



Missing Migrants of the Mediterranean: The Narrative of Mothers of Missing Migrants

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Location: Tunis, Tunisia

Tunisia is a north African country part of the Arab Maghreb Union (AMU). It shares borders with Libya to the east and Algeria to the west and is a short 155 km (96 miles) from Sicily. Their two official languages are Arabic and French. Despite this, Tunisians speak primarily in their dialect, Tounsi or Darija, with each other in casual settings.

The Migration Crisis of Tunisia

Tunisia being an impoverished country with high rates of unemployment coupled with the most progressive government of the Arab world makes it a popular launching point for hundreds of thousands of migrants, illegal and legal, to get to Europe. Unfortunately, not all immigrants make it to their destination, or do and are never heard from again due to unfortunate circumstances. In turn, they leave behind family, friends, and most importantly, legacies.

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Global Field Agency

The agency I worked with in Tunisia is called 'La Association La Terre Pour Tous, organized by Imed Soltani. Imed's Association is a Tunisian version of an independent non-profit association that is privately funded by himself exclusively and few very select other sources. His goals are to advocate for the families of missing migrants who have unfairly not received closure of their family member's disappearance in Italy.



What I did

- Developed Interview questions and framework
- Used clinical skills to conduct interviews and learn the stories of the families in Tunisia
- Created a write up testimony for each parent

Goals/Future Outcomes

- Testimonies are to be used on a website developed for Imed's Association
- Feb. 1-Mar. 28 the stories and pictures of each parent will be on display in Weisser Hall here on campus
- 3 academic papers (one written by myself) will be completed using the process and data from this project
- Conference presentations (hopefully!)

Advice for Future OGA Students

- Really make sure you can dedicate the time to this project. It is a long process
- Understand that you will likely be going to a place where expectations of yours may be different than your communities. Learn to navigate that.
- Connect with as many people as you can in-country. Resources on-site are invaluable.
- Go somewhere you want to explore and have fun with it!!

