

Hassaniya Arabic transcript:

رجل: شي معروفين به الصحراويين من وست هذيك الاجانب كاملة الي تقرا و نقول الاجانب الي تقرا في كوبا راهي ياسرة يعني فيها دول الكاريبي و دول آسيا و دول أفريقيا من تالي دخلو طلبنة أمريكيين من بعض الولايات ربما ما تعود المناطق الفقيرة لكن دخلو الطلبة الامريكين و الطلبة اللاتين، هونا يعني الطلبة عرب و هون نحنا كان يميزنا شي عنا ما نرغبوا في نبقاوا في كوبا. الا ربما بينا هونا كنا دايمنا مشوقين نرجعوا لاهلنا، كل واحد مشوق يرجع لهله لكن بعض الاحيان الظروف المادية ما تسمح للرجوع لاهل تو الواحد لبقى ولا في العطلة آآآ يعني و تمضي الزمن دايمنا مشوق لترجعي. كايين الامكانية عنك تبقاي في كوبا كيف الي ابقاو من الاجانب، نعرفوا اليمينين باقين و قابمين عندهم الاقامة الكوبية و مسموح لهم و نعرفوا السورين و نعرفوا العديد من طلبنة من الطلبة الاجانب و بخصوصة العرب فذي الحالة نتكلموا عنهم بقاو لانها كايينا الامكانيات و هون عدة إجراءات يطبقها و يقوم بها و في النهاية الي كانت جايز لو يحصل علي الاقامة الكوبية يحصل عليها. نحن الصحراويين أنا بعد في شخصيتي ما نعرف حد في هذه الحالة و نظن عنها ربما ما يعودو دايمنا عندنا عندنا طموح باش نرجعوا و نطبقو ذا الي كنا نتكونو فيه هونا أحلام و طوحدات أنتاع، تقفلي ذيك الصفحة الي فوتي من تاريخك و من حايترك و تفتحي وحدة جديدة في الصحراء ميزها ديما تطبق ذا الي كنتي تتكوني فيه و أنت دايمنا مشوق لنهار الهي تقبذي فيه رسالتك و تخرجي و تحصلي اعلي شهادتك الجامعية و تجي لاهلك فرحانين بيك، يعني منهنون نحن دايمنا نلجاو للرجوع دايمنا و حتى هاذو اللي يقيسو أسبانيا دايمنا يرجعو، هون الاختلاف من بين ذو الي يقيسو أسبانيا مع ذوك الي في كوبا هو عن ذو الي في أسبانيا عندهم يعني امكانية و طرق أسهل باش يتمو دايمنا باتصال مع عايلاتهم، يعني وسائل الاتصال، متواجدين جسديا من أهلهم مرة مرة ولا في الهواتف و بقية الاتصالات بقية وسائل الاتصالات في الوقت ذوك الي في كوبا تصبح صعب اعليهم جدا. يعني امنين تعودو في كوبا تصعب اعليك ما هو كيف ذوك الي في أسبانيا.

English translation:

Man: Something that the Saharawis are known for, which distinguishes them from other foreign students in Cuba – and there are many foreign students in Cuba, including students from Caribbean and Asian countries... aaa... African countries... aaa... and lately there are... aaa... American students from certain states which may be... aaa... less advantaged regions, but there are American students and there are Latino students... aaa... And I mean, there are Arab students and... aaa... amongst them, we had something that distinguished us, which is the fact that we don't want to stay – I mean, in Cuba. This... aaa... perhaps, I mean... aaa... we have always wanted to go back to our families; each and everyone of us is eager to go back to his family. But, at times because the financial situation doesn't permit going back home whenever one wants to or for breaks... aaa... I mean, and...aaa... you would spend the whole time always wanting to go back home despite the fact that you have the opportunity to stay in Cuba like the many foreigners who stay in Cuba. I know Yemeni people who stay there – I mean, and who have the Cuban permanent residence. Aaa... We know Syrians, and we know... aaa... I mean, many foreign students and especially the Arabs who we are speaking about in this case, they stay there because there are opportunities. There are certain procedures that the person has to follow and at the end, if he is authorized to get the Cuban permanent residence, he would get it. We, the Saharawis... aaa... I, personally, don't know anyone who decided to take this option [of staying in Cuba]. And... aaa... I think that we may have... aaa... may have... aaa... an aspiration to return to put in practice what we...

aaa... what we learned. I mean, in this case the aspirations and dreams... aaa... that...
aaa... – because you will be closing that page of your life and history, which you spent in
Cuba and you would open a new one in [Western] Sahara, which is always characterized
with... aaa... characterized by practicing what you were learning. And you are always
looking forward to the final day that you present your thesis and graduate and receive
your diploma, and you would come to your family who would be very proud of you. I
mean, in this case we... aaa... always aspire to returning... Always. Even the people who
go to Spain always come back. The only difference between the people who go to Spain
and those who go to Cuba... Those in Spain have, I mean, a better or easier opportunity
to... aaa... to always keep in touch with their families either by... aaa... I mean, by
physically being with their family or via... aaa... phone and... aaa... and other means of
communication. Meanwhile, those who are in Cuba – it is much more difficult for them. I
mean, when you stay in Cuba, it gets more difficult for you unlike those who are in Spain
or other places.

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