

EPISODE 4: AYAN/DELOUA

THE PEOPLE WHO INSPIRED THE PODCAST...

ANYWHERE BUT
HOME

 Save the Children

From Yemen to Sudan and onto Libya, sixteen-year-old Deloua, the inspiration for Ayan in this episode, and her two younger brothers had been travelling for eight months when they boarded a dangerously overcrowded boat across the Mediterranean.

Deloua, who is from Somalia originally, never wanted to leave Yemen. She was living in a refugee settlement with her family, and going to a school run by Save the Children. She was keen to complete her education, but then war broke out. When the camp was evacuated, Deloua and two of her brothers were separated from the rest of their family.

They joined a group of Somalis, hoping to find a way back to Somalia, but instead they were taken to Sudan, and then smugglers took them to Libya.

“They raped some of the girls on the way to Libya,” Deloua says, “They tried to rape us as well but we speak Arabic. We begged them not to and they didn’t.”

In Libya, they met some fellow Somalis, who came together to help the children and raised the money needed for Deloua and her brothers to be taken across the Mediterranean to Europe.

“For thirteen days, we were living in a small confined space. We would only have one piece of bread and some water once a day. Then they took us out into the forest for two days, and, on the third day, we left on the boats to Italy.

“It was raining and we were soaked with water. No one knew the way. We just cried and cried and cried.”

Save the Children’s search and rescue vessel was in the sea that night, searching for migrants in need of help. After searching for several hours, we rescued 60 people including Deloua and her two brothers.

Now safe, Deloua wants to find her mother, and start her education again.