

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 59414

Title: TERRORISME FACE AU DROIT DU PUBLIC A L INFORMATION AU NIGER : ROLES ET RESPONSABILITES DES HOMMES DES MEDIAS,

Recommendation:

Accept after minor revision

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓		
Techn. Quality			✓	
Clarity			✓	
Significance	✓			

Reviewer Name: Dr. Abdul Haseeb Mir

Detailed Reviewer's Report

General Overview

This manuscript addresses a timely, highly sensitive, and complex issue in contemporary African journalism and security studies: balancing the public's right to information against national security requirements in Niger—a country severely impacted by regional terrorism across the Sahel. The author explores how media professionals navigate the tightrope between professional ethics, social responsibility, legal/economic constraints, and executive/military restrictions.

The study employs a qualitative methodology combining a literature review (documentary analysis of legal frameworks, institutional reports, and media landscapes) with ten semi-structured interviews conducted with key stakeholders, including media directors and members of Niger's High Council for Communication (CSC). Theoretical grounding is provided by McCombs and Shaw's Agenda-Setting Theory and McQuail's Social Responsibility Theory.

The primary findings demonstrate that journalists in Niger face severe operational hurdles: restricted access to conflict zones requiring cumbersome military escorts, heavy reliance on official government press releases, legal vulnerability under cybercrime laws, financial fragility due to a collapsing advertising market and sparse public aid, and a pervasive atmosphere of mutual suspicion between defense forces and newsrooms. To overcome these challenges, the manuscript concludes with actionable recommendations for political authorities, media practitioners, defense forces, and international development partners.

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Overall, the paper is well-conceptualized, rich in empirical context, and highly relevant for media governance in West Africa. Minor revisions are required to improve structural consistency, correct minor typographical errors, and enhance citation formatting prior to publication.

Key Strengths

- 1. High Regional and Practical Relevance:** Addresses an urgent real-world problem facing journalists across the Sahel region (Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso) and offers lessons for neighboring West African coastal states (Benin, Togo).
- 2. Solid Empirical Foundation:** Combining document analysis (laws, RSF reports, media directories) with primary qualitative interviews (CSC regulators and media outlet directors) provides a comprehensive 360-degree perspective on information governance.
- 3. Appropriate Theoretical Framework:** The application of Agenda-Setting Theory effectively explains how executive/military information monopolies dictate the public media agenda and restrict independent investigative journalism.
- 4. Actionable Stakeholder Framework:** The paper goes beyond mere critique by outlining clear, practical recommendations for journalists, political leaders, military spokespersons, and development partners.

Recommendations for Improvement

While the manuscript is scientifically valid and well-argued, the author should make the following minor adjustments before final publication:

1. Reconcile Timeline Inconsistencies:

The text mentions events from late 2025 (e.g., line 61 mentioning charges against journalists in November 2025), whereas web citations indicate access dates in April 2023. The author should ensure that the overall narrative timeline, case examples (e.g., Samira Sabou, Moussa Aksar), and reference dates are aligned consistently across all sections.

2. Refine and Expand Interviewee Sample Description:

Section 1.2.2 notes that ten (\$10\$) resource persons were interviewed via WhatsApp (written/voice exchanges) due to security constraints. While this method is justified given the field realities in Niger, adding a small, non-identifying summary table or breakdown (e.g., number of public media managers, private radio directors, CSC officials) in the text will improve methodological transparency without compromising participant anonymity.

3. Smooth Out Structural and Heading Formatting:

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There are slight structural redundancies between the subsection headers in Section 2.1 (Documentary Results) and Section 2.2 (Interview Results). Streamlining these subheadings and removing minor duplicated sentences in the Discussion section (Section 3.1) will create a smoother narrative flow.

4. Correct Minor Editorial and Typographical Errors:

Conduct a final copyediting pass to fix minor grammatical glitches and typos in the French text (e.g., line 203: "ce qui les limitent dans le l'angle", line 254: "ne pas s'intéresser à à l'actualité", line 486: "au tant que faire se peut", line 489: "Eviter fin aux attaques").

5. Standardize Reference List Formatting:

Ensure all bibliographic references follow a standardized format (e.g., APA style). Provide full metadata (publisher, publication year, volume/issue numbers) for all citations in Section 4, and ensure all web links are fully functional.

Final Evaluation and Verdict

This manuscript makes a substantive contribution to the study of media ethics, freedom of the press, and state security communication in conflict-affected regions of West Africa. The balance between academic rigor and practical policy recommendations is well maintained.

The manuscript is **accepted with minor revisions**. Incorporating the minor editorial polish, timeline verification, and sample detail requested above will make the paper fully suitable for publication.