Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: **Simon King udeme**

Title: **Counter-Terrorism in Nigeria: Measures and Approaches**

Programme/year: International Security Studies/2021

Author of Evaluation (second reader): prof. Oldřich Bureš

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	**10**	7
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	**30**	10
	Methodology, analysis, argument	**40**	20
Total		*80*	37
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	**10**	7
	Style	**5**	2
	Formal requirements	**5**	5
Total		*20*	14
TOTAL		*100*	51

Evaluation

Major criteria:

The reviewed thesis aims to offer an analysis of the rise of Boko Haram and the corresponding Nigerian counterterrorism measures. Specifically, three research questions have been posed:

1.   What is the major cause or trigger of the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria?

2.   What are the effective and ineffective measures directed towards fighting terrorist activities in Nigeria?

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3.   What are the challenges to the implementation of counter-terrorism policy in Nigeria?

While these are all highly relevant questions, their exhaustive answers would warrant at least three separate theses. In a single thesis, the author attempts to cover too many complex phenomena, without really doing justice to any of them.

Moreover, there is no discussion of method/s and research design. Also missing is a conceptual and/or theoretical chapter. While this is tricky in counterterrorism studies, there could have at least been a discussion about measuring effectiveness in this policy area, given the stated research questions. The empirical chapter about Nigerian countermeasures is relatively brief, albeit it should represent a key part of the thesis.

The writing style is also rather problematic. With many sub-chapters/sub-sections consisting of paragraphs with just one or two sentences, often a copy-paste or rewrite from a single source, the thesis reads and looks too often as a policy report for/from an NGO, not as an academic text. Moreover, entire sections are primarily based just on a few previous publications, e.g. Muhammed 2013, Okwuchi 2017.

The thesis lacks a proper conclusion. Policy recommendations are fine but unlike in a policy report, the thesis should conclude with key findings directly addressing the stated research questions.

Minor criteria:

There are many stylistic and grammar issues throughout the thesis.

Overall evaluation:

Overall, the thesis only barely meets the general requirements for this type of work.

Suggested grade:

E2

Signature:

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