

Migrants in turbulence times: Staying Awake - Journey to the Paradise

Richard Osei Bonsu, Omaniae, Antwerp/ Belgium

ABSTRACT

The Sub-Saharan African continent each day loses hundreds of unaccountable youth to irregular migration, 65% risk all in pursuit of greener pastures at the peril of their lives through the desert and sea to reach the West, 'the land of Paradise. 20% of the migrants are confidently tricked or misled to Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Lebanon into modern day slavery by the human trafficking and smugglers while the 15% flee their country of origin in seek of refugee.

As 21st century promises to be a new age of migration, the paradigm has changed. 30% of the migrants are been confronted with forced deportation while 70% remain isolated as 'displaced undocumented migrant' who will soon be confronted with shattered dreams.

Undocumented migrants face various degree of inhumane treatment when caught up by the law as illegal immigrants which create adverse conditions on their lives resulting in mentally, physiologically and emotional trauma before been forced to return.

The trend of these irregular migration represents one of the biggest humanitarian tragedies, rendering most African youths who were intellects and vision holders to be hopeless and vulnerable within the scope living as undocumented migrants and slaves for which they constitute the greater work force of their nation.

50% of the deportees re-migrates through failed secure borders while the seizure of their passports have become phenomenon with a long history, especially in Africa. These brain-drain has been a major challenge to both African and European governments on the growing negative effect of the 80% undocumented African migrants been displaced while the gap between documented and undocumented migrants keep growing yearly.

The presentation shows figures and life-stories and experiences of youth migration from Africa to Europe and back.

CV

Richard Osei Bonsu is researcher, founder and CEO of the NGO OMANIAE – Organization for Migrants and Non-Immigrants for African Education – in Antwerp/ Belgium. He holds a degree of the University of Cape Coast/ Ghana and has wide expertise in international projects, management and public administration. Since 2014 he is international project coordinator of OMANIAE Ghana as well as youth empowerment trainer at OMANIAE VZW in Antwerp.