



## Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Camila Lyra de Magalhães Melo

Title: Allegations of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Peacekeeping Operations: the cases of MONUSCO and MINUSMA

Programme/year: Master in International Relations

Author of Evaluation (supervisor): Jan Karlas

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
<b>Major Criteria</b>			
	Research question, definition of objectives	<b>10</b>	9
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	<b>30</b>	27
	Methodology, analysis, argument	<b>40</b>	30
<i>Total</i>		<b>80</b>	66
<b>Minor Criteria</b>			
	Sources	<b>10</b>	8
	Style	<b>5</b>	5
	Formal requirements	<b>5</b>	5
<i>Total</i>		<b>20</b>	18
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	84



## Evaluation

Major criteria:

The thesis addresses the topic of sexual violence in UN peace operations. More specifically, the author analyzes to what extent the sexual crimes may have a negative effect on the functioning of the operations.

In measuring effectiveness, the thesis focuses on the fulfillment of its mandate by a mission. It also takes into consideration the reduction of civilian casualties and of military violence as the other indicators. This is a relevant understanding that conforms to the established notions of the effectiveness of UN peace operations. When defining sexual violence, the author also shortly discusses its sources, even though it is not the aim of the thesis to account for the origin of this violence (as it only deals with its impact on the functioning of the missions). The author was able to work with an overall statistical data on the occurrence of sexual violence in the missions, thanks to the available UN data. This considerably enabled her to carry out her analysis of the selected cases with a solid broader outlook.

Obviously, sexual violence is just one factor that can influence the effectiveness of the missions, and probably not the most decisive one. Hence, the author in the theoretical part introduces other factors, to study the importance of sexual violence by means of the comparison with the role of other factors. These additional factors are represented by: commitment of the parties, the nature of the conflict, and the interests of the major powers. By integrating these factors, the author covered the most important determinants of the effectiveness of the operations highlighted in the existing literature.

In the empirical part, the thesis focuses on the operations taking place in Mali and the DRC. This is a useful choice. The Mali mission has not been marked by a higher level of sexual violence, whereas a relatively high number of sexual crimes accompanied the DRC mission. As the author rightly points out, the two missions also have rather different functions.

The empirical chapters are well written. Each chapter provides a necessary contextualization and follows the analytical framework set up at the beginning. The only bigger limitation is that the link between sexual violence and effectiveness is outlined and traced with a limited depth and precision. However, it is clear that this is due to the general difficulty in analyzing the internal working of the missions on the basis of external observation.



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Minor criteria:

No comments

Overall evaluation:

The author put together a useful theoretical framework to study the relationship between sexual violence and the effectiveness of UN peace operations. She applied this framework well. Not surprisingly, it was rather difficult to analyze this relationship in empirical terms as the author did not have an access to direct observations or information on the internal functioning of the missions. Hence, the analysis of the link is not completely extensive and deep. Still, the author managed to provide a solid analysis of the context and relative importance of sexual violence concerning the functioning of UN peace operations.

Suggested grade:

B

Signature: