



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE

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Shehu Shagari Way, Abuja

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29th December, 2020

H. E. Director General

United Nations Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)
Headquarters,
Parish France.

Attention: Mr. Guiherme Canela, Chief of Section, Freedom of Expression and Safety of Journalists Communication and Information Sector


RE: REQUEST FOR THE STATUS OF LEGAL INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED ON THE KILLING OF NIGERIAN JOURNALISTS BETWEEN 2006 - 2019

I present herewith the compliments of the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Her Excellency, the Director General and to acknowledge the leading role UNESCO is playing in the promotion of press freedom, freedom of expression, as well as, the campaign to ensure the safety of Journalists in the course of performing their duties.

2. On the part of the Ministry and the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, we are committed to the protection of the lives of Journalists, their individual rights of self-expression and the provision of the enabling environment for them to perform their assignments. Thus, we have put in place safety nets and in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office in Abuja and other stakeholders, constantly organized workshops and capacity building on the protection of journalists and their activities.

3. It is against this background, that the Ministry express its regrets over the circumstances which led to deaths of the five (5) Journalists in question and which are indeed beyond the control of the state. Therefore, kindly find attached the completed model table providing information on the requested five (5) Journalists and the status of their investigations.

4. While thanking you for your support and understanding, please, accept the assurances of my esteemed regards


f: **Mrs. C. P. Ihuoma, mni**
Director (PC & NO)

for: Honourable Minister of Information and Culture

RESPONSE FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE. – AS AT 2020.

Section 1: Table

Current List of Journalists Killed (as condemned by the UNESCO Director-General) and Legal Investigations.

Name of Journalist	Gender	Date of alleged murder	Investigating Authority	Case Number	Current Status	Verdict	Additional Remarks
Zakariya Isa	Male	October 22,2011	Nigeria Police and Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ)	The incident was not reported, but was investigated by a Committee of the Nigeria Union of Journalists in collaboration with the Nigerian Police and Judicial Officers	Government is committed at bringing to an end the activities of Boko Haram insurgents and bringing them to Justice.	He was killed by Boko Haram insurgents	Zakariya was killed in his residence in Maiduguri by suspected Members of the Boko Haram
Nansok Sallah	Male	January 18, 2012.	Nigeria Police and Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ)	The incident was not reported, but was investigated by a Committee of the Nigeria Union of Journalists in collaboration with the Nigerian Police and Judicial Officers	Case closed	Police Investigation reveal that he drowned. The investigation could not link any group or persons to the death.	He was reportedly found dead in a shallow stream under a bridge in Jos, Plateau State.

Enenche Akogwu	Male	January 20, 2012.	Nigeria Police and the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ)	“ “ “	He was reportedly Shot by the Boko Haram insurgents, which the Nigeria’s Government is succeeding in dislodging.	Government is committed to bringing to justice members of the Boko Haram insurgent for the crimes committed against humanity.	Members of the Boko haram Insurgents shot him while on assignment in Kano State.
Ikechukwu Onubogu	Male	November 15, 2017.	Nigeria Police and the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ)	Cause of death is still being investigated by the Police	Case still under investigation	Case yet to be concluded	He was a Cameraman with the Anambra Broadcasting Service (ABS), was found dead by Police at Obosi near Onitsha, Anambra State, four days after he was declared missing by Family members.

Precious Owolabi	Male	July 22, 2019.	Nigeria Police and the Nigeria Union of Journalists	The incident was not reported, but was investigated by a Committee of the Nigeria Union of Journalists in collaboration with the Nigerian Police and Judicial Officers	Reported killed during the clash between members of the out-lawed Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) and the Police in Abuja	Uncertainty over whose bullets killed him as both the police and IMN traded blames on the cause of the shooting that lead to the death of some police officers and memebtrs of the Public.	Precious Owolabi was a Corps member NYSC(National Youth Servcie Scheme) attached to Channels Television. He was killed during the clash between the Police and members of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria, popularly known as the Shiites in Abuja on July 22, 2019.
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Section 2: Positive or Innovative Measures the Member State is taking to promote safety of Journalists and combat Impunity

Activity	Actors	Outcome(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The Honourable Minister of Information and Culture, constantly engages relevant stakeholders on the Communication and Information sector ,such as the Nigeria Union of Journalists, Nigeria Association of Women Journalists (NAWOJ), the Radio and Television Theatre and Arts Workers Union (RATTAWAU), on issues bothering on the welfare and safety of Journalists in the Country. ❖ The Federal Ministry of Information and Culture in collaboration with the UNESCO Regional Office Nigeria organized a 2-day Training on Conflict-Sensitive Reporting and Safety of Journalist, Under the IPDC Participation Programme. ❖ Observation of the World Press Freedom Day (May 3) ❖ Federal Ministry of Information and Culture in collaboration with relevant Stakeholders has been observing the International World Press Freedom Day. The Ministry and its allies have used the opportunity to organize Journalists and to sensitize them on the issues of Freedom of the 	<p>Journalists, Government Officials, Information Officers, Security Personnel, The Police, The National Security and Civil Defence Corps, Civil Society, Academia, Students, Judicial Officers Etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Over 500 Journalists comprising males and females from the public and private sector selected from the electronic, print and online media attended the Workshop and have so far been involved in the various consultations ❖ Over 50 Journalists across the various Traditional and Online platforms, both males and Females trained on Conflict Sensitive Reporting. ❖ Strengthened the ability of Journalists to become more gender sensitive in reporting ❖ Ensured that professional standards are maintained in the media practice, encourage fair and objective reportage of conflict for the sustenance of democracy and development.

<p>press, Ethics in Professional Reporting as well as conflict Sensitive Reporting. The COVID-19 Pandemic affected the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ In collaboration with NATCOM UNESCO, UNESCO Regional Office in Nigeria organized a Workshop to mark the 2020 International Day for Universal Access to Information. Journalists, Students and Relevant Stakeholders participated actively to discuss issues bothering on Press Freedom, Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, Gender Responsiveness to the Evolving Media landscape in the times of Crisis etc. ❖ Among other activities include observing the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (November 2) Individual Media participation on the participation of the Journalists. ❖ Ensuring that the Freedom of Information Act is implemented and the establishment of the FOI Units in all government establishments as well as facilitating appropriate legislation on the Safety of Journalists. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Increased appreciation of essential standards in professional reporting on Conflict. ❖ Strengthened the capacity to analyze conflict. ❖ Strengthened capacity to make conflict sources, processes and possible solutions more transparent to society. ❖ Increased awareness of the importance of reporting techniques upon encounter or resolving conflict ❖ Inculcating Media Information and literacy (MIL) in Students ❖ Evolving a National Policy for Media Information and Literacy.
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Section 3: Steps the Member State has taken to consider the specific risks faced by women journalists in the exercise of their work

The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, through the activities of the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture has in this regard done the following:

- ✦ Conducted a training Workshop in collaboration with UNESCO Regional Office on Conflict –Sensitive Reporting ,Safety of Journalists, in which 25 out of the 50 slots allowed for the Training were allotted to Women Journalists.
- ✦ Organized Follow-up trainings, Capacity-building programmes held at the Zonal and States levels in various parts of the Country.
- ✦ Conducted Sensitization Workshops in collaboration with relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies as well as participating in separately organized workshops/Seminars by the Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development.
- ✦ Encouraging women to come and report cases of harassment, either through online or offline platforms provided by the Government Federal and sub-regional levels.
- ✦ Establishment of Gender Desks to oversee to the needs of women in work place, particularly their safety and provision of social safety nets.
- ✦ Continuous Advocacy and sensitization by the Honourable Minister of Information and Culture at every fora on the issue of safety of Journalists and observing gender balance in reporting.
- ✦ Encouraging Media Organisations to be mindful of gender balancing in their recruitment processes.
- ✦ Establishment of the Child Rights Information Bureau (CRIB) as a division in the Ministry of Information and Culture with the mandate of covering advocacy on child rights/education (Girl child) and other 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 “cybercriminal intimidation, enmity, hatred, ill will or needless anxiety to another” The Act therefore provides for the Prohibition, prevention, Detection, Response, Investigation and Prosecution of cybercrimes and other related matters. It also deals with the harassment of women online.

Section 4: Agreement to post the submitted information on UNESCO's dedicated webpage

The Country has No Objection, please.