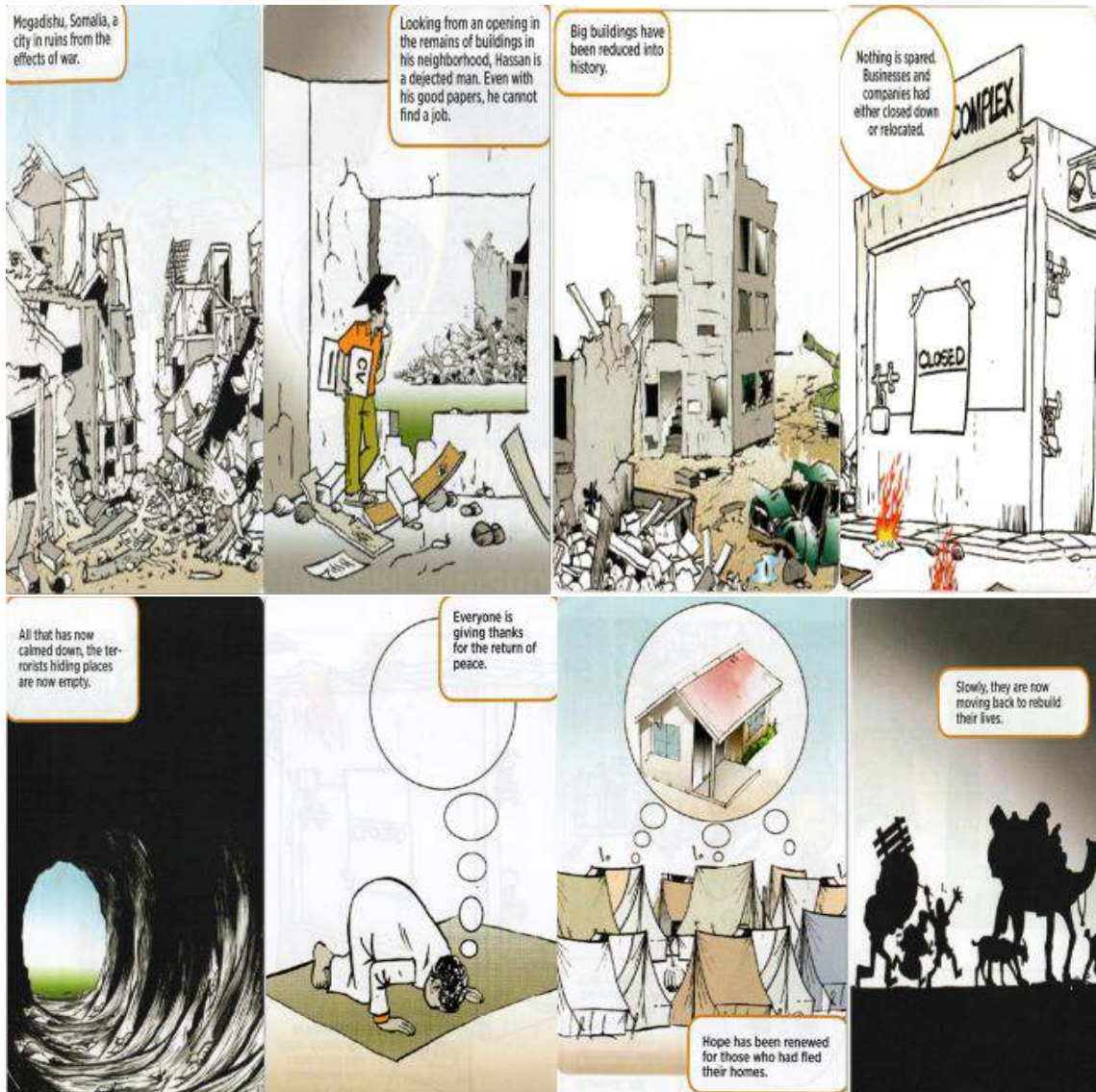


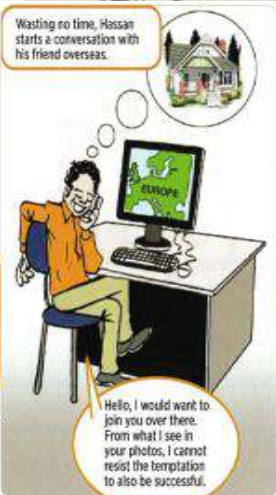
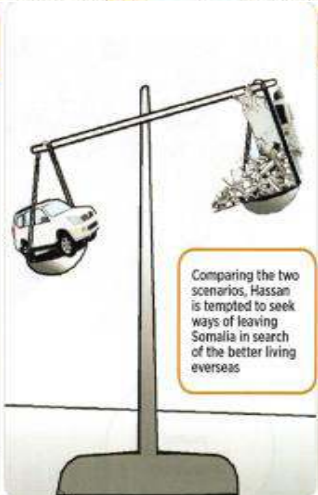
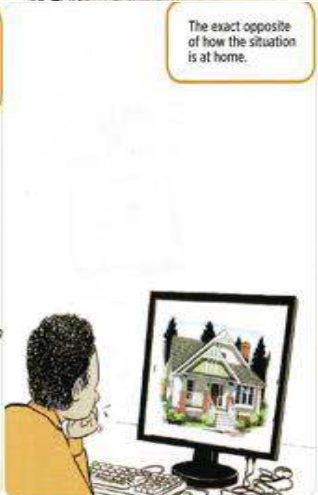
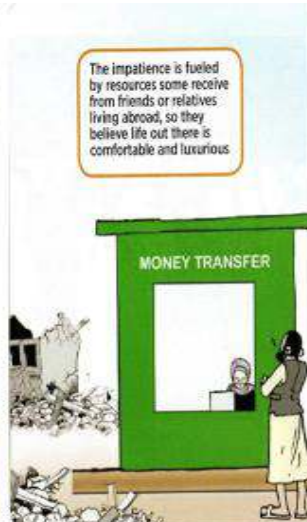
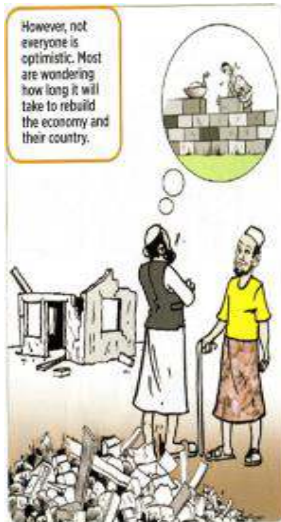
Synopsis

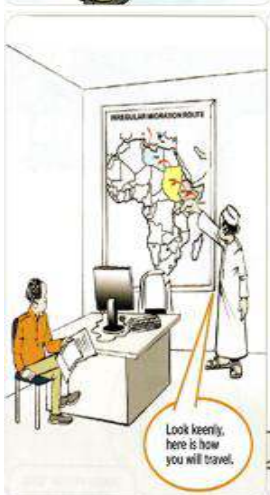
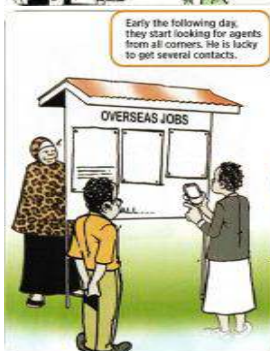
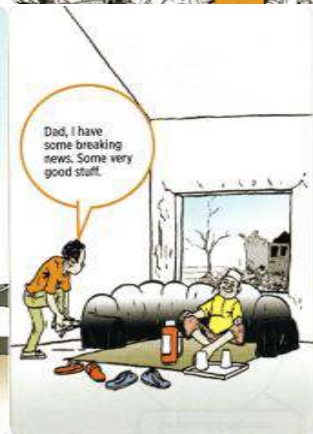
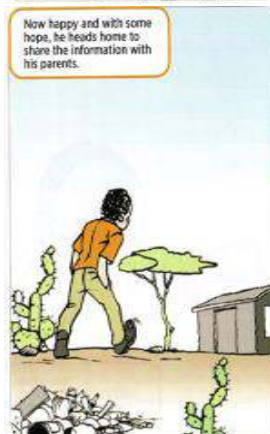
Being a country that is recovering from war, living in Somalia is difficult for the locals. Virtually all industries and businesses had closed down or relocated thus little or no employment for almost everyone. The situation makes people believe that life outside Somalia is better, happy and successful.

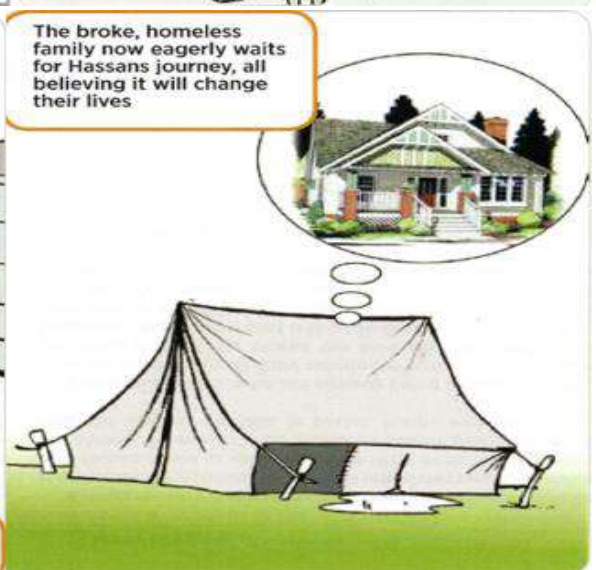
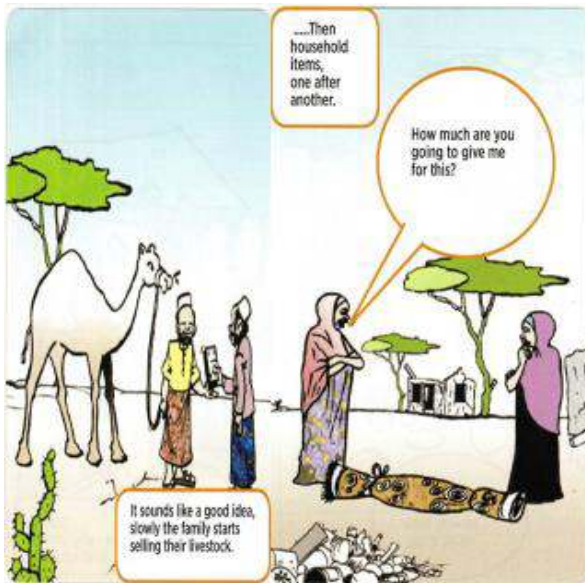
Through contacts who are already living abroad, Hassan, a Somali national gets fully convinced and decides to also try living abroad. He shares the idea with his family and together, they concur that it is a big dream worth pursuing. Together, the family mobilizes all their resources so as to raise the required fee to meet the travel expenses, all in the hope that their efforts will pay back handsomely.

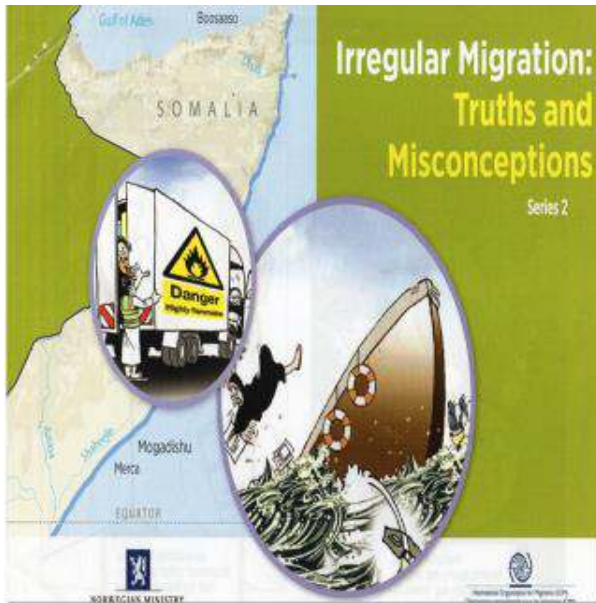
But is it going to be the case?











Synopsis

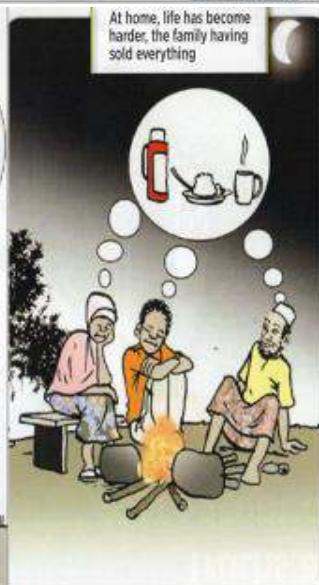
Days seem to drag off slowly as Hassan waits for the agent to process his travel documents. Life at home has become harder, with his family having sold everything.

Uncertainty creeps into Hassan's mind after bidding his parents goodbye. The agent quickly drives off, and contrary to expectation, drives past the Airport junction. Hassan learns that he is to use an alternative travel means, by road then by sea. Back home, Hassan's happy parents can't wait for their son to start supporting them like their neighbors do from abroad to their relatives back home.

Only the agent has an idea of how the journey will be. For Hassan, it is shock as reality starts setting in. One difficulty after another but despite all these, he still has high hope of making it to the greener pasture.



At home, life has become harder, the family having sold everything the agent starts preparing Hassan's documents



At home, life has become harder, the family having sold everything



To avoid sharing a tent with his parents, Hassan spends the night at his friend's place.



Hassan is learning a foreign language as the agent instructed.



It is joy for the family when the agent finally calls.



The anxious family enquires of the progress



The agent advises Hassan on what to do while travelling and warns him to follow all instruction.

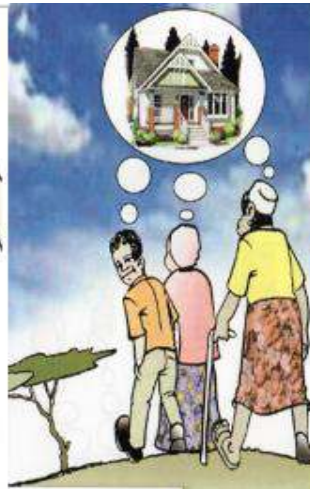


Hassan is given a passport but only the photo is his. All other details are different.

He is one person who has two identities.



Upon arrival at the destination country, he is advised to destroy the passport so as to conceal the country of origin.



The happy family bids the agent goodbye and leaves.

Hassan goes to his friends house and packs his belongings.



The agent comes to pick him, to start his journey.



Hassan learns he is to use an alternative transport.

You will travel by road and then by sea



He is introduced to a truck driver who is to ferry him to the port.



He is asked to ride at the back of the truck, with dangerous goods.



After inhaling polluted air, he starts feeling sickly.

Cough! cough! cough!



At some point, the truck breaks down and there is also the danger of wild animals.



The truck finally arrives at Tripoli Sea Port.

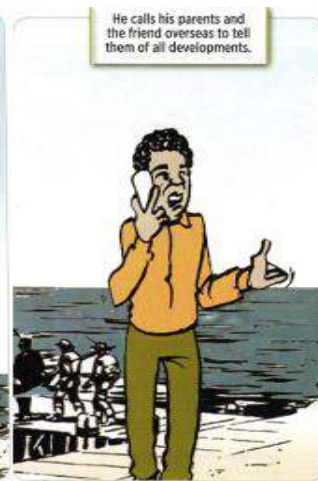




Hassan alights but he is already unwell.



From far, Hassan can see a big boat which he will board for the rest of the journey.



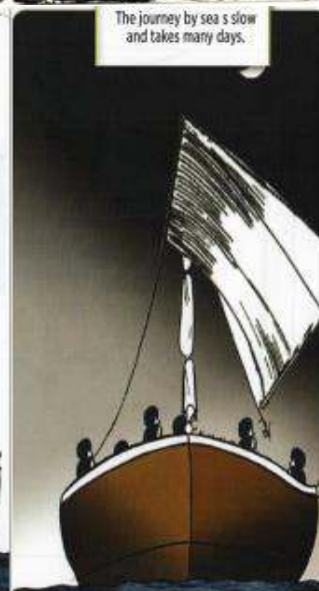
He calls his parents and the friend overseas to tell them of all developments.



At a security desk towards the boat Hassan is frisked and his phone is taken away



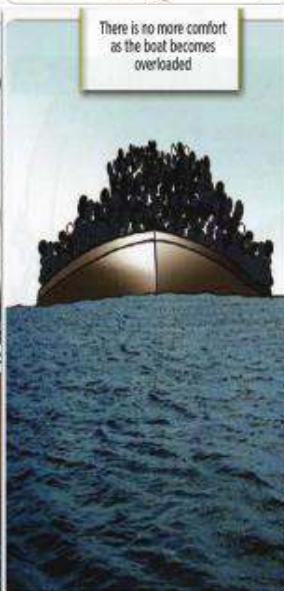
He boards the boat and the sea journey takes off.



The journey by sea is slow and takes many days.



Every time they make a stop, more people get into the boat.



There is no more comfort as the boat becomes overloaded



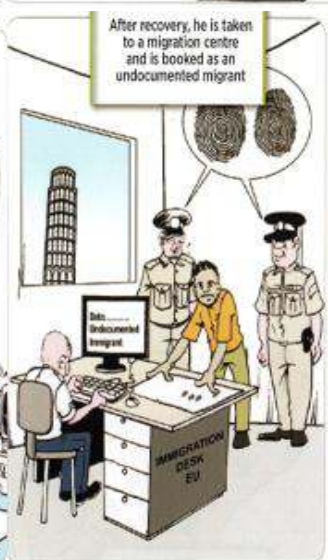
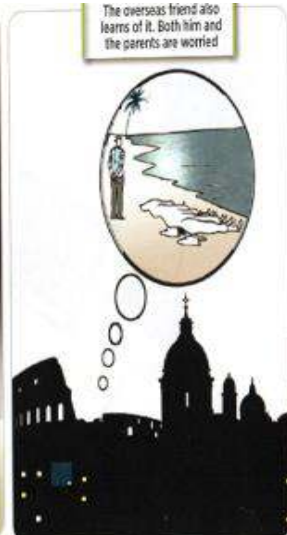
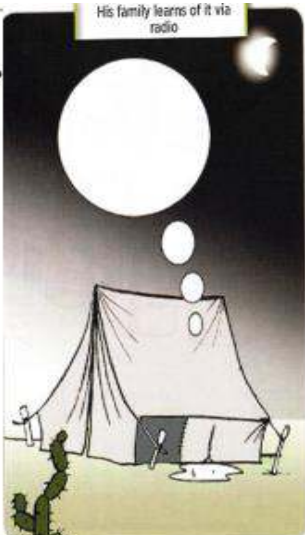
After a very long time in the sea, the captain makes an announcement

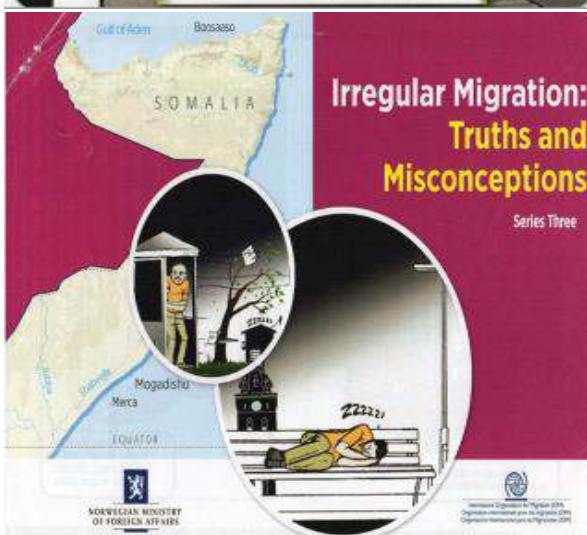
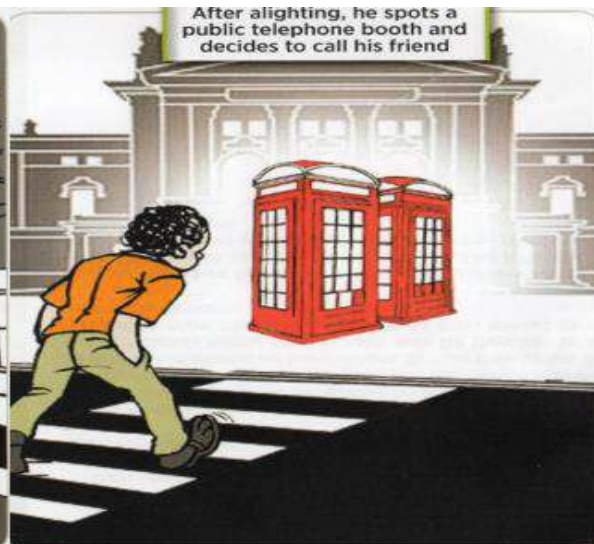
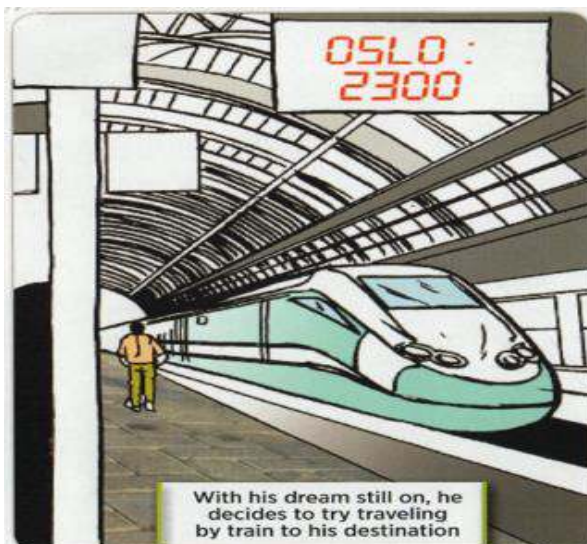


The overcrowded travelers cheer.



Suddenly, the boat starts swaying. Heavy storms have struck.





Synopsis

Despite meeting his host at his destination country, Hassan finds a totally different scenario from what he had anticipated. Without legal documents, it becomes difficult for him to get a job.

In his status, only menial jobs are available but are also poorly paid and at times never paid at all. Life is expensive and accessing basic facilities is beyond his reach. He tries to acquire a legal status but all his efforts hit a dead end. Hassan is tormented by the thought of his family that is eagerly waiting for his assistance, not knowing that he is also struggling to make ends meet. As a last option to put an end to his suffering, he approaches the authorities, ready to open up about his true status.





Despite him having a degree most companies don't even recognize his qualifications



In some instances, communication becomes a problem.

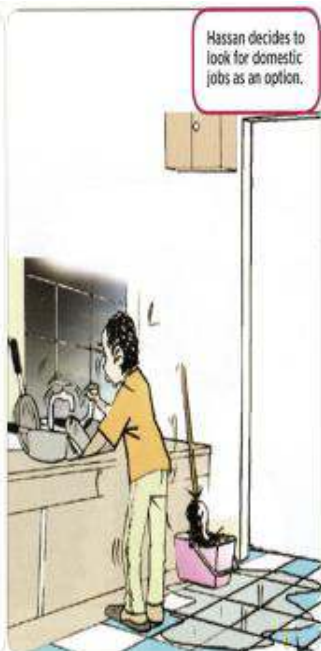


The extreme weather conditions start affecting him.

The reality starts hitting him, without legal papers, jobs are not easy to get



At one point, the staff at a hospital refuse to attend to him for lack of documents.



Hassan decides to look for domestic jobs as an option.



He works as a gardener for some family and at times cleaning.



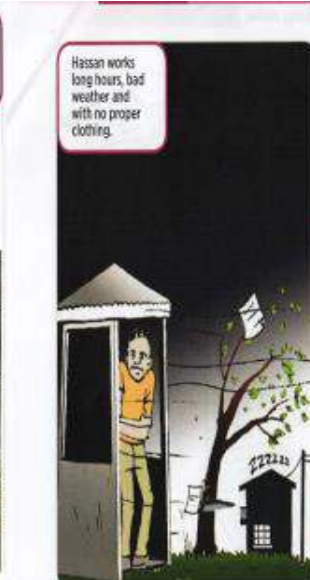
Hassan gets racially abused.



Frustrated, he decides to look for a job elsewhere.



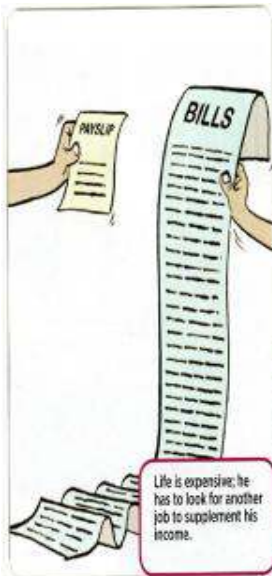
He gets a security job at a food outlet.



Hassan works long hours, bad weather and with no proper clothing.



Hassan complains to his employer concerning the working conditions. However the employer disregards and threatens to report him as being illegally there if he goes to the authorities



Life is expensive; he has to look for another job to supplement his income.



Back home, the parents are wondering why Hassan isn't sending them cash.



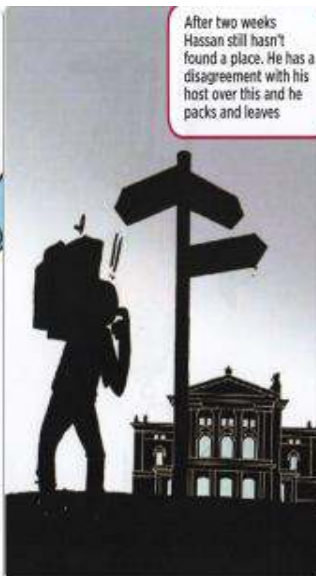
After staying for several months, his host now wants Hassan out as he is becoming a financial burden to him.



Hassan asks his host to give him time to look for a place to stay



His host agrees to give him two weeks



After two weeks Hassan still hasn't found a place. He has a disagreement with his host over this and he packs and leaves



To avoid meeting with law enforcers, Hassan's movement becomes minimal.



Hassan has to leave on the streets before he can find housing



He moves to a low cost housing that he can only afford.



To be able to pay his bills, he teams up with a guy who also has similar problems.



In desperation, Hassan approaches one family and explains his actual position while appealing for assistance.



The family takes him in and gives him menial jobs, he can now afford some meal.

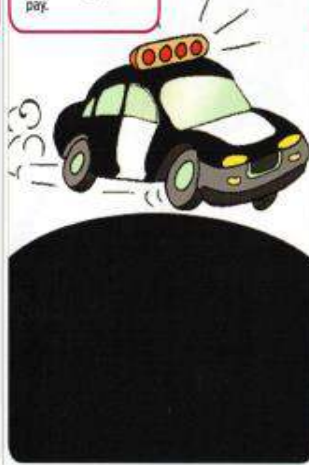
He asks for his pay and the employer refuses to pay.



An angry Hassan demands his pay but the boss stands his ground.



The employer threatens to alert the police should Hassan keeps asking for a pay.



Fearing the consequences of a possible deportation, Hassan agrees to work for free. He is now a slave.



He tries to make up with his former host so as to be assisted, the host having stayed there longer.



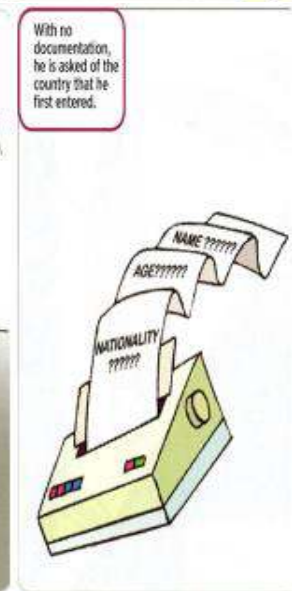
Hassan goes back to the immigration office.



Through a translator, he is interviewed as they try to determine his status.



With no documentation, he is asked of the country that he first entered.



Fearing arrest, he lies that his resident country is where he has always been.



Having not satisfied the panel, his request is not granted

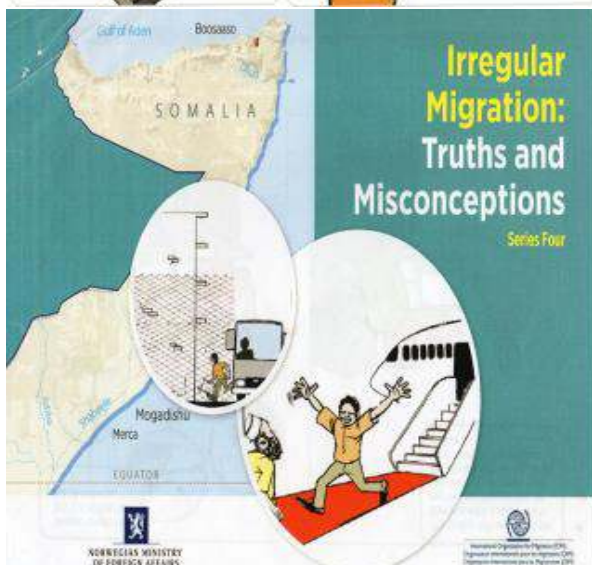
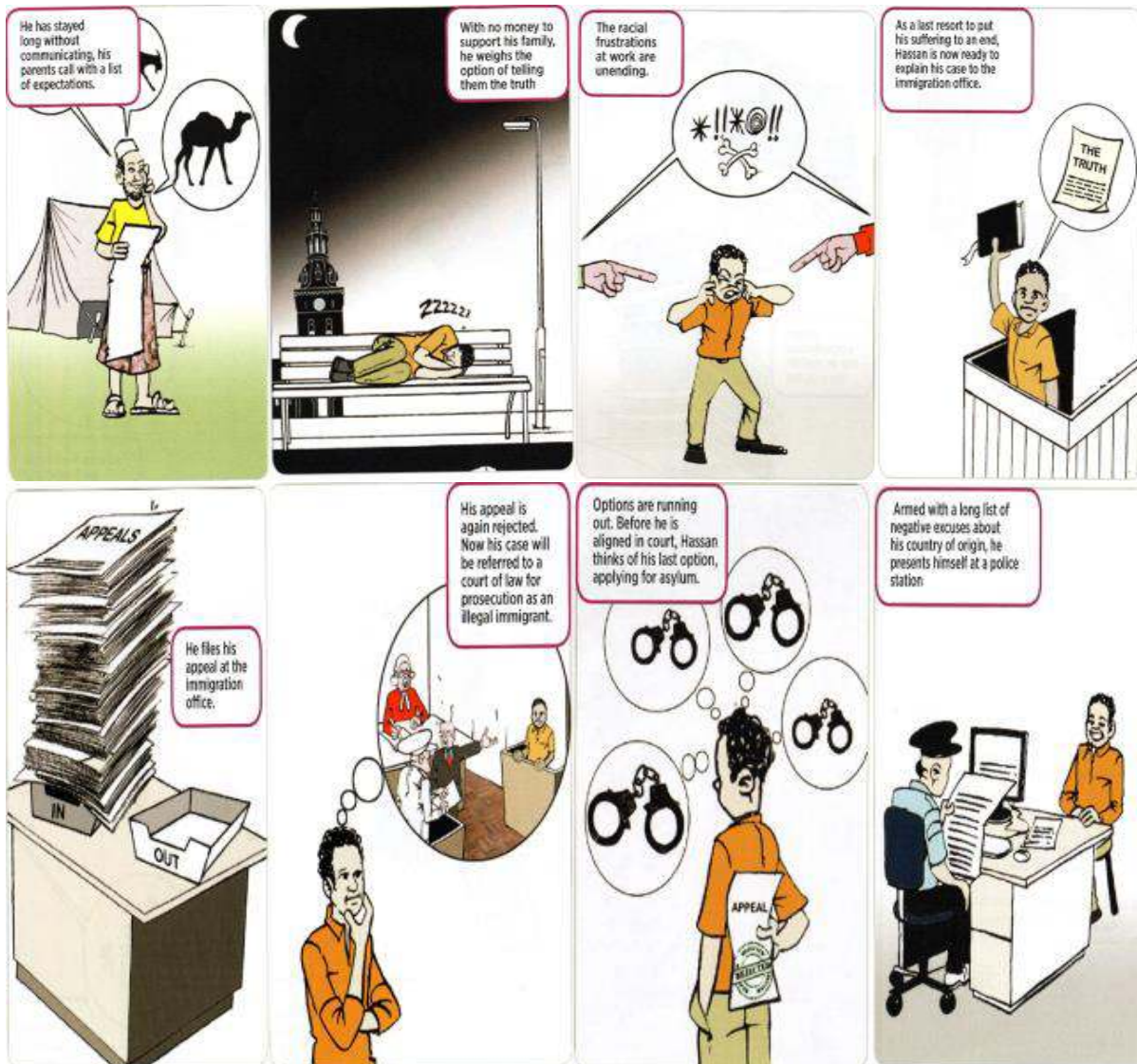


He is given an option of appealing but within some duration.



He goes back to his poor paying menial jobs.





Synopsis

After many years of struggling and suffering, Hassan finally realizes that an irregular migration cannot work. He is left with only one option, going back home to reconstruct his life afresh.

Despite having wasted a lot of his productive time chasing wind, he is finally happy back home and is hopeful that soon he will be able to recover all what has been lost.

Hassan begins to tell the officer his list of excuses.



The police officer interrupts him and with a stern warning he tells Hassan that he can already pre-empt what Hassan is going to say as he has seen many of these cases before.



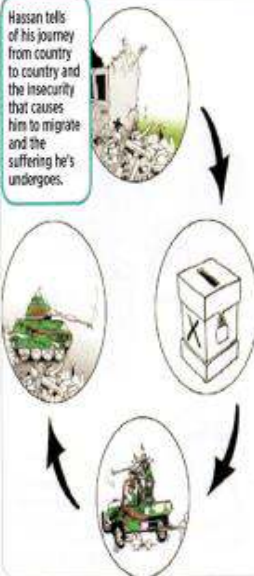
He advises him the best thing would be for Hassan to tell the truth as he has an obligation to do so if he wants to make any headway.



Hassan looks at him and with little resolve left but optimistic he will succeed claims to have always been on the move across many borders in search of peace that he can't tell which country his story started.



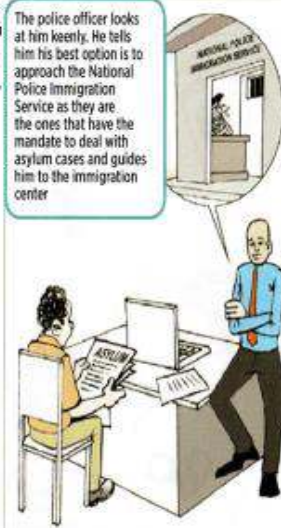
Hassan tells of his journey from country to country and the insecurity that causes him to migrate and the suffering he's undergone.



After which he finally tells the police that he would like to apply for asylum as he cannot tell his original country from the many he has been to.



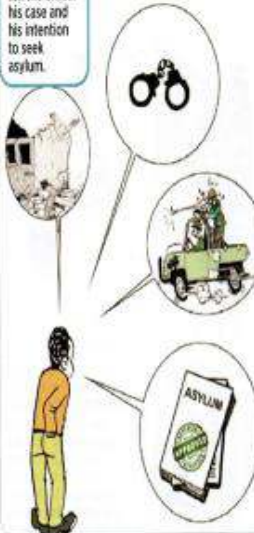
The police officer looks at him keenly. He tells him his best option is to approach the National Police Immigration Service as they are the ones that have the mandate to deal with asylum cases and guides him to the immigration center.



Humbly, Hassan meets an immigration officer and asks if he can be accorded some assistance.



He begins to tell the officer his case and his intention to seek asylum.



The immigration officer explains to him that for all asylum application he has to be registered and submit his application. In addition he has to state his name, age and address; submit his identification documents that show who you are; explain why you are applying for asylum and what you fear; he must explain how he came to the country and whether he had been in any other countries.



Hassan explains to the officer that he has no documentation as they were all confiscated but however proceeds to lodge his application.



The officer proceeds to take his fingerprints. Since his fingerprints had already been taken at his first port of entry, the system flags them.



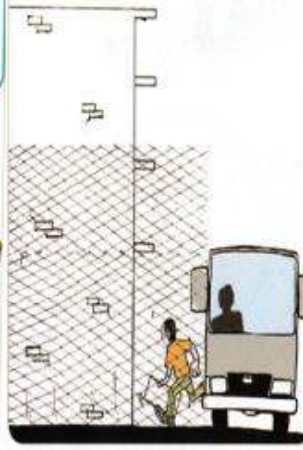
The officer tells Hassan that it is not possible to lodge his application there. Hassan is confused and asks why



The officer goes ahead and explains to him that according to the immigration laws (Dublin II convention) an application is only valid in the country where an individual enters Europe first; the 'Dublin Procedure'. He also explains to him that asylum seekers have a habit of moving from one country to another seeking asylum usually having given false information. Fingerprints therefore acts as a way for authorities in different countries to help each other keep track of people.



Hassan is therefore taken to the asylum reception center as he awaits to be sent back to his first destination country



While at the center, Hassan meets other immigrants with different stories. Some are awaiting their status, others like Hassan have fallen victims of the Dublin II Accord, stuck between European countries as they regulate immigration policies



Just like Hassan many recount the struggles they have endured while trying to escape the problems in their country



Hassan stays in the camp for three days before he's sent back to the country of first entry



There Hassan has to lodge an application again. Hassan is now a dejected man as he sees it as a repetitive cycle.



He has to await the status of his application. But for Hassan his future seems bleak and wishes he was back home...



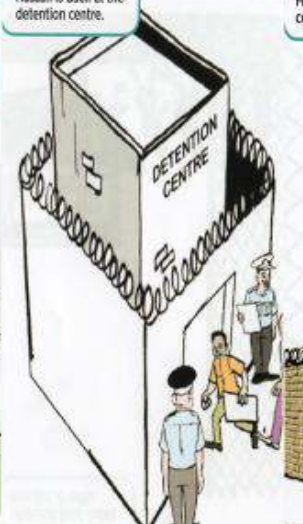
Back home Hassan's parents are angry.



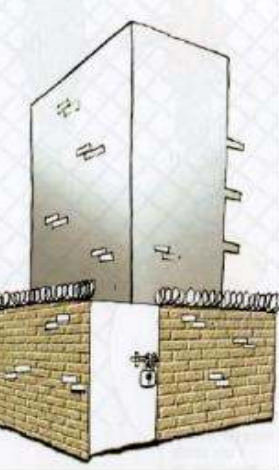
They don't understand why Hassan doesn't send money or even call.



Hassan is back at the detention centre.



Movement at the centre is restricted.



The living conditions are not good. More migrants keep being brought in daily.



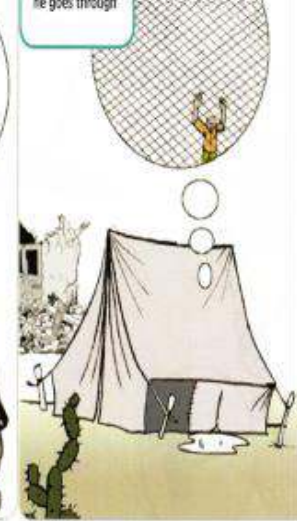
A new migrant at the centre helps Hassan with a phone to call home.



An unhappy Hassan asks his father to contact the agent for a refund of their money.



He explains to the parents of all the hardships he goes through



When contacted, the agent dismisses any refund proposal.



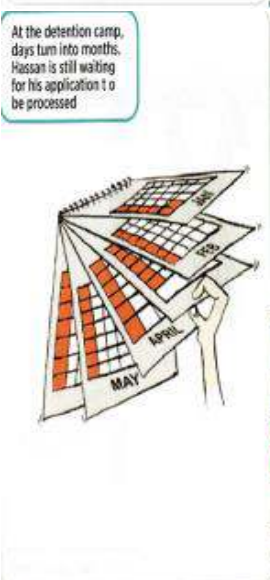
The deal was irregular, Hassan's father cannot get justice.

As an excuse, the agent claims Hassan never followed his instructions



The reality hits Hassan's parents, all the money they raised is lost

At the detention camp, days turn into months. Hassan is still waiting for his application to be processed



After many months in the centre, Hassan, together with others are taken to an immigration centre



Their application has been assessed, and the verdict is given



Their asylum application hasn't been successful. Those whose country of origin can be established are to be deported

