

Darfuri Refugees in the United States Video

Full Script

<i>Time</i>	<i>Speaker; time in U.S.</i>	<i>Script</i>
00:25-01:42	Adam Tagir 3 years 9 months in the U.S.	<p>I wake up early in the morning at 5 am and then I pray. Afterwards, I take the car to the airport bus station. When I take my car to the bus station, I park my car there. I start my work in the morning and end at 3 pm or 3:30 pm. I get back home at around 4 or 4:30 pm.</p> <p>I work in the airport. I drive the small cars that carry people and their bags from their arriving gate to their departing gate. I mainly carry people who can't walk or are using a wheelchair. We take the people from one flight and take them to their connecting flight.</p>
02:05-02:30	Khadija Ali 3 years 9 months in the U.S.	<p>My kids get dressed and go to school. They eat their breakfast and then go to school. I leave at 8 or 8:20 am and take the bus to work. I take the bus to work and I work for 4 hours per day. I leave my job at 1 pm and I'm home by 2 pm. I do everything I can before the kids come home.</p>
02:35-03:25	Nadjwa Khamis Adam 7 months in the U.S.	<p>We wake up very early in the morning and I prepare breakfast for the kids. After breakfast, I take the kids to wait for the bus. When they take the bus, I return home to prepare the food and go to work. When we come back in the evening, we take a shower and eat dinner and then I go to evening classes. When we get back, we pray and then go to bed and the next day we do it all again. It seems like the day is very short and it's going very fast.</p>
03:41-04:35	Siham Abdallah Hassan 7 months in the U.S.	<p>Here, it's easy to go to school because we take a school bus. It's not like the way it was back home in Chad. Here, we have our books, and we have the bus – and we have a lot of books here, too.</p> <p>When we first got to school we didn't have any friends and we couldn't speak English. Then we met one of our friends – her</p>

		name is Jessica. The teacher told her to go with us and from then on we became good friends. She introduced us to the other classmates and her friends.
04:38-05:10	Kamal Khamis 6 years in the U.S.	They will be better off here than in the camps and kids are the big issue. Kids are the future and we have to take care of them when they come here, because there are great opportunities for education here. People don't have to be scared; kids learn English fast here. They learn faster than the adults.
05:22-05:45	Fatne Dehie Wadi 1 year in the U.S.	Since we had the chance to come here, we now have a good possibility to start our lives. Even though we don't know Arabic, we don't know English, it's still a good start for us. I need to go and study, but Grandma is sick and I need someone to help take care of her and the kids. When we go out, we don't know how to communicate with people. We're just sitting at home.
05:55-06:37	Adam Mohammed Babiker 1 year in the U.S.	When you come to a new life it's kind of hard. The biggest problem is language. English is a problem that we faced when we got here. If someone learns English before they come here it's going to be a lot easier for them. The most difficult thing is when someone comes here and doesn't speak the language. That's the difficulty when someone comes to America. I've been through this. I didn't know the language. It was very hard for me. When I went to the hospital or other places, I was always looking for interpreters.
06:47-08:05	Omhagain Dayeen 6 years in the U.S.	When I first came to America, we took the flight from Cairo. I couldn't speak English – I was just using body language. When we were educated in Sudan, we were taught in Arabic. We talked Arabic, not English, and it was hard even to spell my own name. Thank God, when I came here I took classes to learn English and I started taking advanced classes and even started using the

		<p>computer.</p> <p>When we took the flight here from Sudan, even though I was working as a teacher at the University of Dubai, it was still very hard for me. The stewardess gave me some hand cream – I ate it with the sandwich! I ate it because I couldn't understand her English. That was a very embarrassing day for my life.</p> <p>Thank God, I learned English and I became a well known artist.</p>
08:15-08:40	<p>Adam Mohammed Babiker</p> <p>1 year in the U.S.</p>	<p>The most important thing now is reading and work. Anyone can improve their lives when they go to school, find a new job, and start a new life. This way, we can start a new life from the beginning.</p>
08:57-09:46	<p>Nadjwa Khamis Adam</p> <p>7 months in the U.S.</p>	<p>Of the problems I've been facing here, there's one [big] problem – driving. I don't have a car. Every time we go to the office or when we go to the market for shopping, we have to call our Darfuri friends to pick us up. If they didn't exist, we would have even more problems. They take us and bring us home. That's the only problem.</p> <p>The second problem is that I'm away from my family. My father, mother, brothers are all not here. That's a problem that I'm facing now.</p>
09:53-11:45	<p>Adam Mohammed Babiker</p> <p>1 year in the U.S.</p>	<p>I live near my workplace, but I'm about 2 hours away from my family. So, I come and visit them on the weekends, Saturday and Sunday. I spend two nights with them, then I return to my job. I've been here about a year and I've been working since then.</p> <p>I have my own car. My situation is good and I'm still getting an education. I work at a meat packing company.</p> <p>Driving here is different from Sudan. Here, when you drive there are signs for speed limits. Secondly, when you drive in the city, there are other signs that say "stop." When the traffic light is red, all the cars stop. When the light is green, it's your turn to</p>

		<p>drive.</p> <p>The speed limit varies from city to city. Within the cities, there are different signs for speed limits. There are a lot of cars within the city. Sometimes, there are three lanes going in the same direction.</p>
12:02-13:03	<p>Adam Tagir</p> <p>3 years 9 months in the U.S.</p>	<p>My job is a good thing, because you can help people. You feel inside that you're helping people who can't help themselves – and that's a very good feeling. So, we help people and we also get a salary. It's a great job, I love it a lot.</p> <p>There's a big difference between Africa and America. In my opinion, in Africa you work hard and nobody pays you. There are a lot of things I like about America. The most important thing is that people have rights when they work. Everyone here in America has their rights. Anyone can find a job or get an education for their kids.</p>
13:16-13:45	<p>Noussouraddine Zakaria</p> <p>1 year in the U.S.</p>	<p>When I first came to America, when I went to school, it was very difficult because I couldn't understand the teacher. The other students used to help me with everything. The other students also helped me with the tests and the homework.</p>
13:54-14:27	<p>Chiffa Abdallah Hassan</p> <p>7 months in the U.S.</p>	<p>The cafeteria where we go to eat is a big room with lots of chairs. We get our lunch and sit down to eat with each other. When we're done with our lunch, we go outside to play. Today, I had pizza, some milk, and an orange.</p>
14:42-15:40	<p>Anwar Zakaria</p> <p>1 Year in the U.S.</p>	<p>At first, I couldn't speak English very well. I could only speak Arabic. Now, I can understand English and the teacher is helping me. Now, I can speak English and I can use the computer and I can get on the internet. I have a lot of friends from different countries: Mexico, Thailand, Somalia, from Sudan and even from China.</p>
15:48-16:04	<p>Fatne Dehie Wadi</p> <p>1 year in the U.S.</p>	<p>Even though some don't like the idea of coming here, it IS better here because the kids will study and become what they want – doctors or teachers or whatever. Since kids will get this opportunity for education, it doesn't matter if I don't. I will</p>

		thank God for that.
16:09-17:21	Adam Tagir 3 years 9 months in the U.S.	<p>We can give advice to people who are coming to the United States. The most important advice that I can give to my people in Darfur and Chad and the other African countries is that they won't find money in the streets when they come to America.</p> <p>No – when you come to America, you have to work very hard and get educated, so you can build yourself up. All these things are available in America.</p> <p>There are many different kinds of people here in America; there's not only one kind. They're all living here because they want to work and improve their lives. So, when people come to America they will get help from other people. The bottom line is that you have to work and support yourself.</p>
17:23-17:55	Khadija Ali 3 years 9 months in the U.S.	<p>Life is very beautiful in America and I'm happy to have someone to help me. This is Jennifer.</p> <p>[Jennifer says: "Salaam alaikum."]</p> <p>As you can see, we're working together as a family and we're all eating together and you can see Adam – he's serving himself.</p> <p>It's different from Sudan, where the women have to do all the work. Thank God it's different here.</p>
18:01-19:12	Kamal Khamis 6 years in the U.S.	<p>My advice to my brothers and sisters, my people in Darfur, and in the camps, and people who have the desire to come to America – I'm telling them not to be scared.</p> <p>When people come here as Muslims, there are mosques and there are Islamic societies, so people can do their prayers, their Islamic traditions, and ceremonies. There are stores for Islamic customs and Halal food. So, people don't have to be worried here. So [in that respect], thank God, it's just like living in Sudan.</p>
19:28-20:30	Nadjwa Khamis	We heard a lot of things about America. People said that we would be treated like slaves. Some people said they were going

	Adam 7 months in the U.S.	<p>to buy and sell us. [Others said that] they will give you very little money. We heard a lot of stories.</p> <p>From all these thousands of people, we were chosen to come here. The Lord chose us to come here. So, we said, “Let’s go – tomorrow is another day.” So, we came here and we found that all the stories were untrue. My advice is to not listen to them.</p> <p>When people try to come here, they have to look out for their future. Thank God, we’re here and my kids are going to school. When we came here – even though we were born in a city and raised in a city – when we came to America we found things that didn’t exist back home.</p>
20:32-21:14	Kamal Khamis 6 years in the U.S.	<p>A lot of refugees hear many rumors. Rumors spread fast and it’s easy for refugees to accept them [as true]. Some people believe those rumors. The most destructive thing for a refugee is rumor. Rumors destroy the hopes of refugees, especially the new arrivals. They should always listen to the agency representative and not make comparisons between different areas or between different cities. They all have different situations and different benefits.</p>
21:15-22:05	Abdul Shakur 9 years in the U.S.	<p>The first thing I’d mention about America is that it has freedom and democracy. There are a lot of opportunities for jobs and education. You can get education for your children and help your family. People won’t remove you from your property by force here.</p> <p>When anyone does the interview and comes to America, when they hear about prejudice against Islam – it’s not true. There are a lot of mosques here. In fact, I just came back from Friday prayer.</p>
22:18-22:45	Nadjwa Khamis Adam 7 months in the U.S.	<p>I would like people to come here and change their lives and give education to their children. They can even get an education for themselves. They can move forward in this country and build their future. I want all the refugees living in the camps to come here and change their lives.</p>

23:10-23:50	Abdul Shakur 9 years in the U.S.	<p>A lot of organizations are working together to take care of refugees. For example, the United Nations, and International Organization for Migration, and other regional offices.</p> <p>So, when you arrive at the airport, especially those in the United States – the agency representatives will meet you at the airport. They will take you to your house or apartment in the city where you will be located.</p>
24:07-24:44	Mohammed Omar Adallah 5 minutes in the U.S.	<p>When I went to Ghana in 2005 on the 8th of June, I found a lot of difficulties. I left Ghana and came to America, and I like the environment here a lot. I'm extremely surprised and I wasn't expecting this. I'm very surprised to see this new place. Suddenly, I'm not in Africa any more – I'm here. This is going to be a big transition for me.</p>