Diploma Thesis Evaluation Form

Author: Timothy Yusufu Tongpan

Title: *Deterrence in counter-terrorism: the case of Nigeria*

Programme/year: ISSA/2023

Author of Evaluation (supervisor/<u>second reader</u>): Anzhelika Solovyeva

Criteria	Definition	Maximum	Points
Major Criteria			
	Research question, definition of objectives	**10**	8
	Theoretical/conceptual framework	**30**	20
	Methodology, analysis, argument	**40**	30
Total		***80***	58
Minor Criteria			
	Sources	**10**	8
	Style	**5**	5
	Formal requirements	**5**	5
Total		***20***	18
TOTAL		***100***	76

Evaluation

Major criteria:

This is a well thought out thesis, bringing together a lot of relevant knowledge on the subject matter. However, there are certain shortcomings. First of all, it remains unclear, both conceptually and empirically, whether the focus of this thesis is on counter-terrorism in a broader sense or deterrence of terrorism in particular as illustrated on the case of Nigeria. The theoretical section and the title suggest that deterrence is at the core of this analysis but the empirical part does not consistently focus on deterrence, but rather on the variety of counter-terrorist measures. What contributes to the confusion is that the text sometimes addresses counter-terrorist measures almost interchangeably with deterrence, not always capturing the nuanced difference between the Nigerian government's efforts to prevent terrorism through addressing root causes, respond to terrorist attacks post factum and *deter* terrorist activities. The author is aware of this difference as the text clearly indicates but this is not systematically reflected in the empirical analysis, though the author repeatedly returns to the concept of deterrence and tries to link different counter-terrorism activities to it. The lines between these processes may be blurred indeed but only through defining them to the extent possible can we better understand the meaning and importance of deterrence in this complex context. Otherwise, the broader focus diverts attention from how *deterrence* of terrorist activities is actually practiced by the Nigerian government, weakens the link between theory and practice and sometimes makes the text descriptive. Also, the contribution of this study to the existing literature on deterrence of terrorism is not specified.

Minor criteria:

Assessment of plagiarism:

To the best of my knowledge, this work is free from plagiarism.

Overall evaluation: I recommend this thesis for defence.

Suggested grade: C

Signature:

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