|  |
| --- |
| Unravelling the Mediterranean migration crisis |

|  |
| --- |
| * **Amadou’s story**
 |

A young Gambian man in his mid-twenties, left his home town and country because of family problems related to religious tensions. He left home in a rush and first hid in a friend’s house but soon afterwards, in January 2014, he left Gambia.

Amadou travelled first by bus to Senegal but he didn’t feel safe: ‘*it was the same like staying in Gambia*’. Instead he decided to move to neighbouring Mali, staying in the capital, Bamako, for two months. At the ‘garage’ (central bus station) he met an old man who helped him to get odd jobs.

The old man had another friend, a bus driver. One day the bus driver suggested that Amadou accompany him to find a job in Agadez in Niger. Once in Agadez, Amadou realised that Bamako was actually better in terms of job opportunities and general living conditions but could not go back because he had no money.

Instead he stayed in another ‘garage’ where he made friends with a man who found him work as a bricklayer. Amadou stayed in Agadez for three months but ‘*the man told me that if I go to Libya, I will find a good job’*. Amadou knew nothing about the security situation and decided to go to Libya because ‘*in Niger there was nothing’*.

The journey to Qatrun in Libya took four days. There, he met a compatriot who worked as auto-body repairer and within a few days was recruited by the same garage. The job was good, he was regularly paid and ended up staying in Qatrun for two or three months.

At some point, his Gambian friend told him that he wanted to go to Tripoli because he believed that he would find a better job there. Amadou decided to go with him and found a job after just a few weeks but he felt unsafe.

One day he was stopped by the police. Because he didn’t have any ID papers, Amadou was imprisoned for three months before he was able to escape. An old man offered to him lodgings in return for assistance with household chores. He lived there for four months but was then told to leave.

The man had a friend who took Amadou to Zuwara on the coast. From there Amadou travelled to Italy, eventually arriving in Taranto from where he was transferred to Turin. He arrived in Turin 22 months after leaving Gambia.