

Doaa from Syria



Source:

<https://www.unhcr.org/ie/news/stories/how-teen-refugee-survived-shipwreck-and-saved-babys-life>

Ted Talk about Doaa:

https://www.ted.com/talks/melissa_fleming_a_boat_carrying_500_refugees_sunk_at_sea_the_story_of_two_survivors



This is Doaa. She is 19 years old. She is a Syrian refugee living in Greece. She was forced to leave her country because of war.

Before she came to Europe Doaa lived in Egypt. She worked for very low wages because she didn't have a work permit. She became very scared in Egypt because a motorcycle gang tried to kidnap her on the street.

Doaa was in love with another refugee called Bassem. They wanted to marry and build a new life in Europe.

Crossing the Mediterranean Sea was very dangerous because many people drowned and Doaa didn't know how to swim. In 2014, 2000 migrants and refugees died crossing the Mediterranean.

Bassem paid €2500 to smugglers. This was his life savings. Doaa and Bassem travelled in an old fishing boat. It was full of people.

After 3 days at sea, Doaa started to get worried because the boat started to let water in. After 10 minutes, the boat capsized and sank. Suddenly 300 people were in the water.

Doaa was very scared because she thought she was going to drown. Bassem found a water ring and gave it to his wife. There were 100 survivors in the sea. They prayed for rescue.

A Palestinian man gave his nine-month-old granddaughter to Doaa. The man had no water ring and was very tired. He died a few minutes later.

Bassem was also very tired. He could not continue. He said to Doaa, "I am sorry my love, please forgive me." He drowned 5 minutes later.

Later that day, a mother swam to Doaa and gave her baby to Doaa. "Save her," she said. "I will not survive."

Doaa now had to look after 2 babies. They were hungry and thirsty. Doaa told them stories and played with them. On day 4 in the sea, Doaa saw a big boat and shouted. The boat saved Doaa and the two babies. Unfortunately, one of the babies died in the boat's clinic.

Doaa was a hero in the Greek media because she saved a baby. She was given an award for bravery by the Academy of Athens.

More than 130,000 refugees and migrants have crossed the Mediterranean to look for a better life in Europe.

Please answer the following questions

1. What is her name?

2. How old is she?

3. Where is she from and where does she live?

4. Why was she forced to leave her country?

5. Where did she live before, she came to Europe?

6. Why did she work for very low wages?

7. Why did she become very scared in Egypt?

8. Who was Doaa in love with?

9. What did they want to do?

10. How many migrants died crossing the Mediterranean in 2014?

11. How much did Bassem pay smugglers?

12. How did Doaa and Bassem travel?

13. After three days at sea, why did Doaa start to get worried?

14. Why was Doaa very scared?

15. How many survivors were in the sea?

16. What did a Palestinian man give to Doaa?

17. What did Bassem say to Doaa 5 minutes before he drowned?

18. On Day 4 in the sea, what did Doaa see?

19. Why was Doaa a hero in the Greek media?

20. What was she given for her bravery?

21. How many refugees and migrants have crossed the Mediterranean to look for a better life in Europe?
