

TRAPPEDS IN MOROCCO

Teresa Palomo, Morocco.

In Morocco, being a migrant, woman and sub-Saharan is not easy, but if you also poor, it becomes hell. In a country where their rights are void, they are alone. On this trip they face begging, racism, harassment, exploitation, mafias and the deception of their own countrymen. The goal? A square in a patera (small plastic boat) that takes them to Spain through the Strait of Gibraltar. The way? A race in the background with one obstacle after another that prevents them from moving forward or backward.

"It took me less than 20 days to get from my country to the patera that would take me to Europe. The whole nightmare began after being intercepted by the Moroccan royal navy when I was aware that I had to survive here. "

To survive they ask for money in the streets or sweep entire neighborhoods in exchange for the will of their inhabitants, which is sometimes nothing. With those 5 or 10 euros that they can get per day, they have to pay for house, food, medicines and if there is enough, save to pay for the trip in patera to the mafias. But saving is really difficult. The price of housing rises when it is an illegal migrant who wants to rent it. Food also goes up when it is they who want to buy it. These women have no choice but to pay since complaining or discussing the price means they are in danger of being exposed to thieves and police raids in which they suffer physical violence, they steal their phone and money and are deported to the south. from the country.

Those who have minors in their care must also pay for the child if the child is already crawling. The parents usually disappear before the birth of their children, usually because they have already been able to pay for the trip to Europe by stealing from them the money that the women have already saved, crossing the Mediterranean Sea.

Women are trapped in Morocco, women who are not even 30 years old and who come mainly from Ivory Coast, Mali, Congo or Cameroon, fleeing from arranged marriages, guerrillas, domestic abuse, family violence and poverty . It will be years until they get the 1500 euros together, per head, to pay the mafias to travel in a plastic boat in which alone, last year, more than 1000 people died trying to reach Spanish coasts.