

Supervisor's Statement  
for  
Kingsley Emeka Ezemenaka  
HUMAN SECURITY AND THE CULTURE OF YOUTH VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA  
(Dissertation thesis)

The dissertation thesis focuses on the issue of youth violence in Nigeria. I **find the topic quite relevant** because even today, more than 40% of Nigeria's population (86 million) ranges between 0 and 14 years, and the absolute number of this cohort could be doubled in the next 30 years. These rapidly growing millions of youths are facing various problems – especially unemployment, terrorism and other forms of political violence, poor quality of education or healthcare, degradation of environment etc. – that are directly or indirectly connected with their decision to use violence, either to reach their goals or to just survive within the “culture of the violence” that is being mutually constituted especially - but not solely - among the youths. Moreover, dozens and dozens of studies have proved, that the violent behavior is very easy to learn and internalize, not just by individuals but by whole society. Logically, if we would like to eradicate - or at least minimize – violence within society, firstly we must uncover its causes, and that is exactly the first goal of the thesis. Consequently, second goal focuses on youth violence's implications for Nigeria, and the last one, on possible ways how to curb it. I find these **main research questions/goals as logically stated and pursuable**.

The **theoretical framework** of the paper is derived from the Robert Ted Gurr's theory of Relative Deprivation which I regard as a **propriate choice**. On the other hand, I think that the theory could be more substantially interconnected with the research methods and with the final discussion of the results. Shortly, I still consider the huge explanation potential of the RD theory as not completely utilized.

The thesis employs **mixed (qualitative and quantitative) methods**. I perceive this approach **quite suitable** (especially if we haven't coherent, relevant or reliable data), although I think that the selected methods could be more interconnected with each other, as well as with the theoretical framework as I have noted above.

From my point of view, the most valuable **contribution of the Emeka's thesis rests in very detailed, well-founded and even surprising findings of his research**, no matter particular insufficiencies of the methodological and theoretical frameworks. I must highlight at least a **phenomenon of cultism** which is rather neglected both by the Nigerian government and society, as well as by the scholarly community. According my point of view, Emeka's thesis thus represents a valuable contribution for understanding to the youth violence in Nigeria (and possible even in Sub-Saharan Africa), and therefore, I strongly **recommend his thesis for the defense**.

Mgr. Jan Prouza, Ph.D.