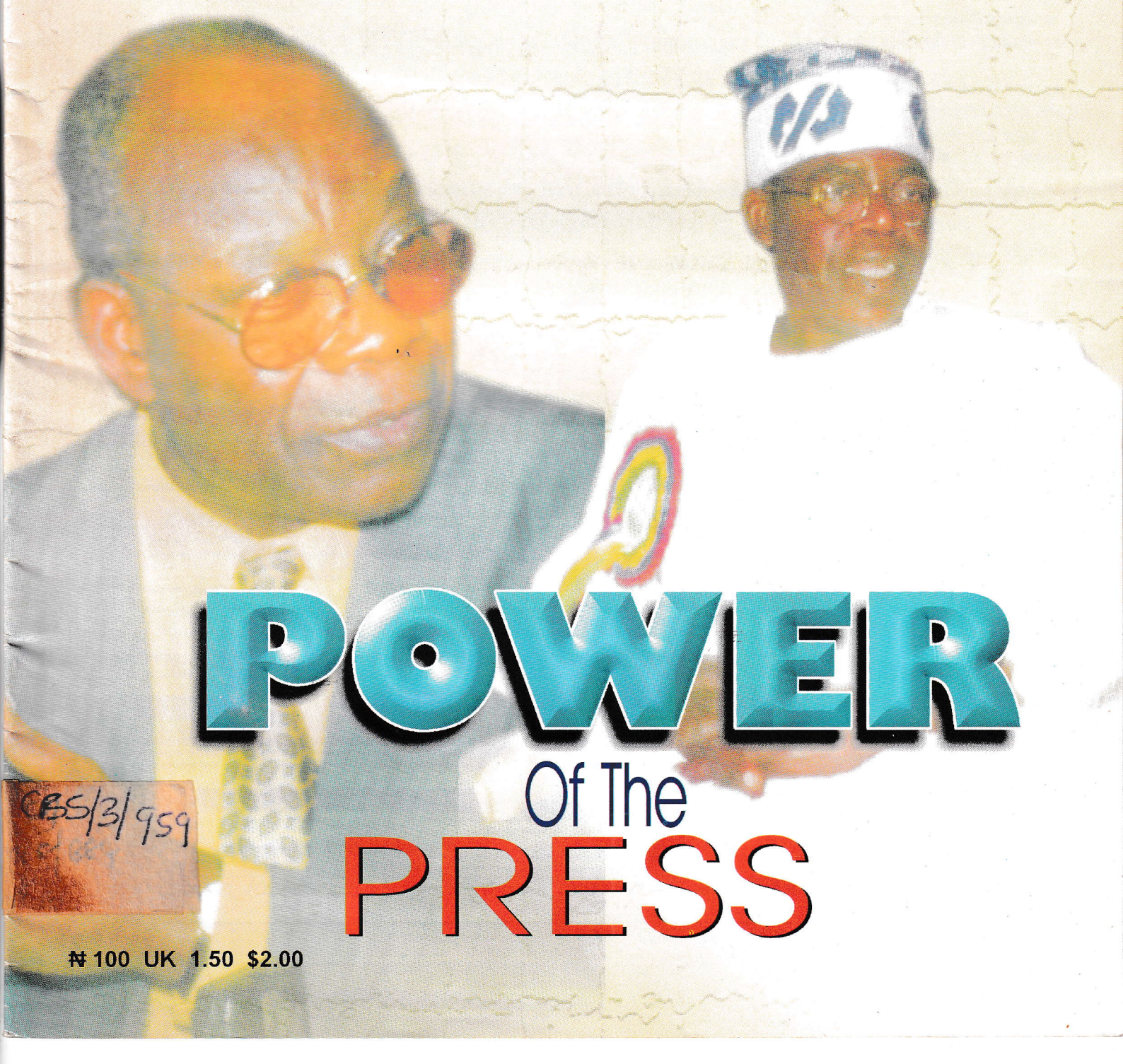


FreeWORD

Journal of Centre for Free Speech

Vol. 1 No. 3

July - Sept. 1999



POWER Of The PRESS

CBS/3/959

£100 UK 1.50 \$2.00

JOURNALISTS @WORK

At these **TIMES** when journalists need to **CHRONICLE** political events, the Press which should be the **GUARDIAN** of the **STANDARD** practice of the profession and **CHAMPION** of Democracy, went to sleep over the *Tinubu* affair. For news **SOURCES** who want the press to achieve **FAME** in its pursuit of justice, they felt disappointed that the press hesitated to **POST** by **EXPRESS** the real facts on the *Tinubu* saga, thus dimming the **POWER** of its **RAY** that refused to shine like a **STAR**.

As **CHANNELS** of communication and keen **OBSERVER** of political events, in this case, the Press shied away from **TELLING**, it as it is. Even those who made **THE NEWS** out of the *Buharigate*, turned the other face. It even refused to play the role of the **EXAMINER** of facts in this case, leading to a situation whereby the **CONCORD** that hitherto existed among the media, was broken, leading to counter-allegations. At a time when the **TEMPO** of the struggle against official malfeasance needed to be revved up by making sure that journalists **SKETCH** events concerning every **STATESMAN** who wants **NATIONAL ENCOMIUM**, the **RHYTHM** of the activist music stopped beating momentarily.

It would be interesting to see how the media, particularly the South-West press which has received much **OVATION** for its struggle against military dictatorship would **PUNCH** holes in the argument of its critics that it went to bed during the *Tinubu* saga.

If the Press has to be relevant **TODAY** in **CHAMPIONING** the cause of Democracy and if it should expect Nigerians to **WEEKLY TRUST** it for factual news reportage, it should continue to be in the **VANGUARD** of those who **WATCH** the **NEWS** in order to **HERALD** a **NEW NIGERIA**.

The Press **THISDAY**, no doubt, is **TODAY'S CHOICE** of the masses.

— Richard Akinnola.

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We express our gratitude to The John D. and Catherine T MacArthur Foundation, Chicago for supporting the publication of this journal, through funds administered by Centre for Democracy and Development, CDD, UK.

Typesetting/Layout: Iyabo Awonusi



CENTRE FOR FREE SPEECH

Centre for Free Speech (CFS), a non-partisan, non-political non-profit human rights group was established in 1995 to promote respect for freedom of expression in Nigeria.

For Nigerians to be able to maximally enjoy other fundamental rights such as the freedom of association, movement and assembly, the right to academic freedom and others, they must be empowered to exercise and defend the right to free speech. CFS seeks to equip executives of press freedom - journalists, writers, academics and others - to adequately perform their duties through training and other forms of capacity building. The Centre also promotes activities, which enlightens the general populace on their inalienable right to freedom of expression under domestic and international law.

CFS's methods include the development and administration of conferences, seminars, and workshops for journalists, writers, students, lawyers, academics and other creative professionals, organising symposia and public lectures on topical matters relating to freedom of expression.

Activities of the Centre

- Empowering journalists, writers, academics and others through training programmes,

workshops, seminars and conferences.

- Conducting programmes that create awareness on the importance of an independent press.
- Providing information that seeks to enlighten the general populace on the fundamental nature of the right to free speech.
- Promoting understanding of the importance of respect for copyright laws.
- Providing legal assistance to journalists, writers, academics (and their professional unions) and others whose rights to free speech is being or has been violated.
- Publication of specialised reports to promote awareness on free speech.
- Identifying humanitarian needs of executives of press freedom and seeking ways of raising and administering funds to meet such needs.

Target Population

The Centre's primary focus is journalists, writers, students and academics. CFS also strives to be gender-sensitive by ensuring that both sexes have equal opportunities of benefiting, especially from training programmes. For example, we strive to ensure a 50-50-male/female-participation ratio in out training programmes.

CFS Publications

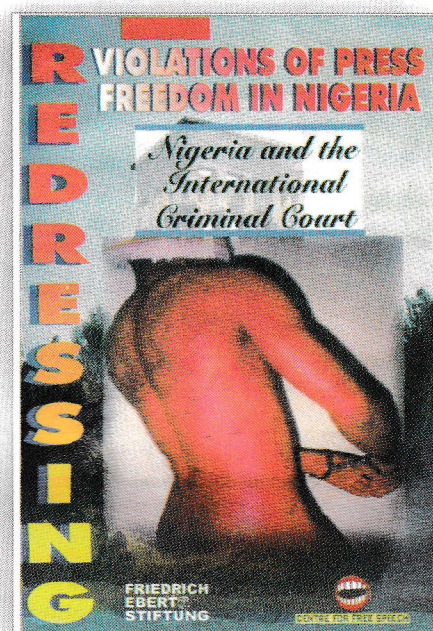
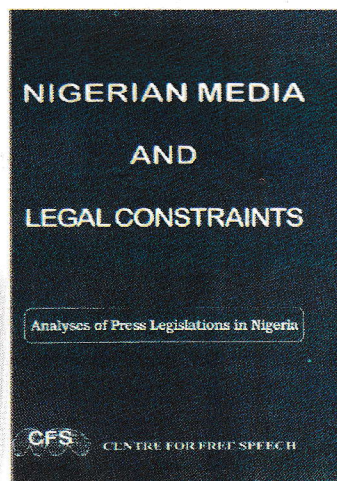
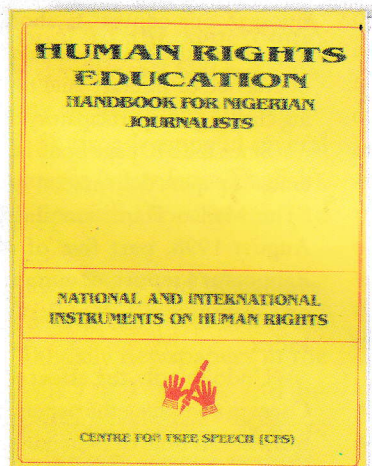
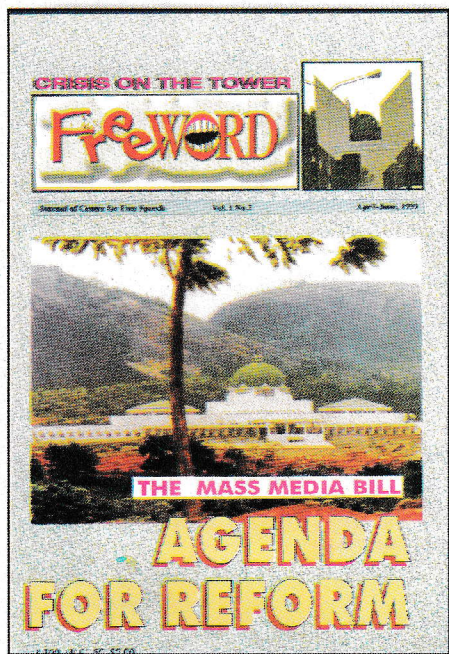
- *Detention Manual for Journalists*
- *Human Rights Education Handbook for Journalists*
- *Nigerian Media and Legal Constraints*
- *Monthly Media Law Digest*

Please address letters and comments to Editor,

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15/6/99