



**FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & CULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY**

Federal Secretariat, Phase II, Shehu Shagari Way,  
Central Business District, P.M.B 473, Abuja.

Tel: +234 (0) 704 322 8932

EPD/978/II/337

7<sup>th</sup> June, 2019

**H. E. Director General,**  
United Nations Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)  
Headquarters,  
Paris- France.

**Attention: Ms. Sylvie Coudray, Chief of Section For Freedom of  
Expression, Communication and Information Sector**

**RE: INFORMATION REGARDING THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS AND THE  
ISSUE OF IMPUNITY 2019**

I write to present the compliments of the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Her Excellency and to express our profound appreciation of the role being played by UNESCO in defending freedom of expression and promoting press freedom to foster the safety of journalists in the course of performing their assignments.

2. In view of the above, I wish to convey the Ministry's regret on the circumstances of the death of the nine (9) Journalists in question, which was beyond our control.
3. It is also in curbing future occurrences of this nature that we have safety nets and constantly organise workshops and seminars with the assistance of UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja and relevant stakeholders. These capacity building programmes are part of safety measures being put in place to ensure the safety of journalists in the course of carrying out their duties.
4. **Kindly find attached the completed model table providing information on the nine (9) journalists in question.**
5. While thanking you for your understanding, please, accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

  
**Dens. Grace Isu Gekpe**  
Permanent Secretary

**SECTION 1: Current List Of Journalists Killed As Condemned By The UNESCO Director-General And Legal Investigation**

Name of Journalist	Gender	Date of alleged murder	Investigating Authority	Case number	Current status	Verdict	Additional remarks
<b>Godwin Agbroko</b>	Male	December 22, 2006	Nigeria Police, Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) and Judicial Officers	The incident was not reported, but was investigated by a Committee of the Nigeria Union of Journalists in liaison with the Police and Judicial Officers.	Case closed	He was killed by unknown armed robbers	He was a Columnist and Chairman ThisDay Editorial Board. He was shot on his way home at about 10 pm from the ThisDay Apapa Office, when he ran into a robbery scene at Daleko fly over at Iyana Isolo, Mushin. Three Policemen and two bystanders were also killed along with him in that area by the armed bandits.
<b>Paul Abayomi Ogundeji</b>	Male	August 17, 2008	Nigeria Police and Nigerian Union of Journalists	“ “ “	Case closed	He was a victim of armed robbery attack	A member of This Day Editorial Board. Reported to have been killed by rioters.
<b>Bayo Ohu</b>	Male	September 20, 2009	Nigeria Police and Nigerian Union of Journalists	“ “ “	Case closed for lack of evidence for conviction.	Suspects freed by court due to lack of evidence.	Shot dead by unidentified assailants.
<b>Zakariya Isa</b>	Male	October 22, 2011	Nigeria Police and Nigerian Union of Journalists	“ “ “	Efforts of the Federal Government of Nigeria to curb menace of Boko Haram insurgents and bringing them to justice is	Killed by Boko Haram insurgents.	Suspected members of the Boko Haram insurgents killed him in his residence in Maiduguri, Borno State.

					yielding significant progress.		
<b>Nansok Sallah</b>	Male	18 January 2012	Nigeria Police and Nigerian Union of Journalists	“ “ “	Case closed	Police investigations showed he drowned. Investigations could not link any individual or group to the killing.	His body was reportedly found in a shallow stream under a bridge in Jos, Plateau State.
<b>Enenche Akogwu</b>	Male	20 January 2012	Nigeria Police and Nigerian Union of Journalists	“ “ “	Shot by Boko Haram insurgents, which the Federal Government of Nigeria is succeeding in dissipating.	Shot by Boko Haram Insurgents	Shot by Boko Haram insurgents while on assignment in Kano State.
<b>Ikechukwu Udendu</b>	Male	January 12, 2013	Nigeria Police and Nigerian Union of Journalists	“ “ “	Case closed	Police investigations showed he was killed by Bandits.	Killed by unidentified gunmen on his way from Onitsha to his home town Ogidi, Anambra State.
<b>Famous Giobaro</b>	Male	April 16, 2017	Nigeria Police and Nigerian Union of Journalists	Investigation closed under the Bayelsa Police Command.	Case closed for lack of evidence	Case closed This is due to lack of evidence linking death to anyone or group. Investigations reveal that he may have been killed by armed robbers	The staff of Glory FM 97.1 was killed by unidentified gun men at his residence at INEC Road, Kpasia, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State. The modus operandi of the reported attackers suggests they may

							have been armed robbers.
<b>Ikechukwu Onubogu</b>	Male	November 15, 2017	Nigeria Police and Nigerian Union of Journalists	Cause of death being investigated by the Police	Case under official investigation.	investigation in progress	A cameraman with the Anambra Broadcasting Service (ABS) was found dead by the Police at Obosi, near Onitsha, Anambra State, four days after he was declared missing by members of his family.

**Section 2: Positive or Innovative Measures the Member State is taking to promote Safety of Journalists and Combat Impunity**

Activity	Actors	Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Honourable Minister of Information and Culture has been taking Journalists on an on the spot assessment tour of the insurgency areas of the North East.</li> <li>▪ On 30<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2018, the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture in collaboration with UNESCO Regional Office Nigeria organised a 2-Day Training Workshop on Conflict-Sensitive Reporting and Safety of Journalists. Under the JPDC Participation Programme.</li> <li>▪ Observing World Press Freedom Day (May 3)</li> </ul> <p>The Ministry of Information and Culture has been observing the World Press Freedom Day with series of activities and collaborations with relevant stakeholders and has been using the opportunities provided by this International Day to sensitise journalists and other stakeholders on the Freedom of the press in Nigeria, ethics of the profession as well as conflict sensitive reporting. The 2019 WPD was observed with Lecture, in which Journalists participated actively.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adhering to the UN Plan of Action on the</li> </ul>	<p>Journalists, Government officials, Information Officers, security personnel, the Police, National Security and Civil Defence Corps, Civil Society, Academia, Students, etc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Over 50 Journalists comprising male and female from the public and private sector selected from the electronic print and online media were in attendance for the 2 Day Training Workshop.</li> <li>➤ Strengthened awareness of gender issues and establishing gender balance in reporting.</li> <li>➤ Ensuring that professional standards are maintained in media practice, encourage fair and objective reportage of conflict for the sustenance of democracy and development.</li> <li>➤ Increased appreciation of essential standards in professional reporting on conflict.</li> <li>➤ Strengthened capacity to analyse conflict.</li> <li>➤ Strengthened capacity to make conflict sources, processes and possible solutions more transparent to society.</li> <li>➤ Increased awareness of the importance of reporting techniques upon encounter</li> </ul>

<p>Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, to promote and create a free and safe environment for the media to work and thrive. Amongst other activities, by observing the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists (November: 2) with creating awareness, activities and active participation of Journalists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ensuring that the Freedom of Information Act is implemented and the establishment of FOI units in government establishments as well as facilitating appropriate legislation on safety of journalists</li> <li>▪ Engaging relevant groups such as the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ), Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ) and the Radio, Television, Theatre and Arts Workers Union of Nigeria (RATTAWU) on issues bordering on the safety of their members.</li> </ul>		<p>or resolving conflict.</p> <p>➤ Inculcating Media Information and Literacy (MIL) in students</p>
--	--	---

**Section 3: Steps The Member State Has Taken To Consider The Specific Risks Faced By Women Journalists In The Exercise Of Their Work**

The following are some of the steps taken by the Nigeria through the activities of the Ministry of Information and Culture:

- ✓ The training workshop conducted by FMIC in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office on Conflict-Sensitive Reporting and Safety of Journalists, was gender sensitive as 25 slots was allocated to women journalists and they attended the programme.
- ✓ Follow-up trainings, capacity building programmes have also been held at the Zonal and State levels, in various parts of the country.
- ✓ Sensitisation workshops in collaboration with relevant MDAs and participating in separately organised workshops/seminars by the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development or the Ministry of Youth and Sports Development on the issue of harassment.
- ✓ Encouraging women to come out and report cases of harassment, online or offline.
- ✓ Restricting the duties or movement of women journalists in the coverage of conflict areas.
- ✓ Establishment of Gender Desks, to oversee to the needs of women in the work place, particularly their safety and provision of safety nets.
- ✓ The Honourable Minister of Information and Culture has used every available speaking opportunity to touch on the area of safety of journalists as an awareness/sensitisation strategy on gender issues as well as establishing gender balance in reporting.
- ✓ Media organisations have also been encouraged to consider gender balancing in the recruitment of staff.
- ✓ Establishment of the Child Rights Information Bureau (CRIB) as one of the Divisions in the Ministry of Information and Culture with the mandate covering advocacy on child rights/education (Girl Child) and gender issues.
- ✓ Legislation - In May 2015, the Cybercrime Prohibition, Prevention Act 2015 was passed into law providing a framework for addressing the country's cybercrime challenges. Section 24 of the Act penalizes " cyber stalking or messages that are false, the purpose of causing annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult, injury, criminal intimidation, enmity, hatred, ill will or needless anxiety to another." The Act therefore provides for the Prohibition, Prevention, Detection, Response, Investigation and Prosecution of Cyber Crimes and for Other Related Matters. This also deals with harassment of women online.

**Section 4: Agreement To Post The Submitted Information On UNESCO's Dedicated Webpage**  
No objection.