

Go Back To Where You Came From

Transcript



Jodi's Journey Clip 2: Camp Life

RENEE: What is life like here for you? What do you do in the daytime?

MUM: I used to work before. But I'm not well now. I'm not able to do anything. They are now the ones who are taking care of me because I am not able to work.

JODI: What do they do the children do during the day? Do they go to school?

MUM: How can we put them in school? We have no money. They have to sell plastic bags and find firewood in the forest. My son is not able to send us money. Otherwise they could go to school.

NARRATOR: THE FAMILY HASN'T SEEN SHOMSUL FOR FOUR YEARS. IN A CAMP WITH NO INTERNET SHOMSUL HAS SENT A VIDEO MESSAGE FROM AUSTRALIA.

SHOMSUL: Greetings, mother. Please take good care of my children. God willing, if I get a visa here I'll be able to earn money and send the children to school. You'll be able to eat well. Please pray for me and take care of my children. Please pray for me. That's all. Goodbye.

NARRATOR: SHOMSUL'S YOUNGEST CHILD JANI WAS STILL A BABY WHEN HIS FATHER LEFT.

JODI: Jani is that the first time you're seeing your daddy? Does it make you happy to see him?

MUM: Of course. He is my only son. Every time I see people getting off the bus at the market I always imagine he might be there among them. I think he might come back because I haven't heard news about him for a few months. But I never see anyone who looks like him getting off the bus.

JODI: Thank you for seeing us. Good luck.

DAVY: Thank you very much for seeing us. Thank you.

RENEE: Goodbye.

JODI: I had no idea what his family would be like. It was far worse seeing it with my own eyes. The conditions they were in are just inhumane and I can see why Shomsul would have done anything out of desperation to get to another country to try and

provide for his family because they had nothing. Just opened my eyes to a whole new world that I think I was just very naive and didn't even want to imagine what it was like. I mean they could be living in those camps for years and years and years and die in those camps. And what sort of life is that? So I can understand now why people like Shomsul would get on a boat because there is no other option.