

21ST CENTURY SHOW # 74

SHOW OPEN, GRAPHIC AND MUSIC (24'')

TEASES

Coming up on 21st Century... (2.00'')

[AFGHANISTAN]

An epic journey covering 6000 kilometres And 11 countries. One young migrant locked away behind bars *"when I first came I had hope but right now, I see everything dark when I dream about my future"*. **His desperate search for safety in Europe. (22')**

[GREENLAND]

And in Northern Greenland – brutal winters, long dark days and little company..., one man braves it all on the lookout for the deadliest of finds. (11')

ANCHOR INTRO #1 (')

Hello, and welcome to 21st Century. I'm DD. (2')

[INTRO AFGHANISTAN]

Migrating to another country in pursuit of safety and a better life has long been a way of coping with crisis. But for some, the quest can be tortuous and seemingly without end. For more than four years, we followed the story of one young Afghan migrant whose long journey has spanned continents.... And shattered most of his dreams. (25')

SCRIPT – SEGMENT # 1 (TRT 21'02'')

Akhtar's Story

VIDEO

AUDIO

BCU TRAIN TRACKS

NAT SOT train

MUSIC

AKHTAR (in English)

AKHTAR ON TRAIN

I used to think that in Europe, things would be different - like the human rights and free society, (9')

NAT SOT TRAIN

AKHTAR (in English)

_AKHTAR SITTING ON TRAIN –
DIFFERENT SCENES/SEASONS
FLASH BY THROUGH THE WINDOW

It really makes me feel sad because I don't have any rights. I've lost so much time these four years but I can't go back home. (15')

TRAIN TRACKS	<p><u>AKHTAR</u> (In English)</p> <p>When I first came I had hope but, right now, I see everything dark when I dream about my future.(7.5')</p>
ATHENS, GREECE	<p><u>NARRATION</u></p> <p>We first met Akhtar Azimi in Greece in 2009. Then aged only 18, he had fled the violence of his native Afghanistan just months before. He was hopeful he would start a new life in Europe...(18')</p>
AKHTAR'S FEET WALK THROUGH MUD	<p>But things did not turn out <u>quite</u> as he expected. (4')</p>
AKHTAR WALKING THROUGH CAMP	<p><u>AKHTAR AZIMI:</u> (In English)</p> <p>I used to say, Oh when I will get in Europe, what a beautiful life it is going to be.” (4')</p>
AKHTAR WITH FELLOW MIGRANTS IN SHACK	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>Akhtar left Afghanistan after being threatened by the Taliban. Leaving his widowed mother and younger brothers, he came to Europe alone. (10')</p>
MIGRANTS PLAYING CARDS	<p><u>AKHTAR AZIMI:</u> (In English)</p> <p>“And now I feel like ... it's a wrong number! (laughs) We have come to a wrong place!” (5')</p>
AKHTAR ON CAMERA	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>Akhtar and some 1600 Afghan boys and</p>

SHOTS OF REFUGEE CAMP

men, found themselves living in squalor in this cardboard shanty-town in Greece's western port-city, Patras. (12')

AKHTAR AZIMI: (In English)

"This is like living like animals." (2.59")

SHOT OF LATRINES

NARRATION

Living amongst piles of rubbish and mud, the hundreds of residents had only 4 overflowing latrines, and a few standpipes for washing. Akhtar never imagined he would live like this in Europe. (16.40")

STANDPIPES

AKHTAR WASHING HANDS

AKHTAR AZIMI: (In English)

OTHER REFUGEES WASHING
THEMSELVES

"We can't wash our clothes properly We can't wash ourselves. It's like living five people inside one tent – It's smelling, everything is dirty –. I feel like nobody considers me a human being here in Greece." (17.87")

INSIDE REFUGEES TENT,

AKHTAR TO CAMERA

NARRATION:

GRAPHIC

Because of its position on the edge of Europe, Greece is the entry-point not only for Afghans but for hundreds of thousands of other migrants and refugees fleeing wars and poverty in other parts of Asia and Africa.

FOOTAGE OF CROWDED REFUGEE
BOAT AT SEA

They come by boat – or any way they can...(18.66")

When it comes to migration, European law is clear - all asylum-seekers MUST apply in the *first* country they come into. But

AUTHORITIES DEALING WITH
REFUGEES AT PORT

getting approved in Greece was particularly difficult - at that time, the Greek authorities granted asylum to fewer people than any other country in Europe - less than 1%, compared to 45% in Spain and 19% in neighbouring Italy. (29')

KOUSOUTIS ON CAMERA

BRIGADIER KOUSOUTIS: (In English)
"Greece is a small country and we cannot afford to take care of all these people."
(6.19")

KOUSOUTIS AT WORK IN OFFICE

NARRATION:
Brigadier Kousoutis, then Chief of the Aliens Police, was responsible for policing illegal migrants. He said, Greece was being saddled with Europe's migration problem.
(13.50")

POLICE OFFICERS WALKING BEHIND
REFUGEES
KOUSOUTIS ON CAMERA

BRIGADIER KOUSOUTIS: (In English)
"As a country, we can't have all this burden of the migrants without the assistance of the other European Union member states."
(7')

CHRISTOS ON CAMERA

CHRISTOS KARAPIPERIS: (In Greek)
"The situation in which these people, these refugees, find themselves here is tragic." (4.72")

MS OF CHRISTOS WALKING IN CAMP

NARRATION:
Christos Karapiperis from the Greek Red Cross, had been helping the migrants in Patras for years. (6.31")

MEN AND BOYS IN CAMP

CHRISTOS KARAPIPERIS: (In Greek)

“They cannot return to their countries – they don’t have the right to do so. And they don’t have the right to continue their journey into the rest of Europe. Here in Greece, their rights are not recognised and they are considered illegal. They are trapped in a situation which has completely no way out.” (17.68”)

MAN WALKING HIS BIKE IN SANDY MOUNTAINS

NARRATION:

Akhtar’s long journey began when he was just 5 years old, when his father was killed during Afghanistan’s conflict with the Soviet Union, forcing his mother and her children to flee to Pakistan. (17’47”)

TRUCK AND CAR ON MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY

Akhtar spent his childhood in a refugee camp. (3’)

CHILDREN IN REFUGEE CAMP

SILHOUETTE OF BUILDING IN THE NIGHT WITH LIT BULLETS

More than a decade later, his family returned to this area of Kabul, Afghanistan’s capital. But the Taliban insurgency was gaining ground and Afghan citizens were increasingly caught in the crossfire. (14’)

GRAPHICS OF ROUTE ACROSS EUROPE.

NARRATION:

Scared for his life, Akhtar began a risky journey overland to Europe.... Spanning 4000 kms and using his entire family savings, he travelled first across Iran, and then Turkey. (20’)

AKHTAR ON CAMERA

SEA WATER AROUND GREEK ISLANDS	<p><u>AKHTAR AZIMI:</u> (In English)</p> <p>"We crossed the border, even there was some firing on us ...They used to say, you have to run because the police is chasing us I was too much scared. I used to say, Why did I come? (11')</p>
SHIPS PATROLLING ALONG COAST AT NIGHT	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>The final leg of the journey was the short sea-crossing from western Turkey to the Greek island of Lesbos. (6.25")</p> <p>Coast guards patrolled the seas on the lookout for overloaded rubber boats. (3.78")</p> <p><i>NAT SOUND (Coast Guard speaking)</i></p>
BOAT SAILING FAST ON WATER AKHTAR ON CAMERA	<p><u>AKHTAR AZIMI :</u> (In English)</p> <p>"They came like a rocket towards our boat. It hit our boat like two cars crash, (6')</p>
PIECE OF BLACK RUBBER FLOATING ON WATER	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>Their boat was punctured. Like these other migrants shown here, their boat started to sink. (7')</p>
AKHTAR ON CAMERA	<p><u>AKHTAR AZIMI:</u> (In English)</p> <p>"We were saying Help us, Help us (2.5')</p>
PEOPLE BEING HELPED OUT OF WATER	<p><u>NARRATION:</u></p> <p>Akhtar and his group <u>were</u> finally plucked from the sea. (2.31")</p>
MOTHER AND CHILD ABOARD	

BARBED WIRES OF DETENTION
CENTER

He was then put in this detention centre on Lesbos. But migrants like Akhtar could

MIGRANTS SITTING ON STREET SIDES

only legally stay in the country for 30 days unless they applied for asylum. If granted, they would be given refugee status entitling them to assistance.(20')

MAN ON ROOF-TOP OF BUILDING

SECURITY POLICE CHECKING
REFUGEE PAPERS

But to get asylum, they had to prove persecution in their own countries. (4')

AKHTAR AND FRIENDS WALKING
ALONG PORT

Some 3000 asylum-hopefuls used to line-up for days on the pavement outside the Aliens Directorate in Athens. The doors opened just once a week and only a small number of those waiting were ever admitted. (17')

Some of these men had been coming back each week for a year just to try and get an interview date. (6')

CU OF TRUCK WHEELS

NARRATION:

PROFILE OF AKHTAR WATCHING
TRUCKS

Desperate, Akhtar saw his only option was to somehow get out of Greece and try to get asylum in another European country. (8')

TRUCKS LINED UP

One way out was to smuggle himself onto the ferries which leave Patras daily, headed for Italy. And these trucks boarding the ferries seemed to be his best chance...(13')

AKHTAR AZIM: (In English)

AKHTAR ON CAM

"We wait for the driver to go somewhere and we try underneath the truck ...in between the wheels ...– that's more dangerous..." (9.97")

"This is the one tyre and this is the other tyre – we keep slipping underneath it – there is some wires, we keep catching like this of the wires and keep quiet." (10.62")

RED AND WHITE TRUCK CROSSING
CAMERA

NARRATION:

One wrong move, and boys had been crushed to death as one of the rear wheels was lifted. (6.21")

BOYS RUNNING AFTER TRUCK

Each day, in broad daylight, dozens of boys swarmed after these vehicles as they approached the ferry-port. Accidents were frequent – one boy was caught between two lorries and almost killed the day before we filmed here. (16.03")

BACK OF AKHTAR

NARRATION:

Akhtar and the many other desperate migrants were caught in a limbo-land of illegality, unable to stay in Greece, and unable to leave. (10')

AKHTAR AZIMI (In English)

'You have chances if you get out of here, but if you're here, you don't have a chance. (4.80")

PROFILE OF SHIP ON WATER AT A
DISTANCE

Whenever the ship leaves, I look at the ship and say, If I was there ... inside

AKHTAR WALKS UP RAMP TO
TRAIN PLATFORM

that ship....” (9.09”)

NARRATION

Akhtar DID eventually make it out – but NOT on one of those ships. After several months of trying, he finally found another route. (11’)

NARRATION

Risking border guards, and scrounging and borrowing what money he could from friends for a train ticket, he headed north, embarking on what would be a treacherous 3 year journey across Europe, in search of a country that would welcome him. (17’)

GRAPHIC -

With two friends, they travelled across Greece and north into Macedonia ... through Macedonia to Serbia; then from Serbia across the border to Hungary. (13’)

AKHTAR (In English)

Then we went to the authorities and claimed for asylum.

We all wanted to stay in Hungary because we just wanted to stay somewhere. (11’)

ARCHIVE FOOTAGE FROM
HUNGARY

NARRATION

But Akhtar was about to come face-to-face with that European immigration

law stipulating that asylum applications can ONLY be processed in the first country the migrant entered, which in his case was Greece. While his asylum application was processed, he was once again put in a detention centre. (22')

GATES CLOSING WITH A CLICK

AKHTAR (In English)

It was locked, we couldn't go out (2')

NARRATION

Several weeks' later, Akhtar received the news that his application had been turned down. Fearing he'd be sent back to Greece, he fled. (10')

AKHTAR (In English)

Once we were sent to a medical check outside. We didn't come back. We just went to Budapest and took a train to Austria. (7')

TRAIN JOURNEY SHOTS, AND
GRAPHIC MAP

AKHTAR ON CAMERA

We decided to apply for asylum in Vienna. (2').

B-ROLL VIENNA

NARRATION

A glimmer of hope; they'd heard that Austria didn't send asylum-seekers back to Greece because of the escalating economic crisis there and

DEMONSTRATIONS /UNREST IN
GREECE AT AUSTERITY

MEASURES

the growing unrest on the streets. (12')

Akhtar settled in; and he found himself a job determined to pay back the money he had borrowed from friends to pay for his journey. (8.5')

AKHTAR IN DOCTORS OFFICES

AKHTAR (In English)

When I was in Austria, I worked for a few months as a translator with a doctor, since in that camp there were a lot of Afghans, some Iranians, some Indians, some Pakistanis and that way I earned some money. (15')

NARRATION

After 6 months of waiting, Akhtar heard back from the Austrian authorities. (5')

AKHTAR (In English)

The answer was the same – that they would send us back to Greece. (4')

MORE GRAPHICS OF MAP / TRAIN,
ETC

NARRATION

Yet again, he was forced to flee...(2')

FRANCOIS CREPEAU ON CAM

FRANCOIS CREPEAU (In English)

Instead of putting barriers, states should be concerned at facilitating this migration (5').

ARCHIVE FOOTAGE OF FRANCOISE NARRATION

CREPEAU ADDRESSING HUMAN
RIGHTS COUNCIL

Francois Crepeau, the United Nations
Special Rapporteur on the rights of
migrants, says that, with 15 million
migrants on the move globally, their
situation HAS to be addressed. One of
the biggest challenges migrants face,
he says, is being seen as terrorists.
(17')

ON CAM FRANCOIS CREPEAU

FRANCOIS CREPEAU (In English)
Policies have been put in place which
treat migrants as a security risk;
crossing the border has been
criminalised in several countries; and
it's all so worrying because most
migrants are not security risks. (14')

GRAPHICS OF JOURNEY TO
LUXEMBOURG.
GVS LUXEMBOURG

NARRATION
Akhtar believes he isn't either. But he
had to set off again. Travelling through
Italy and France, he headed for a place
he'd heard was giving migrants a
chance – a small wealthy country in
northern Europe - Luxembourg. It was
his last hope. (22')

AKHTAR AT RAILWAY STATION

AKHTAR (In English)
When I arrived here, I applied for
asylum and they immediately decided
that they will not send us back to
Greece, since the situation over there
was worsening. (11').

UNREST IN GREECE

AKHTAR IN DORMITORY.
COLLECTS BAG AND WALKS
DOWNSTAIRS.

NARRATION

Hopeful that he may have finally found a place to call home, Akhtar relaxed in the family environment of this shelter for migrants. He began to see a chance of making his future in Luxembourg (15').

AKHTAR ON CAM.

AKHTAR (In English)

I'm a person who believes in hard work and in really doing something.
I can offer a lot to this country (8')

AKHTAR IN CLASSROOM

NARRATION

He set about mastering the language of Luxembourg and began French classes offered to immigrants. (8')

QURAIISHI FAISAL ON CAM

QURAIISHI FAISAL (In French)

This is someone who is very determined, who learns a lot and who wants to do many things.
He deserves a chance! (8')

QURAIISHI FAISAL AND AKHTAR IN
HIS OFFICE

NARRATION

Quraishi Faisal is an immigration lawyer provided by the authorities to help Akhtar in his struggle. He had to prove that Akhtar's life is in danger in Afghanistan. (11')

ARCHIVE FOOTAGE AFGHANISTAN

And Faisal was hopeful after uncovering new evidence of the risks Akhtar faced back home, including his having witnessed his father's murder by Islamic extremists. (12')

FAISAL ON CAMERA

QURAISHI FAISAL (In French)
His father was assassinated by the Taliban and because he saw these people who did it, I don't think it would be humane to make him return to this hostile environment where his own life is still at risk. (16')

AKHTAR ON CAMERA

AKHTAR (In English)
I cannot go back to Afghanistan. I fear I'll probably be killed sooner or later because I cannot hide for the whole of my life. (10')

AKHTAR WALKING STREETS OF LUXEMBOURG

NARRATION
But will he have a choice? After all his attempts to build a life here in Luxembourg and to be a model citizen, Akhtar, after long months of deliberation, got his reply. (14')

QURAISHI FAISAL (in French)
They say he has not been able to demonstrate that he fears for his life. (5')

AKHTAR IN THE PARK

NARRATION

Akhtar was turned down. Devastated, he and his lawyer appealed – twice. To their shock, both appeals were also rejected. (12')

FAISAL ON CAMERA

QURASHI FAISAL (in French)

"He always says "I've done nothing! // I want to work, I want to study, I want to do everything I can to integrate" and he just doesn't understand why they don't give him political asylum." (14')

AKHTAR WALKS THROUGH THE
STREETS OF THE CITY

NARRATION

With all appeals exhausted, Akhtar is now what is called an "irregular migrant", with the threat of deportation at any time and no rights as a resident of the country - no right to work, to rent an apartment or to be recognised as a citizen. (18.5')

AKHTAR LISTENS TO MUSIC
CAMERA PANS AROUND HIM

NAT SOUND

Music – street band

AKHTAR (In English)

I don't have any status here. I'm like not living here illegally but I don't have any permission to stay here, any authorization, or any ID card. (10.5')

MINISTER SCHMIDT ON CAM

NICHOLAS SCHMIDT (In French)

The situation has to be addressed. At least they should be given the possibility to work and to organise their lives during the time they are allowed to stay in the country. (12')

MINISTER SCHMIDT IN HIS OFFICE

NARRATION

Luxembourg's Minister for Immigration, Nicholas Schmidt, says that the "limbo" many migrants find themselves in is troubling. (7')

MINISTER SCHMIDT ON CAM

NICHOLAS SCHMIDT (In French)

You can't leave these people in this grey zone, where they don't enjoy the rights they would have if granted asylum; they won't be deported but they have no rights at all! This is an untenable situation for a person. (13')

AKHTAR SITTING ON GRASS IN THE PARK

NARRATION

Akhtar agrees. More than four years after first fleeing his home in Afghanistan,... after travelling over 6000 kilometres,... and being locked up in 3 different countries,he's losing hope of ever finding a place that will accept him. (26')

AKHTAR TRAVELLING ON BUS

AKHTAR (In English)

I'm afraid that in future I won't have any

place to live in. Give me a chance, to live here and to live like a normal person. I hope for a place where I could live in peace. (20')

[TAG]

Since we filmed this story, the Luxembourg authorities are readdressing Akhtar's case; he and his lawyer are hopeful that he may be give a leave of stay in the country - but for how long and on what basis, is not clear.

—

ANCHOR INTRO #2 (1'58")

[INTRO GREENLAND]

The world produces constant "noise". But one man is on the lookout, listening for a very particular kind of noise.... One that may save lives. We travel to Northern Greenland to see how he's using high technology in one of the most remote corners of the world.

SCRIPT – SEGMENT # 2 (TRT 1'58)

GREENLAND: THE LOOKOUT FOR NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS

VIDEO
LANDSCAPE OF HOUSES,SEA,
FLOATING GLACIERS, HUSKIES

SVEND ERIK WALKS PAST
INFRASOUND ELEMENTS

SVEND ON CAMERA

AUDIO
NARRATION:
Here at Qaanaaq, Greenland's most northern town where huskies outnumber people, conditions are brutal. (12'40")

STATION OPERATOR SVEND ERIK ASCANIUS (In English)
"Winter temperature is about minus 20. In the winter

MOON, SEA AND GLACIERS
TUG BOAT, LARGE SHIP WITH
GLACIERS IN BACKGROUND

snow and ice and constant darkness makes it difficult to access the elements.” (12’)

SVEND ERIK EXAMINES EQUIPMENT
INSIDE STATION

NARRATION

In this barren location, one of the world’s most remote, 1100 kms north of the Arctic Circle, Svend Eric and the team are tracking an invisible prey. Working around the clock, they run an infrasound station to track atomic blasts across the planet. (20’)

SVEND WORKING ON INFRASOUND
STATION

CENTRAL STATION WITH SNOWY
ROOF

This station is part of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test- Ban Treaty’s network of sensors that monitor the globe for violations of the agreement, which bans nuclear explosions. This treaty was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1996. (18.5’)

VIEW OF HILLS AND SEA FROM
PLANE

Atomic explosions produce distinctive, low frequency sound waves that can travel across continents. Sensors record them. (9’)

JURACI AND SVEN ERIK INSTALLING
EQUIPMENT AND LOOKING AT DATA
ON COMPUTER

Every day, all day, rain or shine, the station listens for nuclear noise. If they detect any, the data is analysed and assessed to help determine whether this was indeed an atomic explosion. (15’)

SVEND ERIK WORKING ON
ANTENNA

LANDSCAPE SEA AND ICE
MAN WALKS WITH EQUIPMENT

And to make sure no explosion slips through the net, Svend Erik, during the harsh, dark winter months to come, will be on the front line: keeping the station running to catch any nuclear blasts (15’)

[CLOSE

And that’s all for this edition of 21st century. Sharing the world's stories, I’m Daljit Dhaliwal. We’ll see you then. Until next time, goodbye. (11)

CREDITS: (26')

21st Century

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Akhtar's Story

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