

In my life I have had many challenging obstacles. When I was a child I lived in a village named Koundel with my family. My dad was an authority in our community in Mauritania. He was also powerful and political in Senegal. War between Senegal and Mauritania changed everything in one day. That is the reason I am here today.

One day our village Koundel was invaded by Mauritanian soldiers. They were shooting and terrifying our people because we were “Fulani,” we don’t belong in their country. They said we have to go back to where we belong in Senegal. They kept us as prisoners and tortured our population. My dad was the reason they came to our community. They kept him away from everyone, they kept asking him so many questions, torturing him badly for almost a week. Later one of his friends helped him to escape from the camp with his family and helped us get to the border between Senegal and Mauritania. The government of Senegal put us in a camp, where we stayed for a month. The USA government took my dad to the USA a few years later. My daddy got a chance to bring me to join him in the USA. That is how I got here.

Once I got here I came to the state of Colorado, where I started to continue my schooling at the New America School. I didn’t speak English because where I’m from I used to speak French. Everything changed again, but this time because of the language. After I started to work at Wal-Mart, I met people who suggested that I make the change of my life by going to school. When I went to school I began to have good communication with people after about 3 months. Everyone has a dream, and school was my first key to having the American dream. I want my life’s fortune to be here in the USA.

I have learned so much from this entire obstacle, and I have gotten a lot of experience out of it. I think from now on I will survive and fight for my success in this country, because I’m living the American dream now.

--Saidou
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