

LBE 2009 – Migration

Episode 1:

The difficult illegal way: Senegal – Canary Islands

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Characters:

Scene 1:

Narrator (female)

Officer Guardia Civil, man, 45-50

Scene 2:

Narrator (female)

Yayi Bayam Diouf, woman, 55

Scene 3:

Narrator (female)

Cheikh Faye, man, 38

Intro:

Hello and welcome to our new Learning by Ear series about migration between Africa and Europe. Every year, thousands of Africans head for Europe seeking a brighter future. After a few years, some of them return to their home country. But many decide to stay in Europe. There are also many Europeans who choose to stay in Africa permanently. In this series, our reporters describe the various experiences made by those who move from one continent to another. Today, we're starting in the Canary Islands. These islands off the coast of Morocco belong to Spain and are therefore part of the European Union. Every year, many young people from West Africa try to reach these islands by taking life-threatening boat trips across the Atlantic Ocean.

Scene 1:

1. SFX: in the port of Arguineguin, Gran Canaria

2. Female narrator:

It's two o'clock in the morning. The small port of Arguineguin, in the south of the Canary island Gran Canaria, is deserted.

3. SFX: Building a tent city in the port *(fade under)*

4. Narrator:

A little later, the Red Cross arrives, turns on the generator and switches on the floodlights. They then set up four big tents on the quayside. The aid workers bring blankets, drinks and food parcels.

(fade up) **SFX: Building a tent city in the port**

5. Narrator:

Tonight, another "Cayuco" is expected – these small boats have transported tens of thousands of people from West Africa in recent years. A man from the Guardia Civil, a Spanish special police force, is sitting on a bollard on the quayside.

6. O-Ton Guardia Civil, eng.:

You know, we have people working there in Africa, other officers working there in Africa, for the Guardia civil, for the policia national. For the FRONTEX, and we have communication between Africa and Spain, Canary Islands. We can prove Information here with them, and we determinate the best point, the most exactly about the point where they have left. It is very interesting, but it is also very difficult to determinate sometimes the left point (*i.e. point of departure*).

SFX from the port continues

7. Narrator:

If the Spanish authorities can identify where the boats left from, it is easier to send the refugees back.

8. SFX: Arrival of rescue boat

9. Narrator:

A Spanish coastguard rescue boat comes into the small port of Arguineguin. There is a crowd of refugees on the deck. They were adrift in the open seas when the Spanish coastguard discovered them. Their wooden boat was left behind at sea.

10. SFX: Arrival of rescue boat

11. Narrator:

The refugees are tired and can barely stand. Many are supported by the aid workers. One person is carried to land on a stretcher. The Spanish police officers get ready to start their interrogations. The refugees are taken away to a reception camp – they are shielded from the media.

SFX fade down, fade up again (Change of scene!)

Scene 2:

12. SFX I of beach Thiaroye s/Mer

Atmo free and then under text:

13. Narrator:

Some 1,500 kilometers away from the port of Arguineguin lies the Senegalese fishing village of Thiaroye sur Mer. This time, there was probably nobody from the village on the Spanish rescue ship. But many of this village's sons have reached Europe via the Canary Islands in the past. Hundreds have also remained at sea – undiscovered by any rescue ship.

15. O-Ton Yayi Bayam Diouf, French :

"We are all women who have fallen victim to clandestine migration. We have lost our children or our husbands. They took fishing boats to go to Europe."

SFX Beach cross fade with:

14. SFX: in the association's building

Free for a short while and then under the text

15. Narrator:

Yayi Bayam Diouf is the founding president of the Women of Thiaroye Collective. In this village on the outskirts of the Senegalese capital, Dakar, generations have made their living from the sea, but life is getting more and more difficult. Once very rich, the Senegalese waters are dramatically over-fished. The sea barely yields anything these days. Yayi Bayam Diouf's son was also a fisherman – he had learnt the ropes from his father.

16. O-Ton Yayi Bayam Diouf, French :

"When he came back from fishing, he kept his money. He had an account. I didn't know he was saving his money. When he left, he told me they were going on a big fishing trip to Nouadhibou because there was no fish here."

17. Narrator:

For a month, the 26-year-old and his friends tried to make it in the neighboring country. And then Yayi Bayam Diouf got a phone call. It was at the beginning of April 2006.

18. O-Ton Yayi Bayam Diouf , French :

"He said they still hadn't caught anything and told me they were going to go to Spain, via the Canary Islands. He said there was lots of work there and he would send me money to look after the house."

19. Narrator:

There is a photo of Yayi Bayam Diouf's son behind her desk. A professional photographer obviously took the picture and showed him in his best light. He is tall and strong; he looks alert and self-confident. He seems ready to face the challenges of the future. The night before he left, he called his mother once more. He said he would be going to the Canary Islands with 80 young men from Thiaroye. He said he was the 81st man and the boat's captain.

20. O-Ton Yayi Bayam Diouf , French :

"They traveled with two other boats so they could overcome their tiredness and play with each other. From what I've been told, once they were on the high seas, the young people on a different boat from my son's saw that his boat was filling up with water. They told his boat to stop or to go slowly and said they could already see the Canary Islands. They said they would hurry and send someone back to rescue them. They left but then there was a rainstorm and waves that were over 13 meters high. That made the boat break and they all sunk to the bottom of the sea. When the others came back an hour or two later they saw bottles, sweets, shoes on the water's surface – they informed the Spanish police but they didn't find anyone when they came. They never found any bodies. My relatives called me to tell me the boat my son was on had sunk and they were all dead."

22. Narrator:

Yayi Bayam Diouf's son was the captain and that's why she was the first to be told. But then she had to give the bad news to all the other parents in the village. She had to explain what had happened to 80 sets of relatives.

23. O-Ton Yayi Bayam Diouf, French :

"It was very difficult, very difficult. They kept asking: 'Where are our children? Your son was steering the boat with our sons.'"

Scene 3:

24. SFX: of beach in Thiaroye: Sheep, Waves, Children, Muezzin

Free for a short time, then under text until the next voice clip

25. Narrator:

After this tragedy, Yayi Bayam Diouf founded the "Collective of Women Fighting against Irregular Emigration from Senegal". Often mothers would pay for their sons' journeys. Four boats would leave the outskirts of Dakar every day with 80 men or more in each. The 38-year-old Cheikh Faye tried to get to Europe six times in total.

26. O-Ton Cheikh Faye, French :

"What got to me were the young people from my village who left and went to Spain by plane. These young people would come here, buy nice cars, build nice houses – they would say: 'Don't stay in Senegal, come to Europe and you can bring your mum and dad to Mecca, you can build a nice house, have a pretty wife and a nice car.' If you're not thinking straight when you hear these stories you think you can go to Europe and make millions."

27. Narrator:

At the age of 29, Cheikh Faye made his first attempt to get to Europe. It was in 2000. He tried to get to Gibraltar from Tangiers but the engine cut out in the middle of the strait. It was sheer luck that he survived. After that, he was always somewhere between Mauritania, Morocco and Senegal – constantly trying to find a way to get to Europe. One day he was at home in Thiaroye when a friend called him.

28. O-Ton Cheikh Faye, French :

"He said to me 'Cheikh, don't stay in Senegal, there's a way, if you go to Mauritania and you pay 150,000 you'll get to Spain in two days.' I spoke to my friends about it and we got a boat. There were 80 of us and we each paid 350,000 CFA. We went to Saint Louis and got to Spain."

29. Narrator:

But as soon as he arrived, Cheikh Faye was deported. He tried again a little later.

30. SFX: Outboard engine starting up

Free, and then fade out under voice clip

31. O-Ton Cheikh Faye, French:

"There were a lot of waves in the Atlantic Ocean. Waves that made you fall. There were lots of people and we started having problems on the second day. They continued for the eight days we were at sea. There were young people being ill, throwing up, and then people started dying. We kept them with us two or three days and then we had our own problems and we threw them out to sea. We threw five people overboard during my first trip."

32. Narrator:

Cheikh Faye und the others were rescued by a cargo ship. Although he had skirted death, Cheikh Faye did not give up. He tried two more times and failed both times. The second time he was the captain.

33. O-Ton Cheikh Faye, French :

"When we got out into the open seas, the engine cut out. The spare engine didn't work and when the wave came the boat broke. The water came in. My younger brother died before my eyes. He had a shop here, a sewing workshop here in Thiaroye."

34. Narrator:

Once again, they were rescued by a cargo ship. When Cheikh Faye was back in Thiaroye, Yayi Bayam Diouf phoned him. She persuaded him to work with her and to warn young men of the dangers of trying to migrate. This time, Cheikh Faye decided to get involved in her project.

35. O-Ton Cheikh Faye, French :

"I had lost about 50 of my friends, people I had shared my life with. In 2000, 2005 and 2006 we played football – when it was raining and we couldn't go to sea we played football, we had a neighborhood team but everyone died. In 2007, we didn't have a team anymore."

36. Narrator:

Yayi Bayam Diouf began to count the dead of the village. After a year, she presented the results – 241 young men had drowned to death. 156 were still missing.

37.SFX: SFX I of beach Thiaroye s/Mer (*Atmo from the sea in Thiaroye*)

Fade out

Outro:

That's all for today's Learning by Ear program on migration. Our reporter was Bettina Rühl. Thanks for being with us. If you would like to find out more about this topic, or listen to our other Learning by Ear series or to this program again, please visit our website at www.dw-world.de/lbe.

THE END