

FROM CREDIBILITY TO CONTROVERSY: ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF THE 1993 ELECTION ANNULMENT ON NIGERIA'S DEMOCRATIC JOURNEY

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Abstract: Promoting Democratic Governance in Nigeria: Challenges and Democratization, Prospects faced by late NEC Chairman Professor Humphrey Nwosu. The main Electoral objective of this study was to investigate the challenges facing Nigeria's Integrity, democratic governance and identify prospects for promoting democratic governance in the country. The study employed a mixed-methods research Governance, design, combining both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The study Electoral Reform, used a survey research method, with a structured questionnaire administered Civil Society to high-profile individuals across the public sector administration. The study Engagement, obtained data from high-profile individuals across the public sector Accountability administration. The study used descriptive statistics, such as frequencies and percentages, to summarize the data. Inferential statistics, such as chi-square and regression analysis, were used to test hypotheses and identify relationships between variables. The study adopted the democratic governance theory, which posits that democratic governance is characterized by the principles of transparency, accountability, and participation. The study used the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25 to analyze the data. The study revealed three major findings: electoral malpractices are prevalent in Nigeria's democratic governance, lack of accountability and transparency is a major challenge facing Nigeria's public sector administration, and civil society organizations and the media are restricted from operating freely. The study recommends electoral reform to ensure transparency and accountability, promoting accountability and transparency in the public sector administration, and ensuring that civil society organizations and the media are allowed to operate freely. Promoting democratic governance in Nigeria requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders to address the challenges facing the country's democratic governance.

Keywords: Democratic Governance, Electoral Reform, Accountability, Civil Society Engagement, Nigeria

Introduction

The annulment of the June 12, 1993, presidential election in Nigeria, which was won by the late Chief Moshood Abiola, marked a watershed moment in the country's democratic governance. The election, which was widely regarded as free and fair, was annulled by the military regime of General Ibrahim Babangida, citing flimsy reasons. This egregious act of electoral malfeasance sparked widespread outrage and protests, leading to a prolonged period of political instability and crisis (Diamond, 1995).

The annulment of the June 12 election was a stark reminder of the profound challenges facing Nigeria's democratic governance. Despite the country's transition to democracy in 1999, the electoral process has remained a major source of contention and conflict. The manipulation of the electoral process, including the use of violence, intimidation, and bribery, has become a commonplace phenomenon, undermining the integrity of the electoral process and the legitimacy of democratic institutions (Human Rights Watch, 2020).

The role of the NEC Chairman, Professor Humphrey Nwosu, in promoting democratic governance in Nigeria is a critical issue that requires examination. As the NEC Chairman from 1989 to 1993, Nwosu oversaw the June 12, 1993, presidential election, which was widely regarded as the freest and fairest election in Nigeria's history (Nwosu, 2005).

Nwosu's commitment to democratic principles was evident in his introduction of the innovative Option A4 voting system and the Open Ballot system. Despite facing immense pressure from the military regime, Nwosu remained resolute in his determination to ensure the integrity of the electoral process (Omotola, 2009). The June 12 election, which was won by Chief Moshood Abiola, was annulled by the military regime, sparking widespread outrage and protests. Nwosu's refusal to compromise on the election results earned him acclaim as a champion of democracy (Ake, 1996).

Throughout his career, Nwosu demonstrated unwavering dedication to promoting democratic governance in Nigeria. His legacy serves as a testament to the importance of upholding democratic principles, even in the face of adversity (Nwabueze, 2013).

Sadly, Professor Nwosu passed away on October 20, 2024, at the age of 83, and will be buried in his hometown of Ajalli, Orumba North Local Government Area of Anambra State, Nigeria. His contributions to Nigeria's democratic development will be remembered for generations to come.

The global community has played a crucial role in promoting democratic governance in Nigeria. International organizations, such as the European Union and the United States, have provided technical assistance and support to Nigeria's electoral body, helping to strengthen the integrity of the electoral process (European Union, 2020).

The media has also played a critical role in promoting democratic governance in Nigeria. The media has helped to raise awareness about electoral issues and has provided a platform for citizens to express their views and opinions (Freedom House, 2020).

However, despite these efforts, Nigeria's democratic governance remains fragile and vulnerable to manipulation. The country's electoral process is still marred by violence, intimidation, and bribery, undermining the integrity of the electoral process and the legitimacy of democratic institutions (International Crisis Group, 2020).

Therefore, this study aims to investigate the profound contributions of Professor Humphrey Nwosu to Nigeria's democratic governance, with a focus on the challenge of the annulment of national elections amidst the views of the global world.

Research Questions

1. What were the underlying factors that led to the annulment of the June 12, 1993, presidential election in Nigeria, and what were the implications of this action for the country's democratic governance?
2. To what extent did Professor Humphrey Nwosu's leadership as NEC Chairman contribute to the integrity and legitimacy of the June 12, 1993, presidential election, and what lessons can be learned from his experience?
3. How has the legacy of the June 12, 1993, presidential election influenced Nigeria's democratic development, and what are the implications of this legacy for the country's future democratic prospects?
4. What are the key challenges facing Nigeria's electoral process, and how can the country's electoral authorities, civil society, and international partners work together to promote free, fair, and credible elections in Nigeria?

Objectives of the study

The broad objective is to critically examine the contributions of Professor Humphrey Nwosu to Nigeria's democratic governance, with a focus on the June 12, 1993, presidential election and its implications for the country's democratic development. Whereas the specific objectives are:

1. To investigate the circumstances surrounding the annulment of the June 12, 1993, presidential election in Nigeria, and to examine the role of key stakeholders, including Professor Humphrey Nwosu, in the election process.
2. To analyze the impact of the June 12, 1993, presidential election on Nigeria's democratic development, including its influence on the country's electoral reforms, democratic institutions, and civil society.
3. To evaluate the contributions of Professor Humphrey Nwosu to Nigeria's democratic governance, including his leadership as NEC Chairman, his commitment to democratic principles, and his legacy in promoting free, fair, and credible elections in Nigeria.
4. To identify the lessons that can be learned from the June 12, 1993, presidential election and Professor Humphrey Nwosu's experience, and to recommend strategies for promoting democratic governance, electoral integrity, and political stability in Nigeria.

Significance of the study

This study is significant for several reasons. Firstly, it provides a critical examination of the contributions of Professor Humphrey Nwosu to Nigeria's democratic governance, which is essential for understanding the country's democratic development. The study sheds light on the leadership and commitment of Professor Nwosu to democratic principles, which is a vital aspect of democratic governance (Omotola, 2009). For instance, Professor Nwosu's introduction of the Option A4 voting system and the Open Ballot system was a significant innovation that helped to promote transparency and accountability in the electoral process (Nwosu, 2005).

Furthermore, this study is significant because it analyzes the impact of the June 12, 1993, presidential election on Nigeria's democratic development. The election was a watershed moment in Nigeria's democratic history, and its annulment had far-reaching consequences for the country's democratic governance (Diamond, 1995). For example, the annulment of the election led to a prolonged period of political instability and crisis, which undermined the legitimacy of democratic institutions and the rule of law (Ake, 1996).

In addition, this study is significant because it identifies the lessons that can be learned from the June 12, 1993, presidential election and Professor Humphrey Nwosu's experience. The study provides valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities of promoting democratic governance in Nigeria, which is essential for policymakers, scholars, and practitioners (Nwabueze, 2013). For instance, the study highlights the importance of electoral reform, democratic institution-building, and civil society engagement in promoting democratic governance and political stability in Nigeria (International Crisis Group, 2020).

Moreover, this study is significant because it contributes to the existing body of knowledge on democratic governance and electoral politics in Nigeria. The study provides a nuanced understanding of the complex relationships between democratic institutions, civil society, and the state in Nigeria, which is essential for promoting democratic governance and political stability (Elaigwu, 2005). For example, the study analyzes the role of the NEC Chairman in promoting democratic governance and electoral integrity in Nigeria, which is a critical aspect of democratic institution-building (European Union Election Observation Mission, 2019).

Conceptual Issues

Democratization: This concept refers to the process of transitioning from an authoritarian regime to a democratic system of government. In Nigeria, the democratization process has been slow and challenging, with the country experiencing a series of military interventions and electoral malpractices (Ake, 1996). For example, the annulment of the June 12, 1993, presidential election was a major setback for Nigeria's democratization process.

Electoral Integrity: This concept refers to the degree to which electoral processes are free from manipulation and corruption. In Nigeria, electoral integrity has been a major challenge, with the country experiencing widespread electoral violence, voter suppression, and votebuying (European Union Election Observation Mission, 2019). For example, the 2019 general elections in Nigeria were marred by widespread electoral violence and malpractices.

Democratic Governance: This concept refers to the system of government in which power is vested in the people and exercised through free and fair elections. In Nigeria, democratic governance has been a major challenge, with the country experiencing a series of military interventions, electoral malpractices, and human rights abuses (Human Rights Watch, 2020). For example, the Nigerian government has been criticized for its human rights record, particularly in the areas of freedom of speech and assembly.

Electoral Reform: This concept refers to the process of improving the electoral system to make it more transparent, accountable, and inclusive. In Nigeria, electoral reform has been a major challenge, with the country experiencing a series of electoral malpractices and controversies (International Crisis Group, 2020). For example, the Nigerian government has been criticized for its failure to implement electoral reforms, particularly in the areas of voter registration and electoral dispute resolution.

Civil Society Engagement: This concept refers to the participation of civil society organizations in the democratic process, particularly in the areas of election observation, voter education, and advocacy. In Nigeria, civil society engagement has been a major challenge, with the country experiencing a series of restrictions on civil society activities, particularly in the areas of freedom of speech and assembly (Freedom House, 2020). For example, the Nigerian government has been criticized for its restrictions on civil society activities, particularly in the areas of election observation and voter education.

Accountability: This concept refers to the degree to which public officials are held responsible for their actions and decisions. In Nigeria, accountability has been a major challenge, with the country experiencing a series of corruption scandals and human rights abuses (Omotola, 2009). For example, the Nigerian government has been criticized for its failure to hold public officials accountable for corruption and human rights abuses.

Theoretical foundation

The theoretical foundation of this study is rooted in the conceptual frameworks of democratization, electoral integrity, and democratic governance. These frameworks provide a nuanced understanding of the complex relationships between democratic institutions, civil society, and the state in Nigeria.

The democratization framework, as espoused by scholars such as Huntington (1991) and Dahl (1971), emphasizes the importance of democratic transitions and the consolidation of democratic institutions. In the context of Nigeria, democratization has been a slow and challenging process, with the country experiencing a series of military interventions and electoral malpractices (Ake, 1996). The annulment of the June 12, 1993, presidential election, for instance, was a major setback for Nigeria's democratization process. The electoral integrity framework, as developed by scholars such as Norris (2014) and Birch (2011), highlights the importance of free and fair elections in democratic governance. In Nigeria, electoral integrity has been a major challenge, with the country experiencing widespread electoral violence, voter suppression, and votebuying (European Union Election Observation Mission, 2019). The 2019 general elections in Nigeria, for example, were marred by widespread electoral violence and malpractices.

The democratic governance framework, as articulated by scholars such as Diamond (1995) and Linz (1996), emphasizes the importance of democratic institutions, civil society, and the rule of law in promoting democratic governance. In Nigeria, democratic governance has been a major challenge, with the country experiencing a series of military interventions, electoral malpractices, and human rights abuses (Human Rights Watch, 2020). The Nigerian government has been criticized for its human rights record, particularly in the areas of freedom of speech and assembly.

Furthermore, the study draws on the concept of "electoral authoritarianism" as developed by scholars such as Schedler (2006) and Levitsky and Way (2010). Electoral authoritarianism refers to the use of

electoral institutions and processes to legitimize authoritarian rule. In Nigeria, electoral authoritarianism has been a major challenge, with the ruling party using its influence to manipulate the electoral process and undermine the opposition (Elaigwu, 2005). In addition, the study draws on the concept of "democratic deepening" as developed by scholars such as Linz and Stepan (1996) and O'Donnell (1996). Democratic deepening refers to the process of consolidating democratic institutions and promoting democratic governance. In Nigeria, democratic deepening has been a major challenge, with the country experiencing a series of setbacks and reversals in its democratic transition (Omotola, 2009).

Empirical Studies

Empirical studies have shown that Nigeria's democratic governance is facing numerous challenges, including electoral malpractices, human rights abuses, and lack of accountability [1]. In fact, studies have found that there are no consistent policy consequences of democracy in general or of democratic elections in particular [1]. For instance, the annulment of the June 12, 1993, presidential election, which was won by Chief Moshood Abiola, is a paradoxical challenge that highlights the tension between democratic governance and authoritarianism in Nigeria (Omotola, 2009).

Electoral reforms are crucial for democratic consolidation in Nigeria. The country's electoral administration is a critical aspect of electoral governance, and reforms are necessary to promote transparency, accountability, and inclusivity [3]. For example, the introduction of the Smart Card Reader (SCR) in the 2015 general elections was meant to reduce electoral malpractices, but it was marred by controversy and technical issues, highlighting the paradoxical challenge of using technology to promote electoral integrity in Nigeria (European Union Election Observation Mission, 2015). Civil society organizations have played a significant role in promoting democratic governance in Nigeria. However, their activities have been restricted, and they face numerous challenges in promoting good governance [2].

For instance, the Nigerian government's restriction on the activities of the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) is a paradoxical challenge that highlights the tension between the government's desire to promote good governance and its reluctance to allow civil society organizations to hold it accountable (Freedom House, 2020).

Media observation reports from local and international media outlets, such as CNN, Reuters, and BBC, have highlighted the numerous challenges facing Nigeria's democratic governance [5]. For example, the media's coverage of the 2019 general elections in Nigeria highlighted the paradoxical challenge of promoting electoral integrity in a country where the ruling party has significant control over the media (Arise TV Channel, 2019).

Human rights activists, such as Farotimi Dele and Falana Femi, have intervened in various electoral processes, advocating for transparency and accountability [5]. For instance, the human rights activists' intervention in the 2019 general elections in Nigeria highlighted the paradoxical challenge of promoting human rights in a country where the government has significant control over the security forces (Amnesty International, 2019).

Various professional groups, including professionals in Political science and reputable African leaders, have also intervened in Nigeria's democratic governance [5]. For example, the intervention of the Ohaneze Ndigbo SocioCultural organization in the 2019 general elections in Nigeria highlighted the paradoxical challenge of promoting ethnic and national identity in a country where ethnicity and nationality are highly politicized (Ohaneze Ndigbo Socio-Cultural Organization, 2019). Global Community Awareness reports have highlighted the need for good governance in Nigeria [5]. For instance, the Global Community Awareness report on Nigeria's 2019 general elections highlighted the paradoxical challenge of promoting good governance in a country where corruption is endemic and the government has significant control over the economy (Global Community Awareness, 2019). Youth Association media observation reports have also highlighted the numerous challenges facing Nigeria's democratic governance [5]. For example, the Youth Association's coverage of the 2019 general elections in Nigeria highlighted the paradoxical challenge of promoting youth participation in politics in a country where the youth are increasingly disillusioned with the government (Youth Association, 2019).

Executive Summary

An Overview of Professor Humphrey Nwosu Extraordinary Role as Champion of Democracy in Nigeria
Professor Humphrey Nwosu was a beacon of democracy in Nigeria, championing the cause of free and fair elections in the face of adversity. As the Chairman of the National Electoral Commission of Nigeria from 1989 to 1993, Nwosu played a pivotal role in conducting the June 12, 1993, presidential election, widely regarded as the freest and fairest in Nigeria's history (Nwosu, 2009).

Championing Democracy in Nigeria
Nwosu's commitment to democracy was evident in his introduction of the novel Option A4 Voting System and the Modified Open Ballot System, which ensured transparency and accountability in the electoral process (Nwosu, 2009). Despite facing immense pressure from the military regime, Nwosu remained resolute in his pursuit of democratic ideals. His bravery and integrity earned him recognition as a true champion of democracy in Nigeria (Adebayo, 2017).

Positive Impacts on Nigeria's Democracy
Nwosu's contributions to Nigeria's democracy have been far-reaching. His leadership in conducting the June 12 election paved the way for future democratic elections in the country (Ogundiya, 2013). Moreover, his commitment to transparency and accountability has inspired generations of Nigerians to demand more from their leaders. Nwosu's legacy continues to shape Nigeria's democratic landscape, serving as a powerful reminder of the importance of free and fair elections (Agbaje, 2016).

Impact on the West, North, South-East, and Africa

Nwosu's impact extends beyond Nigeria's borders. His commitment to democracy has inspired democratic movements across Africa (Chikwanha, 2017). In the West, his legacy serves as a reminder of the importance of democratic values (Carothers, 2015). In the North and South-East, Nwosu's bravery has inspired a new generation of leaders to champion democratic ideals (Ojo, 2018).

Community Impact: Ajalli

In his home community of Ajalli, Nwosu is revered as a hero. His commitment to democracy has inspired a new generation of leaders to emerge from the community (Nwosu, 2009). Nwosu's legacy

continues to shape the community's values, emphasizing the importance of transparency, accountability, and democratic participation.

Global Impact

Globally, Nwosu's legacy serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of democratic values. His bravery and integrity have inspired democratic movements worldwide, demonstrating that even in the face of adversity, one person can make a difference (Diamond, 2015).

Nevertheless, Professor Humphrey Nwosu's contributions to Nigeria's democracy have been profound. His commitment to democratic ideals, transparency, and accountability has inspired generations of Nigerians and Africans. As a champion of democracy, Nwosu's legacy will continue to shape the democratic landscape of Nigeria, Africa, and the world at large.

Methodology

This study adopted a mixed-methods research design, combining both qualitative and quantitative approaches to gather and analyze data. The study employed a survey research method, using a structured questionnaire to collect data from high-profile individuals across the public sector administration, including members of the House Assembly, traditional institutions, academia, politicians, and public service sector administration.

The study obtained data from the following sources: members of the House Assembly, traditional institutions, academia, politicians, and public service sector administration, including federal and state civil servants, local government officials, and public corporation officials.

Using the Yaro Yammane mathematical method, the sample size was determined as follows: $n = (Z^2 P Q) / E^2$, where n = sample size, Z = Zscore (1.96 for 95% confidence level), P = population proportion (0.5 for maximum variability), $Q = 1 - P$ (0.5), and E = margin of error (0.05). Plugging in the values, we get: $n = (1.96^2 \cdot 0.5 \cdot 0.5) / 0.05^2$, $n = 384.16$. Rounding up to the nearest whole number, the sample size was determined to be 385.

The study applied the democratic governance theory, which posits that democratic governance is characterized by the principles of transparency, accountability, and participation (Diamond, 1995). The theory also emphasizes the importance of institutions, such as the electoral commission, in promoting democratic governance.

The study used descriptive statistics, such as frequencies and percentages, to summarize the data. Inferential statistics, such as chi-square and regression analysis, were used to test hypotheses and identify relationships between variables.

The study used the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25 to analyze the data.

Discussion of Findings

The findings of this study reveal a complex web of challenges facing Nigeria's democratic governance. One of the major findings is the prevalence of electoral malpractices, including vote-buying and voter suppression. For instance, the 2019 general elections in Nigeria were marred by widespread electoral violence and malpractices (European Union Election Observation Mission,

2019). This finding is consistent with previous studies that have highlighted the challenges facing Nigeria's electoral process (Omotola, 2009).

Another significant finding is the lack of accountability and transparency in Nigeria's public sector administration. The study found that high-profile individuals in the public sector administration are often not held accountable for their actions and decisions. For example, the Nigerian government's handling of the \$2.1 billion arms deal scandal is a classic example of lack of accountability and transparency (Premium Times, 2015). This finding is consistent with previous studies that have highlighted the challenges facing Nigeria's public sector administration (Ake, 1996).

The study also found that civil society organizations are facing numerous challenges in promoting democratic governance in Nigeria. The study found that civil society organizations are often restricted by the government, and their activities are closely monitored. For instance, the Nigerian government's restriction on the activities of the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) is a classic example of the challenges facing civil society organizations in Nigeria (Freedom House, 2020). This finding is consistent with previous studies that have highlighted the challenges facing civil society organizations in Nigeria (Fombad, 2021).

Furthermore, the study found that the media is facing numerous challenges in promoting democratic governance in Nigeria. The study found that the media is often censored by the government, and journalists are often harassed and intimidated. For example, the Nigerian government's handling of the Channels Television's coverage of the 2019 general elections is a classic example of the challenges facing the media in Nigeria (BBC News, 2019).

This finding is consistent with previous studies that have highlighted the challenges facing the media in Nigeria (Ogbondah, 2003). In addition, the study found that high-profile individuals in the public sector administration are often not committed to promoting democratic governance in Nigeria. The study found that high-profile individuals are often more interested in promoting their personal interests than in promoting democratic governance. For instance, the Nigerian government's handling of the Niger Delta crisis is a classic example of the challenges facing high-profile individuals in promoting democratic governance in Nigeria (International Crisis Group, 2019). This finding is consistent with previous studies that have highlighted the challenges facing high-profile individuals in promoting democratic governance in Nigeria (Ake, 1996).

Moreover, the study found that the global community is not doing enough to promote democratic governance in Nigeria. The study found that the global community is often more interested in promoting its own interests than in promoting democratic governance in Nigeria. For example, the international community's handling of the 2019 general elections in Nigeria is a classic example of the challenges facing the global community in promoting democratic governance in Nigeria (Al Jazeera, 2019). This finding is consistent with previous studies that have highlighted the challenges facing the global community in promoting democratic governance in Nigeria (Fombad, 2021).

Finally, the study found that the Nigerian government is not doing enough to promote democratic governance in Nigeria. The study found that the government is often more interested in promoting its own interests than in promoting democratic governance. For instance, the Nigerian government's

handling of the #EndSARS protests is a classic example of the challenges facing the government in promoting democratic governance in Nigeria (The Guardian, 2020). This finding is consistent with previous studies that have highlighted the challenges facing the government in promoting democratic governance in Nigeria (Ake, 1996).

Conclusion and Recommendations This study has highlighted the numerous challenges facing Nigeria's democratic governance, including electoral malpractices, lack of accountability and transparency, and restrictions on civil society organizations and the media. The study has also emphasized the importance of promoting democratic governance in Nigeria and has provided recommendations for achieving this goal.

As Nelson Mandela, the former President of South Africa, once said, "Democracy is based on the majority principle, which is that the majority's view prevails. However, this principle must be balanced with the need to protect the rights of minorities" (Mandela, 1994). This quotation highlights the importance of balancing the majority principle with the need to protect the rights of minorities, which is a key challenge facing Nigeria's democratic governance. As Barack Obama, the former President of the United States, once said, "Democracy is not just a form of government, but a means of organizing society to promote the common good" (Obama, 2009). This quotation highlights the importance of promoting the common good through democratic governance, which is a key challenge facing Nigeria. As Professor Claude Ake, a distinguished Professor of political science, once said, "Democracy is not just a matter of holding elections, but of creating a culture of democracy that promotes the values of transparency, accountability, and participation" (Ake, 1996). This quotation highlights the importance of creating a culture of democracy that promotes the values of transparency, accountability, and participation, which is a key challenge facing Nigeria.

Therefore, promoting democratic governance in Nigeria requires a concerted effort from all stakeholders, including the government, civil society organizations, the media, and citizens. It requires a commitment to promoting the values of transparency, accountability, and participation, and to creating a culture of democracy that promotes the common good.

The Nigerian government should prioritize electoral reform to ensure transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in the electoral process. This can be achieved by establishing an independent electoral commission to oversee the electoral process and ensure that it is free from manipulation and corruption. For instance, the government can learn from the experiences of other countries that have successfully implemented electoral reforms, such as Ghana and South Africa.

To ensure accountability and transparency in the public sector administration, the Nigerian government should establish an anti-corruption agency to investigate and prosecute cases of corruption and abuse of office. This agency should be independent and have the power to investigate and prosecute high-profile individuals, including politicians and government officials. Furthermore, the government should ensure that high-profile individuals in the public sector administration are held accountable for their actions and decisions.

The Nigerian government should also ensure that civil society organizations are allowed to operate freely and participate in the democratic process. This can be achieved by repealing laws that restrict the activities of civil society organizations and ensuring that they have access to funding and resources. For example, the government can establish a fund to support civil society organizations and ensure that they have access to information and resources.

To promote media freedom, the Nigerian government should repeal laws that restrict press freedom and ensure that journalists have access to information and protection from harassment. The government should also establish a mechanism to investigate and prosecute cases of harassment and intimidation of journalists. Furthermore, the government should ensure that the media is allowed to operate freely and report on issues of public interest without fear of censorship or harassment.

The global community should prioritize promoting democratic governance in Nigeria and hold the Nigerian government accountable for its actions. This can be achieved by imposing sanctions on the Nigerian government if it fails to promote democratic governance and respect human rights. Furthermore, the international community should provide support and resources to civil society organizations and the media to promote democratic governance and respect for human rights.

The Nigerian government and civil society organizations should prioritize public awareness and education on democratic governance and human rights. This can be achieved by organizing public lectures, workshops, and campaigns to educate citizens on their rights and responsibilities. Furthermore, the government and civil society organizations should establish mechanisms to promote citizen participation in the democratic process, such as town hall meetings and citizen juries.

Finally, the Nigerian government should prioritize institutional reform to ensure that institutions are strong, independent, and accountable. This can be achieved by establishing an independent judiciary to ensure that the rule of law is respected and that citizens have access to justice. Furthermore, the government should establish mechanisms to ensure that leaders are held accountable for their actions and decisions, such as a leadership code of conduct.

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