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INTERVIEW: Youth Interview

NAME LIKE TO BE CALLED: Kak

COMPANY: Park Teen Center

HOMETOWN: Sudan

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(HOW LONG DID YOU LIVE IN THE SUDAN?)

I live, I currently live (inaud) because I was little. (YOU WERE LITTLE?)

(WHERE DID YOU, UH, LIVE IN THE SUDAN?)

I live in Rama(?) and Khartoum and there is another place called Gel(?). (GEL?) Uh huh. (yes)

(AND WHERE WERE YOU BORN?)

I was born in Gran(?). (UM, GRAN(?))

(UM, WHICH CITY, WHICH TOWN DO YOU REMEMBER? WHICH ONE OF THE TOWNS DO YOU REMEMBER?) I remember (pause) Iran, that's what I remember. (YOU REMEMBER IRAN) and Ka-, and Khartoum but it's not (inaud). Yeah. (YEAH)

(WHAT WAS THE FIRST ONE?)

Hum?

(WHAT WAS THE FIRST ONE YOU MENTIONED, THE TOWN THAT YOU REMEMBER?)

Iran?

(IRAN?)

Yeah.

(UM, WHAT WAS THAT LIKE?)

It was like place where people speak Arabic and my other language, Binkum(?), where (inaud) here. But, uh, but I kind of went to Egypt just so Arabic Egypt is different and then Arabic, uh, Sudan. But when I went to Egypt I kind of knew that, uh, Egypt Arabic because I learned some of word from, uh, Sudan there. So they're kind of the same, but not that much.

(OH, UM, DID YOUR, DO YOU REMEMBER A FAMILY THERE?)

Yep. I... (IN THOSE CITIES?) (inaud).

(UM, HOW MUCH, HOW MANY FAMILY MEMBERS DID YOU HAVE IN THAT AREA?)

Like many, I can't even say. (smile)

(LOTS OF EM)

Lots.

(LOTS OF YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS THERE)

Yeah. I have lot everywhere. I have (inaud) but I have, but in Africa, in Sudan, I have many family that I live by. I even go to the, when we do celebration like, uh, it's like a Halloween to you guys here, but us it' different, so we get to go celebrate and we can go from morning all the way to night. That's what we do. From, uh, 6:00 people start coming to your house, and those, but sometime you don't always be at the house because it goes all day sometime, different things. All the mens and kids and everything, but only women's get to stay home. Because when kids come and do stuff they give them candy and things. You know, so that's what I, I went there, me and my cousins and, and stuff. Sometime in (inaud) in my old family(?), we go there. But not all of my family does because it's all, the street is all overflow.

(CAUSE THERE IS SO MANY FAMILIES)

Many.

(MANY)

Yeah. (MANY FAMILIES)

(UM, SO WHAT WAS THE MAIN LANGUAGE THAT YOU SPOKE THERE?)

I spoke... (IN SUDAN) ..Denka.

(DENKA?) Um hum. (yes) (IS THE MAIN ONE YOU SPOKE?) Um hum. (yes)

(DID YOU GO TO SCHOOL?)

Yeah. (IN THE SUDAN?) But I went only in first grade for my first (inaud). In Egypt I went to first(?) grade then I came here. Then I went to (inaud) so I skipped some grades.

(AND SO YOU WERE IN FIRST GRADE IN SUDAN?)

Um hum. (yes)

UM, WHAT WAS, WHAT WAS THE SCHOOL LIKE IN SUDAN?)

It was good like, uh, but the thing you have to pay for it, and you have to pay for lunch and you have to go with like, they go like, uh, 12:00 you be there at school and the school finish at 5:00.

(12 TO 5?)

Yeah.

(WOW. THAT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT. AND YOU HAVE TO PAY TO GO TO SCHOOL?)

Not that much though. We don't pay that much. It's just couple. (YEAH) Not that much. Yeah. And they speak, teach English but you (inaud) in my head, because I was little, I

only been to (inaud phrase) Yeah, I was gonna move to second grade in Egypt in Sudan, then I moved to Egypt, so I went to first grade again in Egypt so when I was about to move in second grade again in Egypt I came here and went to fourth grade.

(SO DID YOU, UM, WERE ALL OF YOUR CLASSES TAUGHT IN ENGLISH IN SUDAN?)

Yep. Um hum. (yes)

(AND SO YOU SPOKE DENKA AT HOME?)

Yeah.

(AND THEN WHEN YOU'D GO TO SCHOOL YOU LEARN ENGLISH)

I'd speak Arabic. I speak Arabic at school because it's only two, one teacher that teaches people. (ENGLISH) Yeah.

(SO AT SCHOOL FIRST ALL OF YOUR OTHER CLASSES YOU SPOKE ARABIC?)

Yeah. But, uh, the thing that is (smile) kind of weird, they te-, you don't get to, you don't get to, we just get, you stay in one class and all the teachers take turns coming to the class. So (laugh) (OH...) so they build a ring(?) and go again. Yeah, so you just have to stay and the teachers come to you. (LAUGH) Yeah.

(SO IT'S DIFFERENT THAN HERE)

Yeah, they take turns coming. (OH, THAT'S NICE)

(HOW MANY KIDS WERE IN A CLASSROOM?)

Many. Like, uh, like about, you know, this computer(?), this computer(?) right here, this whole place have like OK each class.

(IS THERE AS MANY KIDS AS THE CLASSES HERE?)

There is more than here. (THERE IS MORE THAN HERE?)

Uh huh. (yes) You know the playing field where people go play? But they don't have like toys and those stuff, no, not like, like this, they have big playgrounds and trees but they don't have like this park. But people sometimes play soccer but not (inaud). So people like to hang around so that's the way, when people go out there you, when it's time for lunch the, but there is something called bell but the bell will wait for lesson to go in and to go out. So when the bell rang many people when they come out, many people come out to lunch. Like one or two something or, yeah, 3:00, 3:00. That's time for lunch. That's when people come out. The whole field, the whole field is, uh, is all people, all kids. Big school. High school, not high school, middle school.

(BIG SCHOOL)

Um hum. (yes) Like, uh, four grade is, uh, from four grade all the way to the other grade to 12th grade is, uh, middle... No, not all the way to 12th grade. From four grade to ten grade is middle school.

(AND THAT 11 GRADE 12 GRADE IS. HIGH SCHOOL...)

No, no, from five, from four to 7 grade, yeah. (FROM FOUR TO SEVEN)

Um hum. (yes)

(AND THEN 8 TO 12 WOULD BE HIGH SCHOOL?)

Yeah. Like, uh, one, a grade one is, uh, elementary, second is elementary, but, uh, third is elementary but fourth is not elementary. Like my brother, if you're 17 you can be in four grade.

(YOU CAN BE IN FOURTH GRADE AND BE 17?)

Yeah. That's how you can be. But not with your age though. Like how (inaud phrase). So yes, if you're 17 they put you in seven grade, in, not in seven grade, they put you in four grade. And if you're 18 you can stay maybe, you can be in four grade or fifth grade. But it's middle school.

(SO THAT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN HERE)

Yeah.

(WHERE THEY, WHERE YOU, UM, IF YOU ARE 17 YOU HAVE TO BE IN HIGH SCHOOL)

No, you don't be in high school, you're in middle school.

(YOU'RE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL IN SUDAN. BUT HERE YOU'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL)

Yeah. Yeah.

(SO THAT IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT. UM, HOW FAR AWAY WAS YOUR SCHOOL?)

Um, it was... I can't remember that long because there is a train where you have to go to the train, where we go with the train to school.

(SO YOU GO, YOU, YOU RIDE A TRAIN TO SCHOOL?)

Yeah, yeah.

(AH, DID A LOT OF PEOPLE RIDE THE TRAIN?)

Lots of people. People always, no one ride, uh, no one rides, uh, no one walk or ride anything except train. Everyone rides train.

(YOU ALL RIDE THE TRAIN)

Yeah, when, uh, the school people go to the train place, many kids from school are there, and they wear the same clothes. They wear, uh, a blue shirt, a blue shirt like this but not same as this, like the one that you wear for, uh, for suit, yeah. (UM HUM) And black pant and black shoes. That's, they have to wear that.

(YOU HAVE TO WEAR A UNIFORM)

And tie, and a tie.

(AND A TIE)

Yeah.

(AND SO YOU HAVE TO WEAR A UNIFORM TO SCHOOL)

Yeah, they wear what they wear. If you don't at first but if you're new because we're new, they give you three days to get your chance. But if you don't, they, if you don't get those three, uh, three chances then it is finished and on fourth one then they don't let you come to school. Because you have to wear what they wear. So people when, when you walk in for, because if you just wear clothes they'll say "this boy don't go to school" or whatever. And so people can know it and, uh, like in Egypt because people can know that you're learning and you go to school in those stuff. So they can know that you're going to school. Because if you don't wear those stuff, they'll know you don't go to school. (UM HUM) Yeah, so that stuff.

(SO, HOW LONG WAS THE TRAIN RIDE?)

It was about, I can't remember that much about, but I remember it's, it take a little like 30 minutes or (inaud). (YEAH) Yeah. (UM...) But there were school in morning for some, from six or something all the way to 12. While we go there, no, school don't start 12, I forgot. You have to be, you have to be there at 12 but school start at 1:00. I almost (smile) forgot. At 1:00, that's when school starts. (smile) Because at 12:00 there is, uh, from six to twelve there, there are class there. And that's why. There is a class, people go early then they finish at 12:00 so they will go home and the other kids come. (OH) Um hum. (yes) Because it's many students that go there. More than here. (YEAH)

(LOTS OF KIDS)

Um hum. (yes) Lots of kids.

(UM, HOW DID, HOW DID TEACHERS DISCIPLINE KIDS? IS IT DIFFERENT THAN HERE?)

How did they treat kids or what? (DISCIPLINE. HOW DID THEY, IF YOU GOT IN TROUBLE, WHAT WOULD THEY DO?) If they're really (smile) bad they'll, for girls they hit them on their hand, sometimes they hit boys on their head, they take something. But they don't take your grade away or, you crayon(?) or something and they don't tell your parents. They just did something like, uh, for course(?) or something, I don't know, they hit your hand with it tell your head be red sometimes. They hit you like five time. But if you go like this they can hit you lots of times and...

(SMILE – IF YOU GO LIKE THIS, YOU MEAN IF YOU PULL AWAY YOUR HANDS?)

Yeah, if you make it, and they miss it, oh, that's really bad. (LAUGH) If, if they, if you miss it like that, they, there is something like a table, (inaud) table, they make, they let you sit, they let you sleep(?) like that, and then they, they hit you on, on your.... (SO THEY HAVE YOU LAY ACROSS THE TABLE?) Yeah. Yeah, then they hit you on your

butt, Z(?) it, if it's not working, if you're not crying, they, they take, because they know you're wearing lots of pants, so they take your pant off and just let you wear like, uh, the thing that you wear on your side because they don't hurt you, so they hit you Zy(?) till you cry.

(UNTIL YOU CRY)

Yeah, but not really till you cry. They tell you how many times they have to hit you. Yeah. Like if you come for late, if you're late too for school.

(IF YOU'RE LATE THEY HIT YOU?)

Yeah, um hum. (yes) If you're late. So that's the thing, the rules. In, in test, if you get bad grade or if you get bad grade on test they don't care, they just don't do anything. There is no level like a number one or number two and those type. So there is just grade. So they don't care about your (inaud). (HUH. UM...)

But the teachers, when you go to train after school there's some teachers go there too, but they, when you get in a fight maybe in the train or something, there is teachers there that maybe could be watching you, they saw you, then they go tell the teachers then they tell you in the morning to come up. They call people names, then they come up. Yeah.

(AND THAT, AND THEY'LL HIT YOUR, HIT YOUR HANDS THEN TOO?)

Um hum. (yes)

(SO IF THEY SEE YOU FIGHTING ANYWHERE...)

Yeah, anywhere.

(WOW. UM, WHAT STORIES, WHAT, WHAT DO YOUR, UM, WHAT DO YOUR BROTHERS, YOUR OLDER SIBLINGS, YOUR OLDER BROTHERS AND SISTERS OR YOUR PARENTS TELL YOU ABOUT THE SUDAN? DO THEY TELL YOU STORIES ABOUT THE SUDAN WHEN THEY WERE GROWING UP THERE?)

Not that much, no. No, I can't remember.

(DO THEY TELL YOU WHAT IT WAS LIKE FOR THEM WHEN THEY WERE KIDS?)

Yeah, they tell me sometimes.

(THEY DO?)

They tell me, my brother told me that, uh, my, not my brother, my dad told me like when he, he is the biggest one from his own brothers, sisters, yeah. So he tell me that, um, all the time when he, that when you want to go somewhere people like, uh, I don't know, (inaud) his brothers. (laugh) It's like then you go party(?). He would (laugh) not, not tell me that. (laugh) (LAUGH) Yes, they would lock them inside and go to party. He said, uh, that I'm coming back so he locked them and go party. (laugh) (SMILE) He said just going right to store here, I'll be back and he's like at the store. (laugh) So he just go.

(WHEN, WHEN, UM, YOUR FAMILY TALKS ABOUT THE SUDAN, IS IT POSITIVE ABOUT THE SUDAN OR IS IT NEGATIVE ABOUT THE SUDAN?)

(smile) Positive. (laugh)

(IT'S POSITIVE ABOUT THE SUDAN?)

Yes.

(WHAT ARE POSITIVE THINGS THEY SAY ABOUT THE SUDAN?)

Power(?) (inaud).

(LIKE WHAT GOOD THINGS DO THEY SAY ABOUT THE SUDAN?)

They say like, uh, that people are not (inaud) maybe they say it is good there or it is, because I used to play with, we used to play soccer too much and so (inaud) and so in our, we get to travel around all the time and go everywhere, anywhere. Like to go... But in Sudan, but many countries you go to (inaud).

(SO YOU COULD VISIT OTHER COUNTRIES ALL AROUND AND THAT WAS KINDA NICE?)

Yeah. Yeah. My, all my cousins I get to visit, visit them.

(AND SO YOU HAVE LOTS OF FAMILY THERE?)

Yeah. And we had a big house where in, uh, my family, all my family and my cousins lived there, but not all of them, some of them lived in America here, and some of them live in other countries like in Canada and those, even my uncles. So its some, when we go visited some and my, sometimes they come to us. But my grandma and my grandpa, they live in Sudan where we always go to them. And there is some kids live with them too, my cousins live there. Yeah.

(SO WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR BIG HOUSE?)

It was like very good where, uh, but the, the fire like with five (inaud) their roof line was cut (inaud) their little ones, their little fires, but they put them down there so they gets (inaud) gas. In Egypt there is, uh, gas, they have to get like bom-, box, it's like a box but it's not, it's not, uh, it's a black box. And so they put it there then they put in (inaud). If it's finished you have to put it away and get another one, buy another one. So it don't stay with you forever there. (NO) But it's (inaud) it was our house in (inaud) they make houses. They make house for you like if I, if you want to make any have, have big garden where is everything fruit and those stuff, in Sudan you don't have to buy food except you have to buy, uh, (inaud) rice. You have to buy bread and sugar and that's it. Not even milk. They have everything for us, yeah. So we have big (inaud).

(OH, NICE. UM, WHY DID YOU, WHY DID YOUR DAD TELL YOU THAT YOU MOVED HERE, TO AMERICA? WHY DID YOU GUYS MOVE HERE?)

Oh, we moved here through like, he want us to come learn here English good so, so maybe when we go back we can teach people how to talk English, yeah. Like because

in Egypt (smile) I (inaud) uh, where we were in Egypt and they call people, when the teacher come in, we don't say "hello teacher, Miss Ha-, hello teacher" or something, I don't know, I can't remember. Yes. Teacher, who, I don't know, I can't remember, yeah. So we say, uh, "hello sister who" but you don't really care because you know we don't know that much (SMILE) English so she don't care, she let us call her teacher, I mean sister. So because we did not have to call (inaud). (LAUGH) (smile) (inaud) so when we, so I came here, it was my first day in, I keep Mrs. Gwen(?), I keep calling her, not Miss Gwen, I call her "sister". (laugh)

Then she tell me "don't call me sister. You can call a doll sister but (smile) don't call me sister, call me Mrs. Gwen or teacher". (smile) Then she said how almost every day I told her like if I want to ask (inaud) a question, I says "Mrs. Gwen" then she say OK. But then I forget I said "Mrs...." Uh, then I said "sister". (laugh) Then, then there is some boys there and little kids, and so they say (inaud). (laugh) So then she tell us "why you keep saying sister". (laugh) But, but the other teacher didn't care, the teacher because, uh, Mrs. Gwen just go help Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Martin is the real teacher. (UM HUM) Yeah, she was, uh, teaching people English who had moved to America. Yeah, so I, it was (inaud) so I went to her, yeah, so she teach me.

(SO YOUR DAD WANTED YOU GUYS TO LEARN ENGLISH BETTER)

Yeah.

(AND SO YOU GUYS MOVED HERE)

And he want us to get good grades and stuff.

(GOOD EDUCATION?)

Yeah.

(WANT, WANT TO BE AT THE SCHOOL)

So maybe we could be doctor or some or police officer or anything. Yeah.

(YEAH)

But I told them that I like to play soccer so my mom tells me "keep that good up, don't quit at soccer tell you win". (laugh) (SMILE)

(YEAH, THAT'S GOOD. BE A REALLY COOL SOCCER PLAYER)

(smile) Yeah.

(DO YOU WATCH THE WORLD CUP?)

No, I just play. (YEAH) I just play soccer. (YEAH)

(UM, DO YOU REMEMBER MOVING?)

Moving here? (UM HUM. DO YOU REMEMBER?) Yeah, I remember. Like when we move here.

(WHAT DID, WHAT DID YOUR FAMILY TELL YOU ABOUT AMERICA?)

Well, my family here?

(WHEN... YOUR FAMILY, WHEN THEY WERE GETTING READY TO LEAVE TO COME HERE, WHAT DID THEY TELL YOU ABOUT AMERICA, WHERE YOU WERE GOING)

Many people kinda said that, um, American here, you have your own room, your own computer, those stuff. (laugh) So they said, but the thing they trick us on, they said you always have, um, a bed where you (inaud) where you get to come down and you get to go sleep and then you put it up when you're done. (laugh) (LAUGH) That was so funny. But it's kinda true here, they do that. But not really most of that. Not the (inaud phrase).

(YEAH – SMILE- I DON'T HAVE A TV THAT COMES DOWN)

(smile) You mean the bed? (UH, THE BED?) Yeah, the bed, it would. (laugh)

(NO)

It's funny.

(NO, I DON'T HAVE THAT, THE BED IN REMOTE. UM, WHAT ELSE DID THEY TELL YOU ABOUT AMERICA?)

Not that much about it. I can't remember now. When we came to America or were about to come to America, um, not, not only us people were, uh, you have to wear a suit, adult stuff, the boys have to wear a suit all the time when they're coming here. And they have to like make party. Many people come. And if you go and leave at night many people come. But if you gonna leave at morning, they still make a party at night then the other people come, some people come early in the morning when we gonna leave so they can help you take your stuff. They take a big car like a bus, yeah, a bus.

(DID YOU LEAVE IN THE MORNING OR DID YOU LEAVE AT NIGHT?)

No, I leave at night.

(YOU LEFT AT NIGHT, SO THERE WAS A BIG PARTY)

Yep. I (inaud) got to make this, this little kid who I was sleeping, me and my brother, me and my little brother, Gil(?), so where we, I wake up before he did so I went and saw... There is (inaud) actually I did not wake up by myself, this little boy (inaud) is my cousin, he just came and wake me up. They, they're all like "who is this", they were all my cousins. (smile) It was my cousins. Not like school or anything. He's like (inaud) they said that "he's my cousin, his sister is over there". So I said, so my brother I told him (inaud) is here, they said that he's our cousin so he's here. Then he said "ah, I want to sleep" because his throat kinda hurt or something, I don't know, something happened to him. I think it was tired or something. (YEAH) Yeah, so a hard time so he was sleeping. So...

(SO HOW DID YOUR FAMILY DECIDE TO LIVE IN... WHERE, WHERE HAVE YOU LIVED IN...)

Egypt.

(IN, IN AMERICA?)

In America? I live only in Lincoln.

(ONLY IN LINCOLN?)

Yeah. That's the only time. I got two years here.

(TWO YEARS HERE. HOW DID YOUR FAMILY DECIDE TO MOVE TO LINCOLN? OUT OF ALL THE PLACES IN THE UNITED STATES.)

Actually, not all, all the people that came from Sudan and Africa and stuff, they didn't choose to, they didn't choose to come in anywhere. Um, there is, uh, something they call it, um, like human, human service, those kinda people, yeah, they chose you, but you have to go to Egypt first. They take three years or four years, then they tell you, they decide for you where to go.

(THEY DECIDE FOR YOU)

Yeah. Like they decide America for us. They decide to, to come to Lincoln.

(THEY DECIDED AMERICA FOR YOU?)

Yeah, they get to decide.

(WHERE, WHERE ELSE DID, WHERE ELSE COULD HAVE YOU GUYS GONE? CANADA?)

Canada. Anywhere.

(ANYWHERE ELSE.)

Yes.

(DID YOUR FAMILY WANT TO COME TO AMERICA?)

My family wanted to come to America. They were wishing for that.

(OH, SO IT WAS GOOD THAT THEY GOT IT)

Yes.

(DID THEY WANT...)

But they don't care, anywhere in America.

(THEY DIDN'T CARE WHERE)

Yes.

(SO WHEN THEY SAID LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, THEY WERE LIKE "EY, OK")

Yeah. They, they're so, when they trick us, they said Engelina(?) or Angelina(?),

Engelina(?), yeah, they said that place, that (inaud) were going to Engelina(?). Yeah. Then my dad said "what, this is Lincoln though, it isn't (inaud)". So she was wrong. Then we went here. We were lucky. We, she trick us so we were waiting for that, uh, thing where she said. So that was the wrong one but they look at us, they said, uh, "go right now to the other place (inaud) yeah, the other place for Lincoln, that's the one that they will take you". It was so, my dad laughed so much. That woman laughed (laugh) after she trick us. So we were lucky. Then she, my dad said right now they're gonna take our bag and get stuff ready over there and now they will find us. So it's... But there was a man that was going near Lincoln too then my dad saw him and they went and checked all the stuff in and they said the bag packers are still here till because the plane hadn't come along yet. It's gonna come. But it's not good, we get to wait long time. Then you get to sleep and...

(ON THE PLAN?)

Um hum, yeah, not on the plane. Like when we're waiting for....

(OH YEAH)

Because I sit, we just sit in the chair sometimes. You sleep, it take a long time.

(SO WAS SCHOOL, WAS SCHOOL IN EGYPT DIFFERENT THAN SCHOOL IN SUDAN?)

No, they were both the same.

(THEY WERE THE SAME. UM, WERE THE DAYS JUST AS LONG?)

Hum? (WERE THE DAYS, THE TIME THAT YOU WENT TO SCHOOL FROM ONE TO FIVE...)

Yeah, in the days?

(WAS IT THE SAME IN EGYPT?)

Yeah, it's all the same. Because it's just couple, because Egypt is in Sudan, that's in Africa. (RIGHT)

Yeah, so that's why.

(OK)

Uh, like, uh, days you have to go, you have to go on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. No. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, but on Friday you don't have school. On Saturday you have school. On Sunday you don't have school. On Monday you have school.

(SO YOU DON'T, YOU GET FRIDAY OFF?)

Um hum. (yes)

(BUT THEN YOU GO TO SCHOOL ON SATURDAY)

Yeah, and Sunday...

(AND THEN YOU GET SUNDAY OFF)

Yeah.

(HUH, THAT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN HERE)

Uh, there is someone and I tell them and they said, uh, "that's good you go, you get to go to school on week (inaud). (laugh)

(WHAT WAS YOUR, WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE CLASS IN SUDAN OR EGYPT?)

Math.

(MATH?)

Yes.

(YOU LIKE MATH?)

Yes.

(WHAT WAS THE CLASS YOU DIDN'T LIKE VERY, VERY MUCH?)

It's like, uh, this teacher, like see I don't (inaud) the teacher (inaud).

(YOU DON'T LIKE THE LANGUAGE CLASSES?)

It's hard. It was hard. Because I did not have the (inaud) in this stuff.

(YEAH. UM, HOW, HOW DO YOU, HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOU WERE COMING HERE? HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT COMING TO AMERICA?)

I was happy. I couldn't wait to come. (laugh)

(WHY WAS THAT?)

(laugh) Because I'm happy to come here and learn English and this stuff. Yeah.

(SO YOU WERE EXCITED.)

Yeah. But, uh, in Egypt, but I kinda liked Egypt and everything, uh, because like, uh, in Egypt I play too much. I like make, uh, planes but not like real planes. There's planes... Kites I mean. (KITES?) Yeah, I made kites. Yeah. All the time (inaud). (laugh) When I don't finish it because they call me to come eat or something or go to store or go shopping, I get to go shopping, my sister, nobody (inaud phrase) I always have to go to shopping. (laugh) And (inaud) go to shopping.

(NOW DID YOU GUYS HAVE, DID YOU GUYS HAVE A CAR IN SUDAN?)

No.

(HOW DID YOU GET AROUND?)

They get, uh, there is, we don't walk. I mean we don't ride. We go, um, train and ship and those, those kind of cars, taxi or those stuff, yeah, taxis, yeah, they get to take us. Yeah. But in, in planes better, way better than train and those stuff. But we, but could

pay em a lot of money for the train. (YEAH) And those stuff. So we use train, so we use train and those stuff. It took a little bit longer. Couple weeks some days.

(NOW WHEN YOU GOT HERE AND YOU STARTED GOING TO SCHOOL, HOW WAS IT DIFFERENT THAN GOING TO SCHOOL IN SUDAN?)

It was kinda different because in Sudan all the kids like speak the same language in most part. But, uh, in here there is so many people. There's Mex-, there is Mexico, English and those stuff. But in Egypt there is different kinds of kids, but they speak the same language in most part. Because Sudan is, uh, African people are just but not Sudan people are the same as, uh, Egypt peoples and that's why they speak the same language. Yeah. It was kinda hard because people were, that thing that I only know yes or yes or no. So there were one, uh, one, uh, one that come here in this class name Eric and Hose...

(SO THE OTHER ELL STUDENTS?)

Um hum. (yes) Were there (inaud). So they talk to all, to talk to us there is girls too that talk to my sister. So they, uh, one or one named Eric or something in our room, but he's not here, they ask me something but I didn't understand so I said yes or no, I just keep saying yes, no, yes, no. So, um, there is this tutor that, there is someone that come talk to us and speak to us and those stuff. It's like Hagar (inaud). It's an inter-, oh, what do they call it? The person that, uh, (pause) like if you want to say something and you don't know what it...

(A TRANSLATOR?)

Yeah, a translator. So come and talk to us. Then I said, they talk, they're telling me something but I don't know what is it, so I would say yes or no. (laugh) (SMILE) (inaud) you go play with them, then I say they're kinda (inaud phrase).

(WHAT, WHAT WERE SOME OTHER DIFFERENCES?)

From what?

(FROM SCHOOL IN SUDAN AND SCHOOL HERE?)

Oh. There were some different like, you come here to school early and this stuff. In Sudan you don't got to go to school early. I, but you can go to school early but we used to go like, uh, at 12:00. Yeah, that was different because in Sudan, in Egypt I go to 12:00. So here I really have to wake up early. So it's kinda different. (YEAH) I always, sometimes we always be late. (SMILE) Yeah.

(CAUSE YOU LIKE TO SLEEP IN?)

Yeah.

(UM, WHAT WS THE HARDEST DIFFERENCE? WHAT WAS THE TOUGHEST THING FOR YOU TO ADJUST TO?)

Hum... Like how to, like how to, like how you talk and write and those stuff. It was hard

to, to read. Like we had a test, it was a hard, it wasn't a hard test but it was hard for me. They ask me write about someone who helped me before (inaud) very much (inaud).

(HOW DID YOU FEEL OTHER STUDENTS TREATED YOU WHEN YOU CAME HERE?)

How do you mean?

(WERE THEY NICE TO YOU, WERE THEY MEAN TO YOU...)

Yeah, they were nice to me.

(THEY WERE NICE?)

But then I knew... Yeah, they were nice the first time they play with me. But like in a couple days or a couple weeks when I knew how to speak a little bit English, they kinda start being mean, they start trying to fight(?). But the teacher, I was with my (inaud) so we go together upstairs, go to tell the teacher because we didn't know how to talk yet. So to tell them why you guys (inaud) um, those kids and trying to fight and those stuff and we don't want a fight. So because of (inaud). (laugh) They say, uh, like, like kinda like they're not doing good, but they can fight good but they don't like to fight. (YEAH) Like they seem like they're dumb at fighting, but they're not dumb. (SMILE) They can know more the karate. They can know more the karate person. (YEAH) Yeah. But they don't use like what the thing that they use in Sudan, (inaud) guns and stuff, they don't use guns and no stuff. They use this, uh, did you see it before, there was something like, it's long like this, they just throw it like this.

(A SPEAR?)

Yeah, I think. They always can get people with it. Even if you're too far away, they can throw. Yeah.

(WITH A SPEAR?)

Yeah. But African people kinda we're, we are, cause I'm not even from, I'm in African, I'm in, my (inaud) is from Sudan but is it Africa but I don't wear like African people like, uh, uh, African people. Because African people wear different kinda weird stuff. (YEAH) Not us. Yeah. And they, when they're dancing, they take those kinds of stuff and beat their selves till they bleed and they don't cry. Then they get like bleed all this stuff, and they don't cry. (WOW)

(SO DID YOU HAVE TO, UM, WAS THE CLOTHING DIFFERENT FROM HERE IN SUDAN, FROM WHAT YOU WORE?)

Clothes (inaud).

(CLOTHES)

Yeah. No, not really. (NOT REALLY) Not the same. Not, I mean not different. They're the same. (THEY'RE THE SAME.)

(WHAT ABOUT THE MUSIC YOU LISTEN TO?)

Yeah, it's different.

(IT'S DIFFERENT?)

I can (inaud) some music to you if you want. Yeah.

(SO THE MUSIC, DO YOU STILL LISTEN TO MUSIC THAT YOU LISTENED TO IN SUDAN?) Yeah.

(DO YOU LISTEN TO AMERICAN MUSIC TOO?)

Yeah, I listen to both of them. (YEAH?) Yeah.

(UM, WHAT ABOUT BEHAVIOR. IS IT MORE STRICT HERE THAN IT IS IN SUDAN?)

Um, um,...

(LIKE THEY, THEY DON'T LET YOU DO THINGS, THEY, UM, IT'S MORE STRUCTURED OR LESS STRUCTURED HERE?)

Like they don't let you do something here or... (UM HUM)

How you mean? Like they don't let you do what anything or what? (UM, LIKE YOU HAVE A BED TIME, UM, YOU CAN'T, YOU CAN'T GO OUT AFTER DARK)

No.

(UM, HERE THAT, HERE AT SCHOOL THERE IS MORE RULES. ARE THERE MORE RULES OR LESS RULES HERE THAN IN THE SUDAN)

In Sudan, in Sudan there is less rules. There is no rules in the Sudan. There are more, it's just (inaud) that's it. (THAT'S IT) You mean they tell you go to sleep early, go, do this, and those stuff; no. You don't even have homework that much.

(REALLY?)

They only give you one paper, that's it. Not even, sometimes they don't give you homework for whole week or three weeks. Sometime they don't give you homework at all. Yeah. And they put like, in class, there is two people, they call them, uh, hearts(?) but I don't know how to say it in here, so they, those two people when the teacher is not there, they get to tell people to be quiet and those stuff. Yeah. Maybe sometime it can be three, yeah. So they (inaud) their kids is like in six grade, seven grade, yeah, so they get to choose.

(WHAT LANGUAGE DO YOU GUYS SPEAK AT HOME?)

Dinka. (DINKA?) Uh huh. Only if someone comes and they don't know Dinka, Arabic (inaud). Even on the phone we speak Arabic (inaud).

(WHAT, UM, HAVE YOU EVER HAD TO TRANSLATE?)

Yes. Sometimes.

(HOW DO YOU LIKE TRANSLATING?)

(smile) I don't like that. (YOU DON'T LIKE IT?) Yes.

(UM, HOW DOES, HOW DOES YOUR, HOW DOES SPEAKING DINKA AT HOME AFFECT BRINGING FRIENDS OVER TO YOUR HOUSE?)

Like how I speak Dinka? When bringing friends? (YEAH) How you mean that?

(WOULD IT BE OK TO BRING ENGLISH SPEAKING FRIENDS OVER TO YOUR HOUSE?)

Yeah, yeah, yeah. Just my dad don't care. (smile)

(HE DOESN'T CARE?)

Yeah.

(THAT'S OK?)

Yeah.

(WELL WHAT, WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT YOU GUYS DO NOW THAT YOU DIDN'T DO IN SUDAN?)

Hum... (pause) So things that we did like, like we got to like drive in a car. (smile) But in Sudan sometimes my dad rides us along, yeah. So like things that how we did in, in Sudan and we did them here? I'm not sure.

(DO YOU WATCH, DO YOU WATCH TV A LOT MORE? YOU WATCHED A LOT OF TV IN SUDAN?)

(pause)

(DO YOU WATCH A LOT OF TV HERE?) (pause) (NO. ALMOST NONE.)

Just play soccer. (smile) That what I....

(YOU JUST PLAY SOCCER?)

(smile) Yes.

(DO YOU, UM, DO YOU HAVE A GARDEN HERE?)

No.

(BUT YOU DID IN SUDAN?)

Um hum. (yes) (HAD A GARDEN THERE)

(DO YOU GO TO THE MOVIES?)

Not that much. (NO) But I do go to my cousin's house. (YOU DO?) Yeah. In Sudan too, I do sometime, I go stay there for whole week or three weeks. Yeah. There if you skip, if you miss school, they don't care. They don't comment on your grade or no stuff.

(IF YOU DON'T GO TO SCHOOL IN SUDAN?)

Yeah. They don't (inaud) on your grade. You can spend whole week or three weeks, more than three weeks, they don't care. (REALLY?) Yeah, they don't care. They let you skip it. And after you come, they don't tell you "you just work and do this, you missed this, you missed this, you have to do this". They don't care.

(YOU JUST PICK UP RIGHT WHERE YOU WERE)

Yeah. (HUH) No, you don't, you don't pick up where you left off, no. You start where everyone is on. So they don't care.

(UM, DO YOU STILL EAT THE SAME FOODS THAT YOU ATE IN SUDAN?)

Yeah, yeah. But not that much here. Yeah, yeah, yeah, you, you can.

(DO YOU EAT AMERICAN FOOD TOO?)

Yeah, I do.

(DO YOU EVER EAT FAST FOOD?)

Hum?

(FAST FOOD)

What's fast food?

(UH, LIKE MCDONALDS OR BURGER KING OR PIZZA HUT)

Yeah, yeah.

(WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FAST FOOD PLACE TO EAT, WHEN YOU GO OUT TO EAT)

Um, McDonalds.

(MCDONALDS?)

Yes. (I THINK THAT'S MY FAVORITE TOO) (laugh) That's one of my sister's like but one day, it was couple days ago, my brother went in and got us some McDonalds stuff, and we, we just ate and (inaud) and he said "eat this", then we ate it (inaud). He ate all his, all of it. Then three of us sit there (inaud) "ah, my stomach hurts". (SMILE) (laugh) Even though we couldn't eat it. So I, I forgot, but my sister said just "just let's put them in, uh, not in fri-, fridgerator", in, let's place, there is one up here, that's down here, down here like this big like what do they call it? (THE REFRIGERATOR) Yeah, refrigerator. So she told me to put it in there. So she put, she left, she ate two and she left one, and I gave one to my brother and was left with one. And I left, and I ate one and then, and I got some (inaud) so I gave it to my brother and I put one in till later.

(SO WHEN PEOPLE ASK YOU ABOUT THE SUDAN, WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT YOU TELL THEM? OR EGYPT, WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT YOU TELL THEM, WHEN OTHER KIDS AS YOU ABOUT IT?)

I show them like how you write one, two, three and those stuff in Arabic. (smile) Do you

want to show you stuff or... (NO, THAT'S ALRIGHT, MAYBE LATER) Yeah, I tell them how when you go to school and what time you go to school and what you have to do in school. And what, what you ride to school because many people do not like cars. In Egypt and Sudan, they don't have, uh, like stop sign, stop and no stop. Yeah.

(THERE'S NO STOP LIGHT?)

Nope.

(HOW DO YOU KNOW WHO GOES?)

I don't know. (smile) (inaud) no stop light at all. (OH NO) But the thing that they do to know that a car is coming, they push like, uh, they went "ding", they push, what do they call it? (A HORN?) Yeah. (THEY PUSH THE HORN?) Yeah. So they know they was coming. (YEAH)

(IF YOU COULD, WHEN YOU GROW UP, MOVE BACK TO THE SUDAN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO?)

(smile) Yeah. (YEAH?) I'd go see all the cousins. (smile) Yeah. (YEAH) And see my grandma and my grandpa. Yes. They told, sometimes they call us, sometimes we call them, and they tell us, uh, how they're doing. We, they, we don't need to worry about them, we just have to take care of school, they are OK. Yeah.

(WHAT DO YOU TELL THEM ABOUT AMERICA?)

I tell them America is so good. That I got to learn and those stuff. But they're happy for my learning. And (inaud). (laugh) (SMILE)

(ARE YOU GONNA GO BACK AND TEACH EM?)

Yes. (laugh) I just go say "hi, how are you doing?". Everybody "what are you saying". (laugh)

(ARE YOU GONNA HAVE THEM CALL YOU, CALL YOU BROTHER LIKE YOU CALLED YOUR SISTER SISTER?)

(laugh) No. (SMILE) I, I, I said I wish I could go back and so I could go and tell them this is, so one day they could, when the teacher come, I could say "hello teacher" and they could say "hello (inaud)". Then the teacher would not say "who said this, who said teacher?". (smile) Then I will say me. Then they say "you know how to speak English". Then I can say "yes". And then people all the time could come to me and (smile) say "what is your name cause you know stuff". Yeah.

(SO WHAT DO YOU WANTA BE WHEN YOU GROW UP?)

I wanta be soccer player. (SOCCER PLAYER?) Yeah, after I'm done soccer player I'll be police officer. (smile)

(POLICE OFFICER?)

Yeah. (smile) (ALRIGHT) But soccer player, does it take longer? No, does you, you have to take your whole life to play soccer (inaud)? Don't you, don't you just play some

games, then when you're done you could, when the whole game is done you are, then you can move? (UM HUM) Like my uncle, my cousin, my uncle, there is the game he plays, he was soccer player, and he won the game. Yeah. (HE WON?) Yeah, he won. (NICE) He was a good soccer player. But then my dad said keep, be soccer player so you call like your uncle did. (laugh) Yeah.

(UM, WHAT ELSE DO YOU TELL THEM ABOUT AMERICA, OTHER THAN IT'S A GOOD SCHOOL?)

I tell them...

(DO YOU, DO YOU TELL THEM ABOUT ANY FUN ACTIVITIES YOU DO?)

Yeah, I tell them how we go to PE and those, and we have many classes, certain classes, that stuff. Because to them they don't have PE and art and those type. We just have math and, you know, and English class. Yeah. So that.

(UM, DO YOU DO ANY FUN THINGS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL?)

After school? Um,...

(DO YOU LIKE TO, DO YOU LIKE TO GO ANYWHERE IN LINCOLN?)

Here in Lincoln? (IN LINCOLN, YEAH.) Oh, after school you mean like...

(ON WEEKENDS OR...) I will just go sometimes to Omaha or Iowa, yeah. (YEAH) Yeah. That's where I go. But after school I always just go do my homework and just stay home and watch TV. That's it. (YEAH) Yeah. But sometimes I get bored. (laugh)

(WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TV SHOW?)

I don't know. Is it, is Arabic, there is too much Arabic movie but I...

(SO YOU WATCH ARABIC TV?)

Yeah. We have dish. (OH) Yeah, Arabic and English. So I watch English and then, yeah. (ALRIGHT)

(UM, IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANTA TELL ME?) (smile) (JUST IT'S YOUR TIME TO TALK, YOU CAN TALK ABOUT ANYTHING YOU WANT. ABOUT SUDAN, EGYPT, ANY STORIES YOU WANTA TELL ME.)

(smile) (pause) Like, uh, when they're celebrate (inaud) from the morning(?), those stuff, yeah, uh, they take like, uh, there is little things like a (inaud) those stuff, yeah, they just throw it on floor, they go "da" they blow and they have like firework and those stuff. But the fireworks, they fire but they hurt your ear. They go "boof!". They don't hurt. It's like fourth of July but it's not fourth of July at all.

(ARE THERE ANY CELEBRATIONS THAT YOU HAD IN SUDAN THAT YOU STILL HAVE HERE?)

(pause) No. (NO?)

(UM, WHAT HOLIDAYS DO YOU CELEBRATE HERE, THAT YOU DON'T IN SUDAN?)

I don't celebrate anything here.

(YOU JUST WATCH THE FIREWORKS ON FOURTH OF JULY?)

No, oh yeah, fourth of July. I just not really celebrate it, but I just go and have fun and those stuff.

(WHAT ABOUT VALENTINES DAY?)

Mothers day. (YOU CELEBRATE MOTHERS DAY?) But you asked me (inaud) because in Sudan, in Egypt too, they do mothers day, same as stuff. So I Egypt you bring your brother flower. Yeah. I did that too. All of us. (smile)

(DO YOU HAVE A FATHER'S DAY?)

Yeah, we have fathers day too. But you don't bring your father flower. (laugh)

(WHEN IS YOUR HALLOWEEN?)

We don't have Halloween.

(WHAT, UM, YOU DO THE SAME, YOU DO A DIFFERENT THING BUT IT'S KINDA LIKE HALLOWEEN. WHAT IS THAT CALLED?)

They call it Edef(?). (EDEF) Yeah.

(WHEN IS THAT?)

There is a Ramadan day and eat they call it (inaud) and they eat, it's like they call, it's like eat something but it's Christmas or something, I don't know. Yeah. So they do it all. (THEY DO IT ALL) I don't remember that much of it because I was little. (YEAH)

(UM, DO YOU CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN HERE?)

I don't celebrate it, but I just go to get...

(DO YOU GO TRICK OR TREATING AND GET CANDY?)

Yeah, yeah. (YEAH)

(UM,...)

But I don't like Halloween. It's so scary. There, there is so, it was so scary. Do you know what that it's so scary that there is a bird, there is a bird that live in our house, yeah, in up, up on the roof so there is egg that fall and hit the thing then it hit the window, it hit the bird, daf, the back door not the front door. So we got so scared (smile) my sister said "come get the (inaud)". (laugh) (LAUGH) (inaud) So then we called my brother so we could talk to him. And then we called, he couldn't even answer the phone. (smile)

(SO IF YOUR COUSINS WERE GONNA MOVE TO AMERICA, WHAT WOULD YOU TELL THEM ABOUT AMERICA?)

I would tell them that you can learn... (tape ran out – turned over to side B) (REPEAT) I

would like if they were moving here? I would tell them what celebrations and those types...

(WHAT CELEBRATIONS?)

Uh, one time (inaud). Like fathers day, mothers day, that they have here and they have there. But they have (inaud phrase) and they have, uh, they have to go to school early, not like in Sudan. (YEAH – SMILE) And they need to wake up early. And here that you miss school, you have, they take away your credit and this stuff. And if you come late to school they, they make, (inaud phrase) like if you come to school late don't they, you need a pass or something? (UM HUM) Yeah. Yeah, that stuff. Because in Sudan you don't need a pass. Your pass can be just be you by yourself. (smile) (SMILE) And just telling the boss lady (inaud). (YEAH)

(SO THAT'S WHAT YOU WOULD TELL THEM ABOUT AMERICA?)

Yeah. (smile) It is good here. That America is good. And, and I could tell them about the snow, there is the snow here and (smile) it is cold. Because in Sudan there is no snow. It's just hot place. Yeah. Like here there is fall, there is fall and four seasons here. There there is only one season, that's it. Hot time. (laugh) (LAUGH) No wi-, no winter, fall, spring.

(JUST HOT)

Um, no summer. They just have it. I think is it hot days, uh, summer, their summer one week, that's it. That's when it's hot. And but some, but sometimes it, uh, rain there. But when it rain, people play outside, like to go outside because inside it's hot so people stay outside sometimes. And sometimes they play in the rain. I did that. That my dad told me "don't go outside, you'll, uh, it's too co-, uh, it's raining, and you can get cough", then I said "no, no, I can play outside". Then my mom said "just let him go". Then they let me go. Then when I came back, I said I'm gonna go to sleep. So I was coughing. (cough – cough) (laugh) Then (laugh) then my dad says "look at you, Kak, (laugh) (LAUGH) I told you don't go outside, you will be coughing. Now look at you coughing". (laugh) (SMILE) And it was so fun.

(HE WAS RIGHT)

(laugh) It was just, again, don't go outside when it's raising. (smile) I remember that.

(ALRIGHT, KAK, IS THERE, IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE?)

No, that's it. (smile)

(THAT'S IT?)

Yes. (OK, THANKS FOR INTERVIEWING.)