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# **PERCEPTIONS OF NATIONAL SECURITY AMONG JOURNALISTS**

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## **Abstract:**

*The Mass Media is a crucial component of democratic politics by providing an effective mechanism for debate, popularisation and dissemination of diverse information and opinion. The mass media equally constitute a cogent reference point for the definition and interpretation of social reality and culture. Chapter 2 section 22 of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria recognizes and obligates the mass media to monitor and make government accountable to Nigerians and to uphold the fundamental objectives of the state. In being obliged to these duties the mass media is frequently accused of being unethical, unprofessional and endangering national security. This study used social survey to examine and describe the perception of national security by registered journalists in Kano state. Questionnaires were administered to a stratified sample of registered journalists in Kano. The study was guided by the theoretical postulations of Social Construction of Reality Theory. The study found that 4.9% of journalists are aware of the meaning of national security and have up to 75% awareness. The study also found that 1.6% of journalists are highly knowledgeable on national security and 6.5% of journalists acquired this knowledge through the process of scientific inquiry. The study equally found that only 1.6% has comprehensive understanding of national security. The study recommends the organization of capacity building activities and programmes on national security for practicing and aspiring journalists.*

**Keywords:** *security, perceptions, journalists*