

CY, O'NER

comics as eyewitness

October 2020

Sri Lanka

Armenia

Iraq

Mauritania

Colombia

front line defenders



Mauritania

Mekfoula Mint Brahim

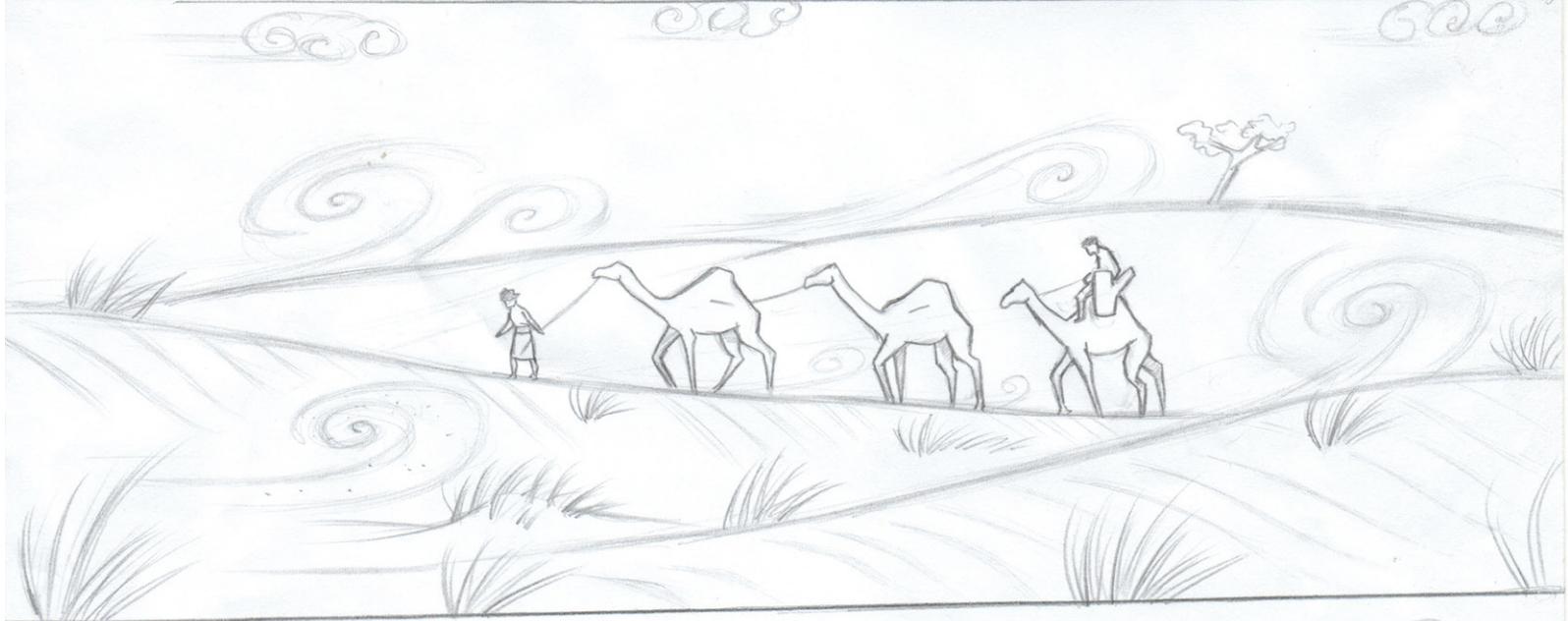
Mekfoula Mint Brahim is a woman human rights defender from Mauritania fighting against religious extremism and discriminatory practices in Mauritania, including against women and members of the Haratine and sub-Saharan African communities. She is the President of *Pour une Mauritanie Verte et Démocratique* (For a Green and Democratic Mauritania), a non-governmental organisation founded in 2009 which works to protect and promote human rights, and leads women empowerment projects in rural areas. As a direct result of her human rights work, Mekfoula Mint Brahim has been the target of death threats and a smear campaign on social media by religious groups. A fatwa was issued against her in 2014 after she called for the death sentence of the blogger and political prisoner Mohamed Mkhaitir to be overturned. She has also been accused of apostasy which is punishable by death.

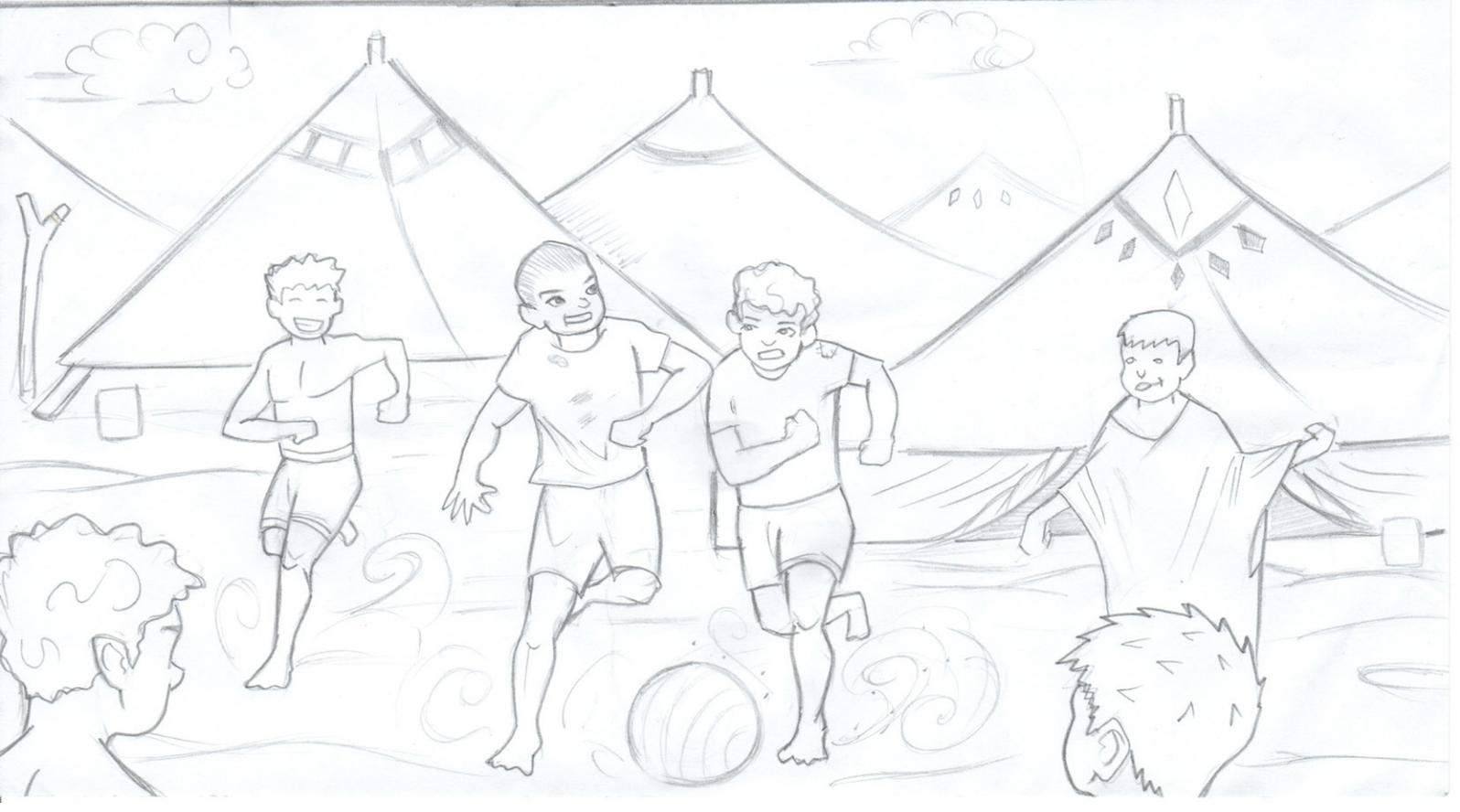
Drawings: Cooldji.Designed



Mekfoula Brahim - the strength of a woman

Mauritania (city of Tawaz in 1968) desert, camel, dust and many tents and water wells.

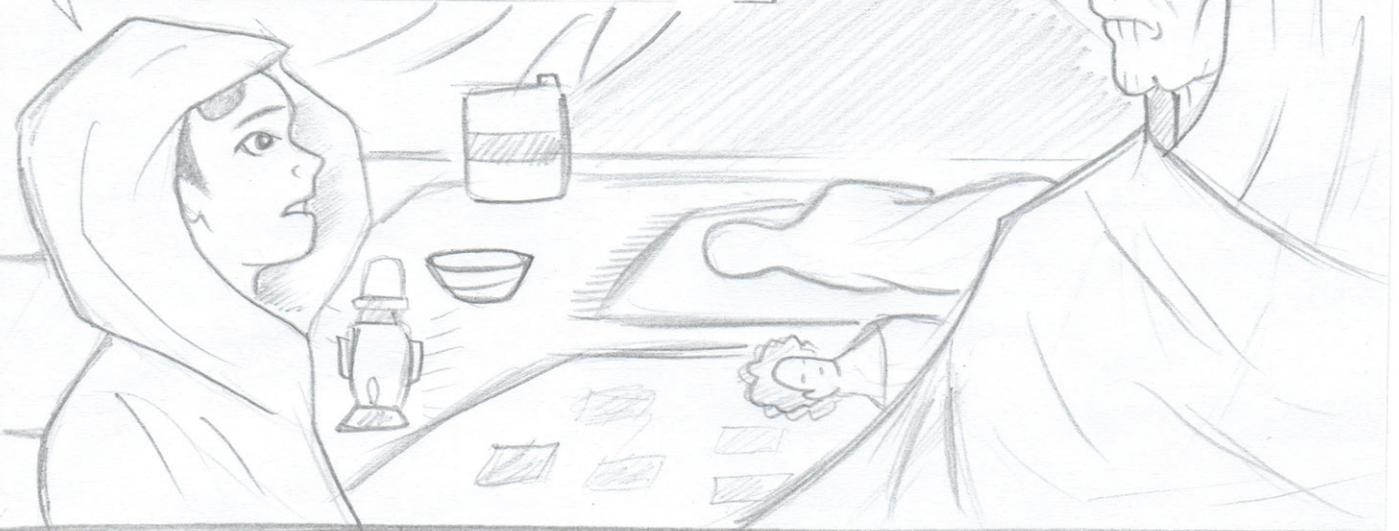




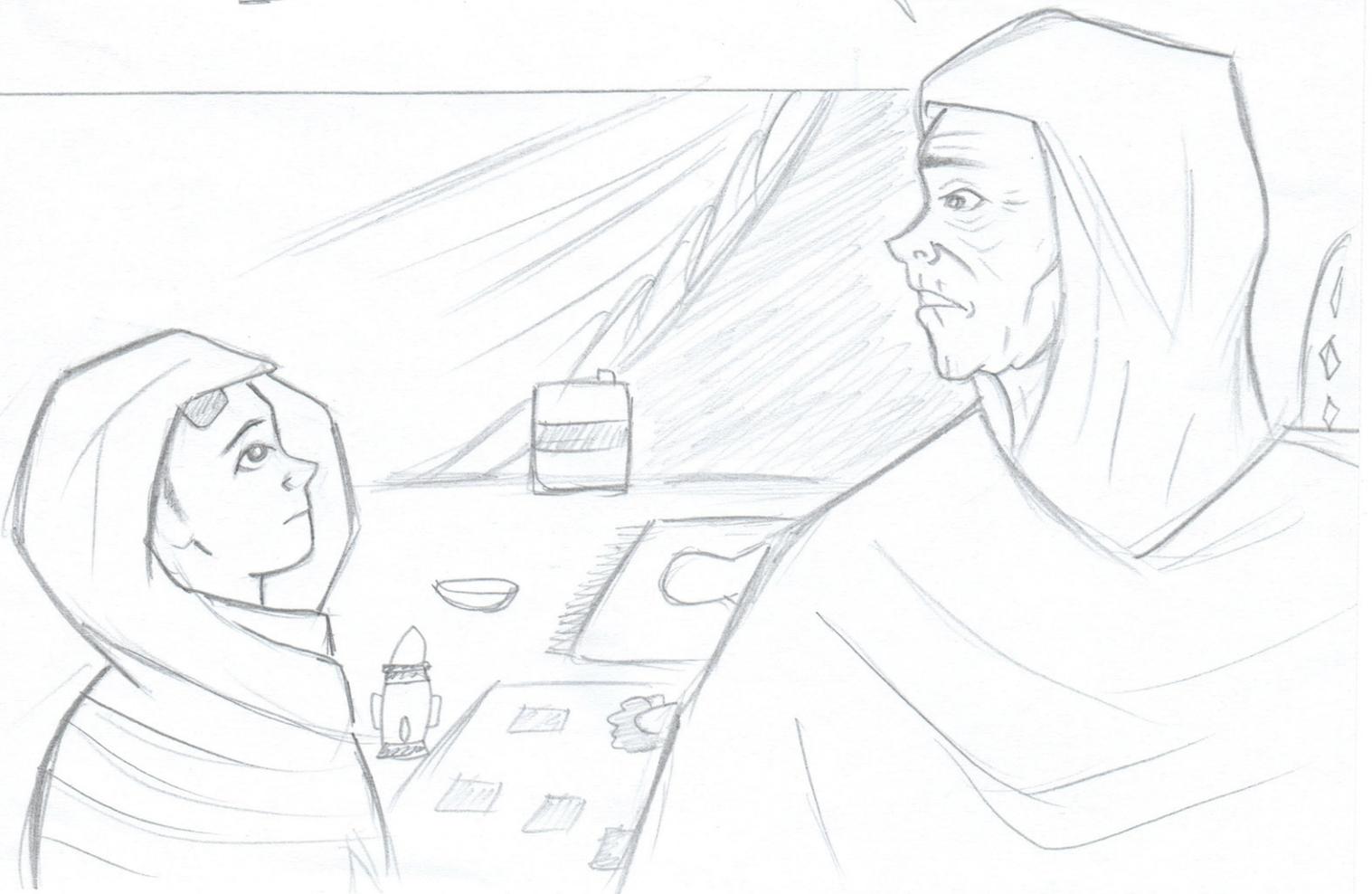


Nuit

Grandma why men do not make any effort and we women and girls are the only ones to do everything ?

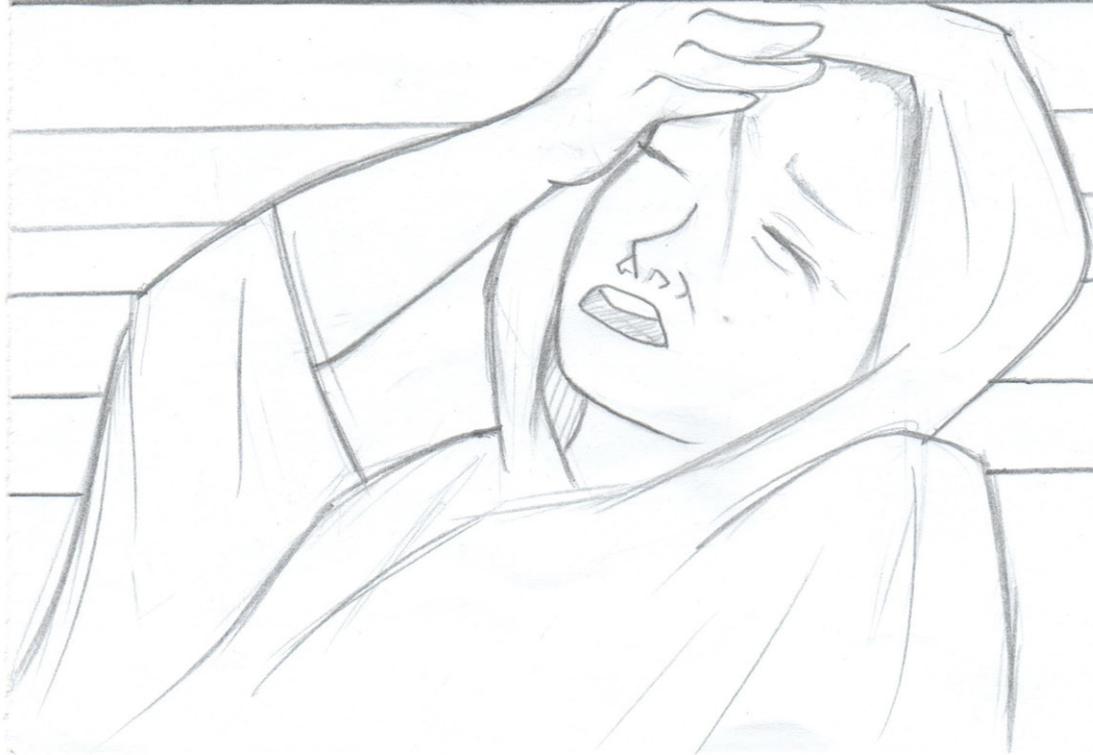
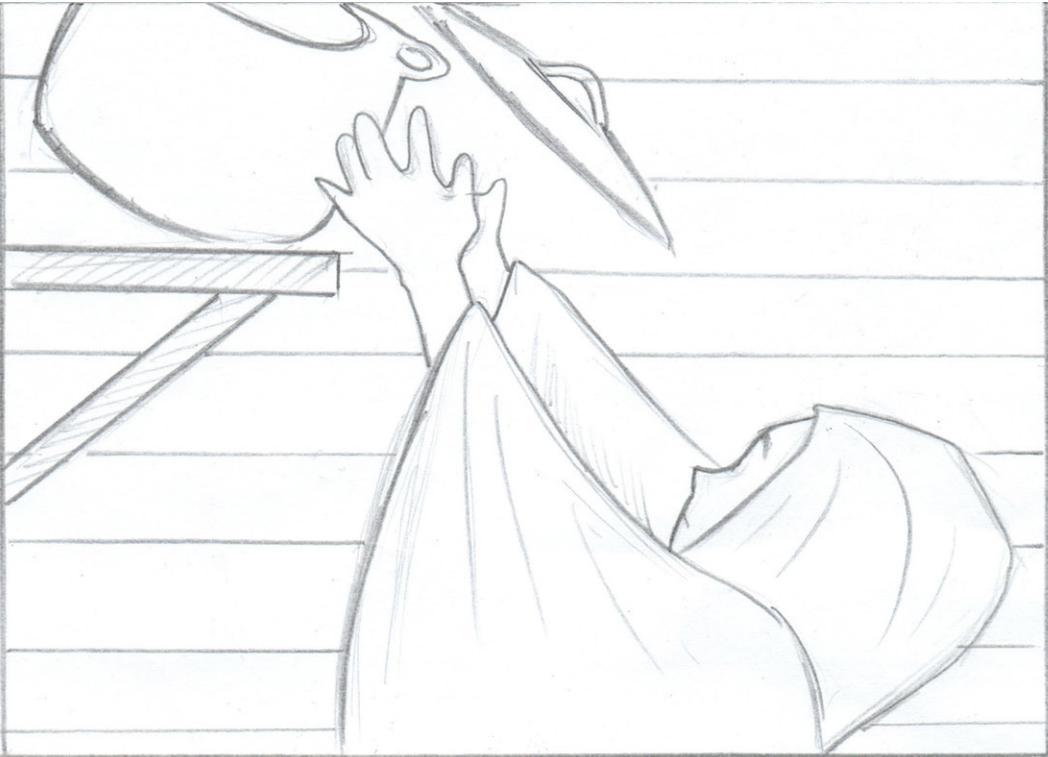


Because men are superior to women. Go help your sisters in the kitchen.

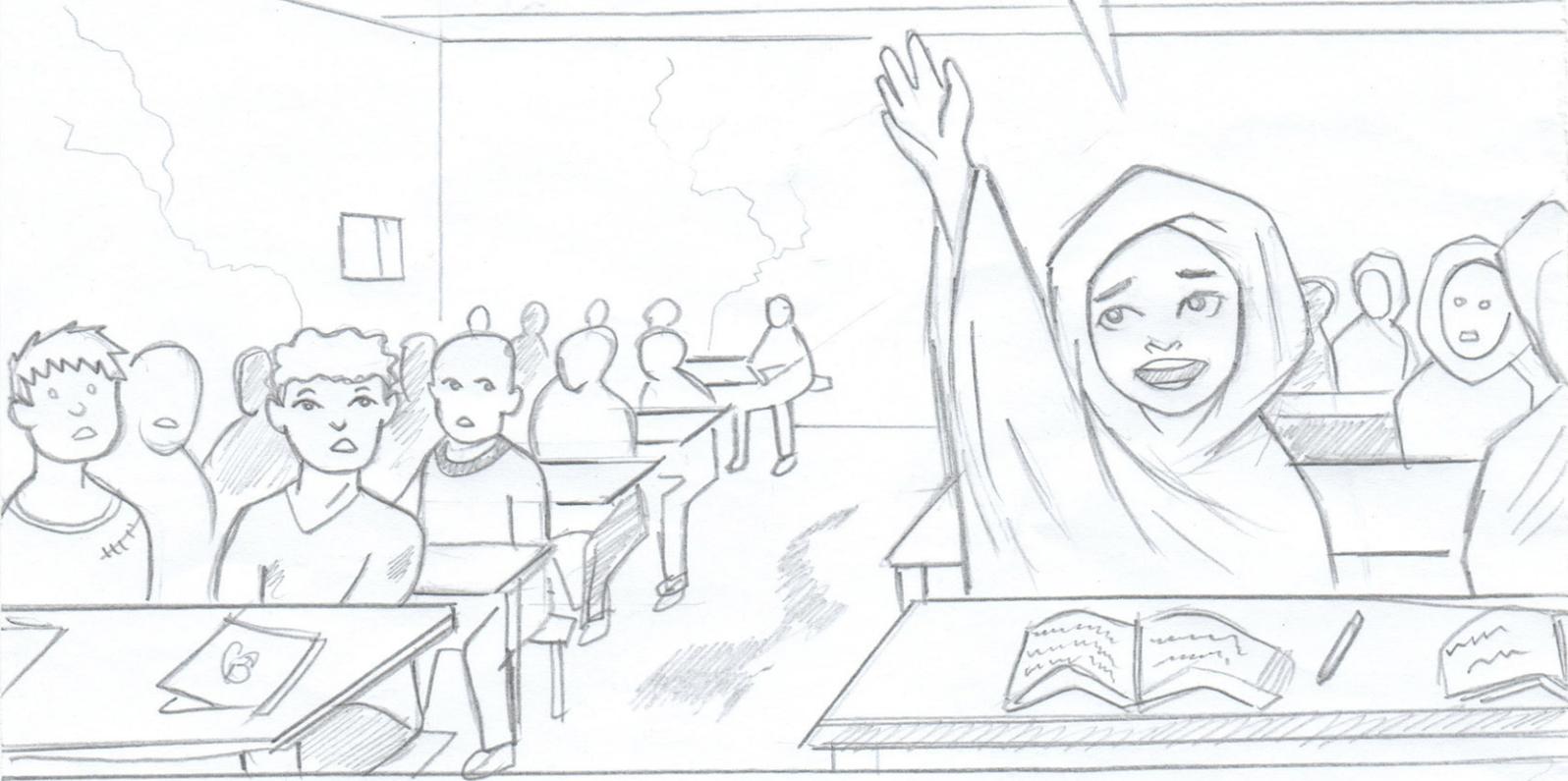


But aren't we all the same? Why does my grandmother say that men are superior to women when we are the ones who make everything and do all the work.



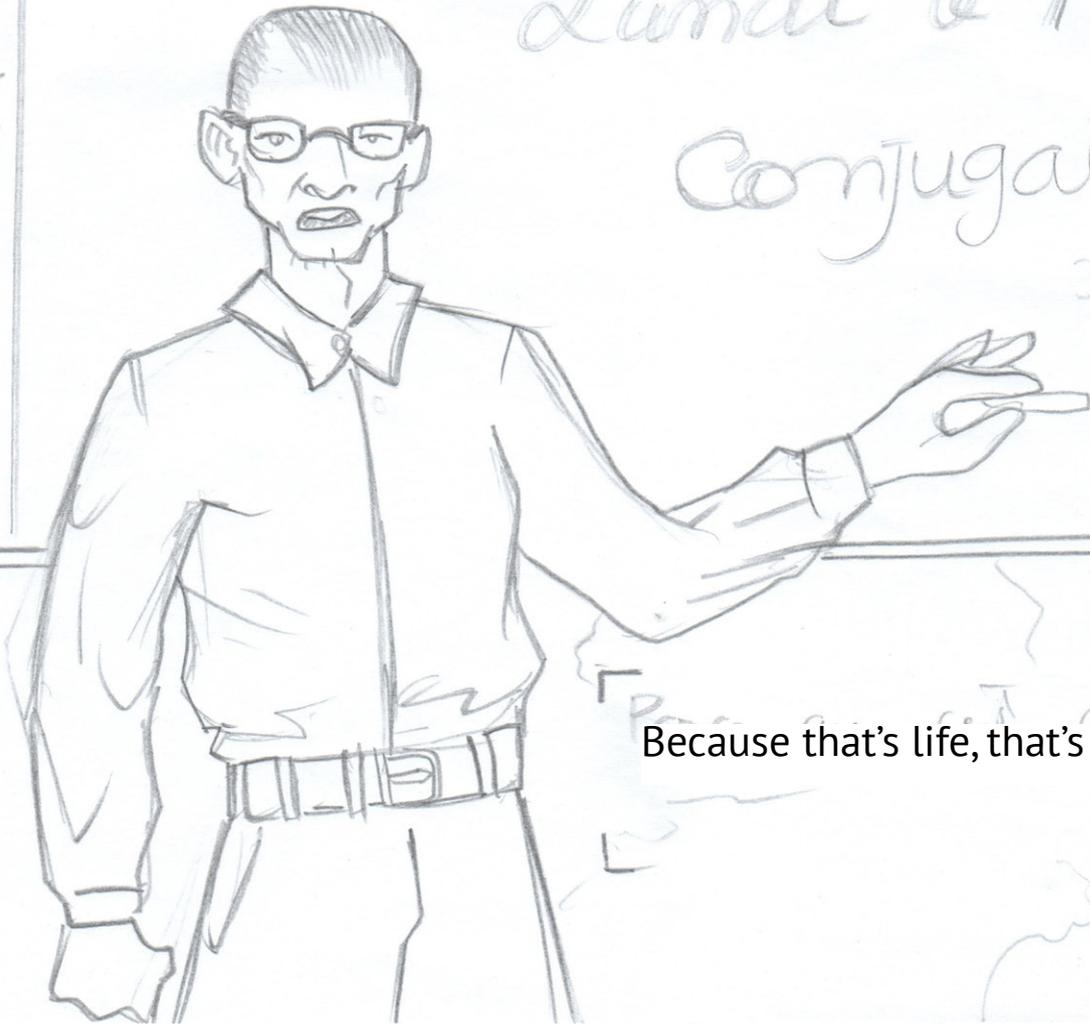


Teacher, why do they say that men are superior to women?



1 2 3
4 5 6
7 8 9
10

Lundi 6 7. octobre
Conjugaison
conjugaison



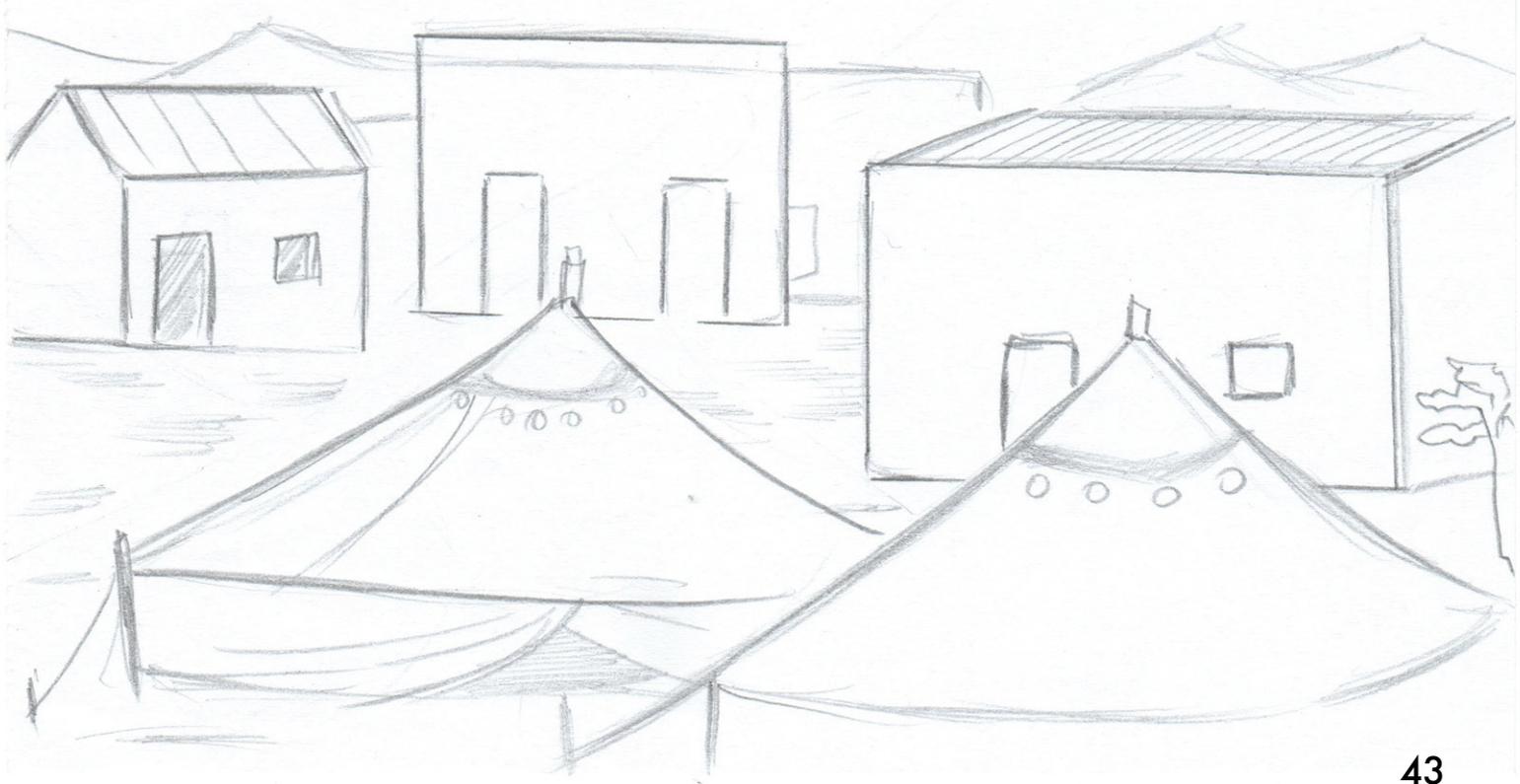
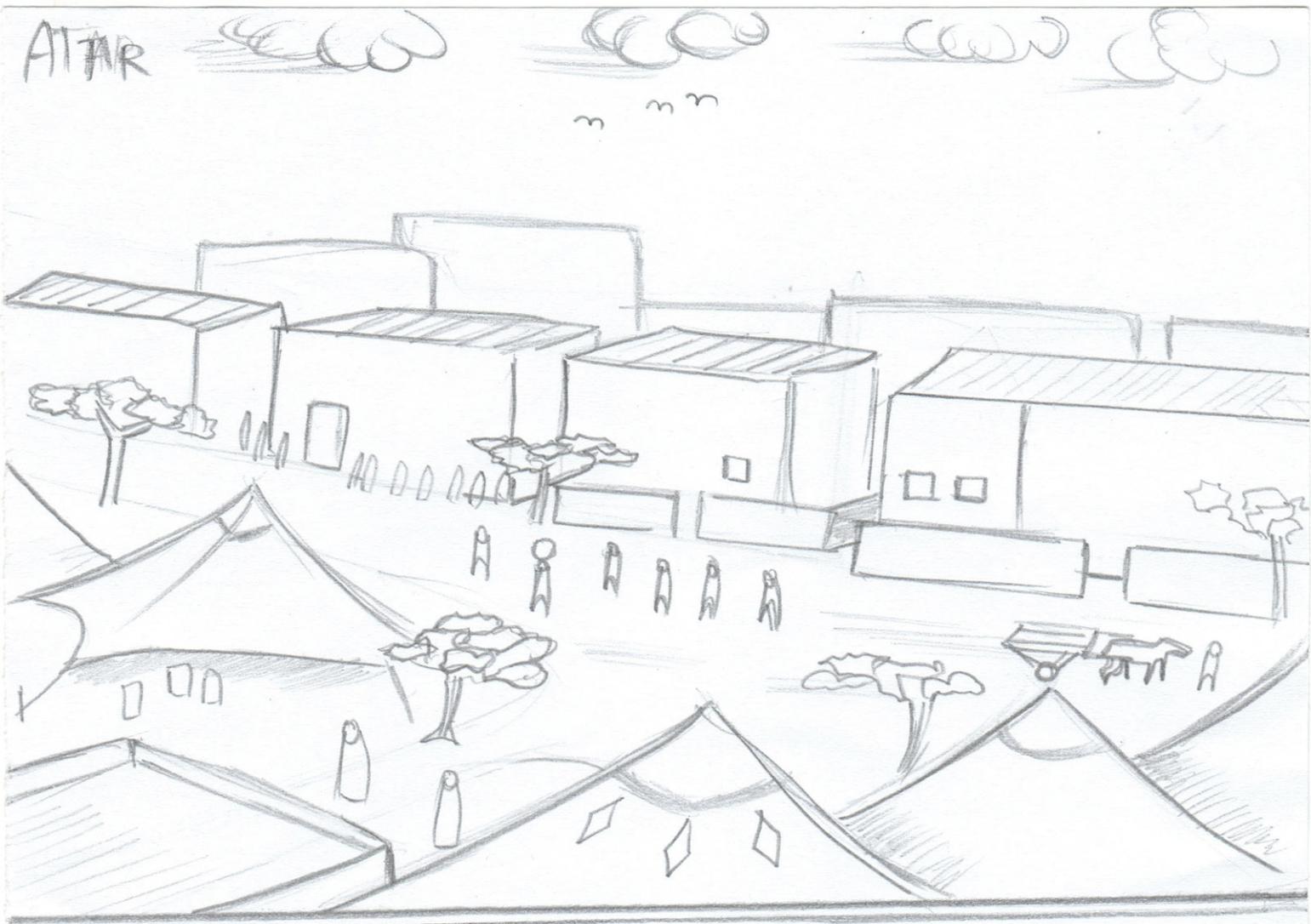
Because that's life, that's how it is!



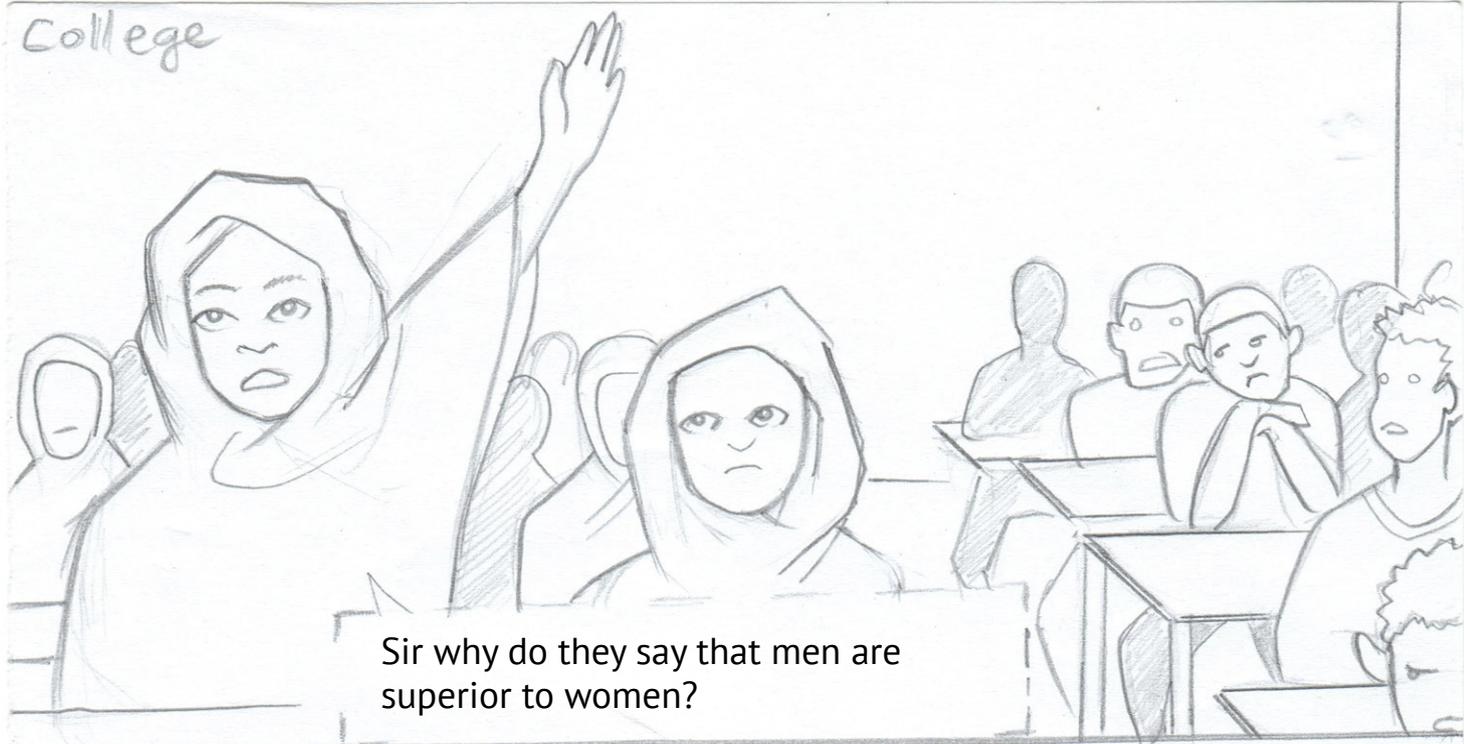
A few years later my parents and I moved to the city of Atar. DEMENAGEMENT



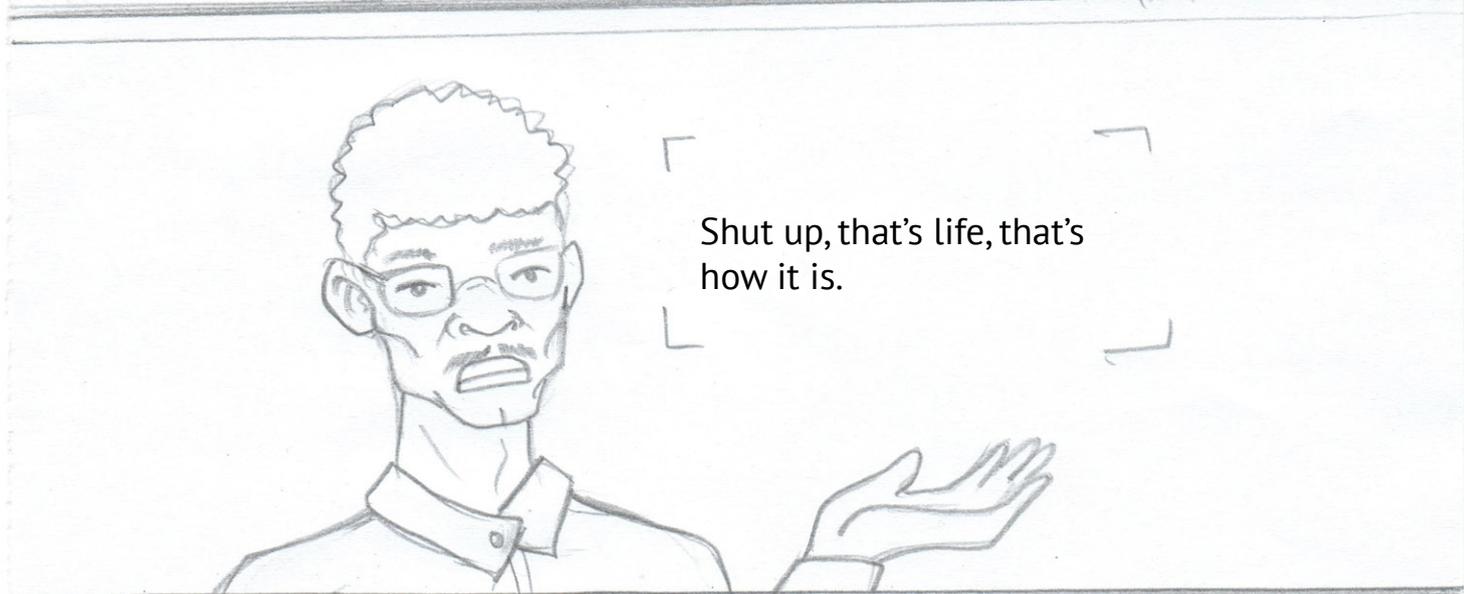
ATAR



College



Sir why do they say that men are superior to women?



Shut up, that's life, that's how it is.

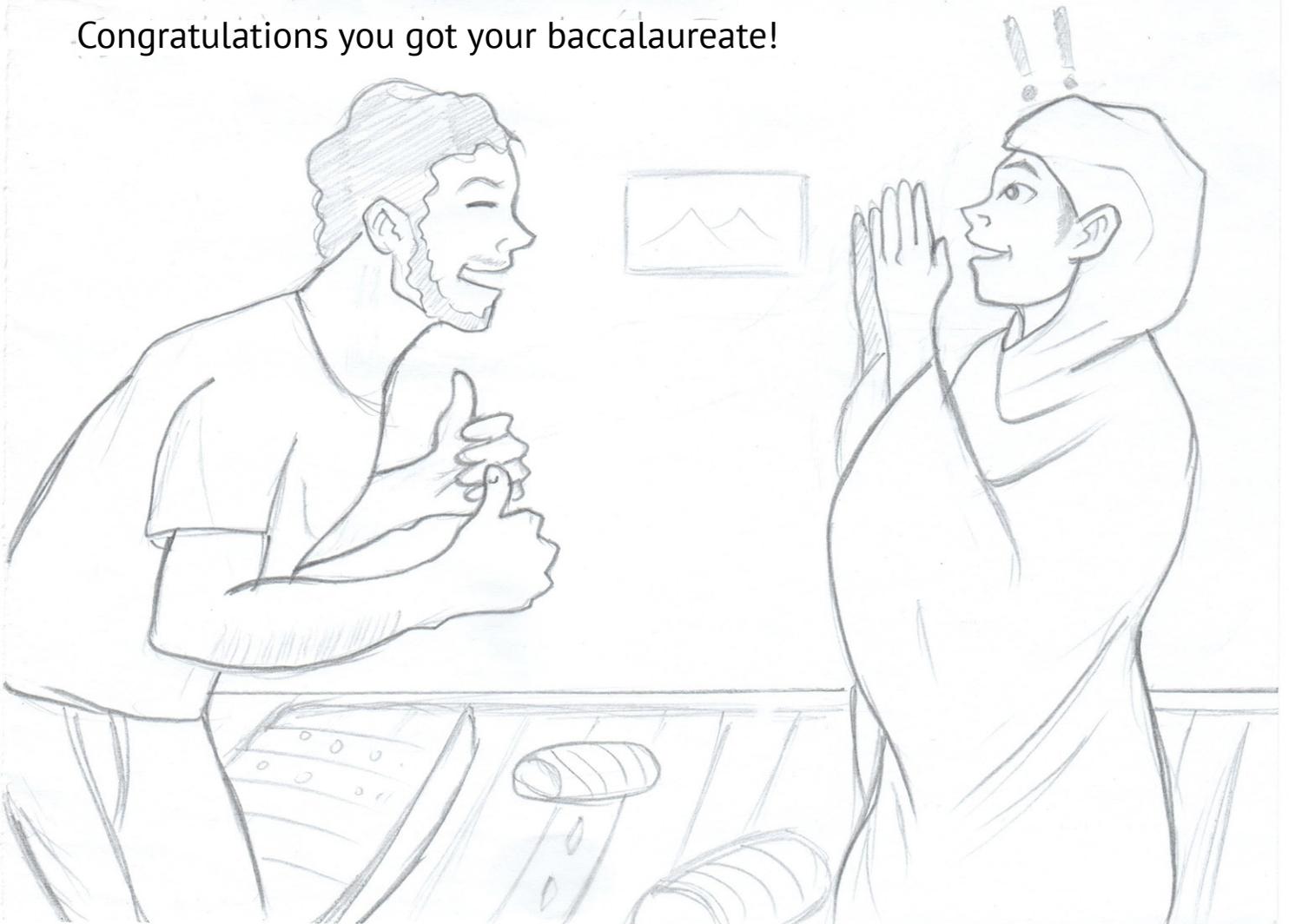


No! we are all equal.

2 years later Mekfoula Brahim went to Nouadhibou to live with her older brother in order to take the baccalaureate.

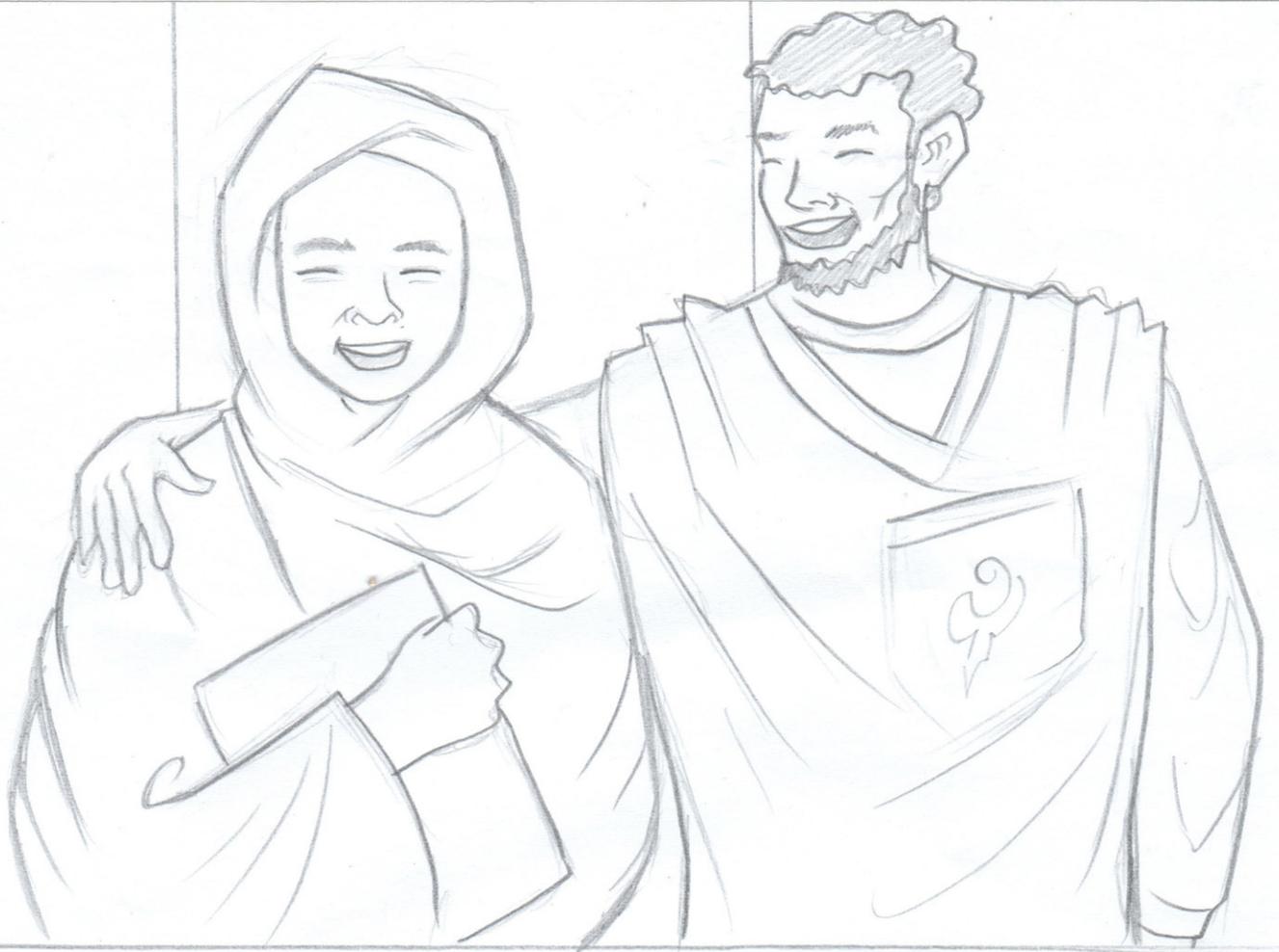


Congratulations you got your baccalaureate!



At the age of 19 Mekfoula went to study in Algeria.





After my return from Algeria I got married and then I had a baby boy.







I no longer felt in a relationship and the love had faded over time so my husband and I got divorced.

Theresa Rivo?4
525~
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2 2 2 2 2
3 3 3 3 3
4 4 4 4 4

I'm going to quit my job because this is not what I want to do.

Life is not easy either if I quit my job and I have nothing left to do.

In addition I have the child of the family...

1 1
2 7
3 2
4 1

I studied law in Algeria and I dreamed of making a career as a humanitarian to help my fellow man and this dream enlivens me every day.

So I take the risk to quit my job and I will create a charity or an NGO for human rights!

Girls! I resigned!



I always told you about my vision of my world and that I wanted to help and create a humanitarian organization, don't you remember?

yes!



yes.

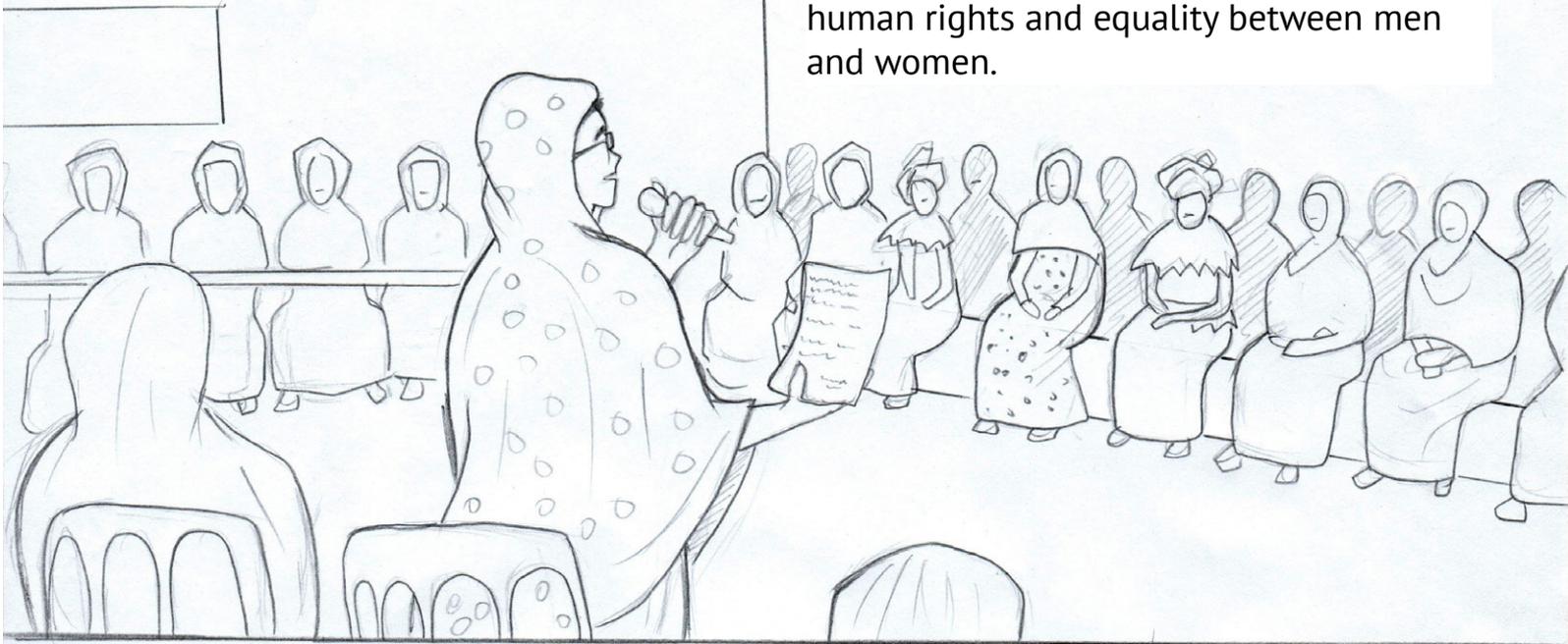
Here, I resigned for that and as I remember you shared the same vision as me. Would you like to do this with me? let's create our humanitarian organizations together and defend equality between men and women!



We all agree with you!

SEMINAIRE 1

My friends and I went on a regional tour of our country Mauritania, to give seminars on human rights and equality between men and women.



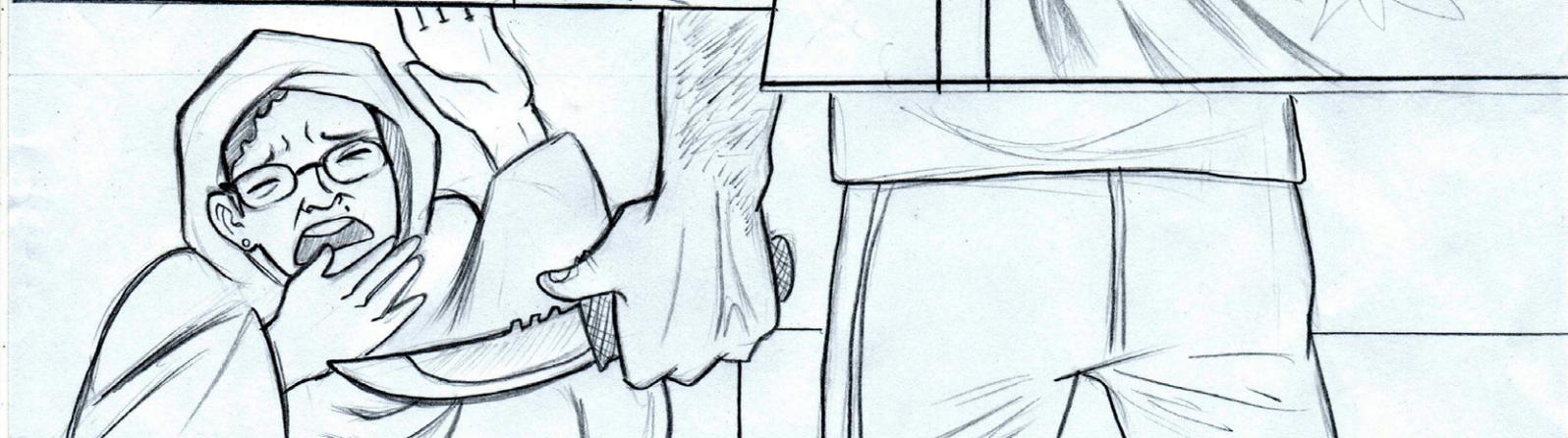
SEMINAIRE 2



I did a lot of TV shows that almost cost me my life in 2006.

M'ONT COUTER LA VIE

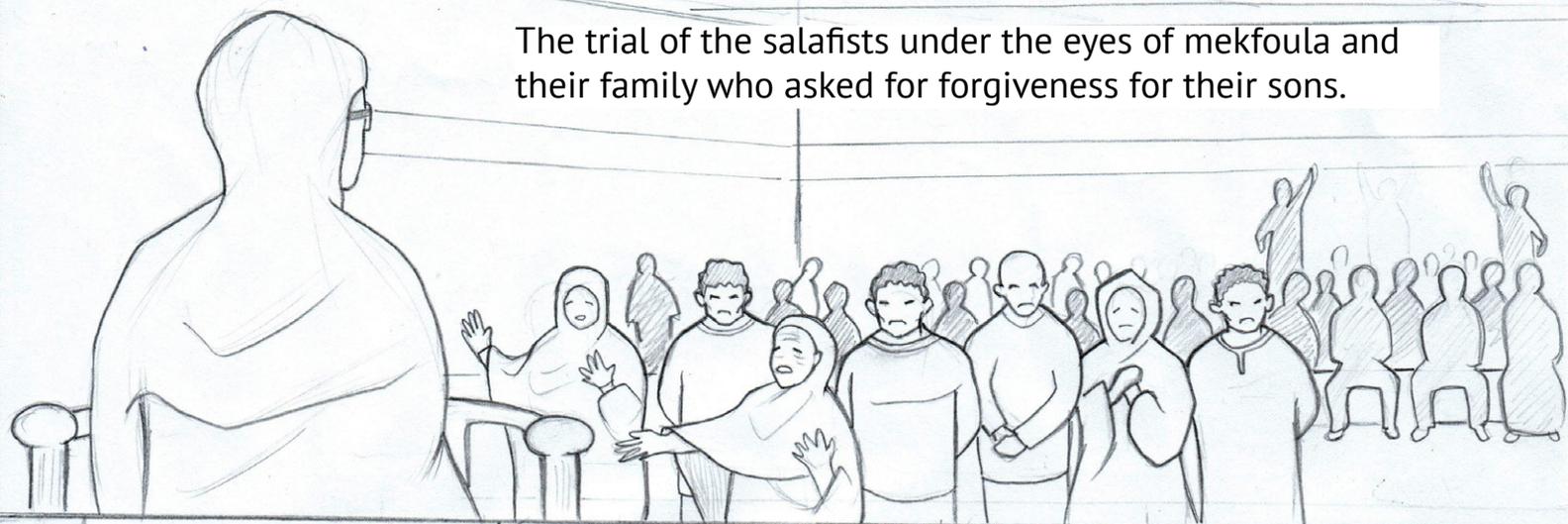




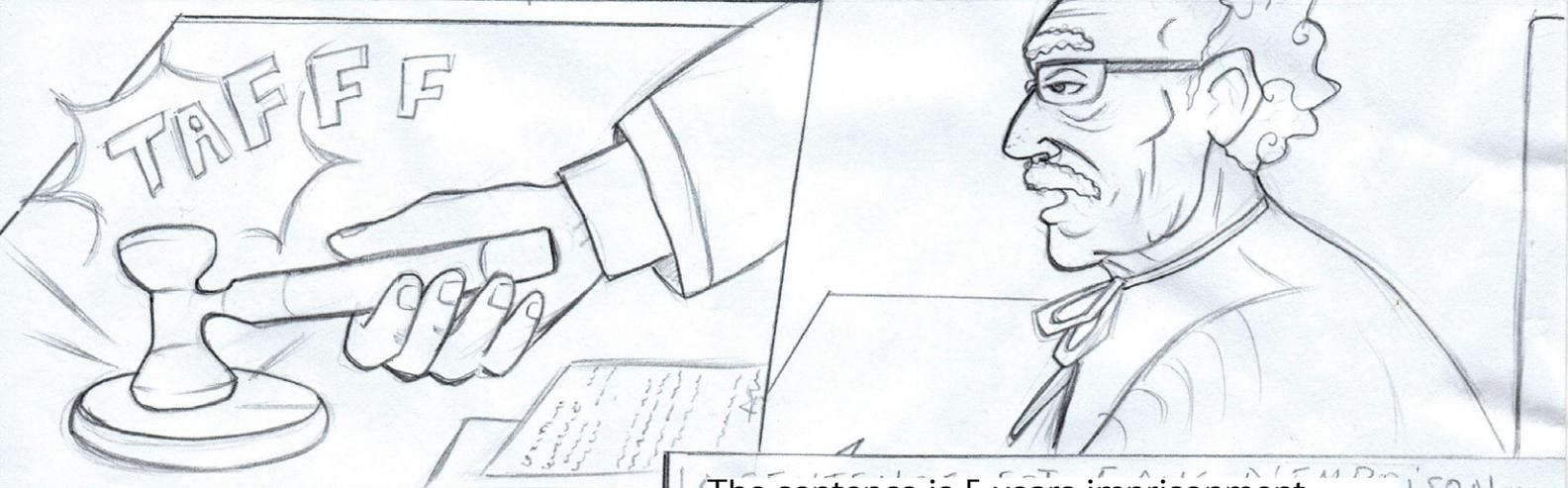
Salafists armed with knives and cameras came to my house and attempted to murder me which failed thanks to the police who intervened in time.



The trial of the salafists under the eyes of mekfoula and their family who asked for forgiveness for their sons.



They tried to assassinate me, I will never forgive them because I defend equality between men and women.

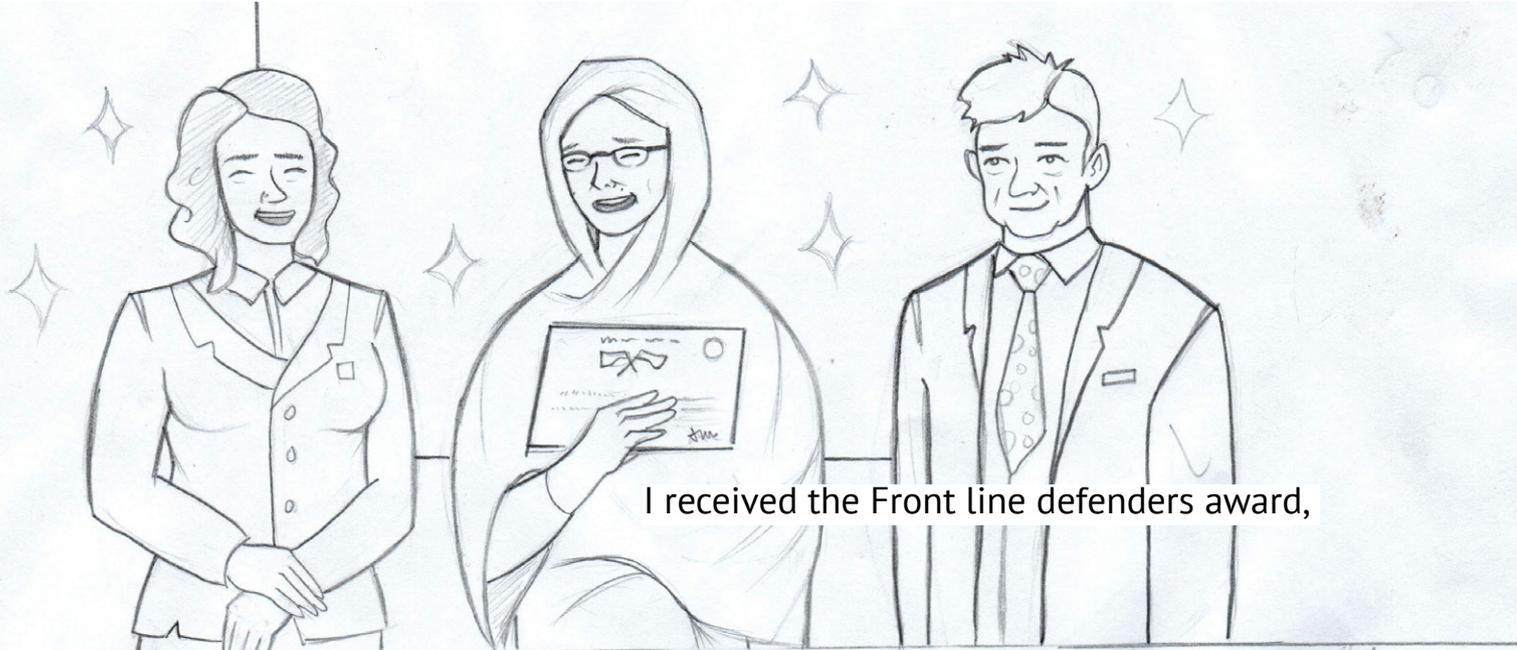


The sentence is 5 years imprisonment.



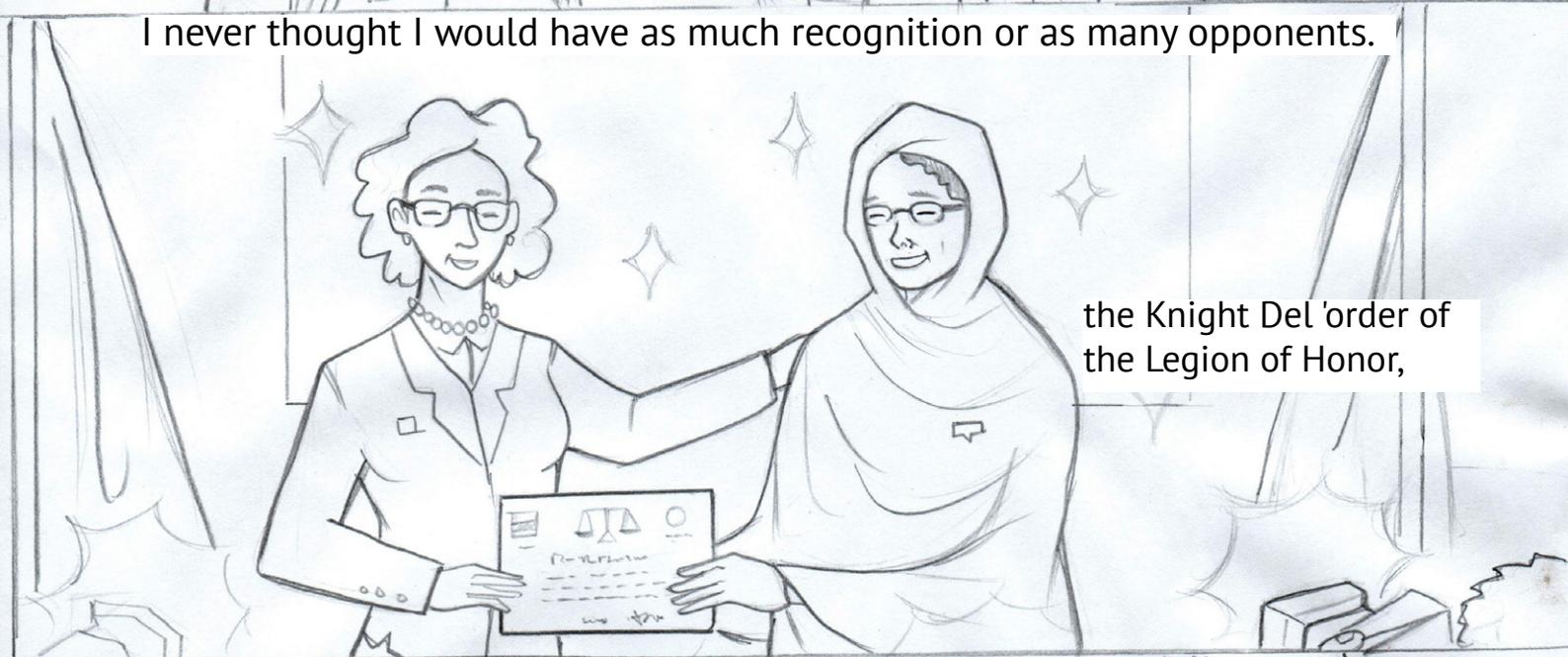
MAIS C'EST INJUSTE IL MERITE
It's unjust! He deserves
more than 5 years.
TUE!

I was scared, I withdrawn into myself, many people were against me, but I was relieved because others were encouraging me.



I received the Front line defenders award,

I never thought I would have as much recognition or as many opponents.

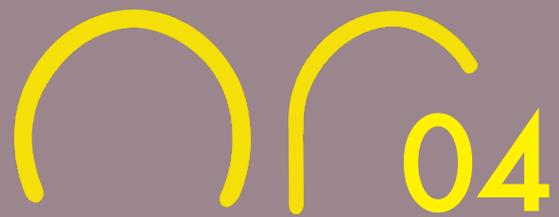


the Knight Del 'order of the Legion of Honor,



and the Franco-German prize for human rights and the rule of law in 2020

To me, Human Rights means freedom of expression. It is equality of opportunity, it is citizenship and most importantly, Human Rights are freedom.



Find us online



frontlinedefenders.org/cypher

