

20 QUESTIONS EXPOSING THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC MIGRANT NARRATIVE TO THE MARITIME COMMUNITY

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HUMAN RIGHTS AT SEA

Ten personal accounts detailing the reality of African migrants' reasons for moving North from the Sahel to Europe and crossing the Mediterranean Sea.



“ I have **no worry about crossing the sea**, because as soon as I take decision to leave my family for an unknown world, there is no more worry; **I will either succeed or die**. That is it ”



INTRODUCTION

“I do not think that migrants will get rescued and I am neither expecting any rescue action by anyone when our boat sinks, because if the number of losses of life the media are showing is true, it would not happen, people rescue the migrants! I would rather rely on my swimming skill and God’s blessing.”

For every story, there is a human behind it. These are their words.

The following field research was commissioned by the UK independent maritime human rights charity Human Rights at Sea.

The research is part of the charity’s on-going investigation and narrative explaining why people migrate from Africa. This often results in the loss of their lives while attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea, or otherwise they are rescued by Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), military, coast guard or commercial vessels during such perilous attempts. Some migrants are returned to States where they are abused, persecuted or murdered.

This publication aims to provide those researching and teaching this subject matter further insight and evidence collected from witness testimonies at source. For those working in the maritime environment it provides first-hand insight into the backgrounds of the very people that they may come in contact with during humanitarian rescues at sea.

This publication complements the likes of the Marlins Maritime Humanitarian Response e-learning course, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) **Rescue at Sea** publication, the ICS **Large Scale Rescue Operations at Sea** publication, the Human Rights at Sea **Volunteer Maritime Rescuers: Awareness of Criminalisation and Deprivation of Liberty at Sea** publications.

DETAIL

The field research comprises selected first-hand accounts from ordinary people living and working in the Sahel. It highlights poor living and working conditions that are causing some to become economic migrants, triggering their movement north through Africa to the Mediterranean Sea and in the process resorting to using human trafficking gangs and criminal networks to enter Europe. This includes the well-known and often accepted risk of losing their lives and those of their family members in such attempts.

The following selected stories, some of which are difficult to read, describe the reasons for taking such risks and the triggers that cause economic migration. They include the awareness of the dangers faced in crossing the Mediterranean Sea and the varying expectations of potential rescue from vessels and government and non-government organisations, if they are rescued at all.

All persons who participated were interviewed on an entirely voluntary basis with names changed in order to protect their identities. Research was undertaken in line with the Charity’s Research Ethics Guidelines, where applicable.

The interviews have been translated as they were received and the text remains as it was recorded in order to accurately represent the words said and the context in which the answers were given.

Human Rights at Sea would like to sincerely thank all who contributed to this valuable field research.

David Hammond
CEO | Human Rights at Sea
May 2016

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20 QUESTIONS EXPOSING THE AFRICAN ECONOMIC MIGRANT NARRATIVE TO THE MARITIME COMMUNITY

THE 20 QUESTIONS

- What is your quality of life like in Mali?
- How much do you earn and how much do you want to earn?
- What is the education like for yourself and your children?
- What are your current prospects for jobs?
- What do you want out of life for you, your children, brothers and sisters?
- Are you thinking of leaving Mali and migrating to another country? If yes, to which country and why?
- What would make you stay in the country?
- Are you aware of the dangers in migrating north to Europe, or other African countries? What do you think those dangers are?
- Are you aware that you will need to pay human traffickers to get you into Europe?
- Are you aware that they are criminals and that they do not respect your human rights, or care if you live or die?
- How much do you think it will cost each person to cross in to Europe?
- How would you afford to pay the trafficker's charges?
- Are you aware of the large losses of life for migrants during crossing the Mediterranean Sea?
- What are your worries about crossing the Mediterranean Sea?
- Do you think you would be rescued if your boat sank at sea?
- Would you expect to be rescued by ships and organisations and taken to a place of safety?
- What would you do if you were returned to the country from which you came from?
- How do you think you will be treated when you reach your final destination?
- What are your expectations for accommodation, education and jobs when you reach your final destination?
- Is such a dangerous journey worth the risk and why?

1
 Name: **Malick TRAORE**
 Age: 25
 Status: engaged, one child
 Education: none Mother: dead Father: dead

“ I have no worry about crossing the sea, because as soon as I take decision to leave my family for an unknown world, there is no more worry; **I will either succeed or die. That is it** ”

I am a football player and running my own business.

My quality of life here in Mali is miserable if I can say so, I have got a hair cutting box from which I feed my family. In Mali make one head for someone is 300 CFA, imagine how many heads should have to make in order to buy rice, condiment price, pay my electricity bill and pay my house rent?

I have two sisters and a brother in addition to my loved one and me; I don't even have the three normal daily rations for my family! I call this a misery.

I cannot tell you exactly how much I do earn because it depends on how many heads I make a day; the day I have more client am happy because my family will get to eat otherwise not. The mere amount I may get is straight away used for food. I need to earn at least 125000 CFA, to cover my monthly expenses. I have always been looking for a job, which can pay me 150000 CFA a month in order to live normally in Mali but in vain.

I have never been at school but education in my view is capital, I cannot say all the educated people get a job but it make easier for them to get a job. Secondly, someone who is not educated has not the same view or understanding of the world as the one who is. I think if I have been educated I should not suffer like am today. I am intending to subscribe my son at school but it will be for a short time education because at some level of study, it requires fees and transport for continuing his study, thus who is going to pay that fees? He will be constrained to give up his study due to lack of means.

Am expecting to be a trader or employed in the trade by someone or shop seller. As am not educated I don't have any professional qualification, the only thing I can do as job, is shop selling or employed in the trade as assistant.

I would like to be a normal family leader, responsible and able to fulfil my family's needs, send my sons and daughters at school, being able to pay their school fees; For my brothers and sisters I have always a will to help them so as they do not suffer as am suffering today. I wish to employ them in my own business and we would work together in as a family business.

I am quite ready to leave Mali and migrating north to Europe. For the first time I have tried to get in Italy but unfortunately I have been arrested and returned back to Morocco, and from there I have got some amount of money and get back to Mali to set my own hair cutting business. For this time I am trying to get to Spain, just because I failed my first attempt through Italy.

You know better than me, something that can make me stay in Mali! Who wants to leave his family and everything at home for an unknown world for pleasure? If I had a fund of 1.500.000 CFA, to set my own real business, or get a remunerated job at 150.000 CFA, I would not leave Mali for whatever reason.

I am consciously aware of the dangers in migrating north to Europe or other African country. I have experienced it in 2005, firstly the danger starts in North Mali to get to Algeria with transporters or traffickers; we paid the mini bus transporter for Algeria destination but they left us around a sandy and windy village at about 96 kilometres to our aimed destination: Algeria; We walked the rest of the distance on foot for three days, some of our migrant colleagues suffered a lot from dehydration and hunger because they were not expecting such kind of journey. A friend of mine told me that sometime the traffickers take all of the migrants' money in the vehicle; these are the dangers we may encounter from North Mali to Algeria, Morocco or Libya. There is a major danger as well when we come up to cross the sea or crossing the big barbed wire obstacle crossing; it is there most of the migrant die or gives up their adventure decision.

Of course am aware that we will pay the traffickers to get into Europe.

I cannot qualify the traffickers as criminals because they do not call the migrant from their homes, or force them to cross the sea! It is just an agreement between shipman and client! You pay money, you get crossed the sea nothing else! So it is up to the migrant to accept the condition of shipment.

There is no fixed price to cross the sea in to Europe; it depends on how good the migrant is in bargaining and the number of passengers they may have. But it is not less than 400.000 CFA each person to cross the sea. I am suffering today. I wish to employ them in my own business and we would work together in as a family business.

The migrant will pay the trafficker before shipment, "there is no payment after crossing".

Am aware of the losses of life in crossing the Mediterranean sea for migrants, some of friends who had chance to cross told me they have seen a traffic boat sunk in the sea during their convoy; in addition to that, every time the media are talking about migrant ships sinking and causing many losses of life.

I have no worry about crossing the sea, because as soon as I take decision to leave my family for an unknown world, there is no more worry; I will either succeed or die! That is it!

Even if am returned back to Mali again, I will do all my best to go back again. We have a saying in Mali, "death is better than always being in the shameful condition" but for this time I don't expect to get returned back to Mali, during the shipment I will throw all of my ID papers I may have on me, like ID card, passport, telephone numbers, any evidence which can identify me. That was the mistake I have done during my first attempt to Italy in 2005.

I have no clear plan for accommodation, but people said that there is some organization which take care of the migrants for a while in a migrant centre, once they get to their final destination in Europe; I don't expect to get to the (migrant foyer), because from there I may have bad luck to get returned back to somewhere in Africa again as I have any ID paper; I would rather memorize my friend's phone number in Spain, once there I will call him to pick me up somewhere, and then he may provide me shelter and even job as he has already a regular resident paper in Spain.

“ It is even more risky to live in misery in my own home country with a family always having tears in their eyes from hunger, because in such situation **I may end up by robbing or crooking someone by necessity** and in turn I will spend the rest of my life in jail in Mali ”

I don't think if I will be rescued when my boat sank at sea, because all of us in the boat will be called (illegal migrant) by Europeans, unless we manage ourselves or thanks by God's will and blessed by our parents.

I am expecting any rescue neither from ships nor by organizations to take us to a safety place, unless if am lucky because if such ships and organizations exist permanently, there shouldn't be losses of life we are seeing everyday through TV.

Yes it is worth risking such a journey, because life is daily combat! Either I will achieve my intent or I lose! It is even more risky to live in misery in my own home country with a family always having tears in their eyes from hunger, because in such situation I may end up by robbing or crooking someone by necessity and in turn I will spend the rest of my life in jail in Mali. Instead of taking such risk, I think better to take risk to leave Mali for another country where am sure to find some money and help my family.



2

Name: **Manam CAMARA**

Age: 33

Status: widow, 2 daughters

Education: none Mother: dead Father: dead

Bought up by Godmother in Guinea

“ It is worth to risk your life, because even if I stay in Mali in my current life condition **the future of my daughters is in danger**, I could not send them at school, cover my daily needs and help my Godmother who is also in a horrible condition that I won't tell you what ”



I have no quality of life since my husband died in 2006. I am living with my two daughters in a mud house without any outer support; I do not even have a boyfriend who can sometime support me. My main activity is food selling beside the road to the hand workers, I sell it days and nights, it is from which I pay my accommodation, electricity and provide food to my two daughters.

In a day I sometime earn 3000 CFA but when I take off my daily expense from that amount, I earn only 1000. I would like to earn at least 175000 CFA a month in order to live normally and taking care of my two daughters.

Education is a good thing for me but unfortunately I am too old and will not get any other chance to get in the classic schools for study, but am intending to send my daughters at school for longer and better study. One thing is clear, in my current living condition in Mali I cannot send them at school for many reason: first my daughters have Guinean nationality though their father and I have Malian one, it will require a long process to enrol them in Malian school, and their schools fees payment. I think if I have been educated I should not be depending on their father in term on some needs, thus now he is not alive, I have any qualification and I am suffering; I am not expecting the same thing to daughters.

As I am selling food as job, I would be a cook woman in a big restaurant or in the hotel. But the matter is, even if I am good at cooking the employers require some qualification diploma, things that I cannot provide!

I want to be able to cover my needs and for my daughters, to be totally independent and being able to help my godmother though my mum and dad are not alive.

Yes I would like to go to Europe, it is for reason why I am trying to earn 1000 CFA a day so as I can pay my charge! I would like to go to England, because not only I do speak some Pidgin English, I think English people do care about people more than other white people.

If I could get a job in a restaurant, hotel or get a fund to settle my own local restaurant, I would not dare going to England by leaving my little daughters in a sorrowful condition in Mali. Some amount about 5.000.000.000 CFA could be covering my business establishment.

Yes I am aware of the dangers in migrating north to Europe. First, naturally migration does not fit to an African woman, it sounds better to men than women, and she cannot support some hard condition that men may support; in order to avoid such hard condition, she will trust herself to someone who is supposed to get her into Europe. Thus, who knows the one to whom she trusts herself? He may be a bandit, terrorist or whatever else wrong doer! Or she can get crooked by someone and may end up by doing prostituting in European border countries like in Morocco, Libya, or Algeria, because she has no other way to get money for crossing the sea when she gets crooked by bandits!

Of course I am aware that I need to pay money to the traffickers to get into Europe.

I think, if you can qualify the traffickers as criminals, the Malian government is also a bunch of criminals, because it does not take care about those who are poor; we always see through TV that the government gets financial support from Europeans to help the poor people in Mali or those who want to run their own business, but the government members use that amount in own benefit! I confirm the criminal is Malian government but not the traffickers.

I have no idea about the price to pay for crossing the sea, but all I know, I will go with some amount with which I think they can accept me to take over the sea.

I would like to pay the traffickers once I get crossed the sea but someone who is charge to take me up to Morocco from Mali told me that it should be a direct payment before shipment.

Yes I am aware of the losses of migrants' life in crossing the Mediterranean Sea.

My worry about crossing the Mediterranean Sea is the aquatics as well the ship sinking. But as we always say: *“someone cannot love something and its contrary!”*, if I will go to Europe in this illegal way, forcedly I should be subject to crossing the sea and dangers.

First of all, may God save us from ship sinking; yes if we are lucky, I think we will be rescued because wherever in the world there is bad and good people.

I think someone who rescues, either ships or organization, will then take us in a safe place.

If the Europeans expulse me back to Mali again after spending all my money on that deadly journey, for sure I will try to go back again; because from that time on, I will have no other option to succeed in my life but going to Europe.

I am expecting a good treatment when I reach my final destination because white men do respect and care about women more than African.

My expectation for accommodation and jobs depend on situation in which I will be when I reach the overseas. Either to get contact with Malians living in England or get caught by migrant control police to be sent to the migrants' centre.

Yes it is worth to risk your life, because even if I stay in Mali in my current life condition the future of my daughters is in danger, I could not send them at school, cover my daily needs and help my Godmother who is also in a horrible condition that I won't tell you what.

“ If the Europeans expulse me back to Mali again **after spending all my money on that deadly journey, for sure I will try to go back again**; because from that time on, I will have no other option to succeed in my life but going to Europe ”

3

Name: **Sidiky DIARRA**

Age: 38

Status: married, 3 children and two sisters living with him

Education: none Profession: welder Mother: very sick Father: dead

“ In 2005 my friend who is in Spain said, during their convoy composed of three boats, two sank in the sea due to overload of passengers, **he could see some of his comrades dying in the sea** but the boat owner got rescued by his comrade who was the owner of the boat in which my friend was left the migrants drowned ”

I am in a real difficult life condition; feeding, accommodation, my mother got a surgery in Kayes she is in the hospital, my family back in Kita village are starving because last year the harvest was not good, I have no money to help them, none of my brother is working and my father is dead last year in a horrible condition in front of me just because I had not money to treat him to the hospital. I am now living in someone's building site that is about move out there because he wants to continue his building. My family and I have rarely the three daily normal foods: breakfast, lunch and dinner. I have always eyes full of tears when I sit down alone and think about how my family is suffering and my mum's sickness.

I do not have a regular income which can permit me to tell you how much I do earn in the month because I am hired in someone's welding work place then pays me daily according the number of client we can get in the workshop. But generally he pays me 1500 CFA a day. Imagine 2 euros for feeding six people! There is some day I have nothing, and during such days, it is black day for my family, no food. To be honest, I would like to get a welding job, which can remunerate an amount of 125,000 to 150,000 CFA, equal to 230 euros. Or I need an amount which can permit me to set my own welding work shop which requires a lots of equipment; If I will get either these two options, I can say am in Paradise in Mali.

Education is a main gate of independence, because educated person has more chance to get a job than someone who is not; if he has a job, I think he can confirm he is independent, and able to help his parents. He or she can have a better understanding of the world and could be able to educate well his children as well. It is a great sorrow for me not to have means to support my children to continue their education, if I had means I would have invested 50% of my money in their education, so as they would not suffer like am suffering today.

I can even say, the fact of being underpaid by my boss is due to the lack of education for me, because if I had a certified diploma in welding I would have been employed by a big welding company!

My prospect for job is always welding job because I have no other job qualification.

In Mali is very hard to get employed by a real welding company and I do not have a fund to set my own workshop. In my estimate, 750.000 CFA = 1.150 euros I can open my own welding workshop and be very happy.

What I do want out of life is known! To build a comfortable shelter for my family back in the village, take care of my mother who is old today, to get a flat for my own family, sent my children at school up to the highest level, employ or open opportunities for my sisters and brothers and mainly helping those who might be in my current condition of life.

Yes I am planning to migrate north to Europe; for the time being my final destination in Europe is not known, either in Italy or in France, because I have lots of friends who are living in there; and I always see how well they are helping their parents back in Mali. Why do I remain in this suffer knowing that my friends have succeeded in migrating? I will also try my chance!

Only three things would make me stay in Mali again: to get a job which pays well, or set up my own welding business and the third thing that I am not wishing to happen, is sickness.

Am well aware of the dangers in migrating, thanks to my friends who have experienced some of the dangers; bandits crooking, hunger, dehydration in the desert, shipwrecks, or get used by some mafia in Maghreb to get more money from European. Example in Morocco there is a group of young people which excites a "group

of mon ami" a name given to migrants by Arabs in Morocco, to get shipped in the sea even if the migrants are not ready to pay money; it is like a free shipment just to cause shipwrecking and let them get in Spain as many as possible; then the EU will give money to Morocco to control the migrants in his land. Thus, when the money is finished again they will send more migrants' convoys into Spain. They are using migrants as items!

Of course we need to pay them, but in this condition I cannot save money for my transport. I am planning to get to Morocco or Libya, get there a job and save money for shipment in the sea.

Some of the traffickers are criminals, they don't care about migrants life in their boat, they overload the boat at 60 persons in one which could take 25 or 30; the engines for the boat can only take four to eight litres of petrol, sometime in the middle of the sea, they run out of petrol or their boat breaks down or sinks in, just because they do not care about the passengers but their money. Though I have not been in the sea but I have all the information and advises from my friends in Italy, France and Spain. In 2005 my friend who is in Spain said, during their convoy composed of three boats, two sank in the sea due to overload of passengers, he could see some of his comrades dying in the sea but the boat owner got rescued by his comrade who was the owner of the boat in which my friend was, and left the migrants drowned.

According to my friend in Spain each person should pay 500.000 CFA to cross Mediterranean Sea.

We will pay the traffic charge before getting into the boat and then from there, will destroy all of our ID papers or any other sign which can identify our origin; the only thing we may have on us by crossing the sea are our single cloth and the phone number of our friends in our head, in this way in case when we get arrested by the patrols they will either accept us or take us back to an African country where we think it is better than our own homeland! Example: instead of getting take back to Mali, I would rather say am a Mozambican!

I am well aware of the large number of losses of life in the sea by migrating to Europe, the way death cannot prevent people to make baby, dying in the sea also can never prevent us to go to Europe. In my village four young men from the same family drowned in the Mediterranean Sea from the same boat sink in 2008. In 2005, two men from our village are declared lost, Tonton Kamissoko and Male Kamissoko, in attempt to migrating north to Europe.

I have no worry in crossing the sea.

Yes I do think we will get rescued if our boat sinks at sea if we are lucky.

All the information I am giving to you, are from my friend who experienced the cases in migrating to Europe. He said that there are some Coastguard planes that sometimes save migrants' life when they are in danger in the sea. One of my friends in Italy said when their boat sank at sea; five of his comrades and him have been taken to the edge of the sea thanks to the stream and got stuck for 3 days in the rock. Three of them died, he and two other got saved by the coastguard plane, and today he became a regular resident in Italy.

I would try my chance again if I got returned back to Mali unless I set my own welding workshop.

I think I will be well treated, if I behave in a good manner and lucky.

One thing is clear when I get to my final destination I sleep on the roadside or under bridge the first two or three days before my friend picks me up. And from there we will manage together to get a job and accommodation for me; there is always solidarity between Malian wherever we are.

Yes it is worth to risk such a journey, because when I stay here in this current condition, nothing will change, and my family and parent keep suffering, while if I get over to Europe, I am sure to relief this suffering.

“ I am well aware of the large number of losses of life in the sea by migrating to Europe, the way death cannot prevent people to make baby, dying in the sea also can never prevent us to go to Europe ”



4

Name: **Hamidou THIERRRO**

Age: 36

Status: married, 3 children

Education: technician in agriculture Mother: dead Father: dead

“

I am worried about boat sinking due to over load or bad weather condition, but it does not prevent or discourage me to give my taken decision up”

”

I am a Malian but I was living in Cote d'Ivoire, I came in Mali as a refugee in 2003. I am living in a very poor condition of life. I have no proper job, but thanks to God my brother in law allocated me his spare flat in Bamako where I am living in today. I have not the three normal foods for my family; I have no electricity, no clean water just because I cannot pay the bill. My wife spends all days selling candies and soap at the gate to help me covering the daily needs of our family.

I am breeding three couple of chicken in the flat I am living, and I can earn 1000 CFA day by selling eggs. I am looking an agricultural or cattle breeding job, which pays at 120000 CFA a month. In 2007 I had 6 months contract with a U.S. organization helping remote vil-lages to improve their agricultural techniques, which was well paid, but just after a month the Manager who was a Malian replaced me by his own brother. That is to say, in Mali getting a job is more relational based than deserve.

Education is a good thing, it permits to understand the world, and if someone is not educated he has very less chance to get a job or manage his own business. I am blaming myself today because I have no diploma which qualifies me as a professional agricultural producer though I have all technical qualification in that field. I am planning to send my elder boy at school next year, I think my sister will assist me for his education for three or four years before I will be able to pay all the rest of the school fees.

I am looking to get employed by an agricultural company or open my own poultry, which requires lots of money. But there is no job.

I want to be independent in my life, be able to fulfil my family's needs, create agricultural and cattle breeding business, employ my brothers and sisters and living in peace and prosperity in my home.

I think to migrate north to Europe but not to stay there. I would like to go to England because I think, English have a solid techniques of agriculture; I would like to get some experiences from them and exploit them back to Mali, and I think English do understand mi-grants intent more than other.

Nothing will make me stay in Mali in this current condition except a well-paid job from which my family may live in peace and happiness.

Of course I am aware of the dangers in migrating north to Europe; the dangers may be hungers, dehydration, bandits and drowning in the sea in case the boat wreck.

I know we have to pay the traffickers and I think normal we will pay them; they are also living from that activity.

I do not see those traffickers as criminals, because they are helping the poor migrants who are scarifying their life to get into Europe to help back their families and plan better life for their children. The traffickers are not human life protection agent but normal transporter as air plane or train, the only problem is that they are reserved to the poor people! Only God may save someone's life, no one else. Thus I cannot blame the traffickers as criminals.

According to my friends who got to Europe though on ground journey as call here in Mali, each person should pay 400.000 to 600.000 CFA (800 to 950 euros) to cross the Mediterranean Sea. As I have not been there yet, I can only give you the price that my friends told to me.

We should pay in cash the traffickers before getting in the boat, like in normal payment to the airport or train station in Mali. Only we, the migrants and traffickers are seen in bad eyes, and victims of negative connotations in using our name: illegal migrants, human traffickers for those who transport us. As we are qualified as illegal migrants, we make disappear our ID papers before getting to Europe and see what will happen to us.

Am aware of the losses of life in crossing the sea, the loss of life is happening everywhere in the world but people keep continuing their activities; I can even say migrants death in the sea is more politics through the media than reality.

I am worried about boat sinking due to over load or bad weather condition, but it does not prevent or discourage me to give my taken decision up.

By chance we may get rescued in case of boat sinks; otherwise we cannot say we will surely get rescued.

I do not know if there are rescue ships or organizations, but in my view when you rescue someone in danger you will take him in a safe area.



I am not expecting to get repatriate back to Mali because they will find no evidence which shows I am a Malian, but when it happens, I will try back again because it is a shame to the neighbour I failed in migrating.

I am expecting any kind of treatment once in my final destination because I don't know anybody, and people may lie on me that I am a bad guy; but if am lucky since the first day I will be taken by someone as an employee and he will understand what reason I am there for!

I have no plan for accommodation neither for job, everything may happen by chance. Firstly I will sleep on roadsides, and try to find out some Africans or Malians otherwise I will try find out a migrant reception foyer. From there when I get a job, I will do all my best to acquire some experiences or even study agricultural technique which is my main aim to go there, so as I can exploit it back to Mali.

Yes it is worth to risk our life to such journey because we have more chance to succeed in our life once we will get over the sea, and we may help our parents back home.

“

I do not see those traffickers as criminals, because they are helping the poor migrants who are sacrificing their life to get into Europe to help back their families and plan better life for their children. The traffickers are not human life protection agent but normal transporter as air plane or train, the only problem is that they are reserved to the poor people! Only God may save someone's life, no one else. Thus I can not blame the traffickers as criminals”

”

5

Name: **Ibrahima GUINDO**

Age: 29

Status: engaged

Education: license in English Bamako Mother: alive Father: alive

“ **I prefer rather to get drowned by trying to get myself out from that misery than staying here in the shameful situation while my former classmates have jobs, and some are in Europe and helping their family** ”



© Sea Watch Federica Mameli

■ My quality of life is very poor; I am struggling to get my basic necessities. In classification I can say I am in the low class society in Mali. I am living in a single room without electricity and no facility.

■ I can earn 50.000 CFA a month; I am a supervisor in start-up security agency and give some private English class occasionally to students in night time. I would like to get a job, which may pay, at 150.000 or 200.000 CFA (300 euros) a month in order to live independently with my family in Mali.

■ Education is capital either for me as well for my children in the future. Though today I am not employed but I have more chance to get a job than those who are not educated. An educated person may have a better understanding of the world and would in turn contribute more to the long-term development of his own community. For my children in the future I will send them to school and I wish they will study further and better than me; it is a right to them to get educated, education is even a defensive weapon in nowadays!

■ As I told you I am a supervisor in a security agency, which pays very low, I am looking to get a job at English NGO's, or in national business companies but never as civil servant. If I will get employed

as civil servant either I will corrupt people to cover my expenses or I will be always suffering, because the salary is very low in. I can be a communicator in business or translator in NGO's.

■ In my life I would like to be able to cover my expenses, send my children at school, own my own flat, be a responsible and exemplary family chief. Then to be able to help my brother, sisters, parents as well as poor person in my community.

■ Yes, of course I am thinking to migrate north to Europe, and my target destination is England. I think England is safer for migrant than other European countries. I think thanks to my mere linguistic skill and diploma; I may have fewer problems than even other migrants who are not educated. I can explain definitely myself in case of matter and easily get a job compare to those who are not educated.

■ I would stay here in Mali if I could get a job from which I could overcome my daily needs. East or West home is best but in condition if we are independent in our own country! In my current situation I cannot say home is best, because I am suffering more than anyone else due to luck of job.

■ I am aware of the dangers in migrating to Europe in illegal way; on the way we may end up by dying from hunger, hydration, get crooked by bandit or drowned in the sea; but anyway I prefer rather to get drowned by trying to get myself out from that misery than staying here in the shameful situation while my former classmates have jobs, and some are in Europe and helping their family. People are treating me as a coward now.

■ I am aware that I need to pay the transporters that you call human trafficker to cross the sea. I do not see the transporters as human trafficker because the only difference between them and normal transporters is that they do just transport poor person like !! And in none of these companies no one can get transported for free, thus it is normal to pay them to achieve our goal.

■ They are neither criminal because the traffickers do not sink their boat deliberately or kill people in the sea as people think! It is just a matter of bad luck for those who lose their life in the sea; the only problem on which I can blame them is the overloading of passenger. In term of taking care of our life, even in our home country our government does not care of our life condition! It is to say, I do not blame neither the traffickers nor the European but our government.

■ The price for crossing the sea is 500.000 to 600.000 CFA each person according the information I have got from my friends. I have already been informed about the entire situation in order to avoid any mistake, which will be fatal to my migration adventure.

■ The charge for traffickers is like an organized network. It roots since here in Bamako, we have to pay money from here to north of Mali, and from there we will be handed over to over traffickers who will get us close to Libya or Morocco and then from there, we will found out our last traffickers on the sea; All the payment is cash payment before getting in or on the means we will be transported.

■ I am also aware of the losses of life in the sea; even on field before getting to the sea people lose their life due to different situation. Despite all these losses of life my decision to migrating is taken, and will not be given up.

■ The only thing I am worry once in the sea, is the boat sinking and that is natural phenomenon like air or car crash!

■ I think if have God's and my parents' blesses on me, I may even not encounter problem getting into the Eldorado let alone to get rescued!

■ My friend in Paris told me that there is coastguard and some organization that rescue people in trouble in the sea sometime. He said some of the organization do help the national police by giving information of where the migrants are from, which may end up by getting taken back to Africa again. I do not expect to get safe by such so-called organization; I would rather die than get rescued.

■ I do not hope to get taken back to Mali again, but unfortunately if the case happens, I will always try to migrate in another way. I think with the plan and information I gathered it will not be possible for the police to take me back to Mali, but maybe somewhere in Africa because I will burn all my ID papers once at the coast of the sea.

■ Am struggling to get in a country where I am expecting a better life. I have any negative idea of treatment once in my final destination; I think anytime everything is good there!

■ Once in my final destination, as I have my pen friend's contact in London, I will call him. We became friend in Dogon country in Mali as tourist. I am sure he will help me to get shelter and resident paper; thus I do not worry too much about accommodation, job once in London.

■ It is worth to risk such a journey, there is no easy way to earn money; I think it is more than normal and worth to fight for our own welfare and help people who are in need if possible!

“ He said some of the organization do help the national police by giving information of where the migrants are from, which may end up by getting taken back to Africa again. **I do not expect to get safe by such so-called organization; I would rather die than get rescued** ”



6

Name: **Barra DIALLO**

Age: 30

Status: single

Education: bachelor degree in Public Law Mother: alive Father: alive

“ **I would rather die by trying to find out ways to live in dignity than being criticised and living in a shameful condition forever** ”

I am from a farmer family in Mopti and I am accommodated by someone since 2004 in Bamako, when I was in high school. But now I am old enough and got finished my study, I would like to take my own responsibility but I have no way and my accommodator has enough with me. I sometime have no dinner, and his children provoke me every time that I am a coward and a lazy, the fact I have no area to go and no job. I am living in a shameful condition.

I have no job, no income, the mere amount of money I may get are from my brothers who are living in Kaye and Sikasso; they sometime give me money for clothing and food, as I cannot have regular food in the family I am accommodated.

I would like to get a job, which may pay me at 125.000 CFA a month so as I can be totally independent.

Education is good thing, I am educated and I hope sooner or later I will get a job; but the problem is, I will get old before I get a job due to the corruption in Mali. My view on my children's education is clear, they will go to school and study further than me. Nowadays most of the job opportunities require professional, how can you get job if you are not educated in such world?

I have no job but ready to do any kind of job for the time being just to survive. I did some training in drug store and many others hoping to get employed but they have just used me for nothing.

In my life I would like to be independent and responsible to be able to pay school fees for my children, own a flat for my family and help my brothers and sisters in future.

I am definitely devoted to migrate to Europe, from where I think I may get welfare and prosperity. I would like to go to Belgium because I have two of my classmates migrated there and I think they may help me once I will be there.

Only a well-paid job can make me stay in Mali. I am just looking for job; why do I leave my parents if I can get a job in Mali?

I am aware of the dangers we may encounter in migrating to Europe through ground way as we call it in Mali. Dangers such

hunger, dehydration, bandits taking money from migrant once in the desert and the boat sink in the sea while crossing the sea. We, the poor people are used to the dangers since we are in Mali; what is more dangerous than having not a shelter in your own country?

We absolutely need to pay the traffickers to get to Europe as a businessman pays airplane company to go the U.S.A for his own business, and that is normal I think. Nothing for nothing!

I have not been there but got briefed about the charge and way of payment for the traffickers from here up to the sea. Each person should pay 400.000 to 500.000 CFA to cross the sea. My brothers are collecting money every month to send me there, and once I succeed in migrating I will pay them back and help them as well.

The traffickers are sometime criminals, the fact they overload people in a small boat for such expensive charge and do not care about our life; the only thing which interests them is money! As we have no other option to cross the sea, I will accept their requirement.

The traffickers' charge is a cash payment before getting in the boat, and there are no papers which could be used as evidence to charge them for none respect of passengers rights.

I am also aware that many people are dying in the sea by trying to cross the sea; that is the law of the nature, some will die by trying to succeed, some will succeed and the coward remain on someone's mercy forever. I would rather die by trying to find out ways to live in dignity than being criticised and living in a shameful condition forever.

The only thing I am worried about crossing to get catch by the coastguard and send back to the over side of Africa. Because even when we get caught by the coastguard in the middle of the sea and subject to repatriation, we will never get back the charge we have paid to traffickers, and fail our attempt to migrate.

I heard that some lucky migrants got rescued when their boat sank in the sea but I am not expecting a special rescued unless I will be lucky. Most of the time the rescue team comes late to fish out the migrants' dead bodies, that is not a rescue!



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“ **Most of the time the rescue team comes late to fish out the migrant's dead bodies, that is not a rescue** ”

I don't know if there are special ships or organisation that are dedicated to rescue migrants in difficulties in the sea; even if they do exist, I do not expect to get rescued by them because after taking us out the sea they will send us in a centre and send us back to Africa. They are sometime obstacle to migrants.

I will for sure try to migrate back to Europe in case I will get repatriated back to Mali again, because I have no more hope of success in Mali!

Anyway in term of treatment once at my final destination, my fundamental human right will not be taken away from me by

anyone else just because I am a migrant. I am definitely ready to support any kind of treatment if does not ends me up to get repatriated to Mali.

I am relying on my former classmates who are today living in Belgium to help me for accommodation and initiation on ways to get a job in Belgium.

Though it is a risky journey it has a price forever! By the end in Europe, even if I will not be a rich man, I will be in condition better than in Mali.



7

Name: **Soumaila DOUMBIA**

Age: 22

Status: single

Education: none Mother: alive Father: dead

“ My worry in the sea is boat sinking and the stream of the sea, **honestly if I had another way to get to Europe without getting in the traffickers boat, I would do it but I feel compelled to pass by due to poverty** ”



■ I am from a farmer family; my father died since I was very young and now I am living with my mother and five sisters. No one among my sister and me has a regular remunerated job and our mother is 64 years old. We depend on our uncle's support from Gabon who send money for our food .We have no electricity, no clean water and regular food, we have never breakfast in our family, the normal daily rations for us are lunch and dinner. Thus, I am living in a very difficult condition.

■ I sometime earn 25000 CFA a month as a lumberjack. I would like to get a job as a shop seller, or a runner in a wholesale company which may pay 100.000 CFA a month so as I can help my mother and sister.

■ Education is good thing but unfortunately I did not have chance to get at school because my father died when I was very young and my mother had not means to send at school. I think if I had been educated and got a professional qualification I would get a job at least better than being lumberjack and would be able to help my mother. In other to avoid such case to my children in future I have taken a decision to fight to get welfare and prepare my children's education since I am young now.

■ It is almost impossible to get a job, which pays well for a non-educated person in Mali. Can you imagine? I do the dead end lumberjack for 25000 a month!

■ In my life I would like to be good family father, able to cover their needs, particularly to be able to insure the future of my children by sending them at school and help my mother and sisters.

■ Yes I am thinking to migrate first in Gabon then into Europe. Because from Gabon I may have some job and earn money to continue into Europe. In my intent I would like to go to Italy because I have friends there who may help at my first arrival there.

■ If I had 1.000.000 CFA or more I would have stayed here in Mali and run my own business, or a job which may pay at 100.000 CFA; I would never try to go abroad.

■ Yes I know that we need to pay the traffickers but for this first time it may be less risky from Bamako to Gabon than from Mali through Sahara up to the sea.

■ The traffickers can be criminals somehow, because the way they overload migrants in their boat, they do not care about passengers than always money; but in another hand we, the migrants are conscious to put our life in danger by accepting to get in the boats though we see they are not in good shape, and cannot transport the number we would at once! In this case I do not blame the traffickers but the migrants, no trafficker will force migrants to get into the boat for crossing the sea.

■ According to the information I have got from other migrant candidates, the charge varies between 400.000 CFA to 500.000 CFA each person to cross the sea.

■ Migrants should pay the traffickers in cash money before getting into the boat.

■ I am aware of the losses of life in crossing the sea; we are always watching TV news about migrants' life toward the sea world.

■ My worry in the sea is boat sinking and the stream of the sea, honestly if I had another way to get to Europe without getting in the traffickers boat, I would do it but I feel compelled to pass by due to poverty, unless I will get in situation more comfortable in Gabon.

■ I would expect to get rescued and taken in a safe place, because I cannot swim and as we all human being, they cannot sit and watch while innocent are dying in front of them!

■ I will definitely go back again if I am returned back to my country; but I will be luck, because my uncle promised me that when I get to Gabon I will get Gabon Nationality ID, so in case of repatriation, I will be taken back to Gabon instead of Mali; Gabon is better than Mali.

■ I don't think I will have any problem in my first destination which is Gabon because I have my uncle there, but as far as my final destination, in Italy, the treatment may different though I have my friends there; no matter how the Europeans will treatment at my final destination, the essential is to be in the over side of the sea: Europe.

■ I am relying on my uncle about accommodation once in Gabon, and on my friends once in Italy, and then together we find some handiwork for me.

■ It is worth to risk my life in such journey because when I succeed to get in the other side, it means "good bye poverty and good morning to welfare".

“ I think people will get rescued if they are lucky when there is shipwreck, but it is not obvious in my view, because **if such team does really exist migrants will not die in mass at sea** ”



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8

Name: **Diafara MAIGA**

Age: 35

Status: married

Education: technician in telecommunication Mother: alive Father: alive

“ Most of the time the ships get sank because huge number of migrants hide themselves in only one side of the boat and balance it into water. **If traffickers where not criminals, they should not accept to overload the boat** ”

I am in a miserable condition of life in Bamako. I got married there is one and half year, I have no specific job to take care of my wife, pay our accommodation, food in addition now she is pregnant. I sometime have problem of food; in my family. My mum and dad are old, I am the elder son of the family who is supposed to take over in somehow the charge of the family, but there is no way; Currently I am hated by mother and father because I am not contributing to the family, and I became a foreigner in my own family. My God!!!!....

I do not have a regular income, I am a photographer but my work material is very limited. I sometime earn 3000 CFA a day but not every day. I would like to have a job through which I can get 150.000 CFA a month in order to be able to take care of my family and then help my mum and dad.

Education is source of knowledge and everything may come from education. Due to lack of means from my parents I stopped continuing my telecommunication otherwise I would continue it till master level, and for sure I could have got a well-paid job in that case. Now, I have seen how poverty may impact on the children's future, I will do all my best so that my children not to fail their study due to my limited means, in term of financing their study.

I am employed as a photographer in someone's studio and the amount I get from there is just to cover our food expense. I have applied to many telecommunication agencies but in vain to get employed there, I have even not been called for interview. I have a required qualification to set telecommunication antenna, as well BTS configuration. I am totally hopeless of success by staying in Mali in the condition. All job opportunities require master degree level of study, and gloomed by corruption and nepotism.

In my life I would like to be a normal father, able to guarantee my children school fees, help my parents and create my own business in Mali so as my brothers can work in with me.

I am already planning to migrate, I have already explained the situation to my wife, and got a loan of money from my uncle, I did not tell him that I took the money to migrate but to buy materials for my own studio. I have already 350.000 CFA, I will manage myself to get to Libya and get more to continue into Eldorado, mainly in England because, English people are more altruist than other, and I have a friend of mine in London.

I am well aware of the dangers the migrants may be facing, such as hunger, dehydration, bandits, shipwrecks in the sea or disease as it is a long term preparation when they get to coast before getting shipped to the over side of the Mediterranean sea.

For sure we need to pay the traffickers to cross the sea, even before getting to the sea, we will pay those who give us advices and trust us to their organization located in different countries: Algeria, Libya, Morocco and then finally to the boat owners. It is for reason why I borrowed money from my uncle!

I know the traffickers do not care about our life; the only thing, which links us, is money. They have no limited places in their boats; they always try to transport as many migrants as possible at once. Can you imagine they dare to load 80 people in a boat which is supposed to transport 50! Migrants get loaded like animal and then they will get hidden in the boat so as not to be seen by coastguards in case of control. Most of the time the ships get sank because huge number of migrants hide themselves in only one side of the boat and balance it into water. If traffickers were not criminals, they should not accept to overload the boat.

My friend in Libya, who is well aware of the traffic charge for each person to cross the sea, told me that I need to own at least with 500.000 CFA.

I would like to pay them half of the charge before crossing the sea and the rest when I get over the sea. But I have asked many



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people who experienced in migrating, the traffickers will never accept such proposal even if I am their brother, they will say they are not there for charity. That is to say, we will pay cash or swim to cross which is definitely not possible.

I am aware of the losses of life in migrating but I think it is more politic than truth, despite all of the propoganda; people are always migrating and for sure we will never give up to migrate unless find jobs, and justice in our own country. You never see one Ministry or business manager's son risking his life in such journey! All who are trying are those who are from poor families and victims on injustice in term of employment in their own country! I am an example of that situation.

I have no worry either in crossing or in the desert, the humiliation and suffers I am living in Bamako is worse than those who I may encounter in migrating; I will either succeed or die, nothing else.

I do not think that migrants will get rescued when their boat sink every time, if it was the case the picture they are showing through the media would not happen.

It would be good if the governments had put a special and independent rescue team in place but which does not prevent

migrants to try their chance. As nowadays, everything is politic, powerful countries use poor countries to play scenarios and then poor countries uses poor people from their own country to play unconsciously scenarios in the profit of the states.

I would migrate back to Europe again in case I will get repatriate back Mali; But I think I will not be taken back to Mali because no one will find any ID paper on me. Maybe I will be taken back to South Africa or Gabon.

I have no idea about how I will treated once in my final destination, anyway God is watching us, rich or poor we are! I hope by God's and my parents bless I will not be treated in bad way.

I have no expectation for accommodation once in my destination than relying on my friend's help before I get a job. I would accept any kind of job, which pays me at my first arrival, because I need to get money for accommodation and finding a regular residential paper.

It is of course worth to risk my life in such journey, I would rather prefer dying by trying to get in a country where there is justice and equality and I can get job according my qualification. "Death is better than humiliation"

“ It would be good if the governments had put a **special and independent rescue team in place** but which does not prevent migrants to try their chance ”



7

Name: **Boukary SAMAKE**

Age: 24

Status: single

Education: degree in English Mother: alive Father: alive

Living in Libya

“ People die everywhere before and during crossing the sea; I am well aware of the tragedies migrating north to Europe ”

■ Three years ago I was in a very miserable condition of life, studying in Bamako but accommodated by someone's family. After full three years of misery as a student, I decided to give up my studies because I had no means to go regularly to school. I sometimes had no lunch in the family I was lodged in. It was a poor family. My own parents live in Dogoton, 70 km from Bamako; they are farmers. But nowadays, I thank God; my quality of life has improved since I left Mali for Libya.

■ I had no regular incomes when I was in Bamako at that time I had a spare time job as hair cutter in someone's workshop, where I was earning 40.000 CFA a month. With that amount, I paid my school transport fees and food as well when I am out in the family and pay someone hand out that our teacher were imposing us to buy. I would like to get 120.000 francs in order to continue my studies but unfortunately, I had not and ended by giving up my studies to migrate to Europe.

■ Education is crucial for those who are lucky to have rich parents to support them to continue their studies. It means independence. It is independence, responsibility, and happiness as I have been unlucky or failed; I will do my best to assure my children's future.

■ As mentioned earlier I earned 40.000 francs CFA a month as a hair cutter I would like to be a translator or a firm clerk in order to finish my studies; but unfortunately not;

■ After having noticed that I had no job opportunity; I decided to migrate to Libya first and from there to Europe. I am working as a tile layer and hair cutter in night time from which I got 500.000 francs a month.

■ In my life I would like to be a responsible chief of family, able to cover his family daily needs and sends his children to school and helps my sisters and brothers.

■ I have already migrated to Libya from Mali but still thinking to go to Europe mainly to Italy. I see all days long my friends from Mali and Libya crossing the sea to Italy and we are permanently in phone, internet contact. Italy is the closest European country from which I can attend other European countries.

■ If I had what I am earning now in Libya I would stay in Mali helping my parents and fund my own family.

■ I am aware of the danger in migrating north to Europe; I suffered from hunger and dehydration when the traffickers left us before our destination in Tripoli. We walked 70km to get to Tripoli, we ran out of food and water; we even left one of our Ivorian migrant totally dehydrated on the way with his friend helping him getting a car to take them to Tripoli, I do not know how they ended up.

■ I know we need to pay the traffickers to cross the sea; it is for these reasons why I am saving money for the journey charge.

■ The traffickers are only interested in money we do pay as charge to cross not our life security. Despite all of the losses of life due to negligence of traffickers, migrants are eager to go just like me.

■ The crossing charge is 500.000 francs each person and cash payment before getting in the boat.

■ People die everywhere before and during crossing the sea; I am well aware of the tragedies migrating north to Europe.

■ I sometimes worry about boat sink and get crooked by bandits; sometimes the intermediary who takes money from migrants and disappears.

■ Sometimes migrants in difficulties in the sea are rescued by the coastguards and sometimes they are chased back before shore.

■ I am not expecting a special rescue ship or organization that will rescue and takes care of the shipwreck migrants.

■ My decision is taken and it is unflinching, I will never give up getting into Europe even if I will be repatriated back in Mali.

■ I had no clear idea about how I will be treated in my final destination, but anyway I have many friends in Italy who are ready to welcome me once in there, thus I am not expecting any bad treatment by Italians. They are friends for sure, provide me shelter and food before getting a job or something. Now the only obstacle is to get more money before going because I would like to own some amount of money with which I may cover my necessities in my first arrival in Italy.

■ It is worth risking my life in such a journey, because I noticed a significant improvement in terms of life condition since I left Bamako, starting from Libya and I am sure Europe will be better than Libya too.



“ It is worth risking my life in such a journey, because I noticed a significant improvement in terms of life condition since I left Bamako, starting from Libya and I am sure Europe will be better than Libya too ”



10

Name: **Moïse FOFANA**

Age: 23

Status: single

Education: license degree in language: English Mother: alive Father: alive

“ I am as well aware that there are losses of life of migrants in the Mediterranean due to shipwreck, which **I think is more political to limit the number of people to migrate to Europe** ”

I have a low quality of life though I am single and I am accommodated by someone for free since I was student. Now, I have finished my study, I have decided to take my own charge; My accommodator did his best to support me for more than 6 years in term of food, accommodation and moral... now it is time for me to leave the place to the other students coming there to get accommodated. I am living in the shameful condition.

I am jobless and I have applied to many different private schools as teacher and others but no positive result. My parents back in the village are old and really need my support, but unfortunately there is no way living in such condition. I would like to get a job at 150000 CFA per month to be able to pay my house rent and help my parents who are deeply in need.

Education is a main source of success in today's world. An educated person in a normal country should get a job according to his level of education and then is an independent person. If I was in Europe with my mere level of education (compare to European student's level), I could get a job which will pay four times better than the same job in Mali. I will always plan for children's education when I will be an independent and responsible father.

I would like to get a job which is relative to my field of study; such as interpreter, translation, receptionist in hotels or teacher in English language but it is harder to get a job than migrating to Europe whatever condition may be, because if someone has no relation or parents in a good position, it is even better not to apply for job. How someone like I, from a farmer family of a remote village of Mopti, may get someone in a public administration to help him find a job? I am the only son of the family who has been educated, and how can I have a job thanks to nepotism or relation? From now on I have decided not to apply for job anymore in Mali, I already have plan from which I can succeed in my life and help my parents.

In my life I would be a responsible father, who will be able to cover his family's daily needs, to pay his children's school fees, own his own business in which he can train and employ his brothers and sisters and help my parents.

I am definitely decided to migrate to Europe via Maghreb and my final destination is supposed to be France. I would like to get to France because in my view, we have more Malian migrants in there, and French may understand Malians more than other European countries.

Only employment or other income generating activity may keep me in Mali; otherwise how can I survive in my own country? I think it is better migrating to Europe, however much it may cost.

I know quite well that there are dangers in migrating north to Europe, such as shipwreck and bandits but it is more dangerous to live in a shameful and hopeless condition in your own country while you are healthy than taking risk to go migrate to Europe or wherever else you hope better life!

Yes I know that I need to pay the traffickers to cross like any normal transport: car, train...

The traffickers are seen as criminal, but in my view criminals are our governments, why people try to risk their life if they could get job in their own country in a normal way, without corruption? I cannot blame the traffickers as criminals; they are just poor people like us, to conduct their income generating activity.

Personal charge to cross the sea is about 400.000 CFA, I have already half of this amount from my village where I sold one of our cows by telling a fake problem to my father; He actually does not know my plan, and will complete the rest once in Morocco.

I will pay the traffickers cash before getting in boat they will never accept an after cross payment.

I am as well aware that there are losses of life of migrants in the Mediterranean due to shipwreck, which I think is more political to limit the number of people to migrate to Europe.

My worry once there, is always some bandits who will crook migrants and take their money pretending they have nice boat, or know safe area where migrants will not get seen by the coastguards, as well the repatriation since on the sea.



I do not think that migrants will get rescued and I am neither expecting any rescue action by anyone when our boat sinks, because if the number of losses of life the media are showing is true, it would not happen, people rescue the migrants! I would rather rely on my swimming skill and God's bless.

As I have mentioned earlier, nothing will hold me in Mali except a job from which I can found my family, even if I will get repatriated back to Mali, the only solution for me is to try back again because it will be more shameful again when someone fails in his attempt of migration, while my friends succeeded in migrating, and some are working in Mali and have their families.

I am expecting any kind of treatment once in my destination, but

that will be temporary; and then I understand someone will suffer before the locals may understand who is! But later they will come up to provide shelter and take care of me if I am lucky.

I have no plan for accommodation, job or education, my first intend is just to get out from this corrupted Mali, and see what will happen next.

I do not honestly care about the risk I may encounter in such journey because I am sure to succeed when I get to Europe sooner or later, and any suffer has its price!

I understand the price of risking my life in such journey, is for sure success forever.

“ I do not think that migrants will get rescued and **I am neither expecting any rescue action by anyone when our boat sinks**, because if the number of losses of life the media are sowing is true, it would not happen, people rescue the migrants! I would rather rely on my swimming skill and God's blessing ”



FIELD RESEARCHER BIOGRAPHY

Hassim Barama KAMOKO was born in Ambain Koro District in Mali. He finished his primary and secondary school in Koro in the Dogon Country before attending the University of Bamako in the Department of Languages, Arts and Human sciences with his specialty in English Language. He achieved his Masters degree in English Language in 2009 and achieved his Diploma of Higher and Professional Teaching from the University of Bamako in 2012.

He has been engaged as an interpreter for multinational forces working in Mali and as a translator for International Humanitarian Law training for the European Union Training Mission in Mali since April 2013, working alongside ICRC and UN Women. He currently works as an interpreter and advisor to the British Government in co-ordination with the Malian Government.

Hassim has additionally been acting as an independent field researcher for the UK Charity, Human Rights at Sea, investigating the stories and backgrounds of Africans migrating north to Europe as part of the declared ongoing European migrant crisis.



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WHO WE ARE

BACKGROUND

Human Rights at Sea was established in April 2014. It was founded as an initiative to explore issues of maritime human rights development, review associated policies and legislation, and to undertake independent investigation of abuses at sea. It rapidly grew beyond all expectations and for reasons of governance it became a registered charity under the UK Charity Commission in 2015.

Today, the charity is an established, regulated and independent registered non-profit organisation based on the south coast of the United Kingdom. It undertakes **research**, **investigation** and **advocacy** specifically for human rights issues in the maritime environment, including contributing to support for the human element that underpins the global maritime and fishing industries.

The charity works internationally with all individuals, commercial and maritime community organisations that have similar objectives as ourselves, including all the principal maritime welfare organisations.

KEEP IN CONTACT



We welcome any questions, comments or suggestions. Please send your feedback to:
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You can also send an email to:
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www.humanrightsatsea.org



As an independent charity, Human Rights at Sea relies on public donations, commercial philanthropy and grant support to continue delivering its work globally. Was this publication of use to you? Would you have paid a consultant to provide the same information? If so, please consider a donation to us, or engage directly with us.



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issue
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