

REFUGEE STORIES



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EPIRUS
KENTPO NEQN



**EUROPEAN
SOLIDARITY
CORPS**

Asad From Somalia

Somalia is a war-torn country. There are a lot of terrorist groups because of various reasons. One and the most dangerous of them is Al-Shabaab. This group describes itself as waging jihad against enemies of Islam and is engaged in combat against the Federal Government of Somalia and the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM). They regularly organize terrorist attacks. If you are not a Muslim, you can't live there. Totally the whole society is under these attacks. It hurts everyone.

Asad is 20 years old man from Somalia, he had a wife and a little boy. He was working as a motorcycle taxi driver. One day he was arrested because of the men who get into his taxi. Asad calls terrorists for them. He had to leave Somalia because the terrorists were looking for him everywhere.

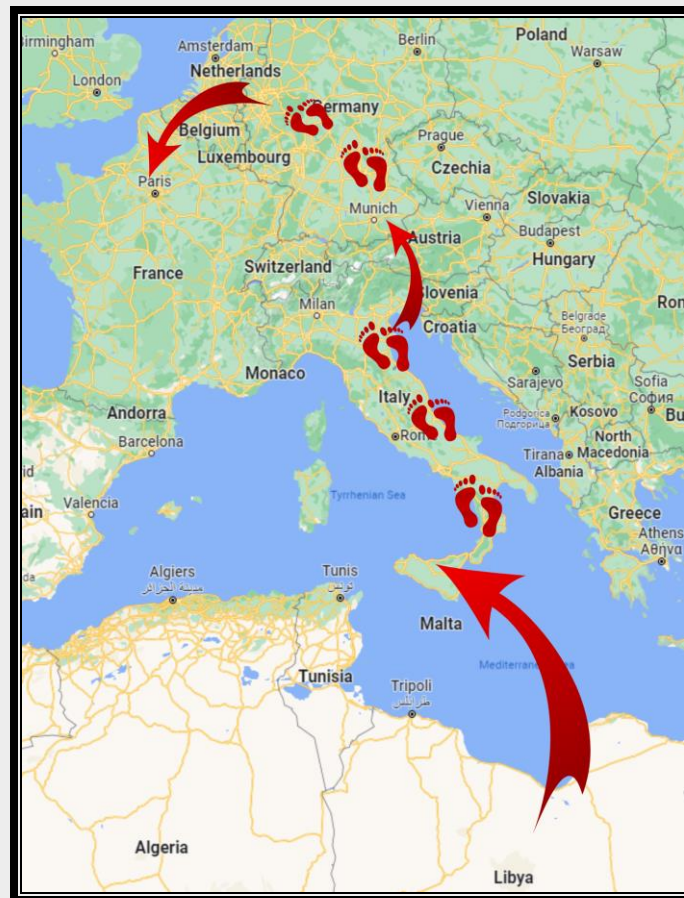


Asad's Journey from Somalia to Libya

He contacted some people who can find a boat to Yemen. He spent 70 days in Yemen. Later he crossed Saudi Arabia to find another boat that going to Sudan. He didn't want to stay in Sudan or Yemen, because there was war in both of the countries. For this reason, he decided to go by road to Libya. He was arrested again because he didn't have permission to be in Libya. He had to stay

in the prison, after two months he could escape. He couldn't stay in Libya anymore. He had to leave there.

He decided to escape from Libya and enter Italy illegally. He had to pay smugglers to do this. He had to find money in order to pay the human traffickers, later he found a job. He tried to go to Italy on a boat, but since the boat was carrying a lot of people at the same time, the boat started to sink. Everyone dropped to the sea, they were trying to keep alive. They were lucky because one rescue boat came and rescued them. After several days they reached Italy.



Asad's Journey from Libya to France

When he reached Palermo, he searched for a job and he thought to apply for asylum but later these words came to his mind “There’s nothing for you here”. He had to leave again. He moved from Palermo to Munich in Germany, he spent a month walking through different countries.

In Germany, he was in a refugee camp. He applied for asylum there and they told him to return to Italy. He was aware that Italy doesn't want him. He decided to try his luck in France. After a lot of attempts, he could pass the French borders. And he reached Paris. Now he is in France.



Italian navy rescues asylum seekers traveling by boat off the coast of Africa on the Mediterranean, 2014. Massimo Sestini

When he arrived in Paris, The French authorities sent him to a little village near Limoges in central France. He applied for asylum and it was rejected, the reason is unknown.

The accident happened near Limoges. One night, Asad dropped from the bunk bed, he was sleeping and immediately he found himself on the ground. His spine was cracked. His pain was terrible. He couldn't sit down and he had to stand up, although the accident, the police sent him to the police station. He was locked up for 41 days.

After these days, they wanted to send back him to his country. He had still pain but they didn't care. Asad had to go to the airport, he couldn't sit down and the pilot saw him. He refused to take him on board. And he turned back to the police station in Hendaye (France). The police

officers left him at the front door, and they said “You are free.” He was lost and he had so much pain. He didn’t know where will he go.

One day, he was sitting near the station. A Spanish man saw him, and he thought Asad need to get to a hospital urgently. But later he realized it can be more difficult for migrants to execute medical treatment in France than in Spain. They decided to walk to Irun, a small Spanish city in the French border. In this way, medical treatment will be easier. They called a Spanish ambulance but they refused to come because the Spanish man said there is an injured migrant there. Later they decided to go to the Red Cross migrant center, but again there was no person there. Finally, they met someone who was willing to help him. He called the ambulance again, they came immediately.



Irun and Hendaye

Asad spent two days in the hospital, the doctors didn't give him a diagnosis and told him to leave. A non-profit organisation took him to a migrants' squat, later they decided to take him back to the hospital but this time they decided to organise a demonstration with the local volunteers to get him medical treatment. Asad was finally sent to a specialist medical center in San Sebastian.

That was when I began to see light at the end of the tunnel. Not one of the European countries I've been to previously cared about me. Nobody wants to take people like me. Now I'm having Spanish lessons in the center and rehabilitation to help me to be able to sit. I have people around me to assist me and give me support. I'm going to apply for political asylum and I hope this time it will work.

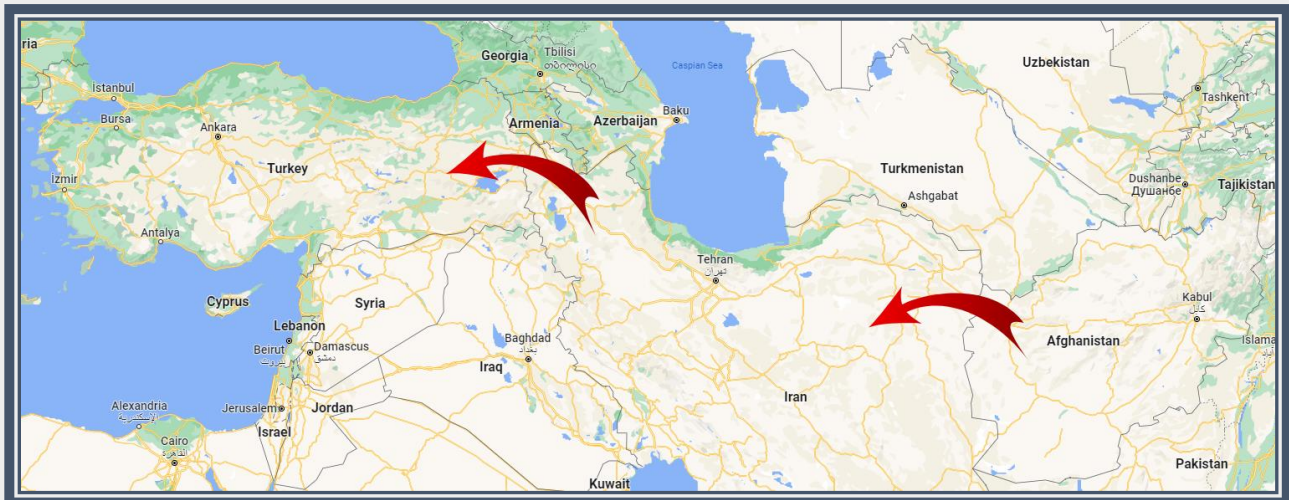
-Asad-



Kamran From Afghanistan

When Kamran lost his whole family, He was only 8 years old. Only Kamran and his little brother survived since they were outside the house. One of his father's friends took them to Iran. He took them to stay at a stone factory. In this factory, There were between 25 and 30 workers and each factory had a cook. Kamran and his brother were helping clean the dishes and shopping for food. Since already they work, They didn't pay anything for accommodation and food. As Kamran grew up, he decided to learn cooking. Actually, he liked to cook but there were some problems with the workers. Kamran says *"I found cooking easy. However, if we made any mistakes, we got shouted at, sworn at and slapped in the face, and beaten up. It was especially while cooking macaroni."*

The people in the factory started to talk about the conditions in Europe, for the people the conditions in Europe were better than there. Some workers gave advice to Kamran and his brother. They said, to work hard and save your money to get out of Iran. Because It was not safe anymore. He worked as a cook for about 1 year, later he started to work as a stone-cutter. This job was so hard for a child, he was working all day although his age with the heavy stones brought from the mountain. Finally, he saved enough money to go out of Iran.

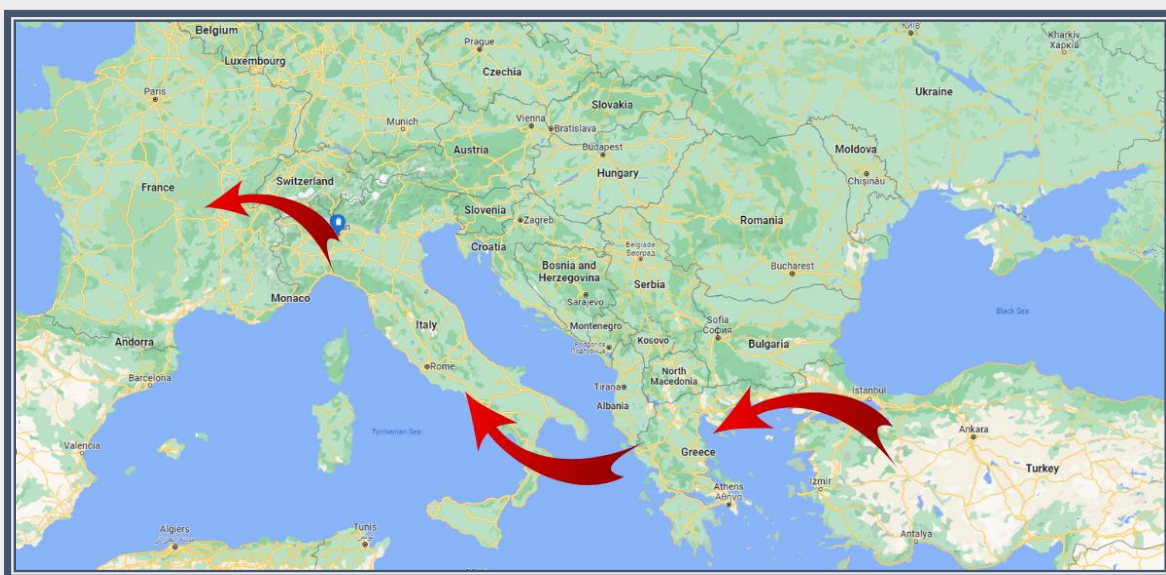


Kamran's Journey from Afghanistan to Turkey

They traveled to Tehran and then got on a bus, later they arrived to a little village near the border of Turkey. At night they walked for a day across mountains and snow in Turkey. They had

to stay at caves with about 45-50 people traveling together. They stayed in the cave for 2 nights, after 2 nights they started to climb down and a van took them. The van lifted them to a house in the city center. They ate some food and drank.

After a while, One truck came to take them. There were almost 50 people at the backward of the truck. There was no fresh air and some people were being beaten. They traveled for four and half hours, and then they started to walk again. They crossed huge snowy mountains on foot. They faced a lot of difficulties during the journey. Later another truck took them and they had to travel with this truck for 2-3 days. Finally, they arrived to Istanbul. Later Istanbul, they traveled through Greece, and Italy then France.

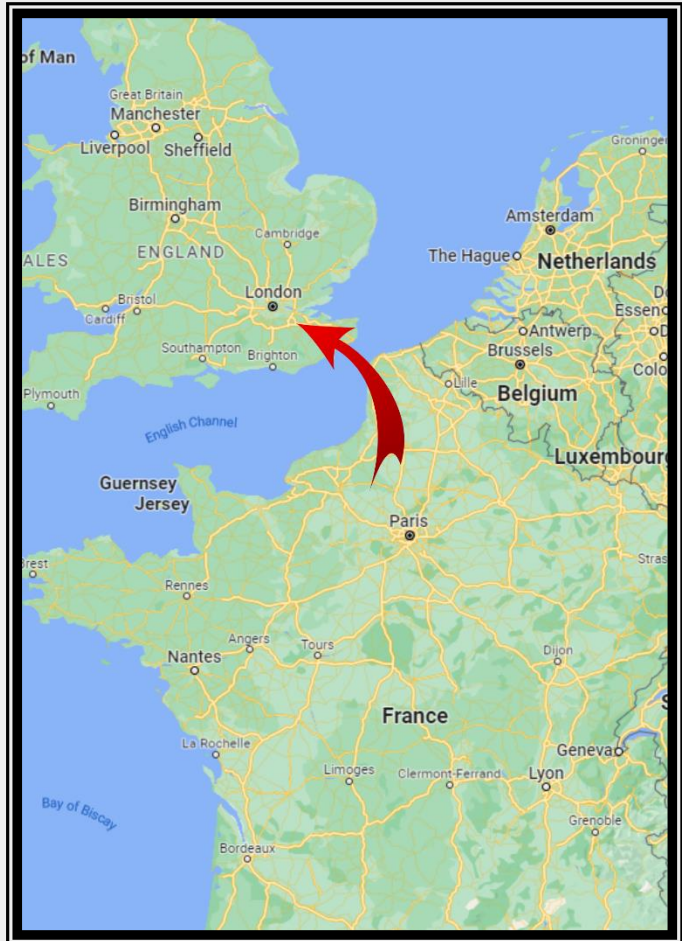


Kamran's Journey from Turkey to France

When they arrived to France, they decided between themselves that his brother would go first and swim across to the port in Calais since they didn't have any money to pay. The water was very deep and Kamran and his friends were watching him since he swam across. At the same time, one ferry was coming from the other side and it was getting closer and closer. Later he started to scream and shout, he was trying to stand above the water. After this, he disappeared, Kamran wanted to throw himself into the water, he wanted to save his brother. But the friends of Kamran held to him. He was unconscious, he found himself at a house. When he got up, he asked about the situation of his brother. They were scared to say truths and they said he is okay. But actually, his

friends had to call the police since they couldn't find him. Kamran's brother is still missing. He was so sad but he had to continue traveling to the UK and he shouldn't say anything about his brother because they can blame Kamran. They had to hide this case. Later he reached London at five in the morning. In London, Since he didn't know English, everything was difficult for him but he managed to ask about the location of the police station. He went to the Police station and the officers gave him some food, drink, and forms to fill later they took him into a room.

After one month, When he went to the police office, They wanted to deport him. He didn't know the reason that's why he started to think about what I did or what happened. His head was bleeding he was beating himself. He didn't remember anything after he left the police station, he met with a man from Afghanistan. He showed his report paper and documents him to take help because he couldn't read. Afghan man said you have nothing, you are healthy. But he didn't feel well as he lost his brother. After a while, a staff member called him and he said your tickets and permissions are ready for departure. Early in the morning, some staff came to take Kamran and they put Kamran in a van. They surrounded Kamran and took the airport. After that when he woke up he found himself in a hospital and again he didn't know what happened to him. When he woke up there were 4 people who guarded Kamran. At 4 p.m. they took Kamran to the detention center.



There were 4 guys in the detention center and they were disturbing and bullying Kamran that's why after a while Kamran didn't want to live there anymore. Just he wanted to die. After he went to the third floor of the building to suicide. He really wanted to commit suicide. He jumped,

he was unconscious. He was taken medical center immediately. After he turned back to the detention center, the other kept continuing to bully and disturb Kamran. He tried to commit suicide again, he jumped from the same point. He injured both of his legs, back, and neck. Again he stayed at the hospital for 4-5 days. After he was taken back to the same detention center. Since whole the case has happened, the workers said your tickets are ready to depart. They came to take Kamran to the airport.



At the airport, he was taken on three different planes. None of them accepted Kamran. There was a call about he shouldn't be deported. He was brought back to the detention center, at this time they were treating him better than the previous time.

He was constantly thinking about his family and the cases that had happened. He couldn't forget anything. In the beginning, everything was okay, he was with his brother and finally, they found a safe place to stay. After that, he lost his brother and the sun has gone down for him. Life was so hard after losing him, he lost everything, the last person in the family. he was worried about where he will go and what he will do if he is deported. He loves this country as he has found a new family and new friends.

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