

18. Dezember 2018 Flüchtlingsadventkalender

Saeed is a 24 years old Afghan boy, graduated in civil engineering with the dream to become a lawyer. It's been one year since he is in Greece, welcomed in the Kara Tepe Camp in Mytilini. He tried twice to escape from Afghanistan.

The first time he was with his family, once they all crossed the border together the smuggler separated them into two groups, the family and the single man. Saeed was forced to follow the order; the smuggler pushed him and the other six single men in a really small van. On the way, a police car started to follow them and the smugglers pushed them out of the car. "We started to run but the police caught us, they slept and humiliated us. Then, they brought us to a camp next to the Afghan border. Actually, it was not a camp, it was hell. We stayed there for seven long days and night. They took our money and mobile phones. They tortured us and they deported us back to Afghanistan." It is not a new episode, the Iran border it's one of the most dangerous to cross, many people have lost their family members, many have seen their dearest shot to death.

Back in Afghanistan, Saeed was one of the few students to be accepted in the University. For long 4 years he was studying civil engineering hidden in the college far from his family. "There have been four never-ending sad years. I had no choice: I couldn't go outside of the college. Noone of my relatives had to know I was back. We decide to leave Afghanistan because my father was threatened by the Talebans due to his work for the Government. He was forced to cooperate with them otherwise they would have killed us. When the relatives of my father found it out, they frightened to report it to the police. For these reasons, we escape. When the family of my father discovered I was back in Afghanistan, I had to move. "I didn't want to, I was so afraid that the police would have stopped me again but I had no choice."

Saeed was only a young man when he had to decide either staying in Afghanistan or risking to face again the torture of Iran police.

The second time he travelled alone with his backpack filled with fear and a second pair of shoes to change during the way. A young single man taking care of himself, running as fast as he could from the Iranian border heading Turkey. This time nothing stops him. Finally, after 4 years alone he could reunite with his family in Turkey. "I couldn't believe I made it, but the hardest part was crossing the sea, I wouldn't have come to Greece, but Turkey was not a safe country for us. When you are forced to leave your home country all you need is a safe place where to live and build your future day by day." So with his family, Saeed decided to cross the sea. Finding a smuggler was not difficult; 5 thousand dollars for all-

inclusive package: a house where to hide before the departure and a speedy boat to cross the sea. The house was near Izmir, there was other two family with 6 small children. The parents took off their clothes to protect them from the cold. there was nothing in that house, only hopeful people waiting to change their lives. After two nights, the smugglers came and bring them to the seaside. The boat was so small that Saeed couldn't fit in with the life jacket, that boat was for only 4 people and they were 20 people trusting their life to the smugglers. "I consider myself very lucky, we arrived safely in Greece, we stayed only 18 days in the tremendous Hotspot of Moria and I am very lucky to be hosted in the Kara Tepe Camp." People may think that men are spending their lives in the camp sleeping and waiting to seize the moment and move from Greece. Saeed is not that man.

He is an active role in the Kara Tepe camp life: he volunteers every day distributing breakfast and dinner, he follows the Greek and English classes held by Caritas Hellas. It's one year waiting for the response of his asylum application and he is building his future. Being a refugee and living in a camp is not easy, it is a combination of everything: hope, sadness, anger and happiness. Saeed has a PTS syndrome but he will manage it by himself. "I know that Caritas Hellas provide us with the psychological support. A lot of people have been there, but I have my pride. I m a young strong man, I need to make it by my self." He is doing his own recovery process. He was back in Skala Sikamineas where he landed and where he met his hero. "I will never forget that fat old man that helped us, he stopped his motorbike and called the police and UNHCR. It was the first time that someone was kind to us. He became a hero to me. He reassured us, we were in Greece and we were safe. I have never seen my hero again"

Saeed is strong and motivated young man, I am sure he will realize his dreams.

He became my hero, he made me restore my faith in humanity. I hope to see you again, Saeed.

(www.caritas.gr)