constitution of 1999 (as amended) and international human rights obligations including under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights to which Nigeria is a state party;

To the Minister of Information



Promptly review restrictive and oppressive media legislation in Nigeria and seek immediate revision of any provisions that violate the right to freedom of expression and media freedom, and ensure that any restrictions on media freedom are necessary, proportionate and least restrictive;

Ensure that the regulatory mechanisms including the National Broadcasting Commission are independent and promote self-regulation of the media.

Seek donor support for a public education campaign on the importance of freedom of expression and media freedom, including the role of the media.

To the 36 State Governors



Ensure that security agencies and Nigeria Police Force and other authorities drop all charges against journalists, bloggers and other media workers, and cease further arbitrary closures of radio stations and television stations;

Publicly support the right to freedom of expression and the media, including public reporting of sensitive political and other issues within your states;

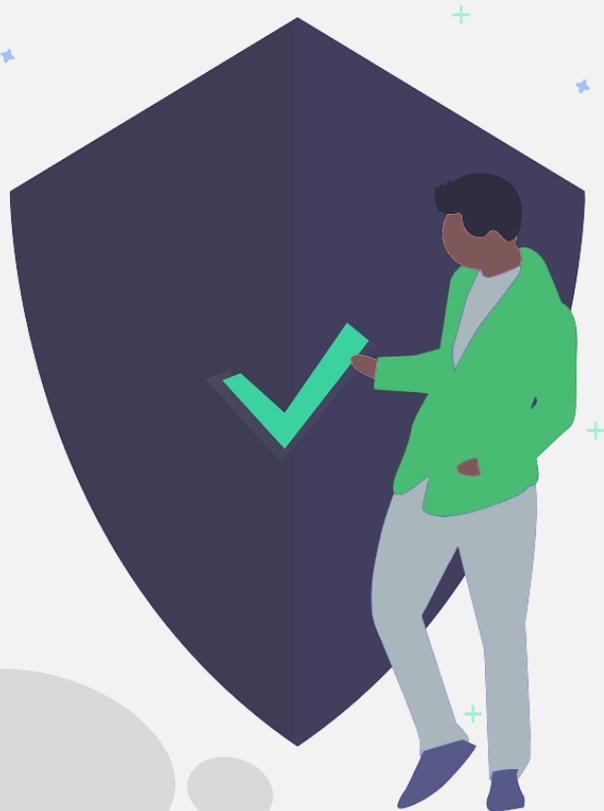
Ensure that any government or security officials found responsible for obstructing, abusing, or attacking journalists or media organizations are appropriately disciplined or prosecuted;

Ensure the direct application of Freedom of Information Act within your states

Ensure adequate compensation and reparation for victims including restitution, satisfaction, and guarantee of non-repetition



Ensure that anyone found to be complicit in abuses against journalists or fails to adequately investigate alleged threats or violence against journalists is brought to justice without further and ensure adequate compensation and reparation for victims including restitution, satisfaction, and guarantee of non-repetition.



- ✓  Investigate credible allegations of threats or violence against journalists and media outlets.
-  Ensure that security forces engaged in law enforcement activities are appropriately trained on issues regarding media freedoms.
-  Regularly and closely monitor complaints of attacks on journalists, bloggers and other media workers and organizations, and effectively act on any such complaints.
-  Actively press the security agents and Nigeria Police Force to cease further attacks on freedom of expression and media freedom.

To Nigerian Guild of Editors and Nigerian Union of Journalists



Push for the Nigerian authorities at all levels to carry out effective, thorough and transparent investigations into abuses against journalists and media workers, and for adequate compensation and reparation for victims, including restitution, satisfaction and guarantee of nonrepetition.

Work closely with NGOs and other stakeholders to carry out systematic monitoring and reporting of freedom of expression abuses throughout the country.

Publicly condemn attacks on freedom of expression and media freedom by state governors and federal government

Push for support to journalists throughout the country including those requiring legal, medical and psychological assistance.