

A detailed illustration of a leopard in a walking pose, facing right. The leopard has a tawny coat with numerous dark, irregular spots and rosettes. Its tail is long and thick, also covered in dark spots. The background is a solid, bright yellow.

MENTION DU JURY
FLORENCE
FESTIVAL DEI POPOLI
2008

MENTION RIDM
MONTREAL
POUR LE MONTAGE
2008

GRAND PRIX
MONTREAL
RIDM
2008

GRAND PRIX
TEHERAN
CINÉMA VÉRITÉ
2008

SÉLECTION
VIENNALE
OFFICIELLE
2008

MENTION
BAFICI
DROITS HUMAINS
2008

NOMINATION
QUARTZ
MEILLEUR DOCUMENTAIRE
2008

[illegible][illegible]

KAYAK
 NADINE
 OLIVIER
 MOHAMED
 SMERALDA
 ERTHYM
 THEZINE
 SUOLA
 ALI
 MEHMET
 ALI
 KARAR
 TAYHAN
 HERRER
 ALI
 RABAT
 PROSPER
 EMO
 EMSAD

ROBERT CLAUDE
GRAIM ZINZ
ERNARDSURA
JALITO
EDISAN
AMAR
TOWHEM
ARSIM
IGORIS
FIONIH MUS
AABBEI
ABRAHAM ALI

MAHMOUD RASTID
AMINATA TELMAN
MOHAMED BOUDIA
ANGELA
YOUSSEF
NOUR
MERY
FRANCINE
KHATIA
LEONARD
EDITH
ISLAM
RACIDA
NINO
VALERIE
BOUMELAL
RAMI
SILVIA
FRANCOISE
VALERIE
BOUMELAL
RAMI
SILVIA
FRANCOISE

SEMITRALINHEWLA
CHINUPHUSSEZADIN
KAMRAZEMIKIAL
TESTEBAN
KARAKATW
PAHADIPAGAMJA
INPROSPERASMERBOL
BUPERSERGE
DANDHUHA
ABDALGAN
GOLCHAN
WAFK
MAHMOUD
TESTEY
RAPIN
NADINE

A word cloud of names in various colors and orientations on a black background. The names include: NENAD, OLYMPIA, EBRITHY, FENWICK, GAMILLI, MUSE, TESTFAY, CUMAR, YVON, K, EMSAD, HAMMED, CHRIST, HYSEF, REEM, SAH, DOMIN, GILBERT, GINA, HUGHES, AMAR, MOSE, RACID, SADI, ASMERON, XHELANE, PREMA, and NENAD.

KO
ROBERT NEANE

SADETE
PALMISTAS
VNI SVN
EZZADINS

PTE RE-AL
BOKAR EBU
MEDISSA
KASSAMA
MAHMOUD
ILIRABARA
CAROLINE

JOSEF
AKTIA
JAMES
FADEL

TRANSLATION



SRG SSR idée suisse



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

FONDATION VAUDOISE
POUR LE CINÉMA

Département fédéral de l'intérieur DFI
Office fédéral de la culture OFC

English – french translation

Reel 1	3
Reel 2	10
Reel 3	21
Reel 4	30
Reel 5	38
Reel 6	44

Reel 1

Can you switch on the lights in the rooms?

Thanks, bye.

Good morning. Get up,
it's time to transfer to Chiasso.

Good morning, it's time to transfer to Chiasso.

Allez chercher vos bagages, Madame.

Dans dix minutes, vous partez.

No, no, now.

Maintenant!

Vous me laissez ça ici...

- You see, it's him.
- Oh yes?

If some hours are missing or if there are too many,
we'll look at it together.

The hours have been calculated,
but the salary is still paid the same.

I got my visiting cards.

My title has changed, it's...

Centre manager?

- In the end, it isn't completely right, is it?
- No.

I've had titles like "director", department head,
person in charge of assistance, centre manager.

Yes, it's Khalid.
What's the count, please?

214. Thanks.

- Nevertheless, there are 214 in the house!
- 214?

And it's Thursday.

- That means the transfer will be next week.
- Yeah.

The goal is...

before the Christmas weekend,
so before Dec 22 - 23,

to have between 100 and 150.

There'll be a minimum of 230 on Monday.

Do we have the statistics
from Chiasso and Altstätten?

Yes.

– Oh, they're high! Oh wow!
– All of them?

– Chiasso?
– 165

Altstätten, 79.

Basle, 231.

Swiss Confederation

Federal Office for Migration
Registration and procedure centre.

No, no. Address here.

You were born here?

– Sissian. Armenia, Sissian.
– Yes.

That's for you.

Go and sit down.

Please lean against the wall.
Thank you.

Vous prenez de la drogue?

Des injections?

You're not so good, huh?

– He doesn't look so good to me.
– No.

Qu'est-ce que c'est ça?

Vous prenez de la drogue?

I think his kidneys are troubling him.

Yes, but there are lots of track marks
in both his forearms.

Ok, we'll write in his file
that he's an addict.

– Why didn't he tell us?
– Because he was afraid of the consequences.

Put your stuff there.

Here's the toilet.

Hey!
How are you?

OK!

What number?

Here.

Number 5. OK?

Tu parles arménien?

Tu parles russe?

Parle-lui du passeport.

Russian / russe

C'est ton document.
That's your document.

Il faut toujours l'avoir sur toi.
You always have to have it on you.

Est-ce que tu as une couverture?
Do you have a cover?

Oui, j'en ai une.
Yes, I do.

La journée, le soleil réchauffe la chambre.
The sun heats up the room during the day.

Mais il peut faire froid.
But otherwise it can be cold.

Le petit-déjeuner est servi...
Breakfast is served...

à 7 heures les jours ouvrables.
at 7 o'clock during the week.

On se lève à 6 heures.
We get up at 6 o'clock.

Il faut se lever à 6 heures?
Do we have to get up at 6?

Tu peux dormir...
You can sleep in...

si tu n'as pas envie de te lever.
if you don't feel like getting up.

Demain matin, ils vont prendre tes empreintes...
Tomorrow morning they'll take your finger prints...

et faire une photo de toi.
and they'll take your picture.

Après, tu auras l'autorisation de sortir...
After that, you'll be authorised to go out from...

de 8h30 à midi et de 13 h à 17h30.
8.30 a.m. to 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Tous les jeudis, ils nous donnent de l'argent.
Every Thursday they give us some money.

Pour un jour, voyons...
For one day, let's see...

Aujourd'hui, c'est lundi...
It's Monday today...

Lundi? Oui!
Monday? Yes!

Ils nous donnent 3 francs par jour.
They give us 3 francs a day.

Donc, jeudi, tu recevras...
So Thursday you'll get...

Lundi, mardi, mercredi, jeudi...
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday...

12 francs pour toi.
12 francs for you.

En ce qui me concerne, 7 jours, donc 21 francs.
And me, 7 days, so 21 francs!

Ça fait combien de temps que tu es ici?
How long have you been here?

Environ 2 semaines.
About 2 weeks.

On fume dans les toilettes,
We smoke in the toilets,

pour que les gardiens ne nous voient pas.
so the guards don't see us.

Ferme ta braguette!
Close your fly!

Tu rentres quand chez toi?
When are you going home?

Le samedi 29.
Saturday 29th.

- C'est où chez toi? - En Lituanie.
- Where is your home? - Lithuania.

Vilnius.

Tu as arrêté la procédure?
Have you stopped the procedure?

Oui. On m'a dit que mon pays...
Yes. They told me that my country...

est rentré dans l'espace Schengen.
has entered the Schengen zone.

On ne me donnera rien ici...
They won't give me anything here...

car mon pays en fait partie.
because my country is now a part of it.

Ils m'ont proposé...
They've offered me...

un billet de retour et de l'argent.
a return ticket and some money.

C'est la salle de sport?
Is this the sports centre?

Quoi?
What?

C'est la salle de sport ici?
Is this the sports centre?

Quelle salle de sport?
What sports centre?

C'est juste la cour.
It's just a courtyard.

Là-bas, il y a des tables de ping-pong.
There's table tennis over there.

Ces deux bâtiments, c'est pour les auditions.
Those two buildings are for interviews.

Les Russes sont plutôt auditionnés dans celui-là.
It's mostly Russians that are interviewed in there.

- Là-bas? - Oui.
- Over there? - Yes.

- T'as des papiers? - Non.
- Do you have any papers? - No.

Tu n'as rien.
You don't have anything.

Il y a de tout ici.
There are people from everywhere here.

De la Chine, de toute l'ex-URSS,
From China, the whole of the ex-USSR,

et tu as vu combien il y a d'Africains ici!
and have you seen how many Africans there are!

Le téléphone public sonne tout le temps:

The public telephone rings all the time:

"Somalie! Téléphone!"

"Somalia! Telephone!"

Tu vas entendre et voir tout ça.

You'll hear and see all of that.

Thank you for being silent.

For those of you who have arrived
over the last few days,

I'll introduce myself.
My name's Olivier.

I work in administration,
in the building over there.

Some of you will have
your interview with me...

and for some of you
it will be me who makes the decision.

For several weeks now,

I've been telling you
not to hang around the station.

I know it's cold,
it's not nice to be in the cold.

The station's heated
and it's nice to be in the warm.

But the problem is...

that sometimes you're in quite big groups
and people have trouble passing...

or sometimes you sit
around drinking beer...

and then you let the beer
spill on the floor. That's not very clean.

The few problems
we had last week...

were, without exception, all due to alcohol.

Therefore I must remind you that alcohol
will not help you in your procedure.

If a problem comes up between you,

which can happen,

as you don't all come from the same region...

or the same country, and as

you haven't had the same lifestyles.

So, if there's a problem, I don't want you to try and solve it yourselves.

You'll go to a member of Securitas who will help you...

solve the problem.

I know it isn't always easy to wait here for up to 60 days...

but nevertheless, it's much easier if there's a minimum of respect for each other.

That woman's exaggerating!

Madame, faites attention, s'il vous plaît, on nettoie!

Un peu de respect pour ceux qui travaillent.

Abraham!
Merci beaucoup.

Montre ça au Securitas.

Janet! Je vais te donner ton papier.

- Hello!
- Hello!

Have you done the cleaning today?

No, you've got your interview, you can't go out!

Have you done the cleaning?

- That's fine!
- Thank you.

- Montez, s'il vous plaît.
- En haut?

Oui, en haut.

Is this the first time you've been in Switzerland?

Yes.

Then I'll explain to you what will happen during your asylum procedure.

Today you'll have your first interview, which will be short.

After that you'll have a second interview, which will be longer.

And it's only after the second interview

that we'll make a decision about your claim.

The procedure here can be long:
up to 60 days.

During that procedure we will trust you.

We ask you to respond to that trust
by cooperating with us and by telling the truth.

If you try to hide certain facts...

or if we discover
that you have lied in your statement,

the contract of trust will be broken and
we won't continue processing your request.

I'm now going to ask you to summarize
the reasons why you want to leave your country.

A short summary.

In line with my work
as a translator with the American forces,

I was singled out by the Iraqi militia.

I was considered a traitor.

It got to a stage...

where I couldn't take it any more
so I decided to leave my country.

Reel 2

No.

What do I do now?

Who taught you that?

Hello Cristina!

- Paper and pencil.
- Paper and pencil.

The paper is there.

Pencils are called "crayons" in French.

Enjoy your drawing!

Hello, I'm Jean-Marie.
I work for the church here.

- I'd like to have a French bible.
- Yes. What's your name?

Sorry?

- Kofi?
- Yes.

- And you come from Togo.
- I come from Togo.

Sit down, please.

I work here for the church.
We can chat a little.

Kofi... you were born on a Friday.

- Yes.
- Me too.

That's how I know.
A Togolese friend told me that...

I'd be called Kofi because
I was born on a Friday.

Yes, I was born on a Friday.

Which region are you from in Togo?
May I ask you?

- I come from Lomé.
- Yes.

- We are the ones who are given a thrashing.
- Yes, it's you who are making a hash of things.

- No, it's us who are given a thrashing!
- Who are given a thrashing.

Yes, that's why we flee our country.

- Is this the first time you've been in Switzerland?
- Yes, it's the first time.

But my parents are here.
My father is here with my family.

- In Switzerland?
- Yes, in Switzerland.

My parents are in Switzerland.
My father and my mother.

I came and asked for asylum
so that they could find my parents for me.

- So I could join up with them.
- Yes.

Do you know where
your parents are in Switzerland?

No, I can't find them.

Right now I don't know where they are.

Do you know if they've got refugee status?

Yes. My father even passed through here.
He has refugee status.

- He's got refugee status?
- They've all got refugee status.

If they have refugee status,
it will be quite simple...

to find them with the administration,
if you wish.

Yes, I'd like that.

Because there are also people
who come to Switzerland...

to ask for asylum.
Then they stay in Switzerland...

but they're illegal.
So they're very difficult to find.

If I find my father today,
I'll go away with him.

I won't stay here.

Because I want to see my father.

- My father left a long time ago.
- I understand your joy.

Since you haven't seen them for a long time
I understand that you want to be together.

But in accordance with the asylum procedure,

you're an adult
so you'll get your own procedure.

Independent of your parents.

Lord Jesus, I would like to entrust Kofi to you.

I'd like to thank you
for bringing him here safe and sound.

You know his worries, what he's lived through.

You know what's bothering him.

You also see his joys and his desire
to find his family.

So I would like to entrust him to you, Lord.

I also entrust his family to you,

his father and mother, who are here.

I ask you to give him peace of mind...

and serenity.

That he can live through
the waiting period here,

that he can live through all the steps in
the asylum procedure peacefully...

Amen.

Goodbye Kofi.
See you soon.

Christian?

Yes.

Who's that coming there?

It's Yaya.

Ah, it's Yaya!

Mr. Yaya.

What happened to you?

You're late.

And you? Hello.

Ok, we explained to you
when you arrived here...

that the times for going out
are 8.30 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.

– Five hours and thirty minutes?

– Yes.

– Have to come back?

– That's it.

Maintenant...

Now...

Maintenant...

Now...

Wait, wait.

Now what time?

Look, now it's
quarter to seven.

– Now?

– Yes. You're 1 hour and 45 minutes late.

- They've been drinking.
- Yeah, they've been drinking.

I'll go and check on them.

Pourquoi?
Why?

You come too.

- Me too?
- Yes, come on.

It's heated.
You can go out there.

You've been drinking alcohol
you and your friend, right?

We can't let you come in.

- There's no problem, boss.
- Good evening.

But I don't know...

Wait.

Sir,

what do you want?

- Je peux parler anglais.
- Anglais. Que voulez-vous?

Je veux un permis.

Come!

We've explained to you.
You've been drinking alcohol.

- Your friend too.
- No problem.

And not just one beer either.

Please.

Me like you.

Listen...

Good evening...

Joli chapeau!

- Problem?
- You can take off your hat.

You're late.

Yes, but you don't have to start
taking the piss out of me.

Can you sit down, please?

Oh, there, Georgie,

calm down!

Where are you going?

It's like that!

C'est la règle du jeu.
Vous arrivez en retard, vous attendez.

Je n'ai pas envie de dormir.

Je vais dormir, mais j'ai faim.
Mon ventre est vide.

Vos papiers s'il vous plaît.

Goodnight, Mr. Securitas!

Hello. This is Jean-François
of the Registration and Procedure Centre.

I have an arrival.

A couple have arrived
and the woman is 9 months pregnant.

From what she's told us,
she's practically at term, another 4 or 5 days.

Can she have a check-up this morning?

Is that possible?
Ok, right away.

Ok, he isn't a savage!

Briefing in 15 minutes.
Is there anything special for the briefing?

Yes, ask for confirmation
of the departure of that man there.

I'm worried about one thing,
Jean-François.

I'm really worried. My right arm
is slightly wet.

I think the baby has no pampers.

The mother is holding them in her hand.

Hey, little one.
Have you peed on me, little man?

Yes, you've peed on me, you dirty thing!

Hello, medical consultation?

What's happened now?

For you.

Je suis arrivé ici,
I arrived here,

on m'a appelé, on a besoin d'une interview.
they called me, they need an interview.

C'est un truc que j'ai jamais fait,
It's something I've never done,

je connais même pas.
I don't even know it.

On m'a posé des questions, j'ai répondu.
They asked me questions, I answered.

On m'a demandé mon âge,
They asked me my age,

le nom de mes parents,
my parents' names,

comment mes parents sont morts.
how my parents are died.

J'ai tout dit.
I told them everything.

On m'a appelé encore...
They called me again...

pour une deuxième fois une semaine après.
for a second time, one week later.

So you've already had your two interviews?

On m'a posé les mêmes questions. J'ai répondu.
They asked me the same questions. I answered.

Je ne sais pas il a fait ça pourquoi.
I don't know why he did that.

Peut-être... je ne sais pas en tout cas.
Maybe... anyway, I don't know.

Mais il m'a dit que non,
Anyway he told me no,

mon âge lui n'a pas confiance.
that he didn't believe my age.

Il m'a dit qu'il n'a pas confiance mon âge.
He told me he didn't believe my age.

Je peux prouver que vraiment j'ai 16 ans.
I can prove that I'm really 16.

Hier, tu m'as posé une question, je t'ai menti.
Yesterday you asked me a question and I lied.

Mais quand je suis allé me coucher,
But when I went to bed,

ma conscience m'a grondé.
my conscience started troubling me.

How did you lie to me?

Tu m'as demandé si je bois l'alcool.
You asked me if I drank.

La dernière fois que je sortais avec des copains.
The last time I went out with my friends.

J'étais là, triste.
I was sad then.

Il me faut causer mais ça passe pas.
I need to talk, but it doesn't go away.

L'autre me dit de prends une canette,
Somebody told me to get a can,

que ça va passer.
that it would go away.

J'ai bu une canette.
I drank one can.

J'ai pris une canette et puis j'ai bu.
I took a can and I drank.

Les yeux ont commencé à tourner,
My eyes started to roll,

je suis venu dormir.
I came back to sleep.

J'ai vu que c'est mieux de dormir.
I saw that it was better to sleep.

Moi, souvent, quand je suis là comme ça,
Often when I'm like that,

je sors, je prends une canette.
I go out, I get a can.

Je suis ici, je sais pas je suis là pourquoi.
I'm here; I don't know why I'm here.

Je mange, je me réveille le matin, je doute...
I eat, I get up in the morning, I doubt...

Do you remember Ali?

We've already talked about it once.

And afterwards you went to see the doctor.

And you take medication
which is strong enough to help you sleep.

Well, it isn't good
to mix it with alcohol.

That you lied to me
isn't a problem.

Moi je n'ai plus d'espoir!
I don't have any hope anymore!

Maintenant je vais devenir quoi?
What will become of me now?

Maman... papa...
Mum... Dad...

Je n'ai plus d'espoir.
I don't have any hope.

Je ne sais pas pourquoi je vis.
I don't know what I'm living for.

You came to Switzerland to look for hope,
so you can't stop now.

You have to continue to fight.

Je ne sais pas pourquoi je suis ici.
I don't know why I'm here.

Do you have a tissue?

C'est difficile d'oublier, c'est difficile.
It's difficult to forget, it's difficult.

You can never forget
your parents and your history.

Quand je m'endors et je me réveille,
When I sleep and when I wake up,

le problème est là.
the problem is there.

I know.

What is important
is that you believe in your future.

And fight for it.
Go on, kid!

Je veux mourir,
I want to die,

je veux rejoindre mes parents.
I want to join my parents.

That's not the solution.

Je prends des médicaments,
I take medication,

mais le problème est là.
but the problem is there.

Ali, as your parents have given you life,
they wouldn't want you to take it.

Ils m'ont vite quitté.
They left me quickly enough.

Je vais dans ma chambre.
I'm going to my room.

It's important, Ali, that you come
and talk to us when things aren't going well. OK?

Go on, kid.

Take the tissues, Ali.

Here, Ali, your paper.

And come and talk to us.

OK?

I'm a little shaken.

This morning he agreed
to lend a hand with the painting.

That'll keep him busy.
He needs to occupy his mind.

We need to keep him occupied
so that he doesn't think too much.

Sit down, please.

- Hello.
- Hello.

I left Togo on 15 January 2004.

My mother and I went
to Accra to my paternal uncle.

In September 2006,

my mother called me and said...

that she was with my father
and my little sisters in Switzerland.

And I said to her:
"Why have you abandoned me?"

I'm frightened and I don't have any protection.

And I don't have...

"I'm frightened and I don't have any protection."

And I have too many worries
because I want to join my parents.

When did you re-establish...

contact with your parents here in Switzerland?

I haven't had any
news about my parents yet.

That's what's worrying me.

Since my father left in 2004,

I haven't seen his face
not even up until now.

Today, why can't you
return to Togo?

I can't return to Togo
because of a problem with my father.

If they don't find my father,
they'll take me in my father's place.

If I return to Togo, they'll kill me.

Are you up-to-date about
the changes in Togo since 2004?

The situation has changed.

I haven't had any news since 2004.

Do you know, for example
that there have been elections in Togo?

When?

In 2007.

I didn't know.

The fact that your parents
are in Switzerland...

isn't a reason
to accept your request.

The Togolese government
has committed itself...

to taking measures
to guarantee the return of refugees...

in dignity and safety.

So you won't have any problems
in Togo or Ghana.

You can return.

Have you understood?
what I've just read to you?

Yes I've understood.

The claimant is very emotional.

Do you have anything to add?

No, that's it,
I want to stay with my parents...

"I want to stay with my parents."

I was wondering...

if the FOM could tell him
his parents' address or is that impossible?

I think it's a little more delicate than that.

Apparently it's a bit strange.

Exactly.

We can ask them
if his parents really want him to come.

Yes.

Reel 3

- Hey, cousin!
- Cousin?

- After leaving, I need to come and help you
- Sorry?

After leaving here, I need to come and help you.

- What is needed?
- That I come and help you here.

You want to help me?
But of course cousin! Tomorrow.

Come tomorrow bright and early
and we'll make a team.

- That's good.
- Why not?

Like that you will at least
learn this trade ... yes.

It's a trade like any other, huh?
There aren't any stupid trades, huh?

That's what we need here in Switzerland:
people who are willing like you.

- Are you saying that you do this every day?
- Every day, yes.

- 5 days a week.
- From Monday to Friday.

5 days, 8 and a half hours per day.

Being here will just be a memory for you.
Imagine, I Mustapha, I've been here for 5 years.

- 5 years?
- 5 years I've been locked up here.

You'll go to Geneva or Zurich,
or even Bern, you'll have a nice life.

But Mustapha always
Vallorbe, Vallorbe, Vallorbe...

...always, always!

- But you go out at the weekend, don't you?
- Where can you go?

Switzerland's expensive.
It used to be a nice life, but not anymore.

That's right...

- Duda, don't forget, 2 o'clock.
- Ok, right away.

You may go!

Good, ladies and gentlemen,
hello, thank you for being here.

The first thing:

I've been at the Centre
for 4 months.

There are things that have changed,
there are things that have evolved.

If in recent months
I've spent a lot of time at the Centre,

including weekends,
it's because...

the Centre has become a family for me,
which is why I attach a lot of importance to it.

So, the balance for the month of November,

concerning statistics,

we had 80 medical consultations,

9 claimants were sent
to the hospital or the doctor's.

A lot of claimants are coming to us,
saying that they can't sleep,

that they wake up in the middle of the night,
that they can't get back to sleep, etc.

Consequently, I ask myself.
What's happening?

At this stage,...
the claimants who were victims...

we have had cases,
who were victims of brutality.

I can think of one case who saw his pregnant
mother being disemboweled with a knife.

So this kind of thing –
the boy was 16 – inevitably leaves a mark.

Now the question is:

"What can we do? Not that he will forget
because certain things he'll never forget,

What can we do that he gets through it
under the best conditions?"

And I would like there to be a transaction between
the assistant who does the housework etc.,

to a more "social" assistant.

We won't be optimal
because we aren't psychiatrists, or psychologists,

but we're all human beings...

and I think communicating it
that could already do a lot.

The second thing is
what activities can we put in place...

to take them out of the day-to-day routine,
which is basically doing nothing?

Getting them out of the structure here
would be a major advantage.

Getting them out of these 4 walls,
would be a major advantage.

I don't know,

you go outside a lot,

we could go cross-country skiing,
a snowshoeing outing...

We mustn't forget one thing:
the shoes.

Because guys who go walking in the forest
with tongs won't do it for too long!

We would like to make music,
but you need instruments!

Some came with their instruments and Securitas
kept them because they don't have the right.

- I find that...
- If you hit somebody with a guitar...

You're better off taking a fork and
planting it in somebody's neck, it's the same thing.

What we need to know
in the theory of group dynamics...

is that the construction of a group
takes place in 4 steps.

Norming finishes by performing.

We're in a situation
where claimants come and go every day.

So we aren't in a situation...

in which we can build up something
from A to Z with the claimants.

The whole balance of the team
in the Centre is systematically put back to zero.

So we always have to rebuild confidence
and communication with the claimants.

It's that which is difficult.

But try to make contact with the claimants
and ask them to lend a hand.

This will help you
because you will be able to do other things,

because you supervise the jobs
but it's also...

extremely important
for them because it keeps them occupied.

It needs to be made clear, excuse my language
but they're so damned bored here.

- Hello.
- Hello.

Here are the tools of war!

Hello.
Hello.

So this is Dominique,
he's the boss of the Vallorbe forests.

We'll pick up from here.

It isn't urgent but it's better if we do it.

Ok guys, tea time!

The meat is made from pork.

There's tea.

Go on!

Come here with your boots!

This boot is stuck.

That's for going to the disco on Saturday night...

He can't get his boots off.

- We either save the boots or the legs!
- Is that true?

- It's stuck!
- Is it glued?

Your feet are too big.

Sit down over there.
I'll show you how it's done.

Hold tight. There, there.

He's going to pull out the bench!

- Both legs?
- Both!

Like in the army, you push.

- What size is it?
- 44.

- And what size do you normally take?
- 46!

50!

Right, let's free you.

I don't have anymore strength!

Go on!

It's moving! It's moving!

We'll start with...

repeating what we...

...learned at the first meeting.

OK?

So...

You go into the classroom.

What do you say?

– The first word is?

– Hello!

– Hello Dad.

– Hello.

Hello sister.

Hello Mari...

What is it? Marigona.

I come from France.

I come from Bosnia.

I come from Eritrea.

I come from Kurdistan.

I come from Kurdistan.

I come from Kurdistan.

I come from Kosovo.

I come from Kosovo.

– Where do you come from?

– Turkey.

Do you both come from Turkey?

I come from Switzerland.

I come from Baghdad.

Do you come from Baghdad?

Are you well?

Are you well?

OK?

No, it's not OK...

Show me that.

Like that,
it gives me an idea.

Ok. Great.

Khalid wants to do that again in white.

- White!
- Leave that part, as if it were a painting.

- So, it needs something here too?
- Yes.

I'm going to miss you a lot.

- That's not true?
- It's been a pleasure knowing you, sir.

- Honestly? No need to call me sir.
- Ok, no problem.

I was pleased to see you too,
to get to know you, and Ali. It's going alright?

- Yes, Ali's there.
- Ali is staying?

You have to be brave.
Avoid certain people here.

You know who you have to obey
and who you have to compromise with.

No alcohol, be strong!

I hope that everything goes well for you,
that you'll get some news about your son.

By the grace of God!

I've always prayed to God.
It's God who made me.

- I wanted to come to mass but I got held up.
- You can come this evening, before I go.

Just 30 or 15 minutes.

- At what time is it? I have a meeting.
- At 8 o'clock.

- That's what's bothering me.
- We'll pray for you.

- Oh yes?
- May God grant you a long life.

Because you are very kind.
You're cool. There!

Listen, I'll do you that favour.
I'll telephone and I'll say that I'm canceling, ok?

- Ok.
- So I can stay.

- The people are going to pray.
- This way, I'll come to mass, ok?

You will have God's eternal blessing.

I need that at the moment.
It comes at the right time.

We'll pray for those
who are having their interview tomorrow.

Now we're going to
pray to God to help them...

that the commission of this country accepts them.

Now we're going to pray for the Centre.

We'll ask God...

to establish his authority, even in Switzerland!

We're praying
for the authorities of this country,

that God will deliver them,

that God will inspire them with wisdom,

that God will inspire them to give shelter!

Pray in the name of Jesus!

Pray in the name of Jesus!

Lord Jesus,

we put the authorities
of this country into your hands.

Have pity on them!

Have pity on them!

- To Pierrot's.
- To Pierrot's? Come on, to Pierrot's!

- To Pierrot's.
- There.

What have you got this morning?

I have a Cameroonian.

- And a Beninese.
- French?

- French yes.
- Oh, that's nice.

- And this afternoon a Nigerian.
- I'm in Eritrea.

This morning Eritrea
and this afternoon a minor, a real minor.

- Where from?
- DRC, I think.

- You're collecting them!
- I have a standing order.

- Bonjour.
- Bonjour.

So, tell me, sir.

the reasons which prompted you
to leave Nigeria in December 2007.

Please.

What happened in Austria,
doesn't interest me.

Besides, I have a file on you,
about what you did in Austria. I'll tell you later.

So, tell me what prompted you
to leave Nigeria in 2007?

You give information like that
but it isn't clear.

Yes, speak to me about you.

Which identity did you give
to the Austrian authorities?

I have the identities that you gave
to the Austrian authorities,

so you need to tell me which identity
you gave to the Austrian authorities.

You've been checked
twice for cocaine trafficking.

François Jean, born on 15 July 1976.

Even if I'm drinking alcohol,
there's nothing wrong with that.

I'm not killing anybody.
Drink alcohol; forget your worries a bit.

Yes, that'll be ok.

I don't understand.

Why is it always the Africans who suffer?

Because we're born to suffer.

- Oh yeah? Why?

- Why do you say that?

We're born to suffer.

Black Americans, they suffer.

We Africans are born to suffer.

Take it as it is. That's life.

That's the way the world is made.

Reel 4

Arabic / arabe

Pourquoi tu es venu ici?
Why did you come here?

Parce qu'en Irak,
Because in Iraq,

il y a 100 à 200 morts par jour.
there are 100 to 200 deaths every day.

Tout l'Irak est un problème.
The whole of Iraq is a problem.

Quel est le problème?
What's the problem?

Il y a des morts chaque jour!
There are deaths everyday!

Des meurtres, des égorgements, des explosions...
Deaths, throat cuttings, explosions...

Tout ce que je veux, c'est vivre, rien d'autre.
All I want is to live, nothing else.

Finir nos études...
Finish our studies...

et obtenir des papiers pour travailler en règle.
and get valid papers in order to work.

Avoir un titre de voyage pour voir notre famille.
Have travel documents in order to see our family.

Ce sont les droits élémentaires...
These are elementary rights...

dont jouit chaque citoyen européen.
which each European citizen enjoys.

Je n'aime pas

que les gens mentent sur mon pays...

en disant qu'il n'y a pas de travail.

Tout le monde a du travail en Kurdistan.

Écoute...

C'est toi qui doit écouter!

Tu es juste venu pour avoir un passeport.

Regardez mon corps, ça c'est l'Irak!

Et ça c'est de la part des groupes islamistes.

Tu peux voir les cigarettes ici, là?

Comment je suis encore en vie?

J'ai abandonné ma maison, mon magasin.

Ma famille m'attend.

Ils veulent que je fasse quelque chose ici
pour qu'ils puissent me rejoindre.

Tout le monde à Bagdad veut faire comme moi!

Quand Saddam était là,
vous veniez en Europe dire:

"Oh, Saddam, méchant homme!"

Saddam est parti et vous dites:
"Oh, les Américains, méchants garçons!"

De quoi avez-vous besoin
pour rester là-bas?

Kurdish / kurde

- Tu te calmes. - Moi, je dis la vérité!
- Calm down. - I'm telling the truth!

Tu es énervé!
You're annoyed!

Tu as dit quelque chose qui m'a pas plu!
You said something which I didn't like!

Hajar.

Non, tu m'as agressé!
No, you attacked me!

Tu as agressé mon pays!
You attacked my country!

- Quelle agression? - Il a agressé mon pays!
- Which attack? - He attacked my country!

Pourquoi on a égorgé mon cousin?
Why did they slit my cousin's throat?

- Qui l'a égorgé? - C'était à Mosul!
- Who slit his throat? - It was in Mosul!

Je te jure sur les tombes de tous les martyrs,
I swear to you on the graves of all the martyrs,

sur la tombe de mes deux frères,
on the graves of my two brothers,

sur la tombe de mon père,
on the grave of my father,

sur la tombe de tous les Kurdes.
on the graves of all the Kurds.

Si quelqu'un tue mon frère,
If anybody killed my brother,

au nom d'Allah, même si c'est un voisin,
in Allah's name, even if he was a neighbour...

j'explose sa tête.
I would smash his head in!

He was tempted by the devil for 40 days.

He didn't eat anything during those days
and when they were over, he was hungry.

So the devil said to him:

"If you are the son of God,
order these stones to turn into bread."

He said to the Lord:

"You are my defender and protector.

You are my God; in you I trust."

He will keep you safe from all hidden dangers
and from all deadly diseases.

He will protect you
and in Him you will find a refuge.

Are you Sama?

- Vous vivez à Bagdad?
- Oui.

Mes enfants... pleurent.

Mes enfants ont des problèmes.

Ce sont des bombes.

En Irak, les bombes...

Sur les maisons.

So for me here,

I'm a man of the church...

to listen to people
and help them...

in whatever way I can.

Where do you come from?

Wait, yes, tell me a little.

For the first part of my journey,
I came from Somalia.

And I was hit by bullets
in my legs.

In Somalia?

Yes.

So they fired bullets from behind...

which hit me in my feet.

And the two men who were with me
were killed...

and I was saved.

Ok.

We walked in the desert
for one and a half months.

- A month in the desert!
- Yes.

We went across the desert
and my legs were torn apart.

We got to the sea and we could get in
a small dugout, 8 metres.

- The boat?
- Yes.

- Length.
- And how many people were in it?

- 50 people.
- How many?

- 50.
- 50 people!

One after the other, sitting down.

On the 7th day of the week,
the petrol was used up,

then the water
and then the food.

On the 10th day,
there was a little boy amongst us.

He died.

After we cut up his body...

and ate him.

Oh no!

- It isn't possible.
- It isn't possible!

What does he think of rich Switzerland?

With all the cars,
with shops full of food...

and he who has gone through all that,

who didn't eat
for days on end.

What does he think of Switzerland?

- For me it's something...
- Incredible!

Incredible!

For me it's something incredible,

a country where I enter
without any papers,

without any authorisation...

and they give me food,
a place to sleep and medication.

All that is humanity and I'm very proud
I thank Switzerland a lot.

So, listen.

There is, of course,
a negative practical decision.

Honestly,
I have problems with the plausibility.

- Really?
- Yes.

What bothers me about his story...

is that it's just

a bit stereotyped.

What I mean is that when I ask him
for specific details about himself,

what exactly happened to him,

he's very brief and vague...

but he can give me plenty of details...

of what happened around him.

Yes.

That's what he can't manage to do,
it's like with the story about the journey,

he can't manage to make it really plausible,
that it was him who made the journey.

To be honest, for me, it's as if
it was another person...

who made the journey and then
tells the story to someone else.

He said that he was hurt,

that he was wounded by bullets...

plus a fractured leg...

but he told me he had walked 30 to 40 days.

How is it that a person
with a fractured leg...

7 days before, yes it's a bit...

let's say 10 days,
15 days after that...

can walk 40 days to 50, no 30 to 40 days...?

How long did he stay in Sudan?

Well, in Sudan, he actually stayed...

He left immediately afterwards for Libya.

Oh, I see. You see it's...

like when you have
the first draft of a story, you tell yourself:

"It's remarkable,
it could be credible."

- Then after, going into it further, you see that...

- Exactly. Well, it's a federal interview.

There. I said to myself: "There's someone who's telling me things the way they actually happened".

His physical aspect and his skinniness are still points in question.

In any case, I've put in the decision, in the application,

and finally in the provisional admission, but in the application I've also put that,

should his provisional admission be lifted, his state of health needs to be re-examined.

Oh yes, ok.

Ready?

Go!

It smells like perfume.

He's a rascal!

Tu n'as pas chaud?
Aren't you hot?

Un petit peu, mais ça va.
A bit, but it's alright.

Tu devrais enlever ta veste.
You should take off your jacket.

Il fait chaud, hein?
It's hot, huh?

Ouais, il fait chaud!
Yes, it's hot!

Et l'eau est froide!
And the water is cold!

Hello. It's me, it's daddy.

Is that you?

Well, are you ok, Nabil?

Ah, very good!

Mummy, she isn't far away from me,
I'm in Switzerland.

I'm going to see her soon.

Have you seen your brothers and sisters?

Because we're just sorting out the papers
so that you can come here Nabil, with your Mum.

Do you want to come with us?

That's what I want too,

I would really like you to come,
with Karim too. All of you to come.

Ok, Nabil?

We've found people who
understand our situation here.

We've found people who
understand our situation.

And that will change everything.
We'll be together soon.

Nabil,

are you alright?

You're not sad?

Thanks Nabil, I'm pleased about your courage.

You're a champion, Nabil!

Shall we sing, Nabil?

Hello Nabil?

I love you, I love you a lot.

Do you love me, Nabil?

Thank you! Thank you for loving me, Nabil!

You're not angry with me?

Thank you, Nabil.

How old are you?

How old are you now?

You're how old?

Six,

well, that's ok,
still 6 years old.

So it will be better
to get out of there.

Ok, Nabil.

Don't worry,
you won't grow up there!

You're going to grow up with us, ok?

I promise, Nabil.

What?

You can't talk to me anymore?

They've told you to hang up.

Well hang up then, Nabil, and I give you a big kiss.

Till the next time, Nabil.

Ah, maman!

Oh, mother!

Tu ne fumes pas?

You don't smoke?

– Non, je ne fume pas. – Tu as jamais fumé?

– No, I don't smoke. – You've never smoked?

Tant mieux.

That's good.

Je fume... l'air!

I smoke... the air!

Tu t'habitues ici?

Have you got used to it here?

Peu à peu.

Little by little.

Ton fils m'a dit qu'il aimerait bien rester ici.

Your son told me that he would like to stay here.

Les enfants s'adaptent plus rapidement.

Children adapt easier.

Allez, vas-y!

Go, go on!

Can he play? Can he?

Je fais le gardien.

I'll be the goalkeeper.

Va jouer!

Go and play!

Moi, je vais en face.

I'll go opposite.

I'll pass. Here!

Reel 5

Hello.

You have already filed your claim
for asylum at the Bogotá embassy.

Today I'm going to register you
so that the Swiss procedure can be done.

What's that?
It's a certificate?

Is it about your son?

- It's my eldest son's baptism certificate.
- Oh, ok.

- It was him who was murdered there.
- Ok.

So, I've read in the document
you sent to the embassy...

that you were active
in your community in Orito.

Can you be more specific?
What activity did you have?

I had a company,

a graphic arts print shop.

At the same time, I was a
representative in the community movement.

The problem started
last June.

While I was working
compiling a list for the council,

some people came claiming they
were "Commanders of a Vigilante Group".

They tried to force me into adding
some candidates to the list.

I told them that it wasn't possible.

So they insulted me.

And they said: "We won't be
responsible for what could happen to you!"

My son disappeared on 9 June.

And on 13 June,

we found a tree trunk
floating on the river.

It was a shock.

Sorry, when he told me
that a woman had found a trunk...

- Ah, it was a body.

- ...floating in the river.

I thought it was a tree trunk.
But it wasn't, it was a human trunk.

Ok.

I recognised the body...

because he had a beauty mark
which he inherited from my wife.

We never found the other parts of his body.

- The claimant is emotional.
- Yes, we'll wait for a little while.

Would you like some water?
A glass of water?

A glass of water, yes please.

I'll just go and get you one.

You know, the ideas, the images,
are back in his head.

Yes, of course, don't worry.

We'll take our time.

Just a moment.

Spanish / espagnol

Ô Seigneur, donne-moi la patience...
Dear God, give me patience...

et donne-moi la force.
and give me strength.

After the death of my son.

Or rather because of the death of my son...

Take your time.

And the threats...

on all my family...

and because I want
a different life for my children.

Can you tell me
what happened to your son?

I still find it crazy,

the contrasts
that we live through each day.

Yesterday, I spoke to 1 or 2 claimants.

With a strength
that I probably don't possess,

they told me: "Everything's ok".

I looked at them and then I saw...

the decisions that were made yesterday.
So you see,

it just makes an incredible contrast.

An incredible contrast
and I still have trouble,

trouble holding
the two things in my head...

between the fact that I believe...

that Christ holds everything
and that God holds everything in his hands...

and at the same time I don't
understand at all what's happening.

I daren't put the chocolates on the
table because of what the sun will do.

So I'm going to give them to
anybody who wants a piece of chocolate.

Chocolate?

Thank you!

Do you want to keep the paper?

Do you speak English?

- No.

- French?

- Oui, je parle anglais.

- Mais moi pas anglais.

- Mais français?

- No.

German? Deutsch?

Je parle albanais et anglais.

Albania? Ok.

But...

you're a Muslim?

Hmm, they look good.

I think I'll pinch one.

I'll take the moon.

- Thank you!

- No, thank you!

- Have a nice day.

- Yes, happy holidays.

Très bon.

Joyeux Noël.

Joyeux Noël.

Hello.

Les grands enfants, tout va bien pour vous?

What did your father die of?

From beatings
and bad treatment.

Do you think you can make up the year?

I don't know...

when.

I never really went to school.

Why didn't you go to school?

I didn't want to go to school...

because I didn't want to be killed or beaten.

There isn't a life for us in Bosnia anymore.

Yes,

it's a free country,

but we don't have any freedom.

A gypsy is respected anywhere.

And my children...

are afraid.

They are scared...

that if they return they will be butchered.

I don't have anything else to say.

During your basic interview,
you never went abroad.

Can you confirm that?

I can't remember.

I don't remember, I swear to you.

I swear on the life of all my children.

Nevertheless, you have a child who
was born in Berlin. This isn't insignificant.

And you have another child
who was born in another state.

Which country?

I don't know.
I can't remember.

12 years ago or more, I was in Germany.

Oh my God, phew.

It's a shame that you don't cooperate
more in this procedure.

Because even if you were in
several European countries,

it doesn't have any repercussions
on your request for asylum.

On the other hand,
the fact that you hide things,

risks having a negative impact
on the continuation of your procedure.

Eventually you will get a decision.

If it's negative,
what will your reaction be?

What are you afraid of
if you go back to Bosnia?

We are not going back.

It will be better if you kill me.

Bosnian / bosniaque

I think we've finished the interview.
We'll take a break now.

Vous n'allez pas recevoir la décision ici.
You won't get the decision here.

Vous allez être transférés.
You're going to be transferred.

D'accord?
Ok?

Un transfert?
A transfer?

Vous serez attribués à un canton.
You'll be allocated to a canton.

- C'est sûr? - Oui.
- Is that sure? - Yes.

D'accord, merci.
Ok, thank you.

- C'est mieux, non? - D'accord, merci.
- It's better, isn't it? - Ok, thank you.

Vous allez partir vendredi.
You'll be leaving on Friday.

Que va-t-on faire avec cette enfant?
What are we going to do with this child?

Elle doit être opérée.
She needs an operation.

Pourquoi est-elle...
Why is she...

assise sur cette chaise, aujourd'hui ?
sitting in that chair today?

Elle ne peut pas marcher.
She can't walk.

Pourquoi est-elle venue à pied, la dernière fois?
Why did she come on foot the last time?

Oh, mais la dernière fois, elle n'avait rien!
Oh well the last time, she was alright!

Mais en un mois et demi,
But in one and a half months...

elle est devenue paralysée.
she's become paralysed.

Paralysée!
Paralysed!

Hier soir, elle m'a dit:
Last night, she said to me:

"Mère, je suis paralysée. J'ai mal ici."
"Mother, I can't move! I have a pain here"

Moi, j'ai peur de toutes les maladies.
I'm scared of all illnesses.

C'est sûr que ce sera beaucoup plus facile...
It's clear that it would be easier for her...

que de rester au Centre.
if she stayed at the Centre.

Elle pourra aller voir des médecins,

She can go and see the doctors,

ça sera mieux pour elle.
it'll be better for her.

Je crois qu'on a terminé.
I think we've finished.

Vous avez des questions?
Do you have any more questions?

Nous n'avons plus de questions.
We don't have any more questions.

Magie!
Magic!

Il va te faire un tour de magie!
He's going to do a magic trick for you!

Choisis une carte sans me dire laquelle,
Choose a card; don't tell me which one,

après que tu aies dit stop.
after you have said stop.

Oui!
Yes!

Tu es magicien?
Are you a magician?

Reel 6

Hello.

Are you on form? Where have you been?

At the hospital, I went to get a baby,
a newborn.

– Oh yes!
– A little boy.

And is he handsome?

Yes, come and see. He's there.

Hello.

Thank you.

How was it?

Imagine him in a few months.
They grow fast.

– Ok?
– Yes.

Is it here?

Well, Daddy,
aren't we going to see the baby?

Kosovar

- Tu ne peux pas le porter. - Il est à moi!
- You can't take him. - He's mine!

Attention! Tu ne peux pas le prendre.
Careful! You can't take him.

- The baby's not yours!
- Huh?

- He's not yours, leave him.
- No but I'm looking after him a bit.

You can't take him home.

He's already got quite a lot of hair, huh?

- It's your brother?
- He's cute.

Kosovar

Viens faire dodo.
Come on, beddy-byes.

- Tu peux le tenir? - Bien sûr.
- Can you carry him? - Of course.

Regarde.
Look.

Viens le regarder, viens.
Come and look, come.

Il est chou, n'est-ce pas?
He's cute, isn't he?

Hello.

- Comment vas-tu? - Bien.
- How are you? - Fine.

- Comment s'appelle le bébé? - Ensar.
- What's the baby's name? - Ensar.

- Hello.
- Hello.

I've come to give you back your new paper
seeing that your son was born this morning.

So I'm giving it back to you with your son
registered on your new paper.

You have to give me the old one now.

And now do everything you need
to do in the Centre with the paper.

- Ok, thank you very much.
- Congratulations again.

Thanks very much. Goodbye.

- Hello everybody.
- Hello.

Situation in the Centre, calm, strained?

We have a lot of Georgians again. There are 16.

We'll go and see what we can do, we'll go and meet them...

to try and calm things down a bit.
For the rest, anything special about occupancy?

Lots of sick people.

But at the level of occupancy it's still ok.
On the women's floor, we still have space.

We'll soon be stuck for families.

Ok.
Where are we up to as regards numbers?

Without the hospitals and prisons, we're up to 221.

221, ok.

- Here are the numbers in the other Centres.
- Oh, Altstätten!

Yes, they're quite high.

I've never seen them as high as that!

So we'll have to see
if we can manage to do a transfer on Friday.

We'll ask for a transfer for Friday,
between 30 and 40 people so that...

we can get to a situation
which lets us handle the weekend.

Great.

Sorry.

This is the transfer list.

Ok, the attribution list.

Those people will be going to Altstätten
and those people will be staying in the canton.

- Yes, like Vallorbe.
- It's the same as Vallorbe, that's all!

You'll get the same procedure as in Vallorbe.
There are too many people here.

Ok, are you on the list?

Tomorrow at 6 a.m., ok? Downstairs.

Good morning, wake up.

Good morning, wake up.

Can you take off a bit of that?

Take off.

Go back up! Go! Go!

Ok, allons-y.

- Families first!

- Let's go, madam.

Madam, your table. You have to clear it.

Come on, madam.

Come here please.

Signature here, please.

That's it. Well the procedure is finished,
you have to leave the territory within 24 hours.

Ok? If you need help, it's here.

Thank you, goodbye.

Signature here, please.

Thank you. Here.

Où, s'il vous plaît?

Où?

- Geneva.

- Thank you, goodbye.

Genève aussi!

Arabic / arabe

Félicitations. Que Dieu soit avec vous!

Congratulations. May God be with you!

Signature here, please.

- There you are, you're going to Lausanne.

- To Lausanne...

- Yes. Thank you. Goodbye.

- Thank you. Goodbye.

Sir!

Arabic / arabe

Si le temps devenait trop long

If time became too long

*et que je ne te voyais plus
and I didn't see you again,*

*je te jure sur le Dieu du peuple
I swear to you on the God of people*

*que je ne t'oublierai jamais.
that I would never forget you.*

In 2007, 10,387 people
filed a request for asylum in Switzerland.

Asylum was offered to 1,561 people.
2,749 provisional admissions were granted.