

Q3 2026

July to September 2026

Quarter in progress. Figures cover records published up to 16 Sept 2026. Generated 16 Sept 2026.

PUBLISHED RECORDS	CHANGE ON Q2 2026	STATES NAMED	REPORTING ORGANISATIONS
12	-4	1	8

12 civic space records were published for July to September 2026, against 16 in April to June 2026. Legal and Regulatory Framework was the most frequently recorded category. 10 of these came from reports written at national level that name no state.

Records by category

Legal & Regulatory	6
Arrests & Detention	4
Citizen Engagement	1
Harassment	1
Government Discourse	0
Resource Access	0

Where records were located

Federal Capital Territory	2
Plus 10 national-level records naming no state.	

Who reported these incidents

Rights monitors	3	AllAfrica	2	Daily Trust	1
News outlets	9	Committee to Protect Journalists	2	Human Rights Watch	1
Official and court records	0	Sahara Reporters	2	P.M. News	1
		Vanguard	2	ThisDay	1

8 SEPT 2026 · NATIONAL · CPN-0001

Nigeria: NGO Bill and state overreach

Commentary arguing that compulsory registration, inspections and broad disclosure requirements in the NGO Bill risk turning legitimate civil society and humanitarian work into targets of state surveillance.

AllAfrica: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202609080683.html>

7 SEPT 2026 · NATIONAL · CPN-0002

Foreign aid bill pits Senate against NGOs

Coverage of the standoff between the Senate and civil society over the Foreign Aid Bill, which would compel NGOs to disclose funds and humanitarian aid received from foreign donors.

Daily Trust: <https://dailytrust.com/foreign-aid-bill-pits-senate-against-ngos/>

31 AUG 2026 · NATIONAL · CPN-0003

Nigeria: Foreign Aid Bill endangers civil society

HRW urges the National Assembly to reject the Foreign Aid (Regulation, Transparency and Disclosure) Bill, warning that provisions giving authorities influence over the funding and activities of independent organisations would undermine civil society independence.

Human Rights Watch: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/08/31/nigeria-foreign-aid-bill-endangers-civil-society>

31 AUG 2026 · NATIONAL · CPN-0004

HRW urges National Assembly to reject Foreign Aid Bill, warns of government control over NGOs

Nigerian coverage of Human Rights Watch's call for the National Assembly to reject the Foreign Aid Bill over its implications for NGO independence.

ThisDay: <https://www.thisdaylive.com/2026/08/31/hrw-urges-national-assembly-to-reject-foreign-aid-bill-warns-of-govt-control-over-ngos/>

25 AUG 2026 · NATIONAL · CPN-0005

Lawyer seeks UN human rights engagement over prolonged detention of activist Aghogho

Counsel to activist Ighorhiohwunu Aghogho approached the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria over the activist's prolonged detention and the continued pendency of his criminal proceedings.

Sahara Reporters: <https://saharareporters.com/2026/08/25/lawyer-seeks-un-human-rights-engagement-over-prolonged-detention-activist-aghogho>

1 AUG 2026 · FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY · CPN-0006

Cybercrime charge: Sowore kicks as DSS moves to foreclose his defence

Prosecution counsel applied for the court to foreclose the defence of Omoyele Sowore, leading to an altercation and the abrupt ending of proceedings by Justice Mohammed Umar.

Vanguard: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2026/08/cybercrime-charge-sowore-kicks-as-dss-moves-to-foreclose-his-defence/>

1 AUG 2026 · NATIONAL · CPN-0007

CSOs urge National Assembly to withdraw bills threatening civic space

More than 100 Nigerian, African and international human rights organisations called on the National Assembly to withdraw bills they describe as restrictive and capable of undermining civic space ahead of the 2027 general elections.

Vanguard: <https://www.vanguardngr.com/2026/08/csos-urge-nass-to-withdraw-bills-threatening-civic-space/>

Nigeria: Senate tightens noose on foreign aid, moves to bring NGOs under stricter oversight

The Senate passed the Foreign Aid (Regulation, Transparency and Disclosure) Bill 2026 for second reading on 22 July 2026. The bill would create a Foreign Aid Regulatory Commission empowered to track, register, audit, coordinate, sanction and suspend foreign grants and donor funds.

AllAfrica: <https://allafrica.com/stories/202607240073.html>

Amnesty International demands immediate withdrawal of charges against Sowore

Amnesty International Nigeria called on the government to withdraw all charges against Omoyele Sowore, describing the prosecution as politically motivated and condemning the use of the Cybercrimes Act against government critics.

Sahara Reporters: <https://saharareporters.com/2026/07/23/amnesty-international-demands-immediate-withdrawal-charges-against-sowore-sham-trial/>

NBC to set up tribunal for broadcast violations

The National Broadcasting Commission announced plans to establish a tribunal for broadcast violations following court rulings against its power to impose fines directly.

P.M. News: <https://pmnewsnigeria.com/2026/07/19/nbc-to-set-up-tribunal-for-broadcast-violations/>

Nigeria jails journalist for 2 months pending trial over corruption reporting

Stanley Ugagbe of Secret Reporters was seized from a taxi in Abuja on 1 July 2026 by security officers and held at the National Cybercrime Centre until 6 July, then remanded for two months of pretrial detention on cybercrime and defamation charges arising from his reporting on alleged official corruption.

Committee to Protect Journalists: <https://cpj.org/2026/07/nigeria-jails-journalist-for-2-months-pending-trial-over-corruption-reporting/>

3 Nigerian journalists harassed with detention, summons, punitive bail conditions

CPJ documents the detention of journalist Zainab Sodiq on 8 July 2026 and an espionage summons issued to Secret Reporters publisher Fejiro Oliver on 6 July 2026, alongside punitive bail conditions imposed on a third journalist.

Committee to Protect Journalists: <https://cpj.org/2026/07/3-nigerian-journalists-harassed-with-detention-summons-punitive-bail-conditions/>

How this report was compiled

Every record in this report is compiled by hand from reports published by named rights monitors, news outlets and official bodies, and links to the source it draws on. Each record is dated to the incident where its source gives that date, and otherwise to the date the source was published. The figures show what has been recorded, not the full extent of what has happened: incidents that were never reported do not appear, and a state with few records is not necessarily a state where little took place.