



Strathmore
UNIVERSITY

**SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
MASTERS OF ARTS IN DIPLOMACY, INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY
END OF SEMESTER EXAMINATION
MDIS 8125 COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN KENYA**

Date: 15th December 2023

Time: 18:00 – 20:30

Instructions

1. This examination consists of **FIVE** questions.
2. Answer **Question ONE** and any other **TWO** questions.

1. QUESTION ONE

- (a) The following is one of the many narratives advanced by ISIS, and a counter-narrative to it:

Narrative

ISIS claims that there is a wonderful brotherhood among ISIS-followers. Every capable person should rush forward to join this brotherhood and perform emigration (hijrah) to the land of jihad, or at least spiritual emigration away from the values of the infidel societies in which many Muslims live.

A counter-narrative by a Singapore Sheikh (who leads a religious rehabilitation group) given during a sermon at a mosque. The sermon was circulated in youtube. The Sheikh is an internationally recognised religious authority.

“The claim of a brotherhood among the ISIS fighters has elements of truth as it is well known that men tend to bond in battle. However, there are also tales coming from the ranks of ISIS of bitter disputes. Given the fact that Muslims fight Muslims in Syria and Iraq and jihad refers to the defence of the faith against unbelievers, it is difficult to view the conflict in Syria (and its spill-over into Iraq) as a “jihad”. The conflict in Syria has led to confusion about the obligation of jihad among many Muslims. Many Muslims are being misled into thinking that fighting in Syria is an act of jihad. This is not true. The Syrian conflict is a sectarian war among Muslims in Syria. It is about political power and influence and determining who has control of land and resources.(...) It is not about defending the faith of the ummah. Some of the foreign fighters who flocked to Syria and Iraq have begun to realise this and disillusionment has set in. The tales of those who return home disillusioned are feared by ISIS. More than 100 foreign fighters who tried to make it back home have been executed by ISIS, apparently in an effort to

prevent some uncomfortable truths from gaining publicity. Among those who stay, whether or not the “wonderful brotherhood” remains “wonderful” can also be doubted. What many of these foreign fighters tend to forget are the long-term consequences of wartime trauma on their mental health. Veterans often become depressed and frequently suicidal without appropriate psychological counselling. The experience of many Taliban fighters who became drug addicts, paranoid and depressed should be a warning to foreign fighters joining ISIS. Of course these long-term consequences will not be there for all those foreign fighters ISIS manages to trick into engaging in so-called martyrdom operations.”

(a) Evaluate this counter-narrative to test whether it meets the Aristotle model of ethos, logos and pathos in generating counter-narratives. (4 marks)

(b) Discuss the important aspects of a counter narrative as a way of countering violent extremism. (10 marks)

(c) Analyse the components of the ‘devoted actors’ framework’ (6 marks)

QUESTION TWO

Discuss the role of the internet in the spread of terrorist propaganda and ways of countering violence extremism online (20 marks)

QUESTION THREE

Compare and contrast Kenya’s Counter terrorism strategy and that of the United Kingdom. (20 marks)

QUESTION FOUR

Appraise the importance of a multi-agency framework in preventive (proactive) counter terrorism and the challenges therein. (20 marks)

QUESTION FIVE

Discuss the benefits and challenges of Kenya’s model of disengagement, deradicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration (DDRR). (20 marks)