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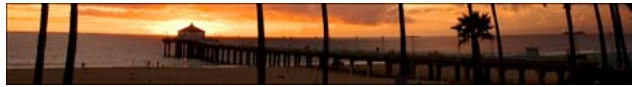
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[Nigeria: Killing of Journalists](#)

29 April 2010

EDITORIAL

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Lagos — THE recent gruesome murder of three Nigerian journalists, in two different attacks, have, again, exposed the increasing state of insecurity in the country and suggests that journalists may have truly become endangered species.

The chilling accounts of how the assassinations were carried out, in Lagos and Jos, show the general poor rating of human life in the country.

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At about 6.30pm on Saturday, April 24, 2010, yet-to-be identified gunmen, invaded the Shasha, Lagos residence of Mr. Edo Sule-Ugbagwu, a judiciary correspondent of The Nation newspaper and shot and killed him.

Mr. Okloho, Edu's younger brother, who witnessed the killing, said the assassins first confronted him and asked him to bring 'the money.' But as he tried to explain that he had no money to give, Edu, his elder brother came in to meet them and the gunmen shot and killed him and walked away without stealing anything from the house.

Edu's wife, who was waiting for her husband opposite their house at the time of the incident, revealed that she was going out with Edu, when somebody called his mobile phone. Edu, reportedly gave the caller direction to their house and requested his wife to wait for him outside as he wanted to receive some visitors. But as he got back to his flat, Edu was shot and left to die in the pool of his blood.



Stephen Mudiari/Daily Nation

Two other journalists, Mr. Nathan S. Debak, the Deputy Editor, Sunday and Mr. Gyang Bwede, a reporter, both of who worked with The Light Bearer newspaper, a publication of the Church of Christ in Nigeria, COCIN, headquarters, Jos, were also willfully killed in very chilling circumstances, this time in Plateau State.

The two reporters were on an assignment in the Nasarawa Gwom area of Jos North Local Government when they ran into rioters at Dutse Uku. According to reports, after pleading with the armed rioters and explaining that they were journalists on assignment, the killers stabbed them mercilessly and abandoned them to die at the scene of the incident.

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This worry is fuelled by the general concern over the increasing cases of unresolved murders in the country, including the parcel bombing of ace journalist, Dele Giwa and the brutal killings of political leaders and elders like Bola Ige, Harry Marshall and Alfred Rewane, to mention but a few.

While condemning the killings, we insist that the police must not treat this case like the other unresolved high profile murders.

The image of the police in particular and of Nigeria in general has continued to suffer great blows as a result of the piling cases of unresolved high and low profile murders and this

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must be reversed through resolution of these puzzles.

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The task of resolving murders or other crimes should not, however, be left to the police alone. The public has very important roles to play, especially in the area of provision of information.



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Many citizens in Nigeria, however, still shy away from playing this vital role, primarily because of lack of confidence in the police .This has affected negatively the effectiveness of investigators, who, thus, have little or no clues to work with.

Relevant Links
West Africa Nigeria Media Human Rights Legal Affairs

Also, the society is not so well ordered that there is a credible data bank of residents, including, at least, their addresses, vehicle particulars, telephone details and such like. Unfortunately, however, Nigeria is yet to fully complete the controversial National Identification Card project which would have been a step in the right direction.

Sadly, the reality suggests that the country is one big jungle where gunmen walk casually into people's homes in broad daylight, shoot their victims point blank and stroll away, unchallenged, unidentified and unidentifiable because nobody is ready to volunteer information. This must stop.

We, therefore, call on the acting President Goodluck Jonathan-led Federal Government to ensure that the killers of these three journalists are immediately caught and prosecuted. Also, if Nigeria wants to be taken seriously, time has come when the killers of similar murders must be fished out to face the law.