

**A STUDY OF PROFESSIONAL SAFETY AMONG RADIO PRESENTERS IN KANO  
STATE**

**BY**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MASS  
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OF MASTER OF SCIENCE**

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## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that this work is the product of my research effort undertaken under the supervision of Professor Umaru A. Pate towards the fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Master of Science in Mass Communications, and that to the best of my knowledge, it contains no material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree of the university except where due acknowledgements have been made in the text.

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### **CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that the research and preparation of work titled “A Study of Professional Safety Among Radio Presenters in Kano State” by Rabi’u Ya’u Sulaiman meets the criteria for the award of the degree of M.Sc. (Mass Communication) of Bayero University, Kano and is approved for its contribution to knowledge.

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## APPROVAL PAGE

This is to certify that this thesis was read carefully and was approved for submission by Professor Umaru A. Pate as satisfying the requirements for the award of M.Sc. Mass Communications, Bayero University, Kano.

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## **DEDICATION**

This project work is dedicated to all journalists that have been killed in the cause of discharging their duties and to those that have, are or will face threat and/or impunity in the cause of discharging their duties.

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## ABSTRACT

*This study of professional safety among radio presenters, chooses to interview eleven presenters of political and magazine programs. Crime against journalists (which is very common nowadays) has a negative impact over the wellbeing of societies and democracy. The aim of this study was to find out the relationship between the level of professionalism and safety among radio presenters in Kano state. Using focus group discussion, the problem was established i.e. the participants testified to the existence of threats to other media workers. It was also revealed that among the presenters (the studied group), magazine program and political program presenters are those mostly aimed/targeted at directly and intentionally. It was found out after the analysis that the presenters face threats, just like the reporters do. Although most of the respondents denied that they are engaging in self-censorship, they fail to provide details on most of the cases they claimed to have witnessed. This I consider a sort of self-censorship. Some of the specific measures taken by the participants include observation, avoiding gatherings unless absolutely necessary, avoiding anonymous calls, and informing international and national bodies for guidance and support. It is recommended that, therefore, unionism should be strengthened among the journalists, insurance cover should be provided, ensure proper follow up of cases concerning them.*

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.0 Background to the Study**

Media is among many institutions used in the interface with society. Governmental agencies, politicians, corporations, religious and traditional institutions and civil societies rely on the media for information, enlightenment and education. In fact, it has been established that there is a strong relationship between the media institution and the fabric of the society (Dallatu, 2014). Journalism works as an intermediary between the public and the state, Hall (in Catarina, 2010). But, for that to be possible, they require autonomy, independence, flexibility and ease for credible operations. As “watchdogs”, they focus and investigate on variety of issues that can occasionally be dangerous to their personal safety. .... however, irrespective of the circumstances, journalists have to fulfill their professional mandate of informing and educating the society by combing all places for news (Pate and Idris, 2016).

Journalists through the media bring news and information to people that help them to make informed decisions, establish democratic controls on power, and root out corruption and misuse of public resources. Information distributed through television, radio, print, internet and mobile phones helps create open and competitive markets that are the foundation of a successful economic system (Lublinski, Meuter, and Nelson, 2015).

The important role that media play in human society has been recognized for centuries. In Nigeria, for instance, right from pre-independence, the media contributed significantly in promoting political, social, economic, cultural and religious ideals of the citizenry and particularly in propagating the ideals of democracy and good governance (Keghku, 2003). It

also facilitates the exercise of certain fundamental human rights such as the freedom of expression. It reinforces other democratic freedoms like the right to share political ideas or scrutinize the actions of public officials, and in that sense, it enables democracy, good governance and accountability. More so, press freedom safeguards the public use of the general right to freedom of expression in media and journalism. Therefore, the responsibilities placed on the media by the society require practitioners (journalists) to be credible and highly professional in the discharge of their responsibilities to the society and the general public for the betterment of democracy and sustainable development (Kayode, 2011).

Nigerian constitution has assigned the media some responsibilities, among which is to ensure that the government is held accountable. However, the constitution did not accord journalists specified safety protection framework, except that like other citizens, “all journalists in principle benefit from the right to life, and the prohibition against forced disappearance and torture. The right to life and freedom of expression include positive duties such as the duty to investigate and prosecute perpetrators if a journalist is victimized” (Soremekun in Pate and Idris, 2016).

Journalists should therefore ensure that they adhere to the professional and ethical standards. Some of these ethical standards according to Emike (2008) are as follows:

1. Use of original sources of information, including interviews with people directly involved in a story, original document and other direct sources of information, whenever possible, and cite the sources of this information in reports.
2. Fully attribute information gathered from one other published sources, should original sources not be available.

3. Use multiple original sources of information, especially if the subject of the report is controversial.
4. Check every fact reported
5. Find and report every side of a story possible.
6. Report without bias; illustrating many aspects of a conflict rather than siding with one
7. Approach researching and reporting a story with a balance between objectivity and skepticism.
8. Use careful judgment when organizing and reporting information
9. Be careful about granting confidentiality to sources
10. Decline gifts or favors from any subject of a report, to avoid the appearance of being influenced
11. Abstain from reporting or otherwise participating in the research and writing about a subject in which the journalist has a personal stake or bias that cannot be set aside

In order for journalists to fulfill their duty of providing the people with the information they need, they have to be free, self-governing, truthful, and loyal to the citizens (Kovach and Rosensteel, 2007). This indicates the importance of the public in a democratic society whose basic freedoms (including that of expression) should be upheld. Freedom of speech and that of the press are fundamental rights to human existence and welfare.

There is a common belief that human rights and democracy are closely related by definition (Freeman, 2002). Freedom of expression and press freedom are important factors in democracy, because of the media's ability to provide information which serve as a link between 'mass public', elites and government (Whitten Woodring, 2009). One of the indicators of true freedom in a country is the level of freedom of expression that its citizens enjoy. Freedom of expression refers to the ability to freely distribute information and ideas. It is one of the basic and most natural rights that every human enjoys. Freedom of expression and freedom of the

press were recognized as fundamental to global order that these concepts were embedded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as core building blocks (Lublinski, Meuter and Nelson, 2015). However, journalists that are supposed to be at the fore front in securing other peoples' rights are unable to do so because they were unable to fully enjoy the required freedom to exercise their duties due to threat from within and outside. Hence, Caarlsson (2016) states that, "threats to journalists in their public exercise of freedom of expression are widely acknowledged."

Arulchelvan (2016) reported that while journalism has much to offer to the society, the life of a journalist is not easy or glamorous. There is a lot of hard work and hurdle behind each and every news story. Not only that, they are also sacrificing their personal lives. Most of the problems that journalists face today relate to the incursion on their fundamental right to freedom of expression. Studies such as those conducted by Braimah's (2004) study on *The State of Journalists' Safety In Ghana*; Arulchelvan's (2016) study in India on *Internal Threats and Safety of Journalists*; Ashraf's (2016) study in Pakistan on *Threat, Impunity and Journalists' Decision Making Process in Reporting on a Militarized Conflict*; UNESCO's (2014) study on the *Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity*; Strasbourgh's (2016) study carried out on *News About Protection of Journalism and Safety of Journalists*; Schudson and Anderson's (2008) study carried out on *Objectivity, Professionalism and Truth Seeking in Journalism*, and many others including a range of papers edited by Carlsson on *Freedom of Expression and the Time of Uncertainty* in 2016, focused on issues of threats to journalism.

However, much emphasis is given to reporters ignoring presenters and other media workers who are also prone to threats. Many other media workers may share the same amount of risk with the reporters who are always given preference when discussing the issue of threat to

journalists or press freedom. However, because people hold that it is the reporters who have a direct contact with the general public, the possibility of other media workers (including presenters) facing any threat is often closed. This is what has ignited the researcher's interest to undertake a study on professional safety among radio presenters in Kano state with the hope that government/authority may take action on the crime committed against journalists; professional solidarity may increase; and the public ignorant of the risks journalists/media professionals are facing may be educated.

### **1.1 Statement of Problem**

Safety of journalists is understood to be an important requirement for unhindered practice of journalism and freedom of expression (Arulchelvan, 2016). However, the safety of journalists in recent times is increasingly threatened all over the world. This is because, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), more than 700 journalists and other media workers have been killed in the last 10 years. The situation is aggravated by other threats ranging from intimidation and harassment to restrictive policies and arbitrary detention, torture, extrajudicial killings, assault, enforced disappearances, crippling court damages, etc., (Braithwaite, 2004). Such crimes against journalists have a negative effect, not just on affected journalists, but on the wellbeing of societies and democracy. More so, when such crimes go unpunished, perpetrators and potential ones become tacitly encouraged to commit further violations which will make the journalists to be frightened and a culture of silence to ensue.

It is articulated in the literature that being freedom of expression an essential part of democracy, it is also a right of every citizen, and its defense has a strong connection with safety of journalist. Studies by (Odowaa, 2015; Arulchelvan, 2016; Lohner and Banjac, 2016) have



submitted that journalists face a lot of problems ranging from harassment, intimidation and sometimes death in their effort to discharge their duty professionally. However, almost all the literature reviewed concentrate on the reporters only. Thus, this study examines the threats faced by other media professionals including radio program presenters like **Nasiru Salisu Zango** who was threatened and intimidated as a result of a program he presented on a rape case in a boys boarding secondary school.

## **1.2 Aim and Objectives of the Study**

The aim of this study is to examine the relationship between the level of professionalism and safety among radio presenters in Kano state. The study has the following specific objectives:

1. To find out the nature of professional risks experienced by radio presenters in Kano state.
2. To find out the influence of attacks on freedom of expression among radio presenters in Kano state.
3. To find out the relationship between threats to Radio presenters in Kano State and self-censorship.
4. To find out precautionary measures adopted by radio presenters in Kano State.

## **1.3 Research Questions**

1. What is the nature of professional risks experienced by radio presenters in Kano state?
2. What is the influence of attacks on freedom of expression among radio presenters in Kano State?
3. What is the relationship between threats to Radio presenters in Kano State and self-censorship?
4. What are the precautionary measures adopted by radio presenters in Kano State?

#### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

This study will be of great significance to the researcher. The study will expose the researcher to the threats faced by media professional like radio program presenters. Again, unlike the issues of journalism and freedom of expression, journalists' safety has not been a very popular topic of academic research. Thus, based on the available literature, the study will contribute to the body of knowledge, thereby expanding the frontiers of the literature in the area. The society will benefit from this study especially the host community where the research is being conducted, which is Kano State; by helping relevant stakeholders in formulating policies relating to safety of journalists. Similarly, this study will be of great significant with regards to the theoretical perspective adopted, in the sense that the chosen theories can validated the findings of this research work, it will show the strengths of the theoretical basis and its relevance in the field of mass communication.

#### **1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Study**

This study examines the relationship between professionalism and safety of radio presenters in Kano State. As such, the study covers only radio presenters working or those that have worked in radio stations based in Kano State.

Looking at the nature of the study, the researcher intends to purposely use the presenters of some selected radio magazine programs and political programs. Therefore, presenters were selected from four radio stations in the state. These radio stations are Freedom Radio, Rahama Radio, Express Radio and Arewa Radio. Two other people that are no more working were also selected for the interview in order to achieve the purpose of the study.

Some of the limitations encountered in the course of the research are that there is very limited literature in the area. One of the major limitations encountered in this study is that all efforts made to find out the exact number of the program presenters across all the radio stations in Kano state at the time of this research was not successful. Another problem was associated to the respondents. This may be due to the nature of their work. For, the researcher spent a lot of time trying to have them in group for the group discussion. And getting the respondents for an interview was very difficult. Moreover, some of them did not agree with the idea of recording their voice.

### **1.6 Brief History of Broadcasting in Northern Nigeria**

Broadcasting in Nigeria started as far back as 1924 (Kolade, 1979). By 1944, broadcasting stations were established in Kano and six years after stations were opened at some towns in northern Nigeria, which are Katsina, Zaria, Sokoto, Jos, and Ilorin (Ladele, 1979). By 1957, the Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation was established. It replaced the Nigerian Broadcasting Services (NBS) which operated for six years.

After independence, several radio and television stations were established by the then Regional Governments. For the northern region, the establishment of Broadcasting Company of Northern Nigeria with headquarters in Kaduna in 1962 gave birth to Radio Television Kaduna. Radio Television Kaduna later transformed into Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria Kaduna (being one of the four-Lagos, Ibadan and Enugu).

On 24<sup>th</sup> August, 1992, the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) was established by Decree Number 38 of that year. It was set to regulate and monitor the broadcast media in Nigeria as well as being responsible for issuing licenses for the establishment of all broadcast outfits in the country. It was later amended by Decree 55 of 1999 and now known as the National

Broadcasting Commission Laws of the Federation 2004, CAP N11 with the following duties among others:

- a) To analyze trends in line with the dynamism of the industry and advise government.
- b) To receive, process and consider applications for the establishment, ownership or operation of radio and television stations including cable television service, direct satellite broadcasting; radio and television stations owned, established or operated by the Federal, State and Local government; and stations run under private ownership or communities.
- c) To recommend the applications after due consideration, through the minister of information to the president for grant of radio and television licenses.

### **1.7 Definitions of Key Terms**

*Freedom of expression:* Liberty, autonomy or freewill to share views on any issue one feels she/he like without infringing in other people's right and in the context of the law.

*Journalist's safety:* Being free from all kinds of harassment, attack, detention, or any pre-judicial punishment.

*Professional safety:* The safety of journalists as they discharge their duties accordingly.

*Threat:* Any act that brings about fear, insecurity or feeling of physical, psychological or material discomfort and uncertainty

## **CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.0 Introduction**

This part of the study consists of the review of existing literature on the topic as well as relevant theoretical framework to the study. Literature on journalism in a democratic settings, professionalism, code of ethics, safety of/threat to journalists, and freedom of expression were discussed. Discussions on new institutionalism theory and cultural violence theory were placed under this chapter. Thus, this section considered conceptual review, empirical and theoretical discourse.

### **2.1 Conceptualizing Journalism in a Democratic Society**

A series of authors consider journalism as a democratic institution that helps people engage in citizenship through information (Catarina, 2010). Catarina (2010) in an article published online titled '*journalism and democracy*', it is stated that "the ideology of the journalism profession can be defined as the public service of collecting and disseminating.....in an immediate and accessible way.....actual, prominent and useful information that will contribute in the formation of the public opinion of social, political, and economic issues in a democracy".

One of the main functions of journalism in a democratic society is to watch government actions. For this Catarina (2010), in her article, stated that Journalism watches closely the actions of the government to make sure they do their jobs accurately and with honesty. By doing this, journalists are helping both the government and the public. It helps the government on one hand in discharging its responsibilities and on the other it helps the public in benefitting from the democratic dividend. So, in a democracy, journalism has a fundamental role of giving people

information that would help them exercise their citizenship right and participate in government decisions.

The news presented in mass media will have a direct or indirect influence in democratic processes of society. Catarina (2010) quoted Robert Hall who wrote in his pamphlet titled '*An Apology for the Liberty of the Press in 1795*' that "government is the creature of the people, and that they surely have a right to examine it". Because citizens cannot examine government actions directly, journalists serve as the eyes and ears of the people to assure their government representatives are honest and competent.

The key to the advancement of a society in a democracy is open and meaningful discussions among all the members of a community. Hall in Catarina (2010) posits that news media offer people a forum to express and discuss their opinions and criticisms on government actions and social issues. Through this forum, the government can learn the people's concerns and address them: journalism works as an intermediary between the public and the state. The ultimate goal of journalism in a democracy is to improve the social conditions of the people as only a free press independent of government influences and political interests can contribute in the freedom of individuals in a society (Copeland in Catarina, 2010).

Because journalism is a tool for the community used to achieve a common goal, (Merill, Gade and Blevens, 2001 in Catarina, 2010) it focuses its efforts (through the concept called public journalism) to generate knowledge among citizens rather than serving the interest of an elite or the corporate hegemony. Westbrook (in Catarina, 2010) added that citizens should be actively involved, and the news is a product of the interaction between the private, public and state sectors. News media outlets.....stimulate discussion between citizens and the government and

among the public sphere. It also promotes the peoples' search for truth in a democracy (Glasser, 1999; Catarina, 2010).

Unfortunately, in many countries, free journalism only exists in theory or is only an illusion. Even in countries that are leaders in democracy like America, in many occasions, news media have worked only to benefit the interests of elites. Reporters Without Borders (2008) and Institute for the Protection of Journalists (2008) published an incidence of press violation in the U.S. in which they reported cases of journalists being forced by authorities to reveal anonymous sources, and thus breaking their ethical codes.

Journalists need freedom to exercise their duties of informing the public about the activities of the government. Lewis in Catarina (2010) states that, "not only should the press have the right to free expression; it is obligated to guard against censorship and keep the public fully informed about domestic and international events (Nakaya in Catarina, 2010)".

De Tocqueville in Catarina (2010) states that: "the press places powerful weapon within every man's reach.....the press enables him to summon all his fellow men to his assistance.....printing (media) has accelerated the progress of equality, and it is also one of its best correctives.....press is the cheapest democratic instrument of freedom".

Catarina (2010) explained that newspapers "address each of its readers in the name of all the others and to exert its influence over them in proportion to their individual weakness.....the power of the newspaper press must therefore increase as the social conditions of men become more equal". This indicates that according to Tocqueville, the media treats people equally because it believed that they are all free not slaves.

## **2.2 Freedom of the Press**

Freedom of press is a fundamental human right that foments the dissemination of ideas and information. At a social level, free press builds the basis of political debate and civil participation. At an individual level, it promotes intellectual emancipation and human welfare.

The ideas of Thomas Hobbes, John Milton, and John Locke promoted the supremacy of self-government in which free press serves as “paramount in making sure that those chosen by the body politic knew the will of people to keep government on the power course” Copeland in Catarina, (2010). He added that although the “eruption of newspapers” led to the attempts of the state to control the flows of information, this control was never truly successful. He further expresses that, “suppression through law, torture, and death.....could not stop ideas because.....people found ways to publish their thoughts despite government restrictions”.

Serving the public sphere through information became the main role of journalism in a democratic society. Thus, it should promote debate and remain free from government control to fulfill its goal. Press freedom is an indicator of an effective democracy; an essential part of it that cannot be separated, Dahlgren and Spark (in Catarina, 2010).

## **2.3 Professionalism**

According to Nwosu (1978), professionalism is “a set of principles, ideas, attitudes and activities that characterize and guide the behavior of members of any occupational group anxious to gain and maintain in group acceptance of its professional standing”. He added that professionalism entails high education; specialized training and self-organization into an association of practitioners. Other attributes include acquisition of specialized skills necessary in the practice of the profession and the media industry. Hoyle (1972) explained professionalism



as those strategies and rhetoric employed by members of an occupation in seeking to improve status, salary and conditions. Socket (1996) following same quality line says ‘professionalism’ is about the quality of practice and the public status of the job. Boyles cited in Bivins (2008) identified three central features and three secondary features present in most professions. The central features are:

- a. Extensive training is usually required to practice within a profession
- b. The training involves a significant intellectual component
- c. The result of the training is an ability that provides an important service to society

The secondary features are:

- 1. Method of certifying or licensing which is called credentialing
- 2. Professional organization which is a common feature of most professions. The organization usually advance goals of the profession and promote the economic wellbeing of their members
- 3. Autonomy is stressed among members. That is being able to perform work free from interference.

Abott (1988) argues that in the terrain of inter professional competition (which journalism in into), the struggle is that of jurisdiction-of claiming exclusive right to engaging in a particular task for society. When a profession can link its knowledge claims to its daily work practices, it can, in effect, ask society “to recognize its cognitive structure through exclusive rights” and thus confer upon it the social authority that recognition deserves (Schudson and Anderson, 2008).

In short, claiming jurisdiction is about displaying what a profession knows (its system of abstract knowledge) and connecting that to what the profession does (its labor practices). For a

journalist to discharge his duty professionally, he/she has to sufficiently appreciate the provisions of the code of ethics guiding journalistic practice.

### **2.3.1 Ethics of journalistic practice**

Professional code of ethics for journalists refers to the prescriptions set out for journalists to guide their professional behavior. The code deals with set out rights, duties, rules, standards and moral values for journalists. That is, judgments about what is right or wrong, virtue or vice, acceptable or unacceptable. Ethical theories such as deontology, teleology and situational theories have been contextualized to explain the bases for positive behavior in professional performance (Dallatu, 2014).

The word ethics is originated from the Greek word ‘ethos’ and it carries the meaning of character. It generally deals with standards of human behavior. Ancient Philosopher, Socrates and others took a great interest on why people behave the way they do and have developed philosophical discourse on the question (Okunna, 1995). Ethics as a branch of philosophy help journalists to determine the ‘rights’ and the ‘wrongs’ in their profession (Merill, 1974). He also perceived ethics as “something that has to do with ‘self-legislation’ and ‘self-enforcement’”.

Journalists should abide by ethical rules and are expected to operate ethically and within the context of a high sense of responsibility so as to earn individual and professional respect. Accordingly, journalism ethics becomes necessary, as there is need for a moral media serving moral purposes and being worked by moral people (Altschull, 1995 and Kayode, 2011).

It is imperative for journalists to understand their ethical and moral duty. This means that they should be truthful, fair and balanced while reporting events, as it is some of the fundamental responsibilities of journalism. In addition, given its importance, the Nigerian constitution

required journalists through the press, radio and television and other agencies of the mass media to uphold the responsibility of holding the government accountable on behalf of the people by monitoring the activities of government and reporting it objectively and empowering the people with an avenue to share their view on the doings of the government (Keghku, 2003; Pate and Idris, 2016).

To observe the above obligation, journalists must be self-regulatory. Thus, a set of predetermined code of conduct and ethical principles become necessary to guide and regulate media professionals. Clear ethical principles and code of conduct have been developed to guide and ensure that journalism is highly regulated by widely acceptable principles and guidelines. In Nigeria, the code of ethics was developed since 1962 at the second annual conference of the Nigerian Guild of Newspaper Editors and the code has been reviewed and improved upon in 1998.

Irrespective of the political, social and economic challenges, Nigerian journalists are expected to meet the expectations of the public and society as a whole by being committed to their roles as credible professionals. Their main duty is to gather information and report it to the public. Therefore, they have to act ethically and professionally as truth is the cornerstone of journalism. However, some problems associated with the said code were identified. The problems as described by Kayode (2011) relate to lack of boldness, forthrightness and clarity and looked more of gratuitous contrivance which could compound and complicate judgment of any perceived wrong doing in journalism practice. This brought about need for a review of the code. The review processes begun in March, 1996 when the Press Council held a national workshop in Ota, Ogun State in collaboration with the Nigerian Union of Journalists and the Nigerian Guild of Editors which successfully reviewed the old code of conduct to make it more

responsive to contemporary journalism practice (Kayode, 2011). The amended code was adopted and ratified at the Ilorin Forum by the NUJ, NGE, and the NPAN. The new code of ethics for Nigerian journalists contains fifteen tenets. These codes are editorial independence, accuracy and fairness, privacy, privilege/non-disclosure, decency, discrimination, reward and gratification, violence, children and minors, access of information, public interest, social responsibility, plagiarism, copyright, press freedom and responsibility.

Now that the codes are on ground and they were reviewed to suit the operation of the journalists in modern Nigeria, a lot of challenges regarding full consideration of journalists' codes of ethics came into being not only in Nigeria but in the world at large. Thus, an interview conducted by Backholm and Idas (2015) reveals that there are a lot of problems attached to practice of journalism in accordance to ethical standard. Several general subtypes of ethical dilemmas were extracted from their interviews with journalists covering the Asian Tsunami in 2004 and the Finnish School shootings in 2007-2008. The subtypes formulated as general statements were the following.

- a) Dilemmas due to the journalist's uncertainty about journalistic crisis related ethical rules of conduct.
- b) Dilemmas due to the journalists' feeling obliged to carry out tasks that went against personal values.
- c) Dilemmas due to situations caused by factors that the journalist could not plan for or that were beyond the journalist's control.

In the heat of the moment, ethical dilemmas often involving insecurity about how to carry out crisis journalism or feeling forced by one's superior to carry out tasks that go against one's personal values cannot largely be prevented (Backholm and Idas, 2015). Threat on journalists in their effort to discharge their professional duties is on the increase. In this regard, Pate and Idris

(2016) noted that violence against journalists as professionals.....is widespread and it occurs globally. This threat is one of the major factors that militate against freedom of expression. This is because journalists are finding it difficult to report all that is happening in the society. In short, they are influenced by many factors which include lack of safety in their professional duties.

## **2.4 Freedom of Expression and Freedom of the Press**

Freedom of expression is more than an individual right. It is an essential part of democracy and concerns more than the relation between individual and the state. It was believed that, to secure peace and end warmongering, societies needed a free flow of information, which is a function of the right to free expression (Berger, 2015).

Defense of freedom of speech must be seen in connection with the issue of journalists' safety in the field. Hoiby and Ottosen (2016) in their paper "*Reduced Security for Journalists and Less Report from the Frontline*" revealed that it is evident that there is a close link between lack of security and self-censorship.

Freedom of expression in democracy is essential. It is a right, but it implies responsibility and respect for the rights of others (Ronning, 2016). Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) guarantees the right to freedom of expression in the following:

- a. Everyone has the right to hold opinions without interference.
- b. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression, which includes the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his or her choice.

- c. The exercise of the right provided for in paragraph (b) may, where this can be shown to be necessary, be subject to restrictions on specific grounds, as established in international law, including for the protection of the reputations of others.
- d. Anyone affected, directly or indirectly, by a restriction on freedom of expression must be able to challenge the validity of that restriction as a matter of constitutional or human rights law before an independent court or tribunal.
- e. Any application of a restriction on freedom of expression must be subject to adequate safeguards against abuse, including the right of access to an independent court or tribunal, as an aspect of the rule of law.

While freedom of expression is a crucial element in fostering and maintaining democracy, development and dialogue, press freedom is a cornerstone of human rights and it guarantees other basic liberties due to its unparalleled capacity to encourage transparency and good governance. Access to information makes it possible for citizens to hold their officials accountable and to take informed decisions to ameliorate their conditions. World Press Freedom Day serves as a crucial annual reminder of the importance of this right as well as its fragility and responsibility of the general public to protect it (Horsley, 2015). When the concept of freedom of expression is used, it encompasses all forms of utterances, be they private or public, such as speech, petitions, (peaceful) demonstrations, action that demonstrates an opinion, art, all forms of media messages and many more (Ronning, 2016).

Every day we see threats to freedom of expression and freedom of the press: new forms of state censorship and repression, self-censorship, surveillance, monitoring and control, hate speech, gatekeeping, propaganda-disinformation, acts of terror, anti-terror laws and organized crime and freedom of information is critical issue in many countries.

It is rather easy to find it acceptable that explanation for specific cases in which media freedom has been neglected or even crushed. At present, large parts of the world are plagued with military conflicts and deep social and political unrests. In weak-and so-called ‘fragile’-states that are unable to perform the usual functions of sovereign states, governments will tend to regard a free and uncontrolled press as a serious security risk (Nissen, 2015).

Journalists’ safety is a precondition for free expression and free media. In recent years, the world has become a more dangerous place for journalists and media workers. The right of journalists to work under safe conditions, without fear of being harassed, attacked, raped or killed is a topic of fundamental importance to freedom of the press and freedom of expression (Askenius and Ostergaard, 2014).

The media are the lifeline of freedom of expression; freedom of the press is crucial. The pluralism and independence of the media are essential to democracy regardless of whether publishing takes place offline or online (Askenius and Ostergaard, 2014). This corresponds with Irina Bokova’s view that receiving and imparting information, both offline and online, is a cornerstone of democracy, good governance and rule of law. The media have long been considered central, shared sources of information, ‘watchdogs’ and the forum of public debate- in short, to constitute a public sphere-based on the nexus between media, democracy and civic engagement (Askenius and Ostergaard, 2014).

Finally, it is also an important right in a free society to be freely allowed to contribute to society’s well-being. However, if that is to occur, it must be possible for society’s state of affairs to become known to everyone, and it must be possible for everyone to speak his mind freely about it. Where this is lacking liberty is not worth its name (Forsskal, 1759). Today,

journalism is indispensable to democratic societies. History reveals that the more democratic a society, the more news and information it tends to have (Hanitzsch, 2011). Perhaps this is the reason why Arulchelvan (2016) argues that effectiveness of democracy in a society depends on sound, bold, and independent press. This is because free speech and free media go hand in hand. Hence, they are crucial for democracy. More so, Pate (2016) noted that freedom of information and the press are fundamental human rights and not a favor.

However, efforts of some kind-hearted journalists most at times end in futility because they lack the avenue to exercise their duties professionally. This is as a result of “the increasing number of threats, attacks, intimidation and harassment has struck the heart of a democratic and free society” (Arulchelvan, 2016) resulting from reporting or presenting an ‘unwanted’ story. LaRue (2015), in a paper *On Ensuring the Safety of Journalists and Media Workers* put it thus, “despite provisions in International Human Rights Law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which guarantee the rights of journalists, journalists continue to be targeted for disseminating “inconvenient” information. He added that the problem lies not in the lack of international standards, but in the inability or, unwillingness of governments to ensure the protection of journalists.

While armed conflict situations may place journalists at risk, the majority of attacks against journalists take place outside of armed conflict situations. Those who cover public demonstrations, report on issues such as corruption, human rights violations, environmental issues, organized crime, drug trafficking, public crises or emergencies are placed at particular risk of violence. For instance, a Free Press Watch Report dated 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2015 reveals that Nasir Salisu Zango, a Kano based media house journalist is facing threat because he presented



report on violation of boarding school boys' right. Such threats to journalists in their public exercise of freedom of expression are widely acknowledged (UNESCO, 2016). In this respect, Mohamed Odowaa, a former exiled Somali journalist narrated his experience when he said:

Some challenges the journalists face here are blatant, others concealed, and some of them follow traditional methods to silence free media or just critical voices. If you are a journalist and want to search for the truth about something here in Mogadishu and that thing is against the interest of the warring factions you can either be arrested or killed in cold blood. No groups whether they are the politicians or those business people in the black market want the truth out (Odowaa, 2015).

He added that they have also witnessed many severe challenges, like the lack of recognition of the rights of speech in Somalia-especially affecting the journalists who give a voice to the voiceless-as well as repeated arrests and harassment by the Puntland and Somali government authorities, and lack of redress for rights violations experienced by media workers. Any attempt to report, he went further ahead, attracts reprisals such as physical harassment, intimidation, arbitrary detention and at worst, torture and death.

Media workers need to be more professional because poor journalism has fuelled hostility to the media. In Somalia for example, while journalists working in pro-government radio and satellite television stations broadcast anti-militant propaganda are usually facing threat against their lives from the militants, other journalists from independent media outlets face frequent physical attacks, their equipment is usually confiscated and are arrested, not only in Mogadishu but also in the areas of mini-states like Puntland, Somaliland, and Ahlu-SunnaWalJama'a and GalmudugState of Somalia (Odowaa, 2015). This necessitates the need of being very

professional in the dealings of a journalist there because one has to be objective, balanced and fair to both sides.

Central challenges in relation to human rights violations committed against journalists include various forms of intimidations, physical attacks-including abductions and killings-arbitrary detention, as well as impunity and the use of criminal laws to imprison and intimidate journalists.

Many journalists today work in a constant atmosphere of danger, threats, mental exploitation and assaults which has led many good, serious and dedicated journalists to be carefully when reporting and exercising restraint least they fall victims to power entities. According to Strasbourg (2016), not only are journalists being harassed today, even their sources face many of the same threats.

Mijatovic (2011) said “today in 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is dangerous to be a journalist, a photographer, a member of the media. It is dangerous to be a journalist and have to lunch with your source in a restaurant. It is dangerous to write about corruption. It is dangerous to investigate stories in many part of the world. It is dangerous to be monitor of our times and it is dangerous to be a human being who speaks his or her mind freely”.

## **2.5 Empirical Review**

A study by Lilian Unaegbu (2016) titled *safety concerns in the Nigeria media: what a gender dynamic*, survey was adopted as a methodological approach and the instrument of data collection was questionnaire. The basic aim of the study is to find out if there are differences with regard to safety issue among male and female journalists and why male journalists remain top of the list of victims. The findings of the research revealed that 74% of the respondents

indicated that they have faced threats in the discharge of their journalistic responsibility and 26% indicated otherwise. The study also confirmed in its findings that safety issues with regard to journalists within the jurisdiction of the research and the respondents pointed out physical safety challenges than digital challenges like assault, harassment, verbal or physical attacks, arrest by state actors and even detention.

Part of the findings also indicated that, those in charge of law and order are also responsible in the threats and impunity against the safety of journalists. As the title of the research topic implies, clearly shows gender issue also reveal in its findings. Safety issue is a subject matter that both male and female journalists face in their routine job, for instance, issues like confiscation of working tools, arrest and detention by security agencies, physical and attacks by state and non-state actors, however, the female journalists frequently face sexual harassment and intimidation. To keep the society informed and educated which is the fundamental role journalists are playing, the study recommended that journalists deserves a special protection from the society as whole.

Olunifesi Adekule Suraj and Olawale Olaleye (2015) conducted a study on *digital safety among Nigerian journalists: knowledge, attitudes and practices*. Two hundred respondents were randomly selected from ten newspaper houses. The outcome of the research shows that most of Nigerian journalists are aware of digital threats and have fair knowledge of digital safety strategies. Also they have positive attitude towards digital safety, even though, they appeared vulnerable because most of them do not encrypt sensitive data, hardly disable cookies and tend to be careless about their passwords. However, recommendation was drawn on the aspect of training on digital safety for Nigerian journalists and the study required further research on the digital safety of female and citizen journalists considering the vulnerability of these categories.

*A study on, how unsafe contexts and overlapping risks influence journalists practice: Evidence from a survey of Mexico journalists* by Sallie and Mireya (2015). The study used national survey of journalists working in 136 media outlets, randomly selected to reflect the national news media landscape. The research aimed to contribute to knowledge about the impact of violence on journalism in Mexico and contributes to knowledge about the general condition of journalists working in an unsafe context globally. The population of the study consists of 377 professional journalists which were selected within the country.

The findings of the study shows that while almost all journalists reported paying greater attention to accuracy when a story was potentially sensitive, about two third of the journalists within the scope of the research 67% reported having engaged in self-censorship as a precaution to reduce risk. Result also shows that journalists do retired from street reporting was the next most prevalent measure 64% had engaged in this behaviour) followed by adherence to company censorship policies 57:3%. Two more precautionary measures followed in frequency as revealed by the study: hiding information from suspicious or untrustworthy people in the respondent's own newsroom 50% and publishing without by line or credit in one's own media outlets.

Arulchelvan, (2016) in his write-up titled "*Internal Threats and Safety of Journalists: Humiliating Stories of News Story Makers-A Study from India*" narrated that in India journalists face harassment, intimidation and worse death on a regular basis. Journalists working in smaller places in rural areas of India face maximum trouble. He said that unlike their big city fellow journalists, these media persons have no job security, no fixed salary of income, no big and powerful networks and no institutional support. Though journalists are regarded as professionals trying their best to function within the space allotted to them in society, their daily work sees

them being pressurized from external, internal and all sides, causing them to bend their code of professional ethics to service the needs of those who intimidate them.

According to the Journalist's Association of India (1994) in non-conflict regions, threats from politicians are one of the most common reasons why many news stories go unreported. "Politicians mask their threats in different ways and have the power to indirectly wield control or influence news coverage," (Journalist Association of India, 1994). In India, journalists are often pressurized by the local administration from reporting on crucial issues or on a governance matter and even within the organization there is a hierarchical setup which engages in 'gatekeeping.' "Due to a number of reasons, editors can choose which story to publish and which to reject; which angle is to be highlighted and which is to be hidden; etc. The state here has political imperatives and the publishers have commercial imperatives" Muralidharan (2011). This will give birth to a serious underreporting of important issues and failure to highlight the multiple opinions and viewpoints in society. Pate and Idris (2016) posit that "in many cases, the safety and protection of journalists in the course of work remains a major challenge, affecting the quality of their reporting.....and..... there is no national strategy on the protection of journalists within government institutions, the media industry or civil society".

Arulchelvan (2016) says that today not only it is a challenge to cover a story safely; it is also a challenge to report the truth in its entirety. Journalists are being mercilessly haunted and threatened, in Mexico for example, threats don't just stop with warnings, but are beaten and at times murdered.

One of the unique natural threats that some journalists face is reporting during times of an epidemic where they risk their health as well. Documented cases have shown that journalists are

likely to be affected during coverage of outbreaks unless proper precaution is taken (Sharp, DeFrait, Thornton, Burans, and Wallace, 1995). Pate (2016) said that “journalists suffered injuries, harassment from security agencies and insurgents”.

Apart from these kinds of external threats, many journalists are facing different kind of internal threats such as changes in beats, changes in working place, shifting to other departments (e.g from reporting to editorial), cuts in salary, withdrawal of increment and/or promotions, suspension from jobs and at worst dismissal. This is normally happening when the media organization wants to control the journalists for their own policy, or to show biasness and favoritism to some political interest (Arulchelvan, 2016).

Among the internal threats faced by journalists is that if the media organization top officials or owners have different view with journalists they simply kill the story and waste the hard work of the journalists which in turn kill the interest of the journalist or cause depression (Arulchelvan, 2016). The presence of such risks deters journalists from continuing their work and encourages self-censorship on sensitive matters. Arulchelvan (2016) wrote that the multitude of risks and threats that are becoming a routine part of a journalist’s everyday life has seen many journalists start practicing auto-censorship fearing external threats, some even wrestle the idea of switching to the covering of celebrities or sports news. The result of which is adverse to the human development and thriving of democracy. This is because society as a whole may not be able to access important and relevant information to their development. Freedom of the written word develops knowledge most highly, removes all harmful statutes, restrains the injustices of all officials, and is the government’s surest defense in a free state because it makes the people in love with the government that guaranteed the freedom of expression and that of press (Forsskal, 2016). He added that wise government is the

one that let the people express their discontent through written or spoken words absence of which may lead to upheavals and disorder in a society.

Key to press freedom here are legal status of freedom of expression and press freedom; whether news media regulate amounts to political licensing; whether journalism is censored or banned/blocked; whether criminal defamation and other laws are used against news media and journalists; whether the profession is subject to licensing. Freedom of information is a significant aspect of the environment, as are legal dispensation or privacy rights and self-regulation.

Safety in this context means journalists not being subjected to threats, harassment or surveillance; not being physically attacked or unlawfully detained; journalists not routinely self-censoring out of fear of punishment or attack; and that crimes against journalists are prosecuted and that there is no climate of impunity (UNESCO, 2008). However, the concept of safety is complex, including aspects that vary from personal and professional matters and issues of media systems to root cause factors in societies, such as corruption and crime, not forgetting the international and national legal systems. Supporting Safety of Journalists: UN Plan of Action and Journalists' Safety Indicators Assessments within the UN system, UNESCO has the mandate to advance 'the mutual knowledge and understanding of peoples, through all means of mass communication' and to promote 'the free flow of ideas by word and image'. UNESCO has defined press freedom as designing the conditions of media freedom, pluralism and independence, as well as the safety of journalists (UNESCO, 2014).

According to international public laws, journalists should be free to report from violent conflicts as long as they are not taking part in the military battles. But, in reality, that freedom is severely restricted in many instances by many safety challenges.

Lohner and Banjac (2016) in *"There is no Story that is Bigger than Your Life"* mentioned some of the safety challenges faced by journalists in areas of conflict such as Egypt, Kenya, Serbia and South Africa. These problems include physical and psychological individual threats. These come in form of intimidation by being followed, monitored, anonymous threat messages or calls, forcing bribe on a journalist; death threats from all angles; breaches of data safety through tapping a journalists call, monitoring their conversation, challenging protection and retention of sources, and; physical attacks by being slapped, getting trapped in the middle of clashes, being beaten, killed, kidnapped, facing live-ammunitions fired by the police, equipment destroyed or confiscated, etc. At the organizational level, safety challenges such as legal proceedings by political parties, businessmen, competitors were faced by the journalists working in conflict areas.

Another more sinister example is the series of indicators that the media and journalists have been targeted by the U.S and/or NATO armed forces all along, starting from the Balkan Wars in the 1990s to the Libyan War in 2011, e.g. the television building in Baghdad in 1999; the Al-Jazeera premises in Kabul in 2001, and; the Libyan television building in Tripoli in 2011 (Nohrstedt and Ottosen, 2014).

Pate and Idris (2016) in *"Professionalism and Risk Management in the Reporting of Terror Groups and Violent Extremism in North East Nigeria, 2009-2015: How Journalists Survived to Report"* stated that, Nigerian journalists commonly encounter acts of impunity like



indiscriminate arrest, and seizures of publication and working tools such as cameras, computers and machines. Others include: closure of offices by the police or SSS; abductions, kidnappings by militant groups; violence-battering and killing, bombing of offices and prevention of journalists from carrying out their duties especially in public places; exploitation and abuse of judicial processes to impede journalists from working and judicial harassment. Although Nigeria is a member of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other multilateral bodies and has signed the declarations that commit the country to protecting, promoting and projecting the rights and safety of media professionals, journalists are still vulnerable to “psychological harm, physical harm, and death (including murder)”. This made it necessary for them to rely on the strength of their union and other national and international civil society organizations that guarantee, and on the basis of need, react against impunity.

Nigerian journalists working in conflict zones and politically volatile areas remain at higher vulnerability to attacks. Often, there are hardly any conclusive investigations or arrest of perpetrators of such acts except for the condemnations that follows from the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), the most visible media pressure group.

Reporters Without Boarder (RSF) takes a look at the breaches of freedom of news and information in Nigeria during the spotlight on ‘one of the most dangerous countries in Africa for journalists’. While it included the Islamist Militia Boko Haram in its list of ‘predators of freedom of information’, it came out with some of the daily abuses suffered by Nigerian journalists. The press freedom organization outlines all breaches of freedom of information recorded between December 2014 and April, 2015. It highlights the almost daily arrests and

assaults of journalists and the obstruction of access to, and distribution of, information, and describes the insidious atmosphere in which journalists have to carry out their work.

This include the murder of two journalists (Enenche Godwin Akogu and Ibrahim Muhammad of AIT), the killing of another with no proof that it was linked to the victim's work (Chuks Ogu of AIT), nine assaults (Hassan Adebayo of *Daily Trust*, Goke Famidewa of *The Punch*), seven arrests (Jude Obiemengo of Zion Nationale, Iyatse Joshua of City FM), three journalists threatened (Ahmad Salkida and Jeremie Orieu, Isa Sa'idu of *Daily Trust*, Akinola Ariyo of *New Nigerian*), three cases of access to information being cut off (Musbahu Bashir of *Daily Trust*, Suleiman Isa of *Daily Champion*), three court cases against journalists and news organizations, the closure of a press center and a media outlet's premises vandalized recorded by Reporters Without Borders. The report also covers disturbances in April when there were bomb attacks on the officers of two newspapers in Abuja and Kaduna (Reporters Without Boarders, 2016).

Sadly all these were connected to actions of government and some strong private organizations in their effort to silence journalists as Reporters Without Boarders (2012) said "whether these abuses-obstructions of information and control of the government's image, or gratuitous violence and threats-were carried out by the government or private organizations using armed groups, they confirm the authorities' desire to silence journalists who try to report on the instability now gripping the country".

Among all this, nonchalant attitude of government authority to take action on the crime committed against journalists, and lack of much professional solidarity, coupled with ignorance of the public on the risk journalists' encounter are more disastrous. This is because the perpetrators are being encouraged to go ahead with their heinous acts. This corresponds with the

findings of Lohner and Banjac (2016) where they said that lack of support for journalists facing security challenges and threats is evident in the impunity of the government and police, a lack of professional solidarity, institutional support and implementation of safety policies by media organizations in response to the ongoing atmosphere of fear, and lack of awareness by the public of the risks journalists encounter to produce news contents. This is in line with what McGonagle (2013) said that, “these attacks on journalists are an affront on society itself. The problem though is that society is turning a blind eye and exempting culprits from legal action.”

The result of the above is self-censorship which leads to reduction of the importance and relevance of certain stories. It then translates to the following as stated by Lohner and Banjac (2016):

1. Unchallenged and unreported corruption and criminality
2. Avoiding covering crime and criminal groups
3. Threat of government censorship

Presence of the above in a country displays total absence of respect for the rule of law. It also affects professional role perceptions and ethics. This is because journalists sometimes sacrifice ethics for their safety which lead to frustration and helplessness and thus apathy. In line with this, Arulchelvan (2016) reported that journalists have to negotiate their professional existence to survive in the zones of exception, which then requires them to cooperate with militants-not ideologically, but strategically. More so, a complex mix of compelling ethnic and communal affinities drives the urge for critical reporting. As a reporter from Orakzai agency states that, “instead of I visiting the field, the field visits me,” reported one of the respondents in Arulchelvan’s (2016) research. By this he means that telephone calls from relatives, sources,

and community members keep reporters updated and drag them the side of victim/community. Put differently, feedback coming from the field tempts some to stretch boundaries, which objectivity has fixed for them.

Another important reason why attackers should not be allowed to go free and why threats against journalists should not be taken lightly is, when the press is attacked, fewer wrongdoers are held accountable and more criminal and corrupt people escape the long arm of law (Arulchelvan, 2016).

These safety challenges as identified by Lohner and Banjac (2016) came about as a result of media laws which usually help necessitate legal censorship. For instance, in Kenya government introduced high fines on individual journalists and organizations; insufficient institutionalized training called “conflict-sensitive reporting” and also on safety measures for conflict journalism; absence of proper safety equipment; repeated exposure to trauma from witnessing death and violence without any therapy given to them. The actors behind the safety threats as identified by Lohner and Banjac (2016) were the powerful leaders (including government), criminals and sometimes citizens (advertisers inclusive).

“While threat from government is direct through establishment of draconian laws and jailing of writers, threats from advertisers come through withdrawing advertising or holding advertising revenue” (Lohner and Banjac, 2016). The most sensitive topics according to Lohner and Banjac (2016) include crime, corruption, political elections, protests etc.

Threats to the free press are not new phenomenon. Most of the kings, emperors, heads of countries and even corporate giants are threatening and trying to control the media throughout the world. Recorded instances of the press being threatened are as old as 1501 when Pope

Alexander VI first threatened the press. Since then emperors, civil society leaders and many others have tried to gain control over the press in its various forms. Centuries gone have seen journalists being given death penalties, be imprisoned and even murdered and not surprisingly, the ways in which a journalist is harassed has only grown (Van Belle, 2000). This should not be allowed to continue in the present century. As freedom fighters, journalist's safety measures ought to be provided if true democracy is to be maintained. Lohner and Banjac (2016) identified possible measures to increase the safety of journalists reporting on democratization conflict. They looked at it in steps. These include:

Safety measures within the working environment. This include providing journalists with adequate training, organizational support and capacity building; making assignments to conflict zones reserved for experienced journalists with adequate safety equipment, and; enhancing agreed safety policies in the news organizations/self-regulatory bodies. Mandatory training and retraining of staff and freelancers on issues concerning security assessment and technological security is also of a greater importance.

Financial compensation and protection includes freelancers' personal insurance, additional expenses and provision for transportation. Psychological safety includes counseling, increase awareness and training of media managers to recognize symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. Other measures include display of professional solidarity and inter-media support, organizing joint safety training by media companies, psychological support and a databank of safety information, implementation of media laws and a legal framework, provisions in international laws, and enhancing public support and awareness among citizens of the value of independent journalism.

Smyth (2012) advise journalists to be fully informed about security issues, to make their safety a primary consideration, to prepare themselves thoroughly for each assignment, to look out for other journalists in the field, and take care of themselves before, during, and after assignment (Lohner and Banjac, 2016).

In a paper titled “*There is no story that is bigger than your life*” safety challenges of journalists reporting on democratization conflicts-empirical findings from a comparative case study in Egypt, Kenya Serbia and South Africa,”Dr. Judith Lohner and Sandra Banjac interviewed journalists in the above listed countries and found out that journalists are facing problems ranging from insults, intimidation and phone-tapping to physical attacks, legal proceedings, and imprisonment. Furthermore, journalists describe limitations to the professionalization of the working environment perceived as providing insufficient training on safety measures and proper safety equipment.

Again, psychological safety challenges considerably affect journalistic practices, roles and ethics. Based on the findings, the paper outlines possible measures to increase the safety of journalists reporting on democratization conflicts. Some of them are: adequate training; organizational support and capacity building should be provided to the journalists; financial compensation and protection; psychological safety; enhancement of self-regulation bodies; professional solidarity and inter-media support; implementation of media laws and a legal framework, and provision in international laws; enhancing public support and awareness among citizens of the value of independent journalism.

A study on “*Internal threats and safety of journalists: humiliating stories of news story makers-a study from India*”,Dr. Arulchelvan interviewed 45 journalists in March and April of 2015. It

was found in the interview that sudden suspension, dismissal from the service, de-promotion, and non-allocation of work, transfer of department and place of work are some of the internal threats faced by the journalists. Not aligning with the management policies and trying to provide neutral news are some of the reasons behind these threats. One of the shocking findings is that at times, external forces influence the management into making internal threats. The result has also been confirmed by the FGD conducted.

This study further found some news insights of the journalists work, profession, their life, problems faced during the work. The interview as well as FGD revealed that, most of the journalists working in India are facing threats internally rather than external. Normally throughout the world, journalists are facing very worst situations in war fields, borders, terrorist area, etc. but, most of the journalists are not working in this kind of emergency/risk area. Journalists who are working within the country in normal situations are facing more issues in terms of physical, mental as well as economic challenges.

It is suggested that, these internal threats should be studied more extensively; better environment should be assured for the freedom of expression. So that journalists will be really having safety; job and salary, information safety, etc., should be protected unless otherwise major wrong happens; severe punishments should be removed from the journalism industry.

A study on *“Tribal journalists caught under fire: threats, impunity and decision making,”* Syed Irfan Ashraf found that journalists in troubled spaces like Palastine are socially and professionally hard pressed to make calculated choices, which turn journalism into a ‘tightrope’ walk. Second, what to report and what to leave out is a choice not just dependent on occupational priorities. The naturalization of violence has reduced Federally Administrative

Tribal Area (FATA), a zone of in distinction where constitutional cover or citizenship rights are absent, to a death world-a space where self-loathing (reporters) and victim blaming (society) emerge as structural constraints on reporters' freedom (Ashraf, 2015). Blaming or pitying the victim as an act of compassion or condemnation takes a teleological form in that the act of threat/death is measured by its final cause, ignoring the structural realities to make possible critical focus on the act itself. For reporters death is not the only threat; living with the fear of death is more challenging. And threats also do not necessarily need to be genuine to be effective.

In short, RSF notes in its 2008 report two main threats to freedom of speech worldwide. The first is journalists' assassinations and harsh punishment. Crimes against journalists and other media workers are rarely prosecuted and when they do, the responsible usually escape punishment because they are usually powerful people or have powerful friends (RSF, 2008). The second threat is government impunity and of power. This threat is related with evasion of international and domestic laws. In countries with repressive governments, journalists are often jailed for charges such as "defamation", "insults", "disturbing peace" and "subversion" (RSF, 2008). RSF explains, that "the authorities in countries, the international democracies' have craftily altered the charges while methods are still the same" (RSF, 2008).

*The Guardian* newspaper published on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2010 in its opinion column, it stated that barely five days after the killing last week of a journalist, Mr. Edo SuleUgbagwu in his home at Egbeda, Lagos, death threats were also issued to four other journalists in different parts of the country. This again underscores the dangers faced by Nigerian journalists in the discharge of their constitutional responsibilities as society's watchdogs. The various killings and threats are



also reminders of the general insecurity of lives and property in the country which government has failed to address properly.

Similarly, *Daily Trust* of 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 in its opinion page revealed that the threat and risk a journalist in Nigeria of today is facing is a serious matter of concern, especially taking into account the security challenge the nation is experiencing. It is added that the 2012 figures of victims/atrocities meted to journalists worldwide revealed that 89 journalists were killed, 38 journalists kidnapped, 879 journalists arrested, 1,993 journalists physically attacked or threatened, 47 citizen journalists killed and 144 bloggers arrested.

It has been revealed in the above reviewed literature that being freedom of expression an essential part of democracy (Berger, 2015), it is also a right of every citizen (Ronning, 2016; Pate, 2016), and its defense has a strong connection with safety of journalists (Hoiby and Ottosen, 2016). Other studies by (Odowaa, 2015; Arulchelvan, 2016; Lohner and Banjac, 2016) have submitted that journalists face a lot of problems ranging from harassment, intimidation and sometimes death in their effort to discharge their duty professionally. However, almost all the literature reviewed concentrate on the reporters only which constitute the gap in the study. As such, this study intends to examine the threats faced by other media professionals like radio program presenters.

## **2.6 Theoretical Framework**

Communication theories in general, aim to improve our understanding of how communication works. They formulate and scientifically put to test, various phenomena in mass communication. While some communication theories try to explain the effects of the media on their audiences, others try to answer the question of what do people do with the media.

With regards to this study, two theories are adopted by the researcher to help him examine the research problem. The two selected theories are the cultural violence theory and the New Institutionalism theory.

### **2.6.1 Cultural Violence**

This theory was introduced in 1990 by Johan Galtung, a Norwegian Sociologist and the founder of the peace and conflict studies. The Culture of Violence is defined “as any aspect of a culture that can be used to legitimize violence in its direct or structural form”. Hence, the cultural violence are those aspects of the culture, exemplified by religion and ideology, language and art, empirical science and formal science, that makes direct and structural violence look and feel right, or not wrong, (Galtung, 1990).

The direct violence is defined as the event of violence, war, murder, rape, assault, verbal attacks, etc. is the kind we physically perceive, while the structural it is a process with ups and downs, behind the physical act; injustice or impunity (Galtung, 1969), and the Cultural Violence is a “invariant, a permanence, reaming essentially the same for long periods, given the slow transformation of basic culture”.

Galtung explains his concept with a (vicious) violence triangle, to demonstrate that the constant interaction with each other, it's the cause of a long term violent conflict. So, the triangle is stood on the direct and structural violence and so the cultural type will invoked as the legitimizer of both.

Violence can start at any corner in the direct-structural-cultural violence triangle and is easily transmitted to other corners; a violent structure institutionalizes and the violent culture internalized; direct violence also tends to become institutionalized, repetitive, ritualistic

(Galtung, 1990). The constant reproduction of violence and conflict on the press ended up legitimizing the structural and direct violence, as Johan Galtung points out. This will result in impunity and therefore journalists' right has been infringed and they may resort to self-censorship.

Cultural violence is criticized by Mitchell and Valentino that academics spent so much time and intellectual capital on the structural factors that allow, encourage, exacerbate or inhibit atrocities that we have often neglected the role of perpetrators themselves. It also was accused of falling short in holding the international community responsible for rights violations.

### **2.6.2 New Institutionalism Theory**

The first new-institutional arguments were formulated by John Meyer and Colleagues such as Brian Rowan in 1977 and Richard and Scott in 1983, and by Lynne Zucker in 1977.

Drawing on the new institutionalism theory, this study investigates the diverse threats that affect journalists' work and their right to freedom of expression. The new institutionalism theory has been used in many domains such as sociology, political science, organizational studies, journalism and economics with certain distinctions (Powell, 2007). This study uses 'sociological institutionalism' because the theory recognizes the influence of the institutional environment on actors' agencies - either individuals (journalists) or organizations (media) (Scott, 1995). Thus, this study considers 'journalists' as 'actors' that are embedded in a specific cultural setting and can be influenced by the institutional environment within which they operate.

New institutionalism theory suggests that actors (either individuals or organizations) are influenced by their institutional environment (Scott 1995). Therefore, using this approach, this

study highlights the diverse threats that affect journalists' work and their right to freedom of expression most while they operate in the unsafe institutional environment.

Proponents of Old Institutionalism Theory are strongly opposed to new institutionalists, most salient in the explaining institutional change as merely another instance of maximization. There is academic skepticism that new institutionalism implies a top-down approach and neglects to match each developmental meaning to its timely event. Casual interpretation may take retrospective views toward historical paths. In contrast, classical institutionalism theory had originally been derived from national response to public demands on politico-economic changes. It is also accused of lacking insight into how action works and then, propose a sociological model that is consistent with symbolic interactionism.

Despite the short comings of the two theories, they are still relevant for this study.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter deals with the design of the study. It explains the data collection technique used, the research population, sampling technique and sample size, method and instrument of data collection as well as the format of data presentation and analysis.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This study adopts in-depth interview as its data collection technique. In-depth interviews, also called intensive interviews, usually involve a one-on-one, face-to-face interaction that builds a degree of intimacy; thereby facilitating disclosure (Johnson, 2002). This data collection technique was chosen to elicit a rich experiential account from the interviewees that could provide depth and details about the topic under investigation. According to Wimmer and Dominick (2006), in-depth interviews are unique compared to other research methodologies for the following reasons:

- i. They generally use smaller samples.
- ii. They provide detailed background about the reasons respondents give specific answers.
- iii. Elaborate data concerning respondents' opinions, values, motivations, recollections, experiences, and feelings are obtained.
- iv. They allow for lengthy observation of respondents' nonverbal responses.
- v. They are usually long. Unlike personal interviews used in survey research that may last only a few minutes, an intensive interview may last several hours and may take more than one session.

- vi. They can be customized to individual respondents. In a personal interview, all respondents are usually asked the same questions. Intensive interviews allow interviewers to form questions based on each respondent's answers.

Before the in-depth interview, two sessions of focus group discussion were held in order to enable the researcher obtain relevant category of people to interview. This leads to the combination of presenters of different programs.

### **3.2 Population of the Study**

Krippendorff (2004) is of the view that a research population means any group of individuals that has one or more characteristics in common and that is of interest to the researcher. In other words, it is a group of individuals with at least one common characteristic which distinguishes that group from other individuals (Groves, et al. 2004). Therefore, all radio presenters in Kano state make the population of this study. However, since the researcher cannot examine the entire radio presenters in all the radio stations in Kano state, a sample size of the total population, was selected for the purpose of this study.

### **3.3 Sampling Technique and Sample Size**

Wimmer and Dominick (2006) state that sampling refers to the process of selecting a portion of a universe or population of a study as representative of a given population considering its member/size, characteristics etc. Sampling enables the researcher to be cost-effective and cost-efficient in conducting research by spending less in terms of time, money, energy and other resources. In this study, the selection of the interviewees was designed based on purposive sampling, which requires the choice of the sample to be based on certain criteria (Tashakkori and Teddlie, 2003). The criterion in this study is that the participants are required to be

practitioners in the field of journalism, and working as magazine, political or related program presenters, so that their experience could be used to expand and explain the study results.

Regarding the sample size for this study, two focus group discussion sessions consisting of six people each were held. This is used as a mechanism of selecting those who are to be interviewed. Eleven (11) presenters of magazine/political programs in Kano State were selected for an in-depth interview after the focus group discussion.

### **3.4 Methods of Data Collection**

The primary source of data to this research is FGD and in depth interview while the secondary source of data is the existing literature consulted. The method used in collecting primary data is note taking and recording. The method of taking the secondary data is note taking only.

In addition to note taking, recording device was used to record the interviews conducted with the respondents, their responses were later transcribed for the purpose of interpretation. The participants were informed that their inputs were to be recorded so that no one would have any concerns regarding the recording. However, some of the respondents were skeptical in allowing their voice to be recorded. This went to the extent that some of them, for instance Halilu Ahmad Getso, did not allow their voice to be recorded completely.

### **3.5 Methods of Data Analysis**

After the completion of the interviews, the recorded information was manually transcribed into documents to facilitate analysis. In analyzing the transcripts, thematic content analysis was used. In the initial stage, open coding was followed to identify and code the dominant themes emerging from the transcripts. The next stage was axial coding, whereby, the themes were compared amongst each other and concepts or categories were developed that represent similar themes. The last stage followed was selective coding, whereby the number of participants who

mentioned a particular theme was included to indicate the strength of an opinion of the dominant concept.

Pseudonyms were assigned to both participants of the two Focus Group Discussion sessions and the in-depth interview for confidentiality. Participants in the Focus Group Discussion were assigned 1.1 to 12.1 while those interviewed were assigned 1.2 to 11.2. Hence any number which is followed by one (1) after decimal (.1) represents a participant in the Focus Group Discussion while that which is followed by two (2) after the decimal (.2) represent a participant in In-depth interview. Although some participated in both the two, different numbers are accorded to them.

The transcripts were analyzed using thematic analysis, a method for identifying, analyzing and reporting themes and patterns within data (Braun & Clarke cited in Dawn, 2011). Thematic analysis is a method used in investigating an under-researched topic or if the views of the participants are not known (Dawn, 2011). It is a data analytic strategy that helps the researcher move his analysis from a broader reading of the data towards discovering patterns and developing themes.

Four main themes emerged from the Focus Group Discussions and additional three over the already identified four have emerged.

Under theme one, threat issues, sub-themes like physical attacks, verbal attacks and short messages were discussed. Under theme two, people/factors responsible for the threats, sub-themes like threat from people in the seat of power, people relating to those in power and thugs were part of those posing a threat because their misappropriation is reported or that of their *ogas*. Under the fourth theme, consequences of the threat, issues of freedom of expression and corruption were discussed.



The three additional themes gotten from the in-depth interview were Economic safety issues, psychological safety issues and legal safety issues.

### **3.6 Validity and Reliability**

Validity in a qualitative study relates to whether the findings of a research are true and certain. Evaluating the quality of research is essential if findings are to be utilized in practice. In order to see to the credibility of the results of this study, the researcher adopted popular strategies to ensure trustworthiness of the findings. Triangulation is a strategy meant to provide research with a data richness drawing on two or more methods and varying sources of data (Lambert and Loiselle, 2008). The integration of focus group and Individual Interview data by this research is aimed at enhancing trustworthiness of findings. The focus group handles the identification of those that are more relevant to the study as well as provision of initial exploration of concepts and clues on the phenomenon while the In-depth interview enriches the concepts and deepens understanding of the phenomenon under investigation using the presenters mostly fall victim of threat. The research benefited from this combination method by realizing wider accounts of events and comprehensive data of different sources thereby avoiding problems of single-method strategy. Although, triangulation has limitations of time consuming and or knitting together the varying data of different methods, the strategy is still relevant for this study.

Another strategy used in the study, the researcher ensured that the recordings were not left in any other person's hands and that nobody is intentionally misquoted. This strategy, according to Long & Johnson (1993) increases credibility of qualitative research.

The research also employed what Slevin cited in Helen & Joanna (2015) referred as "thick verbatim descriptions of participants' accounts to support findings. This involves quoting verbatim the participants' accounts of experiences to support research data. More so, the

researcher went extra-mile to establish a comparison across accounts to ensure different perspectives are represented. This method, according to Morse et al (2002) is aimed at seeking out similarities and differences for valid representation of data.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA PRPRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS**

#### **4.0INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the data collected from the respondents participated in the study and analyzes it using thematic content analysis with the research questions serving as guide. The purpose here is to enable the researcher answer the study's research questions raised in chapter one. As clearly pointed out at the beginning, the questions set to guide this study are:

1. What is the nature of professional risks experienced by radio presenters in Kano state?
2. What is the influence of attacks on freedom of expression among radio presenters in Kano State?
3. What is the relationship between attacks on radio presenters in Kano state and self-censorship?
4. What are the precautionary measures adopted by radio presenters in Kano State at personal and institutional levels?

This chapter presents the findings of the study in two sections: section one consists of the participants' demographics while the other section is made up of data presentation, discussion and analysis.

#### **4.1 SECTION ONE (Participants' Information)**

Two out of the eleven participant, representing 18.2% were retired though they are still participating in media relating activities, while other 9 participants, representing 81.8% are still serving. This is to have an insight into the past happenings of threats to journalists.

Five out of the eleven participants, representing 45.5% are presenting magazine programs. The remaining 6 participants, representing 54.5% are presenting political programs. No body among

them is presenting both programs concurrently as at the time of the interview. This indicates that both presenters of the magazine and political programs face threat on equal proportion.

Three participants representing 27.3% each work with Freedom Radio FM and Express Radio FM. Two participants work with Rahama Radio FM and others (who have retired but served with different media houses), representing 18.2% each. One participant, representing 9.0% is working with Arewa Radio FM. This indicates that all the participants are not working with public media therefore their responses are hoped that it will not be influenced by any malice out of fear or favor of those in the seat of power.

Six participants, representing 54.5% have experience of 0-10 years in service. Two participants fall within the range of 11-20 and  $\geq 30$ , each representing 18.2% of the total number of the participants. The remaining one falls within the range of 21-30 years of service, representing 9.1%. this clearly shows that the respondents have accumulated experiences over years so no one will be accused of being ignorant of the issue under discussion.

#### **4.2 SECTION TWO (Data Presentation)**

This study is aimed at examining the relationship between the level of professionalism and safety among radio presenters in Kano state. As has been seen in the previous chapter, the study adopted focus group and in-depth interview methods. In this chapter, findings of the research are presented under the coded themes. Relevant quotations from transcripts are used frequently to illustrate findings and to support results in the course of analysis and interpretation.

Four themes emerged from the focus group discussion which includes the threats faced, factors responsible for the threats, frequency of the threats and severity/consequences of the threats.

## 4.3FGD PART

### 4.3.1 First Theme: Threats faced by the presenters

Most of the focus group discussion participants stated that *they face different kind of threats*. The participants mentioned different kind of threats they faced in the course of discharging their duties. Participant No. 4.1 for instance stated that;

I was threatened with jailing, I was called many times by anonymous numbers especially when sim cards were not registered and tracing the person threatening us is difficult.

According to participant 1.1, sometimes people will be monitoring your movements and they may trap you when you are less defensible. He says:

One day after closing I was discussing an issue with my friends by the road, two people came from the back and slapped me hard and said that you are the person reporting on ..... He mentioned a program and then left. And because it was night and both of us were shocked neither I nor my partner could recognize them. More so, movement has started seizing so we rushed to leave the area so that no further action is taken on us.

Participant 2.1 narrated a sad occurrence which happens with him when the security personnel who should be at the fore front in protecting the journalists were involved in a sort of intimidation. The following are his remarks:

I was once invited to Bompai police head quarter and was held there for a program I presented containing an issue relating to them. My station manager has to be involved before I was released.

Participant 2.1 added that he emphasized the point by narrating when he was once invited to the palace on an issue. He says:

I was once invited to the palace and was interrogated in front of the deceased Galadima of Kano (may he rest in peace) and later he understand that it wasn't my fault and ordered that I should

be allowed to go and he even cautioned those who were leading the case that nothing should be done to me.

Participant 3.1 stated that the journalists mind is not at rest most times. This is because they become the subject of target.

I was followed countless time on a vehicle and I have to dodge them, the effort which am not always successful at. Sometimes I have to park some where I did not schedule with or have to divert them elsewhere mostly where I know people will come to my aid when am attacked.

Some participants stated that they have never been physically attacked. However, they are fully aware that their co-workers were attacked. Instead they were almost always celebrated by the public. This may be because of the nature of the program they presented. Participant 11.1 for instance, stated that:

It is a fact that journalists and other media workers are threatened. But, I have never been attacked, at least physically by being confronted or sent a text. I am ascribing this to the nature of the programs I am handling. All of them have to do with issues that are less critical to people. They are majorly on entertainment.

#### **4.3.2 Second Theme: People/Factors Responsible For the Threats**

All the participants stated that most a times it is the truth that is not wanted by the threateners. When they are spoken of concerning the misappropriation they are involved in or some actions they doesn't like, they threaten us. Participant 5.1 stated:

I reported on misappropriation of public funds once and before you know it calls started reaching me and texts promising me bad happenings.

Participant 6.1 recounted his experience when he was threatened because he was trying to interview an important person. He was denied access to him and was told that if he pressed, he could get shot.

I was threatened by a security personnel that *'I can kill person, and nothing will ever happen'*. He said pointing his words at me. This is because I tried to interview a VIP whom he is working with. And he was fully aware that am a journalist because my identity was displayed to the viewership of everybody.

Participant 10.1 narrates similar experience when he says:

Sometimes people of the security do prove a physical threat to us but only when we want to make an unscheduled interview to a VIP on a function. They are trying to prevent us from reaching them and when we push they strike back with a warning and sometimes by pushing us away or showing us the bleak nose of their ripple.

Corroborating the point above, participant 1.1 stated that people who feel that they are close to those in the seat of power also use that opportunity to harass journalists whenever there is a report relating to their misappropriation.

We air a program on a way which was turning to a death trap. And the reason for that was because the contractor who was awarded the contract abandoned it and that made it worse to the extent that people of the area were seriously affected negatively. Next thing we heard was a call threatening us with an uncertain consequence. *'If you persist, your life is which I cannot guarantee you'*.

Sometimes thugs threaten us. But that is very rare. It is only when they are hired or they are confronted physically. This is what participant 7.1 stated:

Mostly it is the powerful people or those around them that are making the threat. Thugs sometimes threaten us but only if someone sponsor them or when a reporter paid them a visit. They don't send themselves or other people to come and harm us.

#### **4.3.3 Third Theme: Frequency of Threats**

Participant 4.1 stated that the attacks are not always laid to them. However, no one is certain of what will happen to him.

The threat is not frequent. But, you know, no one is always sure of what will happen the next minute. There is no guarantee in this life *Malam*. That is why am always careful especially that am aware that that thing they don't like, we are still doing it.

Perhaps that is why participant 12.1 stated that he is always observant as to what is going on around the area he is doing his thing and when he is driving or walking.

I am always vigilant because when I was attacked that time I wasn't having any thought of being attacked. And it happened just like that. Am lucky it wasn't my life that was aimed at I might have become a history by now.

Participant 5.1 added that he is always careful. That is why he apply tinted over his car glasses so that when driving he will not be seen. By that his being identified will be difficult.

*Tabb!* If you check my car, the glasses are tinted because I was attacked more than once and all the time that come it was unexpected. Before I bought the car I used to close early due to the nature of my program. I have to organize everything edit the program and hand it to the person on duty.

#### **4.3.4 Fourth Theme: Consequences of the Threat**

The consequences of this action are gradual and its result will not be a sudden one but certainly it will be gravy. This is what participant 9.1 stated:

Well! I was asked to stop a lot of reports half way and that is definitely having a gradual impact on the society. One day you will remember that I told you this, am very sure.



The effect is clear, as stated by participant 8.1, because as you can see they are defeating journalists' effort by continuing with their actions. This is showing that they are encouraged and from there they are expected to continue with their perpetration.

Those attacking us are still doing the bad thing and this is showing you that they know nothing will be done to them. The same people attacking us will, may be, later start attacking some powerful people because bad person is always a bad person and he can do harm to anybody.

The action has started succeeding because the journalists have started becoming frightened just as participant 12.1 stated:

The action is stopping us from discharging our duty of revealing the corrupt practices, misappropriations and abandoned contracts very well. This is what is adding to the wastage of the generated revenue and some are causing avoidable accidents which results to deaths and lost of wealth unnecessarily.

Sometimes problems also emanates from within. Said participant 10.1:

It is unfortunate that it is not only from outside we face problems, you know, politics is everywhere nowadays. Sometimes when a program is aired and it is involving one of those that are close to the station owners, sometimes a program is killed.

#### **4.4 INTERVIEW PART**

The In-depth Interview revealed other submissions as regards to the threats and other challenges faced by program presenters. Some other themes that emerged in relation to the topic which were not mentioned in the two focus group sessions of this study were the issues of *Economic safety, psychological safety and legal safety*. For clarity, the interviews, being a separate part of the data gathering, they are themed differently from that of FGD. However, some themes may correspond with the former ones.

#### 4.4.1 THEME ONE: THREAT ISSUES

##### Physical Attacks

Some of the interviewees revealed that they are subject of an attack and sometime those who relate with them are also attacked especially when they happen to be present when the attack is taking place. For instance an attempt was made to murder some journalists among which is participant 3.2 to the extent that some of them were wounded. He narrated

I was once attacked by thugs. They followed me and were trying to murder me to the extent that they wounded me with knife. If not because my expensive phone fell and the follower waited to pick the phone I might have been a history by now.

Another attempt to murder him was made when he was followed home and was found absent.

An attempt was made to harm me but I was lucky that they found my absence. Nobody knows what they attempted to do to me.

Respondent 8.2 admitted that some members of the army pursue him and some of his colleagues because they reported that wife of the then military governor violated a law and her escorts maltreated those who attempted to judge her to the extent that they set some of the captives free.

Yes we face threats of different kinds most especially from powerful people. An instance is that when we presented a program and we narrated a case involving the wife of a governor who violated a law and her aides who manhandled those who tried to judge her in which they even set some of the law breakers free, we faced a lot of pressure from the government.

Another interviewee (participant 2.2) narrated that he and a colleague of his were manhandled by some security personnel just because they were trying to interview a witness of an incidence of demolition which has taken place at Zoo Road.

Two years back, I and my colleague Tukur S. Tukur went to cover the story close to the end of the former government at zoo road when one company was being demolished. As we started asking the gateman (security), we saw mobile police and police cars. Before we noticed, we were circled with guns. Our machine, recording devices and phones were confiscated, and we were taken at the back of a car. That is when Boko Haram crises was on its peak. We were taken like thieves, as if we were caught as members of the cult and then taken to the headquarters of mobile police at Hotoro.

Allah is on our side, they couldn't know from where to start the interrogation and on what. Back on the way, part of those who saw us and know our relatives started calling home that we were arrested among the Boko Haram Members.

Fortunately, their head came and inquired, and there was no explanation. He showed them that they were wrong and that we should be given our belongings because we were doing our work just as they were doing theirs. We were then released. That was the threat I will never forget.

Some of the journalists were attacked by thugs with arm. Narrated participant 9.2:

There was a day when a thug visited me in my office. To his advantage, there wasn't many people in the media house. Only a laborer and the gatemen were present and they were downstairs by the gate. The thug leans on the door and narrated all his grievances against me. And for that, he said at the end 'am here to kill you', he said without any sign of joke or regret. He produced a knife of reasonable length and approached me blocking the only exit. I couldn't call for help because even if I shout no one can hear me and there wasn't any source of communication within reach. I wouldn't be here to narrate this to you personally had it

been I failed in dodging him. Sadly enough he escaped before I could reach for help.

Thugs are also another source of threat especially when you physically confront them.

Participant 5.2 narrated in the interview.

Three to four years back, I went for work to Warure – Mahaha Road because some people came with a complaint that the work has stopped and it is causing much discomfort to them. After the complaint I went there to confirm. I found that they were not saying the truth. On my way back I saw about 50 youths by one pond (kududdufi) at the Warure taking intoxicants and abusing different kind of dugs as well as retailing the items. I took that as a challenge to interview them so as to find a way out through amplifying their grievances to government. I observed them carefully from a reasonable distance in order to have a better approach. I saw someone detached from them and I approached him. I introduced myself to him and my intentions. I explain to him that I know they have grumbles to forward to the government and that I want him to convince his friends so that I can interview them. I stayed from a side and deny to enter into their midst so that if anything happens I can easily escape – you know they can easily change their minds.

He added that:

We started and as I forecasted, they were rushing to have chance each to express their minds, which I was afraid of because they may turn it to a fight. I tried to leave but they deny me to the extent that I started begging their leader to ask them to allow me go. At the end I got the chance but I had fever that night.

It happened that he was attacked again by thugs at Kofar Nasarawa. That also happened when he was trying to interview some children swimming in a pond. The interviewee added.

There was another incidence at Kofar Nasarawa, a place called Island. There is a mosque were we used to attend Juma'at prayer. On that fateful day I went there with a friend as usual and on the way we saw some boys taking birth in a dirty water of the Island and that friend of mine advices me that I should enlighten people about the dangers of the act. I agreed with the idea. After the prayer I decided to interview the boys and I started. As we were on it, a thug dismounted from a cave which was their villa and was shouting abusively that who were the children talking to. They replied that it is a journalist. He answered in surprise, a journalist! He uttered some words of abuse and started off with a naked knife. As I sighted him, I fled the scene and in that effort, I fell down and wounded my knee. As I drove away, I sighted him beating the children.

Beside the threat they are facing from the security personnel, some of the interviewees narrated that they are also facing challenges from within. As participant 5.2 stated:

We are also facing threat from the security personnel. Because there are reports they don't like, though we did not stop. Internally also we are facing threats. At times something may not be supported by the media station owners and that lead to their interference. Even if the issue is deserved to be reported on, these are some of the challenges we are facing.

Corroborating this, participant 6.2 narrated that he was once denied a promotion simply because he did not cooperate.

I was once denied promotion and some benefits when I was working with a public media just because I fail to cooperate. Sometimes we are asked to stop a given program or change a topic. This I consider a sort of censorship.

However, many of them responded that they are not engaging in self-censorship. Whatever they see, they say. An example is when participant 2.2 of them was saying:

No, nobody will ask you not to present on anything provided that it will benefit the public. I also have never relented in presenting any report or program I felt is beneficial to the society.

Participant 8.2 stated that a report that the intention of exterminating him and two other journalist was made.

One day as we were on our usual work, a friend call me to a side and inform me that I and two of our colleagues (he mention their names to me) are listed among those who are to be killed.

### Verbal attacks

Majority of those who participated in the interview stated that they are subject to verbal attacks several time. These, as they narrated, may be direct physically or indirect through phone calls and voice messages as participant 3.2 stated:

When I presented a program on secondary school boys rape case I started receiving calls from anonymous personalities threatening me. I was even followed home once only to have met with my absence.

Some of the interviewees stated that they are used to threats made through phone. It is usual business of the day. In his words, participant 1.2 expressed:

Verbal attacks are usual. This usually comes in a form of expression of hate at accusations of taking sides from those who sided with the revealed ones. I was called several times that I reported the sodomy issue because I am hired by the Jews to tarnish the image of the school based on its Islamic affiliations.

Interviewee 11.2 was called more than once and was asked to stop a program which enlightens the public on the way those in power cunningly adopt divide and rule policy. It started gradual to the extent that he was threatened with death.

There is a program am presenting and in it a portion is devoted to review of films. I took an Indian film and started a review. It is revealing the secrets of corrupt leaders and the secrets behind public difficulties and underdevelopment of societies. It talks about the use of strategies by leaders to remain in power. It reveals how leaders are hiding behind the name of religion and tribalism to make the public to fight each other. This coincidentally corresponds with the current Nigerian situation. And some politicians started thinking that I am doing that review deliberately to attack them. For that they started calling and asking me to stop the program otherwise ..... You can complete the sentence.

Threat through call to journalists is frequent. It has become the business of the day as interviewee 10.2 corroborates the above point.

I no longer take threats through phone as serious because of its frequency. New to me is to spend a week without being called three or more times with a promise of one evil happening or another.

### Short Messages

Short messages are also usual. Almost every journalist is used to it as revealed by interviewee

1.2. And it represents the view of majority of the participants.

Such threats scare only new journalists. It reduces greatly with the enforcement of registration of sim cards because of scare they have of being exposed. However, with the ability of line vendors to provide a fake registration, threat continues.

Participant 7.2 corroborates the point:

Whenever am asked of this I just laugh because it happens every day to the extent that I no longer worry. Ask them, all my colleagues know that it is normal not to me only but to majority of us. I will like to assure you that, though courageous, if not because of the passion we, journalists have in journalism, we might have given this work up since.

#### **4.4.2 ECONOMIC SAFETY**

The interviewees revealed that the present situation in the country necessitate the journalist and the general public to be economically handicapped thereby self-control/contentment is becoming difficult and enticement with money is common in order to lure judgment to the favor of the sides of self-centered personalities. However, nobody among the interviewees agree that their economic situation ever interfered with their work. Respondent 1.2 stated that:

The economic situation is not interfering with my work. Even though, you know sometimes, even if you are rich you may not have self-control. Sometimes people may try to entice you with money. They may try to bribe you and you know even if you are economically secured sometimes you may not cross those walls.

However, I don't want to sound proud and am not bragging. But, nobody whether a politician or a rich man succeeded in stopping me from an investigation by bribing me. I repeated, no body! If you can recall just very recently some people approached me with a huge amount of money to stop me from an investigation which I rejected. Therefore, when you have self-control and you believe that, the little that you are gaining is enough for you. That's when you will be economically secured. But, let me tell you, even if you are as rich as Dangote, if you don't have self-control, you cannot reject the little that is used to entice you or bribe you.



On whether they are satisfied with their salary, interviewee 1.2 admitted that nobody is satisfied with his salary. This is the stand of all the interviewees. This is because they, after hailing the efforts of the media house they are working with, are saying that nobody is willing not to have increment in salary. For instance respondent 3.2 says:

Actually, looking at the economic situation in Nigeria no body is satisfied or nobody will be satisfied with his salary. Therefore, almost everybody or most of the people are not economically secured. But, in my own case am economically secured because a part from my salary with this job, I am also working with Duestch VVelle Radio as I told you earlier in our first interview, and their payment is good compared to that of our local stations. Even though here in Freedom Radio, our salary is very good because we pay higher salary than any other radio station in Kano. So, am working with this. But, when we look at the situation, the economic situation, in the country, your salary can not make one secured. But, because of my job with Duestch VVelle I can say that am economically secured. That is why at times I have to sponsor my own investigations. If I want to investigate something I don't have to wait for (depend on) my station to sponsor it. Even though they are trying to pay, sometimes I don't want to wait for them to pay for my transport, for my (other things) because they allow me work for other station - the Duestch VVelle.

#### **4.4.3 PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY**

##### Psychological Disturbances

Some of the participants narrated that they faced threats which affect them psychologically. This is because members of their family were threatened, or they were scared due to some problem they were involved in. some of them were accused of being hired by the Jews which may be leading to hatred by the community they are leaving within.

Participant 4.2 recounted an attack involving him. The attack which scared his family to the extent they were asking him to leave the job, the decision he wasn't ready to take. The situation which subjected him to much psychological disturbance:

Well, yes. There are lots of psychological problems. I have been traumatized; I have been attacked physically. Blood was gushing out of my body, I was running frantically. My friends and my wife met me at that condition. That is traumatizing.

One of the interviewees (participant 3.2) complain of accusations by those involved in a case and their friends

And also there were cases which when you did (reported or presented a program) them. Even if you are secured you may be afraid because of the power of people you have touched (talked about). You know, there was a case which I investigating the same story. The issue of sodomy in one private secondary schools here in Kano – Hassan Gwarzo to be precise. I have done my investigation. But, I have faced so many psychological problems, because of that report. Many people called me that I have been hired by Israel, have been hired by Jews because the school is Islamic school, I want to tarnish the image of Islam. So many shallow flimsy excuses. But, I know what am doing. Am a Muslim. And also there was a time when I was reporting an incidence some people. I don't know them. They went to my mother. They asked her to stop me from doing it. Because, they tried to stop me but I didn't. They know I will not. So, they went to my mother, they tried to convince her that she should stop me from doing the job because am the only one doing it and may be that may lead to my death. May be the people involved may harm me. And they convinced her. She called and was crying, you know, I was traumatized. It took me some time to convince her. So,

these are some little psychological problems I have encountered during my work.

An interviewee (participant 11.2) responded that only one case kept on coming back to his mind and it was disturbing him. If not because of that, nothing else he is worried about.

Actually nothing is worrying me. Only that case involving mobile police where people started accusing me of being a member of the cult. So, it worries me a lot because my parents and family were not having a mind-rest. After that, I calm down by reminding myself that no risk is bigger if it comes to the issue of this work.

Respondent 8.2 stated that sometime he has to spend the night elsewhere and send his family home so that he can be secured. And he has since given up on attending gatherings and honoring invitations.

I, most a time, used to spend the night somewhere else provided that I sense a problem relating to some programs I present. And whenever am invited for a gathering if it is not for someone from my closest family. I use to send a representative especially when it is political.

#### **4.4.5 LEGAL SAFETY**

Interviewee 3.2 stated that there are a lot of legal implications attached to their work. They sometimes are taken to court. However, no body was been convicted.

Yes, I have so many cases in court right now. Some are pending, some have been closed. There was a former commissioner who reported me to court. He took me to court and my station. There was one magistrate judge, I reported an incidence were she sentenced an old man of 87 years to 25 years imprisonment. And she doesn't have the jurisdiction because I interview a lawyer who said that she doesn't have the jurisdiction to sentence that person to 25

years. I reported it and she was not happy. She took me to court, we are still in court.

He (respondent 3.2) further narrates what is preventing him from going ahead to give other incidences enough attention so as to give his contribution by fighting corruption.

What worries me most is my station. You know, whether you like it or not, if you are taken to court, you have to hire a lawyer, and you have to pay him. This problem is what is always discouraging me in doing some other things because, even though they will not say anything, what my station is spending in this litigation is very exorbitant and you know, you will feel that it is because of you that this is happening. And the station is not gaining much in return. So, it is a problem. And it is disturbing. Let us go back to the issue of psychological problem because it worries me much. And I use to think, oh my God – this is all because of me, why can't I stop this, why am I in this very serious problem? The station is facing economic problem. You know, the recession is everywhere in the country. So, why my job is leading my station to spend too much on me? You know, for depending me in court. So, is very very disturbing. So, this is a great problem we are facing. So, I have so many problems. I have so many cases in court. But, am happy that now it is only one remaining. All the other cases have been closed because of lack of evidences. They just went to court because they want to go to court but not because they have something to offer. But, this case of magistrate is still pending in court.

Another interviewee (participant 4.2) stated that he is very much relieved because they have a backup whenever they are challenged. But they are supported only when they are right.

We have legal help, provided you are right, the management is ready to provide you with a support.

And this is giving us encouragement because of the backing we have from the management.

#### **4.5 THEME TWO: IMPACT OF THE THREAT ON PRACTICE OF JOURNALISM**

The participants stated that threats to journalists are posing a greater challenge to the future of journalism, democracy and the peaceful co-existence of societies.

Participant 5.2 stated that they are sometimes skeptical to report on certain issues and if care is not taken, in the near future, lot of important issues will not be aired.

We are being careful when reporting on some issues especially when it involves strong people. We use to review our program many times before it is aired so as to avoid unwanted calls. We aired a program and it lead to lot of headache.

Some of the participants stated that.

The issue of whether the freedom of expression of the participants is affected by their being denied to report on some issues they feel are important, the participants stated that their freedom of expression has never been affected. However, they added that, it is most likely that in the near future their freedom of expression and that of the poor masses may be submerged.

Participant 2.2 stated that:

My freedom of expression is not limited by any of these actions. However, there is a fear that if government and those that are supposed to come into help of the journalists continue to be reluctant, the future of the freedom of expression is doomed.

Participant 4.2 shared the same view when he said that their attack has never influenced his presentation and I don't think it will ever do. As we were talking a call entered his phone and he referred to the call that it was also an effort to stop him from airing a report which he bowed not to.

I have never for once thought that my freedom of expression is limited or will be limited because what I was doing is what I am doing still and I will not relent in my effort of enlightening the public. All those that are following my programs know that what I was doing is still what I am doing. There is nothing beside improvement. There is a program I am presenting together with one of the prominent legal practitioner in this state. The program is popular because it has wider listenership than the boundaries of the state. People are appreciating it.

Participant 7.2 stated that:

I know that definitely, if nothing is done on such threats, the freedom to speak one's mind will be limited in the future. But as at now nothing stops me from my work. Am presenting and I will continue as am doing with every effort of balancing from all sides unless where one side fail to speak. In such a case I will state clearly to the listeners that I tried to contact the other party but I couldn't reach him.

However, although they deny having being influenced by the attacks as regard to freedom of expression, I observed that most of the interviewed do not want to give detailed account of the incidences. And this may be an indication that their freedom is limited to a certain level.

#### **4.6 THEME THREE: PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN**

Towards the end of the interview, each participant was asked of what they are doing to see that they are free from the threats or attacks laid to them and their responses are that anybody who is out for coverage should be sure that the environment is secured because that is mostly when they are attacked. This is because they are fully identified.

Respondent 1.2 stated that journalists should make sure that the environment they are working at is secured. They should avoid going to places where there are no movements for coverage or

interview. In the case that such need arises, they should go in pairs or with an aid of the security personnel. Let them be with identification because there are good people everywhere and they may come to their aid.

Interviewee 3.2 advised journalists to be sure that they know what they are doing every time. That's when they can be free from any accusation and they can be backed by journalism unions.

Know what you are doing. Never involve yourself in what you do not have knowledge in and avoid anything you have doubt in. Think of the problems you may encounter before you dive into any issue. Think of a way out of all the problems you thought of.

Participant 9.2 advises journalist that they should be careful what they report or present so as not to be caught wanting.

Generally, your safety should come first. This is because what you have reported and the report will be aired either you are alive or not. Every journalist should put this into his consideration before embarking on any investigation. So, you have to make sure that you are secured. But, make sure what you are doing is true. You are not creating false incidence about or against anybody. Then, you have to make sure that, the surrounding, the environment, you want to go is secured. It is within the reach of people. We are in the era of new technology and smart phones are common. There are some applications that you can download in your phone which will show where you/your location is. Then you have to pray. With or without these tips we have to work and people are against anybody who is trying to expose something or expose them. And you know, if you are trying to expose a wrong doing of somebody he will definitely be working to make sure that you are down.

Respondent 8.2 said that he always pray for protection and whenever need arises he call the attention of the CPJ and NUJ.

I pray always. However, when need arises I inform Committee for the Protection of Journalist and/or National Union of Journalists. That is when powerful parties are involved and government delay in providing any support. The unions usually help with advices and call for government intervention.

Interviewee 3.2 stated that journalists unions and other organizations helping the journalists have a lot to contribute in reducing threatening problems faced by the journalists.

Well, you know, all we need is encouragement. You know, there are some organizations like CPJ which are really encouraging journalists. Whenever you are in danger as a journalist, they will come into your rescue. They will provide you with whatever you want. And they will make sure that you are free. Unless if you did something wrong deliberately. But, in the cause of your job – there was a time when AIG of Kano tried to arrest me this CPJ was involved. Even though he didn't attempt to come and arrest me, but they were ready to attack back. And there was a time where I reported on one judge here in Kano, somebody gave an arrest warrant for my arrest and they were involved. They were ready to protect me at that moment. So, organizations like that one are always in place to protect journalists. And it gives us encouragement because whenever I remember CPJ are there I will do my job without being scared. And also our stations, whatever happens to someone in the station, they take it very seriously. If it is something they should sponsor you to travel they will do that.

Interviewee 6.2 lamented the absence of life insurance. Even the one on ground is not working.



There is insurance but it is not working. From what am hearing they are on the process. I don't think in Nigeria, to my knowledge, there is a journalist with life insurance. I don't know.

Interviewee 10.2 shared what he is doing to preserve his safety. He narrates that he is trying to see that whatever he does is not out of sentiment.

Well, all I do is to make sure what am saying is true, to make sure that what am writing with my pen is not out of emotion or sentiment. This is what I do to preserve my safety. After this I do not do anything in the hands of God. So, if I really (know) what am saying is true, then am never afraid of anything because, you know, sometimes someone may die when travelling in an accident. Then if this can happen to somebody, an innocent person just to die like that then I believed I can die when my time come, I will definitely go. So, I don't take anything. I just pray and I know many people are praying for me and I am not doing any other anything.

Interviewee 11.2 responded that one should be very careful when reporting and when presenting. One should always be vigilant so that he will not be accused of anything. One should avoid where there are no people.

#### **4.7 DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

This segment of the research discusses the findings of the research and analyses them by treating the findings in accordance with the research questions.

RESEARCH QUESTION ONE: *What is the nature of professional risks experienced by radio presenters in Kano state?*

The result show that program presenters, just like their fellow reporters, face threats like intimidation, harassment, change of program, denial of benefit, physical attacks, death threats and the like, to the extent that some of them were spending nights elsewhere rather than their homes, using tinted glasses in their cars and avoiding gatherings.

The interview results gathered revealed that all the presenters faced some sort of threat just as Arulchelvan (2016) narrated in his paper “the multitude of risks and threats...are becoming a routine part of journalists’ everyday life”. Buttressing this point, Odowaa (2015) stated that “.....while journalists working in pro-government radio and satellite television stations broadcast anti-militant propaganda are facing threat against their lives from militants, other journalists from independent media outlets face frequent physical attacks through arrest and equipment confiscation”.

Some participants responded that they faced death threat physically, through phone calls and sometimes through short text message. Supporting this, Lohner and Banjac (2016) mentioned some safety challenges facing journalists where he said that “these include physical and psychological individual threats.....monitored, anonymous threat messages or calls, forcing bribe.....,death threats from all angles.....breaching of data safety.....killed, beaten, kidnapped, etc ”. in line with the above, Arulchelvan (2016) narrated that in India journalists face harassment, intimidation and worse death on regular basis. All the respondents face one or all other forms of threats ranging from intimidation, harassment. The situation is the same in the literature as stated above by Lohner and Banjac (2016) and Arulchelvan (2016).

RESEARCH QUESTION TWO: *What is the influence of attacks on freedom of expression among radio presenters in Kano State?*

According to the responses on this question, attacks on the presenters have no influence on their freedom of expression. Participant 2.2, for example stated that his freedom of expression is not limited by any of these actions. Participant 4.2 also stated that their attack has never influenced his presentation. Participant 7.2 added presently nothing stops him from his work. However, some of them stated that it will definitely have bearing on the freedom of expression of the general public in the near future.

All the respondents but one expressed that their freedom of expression was not infringed because they have never relent in their effort. This is in total opposition to what is in literature. An example Hoiby and Ottosen (2016) stated that there is a close link between lack of security and self-censorship. RSF considered threat to journalist a factor that can affect the freedom of speech of the journalists which will in directly affect their freedom of expression. This is expressed in its 2008 report.

RESEARCH QUESTION THREE: *What is the relationship between attacks on Radio presenters in Kano State and self-censorship?*

The result from this question shows that there exists self-censorship to some certain level. This is because by observation some of the respondents are not saying details about some incidences involving them. And that I consider a sort of self-censorship born out of their effort to be extra careful.

Almost all the respondent responded when asked if the threat they are facing affects their profession that they practice some sort of self-censorship. This corresponds with Arulchelvan's view that "the presence of such risks deters journalists from continuing their work and encourages self-censorship". Hoiby and Ottosen (2016) stated that it is evident that there is a close link between lack of security (absence of feeling of being safe) and self-censorship.

Arulchelvan (2016) added that “Journalists have to negotiate their professional existence to survive in the zones of exception, with militants-not ideologically, but strategically”.

Another form of censorship is that which happen from the leaders of the media as a result of fear of threats that came from the ‘untouchables’. They are the people from government, security personnel etc. Supporting this was Pate (2016) who said that “journalists suffered injuries, harassment from security agencies and insurgents”. According to Journalists’ Association of India (1994) “in India, journalists are often pressurized by the local administration from reporting on crucial issues or on a governance matter and even within the organization there is a hierarchical set-up which engages in gatekeeping”.

RESEARCH QUESTION FOUR: *What are the specific measures taken by Radio Presenters in Kano State?*

All the respondents re-stated their dependence on Allah as the first measure of protection by constant prayer. Other measures taken include constant observation of who are following one when going somewhere, informing management of the station if it persisted, informing journalists union bodies both national and international, using tinted glass in their cars and denying going to gatherings.

Majority of the participants responded that they share their bitter experience with their colleagues who offer them advice, their immediate family who, sometimes discourage them from continuing with the work, their media outlets’ management who also offer them advices and encouragement as well as support (sometimes). One person does share it with Nigerian Union of Journalist and Committee for the Protection of Journalist. They advise him each time he contacted them and offer him support where possible.

All the respondents stress the absence of proper insurance. This is also what is found in the literature where Pate and Idris (2016) indicated in their recommendation of their paper “*Professionalism and Risk Management in the Reporting of Terror Groups and Violent Extremism in North East Nigeria, 2009-2015. How Journalists Survived in Report*” that many of the journalists operate without it (insurance). And the group life insurance initiated by NUJ is not adequate.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

This chapter revisits what has been discussed in the study from chapter one to four. It therefore summarizes the entire research work, draws conclusions based on the findings of the study, and makes recommendations about areas of further research, by identifying relevant issues which have not been addressed in the study.

#### **5.1 SUMMARY**

Chapter one of this research provided that, journalists have been identified as effective in facilitating means by which the general public can express themselves freely by members of the society. This is because freedom of expression is an essential tool for human living and is essential for smooth running of democracy. However, the journalists freedom is prove to be limited by threats they are facing in the cause of discharging their duties. The main problem that leads to embarking upon this research is that priority is given to reporters who are only a part of journalist neglecting program presenters and other media workers. This research is very significant to the researcher because it added to his knowledge. It is also important because it added to the body of literature especially that it is one of the few of such in this area being it a new one. It is important in another sense because it will be an essential tool in understanding the reality and magnitude of the problem and possible ways in which the problem can be tackled. The main aim of this study is therefore to find out the relationship between professional safety of the program presenters and their work. Objectives of the study were driven from the aim stated above and they were turned to research questions in order to achieve the purpose of this study within the scope of Kano state in 2017 among political and magazine program presenters

only. This research is limited by lack of full cooperation from the side of the respondents. This is because it was very difficult to have many of them to grant one a chance of an interview; it was hectic to have them in a single group for focus group discussion; some of them denied their voice to be recorded. Some key terms were defined after a brief history of broadcasting in northern Nigeria.

Chapter two provided the review of relevant literature under the headings of journalism in a democratic society, freedom of the press, professionalism, ethics of journalistic practice, freedom of expression and freedom of the press. After reviewing all the existing literature under the listed headings above, it was found out that all the concentration of the literature was on the reporters. This constitutes the gap in literature which the researcher wishes to fill. Two theories were linked to this study – Cultural Violence theory and New Institutionalism theory where it was found that there is a positive relationship with the Cultural Violence theory with the study while there exists a negative relationship with the study. In chapter three, it was related that qualitative in depth interview design was used to get and analyze the responses of eleven (11) respondents purposely selected among the total population (i.e the program presenters) during the time of the study. This came after two focus group discussion sessions were conducted with six (6) people each from among the program presenters in order to establish the problem. Chapter four presents and analyzed the data gotten. The findings were later discussed. Chapter five provided the summary of the entire research work. It was concluded that program presenters especially those presenting programs on issues that directly touches the interest of the general public (e.g magazine and political programs) face threat; those threats come from government officials, security personnel and other powerful individuals from the society. Hence they engage in self-censorship; they are usually left to decide what to do except in some cases

(example were one is advised by a co-worker or a union); there is no issue of insurance to the journalists. At the end recommendations were made.

## **5.2 CONCLUSION**

From the findings of the research, it is clear that program presenters face threats. These include external threats like death threat, physical attacks, harassment, intimidation, economic insecurity, psychological disturbances and legal related problems. Sometimes they face internal threats like denial of benefit and sometimes change of program or department. Most of the presenters claimed that their right to freedom of expression was not infringed. However, all of them agreed that if the practice persists, there will be a greater set back to freedom of expression in a near future.

Self-censorship is practiced sometimes by the respondents. These include halting a program or report before it is finalized, admission of inability to balance a story, saying little about a story, etc., for the fear of the unknown.

The respondents stated different safety measures they apply when the expected happened. It ranges from avoiding spending the night at home, using tinted glass on their cars, avoiding social gatherings unless necessary, avoiding answering calls from hidden identities, constant prayer, and seeking advice from professionals and colleagues.

This clearly indicates the risk at which the journalists are feeding us the stories which we usually enjoy while at the comfort of our residences. Upon all that government display a non-chalant attitude and allow the life of these warriors of democracy and champions of sustainable development at stake. The teaming members of their audience also are ignorant of the consequences of the news and stories they are receiving.



In short, if at all journalists are to truly enjoy the freedom granted to them and also help the public exercise their freedom of expression, they need protection. SDG 16 specifically enjoins all member states to “ensure public access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements”. This is what the journalists are doing and for that they have every right to be protected.

### **5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS**

From the foregoing, it is recommended that:

1. Program presenters in particular and the journalists in general should stick to their ethics and they should be educated on protective measures to apply in case of the unwanted.
2. Ensure proper follow up of cases and justice whenever such cases are taken to court. This will let the journalists have confidence in reporting and presenting issues that will take our society back or that which will stand against justice and societal development.
3. Journalists, especially journalists should try to educate the general public on the dangers they are facing and they should publicize any criminality or threat directed to any journalist.
4. Organize forums where security personnel and journalists will discuss the issues of security versus that of threats faced by program presenters in particular and the journalists in general.
5. Insurance cover should be provided for the journalists. This will give them some level of confidence to confront issues of mischief, corruption and injustice.
6. Another research should be conducted on the role of security personnel in relation to threats faced by journalist particularly the group in question, and/or the political reasons behind violence to journalists in general.

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## **APPENDIX I**

### **FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE QUESTIONS**

The questions underneath were used as a guide in the focus group discussion.

1. Which program do you present?
2. How long have you been in journalism?
3. Can you please describe the nature of your job?
4. Do you think radio presenters face threats while carrying out their duty?
5. Have you ever been threatened?
6. What kind of threat?
7. Can you please tell me the source of the threat?
8. What did you do after the threat?
9. Did you think your right to freedom of expression or any other right was infringed?
10. Did you share such problem with anybody?
11. What was the reaction of those you share that problem with?
12. Did such threat affect your professional career in any way?
13. Is there anything you want to share on this?

## **APPENDIX II**

### **IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW QUESTIONS**

The interview questions asked are listed underneath. Some of the questions were used in the Focus Group Discussion.

14. Which program do you present?
15. How long have you been in journalism?
16. Can you please describe the nature of your job?
17. Do you think radio presenters face threats while carrying out their duty?
18. Have you ever been threatened?
19. What kind of threat?
20. Can you please tell me the source of the threat?
21. What did you do after the threat?
22. Did you think your right to freedom of expression or any other right was infringed?
23. Did you share such problem with anybody?
24. What was the reaction of those you share that problem with?
25. Did such threat affect your professional career in any way?
26. Is there anything you want to share on this?
27. How can you relate the current economic challenges with the quality of journalism?
28. Do you think the problems especially that of threat to lives and properties of journalists will affect them psychologically?
29. Do you think journalists have legal protection?