

November 25, 2024

Dear Chair and Members of the Dissertation Defense Board,

Please accept my report on the dissertation by Nsama Jonathan Simuziya, in accordance of the requirements of Article 50 of the Internal Regulations of the University of Hradec Králové.

The study attempts to ascertain the extent of the impact of international human rights treaties ratified by Namibia, Ethiopia, and Zambia, and how domestic legal mechanisms and political authorities of those countries have responded to international human rights obligation. The study adopted a mixed method approach of reviewing relevant published scholarship, while mainly relying on primary sources through ethnographic and anthropological research through semi-structured interviews of civil servants, academics, and community leaders who are based mainly in rural areas. The study also concludes that the implementation of a *thin universalism* of universal human rights in Africa. The dissertation has succeeded in meeting the criteria given.

Since the subject of this dissertation is review and evaluation of African perspectives on the universal human rights regime in relation to cultural and religious variations, the candidate has effectively implemented a thoughtful analysis of relevant scholarship and presenting results of field research. Through this combination, the candidate has made specific contribution to the subject of this dissertation. The procedure used and results of the dissertation is effective in showing the candidate's specific contribution.

As I found in my own research and publication since 1986 (see my attached CV), issues of culture and religion raise the most significant and complex issues for the theory and practice of the universality of human rights and the relationship between human rights throughout the world, including those of western liberal societies in Europe and North America. The importance of this dissertation is its contribution to continuing debates around these issues and development of the discipline is a focused, field-researched perspective on these issues.

Finally, the dissertation is well-organized to serve its purposes, and the language is clear and precise. However, I do have some concerns about citation of sources, as illustrated by the attached segment of the manuscript.



Professor Dr. Abdullahi Ahmed An-Naim
Charles Howard Candler Emertius Professor of Law
Emory University School of Law
Atlanta GA, USA