



Refugees and their background

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Who is a refugee?

Refugees flee because of the threat of persecution

Refugee is a person, who is being persecuted because of race, religion, membership of particular social group or nationality and political opinion

Human rights violations are the main cause, why people become refugee



What is the difference between refugees and migrants?

Refugees are people, who have been forced out of their home country

The concerns of refugees are human rights and safety

They leave behind their homes, most or all of their belongings, family members and friends

They experienced significant trauma or been tortured or otherwise ill-treated

The journey to safety is fraught with hazard and many refugees risk their lives in search of protection

They cannot return, unless the situation that forced them to leave, improves



What is the difference between refugees and migrants?

Migrants are people, who make a conscious choice to leave their country to seek a better life elsewhere

Before they decide to leave their country, migrants can seek information about their new home, study the language and explore employment opportunities

They can plan their travel, take their belongings with them and say goodbye to the important people in their lives

They are free to return home at any time, if things don't work out as they had hoped, if they get homesick or if they wish to visit family members and friends left behind



The Gambia location, size and extend

The Gambia is located on the west coast of Africa. It has an area of 11.300 km, bounded on the N – E and S by Senegal. On the west by Atlantic Ocean, the Gambia has a total boundary of length of 820 km, of which 80 km is coastline. The Gambia capital city is Banjul, located on the Atlantic coast

Gambia population

Gambia population has increased to 1,8 million people in 2016

Gambia life expectancy

According to the WHO recent data, life expectancy in Gambia is male 57,2 and female 59,8 and total life expectancy is 58,5



Economy

The Gambia economy is heavily dependent on peanut (groundnut) production and export. Second to agriculture is tourism. Gambia is a popular tourist destination, with over 50.000 visitors per year from the United Kingdom alone

Literacy

Percentage of population age 15 and over male 60% female 40,4%

Religious

In the Gambia about 94% of the population are Muslim, making them the largest religious group, followed by Christians 5% and 1%, who still practice traditional beliefs



Polygamy

In Gambia polygamy is widely accepted and practiced. In most cases a man's first wife will be a woman about the same age, but other wives, who are married over the years tend to be younger, in some cases wives can be half the man's age

Social Customs

The Gambia has long been home to several different ethnic groups, who have maintained their individual cultural tradition, as such the country has a rich heritage in the past



Food (Dites)

Staples include millet, rice, yams and cassava, fish both dried as well sauces made from fish/meat and peanuts dominate the diet throughout the country. Millet and rice (porridges) are often served as breakfast

Female circumcision FGM

The prevalence of FGM in the Gambia is 80% from woman aged 15 – 49 years.

Banned in November 2015



Gambia



Political

Video



The current president is Yahya Jammeh, a former army lieutenant. He took power in a bloodless coup in 1994 and maintains power through political patronage.

Under the oppressive rule of President Jammeh innocent and vulnerable Gambians are systematically harassed, intimidated, tortured and arrested. Anyone perceived as an opponent, whether real or imaginary, faces chilling inhuman treatment from the Jammeh dictatorial regime.

Ebrima Manneh, a reporter with Daily Observer was arrested by government agents on the 11.July 2006. He has not been seen since then.

On 16. December 2004 Dayda Hydara, editor of the Point newspaper was shot and killed.

In April 2000 security forces opened fire on students peacefully protesting against the reported killing of a fellow student.

Jailing of the main opposition leader Ousainou Darboe and his supporters and death of Solo Sandeng in prison in 2016.

The reasons



Why young African risking their lives to cross the Mediterranean Sea?

Video

The reasons



Why young African risking their lives to cross the Mediterranean Sea?

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The reasons



Why young African risking their lives to cross the Mediterranean Sea?

Because of human misery, because of despair, for reasons of persecution and injustice in their home countries these people have nothing else but to take an unseaworthy boat to Europe

Some are fleeing war, some political persecution and some other kinds of violence, but all refugees, by definition, experience this

There are wars in Somalia and Libya

Violence in north Nigeria by Boko Haram

Persecution in Eritrea, Gambia, Cameroon and so on

The reasons



Why is Europe the destination?

Video



Why is Europe the destination?

Because people see Europe as a place of peace compared to the violence and despair, that characterize their home countries

However, such a trend should not be overemphasized. For example, in the case of Syria, the data available clearly shows, that the great majority of Syrian refugees has so far resettled in neighboring Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey and not in European countries

This is not a crisis of economic migration

In Libya the fall of Muammar Gaddafi has left the country divided into increased violence, while the situation in Syria is still terrifying

Brutal dictatorship in other African countries

It is unfair to pretend that these refugees choose to become economic migrants, or that Western policy in Libya and Syria is unrelated

The reasons



Why is Europe the destination?

Video



Libya Debacle

On March 17, 2011, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1973, spearheaded by the administration of U.S. President Barack Obama, authorizing military intervention in Libya

What Obama claimed, was to save the lives of peaceful, pro-democracy protesters, who found themselves the target of a crackdown by Libyan dictator Muammar al-Qaddafi

Two days after the UN authorization, the United States and other NATO countries established a no-fly zone throughout Libya and started bombing

In October 2011, after an extended military campaign with sustained Western support, rebel forces conquered the country and shot Gaddafi dead



Libya is now a failed state

Under Gaddafi

- *Free healthcare*
- *Free electricity*
- *Free education*
- *Interest free loans*
- *Newlyweds receive \$5,000 on birth of a child*
- *Unemployed Libyans received the average salary for their profession in benefits*
- *Energy Survey, proved oil reserves of 47.099 billion barrels in 2011*
- *Equivalent to 2,85% of the world reserve*

Now

- *As bad as Libya's human rights situation was under Gaddafi, it has gotten worse since NATO and US ousted him*



Territory for Terrorists

Libya and its neighbor Mali have turned into terrorist havens

Learning from Libya

Obama acknowledges regrets about Libya, but unfortunately, he has drawn the wrong lesson

The Gold Dinar

Gaddafi was trying to introduce a single African currency made of gold

African nations would have finally had the power to bring itself out of debt and poverty

Also promote trade between African countries



How France sucks the life out of Africa

Just before France conceded to African demands for independence in the 1960s,

it carefully organized its former colonies (CFA countries) in a system of “compulsory solidarity” ,

which consisted of obliging the 14 African states to put 65% of their foreign currency reserves into the French Treasury, plus another 20% for financial liabilities

This means these 14 African countries only ever have access to 15% of their own money! If they need more, they have to borrow their own money from the French at commercial rates! And this has been the case since the 1960s

The Colonial pact



The worst of all

France has the first right to buy or reject any natural resources found in the land of the Francophone countries

Even if the African countries can get better prices elsewhere, they can't sell to anybody until France says, it doesn't need the resources

In the award of government contracts, French companies must be considered first; only after that can these countries look elsewhere

It doesn't matter, if the CFA countries can obtain better value for money elsewhere



Question and answer session



Thank you very much!