

Media oppression has no place in 'Africa Rising' - 18 Jun 2018

BY LOUISE MARSLAND

Firstly, our sympathies are with the people of Nigeria who faced two deadly [bomb attacks](#) in the northeast on Saturday. In this sporting heavy month, with the soccer world cup underway in Russia and the [Rugby Africa Gold Cup 2018](#) starting in Zimbabwe; and the Cannes Festival of Advertising lighting up the world of advertising and marketing (read all about it on [Bizcommunity.com](#) daily); Africa continues to top the business agenda's around the world as next week's Washington [Africa Trade and Investment Global Summit attests](#), and last week's [African Innovation Summit](#) in Rwanda that put the spotlight on home-grown African innovation and the huge talent available on the continent. In fact innovation labs in Africa have doubled in the past two years, with a new wave of [tech incubators](#) emerging in North Africa.

This is all tremendous good news for the continent and feeds into the 'Africa Rising' narrative that is being peddled around the world for 2018 and hopefully many decades to come. But all this good news is jeopardised as media oppression continues on this continent. Freedom of speech and press freedom are basic human rights and Africa risks everything gained if media and individual rights continue to be viciously targeted by some governments. That needs to end. The [Committee to Protect Journalists](#) which daily highlights atrocities against the media - including in Africa - this week honoured those journalists around the world putting their lives at risk to bring us the news. We honour them too.

Have a great week!

Louise Marsland

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