

## SAID'S HISTORY

Said has grown up with his mother in Camerun. His father has died early, when Said was only 4. He moved to Tchad and then to Libia, where he began to play football and where he met M. M is an orphan boy who has lived on the road. Said's mother decided to adopt and to take care of him. The two boys has shared the common passion for football and early they moved in another town, far away from their mum. When the war broke out, Said wasn't able to keep in touch with his mother and he was obligated to sail with his friend M. to Lampedusa, when he was 14. During this long and hard trip some of his friends died. He arrived in Lampedusa July 9<sup>th</sup> 2011, where he met Terre des Hommes and the lawyer Alessandra Ballerini. He has lived in a center for 3 years and then he has been welcomed by a semi-independent house. He has grown up fastly. Long and slim legs. Naive, cheerful and wide smile, nevertheless. Nowadays Said plays football, he is in touch with M. and he studies. In 2015, he will reach an important goal: he will be 18, but he has never forgotten his mother that he has never met since March 17<sup>th</sup> 2011. Thanks to Alessandra Ballerini, Said was able to send a message, a letter to his mother, hoping to hug her, a day.

### **To mymother**

*Lampedusa, July 24th 2011*

*The love of a child for his mother. I'm writing this letter to say that I love you. Since we have left, I've been thinking about you all day and all night long, the night is always very long far away from you. You are the most beautiful woman in the world, all the children wish you were with them, you are the best mother I can image. A day, I left you. You know, if you were a flower I would plant you in my heart, I would water you with my hands. When I think about you, I cry. Without you I feel alone, you are the most important person for me, the most precious. I dream to meet you and you are alive and healthy; remembering your songs I feel as a child loved by his mum. I wish to be the happiest in the world as the other children, with you by my side, I promise to you that I'll find you. I know that you are alive and you are thinking about me, I'll pray God who listen to me: "among all the children, help me to find my family"*

Said