

CRACKDOWN ON JOURNALISTS (UNDER THE TINUBU ADMINISTRATION)



"Freedom of the press is not just important to democracy, it is democracy."
– Walter Cronkite

The Constitution charges the media with the right to hold the government accountable to its citizens (Section 22, Chapter II). It also protects the freedom of expression in our democracy (Section 39, Chapter IV).

However, Media Rights Agenda (MRA) reports at least 141 cases of attacks against journalists and media houses within the first two (2) years of the Tinubu administration - with the Police (43%) and DSS (5%) leading the violations.

SOME RECENT VICTIMS

1		 SODEEQ ATANDA Senior reporter, Foundation for Investigative Journalism (FIJ)	EKITI
		 Nigeria Police Force	
		 For reporting alleged sexual harassment by the Vice Chancellor of Federal University Oye-Ekiti (FUOYE), Abayomi Fasina.	
		 September 9, 2025  September 10, 2025	
2		 HASSAN MAI-WAYA KANGIWA	KEBBI
		 Nigeria Police Force	
		 For posting a video showing the deplorable state of Kangiwa General Hospital.	
		 September 7, 2025  September 7, 2025	
3		 MAAZI OBINNA OPARAKU AKUWUDIKE Journalist and Media Activist	IMO
		 Nigeria Police Force	
		 Alleged smear campaign linked to Senator Godswill Akpabio.	
		 May 22, 2025  Not Specified	
4		 YAKUBU MUSTAPHA BINA Correspondent, People's Daily	NIGER
		 Nigeria Police Force	
		 Critical reporting about the Niger state government.	
		 April 2, 2025  April 2, 2025	
5		 ADO ABUBAKAR MUSA Reporter, Daily Trust Newspapers	PLATEAU
6		 DICKSON ADAMA Reporter, Daily Trust Newspapers	
		 Department of State Services	
		 Covering a Peaceful Protest.	
		 March 4, 2025  March 4, 2025	
7		 BANKOLE TAIWO Ogun State Correspondent, Punch Newspapers	OGUN
		 Nigeria Police Force	
		 Reportage on land-grabbing activities.	
		 February 25, 2025  Not Specified	
8		 ROLAND OLONISHUWA Reporter, Herald Newspaper	KWARA
		 Nigeria Police Force	
		 Violation of the Cybercrime Act of 2015.	
		 September 25, 2024  March 2025	
9		 IBRAHIM GARBA Photojournalist, Daily Trust	KANO
		 Nigeria Police Force	
		 For covering a campaign rally.	
		 August 2025  August 2025	
10		 MUKTAR DAHIRU Broadcast journalist Federal Radio Corporation, Pyramid FM	
		 Nigeria Police Force	
		 For sharing posts that criticized the Kano State Government on his Facebook page.	
		 August 31, 2024  Still in prison	
11		 EMMANUEL UTI Reporter, Foundation for Investigative Journalism	LAGOS
		 Nigeria Police	
		 Criminal Conspiracy and Cyberbullying.	
		 January 14, 2025  January 14, 2025	
12		 PRECIOUS EZE CHUKWUNONSO Online Editor, Kano Times	
13		 OLUROTIMI OLAWALE Editor, National Monitor Newspaper	
		 Nigeria Police Force	
		 Violation of the Cybercrime Act of 2015.	
		 September 20, 2024  March 2025	
14		 ADEJUWON SOYINKA Journalist, The Conversation Africa	
		 Department of State Services	
		 His name was on an undisclosed watchlist.	
		 August 25, 2024  August 25, 2024	



SECURITY AGENCY RESPONSIBLE



REASON FOR ARREST



DATE OF ARREST



DATE RELEASED

The rights of journalists and other media professionals to carry out their duties in a safe and conducive environment should be respected and promoted by the government. The Press should be allowed to function free from harassment, intimidation and all other forms of attacks. **#EnoughisEnough!**

Source: EiE Research as of September 26, 2025