# Nigeria: Country Context

With a population of roughly 198 million, Nigeria is easily Africa's most populous country, with over 250 ethnic groups. Although Nigeria is also Africa's largest economy (GDP $404.6 billion), the country has deep developmental challenges and according to the UNDP, 62.6% of citizens live in poverty. Nigeria has experienced an uninterrupted democratic rule since the exit of the military in 1999. With 65 political parties, political participation in Nigeria is robust.

# State of Access in Nigeria

With an internet penetration of 25.7%, Nigeria has the largest number of Internet users in Africa. Social media use is rife with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Whatsapp among the most popular social networking sites. Majority of Nigerians (99.2%) access telecommunications services through GSM technology. Despite the presence of international cable landing points on the Nigerian coast, lack of a developed hinterland network infrastructure and inimical policies have led to 0.13% of Nigerians enjoying fixed wired and wireless Internet access.

Although Nigeria has a fairly competitive telecommunications market, with MTN, Glo, Airtel and 9Mobile dominating, costs of data still exceeds the recommended mark set by the UN Broadband commission and the Alliance for Affordable Internet (the cost of 1 gigabyte of data representing 2% or less of Gross National Income per capita). The telecommunications regulator is the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

# Content Blocking

In response to the reported blocking of 21 websites by the Nigerian government in October 2017, we collaborated with the Open Observatory of Network Interference (OONI) to measure the blocking of websites and apps through the use of network measurement software (OONI Probe). Although no apps were blocked, the reported websites were indeed found to be blocked (naij was later unblocked) by Nigeria's major ISPs. The following table shows the latest findings based on OONI Probe network measurement testing, illustrating that ISPs blocked access to websites by means of TCP/IP blocking, DNS tampering, and HTTP blocking.

| Domains | Globacom (AS37148) | MTN (AS29465) | Airtel (AS36873) |
|---|---|---|---|
| naij.com | Accessible | Accessible | Accessible |
| igbofocus.co.uk | TCP/IP blocking | DNS blocking | HTTP blocking |
| ipobgovernment.org | TCP/IP blocking | DNS blocking | HTTP blocking |
| biafraland.com | N/A | DNS blocking | HTTP blocking |
| biafraradio.com | N/A | DNS blocking | HTTP blocking |
| biafranet.com | TCP/IP blocking | DNS blocking | HTTP blocking |
| thebiafrastars.co | TCP/IP blocking | DNS blocking | HTTP blocking |
| biafrainc.com | Generic timeout error | DNS blocking | HTTP blocking |
| gobiafra.com | TCP/IP blocking | DNS blocking | HTTP blocking |
| biafra.info | TCP/IP blocking | DNS blocking | HTTP blocking |
| biafranigeriaworld.com | TCP/IP blocking | DNS blocking | HTTP blocking |
| ekwenche.org | TCP/IP blocking | DNS blocking | HTTP blocking |
| ustream.tv/channel/bi-afra-television | TCP/IP blocking | DNS blocking | Accessible |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| biafrasay.com | TCP/IP blocking | DNS blocking | N/A |
| bafmembers.com | TCP/IP blocking | DNS blocking | Accessible |
| thebiafrapost.com | DNS lookup error | DNS blocking | Generic timeout error |
| biafraforum.com | TCP/IP blocking | Connection error | HTTP blocking |
| biafra.net | N/A | DNS blocking | HTTP blocking |
| biafra.com | TCP/IP blocking | DNS blocking | HTTP blocking |
| biafra.club | N/A | DNS blocking | HTTP blocking |
| restoringbiafranationhood.info | Accessible | Accessible | N/A |

# Freedom of Expression

Between January 2016 - April 2018, at least 24 Nigerian citizens were arrested by security agents for conmments made online.
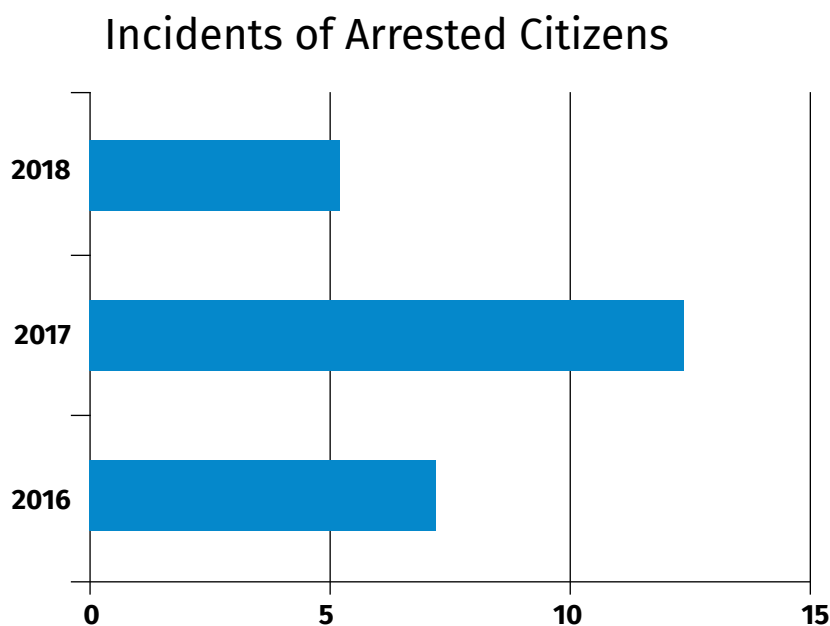
## Incidents of Arrested Citizens



Figure 3: Arrests of Citizens for Comments made online in Nigeria, January 2016 - April 2018

In response to our poll asking the question, "Do you feel free to express yourself on social media in Nigeria?", 2,259 people responded with 47% indicating "Yes", 40% indicating "No" and 13% indicating "I don't know". The Cybercrime Act 2015 still remains the prime legal instrument used to prosecute the cases of Nigerians arrested for comments made online.

# Recommendations

Presidential assent for the "Digital Rights and Freedom Bill" is an immediate priority in Nigeria. Along with other rights, the bill provides for data protection which is now a prerequisite for the digital age. The "Digital Rights and Freedom Bill", which now requires only presidential assent to become law, offers comprehensive protections for a host of digital rights including freedom of expression and association online. It also offers guidance on themes such as hate speech, which has come to importance in Nigeria in recent months.

Another important priority is the revision of Nigeria's Broadband Plan (2013 - 2018). Internet penetration in Nigeria, especially broadband penetration, and quality of service must be improved for the benefit of Nigerians, in line with the government's commitment to a 30% broadband penetration benchmark by December 2018.