

This is an interview about the story of a refugee from Syria, who was forced to leave his country.

You have come a long way from Syria. Please, could you introduce yourself?

My name is Lucas and I am 28 years old. I come from a Christian family. I grew up in Homs, a Syrian city where I lived with my wife and my parents. I was in medical school and my father was the owner of a hospital.

One day, my father was arrested for being Christian. I suddenly had to take care of everything. I quitted school, and I started working in a local construction area. I had to make money so that my family could live, until my dad was out of prison. But that took too long. We couldn't afford anything. I remember that my mom would go around and ask our neighbors for some food. We were so miserable.

So when did you decide to leave your country?

One day the police came after me. That was the moment I realized that we couldn't keep on living like this. One night we sneaked out with my family and took the boat to Greece. We were actually trying to go to Italy, where our siblings live, but the captain of the boat told us that it was not possible for him to go there, because of a leak in the boat.

I am actually really happy that this happened. An organization that protects refugees took us in and gave us a home. We were able to regain our energy and start working on making a better living. After a few months my wife and I were able to start working again. It has already been 3 years since we came here and we have saved enough money to afford a new place to stay and create our own family.

So what happened to your dad?

He was released after 2 years. We are actually in the process of bringing him here, but I think it will take about 3 to 6 months to achieve that.

Do you reconsider working as a doctor in the future?

I don't think it will be something easy. I will have to take some exams so that I could get my license, but it will take a long time. So, I think that the best thing to do now is to work hard and save money. My plan is to have a big family and live happily with my wife and children.

Do you consider going back to your hometown?

I do miss my hometown and my life in Syria. But no, I don't think that I would go back there. We had a difficult time and we don't want to go through that again. We love Greece. We are grateful we are here and we consider Greece a part of us.

Thank you for your time and I hope you continue living a good life, with you lovely family.

Thank you for inviting me.