



very difficult way but there were... aaa... there were Saharawi representatives who used to go and take with them suitcases full of letters and tapes. I mean, there was an exchange between the students and their families in the refugee camps. And, I think... aaa... we spent about the first 10 years or nine years... aaa... or we spent the first seven to nine years this way. I mean, we did not get that type of family caring.

And at the end, people go to university and in university... aaa... I mean, the student studies for about five years unless something happens or something affects him to... aaa... to stay for up to seven or eight years to finish. There are Saharawis who stayed in university for eight years and perhaps, there are others who stayed for longer. I mean, they have the right to change their specialization or something like that... aaa... because we have the opportunity to change specialization. And... aaa ... I think that... I mean, it is hard but... aaa... it is possible... aaa... that, that we overcome it and that... aaa... we, I mean, we face this change – this social change especially. I mean, it is true that it was very hard; we were in a society different from ours but... aaa... in terms of culture, in the essence of the culture, always... aaa ... there are things that connect us. In the end, they are Latino people and we are Saharawi people, and we were under the Spanish colonization. And we each... aaa... inherited something from the Spanish colonization that ties us together. And our struggle and their struggle, I mean, has always been the same. They had... aaa... goals that are very similar to our goals: the struggle to gain their sovereignty and full independence and... aaa... we have the same thing.

**About CultureTalk:** CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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