

PREFACE

First and foremost, I am thankful to God, that he has assisted me through the process of research needed to complete this thesis. Only by His blessing I am able to complete this thesis and overcome challenges that I faced during this research. Second of all, I thank my parents and all my siblings especially to my mother, for all their support and love during this research process. I thank them for giving me more than enough resources, both financially and emotionally and especially, their supports for my study in International Relations.

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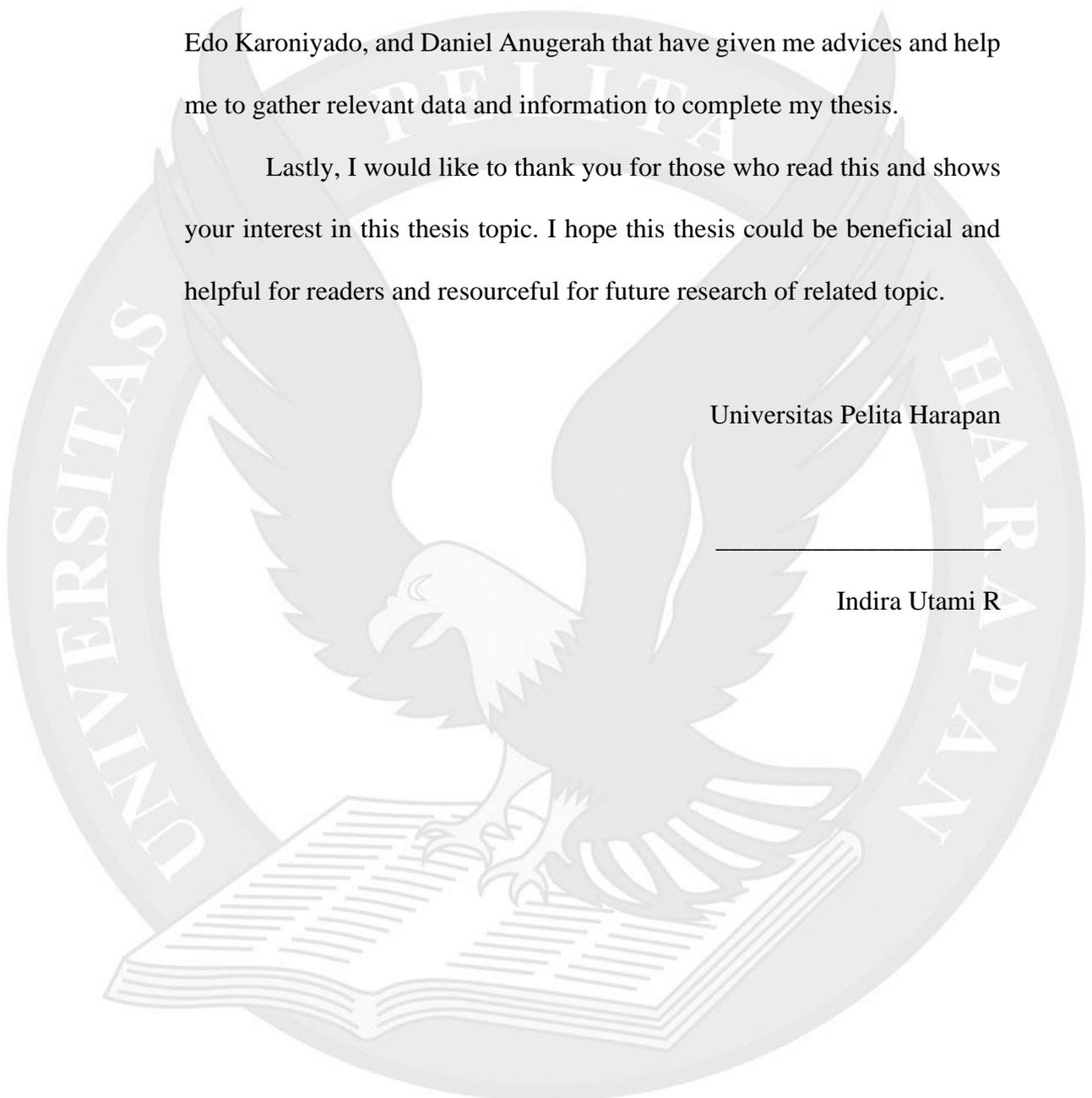
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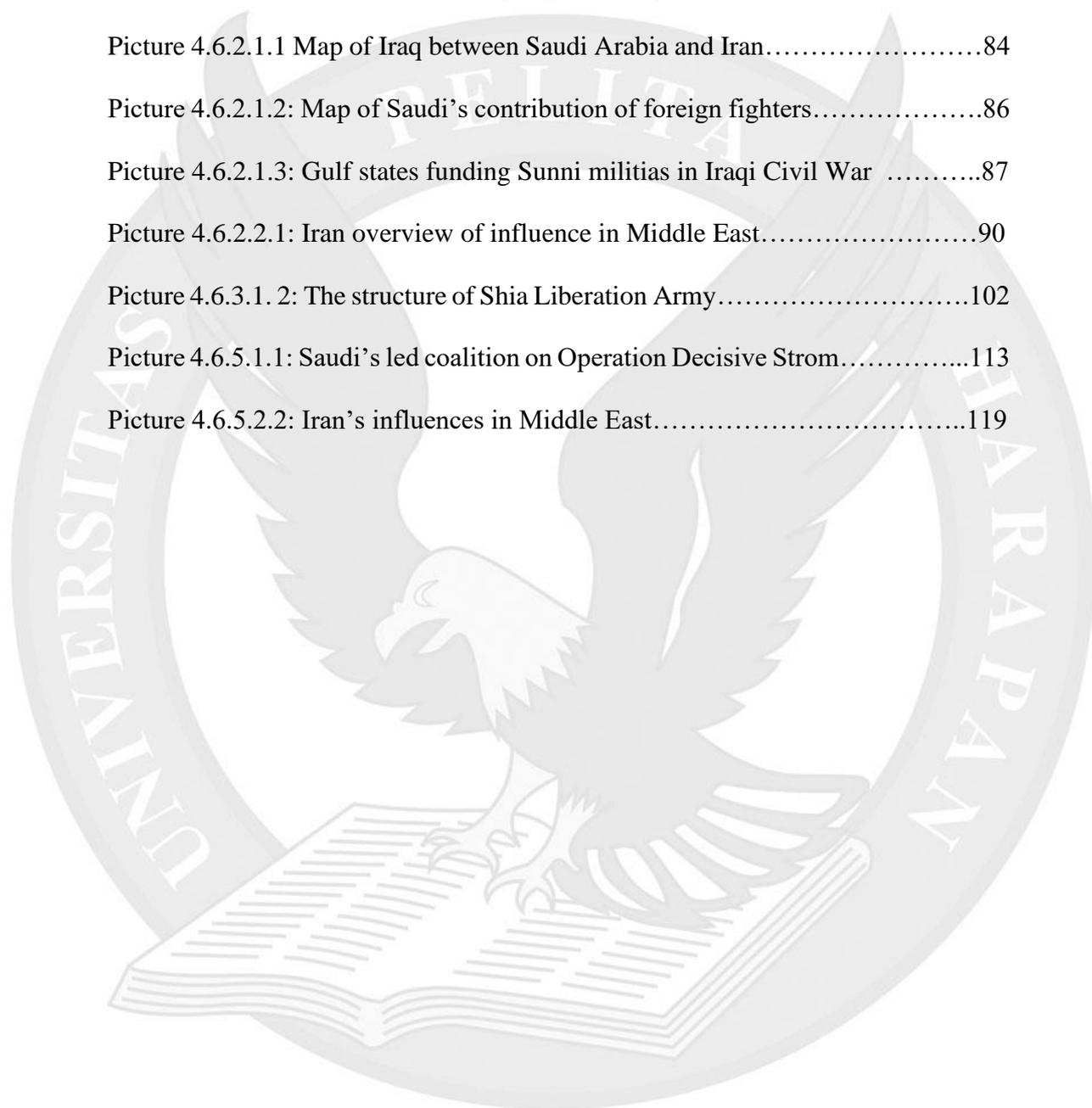
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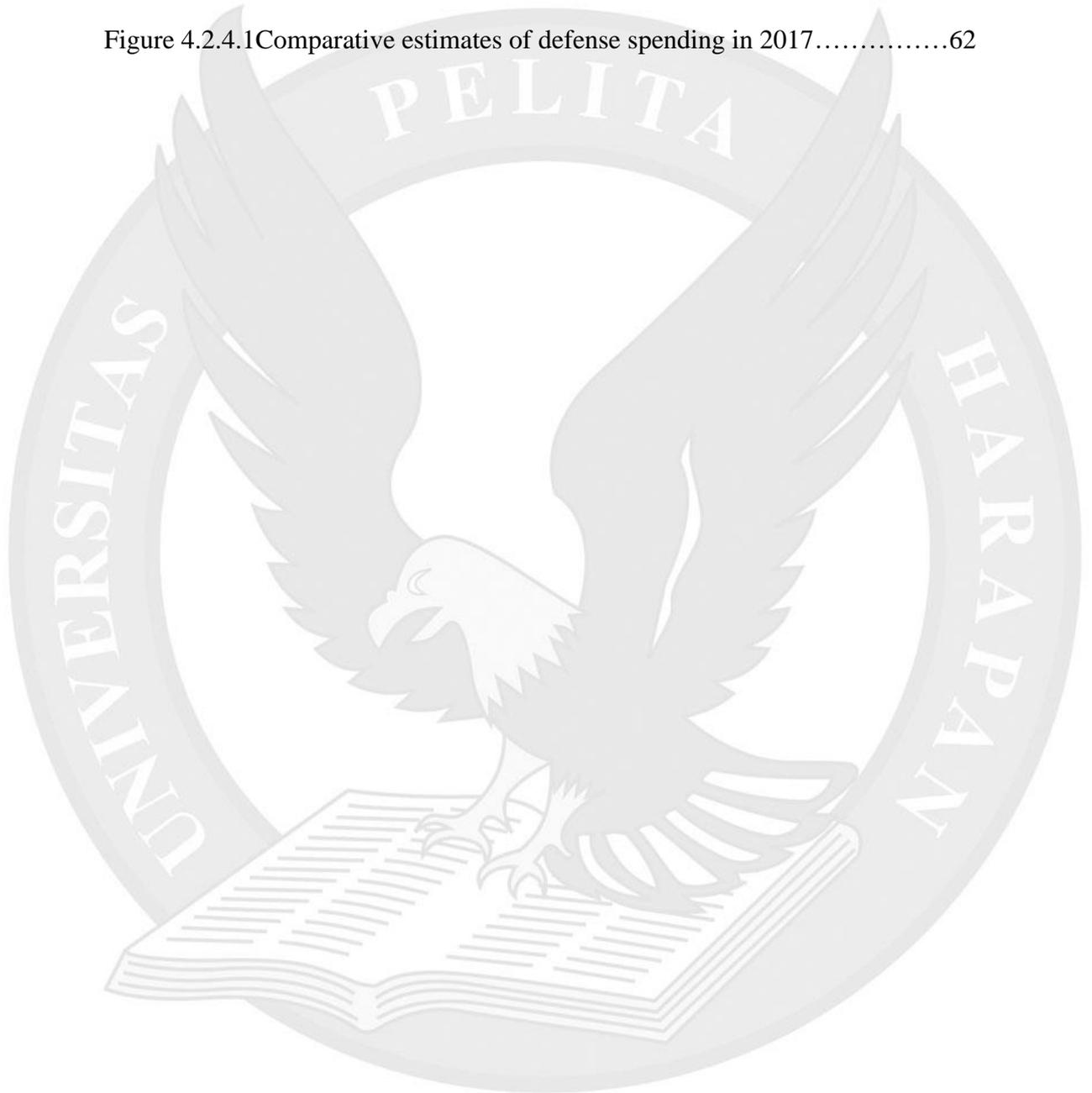
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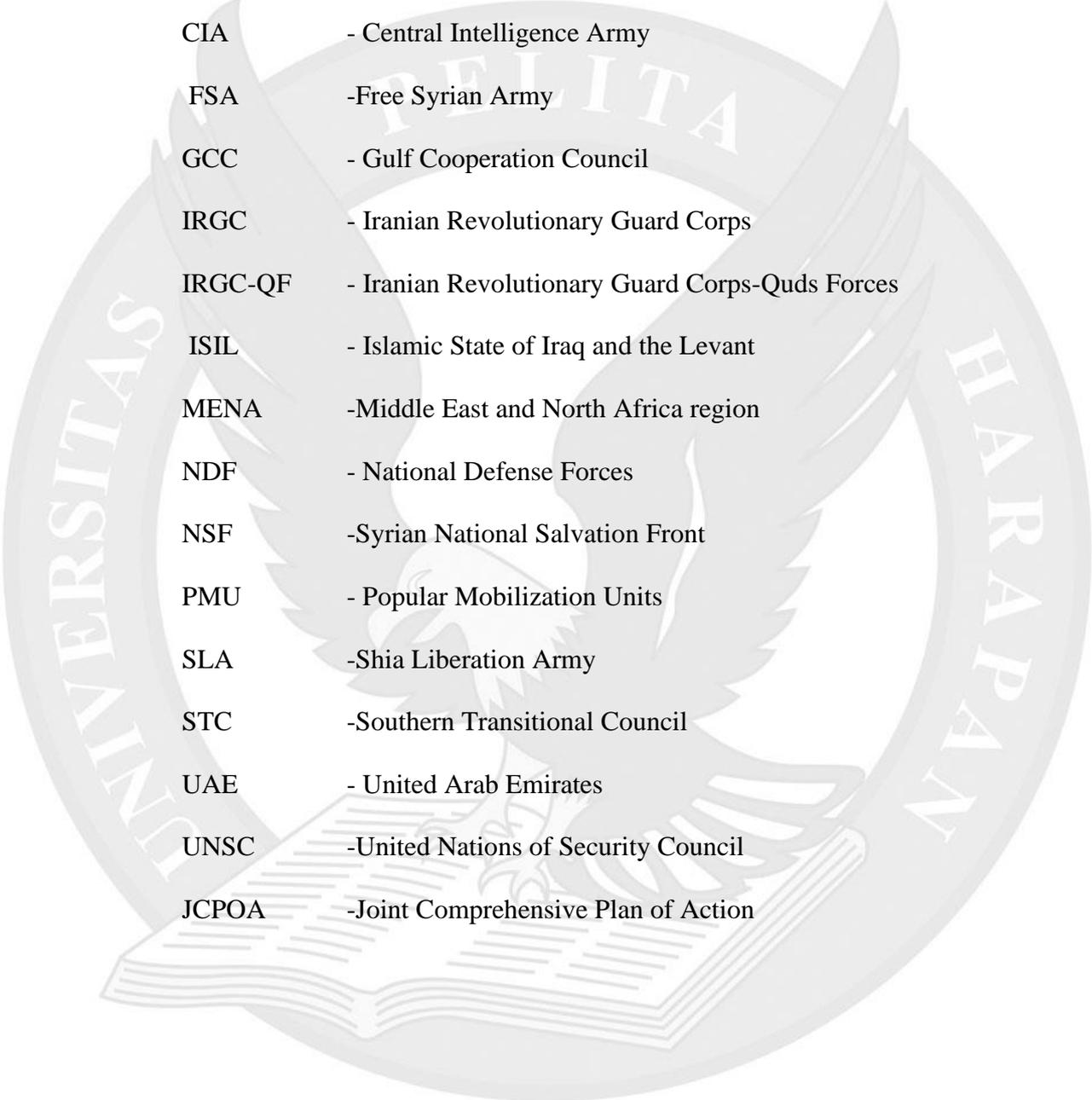
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS



AQAP	- Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula
CIA	- Central Intelligence Army
FSA	-Free Syrian Army
GCC	- Gulf Cooperation Council
IRGC	- Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps
IRGC-QF	- Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps-Quds Forces
ISIL	- Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
MENA	-Middle East and North Africa region
NDF	- National Defense Forces
NSF	-Syrian National Salvation Front
PMU	- Popular Mobilization Units
SLA	-Shia Liberation Army
STC	-Southern Transitional Council
UAE	- United Arab Emirates
UNSC	-United Nations of Security Council
JCPOA	-Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action

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