



## Media Foundation for West Africa

Fondation pour les Medias en Afrique de  
l'Ouest (FMAO)

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Mr. Sulemana Braimah

The Governor  
Delta State  
Government House, Asaba  
Delta State  
Federal Republic of Nigeria

May 3, 2020

Dear Governor Ifeanyi Arthur Okowa,

**Petition: Addressing Violations Against Journalists and  
Protecting Their Safety**

The Media Foundation for West Africa (MFWA) presents its compliments to you.

We are writing to you as West Africa's leading press freedom organisation to express our concern about the assault on two journalists, Michael Ikeogwu and Mathew Omonigho, who were covering issues related to the COVID-19 in Delta State, and to kindly seek your assistance to have the attacks investigated and addressed.

On April 1, 2020, some members of the State Environment Task Force, who were supervising a clean-up exercise at the Uvwie Local Government area, assaulted Michael Ikeogwu, the Delta State Chairman of Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) and Mathew Omonigho, the *Daily Post's* correspondent in the State.

The two journalists had gone to the Uvwie Local Government Area to monitor and report on the state of compliance with the lockdown order issued by your government to curtail the spread COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Ikeogwu, he and his colleague came upon some locals engaged in a clean-up exercise under the supervision of some members of the environment taskforce. He said when he approached the leader of the environment task force and asked him why they were forcing residents to carry out the sanitation exercise despite the government's lock down order, the official, identified as Kingsley Iweka, took offense who ordered his subordinates to attack him and Omonigho.

Omonigho's Nikon D3100 camera was reportedly destroyed by the members of the task force who also allegedly detained the two journalists for about 45 minutes.

The MFWA finds this attacks on journalists as unfortunate and inappropriate of agents of your highly important State. We are therefore bringing the matter to your attention and humbly urging you to use your good office to ensure that the incident is investigated and the culprits duly punished.

Yours sincerely,



Sulemana Braimah

Executive Director