

**Evaluation of the Punch and the Nigerian Tribune Reportage of Police Brutality between
January 2016 and September 2020**

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Technology, Faculty of Communication and Information Science, Lead City University,
Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria**

**In Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Award of Master of Science Degree
(M.Sc) in Mass Communication and Media Technology**

Certification

This is to certify that Romario Ayibanadei MIZPAH (LCU/PG/001468) conducted this study for the award of Master of Science (M.Sc.) Degree in Mass Communication and Media Technology in Faculty of Communication and Information Sciences, Lead City University, Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria, under my supervision.

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Head of Department

Date

Dedication

This work is dedicated to God Almighty, the giver of life.

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Acknowledgement

I am grateful to God Almighty for seeing me through the attainment of another important milestone in my search for knowledge.

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Even though the above-mentioned institutions and persons have assisted in the process of this research work, I alone stand responsible for the errors, if any, found in the work

Abstract

Police brutality has occurred all across the world and is still a major concern amongst society and police organizations. This brutality ranges from assaults, death as a result of use of force, harassment. In Nigeria, cases of brutality have been part of country history as it was happening during the colonial era because of protests, and at the present moment it is worse as people have rights and most people have access to camcorders to record such incidents which at the later stage attract media attention. The study assessed *the Punch* and *Nigerian Tribune* reportage of police brutality between January 1st, 2016 and September 30th, 2020. The study adopted Agenda-Setting and Social Responsibility theory as theoretical framework. Content analysis research design was adopted to examine contents of the selected newspapers in addressing the research objectives. Findings show that a total of 1446 items were reported by the selected newspapers within the study period. Individually, *The Punch* reported 551 items while *Nigerian Tribune* reported 895 items on Police brutality. The study revealed that 106(53.3%) of *The Punch* publications and 421(85.6) of the *Nigerian Tribune* publications performed the correlation functions while 93(46.7%) of *Punch* publications and 71(14.4%) of the *Nigerian Tribune's* publications performed surveillance functions of the media. 426 publications on Police brutality involved eyewitness accounts, 265 publications included Police reports, 259 publications comprised relatives of the victims on the incidents, and 224 of the publications had sources for their reports. The study recommended newspapers should constantly cover and report cases of Police brutality as to inform and educate the society on the dangers caused as a result of Police brutality.

Keywords: Human rights, Mass media, Newspapers, Police brutality, Violence

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List of Acronyms

Abbreviation	Meaning
SARS	Special Anti-Robbery Squad
NTA	Nigerian Television Authority
MOPOL	Nigerian Mobile Police
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NPF	Nigeria Police Force