

DOCUMENTARY 'Dadaab'

Synopsis

Can a shelter become a prison? "We cannot leave the camp, neither go back to our country nor prosper". At the same time, can a shelter become homeland? "In this place I grew up, studied, worked and became father. I feel home". This is a contradiction faced by the refugees of the largest camp in the world, Dadaab, in north-eastern Kenya.

This is the case of Omar, Hassan and Mohamed, three Somalian young men who arrived to Dadaab in 1991, when the war started in Somalia and the camp was created. Their memories of their previous lives are reduced to some blurry images. In these two decades, they have become part of an incipient middle class, but despite that, their aim is to get one of the prized visas to start a new life in another country.

While they think of leaving, 6.000 people arrive every month from Somalia. N-0 is one of the areas where new arrivals are settled and Mohamed Alí is its leader. For them, the camp means safety, but restarting life there is difficult too.

A few of them leave, a lot arrive, all of them "hoping the best but prepared for the worst".

Credits

Directed by: Oriol Andrés, Carlos Castro, Gemma Garcia

Written by: Oriol Andrés, Carlos Castro, Gemma Garcia, Miquel Martí Freixa

A production by: Fora de Quadre / Contrast

Camera and Sound: Oriol Andrés, Carlos Castro, Gemma Garcia

Editor: María Romero

Sound Editor: Susanna Carreras

Country:

Spain/Kenya

Year of production:

2009-2011

Duration:

50 minutes

Original languages:

Somali / English

Subtitles:

English / Spanish / Catalan

Original format: HDV

Format of exhibition: DVD / HDCAM

Production:

CONTRAST

Contrast (www.contrast.es) is a group of journalists who work in the production of social communication projects. They are professionals with a wide experience in press, radio and broadcast media. Contrast was created in 2010 as a result of a problem: media aren't used to dedicating enough space to develop journalist projects in depth and independently.

FORA DE QUADRE

Fora de Quadre (www.foradequadre.org) is an association composed by journalists and professionals from other professional areas who conceive journalism as a tool for social transformation. Created in 2003, its most important project has been 'El Diari de la Pau' (Newspaper for Peace), on the occasion of the second Iraq war. The association also organised the Lleida Human Right Film Festival (Catalonia, Spain) from 2005 to 2011. Moreover, Fora de Quadre has produced several documentary projects.

The filmmakers:

Filmmakers of 'Dadaab' documentary are three journalists based in Barcelona (Spain): Oriol Andrés, Carlos Castro and Gemma Garcia. They have worked in print and broadcast media in Spain and abroad, covering international issues. In 2010, they created, with other freelance journalist from Spain, Contrast Journalist Group, whose aim is to produce journalist and documentary projects about social issues. Last August, these three filmmakers won Memorial Joan Gomis Journalist Prize with a written article about Dadaab Refugee Camp. This is their first long documentary as directors.

After 'Dadaab', they co-directed together other documentaries: *Ziztadak / Tábanos* (2012), about non violence in Euskadi; the report *Losing the Thread*, for Networkwear international campaign, and some of the chapters of *After Peace* documentary series.

Oriol Andrés. Barcelona, 1982

He is a freelance journalist and documentary filmmaker. He has worked for several international broadcast and written media over the past eight years. From 2007 to 2009 he also worked as staff writer in Universal newspaper, for the Domestic affairs and Economics sections. As a freelancer, he has followed the postwar process in Kosovo from 2006 to its independence in 2008. He has also followed the massive protests after the presidential elections in Iran (June 2009). Since 2010, he has mainly worked in the production of documentaries.

Carlos Castro. Barcelona, 1982

He is a freelance journalist, documentary filmmaker and photographer. Graduated in Journalism, he completed his studies at the Institute of Photographic Studies of Catalonia and the Pompeu Fabra University. He was awarded with a Fellowship by the 10th Can Basté Photographic Forum in 2008 for his project 'Pension Calatrava', about homelessness in Barcelona. As a freelancer, he has followed the process of independence in Kosovo from 2006-2008 and the last presidential elections in Iran and subsequent protests (June 2009) for several international media. Since 2010, he has mainly worked in the production of documentaries.

Gemma Garcia. Barcelona, 1982

She is a journalist and documentary filmmaker, specialised in Gender issues. She has a long experience working in direction, production, documentation, script. She started in Area de TV where she produced some documentaries co-produced with Television of Catalonia. She participated in the filming of the documentary series 'A New Color' (Batabat) in Morocco and as a producer of the documentary 'Fortuny y la lámpara maravillosa' (Acteon). She has also worked for written media, including the Iberia Universal newspaper and Directa magazine. Since 2010, she has mainly worked in the production of documentaries.