



BAYAN SALAYMEH, 25 YEARS OLD, IS FROM PALESTINE. A DANGEROUS CHECKPOINT SEPARATES THE TWO PARTS OF HER HOMETOWN OF HEBRON IN THE SOUTHERN WEST BANK. ONE PART OF THE CITY IS ADMINISTERED BY THE PALESTINIAN NATIONAL AUTHORITY, THE OTHER IS CONTROLLED BY ISRAEL.





THERE WERE TIMES WHEN SHE COULDN'T GO TO SCHOOL, AND TIMES SHE WOULD HEAR GUNFIRE AT NIGHT. ON OCCASION, SHE AND HER FAMILY WOULD STAY IN ONE ROOM FOR WEEKS.



BAVAN'S FATHER SUPPORTED HER DECISION TO STUDY IN BANGLADESH, UNLIKE HER MOM WHO WASN'T AS EASILY CONVINCED.



SHE WAS EXPOSED TO CULTURES FROM ACROSS ASIA AT THE UNIVERSITY IN CHITTAGONG AND LEARNED A LOT ABOUT LEADERSHIP AND FEMINISM.





THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS ACCORDED PALESTINE "NON-MEMBER OBSERVER STATE" STATUS AT THE UNITED NATIONS. THIS IS BECAUSE NOT ALL UN MEMBER STATES RECOGNISE PALESTINE AS A SOVEREIGN STATE.



AFTER FIVE YEARS, BAYAN WENT BACK TO HEBRON. SHE JOINED A GENDER-EQUALITY ORGANIZATION AND RAISED AWARENESS WITHIN HER COMMUNITY ABOUT WOMEN'S RIGHTS.





AFTER TWO YEARS, BAYAN DECIDED TO GO ABROAD AGAIN. SHE WANTED TO LIVE A LIFE FREE OF VIOLENCE AND BLOODSHED. GERMANY, WHICH SHE THOUGHT OF AS "THE LAND OF IDEAS", SHE'D DREAMED OF GOING TO FOR A LONG TIME. WHEN SHE RECEIVED A SCHOLARSHIP FROM THE KONRAD ADENAUER FOUNDATION, SHE TOOK HER CHANCE.



SETTLING IN GERMANY WAS NOT EASY. IN THE END THE RENOWNED GOETHE UNIVERSITY IN FRANKFURT ACCEPTED HER APPLICATION FOR A MASTER'S IN MODERN EAST-ASIAN STUDIES. BAYAN WAS BEGINNING A NEW LIFE.

\* MOTIVATION LETTER





BAYAN IS PLANNING TO JOIN AN ORGANIZATION IN FRANKFURT THAT FIGHTS STEREOTYPES AND PROMOTES EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL RACES AND GENDERS.

\* WOMEN IN ISLAM

## To Learn More ...

“In the German public sphere, the stereotypization of Middle Eastern women is often powerfully coupled with racist discourses”, says Anna Antonakis-Nashif, PhD candidate at the Otto Suhr Institute for political sciences in Berlin. In her research, she focuses on the impact of moving to a Western country on the identity of Middle Eastern Women, as well as on the perception of these women in the German society. “Breaking the monolithic binary of ‘liberated’ versus ‘oppressed’ requires access to spaces of knowledge production and circulation such as media or academia.” According to Antonakis-Nashif, a lot of German media continue to reproduce the stereotype of the oppressed Muslim woman. “Kübra Gümüşay, a feminist blogger and journalist, once defined herself as an ‘intellectual cleaning lady’. I think that resumes very well the hard work that a constant negotiation of these hegemonic images entails.”

A selection of Anna Antonakis-Nashif’s research papers:  
<http://exoriente.academia.edu/AnnaAntonakis>

Kübra Gümüşay’s blog “ein fremdwörterbuch”:  
<http://ein-fremdwoerterbuch.com>