

Think twice before you risk your life

A group of seven people are running across a vast, orange-brown desert landscape under a clear blue sky. The people are dressed in casual, somewhat rugged clothing, including jackets, t-shirts, and pants. Their shadows are cast long and dark on the sand, indicating a low sun position. The overall scene conveys a sense of urgency and risk.

The personal info
book written by
Steven Ken Ojo
about illegal
escape, asylum
and integration

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1. INTRODUCTION

My name is Steven Ken Ojo. I was born and brought up in Ihumudumu Ekpoma, a small community in Edo State, Nigeria.

The story of my journey from Nigeria to Europe:
My biggest dream was to go to Europe, but I did not know what to expect because of the lack of information. Travelling from Nigeria to Italy took me two long and hard years. The journey was absolutely horrifying and unbelievably distressful. I still remember the good friends who died on that journey. As you read this little information booklet, I hope you can learn something from my experience. My goal is to inform as many as I can in African countries, especially Nigeria, about the dangers in the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea, with the hardships and discrimination one experiences when living in Europe as a refugee. It is essential for every young person in Africa who plans to migrate to Europe to know and understand this information. I am not discouraging them not to come to Europe. What I am against is this:
Travelling illegally and risking your life through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea is not advisable!





2. GENERAL INFORMATION

How do you know the countries that give foreigners a chance? When you enter any country, you have to watch out if any foreigners are driving the city bus or taxi, go to the supermarket and check the cashiers, look into the police and army force, also in the post office and nursery schools, if you see any of these signs, work very hard to integrate yourself in that country. For you to be successful anywhere, the country must provide numerous qualification programs in order to enable foreigners to participate. If not you can stay

there for years you will never achieve your potential. For example, in 2017, I travelled from Italy to Malta to look for a job. I thought Malta might be a better option than Italy for me to find a job to solve my financial problems. I was absolutely shocked when I arrived there to see the hardship someone had to go through to survive, especially being a refugee; my first job was 4.35 euro per hour. You might think it is better than what you are getting in Africa, and you are right, but in Malta, that is nothing. I couldn't afford to pay for one room. I ended up living in a 750 euros apartment with five people. That was a terrible experience for me, don't just believe what is written in the media. Before you make the decision to leave through the Sahara Desert and the



Mediterranean Sea, make sure you have the correct information. Otherwise, just one of many catastrophes will occur to one more African on the Mediterranean Sea. Because of the lack of information and disinformation, many Africans receive back home, we have lost thousands of great men and women from Africa, including children, while travelling through the Sahara Desert to reach Europe through the Mediterranean Sea. Unfortunately, most of them didn't realise what they were to expect before taking the risk. Years ago, when I was in Africa, you would hear people say, „When you are in Libya at night, you can see how the cars drive in the streets in Europe“. So you really believe Libya is very close to Europe, not knowing that there is the

Sahara Desert to cross. You might even die before getting there, and many people were deceived like that with lies and photos on social media; these actions make a lot of people in Africa believe everything is fine in Europe. Not having the correct travel procedure information makes the possible risk very high.

3. THE PURPOSE

It is essential for you to know the reason why you want to travel out of your country to come to Europe. The first thing you should do is proper research about the country before going there because there are so many desperate misguided young men and women today from Africa, who cross the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea, hoping when they arrive in Europe, they will find a good job, not knowing the difficulties to find a job in Europe with their certificate of qualification.



4. UNTRUST- WORTHY FRIENDS

You could be led in the wrong direction on your way, potentially becoming stranded or even lose your life if you are not careful. So many people are trying to get to Europe, so many of them then end up stranded in their own country or in Niger or Libya; the only possibility they have to continue their journey to Europe is by deceiving other people who are going to Libya or coming to Europe. They will tell you different

stories like they are travel agents, they help people to get working visas, making you believe, that when you arrive in Europe, you will find a job. They will ask you to pay half of the fees while they are processing your visa application which is not valid, some of them will tell you that they are Libyan Burgos, which means that they bring people to Libya, which in turn shows that they are human traffickers. They will tell you that they

have brought hundreds of people already to Europe, those are the people you must be very careful of. If you fall into their hands, they will steal your money to continue their journey, and you will find yourself stranded somewhere.



5. UNRELIABLE DRIVERS

Most of the African migrants who went through Niger to get to Libya died in the Sahara Desert because of Niger's reckless drivers. If something goes wrong, they will leave you in the middle of the Sahara Desert. I met one of these terrible drivers on my way to Niger. He was driving us to Libya. He stopped in the middle of the Sahara Desert and commanded us to get off his vehicle. He said his van had problems. "We are not going to continue this journey to Libya anymore", he said. "I'm going back to Dirkou to meet a mechanic, and I will come back to pick you up again." Dirkou was the small village which we had left 2 days before. We had no other choice. We had to get off the vehicle,

hoping and praying that he really would come back for us. After three days of waiting, we knew we would never see him again. We decided to walk, but we were completely lost. We walked through the desert without water or food. There was just sand and stones. We had no idea which direction to go to, Libya or Niger. When night falls in the Sahara Desert, it is an unexplainable experience. This was the first and last time I want to experience that kind of journey in my life. I can't tell you all the horrible experiences I went through in the Sahara Desert. If you get stranded and you are lucky to have women around, you will drink their urine. It will be the only choice you have to survive to be alive. This is where I learned that women have more water in their bodies than men. After some days without water, the women still had urine to pass out while all the men were dried up. To cut the story short, we were 72 people at the onset of that journey.

Only 3 of us arrived in Libya; until now, I have not heard from the rest of them, and they are nowhere to be found. This is what I went through. I am very sure other people whose friends or families fell victim will tell you the same story in different ways, even worse than mine. This is real; you are a fortunate person to have this information that will save you from this danger. It is up to you to think wisely before you risk your life for nothing. It was unfortunate that I didn't have this information that I am sharing with you; maybe I wouldn't have gone through all this horrible experience. Many people say if others survived, you can also survive it. I knew a lot of people that said the same thing, but they died on their way. They left their families in pain and with heavy debts to pay. I know many people that sold their property or borrowed money to invest in the journey. Like myself and my two brothers, we sold our land that belonged to the whole family for small money. I invested my share in that horrible journey. If not for the mercy of God, I would not be here sharing this information with you.





6. THE DOUBLE-CROSSERS AND BETRAYERS

Such people are extremely dangerous. If you are not careful or if you are unlucky, you will meet them. The first thing they do is to separate the women from the men. The women get raped and sold to connection houses where they are forced to sleep with different men for money. Most of the women who have left their countries to travel through Niger and Libya to reach Europe experienced sexual violence; they were held as sex slaves and abused on a daily basis. These connection houses are being controlled by Africans living in Libya and Europe.

7. NIGER BORDER TRAFFICKERS

Niger is one of the worst African countries with illegal border controls. At every checkpoint you arrive, you must pay money to the soldiers from Niger. Normally, as a member of Ecowas, we are not supposed to pay money to move inside Niger. I remember when we began this journey to Libya, we entered Big Joe bus transport in Edo state, and the driver asked us if we were travelling out of Nigeria. I had no idea why

he asked us that question. He asked us to submit our passports to him and pay him some money; he told us, in Kano we would be stopped by the Nigerian immigration authorities, and if they found a travel document in our hands, they would know we were travelling illegally out of the country. We had no choice, so we gave him our passports and paid him. When we got to Kano, we were stopped like we were told; they asked everyone to get off the bus for control, and they asked us different questions, and we answered the way the driver instructed us. So we passed the immigration office.

Please pay attention. When we got to Kano, he brought us directly to one Alaji, what is a human trafficker; he asked us to change our Naira to CFA franc; here, you have to be wise and be very careful. Don't trust anyone; if you don't know the equivalence between your money and CFA franc, they will cheat you; it's better to ask someone else before changing your money to CFA franc. The Alaji called his Taxi drivers; they smuggled us inside the taxi and drove us away without a border check. I had no idea where we were; we arrived at another Alaji's house in Zinder inside Niger the next day. I began to experience horrible things with our girls who were into prostitution.

Some got stranded because they were sold to another trafficker. They had to buy their way out through prostitution. Some got pregnant without knowing the child's father, and some were abandoned because their European sponsors refused to pay money for them to come to their European connection houses. Most of our women who went through Niger to come to Europe were forced into prostitution right



from Zinder. Niger is very rich in resources, but the people are very poor. If you get stranded, you will get oppressed and not have a job to raise money to continue your journey. From Zinder, we went through Agadez to Dirkou, a military base. It took us one week to get there. The first night the soldiers came to pick up all the women, took them away throughout the whole night and brought them back the following day. You could see in their eyes how sad and devastated they were because they were forced into sex without any protection. At every checking point we arrived in Niger, the soldiers took advantage of our women. This has been going on over the years. Because of

the shame and frustration, only a few of those women will tell you about this horrible experience they went through on their way to Europe. The rest will not talk about it, but inside their heart, they will never forget that horrible experience. If you go out illegally from your country to reach Europe, by all means, this is what you should expect. It is better you go directly to the embassy of the country you wish to go to and ask about the requirements to enter their country, instead of going through Niger to experience this horrible journey. You might not even arrive in Libya. Today Libya is one of the worst countries for human trafficking. If you are unfortunate to meet these evil



people, you will end up in a Libyan prison with all your money gone. These people work together with the sea patrol and coastal guards. They will take your money with the promise of helping you to cross over to Europe, but instead, you get picked up by the sea patrol, and you land in jail, where you are treated like a slave. You will face torture, unlawful killing, denial of adequate medical treatment and poor detention conditions. I have a lot of information from my friends who became victims of these incidents; they were living in these prisons and camps run by the Libyans. Up till this date, there are still a lot of innocent Africans who are still there serving long-term prison sentences for no reason.

8. THE RISKS OF THE SEA

Going by sea is a huge risk. There is no guarantee that you will arrive safely in Europe. The boats are mostly overcrowded. I still remember that night when the smuggler brought us to the seaside in the middle of the night in Tripoli, the capital city of Libya. I was shocked when I saw the sea, the way its waves were huge! I realised this was not a joke; what if something would go wrong? It was too late for me to change my mind; I had already given them 1,200 dollars, which was everything I had saved for two years! We had not even spent one hour before the smugglers prepared the boat; the next thing I heard was some command, meaning we had to get into the water to enter the vessel.

In my community, we don't have a river; I had never swam before! The smuggler gave us a compass and satellite phone to communicate with us while driving; he said the journey would take 18 to 20 hours. We drove till the second night when we saw a ship, and we thought it was a UN rescue. As the smuggler had told the captain that if he saw rescue, he should throw everything into the water, the captain did this before we approached them to rescue us. They refused, but before then, our boat was already lacking air, and we wanted to use force to climb the ship. It was really a matter of life and death; they attacked us. We were lucky there was not too much blood. We would have gotten into serious trouble with sharks before we

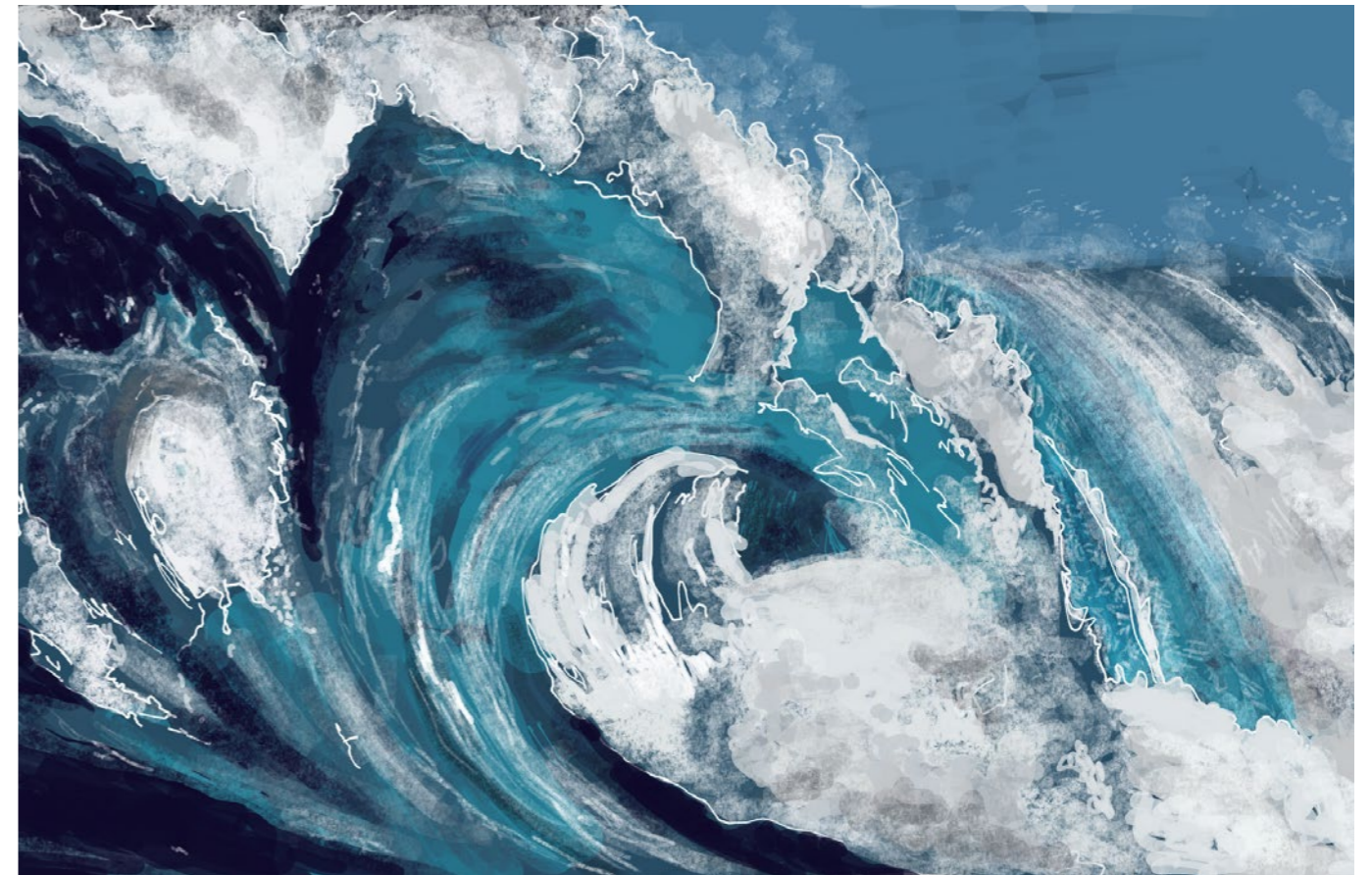
would have realised they were Tunisian people who were fishing that night. After that incident, it was horrible; we didn't know what direction to drive; everyone was afraid and so confused; we were approaching one ship after another for rescue, but none of them could help us. Instead, they would tell us: "If you want to go back to Libya, go this way; if you want to go to Italy, go there". Driving "this way or like that" without a compass is not easy. You might think you are driving straight, not knowing you are going in another direction.

On the third day, our captain fainted, and we were on that journey without water or food. After a while, our petrol finished, and we got stranded in the middle of the sea. That would have been the end of my life, but God had mercy on us; I will never forget this experience; we were driving on heavy waves, and even when we eventually reached a calm point, it was like we were moving towards the mountain. You could hear the suffering sound of the boat engine. Immediately our petrol got empty the sea got calm like a carpet. I'm still wondering, up till today, how did that



happen? I know it is only God who can do that. On the fourth day, in the evening, you could see the sun was about to go down, and we saw one small boat very far away. I don't know how they saw us. We were shouting for help; we knew there was no way they could have heard us. After some time, we realised the boat was heading towards our direction and that they were coming to save us. They realised that we were strengthless, immediately the captain called somebody and started talking, we had no idea who he was

talking to. After a while we saw a big ship carrying an Italian flag coming and a helicopter. It was an Algerian that came to our rescue. That was the worst thing I have ever gone through in my life! If you take this decision, you are on your own; even if you are the best swimmer, you will drown and never reach Europe. Thousands of us have already died, including children. This is the sad, tragic reality of trying to get to Europe through this dangerous illegal route!



9. WARNING OF BAD WEATHERS!

If the weather is bad, do not get on a boat because the waves can be dangerous.

If the boat carries too many people, don't get on it. You can be sure to expect water leakage or engine problems.

If you have open wounds or you are losing blood,

do not get on the boats because this could attract sharks.

You should protect your nose because of the bad odours that come from the sea. It makes many people vomit; if you are not careful, you might lose your strength, and this could cost you your life.

10. WARNING NOT TO GIVE FALSE IDENTITY!

Suppose you still decide to go through the Sahara Desert and the Mediterranean Sea to come to Europe. In that case, the only possibility to arrive is through Malta or Italy, which does not guarantee you will arrive safely. According to European law, if you enter one of their countries illegally, they have the right to deport you back to your country.

If you are lucky to cross to Europe, do not use a fake name or nationality, when seeking asylum. If you do that, it will make life more difficult for you. I made this mistake years ago when I arrived in Italy. I realised that they would not accept you as a refugee if you were from Nigeria, and for that reason you would not be granted asylum. When we arrived in Italy, most of us who arrived together were rejected and denied asylum. They said there is no war in Nigeria because our government pretends to the world, making everybody believe that everything is fine. People do not know that we are silently dying in Nigeria. I thought I was clever and used a fake name and nationality. I pretended to be from Liberia. If I had known how many problems this lie would cause me in the future, I would never have done this to myself. I was too scared to go to the Liberian Embassy to get my papers sorted out, because Nigerians have a different accent, and they would have found out at the embas-

sy that I was not from Liberia. It took me eight long years to rectify my mistake and regain my Nigerian nationality. So please don't make the same mistake. Another serious situation could arise if something terrible happens to you and you die and the authorities can not trace your family. They will give your body free for experiments. This happened to a friend of mine in Luxembourg. He was from Edo State in Nigeria. He gave a fake name and nationality, and he had some issues with his girlfriend, which turned out to be a fight; during the process, he was stabbed to death by his girlfriend. The undertakers were unable to locate the family, so he was buried without a name, and nobody can prove where he was buried in Luxembourg.



11. WHAT ARE THE FIVE CRITERIA NEEDED TO QUALIFY FOR ASYLUM?

Refugee recognition according to the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention.

A refugee is a person located outside his/her home country because he/she is threatened by severe human rights violations linked to

1. race,
2. religion,
3. nationality,
4. political conviction or because he/she belongs to a
5. particular social group.

• Protection

A refugee is thus someone who is persecuted due to his/her beliefs or identity and can, therefore, not live in his/her home country. As the native country of said persons does not protect them from this threat, they need to seek protection in another country.

Suppose you have been recognised as a refugee. In that case, you are entitled to a residence permit that



will initially be issued for three years. If the situation in your home country has not improved within this period, the residence permit will be extended.

• **Subsidiary protection**

A person receives subsidiary protection if he/she is not individually threatened by political persecution but is nevertheless threatened with severe harm caused by human rights violations in his/her home country. This is the case if a person faces the threat of a

1. death penalty,
2. torture,
3. inhumane or demeaning treatment or
4. punishment.
5. Another serious threat is the endangerment of a civilian's life or bodily integrity due to armed conflict.

The subsidiary protection can also apply to situations of general dangers that civilians could be exposed to during a war. However, this practice only applies if there is a high risk that violence against civilians may cause death or serious injury.

If you receive subsidiary protection, you have the right to a residence permit, which allows you to live in that country for at least one year. If the situation in your home country has not improved within this time, your residence permit will be extended for another two years.

12. INTEGRATION IS THE KEY TO ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS

Being able to speak the language is very important; otherwise, you will get lost in the system. If you are lucky to be accepted as a refugee, do your best to study or learn something professional. Respect their citizens, especially the women, stay away from drugs and try not to break the law in any way. Be open

to their culture and work very hard to achieve your potential. The importance of integration is, that it helps you, in general, to adapt to the rules and the standards of the country in which you are staying in, for example, if you want to study or learn something professional in a country like Germany. You need A1 / A2 / B1 / B2 / C1.

• **A1/A2 certificate**

It is a basic certificate that everyone needs in Germany. To apply for a resident permit that will enable you to stay in Germany, for example, if you are married to a German citizen, you need A1 to apply for a permit to stay with your family, or if someone wants to invite you to come and live in Deutschland, you



need A1. If you wish to apply for your first residence permit, you need A1; to pass this exam, you have to understand the basics of Germany.

- **B1/B2 certificate**

It means you have integrated into Germany; you can study and learn something professional. If you have a B1 certificate, it means you can speak German in public. You also need a B1 with a political certificate to apply for your unlimited resident permit and citizenship.

- **C1/C2 certificate**

It means you can speak German frequently. It also qualifies you to study at the university. You can also find a job easily. To achieve all these certificates you must study hard. They are very important if you really want to build your career in Germany.

13. THE RISK OF WORKING ILLEGALLY

Without a proper working permit that will enable you to work in Europe, finding a reasonable job is impossible. That is what leads some people to end up doing illegal jobs, which means unreported employment, also known as money under the table, cash-in-hand. Illegal employment that is not reported to the government is very dangerous, because you will be without health insurance that protects you in case you have an accident or you fall sick. You work against the law if you have a job where you don't have a health insurance and you don't pay tax. Often, illegal workers also have to work under difficult and unsafe conditions, exposing themselves to health risks and a greater danger of industrial accidents. An unlawful worker injured on a construction site may have to pay their own medical costs because they are not covered by health insurance. It can get very expensive. Migrants without documents can be at even greater risk of exploitation. Those who come to Europe because they've been promised jobs and workers smuggled into the country often end up living under extremely poor conditions, receiving little or no pay. Their illegal employment and residency status makes them doubly vulnerable. The penalties if you get caught in Germany are high. German or other countries' customs police and tax authorities are



all involved in uncovering and investigating illegal employment. Their efforts can lead to prosecutions of employers as well as workers. For those who hire people illegally without paying tax or for illegal migrants, there can be fines of up to 500,000 euro and, in severe cases, even imprisonment. Migrants or asylum seekers working without the proper residence title or without entitlement to employment can face both criminal and civil charges. For them, the penalty may just be a fine. But it could also be as severe as imprisonment or deportation.

14. DIFFICULT COUNTRIES

There is only some countries you should go to seek greener pastures, because there are some countries in Europe that go far beyond the xenophobia found in some African countries. It is very important for every young man and woman in Africa to understand, that the first country you enter in Europe or anywhere else in the world matters a lot. It will determine how your future will go. Your journey should be well planned before going there. Because of my project, I had the opportunity to interview many refugees on the streets in Europe. I heard quite a few stories; they told me about their journeys, the money they had spent, the horrible things that had happened to them, and the hardships they had to endure. Most of the people I spoke to regretted selling their homes and businesses



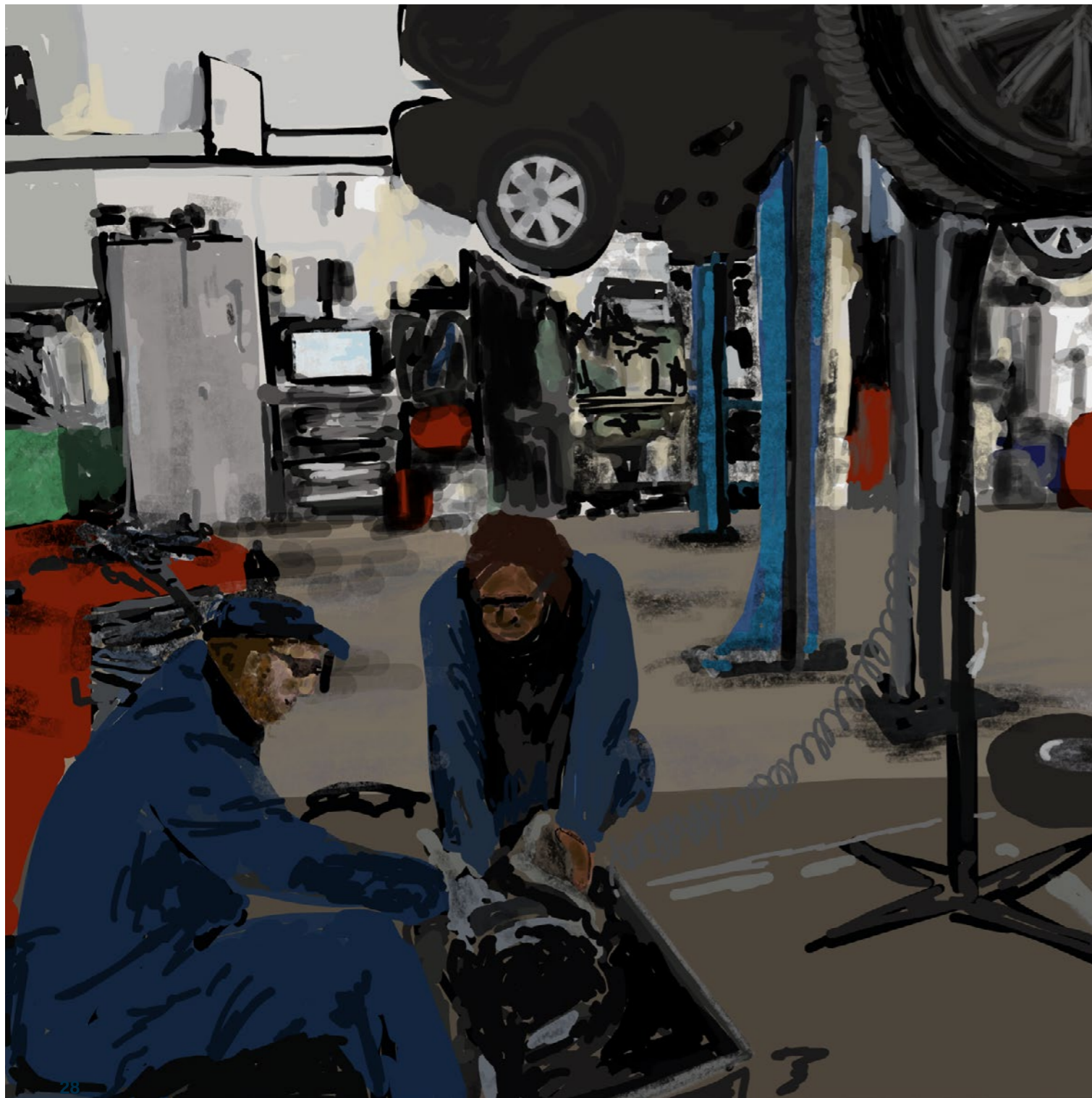
or borrowing money from friends and families to come to Europe. They say if they had known what they know now, they never would have made this move. There are also many of them who are moving from country to country without proper documents and have no chance of ever getting asylum anywhere. They now only realise that this horrible and hard journey was not worth it.

15. DESPERATE PARENTS

Some of the young women I interviewed were also underage; they once told me their parents forced them to go to Europe. Because of the lack of information and disinformation about Europe, the parents thought sending their children to Europe would allow their children to lead a better life; not knowing about

the risks and the dangers they might possibly have to go through; they could not imagine that a lot of them would not even get to Europe. Don't let anyone deceive you into risking your life for nothing. There are so many bad things that can happen to you through prostitution. I saw a lot of women from my country facing a difficult time after they had to buy their freedom from a human trafficker named "Madame" for 30,000 to 50,000 euros. Some of them were infected with some kind of disease because of their terrible experiences on the street.





16. MY EXPERIENCE IN GERMANY

It all began in 2019 when I decided to pursue my dream as an Auto mechatronics engineer. I went to a car garage to apply for a job with my five-year mechanical engineer certificate from Nigeria. It was refused because the education training I completed in my country was not enough for me to work as a mechatronics engineer in Germany. The boss from the garage said he would give me a chance to go through another education training for three years on the condition that I have to bring him a B1 certificate; as a beginner in Germany, to get a B1 certificate, you need a school to study German, which is not easy. I had no other choice; I went to an intensive integration course to learn the German language. I was lucky to pass the exam after six months of studying. I went back to the company to apply for the education training in April 2020. The boss told me he needed me to work for two weeks as an intern; this is normal in Germany. They will test you for two weeks to examine you, which I did; on the last day of the internship, I went to the boss to ask him about my performance. He called the garage master, the supervisor, and asked him in my presence about my performance. He gave him good recommendations about me, and the boss said I would hear from them through email or phone call to inform me how to prepare for the education training in August 2020. He gave me a lot of hope. I waited until the second week of July; there

were only two weeks left to prepare for the education, and there were no emails or telephone calls from the company. I later called them back to inform myself what I needed to do; you can't imagine what the same boss told me: "I'm sorry, we already have enough people for this education." He kept me waiting without bothering to inform me to look for somewhere else when he knew that he couldn't fulfil his promise. I was frustrated and very disappointed after everything I went through to get the B1 certificate. I began to look for another garage; I was lucky to find one; they asked me to go through another seven days internship, which I did. A week later, the boss gave me a chance to start my education training for three and a half years to become a qualified Auto mechatronics engineer in Germany. I had to forget my five years of experience to start all over again; I was ready to go through the education training even though it was very painful. One day my company employed a young boy between 24 to 26 years old to work with us. This is how it works in Germany; you have to learn from the people who have just undergone their training even though I have five years of experience in Africa. The first day he started working with us, I went to him to assist him, and he said: "Give me space". I had no idea why he would disrespect me like that. Another day our company gave us work to do together outside the garage, it was in the middle of winter and I am not used to cold; on our way coming back, I sat together with him inside the forklift machine to warm myself with a heater, he said: "You cannot sit together with me, you have to walk to the garage". I realised he didn't like me because he was a racist. I never

thought of reporting his behaviour to the company boss. I did not want him to have a problem with the company because of me; I thought he would change with time. I never knew it would get worse. One Saturday morning, on 15.05.2021, my free day, I went to the garage to work on my car. The young man was in the garage that morning. He pretended as if he was going to make use of the space where I was supposed to work on my car; he was very aggressive. I went to our supervisor to report the situation; he came with me to the garage to check out the situation; he said: "Take the other space where the big bus is parked." I was supposed to drive out of the bus to have a space to work on my car. For this I needed the bus key. In our company we had a plastic cup to save all the car keys and the young man was with the cup. I went to him to pick up the bus key but he refused to give it to me. Instead, he brought the cup back to the office. Pay attention here! If you find yourself in this kind of situation, just go away from this kind of human without saying a word! It was not possible for me to do this; it was too late before I realised what he was up to. I followed him behind his back to ask him why he behaved this way. Everything then happened very fast. As he turned around towards me, he grabbed my dreadlock hair and pulled out one of my dreadlocks. I was trying to defend myself. Shortly after the fight, the supervisor came and asked what the problem was. I explained how it happened. I went home without repairing my car, and later in the afternoon, my neck was blocked, and I was going through extreme pain. My wife had to call an ambulance for me. On the third day, I received a quit notice letter from our company

that we were both terminated, which meant that my education was cancelled. I regretted this mistake; after everything I had been through. I still had two and a half years ahead of me. I went to several garages to continue my education but it was already too late. If you want to apply for a training education in Germany, you must start in April-May because the education begins every August. The reason for this information is that I want you to learn from my experience and my mistakes as well, in case you might find yourself in this situation. When you come to Europe, don't expect things to be like how it's in Africa. Many people are very nice and friendly, but some are not; you will be challenged by discrimination and you must learn to deal with these situations that you may find yourself in. If someone pushes you to the wall to provoke you, it's better you do not push back because you might end up being the victim in the end.

17. THE BEST POSSIBILITIES TO COME TO EUROPE

- Through family reunion, or a partner who invites you.
- As a tourist

The requirements to apply for a tourist visa:

- Valid passport.
- Completed Schengen visit visa application form.
- Travel itinerary including countries you plan to visit, accommodation & flight details.
- Evidence of financial sufficiency.
- Evidence of your employment or student status to prove you will not be staying.
- Bank statement over the last 6 months. If you do not have one, you could show a family member's guardian's statement instead, with an accompanying letter stating that they are sponsoring your travel and stay.

For more information:

<https://www.schengenvisainfo.com>

Top 12 Countries to migrate to for economic prosperity

Before migrating, you need to do research about the country's GDP and fertility rate; the country's GDP has to be higher than the fertility rate. That means you have a good chance of getting a job in that country

because they have more jobs but fewer workers. Here are the countries I recommend: France, Denmark, Germany, Iceland, Sweden, Australia, Belgium, Switzerland, Estonia, United Kingdom, United States, and Canada.

The European Union

Here are the countries that form the European Union. At present, it has 27 member states.

- In **Austria**, nearly all the people speak German. The dialect of German spoken in Austria, except in the west, is Bavarian, sometimes called Austro-Bavarian. Their currency is the Euro.
- **Belgium** has three official languages: Dutch, French, and German. Its currency is the Euro.
- **Bulgaria**: According to BBC, 85% of the approximate 8.7m population of Bulgaria speak the official language, Bulgarian. 2.5% speak Macedonian, considered in Bulgaria as a dialect of Bulgarian and not as a separate language. Its currency is the Bulgarian Lev.
- **Croatian** is the official language of Croatia. Its currency is the Euro.
- In **Cyprus** the official language is Greek and Turkish. Its currency is the Euro.
- The **Czech Republic's** official language is Czech. Its currency is the Czech Koruna.
- **Denmark** has one official language: Danish. However, there are several minority languages spoken throughout the territory; if you include the Faroe Islands and Greenland, Danes are taught English from a very young age, and 86% of all Danes speak

English as a second language. Their currency is the Danish Krone.

- Estonian is the official language of **Estonia**; its currency is the Euro.
- **Finland's** official languages are Finnish and Swedish. Its currency is the Euro.
- **France's** official language is French. Its currency is the Euro,
- **Germany's** official language is German, and its currency is the Euro.
- **Greece's** official language is Greek, and its currency is the Euro.
- **Hungary's** official language is Hungarian, and its currency is Hungarian Forint.
- **Italy's** official language is Italian, and its currency is the Euro.
- **Ireland's** official languages are Irish and English; its currency is the Euro.
- **Latvia's** official language is Latvian, and its currency is the Euro.
- **Lithuania's** official language is Lithuanian, and its currency is the Euro.
- **Luxembourg's** official language is Luxembourgish, French and German, and its currency is the Euro.
- **Malta** has two official languages: Maltese and English; its currency is the Euro.
- **The Netherlands** has 16 million inhabitants, and Dutch is the country's only official language; its currency is the Euro.
- **Poland's** official language is Polish, and its currency is the Zloty.
- **Portugal's** official language is Portuguese, currently the fifth most spoken language in the world. The

countries that speak the Portuguese language are Brazil, Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe and East Timor. Its currency is the Euro.

- **Romania's** official language is Romanian, spoken by approximately 89% of the 23m population. Hungarian is spoken by around 7% of the population; their currency is Romanian Leu.
- **Spain's** official language is Spanish, and its currency is the Euro.
- **Slovakia's** official language is Slovak, and its currency is the Euro.
- **Slovenia's** official language is Slovenian, and its currency is the Euro.
- **Sweden's** official languages are Swedish and Finnish, and their currency is Swedish Krona.

The purpose of writing this info booklet is that I was a victim of false information about Europe. I regard it as my responsibility to do something about the situation. Most of us who reach Europe after our terrible journey forget everything as soon as we arrive. I have not forgotten! And I promise to inform as many as I can in the African continent to warn them about the dangers and hardships of such a journey. As you read this little booklet, I hope you will think twice before contemplating such a journey. My goal is to guide you and save you. Some people will not be happy with what I wrote here because they profit from it. But it is the truth, and I hope you will see it in the light it was meant to be seen. Please value what you have.

God bless the Africans and the Europeans.

Thank you.

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Think twice before you risk your life! is a personal report of Steven Ken Ojo about his illegal escape from Nigeria to Europe. From his first thoughts to leave his country to the integration in Germany the info book talks about the enormous problems and risks of illegal escape. The intention of Steven Ken Ojo is creating awareness for this topic and the possibilities for legal immigration.

