



UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

UN IN ACTION

Release Date: March 2013

Programme: 1382

Length: 5:03

Languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

AKHTAR'S STORY

VIDEO

BCU TRAIN TRACKS

AKHTAR SITTING ON TRAIN

DIFFERENT SCENES FLASH BY
THROUGH THE WINDOW

TRAIN TRACKS

ATHENS, GREECE

SHOTS OF REFUGEE CAMP

AUDIO

NAT SOT TRAIN - MUSIC

AKHTAR AZIMI: (In English) M

"I used to think that in Europe, things would be different - like the human rights and free society. // 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. // (LONG PAUSE - MUSIC UP) When I first came I had hope but, right now, I see everything dark when I dream about my future." (42.5)

NARRATION:

We first met Akhtar in Greece in 2009. Then aged only 18, he had fled the violence of his native Afghanistan just months before, seeking safety in Europe. He was then living in a cardboard shack in the port-city, Patras. (15.5)

AKHTAR AZIMI: (In English) M

"This is like living like animals." (2.5)

SHOT OF LATRINES

NARRATION:

Among piles of rubbish and with almost no facilities, Akhtar never imagined he would live like this in Europe. (7)

AKHTAR WASHING HANDS

AKHTAR AZIMI: (In English) M

I feel like nobody considers me a human being here in Greece." (3)

AKHTAR ON CAMERA

NARRATION:

GRAPHIC

Greece is one of the main entry-points into Europe for migrants and refugees from other countries. They must apply for asylum in the first country they enter. But, at that time, Greece granted asylum to fewer people than any other country in Europe - less than 1%. (17.5)

AUTHORITIES DEALING WITH
REFUGEES AT PORT

AKHTAR AND FRIENDS WALKING
ALONG PORT

TRUCK BOARDING FERRY

With such little chance of success, Akhtar was trying to get out of Greece to try his luck in another European country. (7)

CU OF TRUCK WHEELS

AKHTAR AZIMI: (In English) M

"We wait for the driver to go somewhere and we try underneath the truck ...in between the wheels ...— that's more dangerous...— there is some wires, we keep catching like this of the wires and keep quiet." (9.5)

AKHTAR ON CAMERA

NARRATION:

RED AND WHITE TRUCK CROSSING
CAMERA

But the ferries always left without him. (2.5)

BACK OF AKHTAR

AKHTAR AZIMI: (In English) M

Whenever the ship leaves, I look at the ship and

PROFILE OF SHIP ON WATER AT A DISTANCE

say, If I was there ... inside that ship...." (8.5)

AKHTAR WALKS UP RAMP TO TRAIN PLATFORM

NARRATION:
Eventually, Akhtar DID make it out, though not on the trucks. He embarked on a 3 year journey crossing 6 countries, during which he was locked up in two detention centres and was rejected for asylum wherever he applied. (15)

ARCHIVE FOOTAGE OF FRANCOIS CREPEAU ADDRESSING HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Situations like this HAVE to be addressed, says Francois Crepeau, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of migrants. (8)

FRANCOIS CREPEAU ON CAM

FRANCOIS CREPEAU: (In English) M
"Instead of putting barriers, states should be concerned at facilitating this migration." (5.5)

AKHTAR WALKS THROUGH STREETS Luxembourg. (3.5)
OF CITY

AKHTAR: (In English) M
"When I arrived here, I applied for asylum." (2)

QURAISHI FAISAL AND AKHTAR IN HIS OFFICE

NARRATION:
Immigration lawyer, Quraishi Faisal, prepared Akhtar's application. (4.5)

QURAISHI FAISAL ON CAM

QURAISHI FAISAL: (In French) M
"This is someone who is very determined, who learns a lot and who wants to do many things. He deserves a chance." (7)

NARRATION:

But it was not to be. His application and subsequent appeal were, yet again, turned down. Akhtar couldn't believe it. (9)

AKHTAR AZIMI: (In English) M

"I'm a person who believes in hard work and in really doing something. I can offer a lot to this country." (7)

AKHTAR ON CAM.

AKHTAR IN CLASSROOM

AKHTAR LISTENS TO MUSIC –
CAMERA PANS AROUND HIM

NARRATION:

But with all appeals exhausted, Akhtar now finds himself again under constant threat of deportation and with no rights to work, to rent an apartment or to be recognised as a citizen. (12)

(UP NAT SOUND - MUSIC)

He's losing hope of ever finding a place that will

AKHTAR SITTING ON GRASS IN PARK accept him. (4)

AKHTAR AZIMI: (In English) M

"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 hoped for a place where I could live in peace." (18.5)

UN LOGO

This report was produced by Gill Fickling for the United Nations. (4.5)