

DIGITAL ACTIVISM AND CYBERCONFLICTS IN NIGERIA

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Dr Athina Karatzogianni is an Associate Professor at the University of Leicester, UK. Her research focuses on the intersections between digital media theory and political economy in order to study the use of digital technologies by new socio-political formations.

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DIGITAL ACTIVISM AND CYBERCONFLICTS IN NIGERIA: OCCUPY NIGERIA, BOKO HARAM AND MEND

BY

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About the Author

Shola Abidemi Olabode completed his PhD in Media Studies at the School of Social Sciences, University of Hull, UK. He also holds a Master of Laws (LLM) in International Law, BSc (Hons) in Mass Communication from the University of Hertfordshire, UK, and a Diploma in Mass Communication from the University of Jos, Nigeria. He has served as a Tutor of Media Movements and Radical Politics at the University of Hull. His main research interests are in digital activism and cyberconflicts.

Preface

Developments in media, culture and society have been an area of growing interest in the last few decades given the rapid developments in digitisation infrastructure. The critical role of media (old and new) for political development and the wave of conflict that has been evolving across the globe motivated my curiosity to understand and advance fresh thinking on the intersection between information and communication technologies (ICTs) and conflict. In Nigeria, conflict has been an integral part of political life and has served as a catalyst for a progressive Nigerian society from the pre-colonial era to the current period of democratisation. As in other countries on the continent, dissident movements, social movements, civil society organisations and radical movements in Nigeria have found a voice in conflict and continue to harness various media technologies in their quest to influence government programmes, policies, reforms and changes in Africa's most populous country. In all this, the media has served as a tool and resource for dissident movements who use the medium as a means to achieve their goals.

This monograph is a product of my doctoral dissertation carried out at the School of Social Sciences at the University of Hull. The thesis has been revised in part to broaden its scope to include snapshots of recent conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa. Nonetheless, its primary focus remains the same: the use of information and communication technologies in the Occupy Nigeria, Boko Haram and the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta conflicts. The three distinct cases provide a lens for examining mobilisation among contemporary movements in Nigeria in one single study and allows for perspectives to be offered on digital activism and cyberconflicts from a developing non-western context.

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