



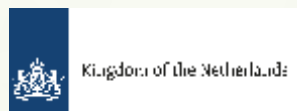
Media credibility, investigative reporting and artificial intelligence

Monday, 9 December 2024, 5:00pm

AGIP Recital Hall, MUSON Centre, 8/9, Marina Road, Onikan, Lagos

**#WSAIR2024**

*Supported by*



# Order of events



Welcome protocol/National anthem – *Nabilah Usman, Compere*

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Introduction of guests – *Compere*

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Opening remarks – *Motunrayo Alaka, Executive Director/CEO, WSCIJ*

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Goodwill message - *Michel Deelen, Consul General, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Lagos*

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Service Awards – *WSCIJ Board Members*

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Judges' comment – *Stella Din Jacob, Chair, 2024 Judges Board*

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Presentation of awards

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Category Awards – *Online, Radio, Television, Print, Photo & Editorial Cartoon*

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Honorary Awards – *Lifetime Award for Journalistic Excellence & Human Rights Defender Award*

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Appreciation

## Welcome Speech

### Honouring excellence to defend civic space, and advance media credibility

**A**vibrant civic space is the lifeblood of a healthy democracy. It is where citizens can freely express their opinions, organise, and participate in public life without fear of reprisal. Investigative journalists play a crucial role in protecting this space by exposing attempts to suppress dissent and curtail freedom of expression.

Despite the numerous challenges faced by investigative reporters, many journalists remain steadfast in their commitment to holding governments and citizens to account. By uncovering corruption, abuse of power, and social injustice, these journalists empower the public to demand transparency and good governance. To recognise their invaluable contributions, the Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism (WSCIJ) has honored the work of exceptional investigative journalists for the past 19 years.

This year, WSCIJ is proud to present the Human Rights Defender Award to Beko Ransome-Kuti (Dr.), renowned for his unwavering commitment to justice, human rights and accountable governance. He was a fearless physician and activist, who dedicated his life to defending civil liberties, advocating for the oppressed, and challenging injustices with remarkable courage. In life and in death, Beko Ransome-Kuti remains remarkable. The Lifetime Award for Journalistic Excellence will be presented to Chinyere Okunna (Professor) in recognition of her unwavering dedication to advancing the Nigerian media landscape. Her remarkable achievements, including being Nigeria's first female professor of Mass Communication and her steadfast commitment to championing women's development in media and society, serve as a beacon of inspiration and progress.

The Nigerian news media community has faced several harassments recently including the arrest of Fisayo Soyombo, Founder, Foundation for Investigative Journalism (FIJ) by the Nigerian Army a few days ago but we remain confident. The Nigerian media has its issues but timidity in the face of oppression is not one of them. We also know that multi-stakeholder conversations with the security and other agents will yield results.

The Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting investigative journalists through its Civic Space Guard programme. With the invaluable support of the Netherlands Embassy these years, we continue to foster an environment where investigative journalism flourishes and freedom of expression is the norm.

Thank you for being part of this vital mission.

**Motunrayo Alaka**  
Executive Director/CEO  
Wole Soyinka Centre for Investigative Journalism





## Award finalists



**Victor Asowata**  
THE WILL



**Aaron Atsahyel**  
Trust



**Umar Audu**  
Daily Nigerian



**Chukwuemeka Emenike**  
New Telegraph



**Olufunke Fayemi**  
VON



**Ann Godwin**  
The Guardian



**Olukayode Jaiyeola**  
PUNCH



**Mansur Ibrahim**  
The Cable



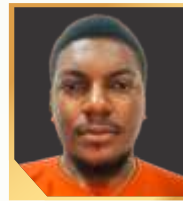
**Jemilat Nasiru**  
The Cable



**Segun Odunayo**  
PUNCH



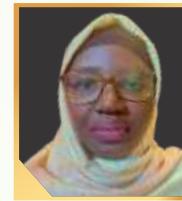
**Isaac Ojo**  
The Cable



**Daniel Ojukwu**  
The Cable



**Elliot Ovadje**  
PUNCH



**Lami Sadiq**  
DAILY TRUST



**Adedoja Salam-Adeniyi**  
TVC NEWS

## Service Awards to WSCIJ Board of Trustees (2009-2024)



**Ropo Sekoni (Prof)**  
Board Chair



**Jiti Ogunye**  
Board Secretary



**Idowu Obasa**  
Board Member



**Chinyere Okunna (Prof)**  
Lifetime Award for  
Journalistic Excellence



**Beko Ransome-Kuti (Dr)**  
Human Rights Defender  
Award (Posthumous)

## Honorary Award Recipient

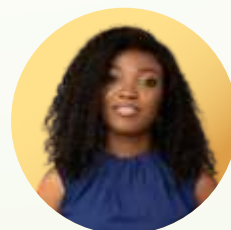
## Judges



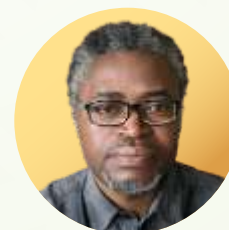
**Stella Din-Jacob**  
TVC Communications,  
Director of News



**Dayo Aiyetan**  
Executive Director, International Centre  
for Investigative Reporting (ICIR)



**Stella Iyaji**  
Managing Editor, Daily Trust



**Akintunde Akinleye**  
PhD Candidate, Carleton University



**Mike Asukwo**  
Cartoonist, BusinessDay

## Arrested for doing good? #JournalistsNotACrime

According to the Press Attack Tracker a tool developed by the Centre for Journalism Innovation and Development (CJID) to track, verify and document incidents of Press Freedom violations, a total of 128 journalists have been subjected to various forms of attacks by state and non-state actors so far in 2024, with one reported death.

The #EndBadGovernance protest on August 1 was a particularly notable incident, with 68 reporters suffering attacks.

Below are a few notable cases:



### Jide Oyekunle

Daily Independent Newspapers

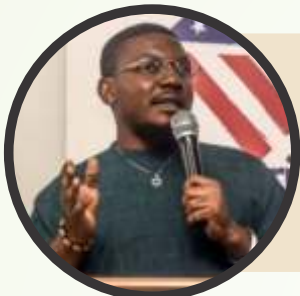
Taken away by a police officer for covering the #EndBadGovernance protest in Abuja on Thursday 1 August.



### Azeez Adisa-Jaji

Informant247

Charged with cybercrime and defamation after reporting on a fraud investigation on Monday 5 February.



### Daniel Ojukwu

Foundation for Investigative Journalism (FIJ)

On Wednesday 1 May, he was arrested and detained for nine days based on a petition accusing him of violating the Cybercrimes Act for a story he authored.



### Fisayo Soyombo

Foundation for Investigative Journalism (FIJ)

Detained and held incommunicado for three days by the 6th Amphibious Division of the Nigerian Army in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, on Thursday 28 November.



### Idibia Gabriel

Freelance Journalist, Kaduna

Brutalised by Nigerian police officers on Tuesday 11 June for taking pictures of them transporting seized cattle. Suffered eye injuries as a result of the alleged torture



### Kasarachi Aniagolu

The Whistler Newspaper

Unlawfully detained by the Anti-Violence Crime Unit of the Nigerian Police Force on Thursday 22 February while covering a police raid on Bureau de Change operators. Assaulted, threatened, and had her journalistic equipment confiscated. Detained alongside 95 forex traders.



### Salihu Ayatullahi

Informant247

Charged with cybercrime and defamation after publishing an investigative report to expose corruption at Kwara State Polytechnic on Monday 5 February.



### Abdulrasheed Hammad

Freelance Journalist

On Thursday 15 August, received a phone call from a Department of State Services (DSS) official in Sokoto State, who stated the invitation was connected to an investigative story published by TheCable.



### Adejuwon Soyinka

The Conversation Africa

Detained and interrogated for about 8 hours by the State Security Service (SSS) upon arrival at Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos on Sunday, 25 August. The SSS' first explanation for the arrest was that Soyinka's name was placed on its watchlist on the request of an unnamed government agency. It later blamed the entire saga on a possible mistaken identity.

#### WSCIJ Contact Details:

5 Solanke Close, Off Ajose Street, Mende, Maryland, Lagos, Nigeria.

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